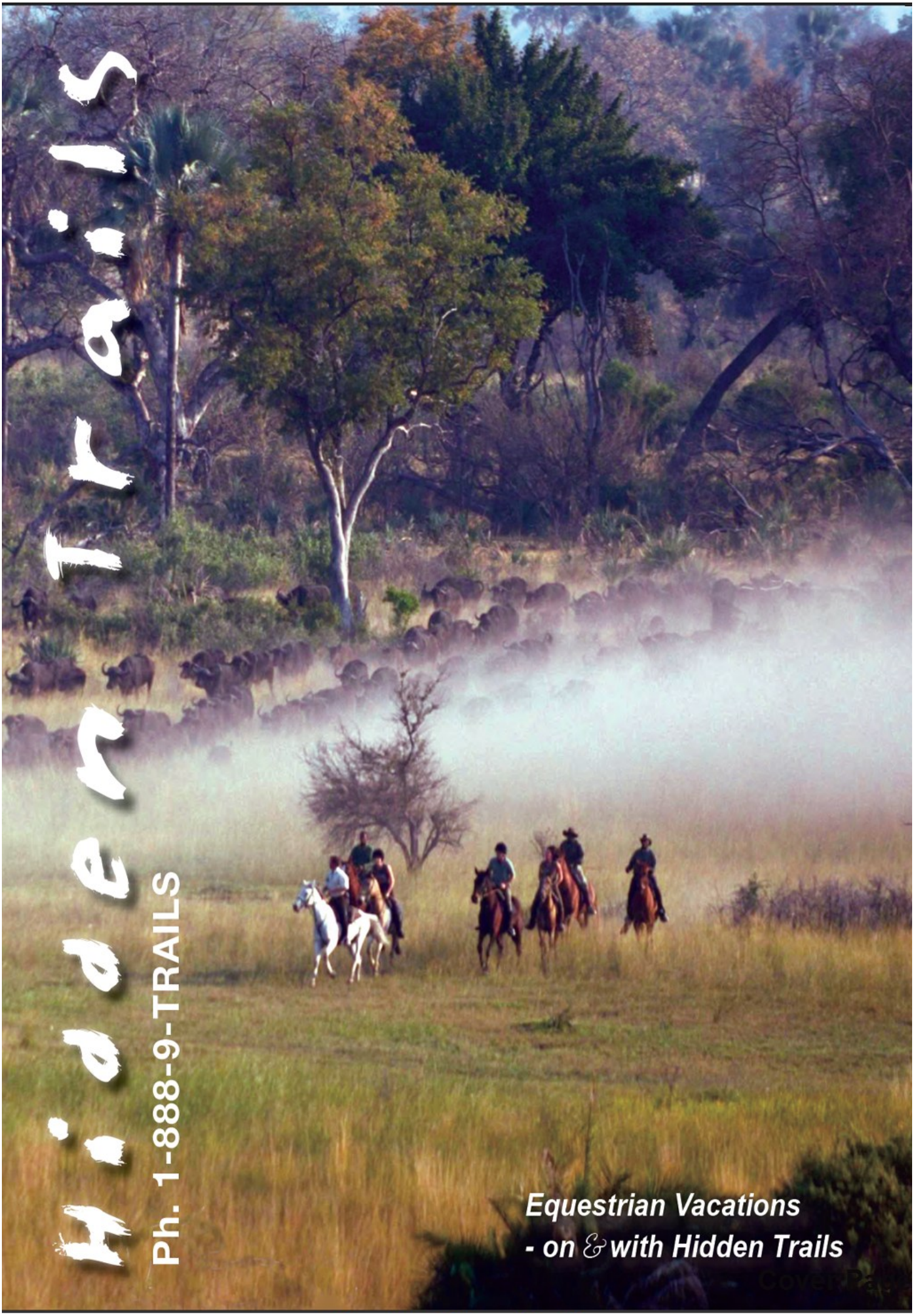

Hidden Trails
Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS
Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

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
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

Albania Winter Explorer - Albania, Europe

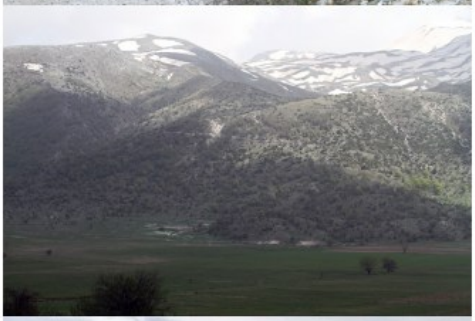
Tour Code: IT-ALBCV04
8 days / 7 nights ~$1,540.00
Dates: Jan-Feb & Dec

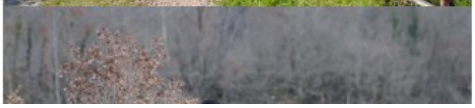
Trip Rating :
Difficulty :
Lodging: BASIC

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 unique winter program combines 4 days of horse riding adventure with another 2 days of cultural exploration!

Winter has a lot to offer including fun adventures, smaller groups, and a different light on cultural elements such as monuments, music and traditions.
The riding portion of the trip takes place on the East bank of river Drino, close to Antigonea archaeological park, and goes deep in the history of the valley. You will experience unforgettable moments in the saddle, while exploring the undiscovered treasures of Southern Albania.
When you are not riding, you will learn more about the Albanian culture and have the luxury of discovering its monuments, thermal baths, archaeological sites, Ionian coast and shepherd lifestyle. On this tour, guests will also have the opportunity to interact, participate and live part of the Albanian local life.

If you already love Albania in the summertime, you should try exploring it in the wintertime. This season brings a slower pace of life and lets you discover another side of this wonderful country!

Accomodation



Accommodations
This is a progressive ride so nights will be spent in different accommodations.

Description
You will be staying in a variety of accommodations. 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.

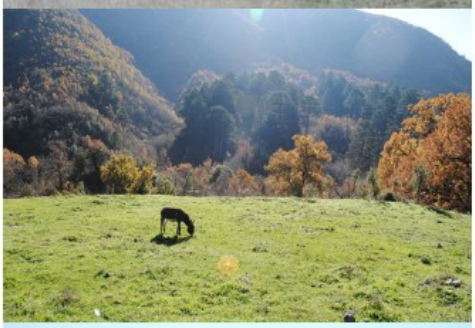
Wi-Fi access is only available in Gjirokaster. Internet access is difficult during this ride so we recommend guests to buy an Albanian sim card (around 13 euros) to get free internet access and about 30 minutes of free calls.

Accommodation Itinerary - *subject to changes based on availability*
Night 1, 3, 4, 7: Hotel in Gjirokaster
Night 2: Farmhouse in Labova
Night 5: Farmhouse near Ballaban
Night 6: Farmhouse in Karjan

Room Occupancy
It may be possible to pay for a single supplement on the first, third, fourth and last night of the trail but for the rest participants must be prepared to share accommodation and facilities.















Meals
All meals are included in this trip from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on the last day.

You will get to enjoy local Albanian food (local meats, fruits, and vegetables) traditionally cooked.

Breakfasts include eggs, butter, cheese, local pancakes, fruit jams, honey, milk and tea.
Lunch is often a picnic packed by the riders from the family they stayed with the night before and usually 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 and fruits.

Wine or beer is included with lunch and dinner every day.

Dietary Restrictions
We can cater to all 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.

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. There are 2 guides accompanying you on this trip.





Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - *subject to changes*

Please note that this itinerary is given as guidance only and may be altered.

Day 1: Arrival
Plan your arrival at Tirana airport ideally in the morning, but no later than 13:00 pm to allow time for transfer and a visit to the town of Gjirokastra. The transfer from Tirana airport will take approximately 3-4 hours (250km). Your accommodation will be in a traditional hotel in the heart of the historical Gjirokastra. If there is daylight remaining, you can explore the new Bazaar, Enver Hoxha's house, Gjirokastra castle, the church of the Old Bazaar, the Bazar mosque, and Skenduli house before dinner. During dinner, your guides will provide insights into the trail, address any requests or needs, offer advice, and share important information. We recommend purchasing a map of the area before dinner to gain a better understanding of the itinerary.
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight in hotel in Gjirokastra

Day 2: First Riding Day
After breakfast at the hotel and allocation of horses, we will set off on our ride through the picturesque countryside towards the village of Labova of the Cross. This charming village is known for its beautiful landscapes and historical significance. The route to Labova of the Cross will be moderately challenging, featuring hilly terrains, valleys, small water streams, and opportunities for enjoyable canters.
Upon reaching Labova of the Cross, we will check into a local guest house, where you can experience the warm hospitality of the villagers. The guest house will provide a comfortable and authentic stay, allowing you to immerse yourself in the local culture.
After settling in, we will visit the Church of Labova of the Cross, a significant religious site in the area. The church is known for its unique architecture and historical importance, offering a glimpse into the village's rich heritage. You will have the opportunity to explore the church and learn about its fascinating history.
In the evening, you can participate in various activities at the guest house, such as helping with farm chores or engaging in traditional cooking alongside the family. This will provide a hands-on experience of the village lifestyle and create memorable moments.
Overnight accommodation will be at the local guest house, where you can enjoy a delicious dinner consisting of traditional local cuisine. The guest house will offer a cozy and authentic atmosphere, ensuring a restful night's sleep.
Riding 4 hours
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Family house in Labova

Day 3: Second Riding Day
This morning, we will embark on a ride through rolling hills, the enchanting Drino Valley, and several water streams, followed by a steep climb to reach the captivating Antigonea Archaeological Park, where we will make a stop for a visit. Antigonea was built by King Pyrrhus in 295 BC and named after his first wife, Antigona, daughter of King Ptolemais of Egypt. After the break, we will ride for another hour until we reach the stable, where you can enjoy the experience of letting your horses roam freely.
Lunch will follow shortly after in a village near the stable. We will return to the same hotel in Gjirokastra for accommodation. After a brief respite, we plan to visit the Cold War tunnel in Gjirokastra—a relic of communist defence paranoia that holds intriguing stories to tell. Before dinner, we will visit a painter's studio, where the artist will share insights into local art, special painting techniques, installations, and the incorporation of traditional elements in his works. Discussions may also touch upon ideological art during the communist era. Dinner will be held at a small local restaurant in the historical area, accompanied by the presence of a renowned iso-polyphonic group—a UNESCO-protected world heritage—offering performances, songs, and explanations about the complex role of its members.
Riding 4 hours
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in hotel in Gjirokastra

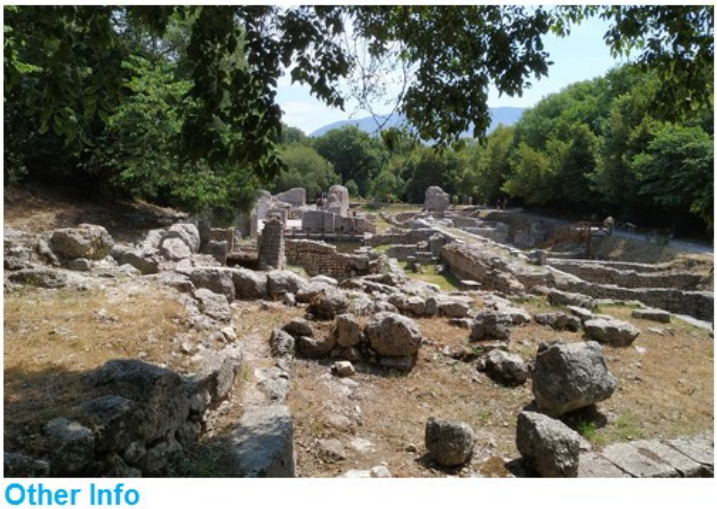
Day 4: Monuments of Culture (no riding)
After a freshly cooked breakfast, we will embark on an exceptional off-road journey from Gjirokastra to Butrint, a UNESCO-protected archaeological park. This challenging drive will take you through small remote villages, old houses, winding roads, off-road paths, small gardens, scarce animal sightings, old churches, and a palpable sense of time suspended in the past. We will pause to visit the ruins of Leshnica Church and have a coffee stop in the village of Cerkovica, where a local resident will provide a brief presentation on the area's history and future aspirations. Continuing our drive, we will reach Butrint to explore the fascinating archaeological park. Dating back to the 7th century BC, Butrint has a legendary origin tied to the exiles who sought refuge after the fall of Troy.
Having been occupied by the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and Venetians, Butrint boasts a plethora of remarkable archaeological structures, including a well-preserved theatre, Roman public baths housing a paleo-Christian baptistery, and a 9th-century basilica. The sanctuary of Asclepius, the god of medicine, crowns the hilltop acropolis and dates back to the fourth century. Afterward, we will enjoy lunch in Saranda at a seaside restaurant, relishing an array of locally prepared seafood. On our return to Gjirokastra, we will visit the local art gallery, where the manager—an accomplished painter—will provide a presentation. Dinner will be served at a restaurant in the old bazaar.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in hotel in Gjirokastra

Day 5: Visit in Permet (no riding)
Following breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for the Drinos Valley, tracing the path of the Vjosa River until we reach the thermal baths of Benja in Permet. Along the river, you will discover splendid, warm-water, human-made pools—a hidden gem perfect for relaxation on a cool day. These baths have been believed to possess healing properties for centuries, and during the winter months, you can enjoy privacy and tranquility. As you journey, you will encounter the Kadiu Bridge, a cultural monument built in 1760 during the Ottoman period, offering a stunning view of the Langarica River—an entrance to the canyons. Throughout the day, you will have the opportunity to explore the canyons through hiking and swimming activities. Lunch will be served in the "City of Roses," Permet, where you will delight in the local raki and sweets. Later, we will drive to a remote area near Ballaban village to visit another unique farm that will serve as our accommodation for the evening and dinner. The owners will share their story of abandoning city life, pursuing their dreams, and living in harmony with nature. This will also be a special wine tasting experience.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at farmhouse near Ballaban

Day 6: Third Riding Day
After breakfast, we will drive back to Gjirokastra to reach the horse stables for another day of horse riding. Today's itinerary will take us through a rural landscape, featuring beautiful steep hills, small valleys, pastoral scenery, traditional farming practices, bush areas, small lakes, small water streams, cliffs, and remnants of defense infrastructure from the communist era. Throughout the morning ride, the captivating view of the River Drino—the "Tree of Life" river—will accompany you. The Drino River holds great significance in ancient pagan beliefs. Along the way, you will encounter the ruins of the Santa Triada Castle, reconstructed during 1809-1810 by Ali Pasha as a strategic point for controlling medieval caravan routes. These castle ruins were later repurposed for military use during the socialist era. We will pause for a picnic lunch near the village of Erind. After approximately 4-5 hours of riding, we will arrive at Karjan village, where a traditional dinner and accommodation await you at a local farm. In the afternoon, you can explore the village, partake in family activities, and assist in feeding, cleaning, and watering the horses.
Riding 4 - 5 hours
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at farmhouse near Karjan

Day 7: Last Riding Day
After enjoying breakfast with the family and packing a picnic, we will commence our ride at 9 o'clock. Our route will take us first to Nokova village, where we will visit medieval churches. Continuing through the Lunxheria area, we will stop for a picnic in Dhoksat village. This village is renowned for its unique architecture and the use of black stone in construction, as well as its beautiful doors. A local expert will join us to provide insights into life, tradition, folklore, costumes, and ethnography of the area. After lunch, our ride will continue through cultivated lands, gardens, livestock areas, and wide meadows, offering captivating panoramic views. We will have another brief stop by Qestorati Lake to savour the scenery before returning to the stables from a different direction. The final leg of the ride in the afternoon will be the most picturesque, with several opportunities for canters and breath-taking hill climbs. After the ride, we will drive back to Gjirokastra, where you can take a stroll around the historical area before the farewell dinner. In the evening, we can enjoy a drink at a popular bar.
Riding 5 hours
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in hotel in Gjirokastra

Day 8: Departure
After breakfast at the hotel you will be transferred back to the airport of Tirana.



Other Info

Meeting: Gjirokaster
Airport: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA)
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. 3 to 4 hrs a day

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level:  (2.5 to 3 out of 5) Low intermediate

Age: Min 14

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 3 riders Max 12 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-ALBCV04

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Water and drinks during meals, 4 riding days, English guide (second guide if more than 4 pax) & Luggage transportation

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US$
A 2026	8 day tour	€1285	$1540

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 room (available only in Gjirokastra - subject to availability) price per night pp	€30 $35
2026	Small group supplement (2 pax only), pp	€160$195
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 Tirana airport on request - please inquire	
2026	Transfer between Saranda port and Gjirokastra (plan to fly to Corfu and then take the boat to Saranda), 1 pax only, round trip	€250$300

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	12/05/2026 - 12/12/2026	8d / 7n	8 day tour
A 2026	12/19/2026 - 12/26/2026	8d / 7n	8 day tour

Min/Max: 3/12

Rates do not include:Entrance tickets for museums, parks and cultural visits, 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. _____

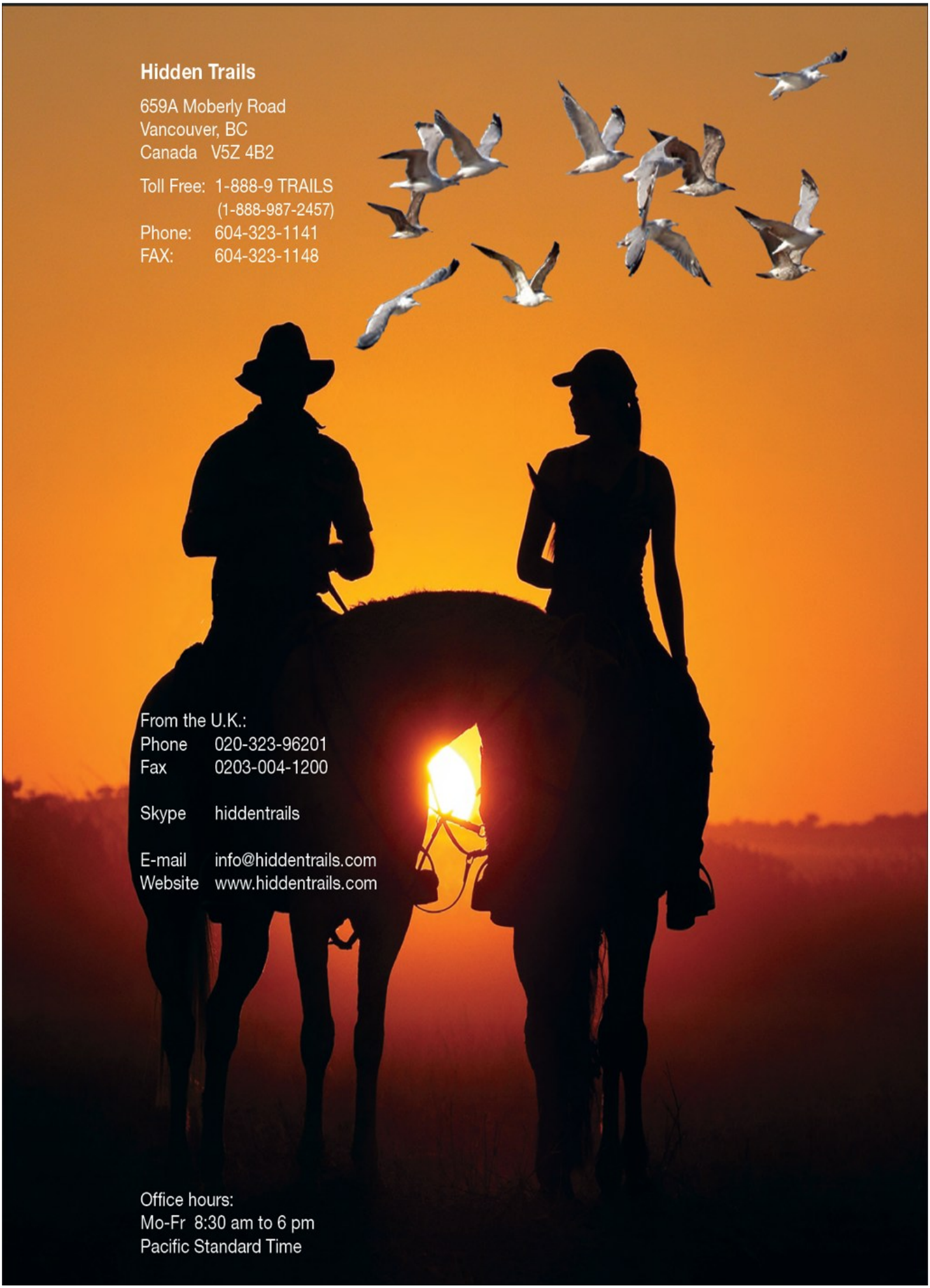
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ◯ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ◯ initial _____

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From the U.K.:
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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