

# **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**

Phone: 604-323-1141 Fax: 604-323-1148 Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: info@hiddentrails.com Website: www.hiddentrails.com

#### Address

659A Moberty Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or 4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

## Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420 Fax: 0-808-280-1860

# Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

# Mont Blanc Ride - France, Europe

Tour Code: IT-FRSA01 7 days / 6 nights ~\$3,335.00 Dates: June

Trip Rating : •••••
Difficulty : ••••
Lodging: ••••

Tack: English Horses: Henson Pace: Approx 3-5 hours in the saddle per rid...

#### Airport: Geneva





# Introduction

Savoy, France

Long before welcoming skiers from all over the world to its resorts, the Tarentaise valley and its alpine passes were frequented by men from the Neolothic, and perhaps even by Hannibal during his crossing of the Alps with his elephants in 218 AD.

This region was strategic for the Roman Empire and it was also the birthplace of the illustrious Savoy house, which gave its first king to Italy. We will walk in the footsteps of the Celts who, from the Neolithic exploited the precious minerals of the mountains, as well as the illustrious Romans, who built and designed beautiful baroque chapels in this region.

The Tarentaise valley is also the setting of the Vanoise National Park, and numerous peaks over 3000 m. Nature lovers will particularly enjoy this ride as we will delight in the sight of vibrant living mountains, covered by rocks, ice, forests and plants and inhabited by a rich wildlife, including: eagles, gypaetes, ibex, marmots...and many more!

#### Accomodation

#### Accommodations

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

#### escription

You will sleep in hotels and B&Bs along the way. Accommodations are located in the heart of the mountain.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability
Nights 1, 2 & 3: Hotel de la Vanoise in Peisey Nancroix
Night 4: Hotel Le Monal in Sainte Foy Tarentaise
Night 5 & 6: Hotel Dolonne in Courmayeur



#### Hotel de la Vanoise in Peisey Nancroix

This small mountain hotel offers ensuite accommodation and is decorated in typical Savoy style. There is free Wi-Fi available and guests can enjoy their relaxation area: sauna, hammam and pool. From the patio you have a great view on the surrounding peaks.

#### Hotel Le Monal in Sainte Foy Tarentaise

This former coaching inn was first opened in Sainte Foy Tarentaise in 1888. It was kept by the Arpin family for 5 generations. The hotel has 19 comfortable rooms, all equipped with ensuite facilities, a TV and free Wi-Fi.

## Hotel Dolonne in Courmayeur

The hotel is housed in a fortified house dating back to the 16th century. Each of the 30 bedrooms feature free Wi-Fi and ensuite bathroom.

### Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory if we are unable to find another rider to share.







#### Meals

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

On this ride, you will have the opportunity to taste the local gastronomy, convivial dinner... We do our best to give you the best experience in our beautiful mountains.

You will taste and experience the French art de vivre. All gourmet meals with 2 glass of wine included.

#### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.

# Riding



#### Horses

The choice of our horses has been motivated above all, by the strong desire to make you enjoy your trip in total safety. Our horses are quiet and generous. Your trail companion is chosen for you according your level, height and weight. For this ride, horses are Henson breed, experienced and trained for the trail riding in mountains.

#### Some advice:

<u>Before you leave</u>: If possible, prior to your trip try to ride a horse 3 or 4 times to train your muscles for a long time on horseback. Review your knowledge (tying knot, groom, saddle, adjust and put the bridle...)
<u>During the ride</u>: Pay attention to the given instructions, respect the schedule and keep reasonable distances from other riding, and enjoy yourself!

#### **Itinerary**



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

#### Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival

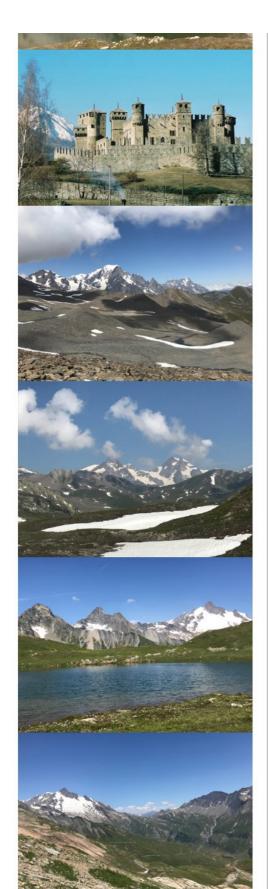
After arriving at Geneva airport or at the Landry train station, we will transfer you to your accommodation. Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Hotel de la Vanoise in Peisey Nancroix

### Day 2 (Monday): Ride to Rossaix

Start of the ride from La Chenarie. We take the Carroz Blanc Forest path, from where we have a sublime view of the Bellecôte massif. Then we discover the beautiful open landscape of the Rossaix pastures. There, we will see lovely little Tarine cows, and we will visit alpine pastures where the Beaufort cheese is produced. After enjoying lunch on site, return to La Chenarie by the Carroz Blanc Forest path. Riding approx. 4 hours

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Overnight at Hotel de la Vanoise in Peisey Nancroix

#### Day 3 (Tuesday): Baroques churches on the way to Landry

Today, we will learn about Savoy baroque art. It honors the saints invoked against the disease of men and cattle, accidents, avalanches, climatic hazards. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the faith of the inhabitants and the talent of local, Piedmontese and/or French artists populated the valleys with masterpieces.

We will start riding from La Chenarie up to Parcompuet, to see the Baroque chapel of Vernettes. Visit the Chapel, then ride down into the valley to Nancroix.

We will stop for lunch in a local restaurant.

This afternoon, we ride along the Ponthurin to the village of Moulin, then Peisey Nancroix, which we cross on horseback. We then descend into the Tarentaise valley to the Baroque church of Landry, located at the foot of the Roman road. After a guided visit of Landry church, we enjoy a short ride to the horse meadow, just outside Landry. Riding approx. 4 hours

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel de la Vanoise in Peisey Nancroix

#### Day 4 (Wednesday): Tarentaise Valley Ride & Villages Visit

We start today's ride in the Tarentaise Valley, along the Isère river. As we are in a flat valley, we have many opportunities for trots and canters. We will leave the horses to rest in a meadow, before going for lunch in a local restaurant.

After lunch, transfer to Sainte Foy Tarentaise, a pretty village further up the valley. We enjoy a guided tour of the charming hamlets of Le Miroir and La Mazure. You will have time to do some shopping in a charming local shop. Riding approx. 4 hours

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel Le Monal in Sainte Foy Tarentaise

#### Day 5 (Thursday): Petit Saint Bernard Mountain Pass

The construction of the road that passes through the Petit Saint Bernard pass probably dates back to the period of Julius Caesar around 45 BC, its completion is around the year 2 or 3 AD. It was the main road that linked Milan to Vienna, in the Rhône valley.

From Seez, we will ride on the Roman road to Saint Germain, an then up to the pass. Lunch and visit to the Petit Saint Bernard hospice museum.

After lunch, we discover the Roman ruins. Then, transfer by minibus to the Pré Saint Didier thermal baths from where we have a sublime view of the Mont Blanc chain. From there, transfer to your charming hotel in Courmayeur.

Riding approx. 5 hours

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a Hotel in Courmayeur

#### Day 6 (Friday): Sightseeing Day (no riding)

This morning, we go on a sightseeing tour to the Aosta Valley, in Italy, by minibus.

The new colony of Augusta Praetoria Salassorum (Aosta) was founded in 25 BC. J.-C, at the very place of the headquarters (praetorium) of the old, fortified camp, at the crossroads between the road of Grand-Saint-Bernard (Mons Jovis or Mont Joux), and that of Petit-Saint-Bernard (Columna Jovis or "Colonne de Joux", or Alpis Graia). We visit the Arc de Triomphe, the numerous Roman remains of Aosta, as well as its medieval buildings. We stop for lunch in a local trattoria in Aosta.

This afternoon, we visit the medieval and renaissance castles of Fénis and Issogne, and discover their magnificent frescoes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel in Courmayeur

## Day 7 (Saturday): Departure

Departure after breakfast. You can go visit Courmayeur if you want or we can transfer you to Geneva airport for an extra fee.

Meals included: Breakfast

Note: it is possible to add an extra overnight to the program, in that case, the end of the itinerary would be as follows:

#### Day 7 (Saturday): Relaxing Day

Choose between of the following options.

Option 1: Easy hike with mountain guide

You join a 4-hour guided hike with breathtaking views of a dazzling series of ridges, peaks, glaciers,... Lunch on the way in a mountain refuge or picnic according to the weather conditions.

#### Option 2: Electric bike ride

Take a 4-hour self-guided electric bike ride around Val Ferret. It is also possible to ask for a guide to join you for an extra fee. Lunch included in one of the restaurants of the valley or picnic.

#### Option 3: Pointe Helbrooner in cable car

This morning, you have some free time to go shopping in Courmayeur. Then, take the cable car to Pointe Helbronner (11371ft), to enjoy lunch in the Bistrot, with panoramic views.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at a Hotel in Courmayeur

#### Day 8 (Sunday): Departure

Departure after breakfast.

Meals included: Breakfast

Please note this itinerary may be changed due to weather and seasonal conditions.





#### 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: Peisey Nancroix

Airport: Geneva

Train station: Landry / Bourg Saint Maurice Transfer: Geneva airport or Landry train station

Transfers can be arranged from/to Geneva airport. Pick-up is scheduled for 4pm from Geneva airport, on Day 1 of your trip. Alternatively, we can pick you up at Landry train station and drop

you off at Bourg Saint Meurice train station.

Tack: English
Horses: Henson

Pace: Approx 3-5 hours in the saddle per riding day

Level: (3 to 4 out of 5) Intermediate +

Weight: 210 lbs / 95 kg

Riders: Min 4 riders Max 10 riders

# Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-FRSA01

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals with 2 glasses of wine for dinner, 5 guided horse riding days, 1 sightseeing day (inc. entrance fees) & Transfers

**Packages and Options** 

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$	
A 2024	7 day trip	€3030	\$3335	

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

# **Transfer Option**

## Description

2024	Transfer from Geneva airport on Day 1, per car	€350	\$385
2024	Single supplement	€780	\$860
2024	Non-rider, pp (double occupancy)		
2024	Small group supplement (2 riders), pp	€560	\$615
2024	Transfer to Geneva airport on last day, per car	€65	\$70
2024	Extra day at end of trip (8-day tour), pp in double occupancy	€560	\$615

#### **Tour Dates**

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	06/23/2024 - 06/29/2024	7d/6n	7 day trip

Min/Max: 4/10

Rates do not include: Gratuities

# **Reservation Form**

Tour:	Code #:	from: to :
The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Fernale Single room / or tent Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height Weight State Total Height
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
Special Diets:		
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate	Poor How Ion	g 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	al airport/station: I would	d 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 p	participant, all have to sign	n the reservation form - make copies if needed
with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and brochure or as listed on the Internet.	d the Hidden Trails Recrea	dventure activities. All participants have read and agree ational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this unity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.
Stree <u>t</u>	_e	-mai <u>l</u>
City	State	Postal/Zip Code
Phone (wk) (hm)	Cell	Fax
Date	Signature (mandator)	0 1.
Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my	y credit card.	Additional Signatures:
For payments by VISA () or Mastercard (	(no debit cards)	2.
Cardholder:		3.
Card #3 di	git Security #	4.
	git Security #	4.
3 di		Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required Sign me (us) up initial

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