

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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Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



Old Stones and Lot Villages - France, Europe

Tour Code: IT-FRABR07
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: We ride moderate to fast paced

...
Walk,Trot,Canter,Gallop,

Airport: Bordeaux Airport



Old Stones and Lot Villages



Introduction

Dordogne, France

Located in the heart of France's southwest between Auvergne and Périgord, the Lot is surrounded by the Massif Central mountains to the east and the plains of the Garonne to the west and south.

Also known as the ancient province of Quercy, the Lot is a land full of wonderful surprises including steep villages with brown tiles, wilderness of the Causse and opulence of its rivers (Lot and Dordogne).

On this ride, you will get the chance to discover Rocamadour (the sacred city), the Saint-Sauveur basilica and the Saint-Amadour crypt, classified as World Heritage by UNESCO. Other highlights include the local wines and gastronomy as well as wonderful horses!

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

Day 1: Hotel in Puy l'Évêque

Day 2: B&B in Marminiac

Day 3: B&B in Le Vigan

Day 4: B&B in Rocamadour

Day 5: B&B in Rocamadour

Day 6: B&B in Soulloumes

Day 7: Hotel in Puy l'Évêque

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.

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.

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.

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

The itinerary may be modified at any time for security reasons, meteorological or other events beyond our control.

The itinerary may be modified at any time for security reasons, meteorological or other events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes, and local holidays. We will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

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.

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: Arrival

Riders with vehicles may arrive in the late afternoon to the first night accommodation. Riders arriving by train will be collected in the late afternoon at the SNCF train station of Monsempron-Libos.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at a Hotel in Puy l'Évêque

Day 2: Ride to Cazals

After breakfast, riders are introduced to their horses. We will begin our trek around 10am, making our way to Frayssinnet-le-Gelat Lake, where we stop for lunch. Our afternoon ride brings us to Cazals, an ancient fortified village founded in 1319 by the Seneschal of the King of England: Guillaume de Toulouse or Tolza. This village is characterized by a vast central courtyard around which many houses were built to accommodate the clientele of the numerous friars and the teams driving animals with their drivers. The bastide, or fortified village, was largely destroyed in 1588 when the Marshall of Biron, the Seneschal of Quercy, shot down the village walls.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Marminiac

Day 3: Cazals to Le Vigan

In the morning we resume our trek on the road to Le Vigan, near the confluence of the Bleou and Seguy rivers, right in the heart of Haute Bouriane. Our picnic is waiting for us at the foot of the ruins of L'Abbaye Nouvelle, a Cistercian abbey. Our afternoon trail takes us to Le Vigan, originally called Carbornnac until the 11th century. The ending "ac" dates this settlement back to the days of the Celts or at least to the Gallo-Romans. In this village we discover a magnificent and impressive church abbey from the 13-14th centuries.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Le Vigan

Day 4: Le Vigan to

After breakfast, we continue our ride towards the Cougnaguet Mill, which was strengthened by Cougnaguet in the 13th century. We will have our picnic break here. The construction of the mill was conducted by Cistercian monks and lasted for 50 years. We journey on after lunch to travel through limestone plateaus, crops, and oak forests.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Rocamadour

Day 5: Rocamadour

Today, we ride to Rocamadour, a small but exceptional village. In the heart of the Parc Naturel Regional des Causses du Quercy, the medieval city of Rocamadour challenges the laws of gravity. Towers, houses, and dungeons cling to the limestone cliffs composing a haughty picture of Christendom. We enjoy our picnic at our guesthouse which leaves us the afternoon to explore the village.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Rocamadour

Day 6: Rocamadour to Souloumes

Today we leave Rocamadour behind as we climb the heights to Carluet, where our picnic lunch awaits. We then take the trail to Labastide Murat. This ancient fortified village is situated on the limestone plateau of Gramat. We overnight in Souloumes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a B&B in Souloumes

Day 7: Souloumes to Saint Denis Catus

After breakfast, we follow the valley of le Vers to arrive at the mill of Maquefave where we will have our picnic lunch. We conclude our ride in the village of Saint Denis Catus.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a Hotel in Puy l'Évêque

Day 8: Departure

After enjoying a hearty breakfast, riders may depart by car or will be transferred to the train station.

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.

Other Info

Meeting: Puy L'evêque

Airport: Bordeaux Airport

Train station: Monsempron-Libos

Transfer: Monsempron-Libos train station

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is possible from Monsempron-Libos train station for an extra fee.

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

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

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

Pace: We ride moderate to fast paced
5-6 hours in the saddle per riding day

Walk | Trot | Canter | Gallop |

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

Age: Min 13

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 5 riders Max 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-FRABR07

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

Packages and Options

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

Transfer Option

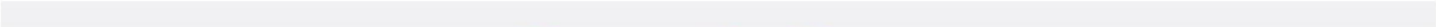
Description

2024	Single supplement	€460	\$475
2024	Non-rider rate	€1390	\$1430

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates
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Rates do not include:Beverages in hotels and restaurants, Transfers, 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	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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