

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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Perigord Noir Trails - France, Europe

Tour Code: IT-FRABR04

8 days / 7 nights ~\$0.00

Dates: April

Trip Rating: ●●●●●

Difficulty: ●●●●●

Lodging: ●●●

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,Gallop,

Airport: Bordeaux



Introduction

Dordogne, France

Enjoy our new horseback trips which take you through the beautiful Périgord region!

The Périgord, which corresponds roughly to the current Dordogne département, is for many people the picture-perfect image of the French countryside, a gentle landscape of patchwork fields, hilltop towns, turreted mansions and jade green woods. It is also the spiritual home to two of the country's enduring culinary passions - foie gras and the black truffle! The Périgord region is famous for its stunning cave paintings, as well as for its many fortified chateaux and bastide towns - reminders of the bloody battles waged here during the Middle Ages and the Hundred Years' War.

There are four different geographic Perigord designations: the White Perigord, the Purple Perigord, the Green Perigord and the Black Perigord. This riding tours will take you in the Black Perigord, an area that overlooks the valleys of the Vézère and the Dordogne. This limestone plateau, delimited to the West by the valley of the Vézère and to the South, by the valley of the Dordogne, is covered by forests of chestnut trees, pines and holm oaks, which give it a dark colour and its name "Black Perigord".

The « black » Périgord, named after the black oak forest, largely spread across the valleys of the Vézère and the Dordogne, will seduce you with its centuries old history. Visits of castles and bastides (medieval fortified villages) in varied landscapes will offer riders memorable sights of this area as well as numerous culinary pleasures.

Accommodation

Accommodations

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

Description

Accommodation is in B&B or hotels. Double or Twin room, possibility of single but with supplement.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Gite in Lougratte

Night 2: Au bon Accueilat Limeuil

Night 3: Hôtel la belle Etoile in Roque Gageac

Night 4-5: Hôtel Naad in Sarlat

Night 6: Auberge Médiévale in Audrix

Night 7: Gite in Lougratte



Gite in Lougratte

This beautiful gite offers comfortable and nicely decorated accommodation. The rooms are divided between 3 cottages and most rooms have their own bathroom. There is free Wi-Fi access on the property and guest can choose to cool off in the pool during the summer months.

Au bon Accueil in Limeuil

This lovely guests house provides visitors with modern ensuite bedrooms including a TV, free Wi-Fi access and a view over the surrounding landscape.

Hôtel la belle Etoile in Roque Gageac

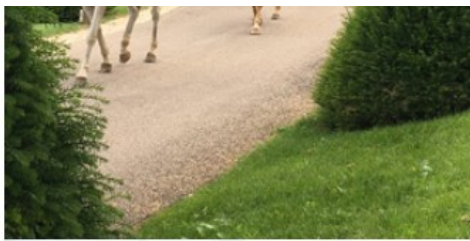
This charming 3-star hotel offers 12 cozy bedrooms. All rooms have air conditioning and private facilities.

Hôtel Naad in Sarlat

This boutique hotel, located in the heart of the historical city center, has 25 guestrooms. Each room comes equipped with air conditioning, free Wi-Fi access and a private bathroom.

Auberge Médiévale in Audrix

Comfortable family establishment overlooking the valley of the Vézère, in the municipality of Audrix.



Room Occupancy

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.



Meals

All meals are included.

Continental breakfasts served at your accommodation.

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

Dinner in the bed and breakfast, restaurant or hotel (wine not included for dinner, and other extras).

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to most dietary restrictions with prior notice.

For special dietary requirements – especially gluten-free diets:

We kindly ask riders to mention only genuine allergies or intolerances requiring special attention. Our team contacts restaurants, hotels and guesthouses in advance to arrange suitable meals, which involves significant organization. We sometimes find that guests who requested a special diet ultimately decide to eat normally once they arrive in France. We therefore thank riders for providing accurate and final dietary information in order to help us organize meals efficiently and facilitate the work of our partners.

Riding



Riding Ability

This ride is open to riders who are comfortable and in control at all 4 paces (walk, rising trot, canter and gallop in a forward seat) on varied terrain, in open spaces and practice a regular habit of riding. There are certain sections of the trail where we 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.

Pace

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. We cover about 150km in total.

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

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. Helmets are not mandatory but are strongly recommended.

Our team will take care of tacking up the horses during this ride.

Equipment

Saddlebags, ponchos and water are provided during this trip.



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.



Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - 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.

Therefore, we will test riders on horseback on the 1st day before departure on the trail.

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. The rider is also required to pay the 300 Euro fee if the rider decides to stop riding for any other reason. Riders cannot decide to stop riding just because it rains one day, is windy another day, or too hot another day. Only the guide can decide to modify the horseback ride or stop it if he or she considers that the weather or another event may compromise the safety of the riders and horses, for example following a national weather alert.

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.

Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival

We welcome the riders at 6:30pm at the Bergerac train station and transfer them to our guesthouse in Lougratte.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight in Lougratte

Day 2 (Monday): Château de Bannes to Limeuil

After breakfast, around 10:30 am, we will be introduced to our horses at Château de Bannes (private castle from the 15th century). We will ride through Lalinde's bastide, then follow the canal towards Mauzac (village on the



Dordogne's right bank) where we will have a picnic before going to Limeuil, an ancient fishing port.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Limeuil

Day 3 (Tuesday): Limeuil to Castelnaud-la-Chapelle

After crossing the forest, we will have a picnic near the village of St Cyprien at the Dordogne's edge. In the afternoon, we take the direction of Castelnaud la Chapelle. To finally reach the place where we leave the horses to rest for the night (Valley of the Céou), we will go along a medieval path between the Tayac's and Castelnaud-la-Chapelle's castles.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Roque Gageac

Day 4 (Wednesday): Ride from Céou valley to Dordogne valley

We will ride from the Céou valley to the Dordogne valley where a picnic is awaiting us at the foot of a windmill in the Domme bastide. You will enjoy the beautiful sight of the Dordogne valley from this medieval village before going to Vitrac, night stop for the horses. We drive to Sarlat, a well-preserved medieval city.

-In the morning, visit of Castelnaud-la-Chapelle's castle (12th century) and its museum (war in the middle age). The castle offers a magnificent panorama of various areas (Beynac, Marquessac, La Roche Gageac).
 -Before or after the picnic, visit of Domme, royal « bastide » from the 13th century.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Sarlat

Day 5 (Thursday): Ride around Sarlat

We will ride only in the morning and go through Sarlat before stopping at the Campagnac castle to have a picnic. Free afternoon to fully enjoy the splendid city of Sarlat. Possibility of a city tour in the afternoon or after diner, by night.

- Capital of the « Black » Périgord, city of art and history, Sarlat is considered one of the most beautiful cities of Europe with its sumptuous architecture.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Sarlat

Day 6 (Friday): Sarlat to Audrix

The path we will follow to reach Meyrals will give us the chance to see the Puymartin castle, built during the 15th century. Picnic at the foot of Meyrals' church before going to Limeuil through the Vézère's valley in the afternoon.

- Visit to the Puymartin castle, first built in the 12th century, destroyed in the 14th century and then rebuilt in the 15th century.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Audrix

Day 7 (Saturday): Ride back to Bannes Castle

We will ride along the Dordogne river towards Cadouin, where we will have a picnic near its abbey (12th cent). From there, we go through the Bèssede forest, the most important forest of the Périgord, and take the time to visit Molière's village, bastide from the 12th century, before going back to the Bannes castle. In the evening, we transfer you back to our guesthouse in Lougratte.

- Visit of the 12th cent. abbey after lunch.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Lougratte

Day 8 (Sunday): Departure

Departure or transfer to Bergerac train station after breakfast (8:30 / 9 am).



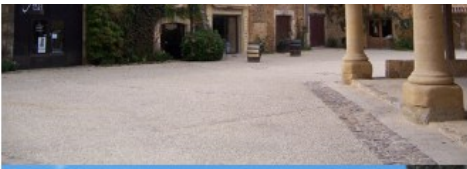
Non Riders

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.

Other Info

Meeting: La ferme du Peytavit in Couze

Airport: Bordeaux



Important Information:

Train station: Lalinde's train station

Transfer: Lalinde's/ Bernac's train station

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Bergerac train station. Pick-up is scheduled for 6:00pm on Day 1. On the last day, you will leave the hotel after breakfast, around 8:30-9:00am, and be dropped off at the train station.

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 | Gallop |

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

Age: Min 16

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 5 riders

Max 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2027 - IT-FRABR04

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 2027	8 day trip	€3185	\$0

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 0 and subject to currency fluctuation

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

Transfer Option

Description

2027	Transfer from/to Bergerac train station at set times, roundtrip, pp (paid in cash)	€20	\$20
2027	Single supplement	€570	\$630
2027	Non-rider rate -- please inquire		

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2027	04/03/2027 - 04/10/2027	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 5/10

Rates do not include:Beverages in hotels and restaurants, Transfers, Entrance fees, Wine tasting & Gratuities

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-FRABR04

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 2026	8 day trip	€0	\$0

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

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates
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Rates do not include: Beverages in hotels and restaurants, Transfers, Entrance fees, Wine tasting & 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	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 _____

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