

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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Skype: hiddentrails

High Balkan Trail Ride - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT11

8 days / 7 nights ~\$760.00

Dates: July to October

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : ●●●

Tack: Western and English

Horses: East Bulgarian and Karakachan local br...

Pace: 4 to 6 riding hours per day.

Ranges fr...

Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Sofia International Airport (SOF)



Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria

This adventurous trail ride follows part of the famous E-3 hiking Kom-Emine route. The trail features wild mountain landscapes and steep hillsides reaching Balkan highest grasslands, home to wild horses in the summer. If we are lucky enough, we may get to spot a few! You will find yourself captivated by the stunning high mountain views with landscapes stretching as far as your eyes can see. Bulgaria is a stunning country still untraveled and kept well-preserved from the hordes of tourists- you will feel the peace of wilderness around you and the simple happy culture the Bulgarians possess. The ride, offering long days in the saddle, is suitable for confident and experienced riders. There will also be occasions where you need to dismount and lead your horse for short periods (20 – 30 min) – this can be both uphill as well as downhill so you will need to be reasonably fit. We offer a mixture of accommodation types from hotels to guesthouses with locals to mountain huts to allow our fellow riders to experience all aspects of the trip and get to know our country. Part of the enjoyment of this ride is spending time with the local people the last two days on the trail. This will certainly be a trip you will never forget!

Accommodation

Accommodations

This is a progressive ride, so nights will be spent in different locations. You will be staying in 6 different locations total.

Description

You will stay overnight at local guesthouses and small family-run hotels. Two nights involve shared bathrooms.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Hotel in Sofia

Night 2: Guesthouse in Golyam Izvor

Night 3: Guesthouse in Lopian

Night 4: Paskal Hut

Night 5: Momina Polyana Hut

Night 6: Hotel in Teteven

Night 7: Hotel in Sofia

Hotel in Sofia

You will be warmly welcomed in this small family hotel. There is a beautiful garden with many flowers, where guests can relax. The hotel has 15 rooms, all equipped with TV, telephone and bathroom with toilet, shower or bath. Internet is also available at this property.

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.

Guesthouse in Lopyan

This charming guesthouse is located in a beautiful building made out of wood and cement. The owners want to preserve the local traditions while respecting the surrounding environment. Each private room features Wi-Fi access, a TV and a private bathroom.

Paskal Hut

This mountain hut is located on a hill just above Zlatista village. The rooms (dormitory style) are located in a two-storey building. Shared sanitary facilities are located in a separate building. The building has electricity and drinking water and is heated with fuel. There is no internet connection available.

Momina Polyana Hut

Momina Polyana hut is located on the western slope of Mount Mominski. The building is large and has three floors with a capacity to accommodate up to 80 people in dormitory style rooms. There are toilets and bathrooms (shared) and the building also has water, electricity, and heating. The chalet has wireless internet, which is available free of charge for tourists as well as a satellite TV.

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.

Room Occupancy

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

Meals

Breakfast is included on all days. Also included are 4 lunches (from day 3 to day 6) and 4 dinners (day 2 - 5). The food is locally grown and you home-style.

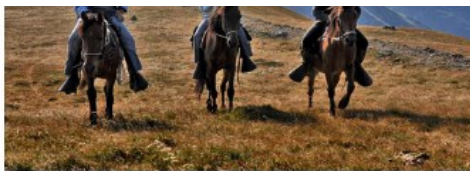
Alcoholic beverages are not included in the rates.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.

Riding





Riding Level

The ride, 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.

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 1 (Saturday): Arrive Sofia

Arrival and transfer from Sofia airport to the hotel for overnight.

Meals included: -/-/-

Overnight at Hotel in Sofia

Day 2 (Sunday): Ride to Glozene Monastery

Transfer from Sofia to Golyam Izvor village in the Teteven Balkan (one hour drive).

Here we get acquainted with our horses. We start riding heading North through meadows and mixed beech and oak forest. We will ascend Mt Lissets 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 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. After visiting the church and the little museum we start riding back to Golyam Izvor following another trail.

Riding: 4-5 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight at Guesthouse in Golyam Izvor

Day 3 (Monday): Golyam Izvor to Yamna

Our ride today goes South-West following in the beginning shortly an asphalt road. Then continues along a dirt road with possibilities for some trot and canter. We pass the small deserted village of Slatina before starting climbing among ferns and pasture land. After 3.5 hours in the saddle we reach Chertigrad where we stop for lunch. Chertigrad is an ancient fortress built by the Thracians in 4-3-rd century BC. There is not much left from the fortress but the place offers stunning views over the Balkan range. We arrive in the village of Yamna after another 1.5 hours ride South-West. We leave the horses in Yamna village and have a short transfer to Lopian village.

Riding: 5-6 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight at Guesthouse in Lopian

Day 4 (Tuesday): Yamna to Paskal Hut

Today we are heading to the crest of Central Balkan to join for the next two days one of the longest European mountain trails Kom-Emine.

Riding: 6-7 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Paskal Hut

Day 5 (Thursday): Paskal Hut to Momina Polyana Hut

The next two days we will spend riding through the Central Balkan National Park thus providing superb view towards the Thracian Plain to the South and the Balkan Mountains to the North. Good possibilities for canter crossing the grass highland. We follow the way marking of E-3 at an altitude of 1500-1900 m.

Riding: 5-6 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Momina Polyana Hut (1640 m.)



Day 6 (Friday): Momina Polyana to Cherni Vit

We leave the high mountain trail E-3 descending through thick beech and oak forests and pasture land along the Cherni Vit river. On some steeper descents we have to dismount and lead the horses. Our ride will end in the village of Cherni Vit (800 m) early in the afternoon, where our vehicle is waiting and after a short drive we reach the cozy town of Teteven where we stay overnight. We can enjoy the rest of the day by the hotel pool or exploring the town.

Riding: 6 hours

Meals included: B/L/-

Overnight at Hotel in Teteven

Day 7 (Saturday): Cherni Vit to Golyam Izvor

In the morning, transfer back to Cherni Vit, where we have left the horses the previous day. On that last day of ride we will climb once more one of the many ridges from where we will have a last look of the scenery we have admired in the past week. We say good-bye to our horses and guides in the village of Golyam Izvor. Transfer back to Sofia (1 hour) for overnight.

Riding: 5 hours

Meals included: B/L/-

Overnight at Hotel in Sofia

Day 8 (Sunday): Departure

Transfer to Sofia airport and departure.

Meals included: B/L/-

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

Other Info

Meeting: Sofia

Airport: Sofia International Airport (SOF)

Train station: Sofia

Transfer: Sofia International Airport (SOF)

Distance: 10 km / 6 miles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Sofia Airport (SOF). Transfer times are available anytime on the first and last day of the trip.

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

Tack: Western and English

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: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3 to 3.5 out of 5) Intermediate

Age: Min 12

Max 70

Weight: 198 lbs

Riders: Min 2 riders

Max 6 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-BGRT11

Rates include: Accommodations, All breakfasts and lunches/lunch packs + 4 dinners (days 2-5), 6 riding days & Sofia airport group transfers
Helmets and saddle bags are provided upon request.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	€690	\$760

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/to Sofia airport is included	
2024 Private transfers to/from Sofia Airport to city centre or Plovdiv Airport to city centre, one-way, per vehicle	€20 \$20
2024 Single supplement (5 nights)	€120 \$130
2024 Other local expenses paid in cash, pp	€100 \$110

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	07/13/2024 - 07/20/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/03/2024 - 08/10/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/24/2024 - 08/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 2/6

Rates do not include:Alcoholic drinks, Dinner on Day 1, 6, & 7, Gratuities, Insurance (mandatory), Private transfers & Entrance fees



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