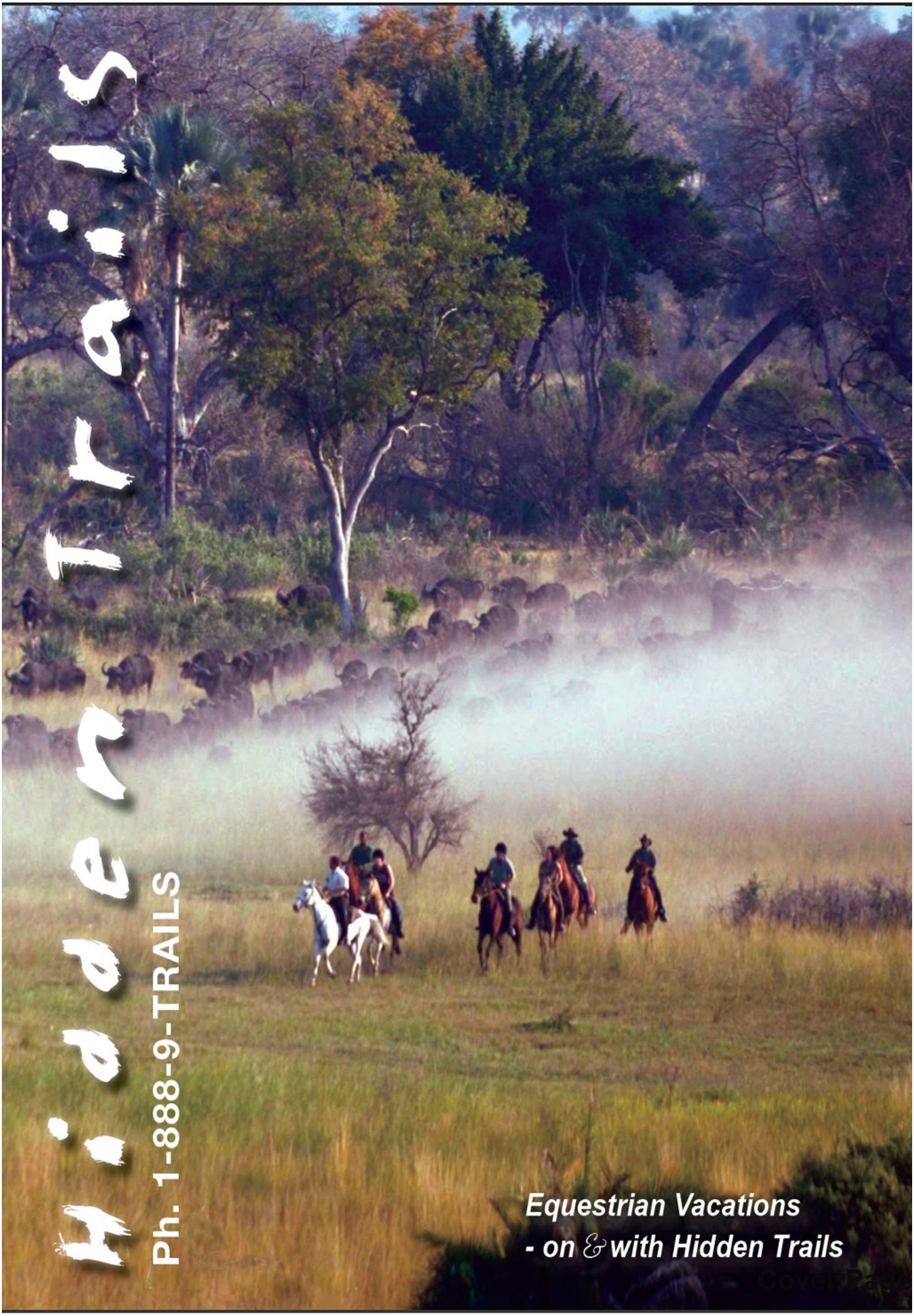

Hidden Trails
Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS
Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

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

E-mail: info@hiddentrails.com
Website: www.hiddentrails.com

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4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:
Ph: 0- 808 189-0420
Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:
Skype: hiddentrails

Otavalo Ride - Ecuador, South America

Tour Code: IT-ECSR02
5 days / 4 nights ~$1,875.00
Dates: Available All Year

Trip Rating :
Difficulty :
Lodging:

Tack: Ecuadorian (similar to Western)
Horses: Creole, Peruvian
Pace: Moderate with trots and some short can...
Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Quito













Introduction

Haciendas, Ecuador
Your riding trip unravels at the 17th century Andean estate near Otavalo - This Hacienda is one of the leading country inns in Ecuador. Its white walls and terracotta tiles nestle beneath a deep blue sky in a wide, pastoral valley. It is the antithesis of urban life. You will explore the beautiful countryside on several riding days through the valley and up the mountains - all along meeting friendly natives with their colorful dresses and adorable children.

Celebrities and royalty alike have chosen this place as their luxurious base for their travels in Ecuador, and once you step foot inside its courtyard gates, you'll know why. Dine by Koi fountains filled with fragrant rosebuds, explore nooks and crannies for the hidden doorway or head to the village to look for exquisite handicrafts. Return to your antique-filled room after dinner, and you'll be greeted by a roaring blaze in your very own kiva fireplace.

The first ride is a short 2-hour ride to get used to the horses and tack, leaving enough time to visit the Otavalo Indigenous market in the afternoon. You will be in the saddle for 3 to 5 hours for your remaining riding days. There are options to extend your ride by one or two nights with lots more riding, or if you want to combine your stay with more sightseeing - you can opt for 2 hrs of riding a day - leaving enough free time to venture out on your own to explore.

Accomodation



Accommodations
This is a stationary ride, so all nights are spent in the same location.

Description
The Hacienda is a restored 17th century Andean estate at 8,500 feet, 90 minutes north of Quito and 20 minutes south from the famous market town of Otavalo. The Equatorial line and snowcapped Cayambe Mountain are 30 minutes away. The hacienda's terracotta-tile roofs, winding cobblestone pathways, courtyards and perennial gardens nestle beneath a deep blue sky in a wide, pastoral lake valley. Nearby, the often snowcapped 15,000-foot Cotacachi volcano is reflected in Lago San Pablo. An ancient lakebed, cool nights and a predictable equatorial sun have conspired with avid gardeners to create several acres of ever-blooming gardens which include belladonna, bougainvillea, agapantha, acanthas, foxgloves, orchids and palms that attract over 50 species of birds.

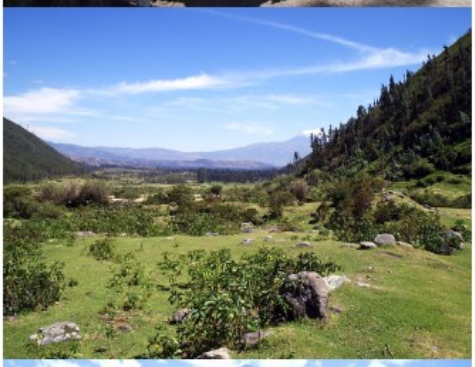
Individually decorated guestrooms and garden cottages, with private bathrooms with oversize towels and toiletries, are furnished with selected fine Andean crafts, king-size beds with hand woven bed-covers, antiques, writing desks and views of prolific perennial gardens and often snow-capped mountains. Most of the guestrooms have garden access and a log-fire for cool evenings. Electricity, 110 v., plugs as in U.S.A.

Public rooms such as Salon Bolivar, Salon Cotacachi, Sala de Lectura, library (where tea is served all day), dining room and refectory, are antique furnished and have log-burning fireplaces.
Relax in the uniquely furnished Salon Bolivar, the cozy bar, or the library and garden reading room with French windows that look onto an adobe-walled garden and lawns under an ancient cedro tree. Enjoy Ecuadorian and International cuisine in a dining room with antique wall tapestries and chandeliers, dinner by candlelight and a log fire.

Laundry is available for an additional fee. WIFI is available in the main house and the library.



















Amenities
Television/ VCR viewing rooms with 200 selected feature documentary video films.
Telephone, fax, email, copy machine, overhead projector, 35mm projectors, VCRs.
Conference room seating 55 / 100 for presentation, 4 seminar rooms
Library and game room (ping pong and pool table)

The Garden
A grand 7 acres with 58 species of plans attract 49 species of birds. The black soil and predictable equatorial sun have created seven acres of ever blooming gardens. Annuals have become perennials. The library's French windows look onto a large, walled, ever blooming garden filled with lawns, deep yellow blossoms of the cholan tree, palm, belladonna, bougainvillea, foxgloves, hollyhocks and orchids.

Nanny
By request

Room Occupancy
Single and triple rooms are available at request.
Single supplement is only mandatory for those who are not willing to share.



Meals
All meals are included from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on your last day. Dress code is casual by day, smart-casual for dinner.
Delicious Ecuadorian and European meals are served. Vegetables and fruits are locally grown. Menus based on local soups and appetizers and International styles for the main dish.

Breakfast: 7 — 9:30 a.m.
We serve fresh juices and bread with homemade jams, eggs, pancakes, premium Ecuadorian coffee and international breakfast classics.

Lunch: 12:30 — 3:00 p.m.
A range of famous Ecuadorian soups, salads from our organic vegetable gardens, nutritious quinoa and premium meat, as well as lighter options of sandwiches and lovingly-prepared salads are available. Desserts are also a highlight.

Dinner: 7—9:00 p.m.
A three-course meal inspired by Ecuador's finest ingredients and international influences, prepared by dedicated local chefs is something to look forward to come nightfall, with well-chosen international wines and local coffee to round off dinner at the hacienda.

The dining room water is potable. Alcohol is not included on the trip, but can be purchased for an additional fee.

Dietary Restrictions
We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.

Riding

Recommendations

- Drink plenty of water before your trip. For longer journeys water will be supplied
- Apply sun-block beforehand and bring sunglasses. The equatorial sun is extremely strong even behind the clouds. Obligatory helmets come with visors.
- Wear jeans or thick pants and a sturdy pair of shoes or sneakers
- Bring a camera to capture the astounding views but make sure it is well protected

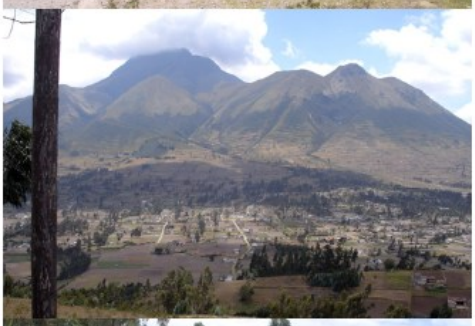
Animals
Usually to be found in the stables: 8 horses, llamas, pigs, guinea-pigs, rabbits, guinea-hens, turkeys, chickens, dogs, cows, geese, etc.

Itinerary

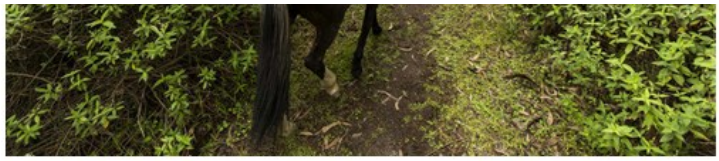










Sample Itinerary: 7-day program - *subject to changes*

Day 1: Arrival
Arrival in the morning. Check in and have lunch. In the afternoon, go on a 2-hour ride to get to know your horse and guide.
Then, free time for walking or touring around, Otavalo Market, visits to weaving, leather or wood carving studious, or own arrangements. Dinner and overnight at the Hacienda.
Meals included: Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hacienda

Day 2: La Avra
This ride boasts a spectacular combination of indigenous communities, deep forest, and breathtaking views. It has a nice mix of challenge, easy walking and opportunity for galloping. La Avra, a lush forested peak to the right side of Imbabura volcano, is visible from the stables, although don't be fooled by how close it appears.
For the first 45 minutes we ascended the narrow, dusty roads up from San Pablo, passing through the indigenous communities of Imbaburita, Angla and Topo. The locals, particularly the children greet us with a cheerful 'Hola' or 'Buenos dias'. In the community of Topo, we pass a quaint, little church with lovely music wafting out. The socio-cultural exposure of this ride is fascinating for all.
After reaching a certain altitude, we enter a pristine forest of eucalyptus trees that might be mistaken for paradise. The view is magnificent from here and we take a moment to admire Imbabura to the right, the dark blue Lago San Pablo below and the Gualavi Valley to the left with Cusin Hill behind. The ascent through the forest is steep and a bit treacherous at points, but the horses move along with great confidence and agility. Emerging from the forest, we encounter fields of golden wheat and green vegetation planted into the steep hillside. Up ahead is the peak of La Avra. Before beginning the descent along a different path closer to Imbabura, we observe the mighty, snowcapped Cayambe Volcano and also catch a peak of the monstrous Cotapaxi Volcano far off in the distance, to the south of Quito.
During the ride back, we make our way through a different section of forest, through the community of Imbaburita and then across the town of San Pablo. The beauty of the descending is that you don't have to turn around to admire the fantastic view because it's right there in front of you. Riders are often particularly struck by the view of Mojanda Mountain across from us on the southern side of the lake. We should reach the Hacienda around lunchtime.
Riding: 4.5-5 hours
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hacienda

Day 3: Cusin Mountain
We quickly cross the valley with its different farms and then start to climb Cusin mountain through eucalyptus forests to the above tree line and up to the top. After enjoying the 360° view of beautiful valleys, we descend to our picnic spot and come home in the afternoon. The ride goes up to the above tree line "paramo", it might be cold and foggy up there.
This one is a steep ride with narrow paths. You will ride having a view of Rose Plantation greenhouses, through Eucalyptus forests, rocks, roots and slippery inclines. After a long climb through the woods, you come out onto an overgrown cobblestone road which continues upwards. Here you have a view way down to the lake.
Riding: 5 hours
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hacienda

Day 4: Agato Village
Excellent ride to appreciate the best landscapes of the area. You will be able to enjoy the quiet and relaxing view of San Pablo lagoon, realize the magnitude of Otavalo's town and the always nice Imbabura volcano. During the ride you will stop to enjoy your picnic and then continuing with the view of forest, small villages and more.
Considered one of the nicest rides in the area. Dinner and overnight at the Hacienda.
Riding: 5 hours
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hacienda

Day 5: Departure
Our trip concludes after breakfast.
Meals included: Breakfast

Additional full days expeditions can be added if you want to extend your stay by a couple of nights.

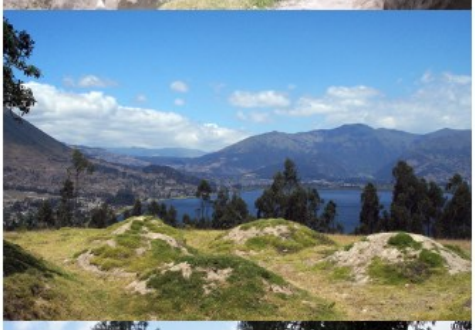


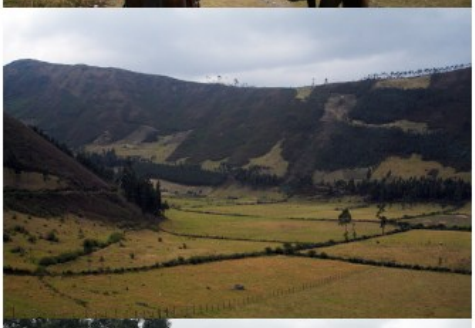
Non Riding Activities

Mountain Biking
The relief and geography of the landscapes surrounding the grounds and the San Pablo lake make for enjoyable riding country. Take our well-maintained bikes out for a spin to appreciate the area from ground level, over short or long trails. Helmets must be worn.
Price: $6.00 + tax (*$7.32) / per bicycle / per hour.

Spanish Classes








Ecuadorian Spanish is regarded among the clearest and purest in the Spanish-speaking world – where better to learn or brush up on the language than in the inspiring surroundings of a historic hacienda? Spanish classes with us are private and tailor-made, enriching any stay in the Andean highlands.
Price: $12.00 + tax (*$14.64) / per person / per hour

Cooking Classes (min 2 pax)
Our popular cooking classes can be organised with our talented team of chefs. We'll get started learning how to make traditional 'wind empanadas' (turnovers filled with cheese and raisins) followed by cooking a delicious trout fillet with vegetables inside an aluminium foil papillote. Other recipes can be requested, too.
Price: $ 26 + 22% taxes per person

Bird watching
In the lush and exuberant year-round flowering gardens of the hacienda flit more than 50 species of birds, with vermilion flycatchers, fan-tailed hawks, owls tropical hummingbirds and the eye-catching northern yellow grosbeak sure to elicit a gasp of wonder. Use our bird list to check off the species you spot while bird watching and let us know if there are any we have missed out!

Massages (need to book in advance - inquire for prices)
To help guests relax, professional, exemplary, in-room massages invite you to unwind and pause, escaping from the pressures of daily life.

Other Info

Meeting: San Pablo
Airport: Quito
Transfer: Quito hotel or airport
Distance: 60 miles
Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO) in Quito. Transfer times are available at any time on any day of the week. Check out is at 12:00pm (noon) on the last day.

Tack:	Ecuadorian (similar to Western)
Horses:	Creole, Peruvian
Pace:	Moderate with trots and some short canters.
Walk | Trot | Canter |	
Level:	(2 to 3 out of 5) Novice+
Age:	Min 12 Max 65
Weight:	195 lbs / 88 kg
Riders:	Min 1 riders Max 7 riders
	Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Otavalo

Otavalo - world famous indigenous market
Otavalo's beauty lies in its people (the Otavaleño Indians) and their market is undoubtedly one of the most important and spectacular in all of Latin America.

The best day of the week to hit this famous and friendly corner of the Andes is Saturday, the biggest market day for gringos and locals alike.
Arrive Friday afternoon, and then do what most travelers don't: set your alarm for 5:30am. After being jolted out of bed Saturday morning, walk groggy-eyed along Avenida Colon to the river and cross the bridge. Upon reaching the top of Avenida Segundo J Castro you'll find yourself in a scene reminiscent of the pages of National Geographic: the Otavalo animal market.
By 6am, with the sun rising and the mountains casting improbable shadows over the town, the market is already alive with squealing pigs and clucking chickens. Plant yourself on the high grassy bank abutting the market area and watch scenes of unloading, buying, selling and bargaining unfold. Take your camera (you can happily and discreetly snap away from your grassy knoll), but leave your animal rights principles behind, as livestock tender lovin' care is not the highest priority on the day's agenda.
By the time the sun clears the volcanoes at 7am, much of the day's business has already been done, and its time to head back into town to the artesania market.



The Artesan Market
This market is centered around 'Poncho Plaza'. All day long, the whir of cotton candy machines, Andean pipe music, and Quichua, the native tongue derived from the Incan tongue, drift across the square. A blinding maze of colored textiles spills from the square out across town, encompassing the area between Quito and Calderon and Bolivar and 31 de Octubre. As you stroll the streets you'll find everything from jumpers to armadillo shell guitars, wall hangings to ceramic fried eggs. Don't restrict yourself to Poncho Plaza, as you'll probably get better bargains away from the main square (the more items you buy, the lower the prices you can haggle), and the goods on display start to diversify as the market weaves its way through the side streets.

On the stretch of Jaramillo between Quito and Quiroga, mothers and infants share the street with geese, puppies, pigeons and cuyes (guinea pig --a popular local food). Down on Quiroga between Jaramillo and 31st de Octubre (in front of the Plaza de Toros), the ponchos and babywear are supplanted by potted plants, skinned calf heads and bleating goat herds. The northern edge of the textile market is bounded by Calderon, where salesmen extolling the joy of Tupperware stand between stalls of snakeskin, herbal remedies, and bars of magical soap

used to ward off jealousy.

A few blocks north, the streets are overtaken by stalks of ripening bananas and pyramids of citrus fruit. The produce market (open roughly the same hours as the Artesanias market) begins on 31st de October at Calderon and runs past the cock-fighting pit (for those with a stomach for this violent and bloody sport, there are regular fights throughout the year) to a covered market bursting with tropical fruit and vegetables. Non-carnivorous folk will have to avert their eyes, as some of the meat stalls -- splattered with eyes, jaw bones, ears and muzzles -- are straight out of Vegetarian Hell. On Plaza Copacabana by the small fun fair and the local train station, there's a smaller but still interesting food market, featuring mountainous piles of potatoes and multicolored sweets.

Otavaleño Indians

Otavaleños have become the most prosperous and possibly the most famous indigenous group in Latin America -- you may have seen them in your own hometown selling their woolen sweaters or strumming Andean tunes. In the past ten years, Otavaleños have begun globe-trotting in a successful campaign to export Andean culture -- and earn big bucks along the way.

In part because of their economic success, Otavaleños have managed to hold on to centuries-old traditions without adopting a 'quick get dressed, here come the tourists' cultural identity. They are proud people and it shows. While other indigenous peoples --under pressure to assimilate-- are donning Levis and tee-shirts, Otavaleños are still easily identified by their distinctive dress: women wear intricately embroidered blouses and a wealth of beaded necklaces, while men have long, braided hair and wear calf-length white trousers, ponchos and sandals.

History has it that Otavaleño Indians have been talented textile makers and businesspeople since ancient times, perhaps even prior to the Incan invasion. It is believed that they migrated to the Otavalo area about 1000 years ago from Bolivia. Under Incan rule in the 15th century, Otavalo became an important administrative center, as new crops and animals were introduced to the area. A year after the Spanish conquest, Ecuadorian land was parceled-out to the Spanish. In Otavalo, Rodrigo de Salazar set up a large weaving workshop (``obraje'') on his land; by the mid-1500's it employed hundreds of workers and produced a large share of the textiles used in colonial South America. The Spanish introduced new tools and fibers to the weaving industry, and by the early 1600's, the Salazar workshop had become the most important in the country.

The textile boom in Otavalo really took off in the early 1960's, when Otavaleños working at Hacienda Zuleta began to use weaving techniques introduced from Scotland. And so was born the material known as Otavaleño cashmere, which with its low price and high quality soon found important customers in Ecuadorian cities. The weavers diversified their products and soon established themselves throughout the country. Now, with over 80% of the Otavaleños involved in textile industry, products from Otavalo are found in markets around the world, from neighboring countries such as Venezuela and Colombia to the United States, Europe, and even Asia.

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-ECSR02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals & 3 riding days with Spanish speaking horse guide (depending on program)

Packages and Options

Season	Description	~US$
A 2026	5 day trip	$1875

Gratuity:10 %
Tax:$ 25

Transfer Option

Description

2026	Transfer from Quito airport or hotel (1-2 pax) return ~	$190
2026	Transfer from Quito airport or hotel (3-4 pax) return ~	$215
2026	Local bus from Quito, one way ~	$5
2026	Single supplement	$720
2026	Triple room discount, pp - please inquire	

Tour Dates

Season		Tour Dates		
A	2026	01/01/2026 - 12/31/2026	5d / 4n	5 day trip

Min/Max: 1/7
any time throughout the year
Sold Out Dates (as of 3/21/23): June 19-26

Rates do not include:Transfers from/to Quito, Gratuities, Taxes, Insurance, Extra riding hours

Rates and Dates 2027 - IT-ECSR02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals & 3 riding days with Spanish speaking horse guide (depending on program)

Packages and Options

Season	Description	~US$
A 2027	5 day trip	$0

Gratuity:10 %
Tax:$ 25

Transfer Option

Description

2027	Transfer from Quito airport or hotel (1-2 pax) return ~	$190
2027	Transfer from Quito airport or hotel (3-4 pax) return ~	$215
2027	Local bus from Quito, one way ~	$5
2027	Single supplement	$720
2027	Triple room discount, pp - please inquire	

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates
any time throughout the year	
Sold Out Dates (as of 3/21/23): June 19-26	

Rates do not include:Transfers from/to Quito, Gratuities, Taxes, Insurance, Extra riding hours

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 Interm.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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 maling address): _____

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ◯

Additional Signatures:

2. _____

3. _____

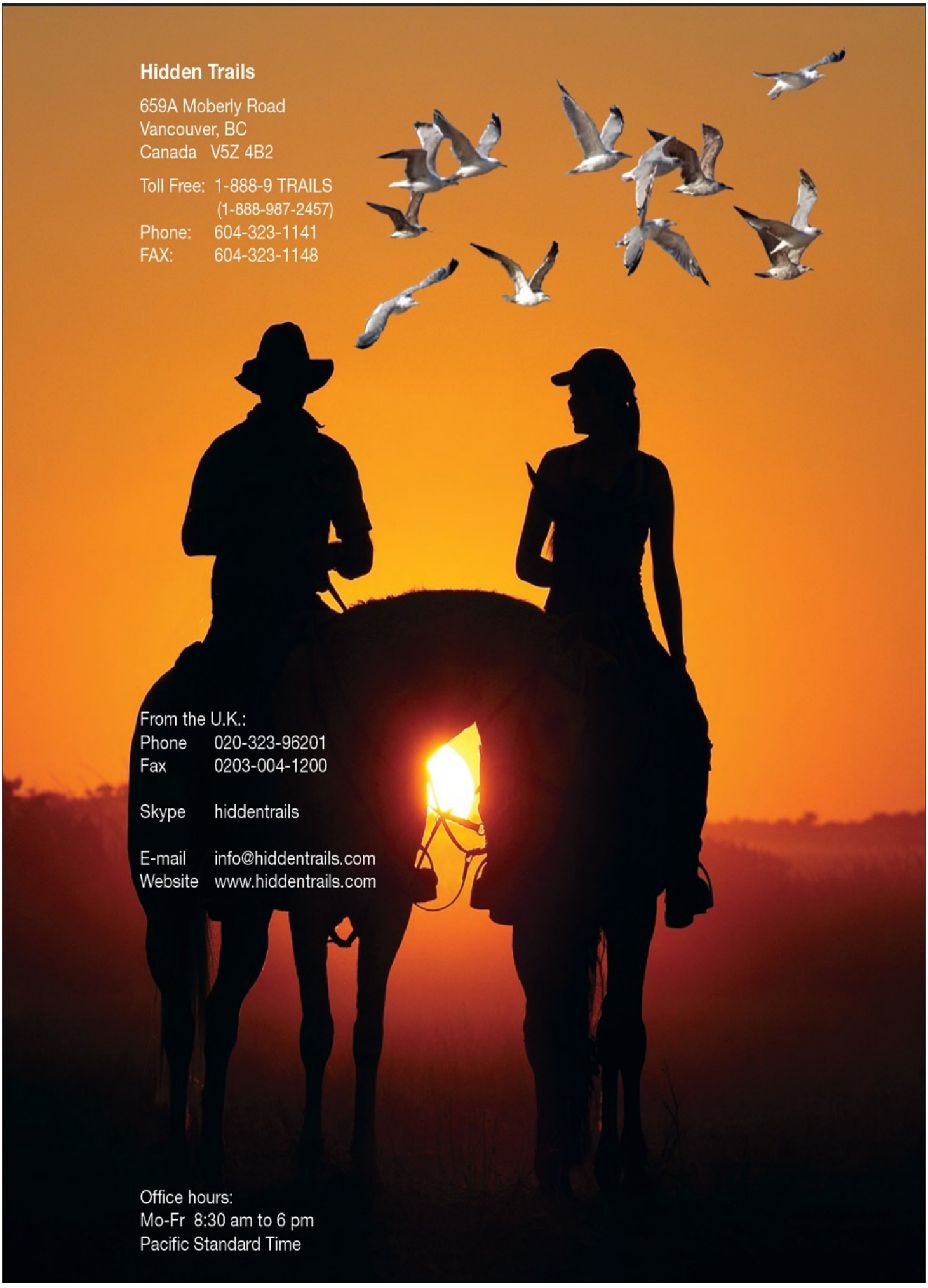
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ◯ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ◯ initial _____

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Skype hiddentrails
E-mail info@hiddentrails.com
Website www.hiddentrails.com
Office hours:
Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm
Pacific Standard Time