

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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Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trails - France, Europe

Tour Code: IT-FRABR01 8 days / 7 nights ~\$2,515.00 Dates: May & Sep-Oct

Trip Rating: Lodging: 🏚 春

Tack: Trail saddles custom-made for each hor. Horses: Arabian, Paint horses, and

Arabian/Pai. Pace: Riders should be at ease at 4 paces (w.

Walk, Trot, Canter,

Airport: Bordeaux Mérignac airport





Introduction

Bordeaux, France

Imagine discovering the great wines of Bordeaux, some of the world's most famous vineyards, from the very best vantage point in the gorgeous French countryside - the back of a horse!

Exceptional horseback riding with the discovery of the great wines of Bordeaux, the world's most famous Vineyard. You will ride through prestigious Vineyards that will not leave you indifferent. These are Médoc, Côtes de Blaye, Côtes de Bourg, Fronsac, Lalande de Pomerol, St Emilion, l'Entre deux mers, Premières Côtes de Bordeaux, Graves and Sauternes. All the human heritage such as the Citadelle de Blaye, built by Vauban at the 18th century, the medieval city of Saint Emilion, the chateau de Rauzan and the English bastide of Cadillac (13th century) is also waiting for you.

The alternate Medoc Beach & Wine Ride . This trip is by the ocean side, mythical wine châteaux, vast forests, a place redolent of history and famous food. On one side the Atlantic Ocean. On the other, the Gironde estuary and the immense Landes Forest, the Médoc is about a third of the Gironde Department (its North-West). It is first of all world renowned for its vineyards, however its landscapes have a lot of variety, from the marsh areas of Lower Médoc to the large straight beaches of the Atlantic with the ocean breakers. Going by the Graves headlands where the waters of the Gironde and those of the Atlantic Ocean merge, the Landes forest and its mind boggling pine woods stretch as far as the eye can see, a succession of lakes (Hourtin, Carcans, Lacanau) from North to

Accomodation



This is a progressive ride so you will be staying in different locations each night.

Description

Accommodation is in B&B or hotels. Bring your swimsuit because some hotels during the ride may have swimming pools!

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Bordeaux Wine and Castles Trail

Day 1 & 2: Chambres en vigne B&B in Ruch Day 3: Hotel in Saint Emilion

Day 4: La Tour Hotel in Libourne

Day 5: B&B in Civrac de Blaye

Day 6: Hotel in Blave

Day 7: B&B in Moulis en Medoc

Chambres en vigne B&B in Ruch

Set in a recently renovated country house, this B&B features the typical architecture of the region mixing stone and wood. Each room is unique but all feature a comfortable bed and a private bathroom. There is free Wi-Fi and a small outdoor pool.

La Tour Hotel in Libourne

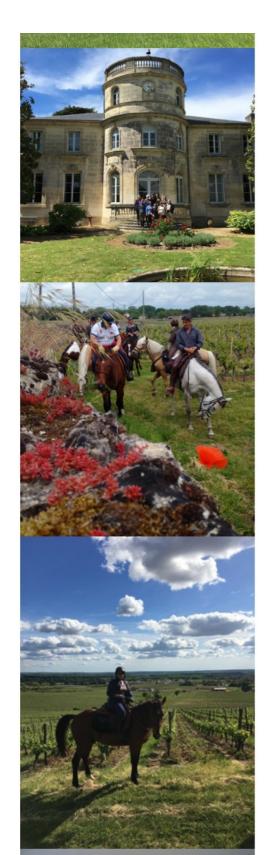
This small hotel provides visitors with 15 air-conditioned rooms (simple, double and triple) all equipped with free WiFi, satellite TV, and private bathrooms with a hair dryer. Some rooms feature views over the Dordogne River.

Medoc Beaches and Wine Trail

Day 1 Domaine de Quittignan Brillette in Moulis

Day 2: Hotel de France et d'Angleterre in Pauillac

Day 3: Hotel les Vieux Acacias in Queyrac Day 4: Hotel des Pins in Soulac sur Mer



Day 6: Hotel Les Pins in Hourtin

Day 7: Domaine de Quittignan Brillette in Moulis

Hotel de France et d'Angleterre in Pauillac

This hotel is located next to Paulliac's Marina, and even has a small garden at the back. The rooms are simply decorated and come equipped with heating/AC, satellite TV, private bathroom and free Wi-Fi.

Hotel les Vieux Acacias in Quevrac

The hotel offers bedrooms with a modern décor and private bathrooms. All rooms feature a satellite TV, free Wi-Fi access and a view over the small garden. There is also a small outdoor swimming pool.

Hotel des Pins in Soulac sur Mer

This hotel offers 29 rooms (all with private bathroom) with refined interior design and free Wi-Fi access. The property also has a patio and an extensive garden with a hot tub and spa (extra charges may apply).

Hotel le Marin in Montalivet

A few steps away from the Atlantic Ocean, this hotel benefits from a privileged situation. The hotel has 13 modern and functional en-suite rooms that come with air-conditioning, a TV and free Wi-Fi.

Hotel Les Pins in Hourtin

This hotel is located on the outskirts of Hourtin and provides guests with 18 comfortable bedrooms, all arranged around the outdoor swimming pool. All rooms are equipped with a TV, free Wi-Fi and private bathroom.

Double or Twin room, possibility of single but with supplement. We try our best to match you with a roommate, but if this is not possible you may be placed in single room with a supplement to be paid.



All meals are included.

Continental breakfasts served at your accommodation.

The lunches are buffets with a wide choice (adapted to particular diets) & wine.

Dinners are taken at the bed and breakfast, restaurant or hotel (wine not included for dinner).

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to most dietary restrictions with prior notice.





This ride is for the experienced rider who has mastered all 4 paces (walk, rising trot, canter/gallop in a forward seat) on a varied terrain, in open spaces. The experienced rider rides regularly, has good physical fitness, has good soft hands, a good attitude, and self-confidence. You should be able to control the speed and direction of the horse in all circumstances and be able to ride long distances including gallops of several minutes in open

There are certain sections of the trail where we might need to lead the horses. It is recommended that you be in



good physical condition in order to participate.

Previous experience of trail rides over a number of days would be beneficial but is not required.

Riders who, on their own initiative, ask not to ride during the stay will be charged 300 euros for the transport of the horse.

The pace is varied depending on the terrain, with long periods of walk and plenty of opportunities to canter and gallop. We ride around 5-6 hours riding each day

Horses

Most of our horses were born on the farm. They live in herds in a 70 acre field and this is what makes them strong. This social lifestyle is very close to their ideal living conditions, which is a natural environment.

Every horse has its own character, but all are gentle, balanced, and multi-talented.

The horses are a mixture of purebred Arabian and Paint horses as well as Arabian/Paint crossbreds and Thoroughbreds

The relationship with the riders and our horses is crucial. Above all, we place attention on the welfare and education of our horses.

Tack & Equipment

Our saddles are a French trail saddle (JMS brands), which blend the best of English and western styles to make the perfect trail saddle. Horses will work in bridles with Myler bits.

Saddlebags, poncho, and water are provided. Helmets are not mandatory but are strongly recommended

Logistics

There is a support van for the transport of luggage and riders. It is possible for a rider or a non-riding companion to follow along the horse riders in the van.

We ask the riders to have only one suitcase (size 69x47x27) and one handbag.

Group Size & Staff

Riding groups have a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 riders, plus the Guide and the Translator.

David (GTE/BPJEPS TE) is a certified Equestrian Tour Guide. He creates the routes and leads all the riding tours. He is also a trainer of apprentice instructors in Equestrian Tourism.

Britta is your riding companion and translator (English, Dutch, German, and Spanish). She is always available to facilitate any language concerns.

Facilities

The Farm covers 30 hectares (75 acres) of woods and meadows and facilities include a covered riding arena, rolling pastures, a round pen, cross country terrain, as well as a multitude of riding and hiking trails.



Itinerary



Please note that these programs may change due to weather, security, technical criteria and other unforeseen situations.

Sample Itinerary: Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail - subject to changes

Important note: The specific level required is the "confirmed rider level".

As a qualified professional of equestrian tourism in France, it is important for the safety of the groups of riders we receive that everyone has the required riding level (see description below)

A person, who doesn't have the required level, causes difficulties for the staff and other participants, with consequences on the good progress of the stay for everyone.



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If from the first day we judge that a rider doesn't have the required level for horseback riding, he/she will not continue on horseback. They will continue their stay with the logistics team. They will be able to make all the scheduled visits, and eat with the riders for lunch and dinner.

This decision will be made without any refund on the stay.

If, due to poor physical condition, riders ask to stop riding, they are still liable for the 300 euros we charge for transporting the horse

Our rides are for the experienced rider who has mastered all 4 paces (walk, rising trot, canter/gallop in a forward seat) on varied terrains and in open spaces. The experienced rider rides regularly, has good physical fitness, has good soft hands, a good attitude, and self-confidence. He controls the speed and direction of the horse in all circumstances. He can ride long distances including gallops of several minutes in open terrain.

Participants need to have experience riding on English-style saddles. They need to know how to ride in balance: two point position.

Please, note that this program can run in reverse. In 2024, this program will run in reverse (Sauternes to Moulis) on the following departures: May 11th, September 28th and October 19th.

We welcome the riders either at the Bordeaux airport at 6:00pm (Meeting is in Hall B at the "Brioche Doree" snack bar.). Transfer to the bed and breakfast.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Ruch

Day 2: Entre-deux-mers

Today's ride will take us through the Entre-deux-mers region, with its varied, hilly, wooded landscapes and beautiful vinevards

We pass by the 13th-century Château de Rauzan before arriving at our picnic area. In the afternoon, we continue through the Bordeaux vineyards, returning to Château du Courros (Bordeaux Supérieur) for a tasting. Built on the grounds of a pre-6th-century religious community dedicated to Saint Vincent (said to be the patron saint of winegrowers), Château du Courros lies a few kilometers south of St. Emilion.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Ruch

Day 3: Saint Emilion

This morning, we move along the Dordogne to Merlande. Through the vineyards, we head for Saint Emilion, where we have lunch. Along the way, we see Château de Pavie. Picnic at Château Franc-Mayne in Saint Emilion. Backing onto the slope of Franc, from which it takes its name, the château boasts 7 hectares of vines. The ancient Gallo-Roman road runs alongside the vineyard. An old coaching inn bears witness to the passage of pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. Tasting and discovery of the 2-hectare underground cellars. In the afternoon, we take in the famous estates of Château Pétrus, Cheval Blanc and Château Figeac before

arriving in the Pomerol appellation, where we leave the horses behind.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel in Saint Emilion

Day 4: Ride to Libourne

The morning is free to relax. You can visit Saint Emilion. This unusual medieval town opens its doors all year round to adventurers, wine lovers and the simply curious. A city steeped in history, perched on a rocky promontory, Saint-Émilion and its vineyards draw their originality from the limestone that has shaped their identity. This is evidenced by the 200 km of underground galleries that provided the limestone needed for the construction of many of the region's buildings, including Bordeaux.

We picnic where we left the horses the day before on the Château Le Gay property. In the afternoon, we ride through vineyards interspersed with small woods to Château Mayne-Veil (Fronsac), where we leave the horses. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at La Tour Hotel in Libourne

Day 5: Ride to Mouillac

On this day, we head for Mouillac through varied landscapes of vineyards, meadows and forests. Picnic at Mouillac's little Romanesque church, where you'll have time to find the 9 canonic dials. The day continues on to Cubnezais. The landscape here is divided between the vinevards of the "Blave - Côtes de Bordeaux" appellation and the forest of pines and hardwoods. At the end of the day, we leave the horses at Domaine de la Gravette. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Civrac de Blave

Day 6: Blaye Citadelle

This morning, we ride through the rolling hills of the Côtes de Bourg. Picnic and tasting at Château Lamothe (Côte de Bourg), Then, departure around 3pm for the Citadelle de Blaye. We enter the 18th-century Vauban citadel on horseback. With its 1.5 km of ramparts, gates and underground passageways, the citadel has preserved intact the defensive system designed by Vauban, as well as the buildings necessary for the proper functioning of a garrison: former convent, prison, barracks and powder magazine.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel in Blave

Day 7: Médoc

After breakfast, we cross the Gironde with our mounts on the ferry to Lamarque and the Médoc (duration 40 mins.). We ride through the Médoc vineyards to our picnic location at Moulis en Médoc. Afternoon at leisure, tasting at Château Maslescasse (Haut-Médoc). Located in Lamarque, between Margaux and Saint-Julien, Château Malescasse was built in 1824 in the purest neo-classical style.

Meals included: Breakfast Lunch & Dinner Overnight at B&B in Moulis en Médoc

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast and according to the riders' train or plane schedules, transfer of the riders. There will be a single transfer to Bordeaux airport.

Meals included: Breakfast







Sample-Itinerary: Medoc Beach and Wine Trail - subject to changes

This program will not be available in 2024.

Day 1: Arrival

We welcome the riders at the Bordeaux airport at 6:00-6:30pm (hall B at the "Brioche Doree" snack bar). Transfer to Moulis en Médoc.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Domaine de Quittignan Brillette in Moulis

Day 2: Ride to Pauillac

Departure from Moulis through the vineyards of the Listrac and Moulis Appellations. Picnic and wine tasting Château Lannessan. End of the afternoon at Pauillac.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel de France et d'Angleterre in Pauillac

Day 3: Pauillac to Begadan

Through the Pauillac Appellation vineyard, we pass not far from Lafite Rothschild (first Grand Cru Classé Pauillac) whose vineyard dates from the XVII century, or Cos d'Estournel (Saint Estephe appellation) dating from 1811. Then, we'll head for a visit and picnic at the archaeological dig site of Brion. There used to be a Gallo-Roman villa there. Afternoon ride through vineyards. We'll then reach Begadan (Bordeaux, Bordeaux superior appellation).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Overnight at Hotel les Vieux Acacias in Quevrac

Day 4: Begadan to Soulac sur Mer

We'll head northward on the "Palus" (land ridges between marshes and streams of water) to get to the banks of the estuary. We'll head for the picturesque seaport of Goulée. Picnic and visit of the Richard lighthouse. From its top (18 m high) we'll have a beautiful view on the river.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Overnight at Hotel des Pins in Soulac sur Mer

Day 5: Soulac sur Mer to Montalivet

Today we will ride westward, in the direction of Soulac. The landscape looks like Camargue; vast expanses of meadows with lakes and horses on the range. Visit of the church of Our Lady of Land's end. Then the beach: a very large one to L'Amélie for picnic. Same route in the afternoon, long canters on the beach to Montalivet. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel le Marin in Montalivet

Day 6: Montalivet to Hourtin

Southward, beach or forest depending on the tide, picnic at the Pin Sec. In the afternoon on the Gironde moors we'll make it a day at Hourtin, a small yachting harbour.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel Les Pins in Hourtin

Day 7: Ride back to Moulis

We head East and the forest promises many long canters on sandy lanes where we may spot deer or stags. The fragrance of the pine trees is inebriating, the forest is engulfing us. Picnic in the hamlet of Bernos. In the afternoon we'll go southwards to get back to where we started.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Domaine de Quittignan Brillette in Moulis

End of the trip. Transfer to the Bordeaux airport after breakfast.

Meals included: Breakfast

Non Riders

Non-riding companions are welcome to join this trip. It is best to have a car in order to do some sightseeing while the rest of the group explores on horseback.

Map:

Black lines = Wine & Castles Trail Blue lines = Medoc Beach & Wine Trail







Other Info

Meeting: Moulis en Medoc

Airport: Bordeaux Mérignac airport Train station: Saint Jean (Bordeaux) Transfer: Bordeaux Mérignac airport

We meet the riders at the Bordeaux airport at 6:00pm. Drop-off on last day is at 9:00am

Tack: Trail saddles custom-made for each horse and "Myler" bridle

Horses: Arabian, Paint horses, and Arabian/Paint crossbreds.

Pace: Riders should be at ease at 4 paces (walk, rising trot, canter/gallop in a forward seat), or

varied terrain. Can gallop several minutes. We ride moderate to fast paced around 5-6

hours riding each day

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: (3.5 to 4 out of 5) Strong Intermediate

Age: Min 12

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 5 riders Max 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-FRABR01

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Wine with lunch & 6 riding days Saddlebags and water are provided during this trip.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip - Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail	€2285	\$2515

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

Rates Note: Single supplement will be applied if we cannot find another rider to share.

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Transfer from Bordeaux airport at set times on Day 1, roundtrip, pp (paid in cash)	€20	\$20
2024	Single supplement	€520	\$520
2024	Non-rider rate	€1495	\$1540
2024	Wine tasting for Bordeaux Trail, pp (estimated cost)	€30	\$30
2024	Wine tasting for Medoc Trail, pp (estimated cost)	€10	\$10

Tour Dates

Tour Dutos					
Tour Dates					
05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip - Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail			
05/19/2024 - 05/26/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip - Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail			
09/28/2024 - 10/05/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip - Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail			
10/06/2024 - 10/13/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip - Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail			
10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip - Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail			
10/27/2024 - 11/03/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip - Bordeaux Wine & Castles Trail			
	Tour Dates 05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024 05/19/2024 - 05/26/2024 09/28/2024 - 10/05/2024 10/06/2024 - 10/13/2024 10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024	Tour Dates 05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024 8d / 7n 05/19/2024 - 05/26/2024 8d / 7n 09/28/2024 - 10/05/2024 8d / 7n 10/06/2024 - 10/13/2024 8d / 7n 10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024 8d / 7n			

Min/Max: 5/10

Rates do not include:Beverages in hotels and restaurants, Airport transfers, Wine tastings, Entrance fees & Gratuities

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 Span Barrier Span Span Span Span Span Span Span Span	steam to the state of the state							
1.										
2.										
3.										
4.										
Special Diets:										
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate	Poor How lor	ng have you been riding?								
How often do you ride?	Have you been on other	riding tours? No Yes last trip when	n?							
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	f 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)										
Stree <u>t</u>		e-mail_								
City	State_	Postal/Zip Code								
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Date	Signature (mandator	y) <u>1.</u>	<u></u>							
Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to m	y credit card.	Additional Signatures:								
For payments by VISA () or Mastercard	(no debit cards)	2.								
Cardholder:		3.								
Card #3 d	igit Security #	4.								
Exp.Date: Signature										
Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than	maling address):	Travel Cancellation Insurance	redit Card required							
		Sign me (us) up initial								
I have enclosed a check for the deposit () No, we will provide our own () initial										

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