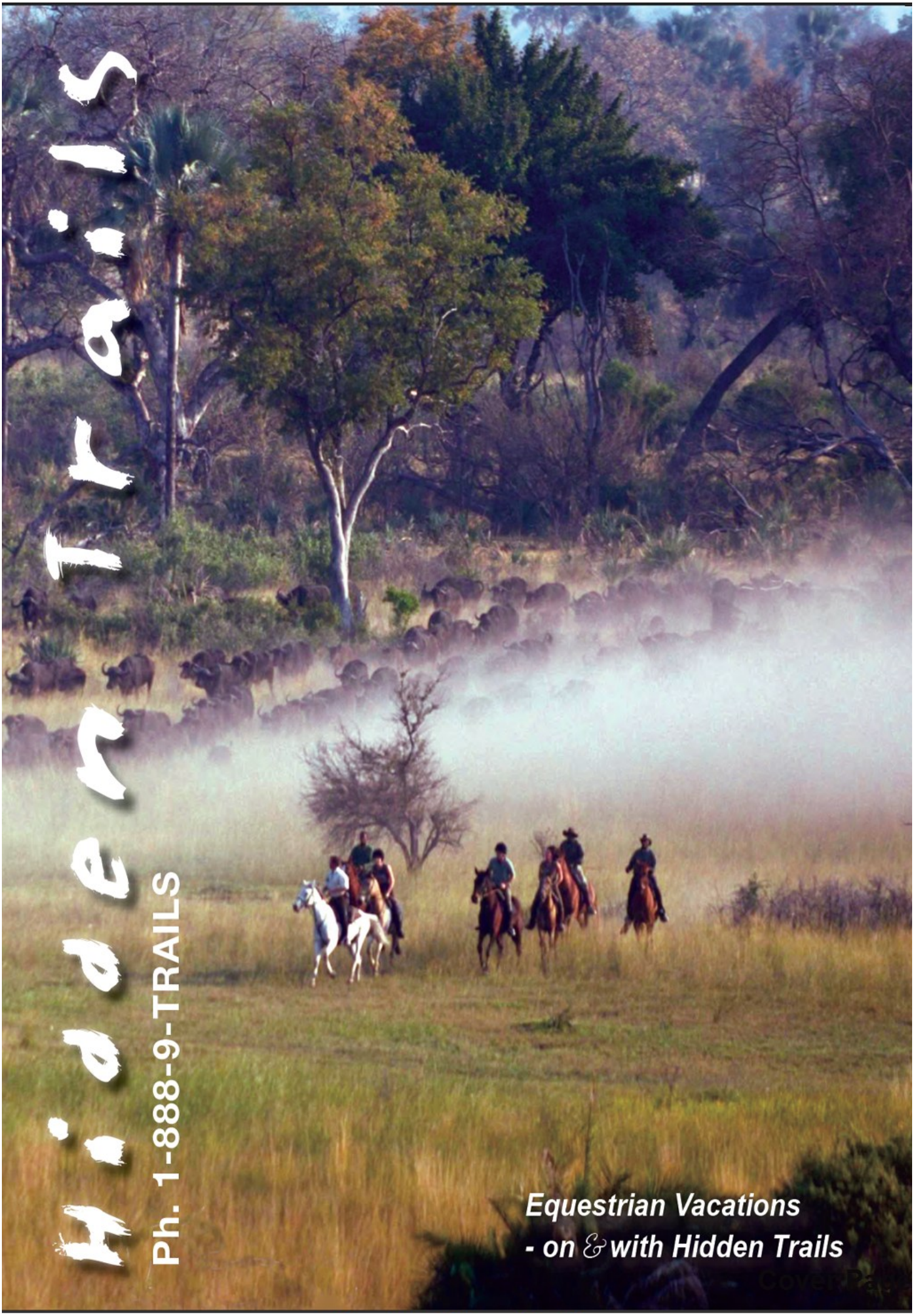

Hidden Trails
Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS
Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

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
Phone: 604-323-1141
Fax: 604-323-1148
Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS
from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: info@hiddentrails.com
Website: www.hiddentrails.com

Address:
659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or
4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:
Ph: 0- 808 189-0420
Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:
Skype: hiddentrails

King Skerdilajdi Trail - Albania, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ALBCV02
8 days / 7 nights ~$1,790.00
Dates: May to October

Trip Rating :
Difficulty :
Lodging: BASIC

Tack: English Trekking
Horses: Albanian Local Breeds
Pace: Moderate with some trots and canters. ...
Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA)















Introduction

Central, Albania
This ride follows in the tracks of King Ilirian Skerdilajd, on his way to conquer Kaonia 2,300 years ago. Experience unspoiled nature, colourful culture heritage, and welcoming people on the back of reliable, strong horses. Wind your way through a variety of landscapes combining mountain climbing, steep downhill and uphill rides, river crossings, woods, and the seaside. Here you will find ancient ruins, castles, churches, and monasteries sitting adjacent to the bunkers and military infrastructure from communist past. During this period of isolation and militarization, communist leaders built around 750,000 bunkers of defense in case of attack from western "enemies".

This is a mountainous trail ride with around 6 hours riding and some walking every day. The horses are small but very robust and surefooted Arab and Tarpan cross. Participation in this trail will allow you to experience true Albania with the best local cuisine, history, and hospitality. You will be accommodated in local or family guesthouses every night where your host families will provide a delicious local meal and conversation is enjoyed by all over dinner. Most of the dishes are homemade with fruits, vegetables, and meat from local gardens and farms.

From May to the end of September you can enjoy swimming in the sea (without horses) on two day of the trail.

Accomodation



Accommodations
This is a progressive ride so nights are spent in different locations.

Description
We spend 5 nights in different village family houses and 2 nights (the first and the last) in a hotel in Gjirokaster. Bathrooms are shared during the whole trip.
Access to electricity is possible every evening and the whole area has a good phone coverage. Laundry can be done at various locations for a small fee.

Wi-Fi access is only available in Gjirokaster. Internet access is difficult during this ride so we recommend guests to buy an Albanian sim card (around 13 euros) to get free internet access and about 30 minutes of free calls. We have electricity and phone service available during the entire ride.

Personal necessary things are carried in saddlebags; all other luggage is transported by car every day from destination to destination

Accommodation Itinerary - *subject to changes based on availability*
Night 1: Hotel in Gjirokaster
Night 2: Family house in Fushbardhe
Night 3: Family house in Borsh
Night 4: Family house in Piqeras
Night 5: Family house in Bajkaj
Night 6: Family house in Lazarat
Night 7: Hotel in Gjirokaster

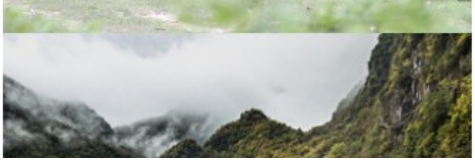
Room Occupancy
Most nights include shared accommodations so the single supplement fee only applies for the first and last night, in Gjirokaster.











Meals
All meals are included except for lunch of the first day. Dinner & breakfast are eaten at the hotel and family houses and lunches generally consist of a picnic, except for the first lunch at the hotel in Gjirokaster.

Breakfasts include eggs, butter, cheese, local pancakes, fruit jams, honey, milk and tea.
Lunch is a picnic that consist of bread, cheese, tomatoes, eggs, olive, pie fruit and a drink.
For dinner, we serve meat (chicken, calf or pork meat, fish by the sea), salads, cheese, local yogurt sauce, olives, pickles, vegetables from the garden, fruits and Raki and wine (included in the trip cost).

Dietary Restrictions
We can cater to most dietary restrictions with prior notice.



Riding



Riding Experience
This trip has been designed for intermediate riders who are reasonably fit and in a decent state of health. You should also be happy to share facilities with others and live in basic conditions.

Horses
The horses used for this ride are locally bred and ideal for the terrain. They are small but very robust and surefooted Albanian horses (between 13 and 14.2 hands). The Albanian horse, a unique mountain breed that is s local mixture of the archaic Tarpan and medieval Arab horse. They are great climber, have a clear mind and are surefooted. Our breeding program aims to help saving this declining breed of horses.
Our stable include 38 horses and is situated amidst scenic hills, green valleys, surrounded by high mountains. Our horses are trained with natural horsemanship techniques that we are pleased to share with the guests.

Pace
The rides are at a moderate pace overall. Most of the time we are traveling through mountains so that must be taken into account in regards to your expectations of speed, however there are indeed occasions where you can have a good canter. We ride for 6 days, for about 5-6 hours per day.
The total distance covered on this trip is about 100 km.

Beach Riding
Please note that although this trail includes some beach riding, any fast riding takes place along an old path 200m from the beach. The sand is rocky and therefore is only suitable for walking on. The mountain horses are also not too keen on the water so will not tend to want to paddle!



Guides
Kristina, Aurel and Ilir are all native from Albania and always happy to share their love for horses and their knowledge of Albania with guests.
If there are more than 4 riders, we will have two guides for this trip.

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - *subject to changes*

Please note that this itinerary is given as guidance only and may be altered. From May to October, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy two days of swimming in the sea (without horses) during the trail.

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival
Plan your flight to arrive at Tirana airport ideally in the morning, but no later than 2:30 pm - this leaves time for the transfer and to be able to visit the town of Gjirokstra with your guides. From the airport the transfer will be by mini-van or off-road car and will take around 3-4 hours (250km). Settle into your hotel, 10 minutes walking from the centre of historical Gjirokastra .You can have a walk around the historical town of the old Bazaar: visit Enver Hoxha's house, Gjirokastra castle, the church of the Old Bazaar, the mosque of the Bazzar and Skenduli house representing an ideal sample of Gjirokastra traditional life. Dinner will be served at a traditional restaurant. During dinner your guides will be able to speak to you about the trail: possible requests or needs, advice and things which are good to know. We recommend that you buy a map of the area before dinner in order to gain a good understanding of the itinerary.
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at Hotel in Gjirokastra

Day 2 (Sunday): Ride to Fushbardha
Begin your riding adventure from our stable, a 15-minute drive from Gjirokastra, at an elevation of 360 meters above sea level. Prepare to be amazed as the mountainous ecosystem rapidly transforms before your eyes. The ride starts with traversing valleys, allowing for exhilarating canters, before crossing the Drino River. The rest of the day entails riding through hilly terrain, small rivers, pine forests, and steep ascents and descents. We will take a short break at the Cepo Monastery, an essential Orthodox site boasting breathtaking views of the Drinos Valley. After a 30-minute ride, we will stop to enjoy launch at a local farm. Afterward, we will ride down to the Kardhiq River, where you'll encounter intriguing natural formations like the "Gods of the Light" pillar rocks. We will also pass through the village of Zhulat. The day's ride will conclude after approximately 6 hours in the village of Fushbardha, a significant hub in the Laberia region. Spend the evening and night in a village house, enjoying homemade traditional food and beverages. Immerse yourself in the local life by taking a walk, enjoying a beer, meeting the locals, and reconnecting with the horses by feeding and brushing them while soaking in the village's peaceful atmosphere.
Riding hours 6
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Family House in Fushbardha

Day 3 (Monday): Fushbardha to Borsh
After enjoying a traditional breakfast at the family house, you will prepare for a long day of riding, which can last up to 8-9 hours. Today's ride follows the tracks of King Skerdilajd's army, which passed through the "Neck of the Rock" around 2,300 years ago. King Skerdilajd played a crucial role in Queen Teuta's plans to create an Adriatic Front against Rome.
The trail takes you through beautiful woods, mountain climbs, rocky landscapes, and ancient ruins. Along the way, you will encounter various landmarks such as the Basha Stones, Dhespina cave, the Rock of Kaze, The Valley of Cheries, the Crooked Brook, Shameti Brook, Trullas Neck, and Derrasa Hole. These sites offer glimpses into the rich history and ancient civilizations of the region.
During the day, you will have a picnic lunch break in a mountain valley surrounded by a small oak forest, which you will pack yourself in the morning. The picturesque landscape and serene atmosphere provide a perfect setting for a relaxing meal. Be prepared for some walking during the day, as you may need to lead the horses for approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes through difficult paths and steep downhill sections. It is advisable to wear good mountain hiking shoes to ensure your comfort and safety, and to carry at least three bottles of water with you.
By late afternoon, you will arrive at a family house where you will spend the evening and night. The hosts will treat you to homemade traditional food, often prepared with olive oil, which is abundant in the region. You can also enjoy local wine, raki (a traditional Albanian spirit), and mountain tea, which will help you unwind after a long day of riding. In the evening, you can enjoy the return of the herds (sheep and cows). You are also welcome to feed or brush the horses once again.
Riding hours 8-9 (including walking by leading the horses)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Family House in Borsh

Day 4 (Tuesday): Borsh to Piqeras
This morning, you will embark on a shorter but pleasant riding day. The first stop is the castle of Borsh, also known as the Castle of Sopot, situated on a hill in Borsh village at an altitude of 500 meters. This ancient castle dates back to the 4th or 3rd century BC and has witnessed the influence of various civilizations, including the Byzantine Empire and the Republic of Venice.
After exploring the castle ruins, you will ride along the old road that runs parallel to the seaside. Olive trees, citrus fruits, and grapefruits adorn the upper part of the road, while remnants of defense bunkers from the past can be seen along the coastline of Piqeras, an old fishing village. The ride concludes for the day in the village, where you will enjoy lunch on the terrace of a hosting house. For accommodation, you will stay in a typical house of the coast, immersing yourself in the local atmosphere.

After lunch, you will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy a free afternoon by the sea (where we will drive you by car).
Dinner will be served on the terrace of the guesthouse, where you can enjoy the local atmosphere, music, and fresh fish. You are also welcome to feed or brush the horses once again, immersing yourself further in the experience.
Riding hours 3.5
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Family House in Piqeras

Day 5 (Wednesday): Piqeras to Bajkaj
Start your day with a delightful breakfast on the terrace, overlooking the Ionian Sea. Traditional coastal delicacies such as byrek (cheese pie), cookies, butter, fresh milk, and honey will be served. The day's ride takes you through olive tree terraces, offering magnificent views of the sea. You will ride along the beach of Bunec, a pristine stretch of sand and pebbles, enjoying the refreshing breeze from the sea.
Enjoy a homemade lunch at a small restaurant by the sea. Afterward, take a 2-3 hour break to swim, sunbathe, or enjoy leisurely walks along the beach.
The day's ride continues as you enter a small "jungle" of trees, bushes, and rocks, encountering the remains of an old road that once connected the sea with the villages along the coast. In the afternoon, you will pass through the village of Shen Vasil, a medieval center with a dark history during the dictatorship era, as it served as a labor camp for political prisoners. Traces of this tumultuous past can still be seen throughout the village.
We will then descend into the Kalasa Valley to reach the battlefield of 229 BC, where we will canter along the ancient battlefield of King Skerdilajd. Along the way, you may encounter herds of sheep and goats accompanied by local shepherds. This region has a strong rural tradition, and you might get a glimpse into the daily lives of the local population. The day will conclude in Bajkaj Village, located 200 meters above the valley and surrounded by citrus groves (oranges, lemons, olives).
In the late afternoon, you will arrive at a local house where you will be accommodated for the night. The village atmosphere provides a cozy and comfortable setting, allowing you to rest and recharge for the next day's adventures. You are welcomed to feed or brush the horses once again.
Riding hours: 6.5
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Family House in Bajkaj

Day 6 (Thursday): Bajkaj to Lazarat
The day begins with the ascent of Mount Sopoti. Initially, you'll ride through gentle and picturesque hills towards Varfaj village, where you'll be greeted by breathtaking vistas. As you continue to reach the summit of Mount Sopoti, where we'll stop at some natural springs to water the horses, refill our bottles, and refresh ourselves.
After the village of Varaj, the ascent becomes steeper and more rocky, so we will ride at a slower pace until we reach the top of Mount Sopoti. At the summit, we will enjoy a picnic that you have prepared in the morning.
The descent offers panoramic views of the Drinos Valley, but some sections require dismounting and walking for approximately 15 minutes.
Arriving at Lazarat village, known for its storied past and recent transformations, you'll find yourself immersed in its rich culture. Once infamous for marijuana cultivation, Lazarat now proudly showcases its timeless traditions. Your accommodation in a local home offers an authentic experience, enhanced by your participation in a cooking class led by your hosts. Amidst the serene ambiance of the olive groves, dinner becomes an unforgettable feast, evoking a sense of tranquility and contentment. Afterward, you are welcomed to feed or brush the horses once again, further connecting with the local atmosphere.
Riding hours: 6 (including possible walking while leading the horses)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Family House in Lazarat

Day 7 (Friday): Ride back to Gjirokastra
On the final leg of your journey, we'll embark on a shorter riding day, beginning with a traverse through Lazarat village en route to Drinos Valley. Our path will lead us to a suitable crossing over the Drino River, where we'll navigate numerous exhilarating canters. As we approach the southern outskirts of "Asim Zeneli" village, we'll ascend the hills, eventually arriving at the stables. Here, we'll tenderly care for the horses, granting them a chance to roam freely and unwind.
After bidding farewell to our week companions, we'll pause for the lunch break. A picnic, thoughtfully prepared by a local family in Asim Zeneli, awaits us, and we'll savor it alongside a refreshing beverage at the village café. This moment offers a fitting conclusion and reflection on our week equestrian adventure.
Riding hours: 3
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hotel in Gjirokastra

Day 8 (Saturday): Departure
After breakfast at the hotel you will be transferred to Tirana airport.
Meals included: Breakfast

Please note that although this trail includes some beach riding, any fast riding takes place along an old path 100-200m from the beach. The sand is rocky and therefore is only suitable for walking on. The mountain horses are also not too keen on the water so will not tend to want to paddle!



Other Info

Meeting: Gjirokaster
Airport: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA)
Transfer: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA) or Saranda Port

Transfer: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA) or Saranda Port.

Distance: 220 km / 136.7 milles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA). Scheduled transfers every Saturday at 12:30 pm and 14:30 pm Recommended arrival time for flights: No later than 14:30 pm Recommended departure time for flights: Not earlier than 1:00 pm On the last day, we will drop you off at the airport between 9:00am and 12:00pm (noon), so please do not book your departure flights for before 1:00pm!

Tack: English Trekking

Horses: Albanian Local Breeds

Pace: Moderate with some trots and canters. 5 to 6 hrs a day (approx. 100km total)

Walk | Trot | Canter |

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

Age: Min 14

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 2 riders Max 12 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-ALBCV02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Water and drinks during meals, 6 riding days, English guide & Luggage transportation

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US$
A 2026	8 day tour	€1490	$1790

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.2 and subject to currency fluctuation

Rates Note: Please, provide your passport information at time of booking

Transfer Option

Description

2026	Single rooms (available only during the first and last night - subject to availability) price per night pp	€30 $35
2026	Small group supplement (2 pax only), pp	€180$215
2026	Transfer between Saranda port and Gjirokastra (plan to fly to Corfu and then take the boat to Saranda), pp, round trip	€125$150
2026	Transfer from/to Tirana Airport (3+ pax), one way, per person	€55 $65
2026	Private transfer from/to Tirana Airport (2 pax only), one way, per person	€90 $110
2026	Private transfer from/to Tirana Airport (1 pax only), one way, per person	€175$210
2026	Private transfer from/to Tirana Airport (3 pax or more), one way, per person	€70 $85

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	09/12/2026 - 09/19/2026	8d / 7n	8 day tour
A 2026	09/26/2026 - 10/03/2026	8d / 7n	8 day tour
A 2026	10/03/2026 - 10/10/2026	8d / 7n	8 day tour

Min/Max: 2/12

Rates do not include:Entrance tickets in museums or parks, Extra drinks, Airport transfers & 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 Interm.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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 maling address): _____

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ◯

Additional Signatures:

2. _____

3. _____

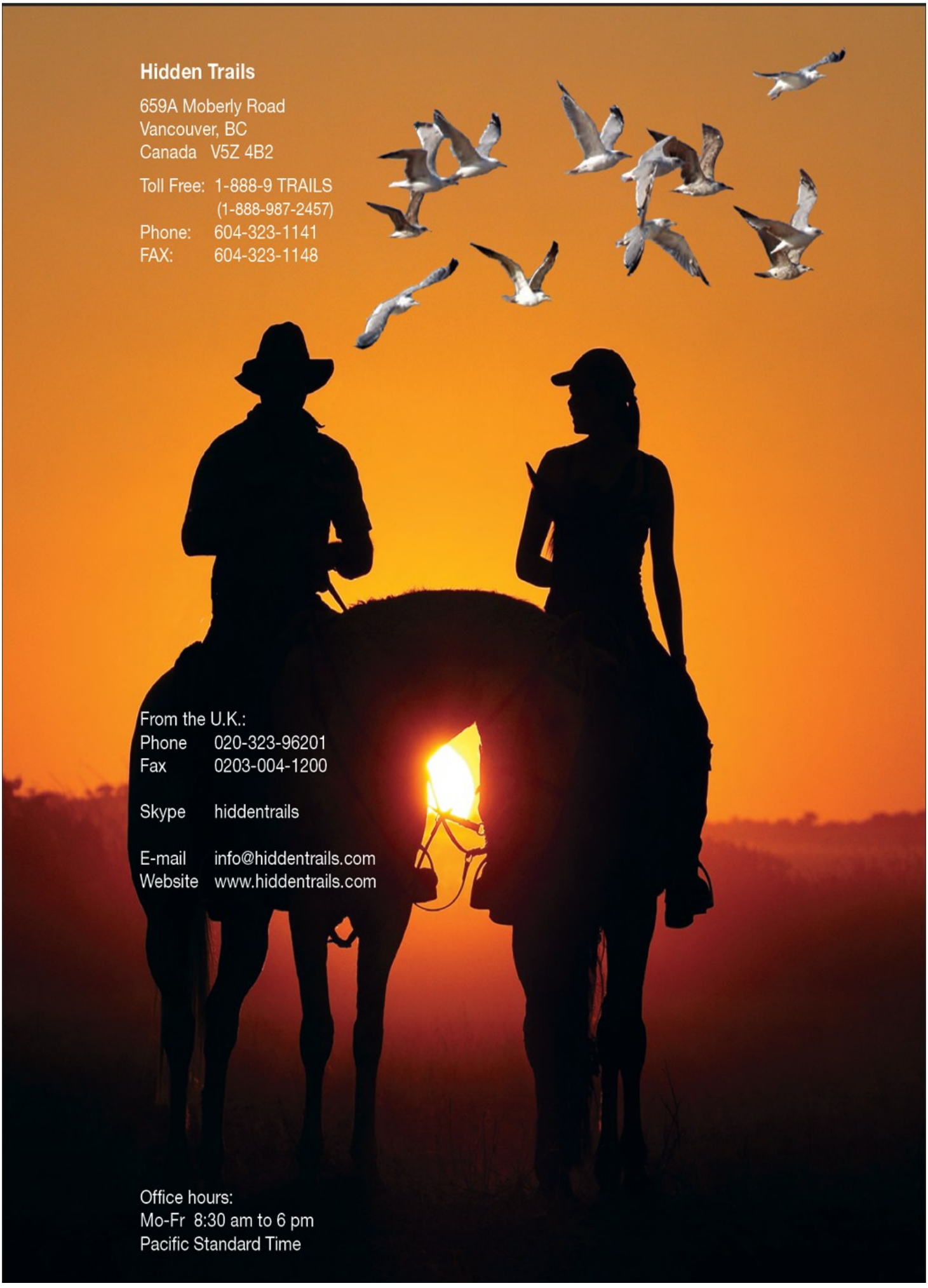
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ◯ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ◯ initial _____

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141


Hidden Trails
659A Moberly Road
Vancouver, BC
Canada V5Z 4B2
Toll Free: 1-888-9 TRAILS
(1-888-987-2457)
Phone: 604-323-1141
FAX: 604-323-1148
From the U.K.:
Phone 020-323-96201
Fax 0203-004-1200
Skype hiddentrails
E-mail info@hiddentrails.com
Website www.hiddentrails.com
Office hours:
Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm
Pacific Standard Time


Back Cover