

# 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

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](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

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

# Panorama Ride on Crete - Greece, Europe

Tour Code: IT-GR-SRCR02

8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,815.00

Dates: Mid-March to Mid-November  
(except July & August)

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾

Lodging : 🏠🏠🏠

**Tack:** English - Wintek

**Horses:** Arab, Thoroughbred,  
Warmbloods.

**Pace:** Moderate with occasional  
steep terrain...

**Airport:** Kazantzakis International  
Airport (HER)



## Introduction

Crete, Greece

Enjoy the Greek lifestyle - the bright blue sea, the golden sun and tastiest food! Relax on the beach or visit the ancient sites!

Crete is an island in the sun, surrounded by the clear, blue sea and has a rough and wild landscape with mountains reaching 2.5 km high. You can ride within the silence of nature on the tiny island covered with olive trees, beautiful and natural landscapes, historical places with timeless myths, and astonishing tracks to follow. Swim in the ocean and dry on the deserted beach.

The moment you arrive on the hillside, you experience quiet serenity and have a tremendous panoramic view. Under us stretches the Langada Valley with the Aposelemis River crossing through, above us rise the red coloured peaks of the Dikti Mountains. Birds of prey, like the Griffon Vulture, glide along these peaks. The estate is surrounded by a protected Kerm Oak forest and the olive groves stretch down into the valley. On the estate, many protected trees and flowers can be found, many different types of beautiful orchids grow.

Here in the area around Avdou there is unlimited space for horse riding through the quietness of the nature and Cretan countryside with small villages. We ride active through the olive groves and hills, ride along Lake Aposelemis, visit the ancient site of Lyttos, and climb up the mountains to visit Kera. This active holiday, combines all the good aspects of the Cretan life- relaxing on the beach or swimming in the pool, visiting the ancient sites, meeting the friendly locals, enjoying the delicious Greek food and taking our 4-footed friends for a unique ride during the cool evening hours.

## Accommodation



### Accommodations

This is a stationary ride, so all nights are spent in the same location.

### Description

The moment you arrive at our hotel, you experience the serene quietness and the tremendous panoramic view. Under us stretches the Langada Valley where the Aposelemis River flows. Above us rise the red colored peaks of the Dikti Mountains. The estate is surrounded by protected Kerm Oak forest and olive groves stretching down to the valley. On the estate, many protected trees and flowers can be found, like different type of beautiful orchids.

The hotel suits its surroundings. It is built with real natural stones collected from the land it stands on, which give it a robust and natural look. The main building houses the reception and a café with a large balcony on which you can drink your Greek coffee or Raki. In the main building, you also find the Restaurant with its large terrace overlooking the riding place and the valley. The terrace is surrounded by moveable glass walls and a roof that can be opened or closed depending on the weather conditions.

Next to the main building lays the naturally formed large swimming pool of 100 m2 (130 – 160 m deep) with a separate children pool of 11m2 (40 cm deep). The pools are open year round but are not heated. There is also a Jacuzzi with a lounge area that can be rented by the hour during the summer months (comes with Cretan sparkling wine and a fruit platter).

Private outdoor massages and wellness treatments are also available at an extra fee.

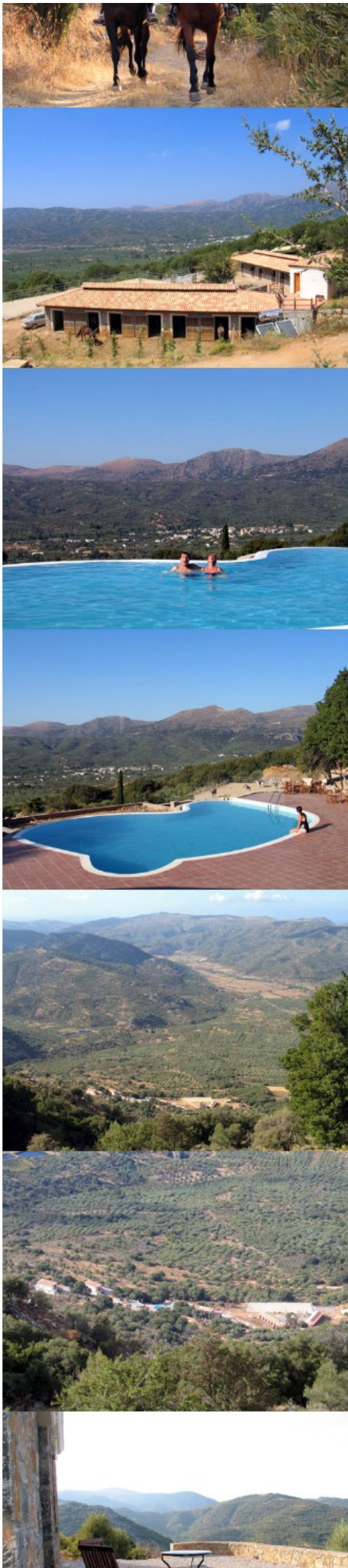
The 12 hotel rooms are grouped into 2 bungalows each housing 6 rooms. The rooms are large and comfortable and all have a tremendous view over the valley. All rooms have central heating and air conditioning, a fridge, a flat screen TV with international channels, a private bathroom with hairdryer as well as coffee and tea making facilities.

Since 2020 the rooms feature new luxury cotton satin bedding, anti-allergic duvet and summer cotton sheets as well as 2 pillow choices (soft and hard).

The hotel has WIFI on the entire property.

Laundry is available for an additional fee.

On the arrival day guests are welcome the whole day, but guests rooms are not ready before 2:00pm. On departure day guests should leave the room before 10.30am, but are welcome to spend their last day in the hotel.



A shower/changing room and toilets are available.

Room Options



*Classic Room (2 adults max) - included for 2 pax*

These rooms are located on the ground floor and have access to a patio and garden. They come equipped with either a king-size bed or twin beds and a private bathroom.



*Deluxe Suite (2 adults max) - upgrade*

These rooms are located on the ground floor (corner room) and come equipped with either a king-size bed or twin beds as well as a spacious bathroom with a 2 person spa bath (with hydro massage) and a private garden with a veranda and a sun deck with sun beds. These rooms also come with a fireplace. There are four Deluxe Suites in the property.



*Panorama Wellness Suite (3 adults max) - upgrade*

These rooms are located on the first floor and have a balcony. In case you want a personalized and private wellness experience, this room type is for you. In addition to the bedding (king size bed or twins + single bed on split level bedroom), these rooms feature an infrared sauna cabin for 2 with color therapy. They are also equipped with a private bathroom with a 2 person corner spa bath (with hydro massage). These rooms also come with a fireplace.





**Superior Wellness Suite (3 adults + 1 child max) - upgrade**  
 This room is located on the top floor of the hotel and offers incredible views. It comes with a balcony and a private garden with furnished veranda and a sun deck. Like the wellness rooms, in addition to the bedding (king size bed or twins + twin bed on split level bedroom), this room features an infrared sauna cabin for 2 with color therapy. It also has a private bathroom with a 2 person corner spa bath (with hydro massage). These rooms also come with a fireplace.



**Panorama Family Room (4 adults max) - included for 3 pax**  
 This room is located on the first floor and comes with a private balcony and 1 private bathroom. Beddings arrangements include 1 room with a queen size double bed (not possible to split), and a single bed, there is also a single bed on a split level floor. The amenities include a fire place, coffee corner and walk in closet. In case a group of 2 people wants to upgrade to this room category, they will need to pay a single supplement fee.



**Superior Family Suite (4 adults + 1 child max) - included for 4 pax**  
 This 2-bedroom suite is located on the ground floor with its own terrace. This room is composed of 2 adjoining bedrooms and has 2 bathrooms. It is equipped with 1 large double bed (possible to split into 2 single beds) and 2 twin beds. The master bedroom has a fireplace with sitting area, and a sofa bed (possible bed for child).

**Room Occupancy**  
 Triple share is possible.  
 There is no single supplement fee if you are willing to share.





### Meals

All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on the last day. Drinks, desserts, and other foods are not included.

The restaurant has its own vegetable, herb, and fruit gardens which provide us daily with new seasonable ingredients. Ripened under the Cretan sun and grown organically, they have a rich and delicious taste. Food is prepared with extra virgin olive oil from our own olive grove. After we press the olives only the highest extra virgin quality is kept for use in our restaurant. Some of the local produce used in the restaurant includes meat from the free ranging goats and sheep of our neighbors, cheese made by the local shepherd, homemade raki, and honey from a local beekeeper. All served with good Cretan wines (extra fee), made with grape varieties that have been used since Minoan times. Sometimes our guests prefer if we eat the Greek way (mezedes) and we put several dishes in the middle so everyone can try them!

Dinner is your choice from the menu and includes a starter, main dish, and salad.

Meals are usually served at the following times:

Breakfast from 8 am to 10:30 am

Lunch from 1 pm to 4 pm

Dinner from 5 pm to 9 pm

### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions if given prior notice.

### Riding



### Riding

This ride is suitable for intermediate to experienced riders. You must be able to control your horse at a trot and canter riding outdoors in a group.

The program includes 6 riding days with a total of 23 riding hours, averaging 3.5 hours in the saddle per day. Every day we set out on a new track, with our four-legged friend.

### Tack

We use English saddles. Every horse has his own saddle and bridle custom fit for every horse, regularly maintained and refit to follow the changes in the horse body. For bridles, we use a broken or double broken K&K Aurigan bit.

### Horses

Here we stable 18 lovely horses and 1 pony. We have Arabians, Thoroughbreds and Warmblood horses. These breeds have a long breath and a never tiring will for the long distance riding. They are beautiful and well-trained holiday horses. Always eager to go, very relaxed in the mind, surefooted in the mountains and human orientated. For the children we have a Welsh B pony. A real children's pony, very sweet, safe and with speed.

Our horses are trained following the classical dressage method (inspired by the Greek general Xenophon) to maintain the horse healthy and well balanced in its body. Or better explained by his own words: 'Anything forced and misunderstood can never be beautiful.'

Our horse work very hard on the long distances and in a warm climate. We believe we must do everything we can within our reach to make them feel as good as possible.

On 5 hectares of land, we built the stables by using natural materials like stones and wood. The stables are designed to be as close as possible to the physical needs of the horses.

We feed our horses by placing the hay in a slow feeder on the paddock floor. This means our horses are eating all day long creating a natural grazing behaviour, preventing colics or stumic sores and creating a healthy darm flora.

### Eco-Friendly stables

We reduce waste to a minimum and use renewable energy as much as we can. We use solar panels, placed on the roof of our stables, to produce our own electricity. We warm up water by running the water through solar collecting panels and to reduce west, we use 2 septi tanks.

For stable bedding, we use rubber permeable stable mats.

In 2015, the stables achieved an ISO 9001:2008 certificate for stable management and safety.

### Itinerary





**Sample Itinerary - subject to changes**

**Day 1: Arrival**

After arriving to our hotel, enjoy a welcome tour through the stables, a dive in the pool, and evening dinner in the Restaurant. In the evening, we will have a briefing on the trail route.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at Country Hotel Velani\*\*\*\**

**Day 2 : Ancient Lyttos Ride**

We ride up to visit the archaeological site of the ancient city of Lyttos giving an excellent view over the valley of Kastelli. The city of Lyttos (meaning high, tall), was a strong town and a rival of Knossos. The army of the city joined the Trojan War and the city was already mentioned by Homer as Lyktos. During the roman period Lyttos was an autonomous city with great fame. It had an aqueduct, theatre, and an acropolis; nowadays little can be seen of this as excavations of the site has not been done. The site has 2 churches. After the visit, we ride along the remains of this roman aqueduct.

*Riding: 4 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Country Hotel Velani\*\*\*\**

**Day 3: Olive Ride**

We make an active trip in north direction up the hills of Sfendili. We cross the Byzantine church of Avdou and ride quick over the plateau of Mochos where we are greeted with an excellent view to the Psiloritis Mountains, highest peaks of the island (2.5 km).

*Riding: 4 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Country Hotel Velani\*\*\*\**

**Day 4: Lake Aposelemis River Ride**

A man-made damn was closed in 2015, creating a 3km long lake. The water attracts all kinds of birds and animals, creating a very special biotope. We follow the lake's edges and ride along the abandoned village of Sfendili, which is now half sunken into the surface of the water.

*Riding: 4 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Country Hotel Velani\*\*\*\**

**Day 5: Red Rock Ride**

A steep climb up the mountain gives you an excellent view over the stables and the Langada valley. We ride through Kerm Oak forest to visit the mysterious Church of the Saint Fotini, which is hidden deep in a cave.

*Riding: 2.5 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Country Hotel Velani\*\*\*\**

**Day 6: Vulture Gorge Ride**

We ride through the gorge of Gonies to start our spectacular climb to the Greek village of Kera at 800 meters. Here we make a lunch break in Restaurant Niki before we start our decent along the springs of Kera.

*Riding: 5 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Country Hotel Velani\*\*\*\**

**Day 7: Cypress Ride**

The last day we ride out through a very quiet beautiful valley full of olive groves. We ride along a small cypress forest and make some steep descents with the horses, which we now fully trust.

*Riding: 3 hours*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Country Hotel Velani\*\*\*\**

**Day 8: Breakfast and Departure**

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel before heading off to your next adventure.

*Meals included: Breakfast*



**Non-Riding Activities** (available at additional cost)

- Paragliding (only for experienced flyers)
- Hiking
- Caving
- Mountain climbing
- Mountain biking
- Birding
- Yoga onsite

- Cooking classes onsite
- A 18 hole golf course is located 5 miles away
- The wide sandy beach of Anissaras is 10 miles away



#### Wellness (available at extra cost)

Also possible to reserve in the hotel are massages and wellness treatments, given by a professional therapist. The different massage offered are relaxing (Swedish Massage), deep tissue (Cretan Massage) or Yoga based (Thai Massage). Massage can be combined with aroma therapies and/or body treatments. All products used are 100% organic and made with Cretan herbs and olive oil. Already from Minoan times the use of herbs from the rich Cretan land combined with essential oils and olive oil were used as a base for massages of relaxation and well being.

A massage can be booked in the hotel, prices starting from 50 euro for a hour. Prices are depending on massage type, duration and products used.

#### Other Info

**Meeting:** Avdou

**Airport:** Kazantzakis International Airport (HER)

**Train station:** --

**Transfer:** Kazantzakis International Airport (HER), Hersonissos bus stop, Heraklion ferry terminal, or city center

**Distance:** 40 km

Private transfers are available from the airport (International or domestic), and the port. Or you can take a local bus to the hotel. Room available from 3:00 PM. Check-out by 11:00 AM.

**Tack:** English - Wintek

**Horses:** Arab, Thoroughbred, Warmbloods.

**Pace:** Moderate with occasional steep terrain. ~4 hrs/day.

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3 to 4 out of 5) Intermediate

**Age:** Min 8

**Weight:** 210 lbs / 95 kg

**Riders:** Min 1 riders                      Max 8 riders

#### Crete General

Crete, the island of surprises and contrasts. High mountains and deep gorges, archaeological sites alongside traditional villages where life continues in a relaxed and friendly way, clear blue seas bordered by golden sandy beaches. Zeus, the king of Greek gods, was born in a cave on Mount Idi, the highest mountain. He represented hospitality and his spirit lives on today in the hearts of all Cretan people.

##### Geography

Crete is the largest Greek island. It covers 8,336 sq m with 1.100 kms of coastline. It is considered as one of the most prosperous areas in Greece. Its development has been favored by its geographical location, climate, diverse natural beauty as well as its unique cultural and historical treasures. Crete is renowned for its breathtaking mountain ranges and long sandy beaches running down to emerald-blue seas. This particular geography allow the existence of a large number of rare flora and fauna species, such as the sea lily along the coastal zones, sea turtles caretta caretta in Rethymnon and Eleonora's Falcon falcon Eleonore in Lassithi. In the valleys and semimountainous areas, one can find more than 100 different varieties of flowers and plants, while in the high mountains and deep Cretan gorges the visitor may encounter interesting flora and fauna including the wild goat kri kri, which is found only in Crete.

##### Climate

Crete enjoys perhaps one of the best subtropical Mediterranean climates with over 300 days and more than 3,000 hours of sunshine each year. The light rainy season is normally confined to the period between November and March. Mild temperatures prevail year round.

##### Population

The population of Crete currently is approximately 600.000 people. The majority of inhabitants live in the four main towns of the island, Hania, Rethymnon, Agios Nikolaos and Heraklion, the capital. The remainder of the population is spread in smaller towns and scattered fishing and mountain villages.

Main Religion : Greek Orthodox

Language : Greek is the official language, but English and German are widely spoken.

## Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-GR-SRCR02

Rates include: Accommodations in Classic room, All meals, 6 riding days & Government taxes.  
Riding helmets and mini chaps are available for free in the stables.

## Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2026	8 day ride (high)	€1510	\$1815
B 2026	8 day ride (low)	€1475	\$1770

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.2 and subject to currency fluctuation

## Transfer Option

### Description

2026 Transfer from Heraklion airport one way, per car (up to 4 pax)	€55	\$60
2026 Transfer from Heraklion city center one way, per car (up to 4 pax)	€60	\$65
2026 Transfer from Hersonissos one way, per car (up to 4 pax)	€30	\$35
2026 Single supplement (requested)	€245	\$270
2026 Non-rider discount - please inquire		
2026 Child rates- please inquire		
2026 Upgrade to Deluxe room, per room	€455	\$500
2026 Upgrade to Panorama wellness room, per room	€910	\$1000
2026 Upgrade to Superior panorama wellness suite, per room	€1050	\$1155
2026 Additional single supplement (requested) when upgrading to larger room	€245	\$270
2026 Mandatory Climate Crisis Resilience Fee (April 1st to October 31st period) 1.50 Euro per room per night	€14	\$15
2026 Mandatory Climate Crisis Resilience Fee (November 1st to April 30th period) .50 Euro per room per night	€4	\$6

### Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	03/15/2026 - 06/30/2026	8d / 7n	8 day ride (high)
A 2026	09/01/2026 - 10/31/2026	8d / 7n	8 day ride (high)
B 2026	11/01/2026 - 11/21/2026	8d / 7n	8 day ride (low)

### Min/Max: 1/8

Not available during the summer or the Crete Mountain Explorer weeks.

Rates do not include: Drinks, Gratuities & Transfers from/to Heraklion, Climate Crisis Resilience Fee

Environmental resilience tax is 2 euro per room / per night from April 1st to October 31st, and 0,50 euro per room / per night from November 1st to November 22nd and from March 15th to March 30th. (Must be paid at the hotel, during check out)

# 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"/>					
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"/>					
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"/>					
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"/>					

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Hidden Trails

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Office hours:  
Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm  
Pacific Standard Time

