

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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Address:

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4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

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Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



Cotopaxi Getaway - Ecuador, South America

Tour Code: IT-EC SR09
3 days / 2 nights ~\$0.00
Dates: Available all Year

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

Tack: McClellan western style saddles with s...
Horses: Local criollo crossed with Andalusian,...
Pace: Riding lessons available for beginners
Walk, Trot, Canter,

Airport: Quito



Introduction

Haciendas, Ecuador

From the trail head between two extinct volcanoes, we will ride to Cotopaxi National Park. There are excellent opportunities for seeing Andean condors as you traverse fascinating landscapes forged by glacial and volcanic activity.

Accommodation



Accommodations

This is a stationary ride, so all nights will be spent at the same location.

Description

The perfect point from which to explore the national park. The Hacienda is very comfortable and situated in tranquil highland scenery on the edge of Cotopaxi National Park, with stunning views of Cotopaxi Volcano. Room options range from private to small dormitories, both with en suite bathrooms.



The spacious room come with large windows overlooking the mountains, free Wi-Fi access and a stove to keep you warm on chilly nights.

Room Occupancy

If you are willing to share but we are unable to find a roommate for you, a single supplement fee usually applies.

Meals

All meals are included from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on the last day.

The meals at the Hacienda are all delicious home-cooked meals prepared with local ingredients, for example trout. There is a hearty breakfast, varied picnic lunches (not just a sandwich) and a 3 course dinner. Snacks and bottled water are provided each day, and guests can purchase soft drinks & alcohol each evening.

Dietary Restrictions

We can easily cater for vegetarians or any other dietary requirements as long as we are warned in advance.



Riding



Rider Responsibility

It is understood that guests booking this trip, are in a suitable condition to participate, not riding against any physician's advice and that guests know of no reason why they should not be participating in such a tour. Guests will be required to sign a waiver of liability at the start of the tour. Guests are strongly advised to bring and use their own helmet.

Pace

The pace is very varied due to the great variety of terrain. Each day there are opportunities for fast-paced riding and on the last few days of the scheduled departure itineraries, there is ample opportunity for long canters, depending on the guests' wishes. The rides in Ecuador - due to the altitude - are not suitable for guests wanting to 'gallop flat out' for most of the day.

All rides of more than 2 hours include regular breaks and all-day rides normally include a lunch break of approximately one hour.

Horses

During this trip, riders usually stay with one to two horses (as long as the rider is happy!). Our intention is that riders can actually build a bond with their horse and enjoy not only the landscape and ride but also the company of their horse - but some riders like the idea of trying as many horses as possible - let us know. As always one or more spare horses will accompany us in case a change is needed. The horses we use are the local Ecuadorian Andean Criollo breed crossed with numerous other breeds (English, Spanish, Peruvian, Arab...) producing a steed ideally suited to the terrain and with a wonderful temperament. Criollo breeds have developed from horses that were first brought from Spain in the 17th century, developing very different characteristics in each region, depending on terrain and the needs of the local horsemen.

They are specially selected, well trained and good natured. Our horses are usually between 14.2 and 15.2hh. Riders normally change to fresh horses at least once during the trip.

It is incredibly important that you provide us accurate riding ability details - we try to put a lot of work into selecting suitable horses for each rider.

Tack

We use McClellan saddles, a western type saddle with low rounded pommel (no horn) and a thick sheep skin atop. It is easy to ride 'english style' on these saddles, as well as western. Each saddle has saddlebags & a poncho. 'English style' (two hand direct reining) & neck reining (western 'one-hand' indirect rein riding) are both used. People adapt very quickly but the guide and 'chagras' are on hand to give some advice. This tack is very suitable for long days in the saddle.

Guides

Guests are always accompanied by a guide (bilingual: English/Spanish) who has many years' experience of riding. In addition, at least one 'groom' is present - usually a skilled local horseman. Both guides and grooms have excellent local knowledge and are good riders. There is also additional ground staff. Professional guides speaking other languages are available on prior request.

In case of accident, our guides carry a mobile phone so that they can contact assistance (local emergency services/back up vehicle/our Doctor in Quito) - the mobile phone coverage is generally excellent.

Weight restriction

Due to the altitude & difficult terrain a weight supplement applies to provide riders of 85-100kg (185-220lbs) and over with two horses. Agreement prior to booking is necessary.

Altitude

We strongly advise a few days acclimatization prior to the ride. We recommend at least 24 hours in Quito/at same altitude as Quito prior to day 1 of the tour as the riding portion of the trip starts at 2800 meters high (same altitude as Quito).

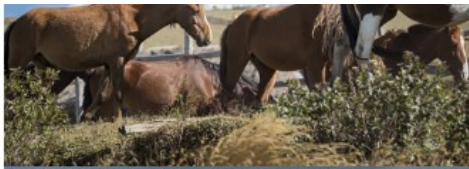
Guests rarely experience any problems, but please note that we ride above 3000 meters and sometimes even above 4000 meters. Guests must seek medical advice if they have any doubt as to whether they are able to be at these altitudes.

Insurance

Guests are responsible for having an adequate, valid insurance policy including cover for all the sporting activities that they are likely to participate in. This is mandatory.

Itinerary





Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Note: This sample itinerary is subject to changes at the tour operator's discretion due to unforeseen reasons such as weather, track conditions... The itinerary can also be adapted to the different group's needs.

Day 1: Introductory Ride

We start with a drive out of Quito, in a south-east direction where we meet the horses (our exact start point depends on the desired length of today's ride). Once guests are comfortable, we ride south towards Cotopaxi Volcano, the 2nd highest active volcano in the world. Crossing a river, we reach wide stretches of pasturelands and a chance for faster-paced riding for those that wish. We traverse the lower slopes of the foothills of Sincholagua and follow the River Pita before fording its clear waters. En route we often see the large Andean raptors – including eagles, caracaras, hawks and smaller kestrels. Frequently we also spot the mighty Andean Condor soaring overhead – with a 3 metre (10ft) wingspan!

We spend the night at a comfortable Hacienda, close to the northern entrance of Cotopaxi National Park, with magnificent views of five surrounding peaks – including the snow-capped Cotopaxi.

Riding approx. 2-5 hours

Meals included: Picnic Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hacienda in Cotopaxi National Park

Day 2: Inca Routes & Wild Horses

We ride into Cotopaxi National Park on our sure-footed Criollo horses for some exhilarating canters (for those that wish) across the wide, arid plains at the base of the Cotopaxi Volcano. The horses enjoy the open spaces but have such a calm temperament that they settle into a rhythm without trying to rush. Several herds of wild horses inhabit the park and to ride alongside these long-manned horses, galloping freely across the rugged terrain, is a unique experience. Part of this ride follows the main Inca highway which linked Quito with Cusco, Peru, which we then we turn eastwards from in order to follow the Inca route leading down to the Amazon. We pause to visit the remains of an Inca fort before continuing on through the gently undulating grassy hills, passing drumlins and moraine – crossing lahars and old lava flows then eventually returning to the Hacienda.

Riding approx. 5-6 hours

Meals included: Breakfast, Picnic Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hacienda in Cotopaxi National Park

Day 3: Volcanoes & Hidden Valleys

We head up the slopes of Rumiñahui Volcano ('stoneface') with an excellent chance of close encounters with the Andean condor, fox and deer. We pass polylepis trees ('paperbark trees') and alisos and other native plants such as chuquiragua and valeriana and a host of colourful native flowers hugging the hillsides. We climb above 4,000 metres (13,123 ft) then drop down into a hidden valley, cantering across pumice stone to arrive at the base of impressive vertical cliffs for another delicious picnic. Emerging from the valley, the views are unforgettable: ridges and vales as far as the eye can see – yet more indelible memories to take home on this the last day of riding.

Riding approx. 5-6 hours

Meals included: Breakfast & Picnic Lunch

Non-Riders

If non-riders wish to accompany the tour, alternative activities can be organized for them and on most days, everyone can meet up for mid-day meals.

Other Info

Airport: Quito

Pick-up and drop-off for this trip is from the Quito airport. It is advised to arrive at least 1 day before the trip starts. This will give you some time to acclimatize to the altitude and time change, before the ride.

Tack: McClellan western style saddles with sheepskin seats

Horses: Local criollo crossed with Andalusian, Arab, Thoroughbred, Peruvian Pasos.

Pace: Riding lessons available for beginners

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (1 to 5 out of 5) All Riding Levels

Age: Min 15

Weight: 185-210 lbs / 85-95 kg

Riders: Min 1 riders

Max 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ECSR09

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals with water, National Park Entrance Fee & 3 riding days with English speaking guide
Riding helmets upon prior request (but we do recommend that you bring your own), wool ponchos, saddlebags and half chaps available on request.

Packages and Options

Season	Description
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Transfer Option

Description

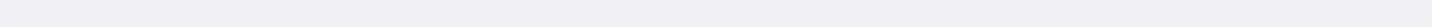
2024	Transfers from/to Quito Airport included	
2024	Extra night in Quito - please inquire	
2024	Non-rider - please inquire	
2024	Weight supplement (over 85 kg, 95 kg max)	\$150
2024	Single supplement - please inquire	

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates
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This trip is available any time on demand. Longer tour also possible - please inquire

Rates do not include:Transfers, Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, Gratuities & Medical insurance (mandatory)



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 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"/>	<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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