

# 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](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://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

# Across the Central Balkan - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT05  
8 days / 7 nights ~\$0.00  
Dates: August

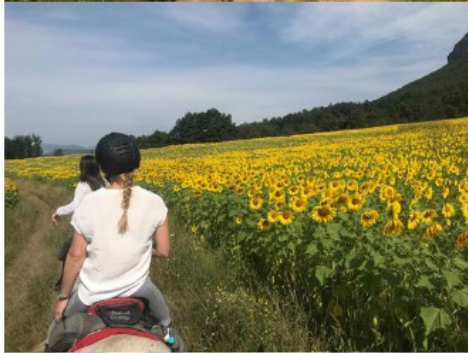
Trip Rating : ●●●●●  
Difficulty : ●●●●●  
Lodging : 🏠

**Tack:** Both Western and English high quality ...

**Horses:** Shagya Arabs, East-Bulgarian breed, An...

**Pace:** 3-6 riding hours per day. Varying fro...  
Walk,Trot,Canter,

**Airport:** Sofia airport



## Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria  
Escape civilization and discover the heart of the Balkan mountain.

On this ride, you will get to ride through one of the most beautiful part of Bulgaria: the Central Balkan National Park. This National Park is one of the largest and most valuable protected areas in Europe. Covering an area of 72.021.07 ha, it is home to many wild animals and over 1,900 different plants (over 130 species of which are listed in the Bulgarian Red Data Book and the World Red List of Threatened Species).

On the first and last riding days are spent in the valleys, allowing for nice canter. Then, you will go deeper into the National Park, where you can enjoy the shade of the century-old beech trees, the wilderness, and the breathtaking sights of the mountain.

Your riding companion will be a well-trained horse, always willing to work and comfortable to ride.

## Accommodation



### Accommodations

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

### Description

You will sleep in a mixture of high-quality hotels / guest houses with 2 nights spent camping in the wilderness. Laundry is not available while on the trip.

#### Accommodation Itinerary 2023 - subject to changes based on availability

- Night 1: Guesthouse near Kormiansko
- Night 2: Guesthouse near Kastel
- Night 3: Guesthouse in Valevtsi
- Night 4: Camping or Mazalat hut
- Night 5: Sinkevitsa complex near Gabrovo
- Night 6: Guesthouse near Novakovtsi
- Night 7: Guesthouse near Kormiansko

#### Accommodation Itinerary 2024 - subject to changes based on availability

- Night 1: Hotel near Sevlievo
- Night 2: Guesthouse near Kastel
- Night 3: Guesthouse in Valevtsi
- Night 4: Camping or Mazalat hut
- Night 5: Sinkevitsa complex near Gabrovo
- Night 6: Guesthouse near Novakovtsi
- 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 Kormiansko*

This charming guesthouse is surrounded by nature. It offers 6 comfortable rooms with private facilities and free internet. There is a TV in the common area.

#### *Guesthouse near Kastel*

Housed in a traditional Bulgarian home, this guesthouse has 11 beds. Bathroom might have to be shared.

#### *Guesthouse in Valevtsi*

The house boasts beautiful views of the surrounding mountains and offers comfortable rooms with private facilities and free Wi-Fi access. Guests can choose to relax on the terrace to enjoy the sun or by the fireplace, in the common room. There are also many amenities to keep you busy such as a swimming pool, a volleyball court



are common room. There are also many amenities to keep you busy such as a swimming pool, a volleyball court, a table tennis table, a TV with DVDs and much more.

**Mazalat hut**

This beautiful two-storey mountain hut can accommodate up to 34 people in various shared bedrooms (for 3, 5 or 8 people). Each bedroom has washbasins and bathrooms are shared (located outside of bedrooms). The building is supplied with water and electricity and heated with solid fuel stoves.

**Sinkevitsa complex near Gabrovo**

This lovely property has 22 bedrooms. It is a modern complex (opened in the summer of 2009) located near a lake (suitable for year-round fishing) just outside the city. The spacious bedrooms are equipped with all the necessary amenities: private bathroom, TV, mini fridge, Wi-Fi access and temperature control. There is a big outdoor pool, and it is also possible to swim in the lake.

**Guesthouse near Novakovtsi**

This small guesthouse offers 4 comfortable double rooms, each with private bathroom and satellite TV. Guests are welcome to walk around the garden or go for a swim at the pool.

**Camping**

Tents and mattresses are provided but guests need to bring their own sleeping bags (can also be rented locally for 20 euros each). We camp in the wilderness so you there are no toilets and guests usually go for a swim in the river to freshen up. We also try to take a portable shower with us when possible.

**Room Occupancy**

Single supplement is mandatory if 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 45% walking, 30% trotting and 25% cantering. This proportion could be changed according to the requirements and the abilities of the riders. The program includes 6 riding days with 4-5 hours per day in the saddle.

#### 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 riding terrain alternates between lush meadows, high cliffs and dense forests. This trail is available to both intermediate and more experienced riders, as the terrain in the mountain is not suitable for very long canters.

#### 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.

## Itinerary



#### Sample Itinerary - 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 Kastel

Breakfast at the guesthouse and transfer to the stables. We tack up the horses and listen to the final instructions from our guides. Today, we will ride in the valley with great views over the Balkan mountains. We stop in an open field for our lunch break.

In the afternoon, we make our way to Kastel, where we will spend the night in a guesthouse.

*Riding: About 28 km (5 hours)*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight Guesthouse near Kastel*

##### Day 3 (Monday): Kastel to Valevtsi

This morning, we ride closer to the mountains, entering the wild lands of Central Bulgaria. We stop for lunch by the Rositsa River, where you will have the opportunity to swim in crystal clear water. We will rest here during the hottest hours of the day. In the afternoon, we ride through wild forests and finally arrive in Valevtsi.

After a nice dinner at the guesthouse, we can go to the Bedouin summer bar.

*Riding: About 15 km (3.5 hours)*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Guesthouse in Valevtsi*

##### Day 4 (Tuesday): Valevtsi to Mazalat Hut

Today's ride goes uphill towards the heart of the Central Balkan National Park. Our trail leads us through an old beech forest along the Rositsa River. There will be opportunities to swim in natural pools.

We stop for lunch at Mazalat Hut (1520 m), located close to the famous natural reserve "Peeshti Skali" ("Singing rocks"). From the hut, a 360-degree panoramic view awaits us. We will go for a guided hiking tour to the "Peeshti Skali" Nature Reserve.

This evening, you can choose to sleep in the hut in common bedrooms for 3, 5 or 8 people, or outside in tents. A common shower is available at the hut.

After dinner, you can enjoy the night sky's with endless stars.

*Riding: About 25 km (4.5 hours)*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Mazalat Hut*

#### **Day 5 (Wednesday): Mazalat Hut to Gabrovo**

After breakfast, we ride on the Balkan's crest, enjoying the amazing views on both sides of the mountain. We will stop for lunch at the "Partizanska Pesen" hut.

This afternoon, smooth downhill ride through the forest, then canter through beautiful meadows on our way to Gabrovo city – the Bulgarian "Capital of humour and satire". We are accommodated in the complex "Sinkevitsa" located on the shore of a lake.

*Riding: About 30 km (6 hours)*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Sinkevitsa complex near Gabrovo*

#### **Day 6 (Thursday): Gabrovo to Novakovtsi & Etara Visit**

We start the day riding beside the rocky chain "Vitata Stena " (702 m), giving us opportunities for nice canters and great view of the Balkan mountains on one side and the beautiful rocks on another. We will picnic under the rocks. Later, we ride towards Novakovtsi where we will spend the night in a quiet guest house.

After the ride, visit by car of the open-air Ethnographic museum "Etara". The complex represents a 19th century village with the main crafts developed at that time. The old machines work with the power of running water. The current craftsmen produce traditional pots, garments, food, musical instruments, tools and souvenirs on them. There you could buy handmade presents for your friends!

*Riding: About 20 km (3.5 hours)*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Guesthouse near Novakovtsi*

#### **Day 7 (Friday): Ride Back to Stables**

For our last riding day, we head back to the stables, with a lot of nice canters. We stop for picnic next to Bogatovo village.

We overnight once more in the quiet village Kormiansko.

*Riding: About 26 km (4.5 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*

Non-riding activities: Bow-shooting, visit to the Ethnographic complex Etara near Gabrovo city and guided hiking tour to the Peeshti Skali Nature Reserve.

## **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 Airport (SOF) at set times. 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:** 3-6 riding hours per day. Varying from walk on steeper slopes to a fast pace in open spaces. Usually 45% walking, 30% trotting and 25% cantering

Walk | Trot | Canter |

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2.5 to 4 out of 5) Low Intermediate

**Age:** Min 12 Max 75

**Weight:** 209 lbs

**Riders:** Min 4 riders Max 8 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

## Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-BGRT05

**Rates include:** Accommodations, All your meals and beverages, 6 riding days with English speaking guide, Support vehicle with mobile phone connection & Transfer from/to Sofia airport included at set time

Guides can speak English, German or French

## Packages and Options

Season	Description
--------	-------------

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

## Transfer Option

Description

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates
--------	------------

\* custom tour date possible with minimum of 4 riders

Rates do not include: Private transfers from/to Sofia, Hard alcoholic beverages, Sleeping bag (can also be rented locally for 20 euros each). Personal travel insurance (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									
						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"/>			
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"/>			
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"/>			
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"/>			

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)  
Website [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Office hours:  
Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm  
Pacific Standard Time

