



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

Rhodope Mountains Ride - In the Land of Orpheus - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT10
6 days / 5 nights ~\$925.00
Dates: May-Oct

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

Tack: Western, but there is English tack available...

Horses: Most of the horses belong to the local...

Pace: (6-7 hours in the saddle each day). Ranges from...
Walk, Trot, Canter,

Airport: Sofia International Airport (SOF)



Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria

The Rhodopes, occupying the southern part of Bulgaria and part of Greece, are the homeland of the mythological singer Orpheus. This ride spends 6 days of riding in this enchanting mountain – the land of high peaks and deep river gorges, unique rock formations, lush meadows and dense forests. The western part of the Rhodopes where our ride takes place, offers a variety of terrains in which one can experience all types of riding and paces. We visit remote villages, stay with local people enjoying their hospitality, local food and excellent wines. We spend also some time in Plovdiv - Europe's oldest inhabited city and 2019 European Capital of Culture.

Accommodation

Accommodations

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

Description

You will stay overnight at local guesthouses and small family-run hotels in rooms with private facilities (except for maybe one night in Varhovorah – depends on accommodation). WiFi will be available at all locations.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

- Night 1: Plovdiv
- Night 2: Hunting lodge in Bryanovshitsa
- Night 3: Guesthouse in Orehovo
- Night 4: Guesthouse in Lyaskovo
- Night 5: Hotel in Varhovoruh

Villa Yustina near Plovdiv

This lovely hotel was created in 2006. The owners also produce their own wine. The 10 guestrooms are modern and comfortable. Each room has a TV and private facilities. Wi-Fi is also available onsite. There is a pool and a small garden where you can relax in the evening.

Hunting lodge in Bryanovshitsa

Tonight, you sleep in a hunting lodge with simple but comfortable bedrooms with shared facilities.

Guesthouse in Orehovo

This Guest House offers 7 spacious bedrooms each with its own sanitary facilities and TV set. Free WiFi is available throughout the property.

Guesthouse in Lyaskovo

This lovely guesthouse provides simple accommodations in private bedrooms that are fitted with a private bathroom and Wi-Fi access. It is possible to do laundry here for a small fee.

Hotel in Varhovoruh

Surrounded by nature this hotel provides comfortable rooms featuring ensuite bathroom, Wi-Fi access and satellite TV.

Room Occupancy

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

Meals

Five breakfasts are included. Your package also includes 6 lunch packs (day 1 to 6) and 4 dinners (day 2 to 5). The food is locally grown and home-style. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the rates.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.

Riding





Riding Level

The ride is suitable for confident intermediate riders. There will also be occasions where you need to dismount and lead your horse for short periods of time (20 – 30 min) – this can be both uphill as well as downhill so you will need to be reasonably fit.

Pace

This trip includes 6 days of riding in enchanting mountains, deep river gorges, lush meadows and dense forests. The trail offers a variety of terrains in which one can experience of all types of paces. We ride between 4 and 6 hours every day.

Horses

Most of the horses are crossbreeds between the local East-Bulgarian and Karakachan with a mid-height of 150 cm. They are well known as thoughtful and tough, and are thus extremely well-adapted to the mountainous region of the Stara planina (Balkan).

They are well behaved and are used to each other so you will not experience any trouble with them walking, trotting or cantering in a group together.

Though our horses are suitable for riding, saddling etc. they are still working horses and they are taken care of just like the typical free grazing horses in the region. This might be quite different from what a rider with an experience abroad must have seen, but please, keep in mind that this is how the local people have raised their horses for centuries. As a company that has always tried to help the small local communities in Bulgaria by bringing tourists to them, we would like to ask you to respect and understand these traditions and practices.

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Day 1 (Sunday): Sofia - Brestovitsa - Plovdiv

Pick-up from your hotel in Sofia or Plovdiv and drive to Villa Yustina to meet our horses (15 km from Plovdiv) and do a short loop-like ride. While riding, we will pass through meadows and forests. According to the season, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the ripe fruits in the area and meet the local people, who work in the fields. Sightseeing in Plovdiv in the afternoon. Overnight in Plovdiv.

Riding: ~3 hours

Meals included: -/L/-

Overnight in Plovdiv

Day 2 (Monday): Plovdiv - Leshtensko - Bryanovshtitsa Hut

After breakfast, we will start today's ride. We start climbing, with an option for trotting and cantering. An hour's riding later we reach the Leshtensko area, where we will enjoy the beautiful views on both sides of the trail. We will do 20 minutes to rest and water the horses in the beautiful canyon in the area. Then we head out through the forest to climb a small trail to the endpoint – Bryanovshtitsa hut. The ride lasts between 3 and 4 hours, with the option of extending one or two hours to the St. George area, which reveals a beautiful view over Plovdiv and the surrounding small towns and villages.

Riding: ~3-5 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Bryanovshtitsa hunting lodge, rooms with shared facilities

Day 3 (Tuesday): Bryanovshtitsa Hut - Orehovo

Today we are heading to the village of Orehovo - one of the most picturesque ones in the mountain. Today's ride will take about 6 hours. On the way, we will stop for a lunch near the scenic region of Bash Mandra.

Riding: ~3-5)

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Orehovo

Day 4 (Wednesday): Orehovo - Lyaskovo

Today we will ride through pine forests and vast meadows on our way to the village of Lyaskovo. We will take a short stop at the unique rock formation Chudnite Mostove (Miraculous Bridges).

Riding: ~6 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Lyaskovo in a local family-run guesthouse

Day 5 (Thursday): Lyaskovo - Vruhovruh

Today we are heading south and up in the mountains to the small resort of Varhovruh. Following the Varhovrah ridge, we will enjoy the great panorama views before reaching Persenk hut, where we will stop for lunch

Riding: 5-6 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Varhovruh

Day 6 (Friday): Vruhovruh - Villa Yustina - Sofia

Time to get back. First we are heading back to our base in Villa Yustina. Then we are continuing with a transfer back to Sofia.

Riding: ~3 hours

Meals included: B/L/-



*B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Other Info

Meeting: Sofia

Airport: Sofia International Airport (SOF)

Train station: Sofia

Transfer: hotel in Sofia

Distance: 10 km / 6 miles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from any hotel in Sofia at set times.

Transfers on days other than designated first and last day will be subject to a surcharge.

Tack: Western, but there is English tack available on request. Riding helmet is not mandatory.

Horses: Most of the horses belong to the local East-Bulgarian breed with a mid-height of 150 cm they are well known as responsive, careful and tough mounts, and are thus extremely well-adapted to the mountainous region of the Rhodope Mountains.

Pace: (6-7 hours in the saddle each day). Ranges from a walk on the steeper slopes and rough terrain to trots and canters on the open spaces. Rough estimate is 50 % walking, 25 % trotting and 25 % cantering.

Walk | Trot | Canter |

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

Age: Min 12 Max 70

Weight: 198 lbs

Riders: Min 2 riders Max 6 riders

Bachkovo Monastery



Second only to Rila Monastery in national significance, Bachkovo dates from 1083 when it was established by Grigori Bakuriyani, a high-ranking Georgian in the Byzantine administration. At the end of his life he wanted to exonerate his sins and so he had this monastery built. He himself stipulated in the code of ethics (kept in the monastery museum) that "a man of Byzantine descent not be accepted as a monk here." Over the centuries the monastery has been ruined and rebuilt several times; only the eleventh century ossuary is original. The latter, a two-story building, is 200 meters east of the monastery; on the second floor is a mural depicting Tsar Ivan Alexander and his wife, and another of the monastery's founder and his brother. In the refectory, the dining room table consists of a large marfale slab. Underneath the wall and ceiling plaster researchers have found portraits of philosophers Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Diogenes and Aristophanes.



In the museum (formerly the kitchen) there is a sabre which belonged to crusader Fridrich Barbarosa and icons by Zahari Zograph and his followers. The Zograph mural in St Nicola church (dating from 1850) depicts the Apocalypse and is one of the most interesting examples of Bulgarian revival art. It features realistic portraits of highly-placed contemporary figures in full dress as well as sinners in the nude awaiting judgment. On the same

wall, Zograph drew a portrait of himself standing alongside the head abbot of the monastery.



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Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-BGRT10

Rates include: Accommodations, 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners (from Day 2 to Day 5), 6 riding days, Luggage transport, group transfers at set times & Taxes
Helmets and saddle bags are provided upon request.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2026	6 day trip, 6 riding days	€770	\$925

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

Transfer Option

Description

2026 Transfer from/to hotel in Sofia is included at set times on first and last day		
2026 Bachkovo visit, per car (max 3 pax)	€70	\$80
2026 Single supplement	€130	\$155
2026 Other local expenses paid in cash, pp (mandatory)	€100	\$110
2026 Private transfers to/from Sofia Airport to city centre or Plovdiv Airport to city centre, one-way, per vehicle	€20	\$20

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	05/24/2026 - 05/29/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2026	06/07/2026 - 06/12/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2026	06/28/2026 - 07/03/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2026	07/19/2026 - 07/24/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2026	08/09/2026 - 08/14/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2026	08/30/2026 - 09/04/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2026	09/20/2026 - 09/25/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2026	10/04/2026 - 10/09/2026	6 d / 5n	6 day trip, 6 riding days

Min/Max: 2/6

Rates do not include: 2 dinners, Alcoholic drinks, Gratuities, Private transfer

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"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<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

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