

Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails*

About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hidden Trails

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Fax: 604-323-1148

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from within the USA or Canada or

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Website: www.hiddentrails.com

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Bandalero Trail - Volcanoes, Mountains & Canyons - Spain, Europe

Tour Code: IT-SPCA03
8 days / 7 nights ~\$2,190.00
Dates: May to Nov

Trip Rating : ●●●●●
Difficulty : ●●●●●
Lodging : ●●●

Tack: Trail saddles
Horses: Andalusian, Andalusian Cross and Spani...
Pace: Moderate with extended trots and nice ...
Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Barcelona



Introduction

Catalonia, Spain

The "Bandalero Trail" is a horse riding adventure based on the biography of the famous "Bandalero" Joan Sala Serrallonga, the Catalan Robin Hood. In north-east Spain, the bandit Serrallonga wandered around the mountains of Guillerles and Garrotxa during the 17th century. The vast pathless area of woodland offered good hiding places to outlaws. Canyons, table mountains, and volcanoes rise in this wild landscape. Rivers, lakes, and waterfalls provide pleasant refreshment. In the picturesque villages, there are still stories told about the gangs of thieves and the Catalan rebels. Today, we find an incredible riding paradise where outlaws once hid. This is an extremely diversified horse riding trek through massive canyons, table mountains, and volcanoes. The trails weave through a marvelous mountain landscapes which appears rugged or soft depending on the season. The air is usually pleasantly aromatic, and there is peacefulness with only the sounds of nature. On our ride, we explore the high plateau of Collsacabra, where the merging of the north and south, Mediterranean Sea and high mountains is a very special sight. Lush meadows and dense beech forests cover the land. Ferns spread over; the jungle sprawls and seems to be impermeable. The temperatures are pleasantly cool, with springs and calm brooks refreshing us on the way. In Spring and Summer the deep green beech forests blink through grey rock mountains, and on the 'Indian Summer' days of Autumn the forests shimmer like gold, the ambiance reminds us of landscapes in Canada. High on top of the edge of the table mountains, we ride to the mountains of Guillerles, home of the bandit Serrallonga, the Catalan Robin Hood. The view from the 'rooftop of Catalonia' over the green mountains is unique. The evergreen and moist landscapes are in contrast to the red, brown and silver grey rocks of the table mountains. We then leave the Guillerles and emerge into the land of volcanoes. The extinct volcanoes lie there resting until the end of time. Finally, trots and canters take us along the brook "Ser" into the river "Fluvia" which points us towards the Costa Brava.

Highlights

- Spring: the soft green of the deciduous forests.
- Summer: comfortable climate on the high plateau.
- Fall: "Indian Summer".
- Picnic at the foot of the Table Mountain.
- Sunrise at the monastery "El Far", at the highest point of the Table Mountain.

Accommodation



Accommodations

This is a progressive ride, so night will be spent in different locations.

Description

You will experience a special feeling of Catalonia in our accommodations, which offer you a cozy ambience in carefully chosen country guest houses, pensions, and friendly family-run hotels. Far away from mass tourism you will be spoiled by attentive hosts with local specialties. The rooms, mostly with private bath (1-2 nights' accommodation may be with a shared shower and toilet), are charmingly furnished and you almost feel at home.

WiFi is available at some accommodations. Laundry is not available for this trip.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

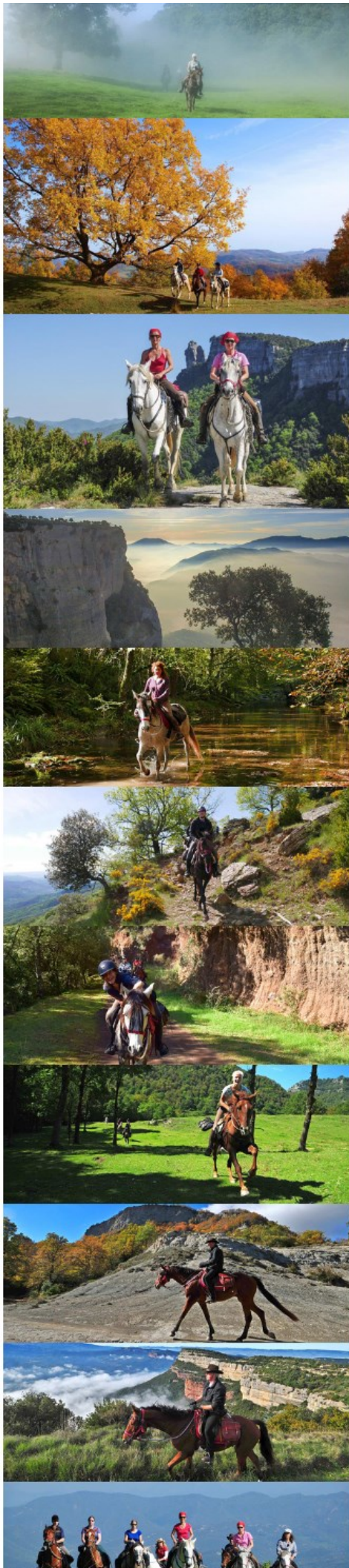
- Night 1: Country House in Sant Joan de les Abadesses
- Night 2: Hotel in Vidrà
- Night 3: Country House in Sant Pere de Torello
- Night 4: Guesthouse in Tavertet
- Night 5: Monastery El Far
- Night 6: Country Hotel in Santa Pau
- Night 7: Hotel in Besalú

Country House in Sant Joan de les Abadesses

This hold farmhouse was renovated in order to mix modern comfort with charm from the past. All bedrooms come equipped with a TV, free Wi-Fi access and heating. Facilities might be shared. Guest can relax in the garden or go for a swim in the pool.

Hotel in Vidrà

This small family hotel offers simply furnished bedrooms featuring a TV, ensuite bathroom, internet access and heating. There is also a living room where you can relax.



Country House in Sant Pere de Torello

Tonight, you sleep in a recently renovated farmhouse built during the 15th century. Special attention was given to keeping the original charm of the house with its stonewalls and wooden furniture. The house has 2 cozy living rooms and 4 comfortable bedrooms with free Wi-Fi access. Facilities are shared.

Guesthouse in Tavertet

This charming stonewall house dating back to the 12th century benefits from amazing views over the surrounding mountains. The 8 bedrooms are all equipped with heating, free Wi-Fi and ensuite bathrooms. There is also a living room and a terrace.

Monastery El Far

Located about 1,00m above sea level, this monastery from the 11th century has 16 rooms, all equipped with air conditioning, private facilities and a TV. Guests are welcome to relax in the living room or enjoy the stunning view from the terrace.

Country Hotel in Santa Pau

This small hotel with beautiful stonewalls offers comfortable accommodation with ensuite bathroom, a TV, free Wi-Fi access and heating.

Hotel in Besalú

This unique hotel offers modern accommodation with air conditioning, ensuite facilities and a TV. There is a beautiful living room with a library and a fireplace: ideal for relaxation. The hotel also benefits from a large garden with direct access to the river.

Room Occupancy

Single rooms cannot always be guaranteed though booked. If a previously confirmed single room is not available, the guest is entitled to a refund of the price paid for those nights.

Those booked as 'willing to share' will not have to pay the single supplement fee only if we are able to find a rider of the same gender to share. If we have not found someone to share 60 days prior to the trip start, then the single supplement fee applies.



Meals

Lunches and meals eaten at the restaurant are not included in the base price and an 80 euros fee needs to be paid locally at your first dinner. Please note we only accept Euros!

You will get to know the food culture of the region through the lovingly prepared dishes from fish, game, vegetables and fruits. This experience is refined by the fine wine from the growing areas of the Empordà - your taste buds will not be neglected on this journey!

During lunch breaks, you will be cared for with your saddle-bag picnics or a three-course meal prepared by our trail assistants in a beautiful setting surrounded by nature with great attention to detail.

We would like to point out that due to the pandemic, three-course table picnics cannot be served at the moment.

Our guests will be provided with fresh packed lunches (sandwiches with good fillings, fruit, something to crunch and a sweet for dessert, juice and water, etc.) by the riding operator or the hotels (exception when restaurant stops are stated for midday for which there will be no changes). The lunch packs will be carried by each guest in their saddle bags and will then be eaten at the usual rest stops during the lunch break.

During dinner at the hotels or meals at restaurants (at restaurants normally choose from the offered menu), clients will have the chance to taste various Spanish delicacies.

Dinner on the arrival day is at approximately 9:00pm.

Breakfast on the last day is at approximately 9:00am.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to all dietary restrictions such as vegan, gluten and lactose-free food. Please inform us with your booking if you have special diet requirements!





Riding



Riding Experience

This trip is suitable for strong intermediate riders and above. Riders need to be safe on a well-trained horse at all paces - including a long rising trot and canter. Equestrian experience in open country is also appreciated. Participants should be fit enough to spend several hours in the saddle every day.

Riding Terrain

This trail takes you into a fabulous "robber landscape" and will reward you on the "Table Mountains" with overwhelming panoramic views. On rare occasions, we have to lead our horses, so you need suitable footwear. Steep passages can be avoided for any riders with vertigo.

Pace

This trip includes 6 riding days. Every day you spend 4-6 hours in the saddle. At lunchtime there is a delicious picnic and you have time to relax and have a siesta after eating.

Horses

Our horses have a good life! They are kept in a natural herd setting. Our horses are selected for their appropriate temperament and a lot of time is spent on training them, so our happy Spanish horses make absolutely reliable and sure-footed companions for you. Each of our "Spaniards" has a unique character, but they have one thing in common: they are high performance athletes. A choice of around 40 lovely and reliable Andalusian and Spanish horses is waiting for you, to make your riding holiday a unique experience!

Tack

We ride on high quality trail saddles, specially made for long distance riding! In cooperation with the saddler 'Hidalgo' we have developed the perfect trail saddle that is very comfortable and safe for both horse and rider. Our saddle cloths are also self-produced and hand made with the best materials, such as medical "anti-pressure sore fleece" which offers ideal conditions for our horses' backs. During the trails, each rider is provided with a hand crafted saddlebag, which is also made to our specification based on our trail riding experience.

Trail riding without transfers

Travel with your horse. Staying in accommodation close to your horse is our philosophy, so on all trails the horses graze nearby. No annoying transfers along winding roads. After an exciting riding day, horses and riders can rest comfortably.

Age Restriction

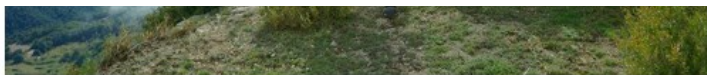
Accompanied by an adult, teenagers from 12 years on can join our horse riding holidays. Anyone over 16 years of age can join our horse riding holidays without being accompanied by an adult. The youth should have good riding skills. Prior agreement must be obtained. Approval from the parent or legal guardian must be provided.

Guides

The trails are carefully developed. On remote paths and lanes our friendly trail guides show you a wonderful and unknown Catalonia. The trail leaders are experienced riders and hold a trail leader license. Guides and helpers know the horses, the area and the Catalan/Spanish culture.

Itinerary





Sample-Itinerary - subject to changes

Note: Depending of the time of year, weather conditions and national holidays, the horse riding trek can be ridden in both directions! There may be alterations to this program.

Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival

We will meet the riders in Barcelona or Girona in the afternoon. The transfer brings us into the mountains. Deep in the Spanish Pyrenees, at the foot of the mountain range of Cavallera, there is the small mountain village of St. Joan de Abadeses. This is the starting point of our trail of bandits. During our first meal together (around 9 pm) we get to know our guide and chat about the upcoming horse riding trek.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight in Sant Joan de les Abadesses

Day 2 (Monday): High mountains of the Pyrenees

The horses are saddled and we mount up. The trail weaves through a marvelous mountain landscape which appears rugged or soft depending on the season. The air is pleasantly aromatic and there is peacefulness with only the sounds of nature. High above on a mountain range a small roman church enjoys an incomparably beautiful position and invites us for a picnic. In a little mountain village we stay overnight in a cozy hotel, where Joan serves us the 'best' Paella.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Vidrà

Day 3 (Tuesday): High plateau

We are riding to the high plateau of Collsacabra, where the merging of the north and south, Mediterranean Sea and high mountains is a very special sight. Lush meadows and dense beech forests cover the land. Ferns spread over, the jungle sprawls and seems to be impermeable. The temperatures are pleasantly cool, with springs and calm brooks refreshing us on the way. In the heart of the high plateau there is the remote but very cozy farm of Jordi. Here we can only hear the wind in the trees, the singing of the cicadas and the splashing of the brook. In the evening we enjoy a bandit's menu and a glass of wine at an old wooden table, while Joan tells Catalonian stories of desperadoes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Collsacabra

Day 4 (Wednesday): Canyons and table mountains

Brilliantly our agile "Andalusians" climb over an overwhelming landscape. In spring and summer the deep green beech forests blink through grey rock mountains, and on the 'Indian Summer' days of Autumn the forests shimmer like gold, the ambiance reminds us of landscapes in Canada. Vast cattle meadows give us amazing views over valleys and mountains and we stop for a picnic in the open air.

After lunch speedily in trot and canter we approach the abundant table mountains. Here we see canyons and waterfalls and hear the calling of birds of prey that sail above. Like an eagle's nest the small village of Tavertet is located majestically on the edge of a table mountain, where we have a beautiful view looking down at a canyon lake that shines in a deep green below us.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch

Overnight in Tavertet

Day 5 (Thursday): Home of Serrallonga

High on top of the edge of the table mountains we ride to the mountains of Guillerries, home of the bandit Serrallonga, the Catalonian Robin Hood. The view from the 'roof top of Catalonia' over the green mountains is unique. The evergreen and moist landscape is in contrast to the red, brown and silver grey rocks of the table mountains. At a clearing we rest and feel like 'Outlaws' from long ago, then we continue our trek through a mystical jungle like area with ferns that cover the path. At the highest point of the table mountain the monastery 'El Far' rises up majestically. It is one of the most beautiful viewpoints of Catalonia. We stay here overnight and wake the next morning to the sun rising up over the sea.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch

Overnight in El Far

Day 6 (Friday): Garrotxa, Land of the volcanoes

We leave the Guillerries and emerge into the land of volcanoes. The landscape is well cultivated but also has a wildness about it. The extinct volcanoes lie there resting until the end of time. The last eruption was some thousand years ago and only the black lava and some craters remind us of the explosions. In the medieval village Santa Pau we find cozy accommodation.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch

Overnight in Santa Pau

Day 7 (Saturday): Costa Brava

We trot and canter along the brook "Ser" and leave the area of Garrotxa. The brook leads into the river "Fluvia" which points us towards the Costa Brava. Stone oaks and pines are the dominant trees here and under their pleasant shade we enjoy our "Bandalero" picnic. After a siesta, we ride at good speed towards the medieval town Besalú. Our accommodation for the last night is a hotel right next to the beautiful romantic bridge with a view over the river Fluvià and the town. Before having dinner in the enchanting garden of the restaurant, we have the possibility to stroll through the alleys of Besalú. During our farewell dinner, we discuss the adventures of our horse riding trek.

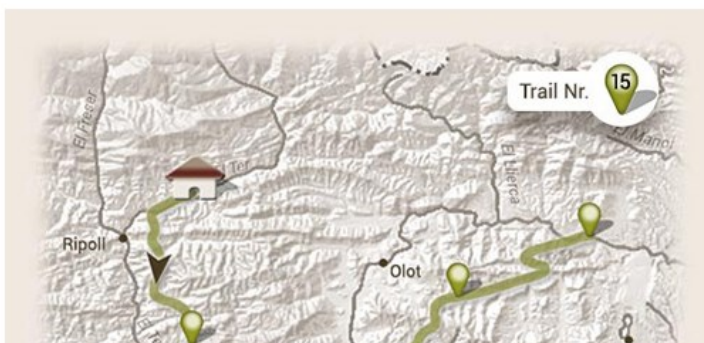
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

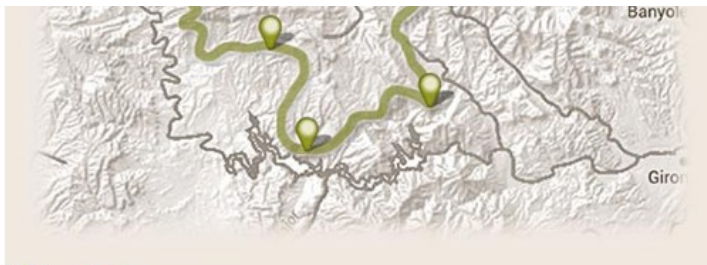
Overnight in Besalú

Day 8 (Sunday): Hasta la vista!

After breakfast (approx 9 am) we say goodbye and transfer to Girona or Barcelona.

Meals included: Breakfast





Other Info

Meeting: Sant Joan de les Abadesses

Airport: Barcelona

Transfer: Barcelona airport at 5:30 pm, Girona airport at 6:30 pm

Pick-up / drop-off is available from Barcelona El Prat Airport (BCN) or Girona Costa Brava Airport (GRO) for an extra fee.

On Day 1, pick-up from Barcelona El Prat Airport (BCN) at for 5:30pm or from Girona Costa Brava Airport (GRO) at 6:30pm.

On last day, return flights from Barcelona Airport are OK after 2:30 PM and return flights from Girona Airport are OK after 1:00 PM!

Tack: Trail saddles

Horses: Andalusian, Andalusian Cross and Spanish

Pace: Moderate with extended trots and nice canters. Daily 4-6 hours in the saddle.

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3.5 to 4 out of 5) Strong Intermediate

Age: Min 12

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 4 riders Max 8 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-SPCA03

Rates include: Accommodations, Most meals, 6 riding days, Tax on tourist establishments, Luggage transportation & Local transfers during trip
Some helmets can be borrowed

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	€1990	\$2190

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Rates Note:Single rooms cannot always be guaranteed. If a previously confirmed single room is not available, the guest is entitled to a refund of the price paid for those nights surcharge.
Transfers only payable in cash.

Transfer Option

Description

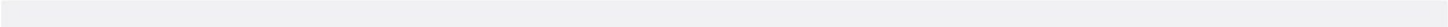
2024	Transfer from/to Barcelona airport, return (5:30 PM, last day drop off around 12:30 PM)	€150	\$165
2024	Transfer from/to Girona airport, return (6:30 PM, last day drop off around 11:00 AM)	€150	\$165
2024	Single supplement (on request)	€280	\$310
2024	Restaurants fee, pp (mandatory)	€180	\$200

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	05/19/2024 - 05/26/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	07/07/2024 - 07/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/04/2024 - 08/11/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/11/2024 - 08/18/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/07/2024 - 09/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/20/2024 - 10/27/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/27/2024 - 11/03/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	11/10/2024 - 11/17/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	11/17/2024 - 11/24/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 4/8

Rates do not include:Airport transfers (payable by cash locally), Entrance fees to Museums and Monuments, Drinks and snacks, Meals at restaurant (board fee €80, payable by cash at first dinner - mandatory) & Gratuities



Reservation Form

Tour : _____ Code #: _____ from: _____ to : _____

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Intern.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: _____

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? _____

How often do you ride? _____ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? _____

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: _____

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) _____

Street _____ e-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone (wk) _____ (hm) _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Date _____ Signature (mandatory) 1. _____

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: _____

Card # _____ 3 digit Security # _____

Exp.Date: _____ Signature _____

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial _____

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Pacific Standard Time

