

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

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Historic Villages & Delicacies of Southwestern France - France, Europe

Tour Code: IT-FRABR5B
8 days / 7 nights ~\$0.00
Dates: April

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

Tack: Trail saddles custom-made for each hor...

Horses: Pure- or cross-bred Paint, Arabian, or...

Pace: Riders should be at ease at 4 paces (w...
Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Bordeaux Mérignac Airport (BOD)



Introduction

Bordeaux, France

Join us in the heart of the Lot-en-Garonne to experience the multitude of horseback riding trails through the countryside.

While in this historic region, you will discover the bastides (fortified villages) of the Middle Ages, explore the diverse landscapes that are rich in culture and heritage, ride through the far, lands which produce hazelnuts, plums for Agen prunes, purple Perigord vineyards with wines from Monbazillac, Bergerac, Pechamant, and villages gilded with traditional architecture (pigeon houses, farms, character houses).

Non-riders, hikers, and mountain bikers will enjoy the many marked trails and surrounding activities such as golf, visits to historical sites and castles, and wine tastings.

Accommodation



Accommodations

This is a mostly stationary ride, so most nights will be at the same location.

Description

We welcome you in the heart of the Bastides and gastronomy of the southwest in the Lot-et-Garonne in the town of Lougratte. Situated near the castles of Perigord, between the valleys of the Lot and Dordogne, our location offers wondrous sights and many activities. Walks in the forest, vineyards, and visits to castles and prehistoric sites are amongst some of the possibilities.

Our pool onsite will be a great way to cool off after a ride!



We have 3 cottages available all year:

Fakir (holds up to 6 people)

- 3 rooms and 2 baths
- living room with TV, WIFI, DVD player
- a fully equipped kitchen opening onto a terrace overlooking the park and the pool
- Internet
- cleaning and linen included 10 minutes from shops



...and the other horses to make sure they

MacLéo (holds up to 8 people)

- 4 rooms and 4 baths
- living room with TV, WIFI, DVD player
- a fully equipped kitchen opening onto a terrace overlooking the park and the pool 6 x 12 m
- Internet
- cleaning and linen included

Loukia (holds up to 11 people)

- 5 rooms and 3 baths
- living room with TV, WIFI, DVD player
- a fully equipped kitchen opening onto a terrace overlooking the park and the pool
- Internet
- cleaning and linen included

This program also includes 2 overnights away from the farm. We will spend the 4th night at a Youth Hostel in Cadouin and the 5th night in a farmhouse close to Monpazier.

Youth Hostel in Cadouin

Housed in a beautiful Abbey, this youth hostel offers clean rooms with 2, 5, 6 or 7 beds per room. Some rooms have their own bathrooms while other have shared facilities. There is free Wi-Fi access at this property.

Farmhouse close to Monpazier

This lovely farmhouse dates back to the 13th century. Today, it welcomes guests in cozy bedrooms, all equipped with ensuite bathroom and free internet connexion.

Room Occupancy

Possibility of single room 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.



Meals

All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.

Continental breakfasts are served at the accommodation.

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

Dinner in the restaurant (wine not included for dinner).

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to most dietary restrictions with prior notice.



Riding





Riding Ability

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 terrain.

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.

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

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





Sample Itinerary- subject to changes

Changes due to weather, security, technical criteria, and other imponderables may occur.

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

Pick-up from the Bergerac train station in the afternoon and transfer to the guesthouse. Dinner at 8:00pm.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Farm's guesthouse

Day 2: Local specialties & architecture

Departure of the ride at around 10:00 am, after presentation and distribution of the horses. Today, we ride through the numerous paths that surround the equestrian farm, including the GR 654 on the road to Santiago de Compostela.

We discover the traditional architecture of the Haut Agenais Périgord: dovecotes, farms and houses of character such as the stacked house dating from the 16th century in Bourneil, or the priory of Mesnil Saint Martin dating from the 13th and 18th centuries. The priory of Mesnil Saint Martin was restored in 1980 by a religious community. Today, it is a private home.

We have a picnic at the château de la Tuque. This beautiful little castle was built by descendants of the Gallo Romans, the Alphéry family, who also built the church of Valette. Today, it is a private property where the truffle, the "black diamond", is cultivated. We continue our discovery of this beautiful area between hazelnut and plum trees on our way back to the horse farm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Farm's guesthouse

Day 3: Castillonnes & Eyrenville

We ride over the wooded ridges towards the village of Castillonnes. After passing through this 13th century bastide, we reach the charming village of Eyrenville. There, we will enjoy our picnic and a wine tasting of Bergerac wines at the Clos Pech de Bessou estate.

After the break, long canters on the hilly paths and limestone plateaus lead us to the village of Faux, where we leave the horses.

We return to the farm by car.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Farm's guesthouse

Day 4: Ride to Cadouin

In the morning, we cross the forest to discover the renaissance castle of Lanquais. We then descend into the valley of the Couze, a small river which we follow until we reach the château de Bannes. Picnic in the park of this magnificent 15th century private castle.

In the afternoon, we pass through the village of Molières before reaching our evening stop at Cadouin, with its 11th and 12th century Cistercian abbey.

Overnight stay at the youth hostel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Youth Hostel in Cadouin

Day 5: Cadouin to Monpazier

After riding through woods and forests, we reach the village of Montferand du Périgord for our lunch break. This village in the Couze valley is nestled at the foot of a medieval castle. The oldest known document mentioning the castrum of Monte Ferrando dates from 1286. We then continue our journey to Monpazier, a 13th century bastide. Classified as one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in France", it remains the best preserved bastide in the South West.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Guesthouse in Monpazier

Day 6: Castle of Biron & Monflanquin

Today, we leave the Dordogne department for the Lot et Garonne and discover the castle of Biron. A 12th and 18th century castle, classified as a Historic Monument. The castle occupies a strategic position on the edge of the Périgord and the Agenais. Its history is linked to the greatness of a family, the Gontaut Biron, who held the fief for eight hundred years. For picnic, we stop at the pretty hamlet of Saint Avit, with its museum of contemporary ceramics. In the village of Lacapelle Biron, oral tradition says that Bernard Palissy was born (1510 1590). He was a potter, enameller, painter, glassmaker, writer and French scholar.

We arrive in Monflanquin at the end of the afternoon. Monflanquin is a typical bastide of the region where we leave the horses before going to our farmhouse for the night

are horses before going to our farmhouse for the night.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Farm's guesthouse

Day 7: Born Castle

This morning we ride towards the castle of Born, a royal plum estate dating from the 12th century. In the 16th century, this castle belonged to a branch of the Durfort family, a high nobility family from Guyenne. During the Second World War, it was the owner of Byrrh who bought this property. He was looking for an estate to house his family but also in a region rich in crops and gastronomy to feed his family. We will enjoy our picnic lunch at this castle.

The wide paths will lend us to some nice canters. We discover again the rich and diverse landscape of this region while riding back to the farm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Farm's guesthouse

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, departure or transfer to Villeneuve-sur-Lot or Bergerac 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: Lougratte

Airport: Bordeaux Mérignac Airport (BOD)

Train station: Agen TGV

Transfer: Bergerac Airport or Agen TGV

Distance: 150km

We can arrange transfers from/to Bergerac train station or airport for an extra fee.

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

Horses: Pure- or cross-bred Paint, Arabian, or Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods

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
(per riding group)

Max Capacity 25

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-FRABR5B

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

Packages and Options

| Season | Description |
|--------|-------------|
|--------|-------------|

Transfer Option

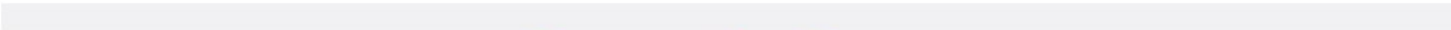
Description

| | | | |
|------|--|-------|--------|
| 2024 | Transfers from/to Bergerac train station, roundtrip, pp (paid in cash) | €20 | \$20 |
| 2024 | Single supplement | €475 | \$490 |
| 2024 | Non-rider rate | €1495 | \$1540 |

Tour Dates

| Season | Tour Dates |
|--------|------------|
|--------|------------|

Rates do not include: Beverages in hotels and restaurants, 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 | 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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