

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: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Nature & Culture of Central Bulgaria - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT06
8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,595.00
Dates: July

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

Tack: Both Western and English high quality ...

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

Pace: 3 to 5 riding hours per day. Usually 4...
Walk, Trot, Canter,

Airport: Sofia airport

Nature & Culture of Central Bulgaria



Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria

Explore the unique nature of Bulgaria on horseback, learn about local traditions and culture, discover the ancient history, and taste the delicious food and wine.

This trail takes you to the North side of the Balkan mountains, where there are plenty of free and open land without any fences: a true rider's paradise. On this riding holiday you will have the chance to explore the greatest historical, cultural and natural landmarks of the area.

Your riding companions are well trained, reliable and will happily carry you through this adventure, along valleys, lakes, beautiful forests and open fields.

Accommodation

Accommodations

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

Description

You will be accommodated in small hotels and nice traditional guesthouses (mostly twin rooms with en-suite bathroom).

Laundry is not available while on the trip.

Accommodation Itinerary 2023 - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1 & 2: Guesthouse near Sevlievo

Night 3: Guesthouse in Zhivko

Night 4: Guesthouse in Gesha

Night 5: Complex "Imenieta" in Emen

Night 6: Hunting Lodge in Skalsko

Night 7: Guesthouse near Sevlievo

Accommodation Itinerary 2024 - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Hotel near Sevlievo

Night 2 & 3: Guesthouse near Vranilovtsi

Night 4: Guesthouse in Zhivko

Night 5: Guesthouse in Gesha

Night 6: Guesthouse in Gostilitsa

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.

Guesthouse near Vranilovtsi (from 2024)

This lovely guesthouse is surrounded by nature, offering peace and quiet. There are 4 guestrooms, each with its own bathroom, free Wi-Fi and air conditioning.



Guesthouse near Zhivko

This charming guesthouse offers simple but comfortable rooms each equipped with private facilities. There is a terrace with a pool where guests can relax. Free internet access is available at this property.





Guesthouse in Gesha

Each of the 7 guestrooms feature a TV, a balcony, free Wi-Fi internet and a private bathroom. There is a well kept outdoor pool and small garden where guests can relax after a long day in the saddle.

Complex Imenieta 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.

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 Gostilitsa (from 2024)

This beautiful guesthouse offers great views over the surrounding mountains. The rooms are spacious and feature air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, a TV and private facilities. There is also a small outdoor pool and a nice garden where guests can relax in the evening.

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.

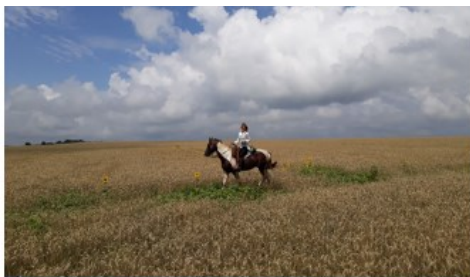
The midday meals are in the open-air and consist of warm homemade food, beer, cold and warm up drinks.

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 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 3-6 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 terrain is diverse, giving you the opportunity 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.

Itinerary

Sample Itinerary 2023 - 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 guesthouse with beautiful views over the Balkan Mountains. In the evening, initial instructions by the guides and dinner.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Guesthouse near Sevlievo

Day 2 (Sunday): Introductory Ride

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 come back to the stables for our lunch break.

In the afternoon, we get back in the saddle for another ride in the surrounding area.

Riding: About 18 km (4 hours)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Guesthouse near Sevlievo

Day 3 (Monday): Ride to Zhivko

This morning, we pack our luggage and head to the riding center for the start of our adventure. Our goal for the day is the small village of Zhivko. On the way, we ride along the famous rocky chain "Vitata Stena" (10 km long and more than 120 m high!), which is a nature reserve. We will enjoy amazing views towards the Balkan mountains. Our picnic stop will be next to the village of Armenite, located just in the middle of "Vitata Stena".

Riding: About 25 km (4.5 hours)

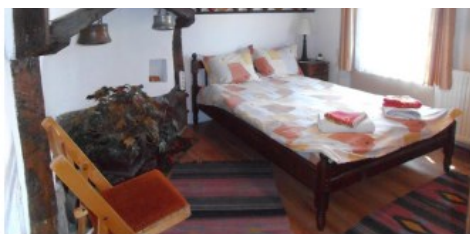
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Guesthouse in Zhivko

Day 4 (Tuesday): Visit of Ethnographic complex Etara & Ride to Gesha

In the morning, visit by car of the Ethnographic complex Etara near by the town of Gabrovo. The complex presents a village from the 19th century with the main crafts, developed at that time. The old machines are working with the power of the running water and the present craftsmen produce traditional pots, garments, food, music instruments, tools and souvenirs on them.

After the visit, we start riding in the wilderness towards the village of Gesha. On the way, we stop for our lunch



break by the Yantra River.
Riding: About 21 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse in Gesha

Day 5 (Wednesday): Morning Visits & Afternoon Ride

After breakfast, we go for some sightseeing by car. We start with a visit of Dryanovo Monastery and then "Bacho Kiro" cave, located above it. The Monastery survived after being set on fire by the Ottoman army in one epic battle with the rebels of the biggest Bulgarian uprising against the Turkish occupation in 1876.
 After our visit, we start riding north through the valley of the Yantra River, enjoying nice canter along the open meadows. We stop along the way for our picnic near Vetrinitsi village.
 At the end of the day, we arrive at the peaceful country-style hotel "Imenieta", with a swimming pool.
Riding: About 25 km (4.5 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Country-style Hotel "Imenieta"

Day 6 (Thursday): Emen Canyon Hike & Ride to Skalsko Lodge

We start the day with a small hike to the Emen Canyon (near Negovanka River). Then we get in the saddle and ride through open fields, with many canter opportunities and beautiful landscapes. We will enjoy our lunch break at a lake near Burya village. This evening, we arrive at the beautiful Skalsko Hunting Lodge.
Riding: About 25 km (4.5 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Skalsko Hunting Lodge

Day 7 (Friday): Ride Back to Stables

Today, we make our way back to the stables. We will go through beautiful forests, ride along creeks and enjoy beautiful views.
Riding: About 20 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Helios Hotel in Sevlievo

Day 8 (Saturday): Departure

Breakfast at the guesthouse, then transfer to Sofia.
Meals included: Breakfast

Additional activities: bow-shooting, cultural tour around the historic landmarks, visit of the Ethnographic complex Etara. Massages are available every night upon request for a small additional payment.

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): Introductory Ride

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 come back to the stables for our lunch break.
 In the afternoon, we get back in the saddle for another ride in the surrounding area.
Riding: About 18 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse near Vranilovtsi

Day 3 (Monday): Ride to Armenite

This morning, we ride through forests and open fields giving opportunity for nice canter, with great views of the Balkan mountains. We stop for lunch near Armenite village.
Riding: About 20 km (3.5 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse near Vranilovtsi

Day 4 (Tuesday): Visit of Ethnographic complex Etara & Ride to Zhivko

We start the day by riding to the small and well-hidden village of Zhivko. Riding alongside the foot of the famous rocky chain "Vitata Stena" (10 km long and more than 120 m high!), which is a nature reserve. Along the way, you will have an amazing view towards the Balkan mountains.
 We stop for a picnic near a lake.
 After arriving at Zhivko village, we go by car to the Ethnographic complex "Etara" near Gabrovo city. The complex represents a village from the 19th century with the main crafts developed at that time. The old machines work with the power of running water and the present craftsmen produce traditional pots, garments, food, musical instruments, tools and souvenirs on them.
 Dinner and night at a beautiful traditional-style guest house in Zhivko village.
Riding: About 20 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse in Zhivko

Day 5 (Wednesday): Ride to Gesha

After breakfast, at the guest house, we pack up and ride in the wilderness towards Gesha village. We will stop for lunch on the way, near Yantra river.
Riding: About 21 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse in Gesha

Day 6 (Thursday): Sightseeing & Ride to Gostilitsa

We start the day with a visit by car of Dryanovo Monastery and "Bacho Kiro" cave. The Monastery survived after being set on fire by the Ottoman army in one epic battle with the rebels of the biggest Bulgarian uprising against the Turkish occupation in 1876.
 After the visit, we ride north, enjoying nice canter along the wild meadows. We stop for lunch near Skalsko lake.
Riding: About 22 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Guesthouse in Gostilitsa

Day 7 (Friday): Ride Back to Stables

Today, we make our way back to the stables. We will go through beautiful forests, ride along creeks and enjoy beautiful views.
Riding: About 20 km (4 hours)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Helios Hotel in 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 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 to 5 riding hours per day. Usually 40 % walking, 30 % trotting and 30 % 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 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

[View our complete list of horse riding trips in Bulgaria](#) | [View our full list of horse riding trips](#)

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-BGRT06

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	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip, 6 riding days	€1450	\$1595

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

Transfer Option

Description

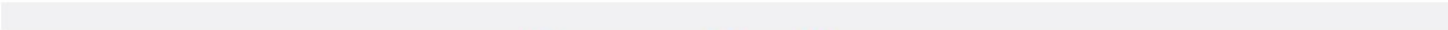
2024	Transfer from Sofia airport included at set time		
2024	Small group supplement (2-3 pax only), pp	€415	\$455
2024	Private transfer from Sofia, pp	€260	\$285
2024	Single supplement	€150	\$165

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	07/13/2024 - 07/20/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days

Min/Max: 4/10
* please inquire for additional tour dates

Rates do not include:Private transfers from/to Sofia, Hard alcoholic beverages, 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	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Inter.	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

