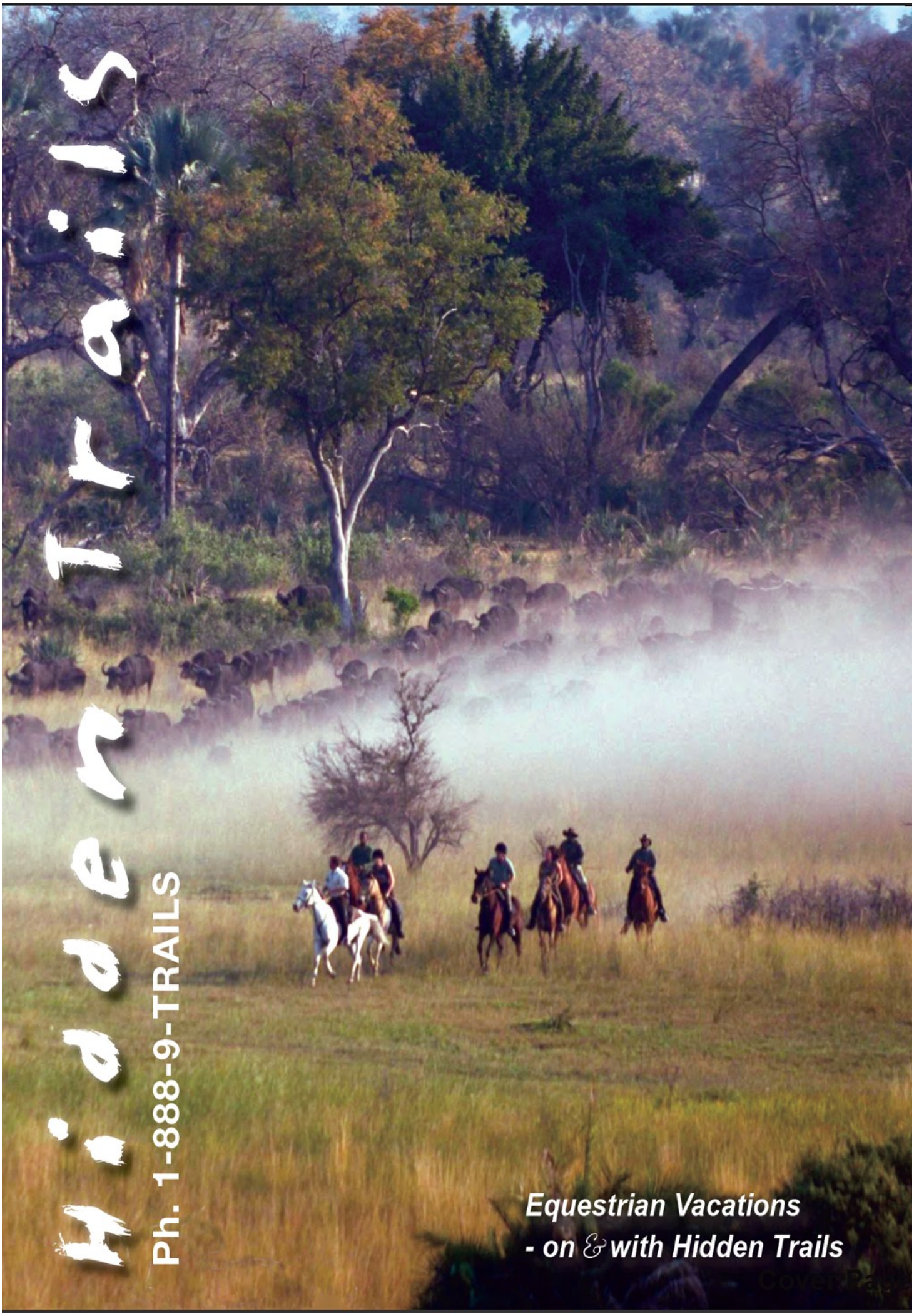

Hidden Trails
Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS
Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

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

Caves and Waterfalls of the Balkan - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT02
8 days / 7 nights ~$2,495.00
Dates: May-Oct

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

Tack: Both Western and English high quality ...
Horses: Shagya Arabs, East-Bulgarian breed, An...
Pace: 4 to 7 riding hours per day. Usually 4...
Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Sofia airport













Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria
"Some of the finest highland scenery in Europe is found in the Rila, Pirin, Rhodope and Balkan mountain ranges" (The Rough Guide - 1995)

The Balkans are the longest chain in the peninsula- over 600 km. Dividing Bulgaria into two distinct halves, the Balkans amaze us with their spectacular natural sights- the river canyons, the rocks, the forests and the high picks (the highest is 2376 m).

Our trail takes you to the North side of the Balkans in its central fore-mountains- the land of ancient historical, architectural and extraordinary natural landmarks. The main goal of this carefully designed holiday is to show you the best preserved castles, towers, monasteries and fortresses from the Middle Ages together with the old houses and traditional crafts and finally to leave you fascinated, while staying in front of the unique waterfalls and caves of the Devetaki plateau. All this experience will be supplemented by the fine Bulgarian wines and the delicious traditional dishes, fruits and vegetables, cultivated without any chemical treatment. The relief is various, but mainly smooth and pleasant for horseback riding and will give you the possibility to ride free of strain and to enjoy with all your senses the amazing sceneries of the nature.

Accomodation

Accommodations
This is a progressive ride so nights will be spent in different locations. You will be staying in 5 different accommodations total.

Description
All nights are spent in comfortable hotels and authentic rural houses with unique atmosphere, in double rooms with private toilet and shower. TVs, cleaning services, and WIFI is available at all locations. Swimming pools, massages, and sauna are available in all of the hotels. However, please, note that in September and October, outdoor pools might be closed.
Laundry is not available while on the trip.

Accommodation Itinerary 2023 - *subject to changes based on availability*
Night 1: Guesthouse near Sevlievo
Night 2: Hunting Lodge in Skalsko
Night 3: Complex Chiflika in Ledenik
Night 4: Complex Imenieto in Emen
Night 5 & 6: Guesthouse in Karpachevo
Night 7: Guesthouse near Sevlievo

Accommodation Itinerary 2024 - *subject to changes based on availability*
Night 1: Hotel near Sevlievo
Night 2: Guesthouse in Gesha
Night 3: Complex Chiflika in Ledenik
Night 4: Complex Imenieto in Emen
Night 5 & 6: Guesthouse in Karpachevo
Night 7: Hotel near Sevlievo

Hotel near Sevlievo (from 2024)
This small and modern hotel offers simply decorated rooms with a comfortable bed, air conditioning, a TV, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom.

Guesthouse near Sevlievo
This charming guesthouse is located in a small village near Sevlievo. It has 10 guestrooms with air conditioning, flat-screen TV with satellite channels, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom with free toiletries and a hairdryer.

Hunting Lodge in Skalsko
This beautiful lodge is located on the shore of a lake, just outside of Skalsko. The rooms are modern and feature bright colors. Each room comes with a satellite TV and an ensuite bathroom. There is a big common room decorated with hunting trophies and warmed up by a fireplace. The lodge also features a terrace with wonderful views over the lake, and an outdoor swimming pool.

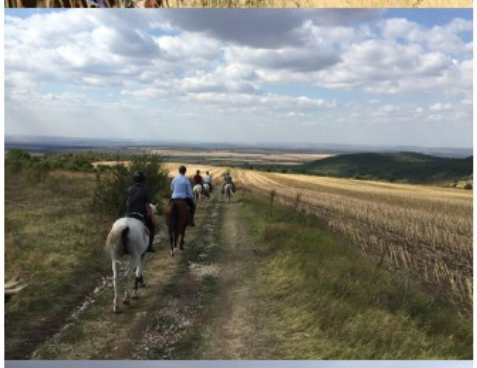
Guesthouse in Gesha (from 2024)
This charming guesthouse has 8 rooms, each with private facilities. The rooms are all equipped with a TV and free Wi-Fi internet.



















Complex Chiflika in Ledenik

This accommodation is located in a small Balkan village known for its mineral pools. The complex features comfortable rooms fitted with a TV, Wi-Fi access and a private bathroom. Guests can access to the covered mineral pool (winter seasonal), outdoor Olympic mineral pool (summer season) and the small outdoor mineral pool (always open) free of charge. There is also a Jacuzzi and sauna onsite.



Complex Imenieto in Emen

This accommodation features different buildings with a variety of rooms. Each room is equipped with satellite TV, Wi-Fi access, air conditioning, a fridge and a private bathroom. The complex has a beautiful garden with an outdoor sitting area and a swimming pool.



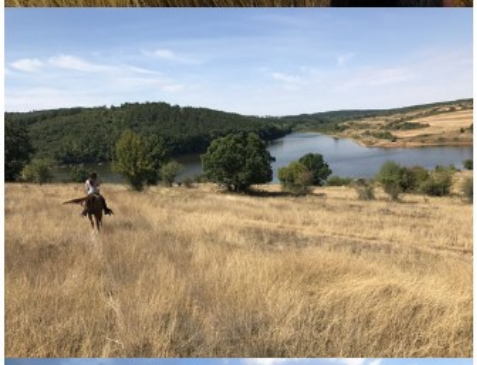
Guest House in Karpachevo

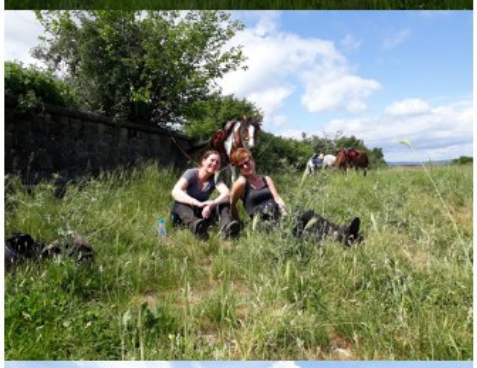
This lovely guesthouse offers spacious rooms with a tasteful décor. Each room has its own fireplace, a TV, Wi-Fi internet and a private bathroom. The guesthouse also has a beautiful garden with an outdoor swimming pool.

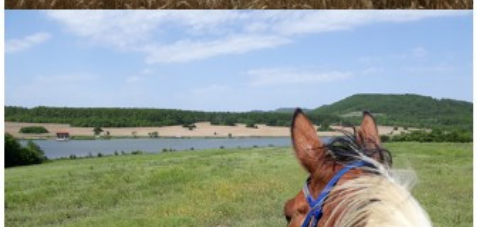
Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory is we are unable to find another rider to share.





Meals
All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.

The hotels and guesthouses provide breakfast and dinner, offering delicious traditional dishes made with fruits and vegetables from local farms.
The midday meals are in the open-air and consist of warm homemade food, beer, cold and warm up drinks.

Wine and beer are included with meals, but no hard liquor.

Dietary Restrictions
We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.

Riding



Pace
Varying from walk on the steeper slopes to a faster pace on the open spaces, which are great for long canters. Usually we do about 40 % walking, 30 % trotting and 30 % cantering. This proportion could be changed according to the requirements and the abilities of the riders. The program includes 6 riding days with 4-7 hours per day in the saddle. We cover about 145 km in total.

Horses
We have Shagya and purebred Arabs, East-Bulgarian breeds, and cross-bred horses with Akhal-Teke blood - all well trained and calm. The height of the horses is from 150 to 165 cm.

Riding Terrain
The terrain is diverse, but mainly smooth and pleasant, giving you the opportunity to ride free from strain and to enjoy the amazing nature scenery. You should be a strong, confident rider, capable of all paces and fit enough for long canters through rough areas. Wide-open spaces and gently undulating land provide the opportunity for long gallops. (Please note that during rainy weather the ground may be too slippery for long, fast riding).

Guides
We always have 2 guides per group: one to lead and the other to support the group with a jeep and all of the luggage. The riding guides are experienced and professional and know all the horses and routes well. They have a sound knowledge and awareness of safety, of looking after horses and guests out on a ride. The guides speak English, German or French fluently.

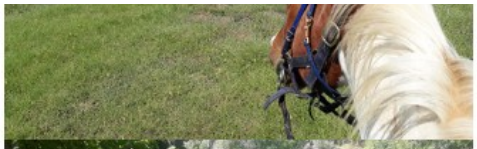
Non-Riders
All the accompanying non-riders will have the possibility to participate in all the non-riding activities of this program: bow-shooting, swimming in lake, canoeing, cultural tour around the historic landmarks and visit of Devetaki plateau caves. Massages are available every night upon request and against a small additional payment.

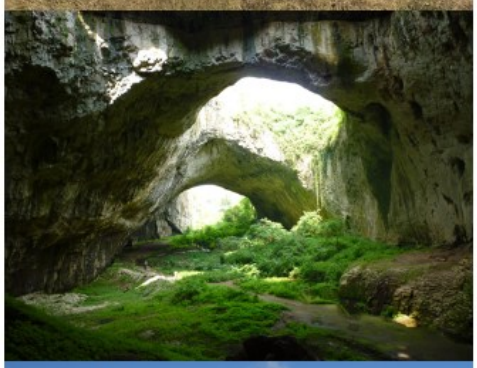
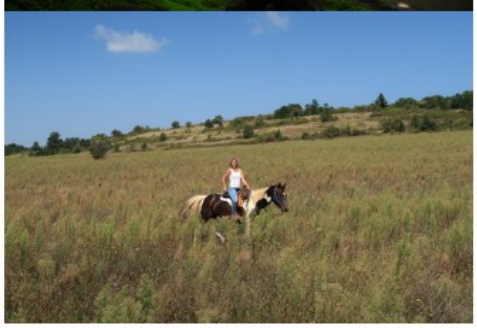
Itinerary



Additional activities: bow-shooting, swimming in a lake with the horses, rowing with canoe, cultural tour around the historic landmarks, visit to Devetaki plateau caves and special party night. Massages are available every night upon request and against a small additional payment.

Sample Itinerary 2024 *subject to changes*



Sample Itinerary 2024 - *subject to changes*

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival
Pick up from Sofia Airport and transfer to Sevlievo, located 190 km northeast from the capital, Sofia.
You are accommodated in a hotel with sauna and Jacuzzi. In the evening, initial Instructions by the guides and dinner.
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at Hotel near Sevlievo

Day 2 (Sunday): Ride to Gesha
Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the stables. We tack up the horses and listen to the final instructions from our guides. Then, we get in the saddle and ride through hills and beautiful forests, with small creeks and lakes. We stop for our picnic in a beautiful meadow.
We arrive in Gesha village, where we spend the night in a nice guest house with a swimming pool.
Riding: About 23 km (4.5 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse in Gesha

Day 3 (Monday): Visit of Dryanovo Monastery & Ride to Ledenik
This morning, we visit the Monastery and the cave "Bacho Kiro" by car. Then, we ride northward to the village of Ledenik, through beautiful meadows and walking along the small canyon and nice oak forests. An interesting tower has been preserved, that was built during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396). Picnic will be taken next to the village of Kereka.
Riding: About 29 km (5 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Complex "Chiflika"

Day 4 (Tuesday): Visit of Veliko Turnovo & Ride to Emen
In the morning, visit by car to Veliko Turnovo the capital of Bulgaria in the time of the second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396).
Today's riding destination is the village of Emen. You will ride along Yantra River and the fields and forests until you reach the village. Picnic next to the village of Balvan.
Riding: About 22 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Complex "Imenieto" in Emen

*Highlights: The ancient Bulgarian capital Veliko Tarnovo.
A well-fortified hill has been the house of the Bulgarian tsar (king) and the aristocracy for 2 centuries. The castle and Orthodox churches that have survived from the Middle Ages are telling stories of one impressive history: the year 1185 began with omens. The winter happened to be so mild that the fruit trees all over Europe blossomed even in January. The Bulgarians connected this "God's omen" with the hope of restoring their state, which had been subdued by Byzantium 167 years ago. The brothers, Assen and Peter, which owned a miraculous icon, fascinated the people in the church on the day of St.Dimitar and leaded them to an armed uprising. Both brothers were kings for totally 12 years and they succeeded to restore Bulgaria almost to the size of its First Kingdom (681-1018). Both brothers were killed by traitors. On the 9 of April 1205 the army of the Fourth Crusade took the capital of Byzantium- Constantinople and founded their own Latin Empire, led by the count of Flanders, Boduen. Tsar Kaloyan (the younger brother of Assen and Peter) attempted to conclude peace with the knights, but they refused haughtily the offered hand. The eventful clash occurred on 14 April 1205 near to Adrianopolis (present Edirne). The army of count Louis was defeated and the Emperor Boduen was captured and taken to the capital Veliko Tarnovo, where later died.

Day 5 (Wednesday): Emen to Karpachevo
We start riding in northwest direction to the village of Karpachevo. Our route goes through beautiful forests with meadows and fields, towards the Devetaki plateau (500-600m above sea level) with its extraordinary caves, waterfalls and lakes. Picnic in the shade near the village of Krasno gradishte.
Riding: About 35 km (6 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse "Ongul" in Karpachevo

Day 6 (Thursday): Morning Ride & Visit of Devetaki Cave
In the morning, we go on a short ride on the Devetaki plateau. After the ride, we go back to the guesthouse for lunch.
In the afternoon, visit by car of the Devetaki cave. A part of the movie "The Expendables 2" with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, and Bruce Willis was captured in the cave in November 2011.
Riding: About 12 km (2 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse "Ongul" in Karpachevo

*Highlights: Krushuna's Waterfalls
A unique natural water cascade, whose sparkling waterfalls consist of many shoots and small basins. The region is green and wild with a large variety of plant and animal species. This picturesque area is rich of limestone caves with springing streams and rivers. The biggest cave, called Boninska, contains the longest underground lake (800 m) in Bulgaria. The territory of Krushuna's Waterfalls is a National park.

Day 7 (Friday): Karpachevo to Kurmiansko
W start riding from Karpachevo village to the vertical cave "Garvanitsa" on the plateau, then ride to the lake of Kramolin where we can swim in - with and without the horses. Picnic by the lake. In the afternoon, you will ride through the valleys of the rivers Magara and Krapets. The ride ends in the village of Kurmiansko, from where the horses are transported back to the stable.
Riding: About 35 km (6 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hotel near Sevlievo

Day 8 (Saturday): Departure
Breakfast at the guesthouse, then transfer to Sofia.
Meals included: Breakfast

Other Info

Meeting: Sofia airport
Airport: Sofia airport
Transfer: Included from Sofia airport
Distance: 190 km
Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is included from Sofia International Airport (SOF) at set times only. Pick-up time on Day 1 is available between noon and 4:00pm. Drop-off on the last day is between 11:00am and 3:00pm.

Tack: Both Western and English high quality Endurance saddles: Ortho-Flex, Podium, Barefoo and other good quality models.

Horses: Shagya Arabs, East-Bulgarian breed, Anglo-Arabs and other warm blood horses. From 150 to 165 cm

Pace: 4 to 7 riding hours per day. Usually 40 % walking, 30 % trotting and 30 % cantering.

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level:  (3 to 4 out of 5) Intermediate

Age: Min 12 Max 75

Weight: 209 lbs

Riders: Min 4 riders Max 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-BGRT02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Beverages including berre and wine, 6 riding days, Entrance fees, Group Transfers & English speaking guide.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US$
A 2026	8 day trip, 6 riding days	€2080	$2495

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

Rates Note:* single supplement is mandatory if single room is requested, or if willing to share but no confirmed roommate

Transfer Option

Description

2026	Transfer from Sofia airport included at set time		
2026	Small group supplement (2-3 pax only), pp	€470	$565
2026	Private transfer from Sofia, pp	€260	$315
2026	Single supplement	€220	$265
2026	Wine tasting, pp	€30	$35

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	10/03/2026 - 10/10/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days

Min/Max: 4/10
* custom tour date possible with minimum of 4 riders

Rates do not include:Hard alcoholic beverages, Wine tasting (20 euros), Personal travel insurance (mandatory), Private Transfers & Gratuities
Massage is available for a small cost (paid locally)

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. _____

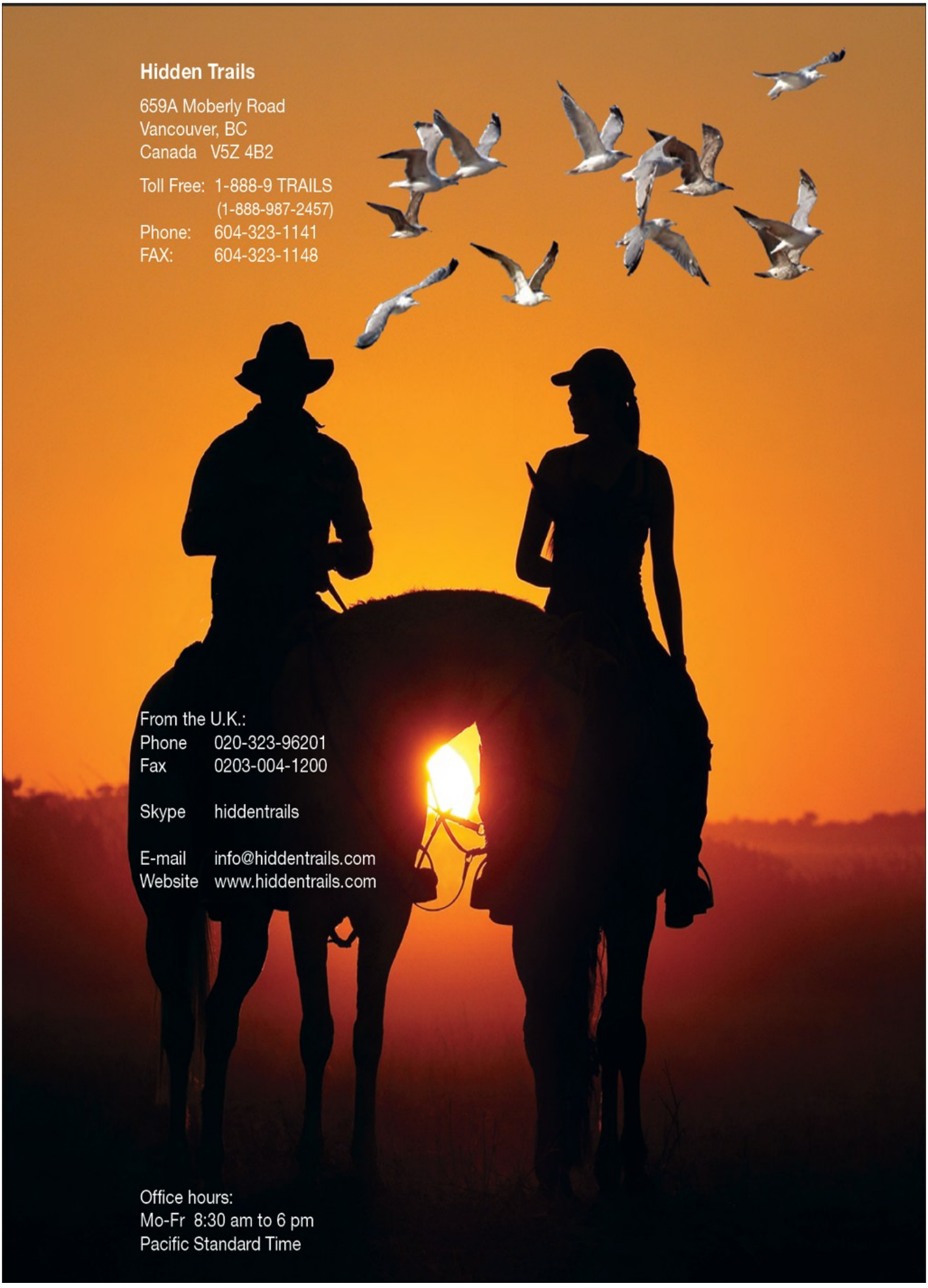
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ◯ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ◯ initial _____

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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