

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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from within the USA or Canada or

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4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

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Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Teteven Balkan Village Trek - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT10M
6 days / 5 nights ~\$815.00
Dates: Apr-Oct

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

Tack: Western and English (military style)

Horses: East Bulgarian and Karakachan local br...

Pace: 4 to 6 riding hours per day.
Ranges fr...
Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Sofia Airport (SOF)



Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria

Many and varied are the mountains in Bulgaria, but Teteven Balkan combines the best of them all - picturesque valleys with sparkling rivers and ancient forests with hidden meadows, high ridges and tops, crowned with rocky peaks revealing spectacular views, and villages scattered at the foothills, where life is lived with an old rhythm. This part of Stara Planina is loved by tourists both for the preserved nature and for the pleasure of touching the authentic life of the local people: tasting home-made rakiya with home-made appetizers is an integral part of the experience.

The tour is diverse and combines horseback riding with seeing cultural sights and immersing in the atmosphere of this beautiful Bulgarian area. The trek runs in the relatively low part of Stara Planina - between 400 and 1100 m above sea level. You will ride along dirt roads and trails. The terrain is rugged and rocky in places, with an option to trot and canter. We spend between 4 and 6 hours in the saddle every day, and the duration of each ride in most of the days can be changed according to the abilities and will of the riders. Luggage is transported by car and the saddling is western or English.

Apart from the overnight at a hotel in Teteven, all other nights we will stay at guest houses where the food is cooked by the hosts or in small rural restaurants. Thus, the contact with local culture is closer and the impressions - more vivid and immediate.

Tour Highlights:

-Stara Planina is the longest Bulgarian mountain, stretching from Bulgaria's western border all the way to the Black Sea, dividing the country into two. Its old name is "the Balkans" from where the name of the Balkan Peninsula originates. Great part of Bulgaria's history is related to it. Fighters against the Ottoman rule hid in its forests. The Bulgarian spirit revived in its towns in the XVIII and XIX centuries.

-Central Balkan National Park covers the high central part of Stara Planina. On an area of 70 000 hectares ancient forests and many animals, including representatives of endangered species, find tranquility from the aggressive human impact. The best preserved beech forest on the Balkan Peninsula is in the Boatin Reserve. The average age of the trees is 130 years. The reserve is protected under the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" Program.

-The Glozhene Monastery St. George was founded in XIII century. It is situated on an extremely scenic place, perched on high cliffs from where a spectacular view is revealed. Vasil Levski - the Apostle of Freedom - found refuge in it in Turkish times.

-Etropole Monastery was founded in the XII century. It declined after the conquer by the Turks but at the end of XVI century it was restored and became one of the most important spiritual centers in the Bulgarian lands. The surrounding area of the monastery offers pleasant pastoral scenery and in immediate proximity to the monastery the Varovitets waterfall is located. (optional)

-Saeva Dupka cave is one of the most beautiful Bulgarian caves. It is 205 meters long and over 1 million year old. Its five halls and numerous galleries are full of bizarre cave formations. It is illuminated and urbanized.

-Trojan Monastery is the third largest monastery in Bulgaria. It was founded around the year 1600. The relic of the monastery is the miraculous icon of the Three-Handed Virgin Mary. The villages around Trojan are famous for their numerous pottery workshops. (optional)

-Mineral springs in Chiflik and Shipkovo. The water in the pools is with different temperatures and an hour or two in them are a wonderful and refreshing relaxation, especially after physical strain, such as horseback riding. (optional)

Accommodation

Accommodations

This is a progressive ride, so nights are spent in different locations.

Description

Accommodations are in guesthouses, mountain huts, and small hotels. Some nights will have shared bathrooms.

Accommodation Itinerary (2026) - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1, 2, & 3. Guesthouse in Golyam Izvor

Night 4 & 5. Hotel in Teteven

Guesthouse in Golyam Izvor

The guesthouse has recently been renovated. It provides a cozy atmosphere and is located on the banks of the Oselna River. It can house up to 8 people in 5 different rooms (3 double and 2 single). Bathrooms are shared and there is no internet.

Hotel in Teteven

This hotel offers various sporting facilities (soccer field, tennis court, wrestling hall and more) as well as an outdoor swimming pool. The rooms are simply decorated and all feature air conditioning, a TV, free Wi-Fi access and a private bathroom. It is possible to do laundry here for a small fee.

Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory if we cannot find another rider to share.

Meals

For this tour, breakfast is included on all days except on Day 1.

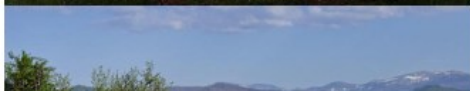
Lunch and dinner are included on Days 1, 2, and 3.

The food is locally grown and home-style.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the rates but guests can purchase some at local restaurants.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.





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Riding Level

The ride, offering long days in the saddle, 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.

Riding Terrain & Pace

You will ride along dirt roads and trails. The terrain is rugged and rocky in places with, at times, opportunities to trot and canter. We spend between 4 and 6 hours in the saddle 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.

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary- subject to changes

Day 0. Arrive Sofia

Arrive in Sofia. Book and stay at hotel of your choice.

Meals included: -/-

Day 1. Sofia - Golyam Izvor - Glozene Monastery

Pick-up at 09.00 am from your hotel in Sofia and drive (one hour) to Golyam Izvor. Short acquaintance with the horses before we start our ride. The road passes through meadows and mixed forest. We will ascend the heights above the village where we will see the first beautiful view of the central ridge of Stara Planina and the town of Teteven surrounded by rocky peaks. Then, we will descend through an ancient beech forest at the end of which Glozhene Monastery is located, perched on a high rock, it reveals an even more spacious view of the Danube plain. We will see the monastery and find out about its 800 year old history. Then have a soup for lunch, made by the local staff. After, we take another route to come back to Golyam Izvor, where we will spend the night.

Duration of ride: 4-5 hours

Meals included: -/L/D

Overnight at Hotel in Golyam Izvor

Day 2. Around the village of Golyam Izvor

After breakfast we start a village trek around Golyam Izvor and the nearby rolling hills. We will see some pretty houses and how the locals live. Then we will move onto some open plane areas, perfect for gallops with a nice view over the valley.

Duration of ride: 4 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight at Hotel in Golyam Izvor

Day 3. Golyam Izvor - Brusen - Golyam Izvor

The route will take us on the other side of Golyam Izvor and along a small river, supplying the fields, perfect for long gallops. Then we pass through the Brusen ridge, before ascending into a pine forest. There we are going to have a nice packed lunch amongst the nature. After the woodlands, we will trek through an open field again and finish at the outskirts of Brusen, where we leave the horses and to go back to Golyam Izvor. If not too tired, we can make a car trip to Etropole Monastery and the waterfall nearby (30 min drive).

Duration of ride: 4-5 hours

Meals included: B/L/D



Overnight at Hotel in Golyam Izvor

Day 4. Brusen - Cherni Vit

The start of the trail passes through mixed forests. Then we get on top of unwooded ridge with beautiful 360 degrees view of the nearby mountains. We will continue along the ridge really soaking in the scenery in the beautiful trek. After we will finally descent to the village of Cherni Vit. In the afternoon we will have a trip by car to Saeva Dupka cave, known for its beautiful formations.

Duration of ride: 5 hours

Meals included: B/-

Overnight at Hotel in Teteven

Day 5. Cherni Vit - Teteven

The ride on this day starts from Cherni Vit leading us close to the Boatin Reserve which is part of the Central Balkan National Park which protects the nature in the central part of Stara Planina.

Duration of ride: 5 hours

Meals included: B/-

Overnight at Hotel in Teteven

Day 6. Teteven - Golyam Izvor. Back to Sofia

We start with a morning transfer to Cherni Vit village where we have left the horses the previous day. On that last day we have a little bit of forest, some hills, slopes and a beautiful ridge to go through. Then a last scenery of Golyam Izvor, lunch and a transfer back to Sofia.

Duration of ride: 4-5 hours

Meals included: B/-



Other Info

Meeting: Sofia

Airport: Sofia Airport (SOF)

Train station: Sofia

Transfer: hotel in Sofia

Distance: 12 km / 7.5 miles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from any hotel in Sofia at set times, no later than 10:00 AM. Transfers on days other than designated first and last day will be subject to a surcharge.

Tack: Western and English (military style)

Horses: East Bulgarian and Karakachan local breeds.

Pace: 4 to 6 riding hours per day. Ranges from a walk on the steeper slopes to a faster pace or the open spaces, which are great for long canters.

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2.5 to 3 out of 5) Low Intermediate

Age: Min 12 Max 70

Weight: 198 lbs

Riders: Min 2 riders Max 8 riders



Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-BGRT10M

Rates include: Accommodations, breakfasts except Day 1, lunches and dinners on Day 1, 2 & 3, Luggage transport, scheduled group transfers, 6 riding days & Entrance fees to sites if any.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2026	6 day trip	€740	\$815

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

Transfer Option

Description

2026 Transfer from/to any hotel in Sofia is included at set times on the first and last day of the trip		
2026 Private transfers to/from Sofia Airport to city centre or Plovdiv Airport to city centre, one-way, per vehicle	€20	\$25
2026 Other local expenses paid in cash, pp (mandatory)	€100	\$110
2026 Single supplement	€140	\$155

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	04/26/2026 - 05/01/2026	6d / 5n	6 day trip
A 2026	05/10/2026 - 05/15/2026	6d / 5n	6 day trip
A 2026	09/13/2026 - 09/18/2026	6d / 5n	6 day trip
A 2026	10/11/2026 - 10/16/2026	6d / 5n	6 day trip
A 2026	10/25/2026 - 10/30/2026	6d / 5n	6 day trip

Min/Max: 2/8

Rates do not include: Alcoholic drinks, meals not mentioned in itinerary, Gratuities, Insurance (mandatory), Private transfers & Optional trip to Chiflik/Troyan Monastery (allow 40 € for the whole vehicle) and to Etropole Monastery (20 EUR for the vehicle)

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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