

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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Nature Park Rides in Abruzzo and Majella - Italy, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ITAB01
8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,795.00
Dates: September

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

Tack: Western tack
Horses: Quarter, Haflinger, Appaloosa, Paint a...
Pace: All paces. 6-7 hrs in the saddle on mo...

Airport: Rome or Naples



Introduction

Abruzzo/Molise, Italy

This exciting new trip starts out in the Province of Isernia in the region of Molise and ventures into the Abruzzo region just north of there. This is a region largely forgotten by the tourist hordes that you can find in Tuscany or Amalfi - even the local Italian travelers have yet not discovered the "Jewel in the Rough". It offers untouched nature and breathtaking mountain vistas. Because of its mountainous terrain, the economy of the region has for centuries been highly dependent on the transit of shepherds and their flocks from Abruzzo to Puglia. We follow their paths across the hills and through the valleys on our two wonderful mountain treks. This part of Italy is so unspoiled that UNESCO protects two forests as part of the project MAB (Man And Biosphere). This spacious, green and clean region with its large woods of beech and oak, meadows and rivers is ideal for a holiday on horseback. The tack is Western, but Western riding experience is not required. The horses are mostly easy going and reliable Quarter horses.

Our two treks will take you into two National Parks - Parco Nazionale della Majella and Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo

Parco Nazionale della Majella

This 75,000 acre park is one of the biggest in Italy. It is a so-called Pan Park, which means that it is protected by World Wildlife Fund. One of the highlights is Pescocostanzo, a picturesque medieval town at an altitude of 5,200 feet. Two nights will be spent in this lovely place. It is surrounded by several plains which invite to many nice canters.

Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo

This 50,000 acre park, founded in 1922, has still plenty of wildlife. There are wolves, bears, eagles, deer and many more species. In the Valley of Five Miles we enjoy a long canter before we climb up to 6,300 feet the next day to enjoy the breathtaking panoramic views over the mountains and valleys. There are not many places left in Europe where you can feel so completely in the middle of nowhere. On Thursday there will be a picnic in Camosciara, which is one of the most protected areas of this National Park.

Accommodation



Accommodations

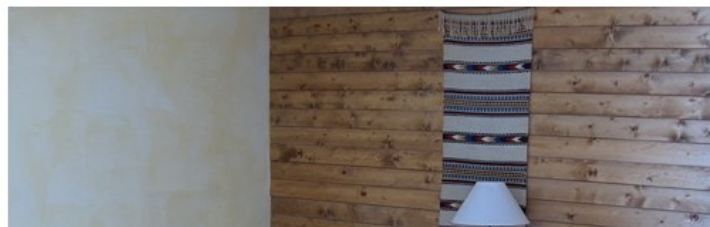
This is a progressive ride, so nights will be spent in different locations. You will be staying in 4 different locations total.

Description

The accommodations have been selected for full cultural immersion in Italy. Each location boasts personality and most importantly, family. While not grand, we offer cozy comfortable accommodations full of life and stories. Most of the accommodations do have WIFI access on this trip. There are no laundry facilities available on this trip.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1 & 2: Farmhouse
Night 3: Guesthouse in Pietransieri
Night 4, 5 & 6: Hotel Holidays in Roccaraso
Night 7: Agriturismo in Alfedena





Farmhouse

The farmhouse, dating from 1885, is situated at almost 3,000 feet above sea level. The house is at the edge of a forest and overlooks a beautiful valley. The nearest neighbours live in Carovilli, a little village 4 miles away. The front of the house faces a large oak forest whereas the rear offers a splendid view of the mountains and a valley. The house is not very big, but quite comfortable. It was completely renovated in 2003. The living-room has a nice fireplace, a piano, and a modest library. There is 1 double room upstairs and a dormitory with four single beds and one double bed downstairs. There are 2 bathrooms with all modern conveniences.

**** If you do prefer more privacy on these days, we can arrange for a room (with private bath) in the nearby B&B (8 minutes drive by car) with a supplemental charge - transfers are provided. Or if you are the last riders to book (numbers 9 and 10) you will be accommodated there as well and will have to pay this supplement.**

Guesthouse in Pietransieri

This small hotel is located 1,300 meters above sea level, in a quiet area surrounded by nature. Rooms are simply furnished and all come equipped with a TV, private bathroom and free Wi-Fi access.

Hotel Holidays in Roccaraso

This hotel offers basic accommodation and great views of the surrounding mountains. All the rooms come with a TV, free Wi-Fi access and private facilities with hairdryer.

Agriturismo in Alfedena

This Agriturismo is located at the foot of the Montagna Spaccata Lake, on the edge of the Abruzzo National Park. It offers 9 rustic style bedrooms, each fitted with a TV, free Wi-Fi access and a private bathroom with hairdryer and toiletries.

Room Occupancy

If we are unable to find another rider to share the room with you, a single supplement fee applied. Single room accommodations are subject to availability.



Meals

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

You can be assured that at all these destinations you will be comfortable and very well fed. The food is wonderful with great care being taken to provide local specialties cooked with fresh ingredients. Carmine used to own a restaurant and this is apparent from the wonderful recipes he shares with his guests. The tiramisu is the very best!

Breakfast is usually 'continental'. Expect a lot of delicious pasta, salads, cheese, and bread. You will also taste the juiciest, sweetest tomatoes with fresh mozzarella, tasty salami, and other delights like tiramisu and fresh peaches.

Lunchtime often consists of salami, cheese, and bread picnic-style, accompanied with a glass of crisp wine. You will never go hungry here! Our own testers called the food 'imaginative and delectable' and 'original and sumptuous'!

Wines and beers are included during meals. All other drinks must be paid for.

Fund for refreshments and snacks

For the trek we collect Euro 50 per person to go into a mutual fund for refreshments on our way plus drinks and snacks other than at meals.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to all dietary restrictions with prior notice.

Special diet requirement (other than Vegetarian) is additional charge -- please inquire.

Riding





Parco Nazionale della Maiella

Pescocostanzo is surrounded by several high-lands where you can canter a lot. In June we are not allowed to ride everywhere we like, because the farmers have to get the hay. Still, there are several canters. In October, however, on Wednesday all the canters together last about one hour. On Thursday morning another very long canter awaits before picnic. And on Friday morning another long one (same ride as the Friday during "Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo").

This trek is not suited for riders who suffer from problems with their legs or knees. On Thursday afternoon we have to descend a mountain chain and go on foot for 10 minutes.

Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo

The days in the saddle are rather long. Therefore this trail is not recommended to less experienced riders. As we are in the (high) mountains there are not too many canters. Two of them, however, are fantastic! On Tuesday morning we canter through the Five Mile Valley and on Friday morning there also is a canter of several miles.

Riding hours

Majella: You ride 6 to 8 hours per full riding day.

Abruzzo: You ride 7 to 9 hours per full riding day.

This is an adventurous trail for the fit rider. It is quite a strenuous trail but the rewards are magnificent.

Riding Level

Riders must be at least good intermediate level to attend this ride. This means you are able to control a horse at ALL gaits, can mount and dismount unassisted, and are in good physical condition. There are areas where you will need to dismount and lead your horse. Therefore, you need to be in good shape.

We ride with western tack but experience in western riding is not required.

Pace

The ride includes 5.5 riding days with long days in the saddle (6-9 hours). The horses have to climb and go down a lot. Therefore, the pace is generally not very fast. However, in the plateaus and in the valleys we make long canters. The safety of the rider and that of the horse is of paramount importance to us!

Tack

We use western saddles. All saddles have a little saddle bag on the horn.

Horses

The horses have been selected for their character, looks, and intelligence (mix of American Quarter Horses, cross-breeds, Haflinger, Appaloosa, Paint). The horses are willing and easy-going. They were all born in the mountains, so they are very reliable.

All year-long, they live in a herd which makes them a close group- besides, most of them are related in some way or the other. They can choose from the paddocks around the house or the stable, which is at a distance of 30 feet from the house.

The horses are trained gently and with a lot of patience.

Guide

Carmine is a certified FISE (Federazione Italiana Sport Equestre) guide. He speaks Italian and English.

Age Restriction

We require all riders to be 12 years if traveling with and adult or 16 years if traveling alone.

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival

Pick-up from Isernia train station is at 8:00 PM. After your transfer from Isernia, you are expected to arrive on Saturday evening at the farmhouse. After a welcome drink there will be dinner with your host/guides. A three-course Italian dinner will be served every night, accompanied by local wines.

*Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at Farmhouse*

Day 2 (Sunday): Introductory Ride

The morning is yours. You may sleep in, take your time over breakfast, do whatever you like. Before lunch, there is a safety-briefing. Then we groom and saddle up the horses, followed by a short demonstration in western riding. After lunch we go for a 3-hour test ride to make sure everyone is comfortable.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Farmhouse*

Day 3 (Monday): Ride to Montedimezzo

We leave around 10 o'clock. After riding through a dense forest we cross many fields, where we can canter. We stop for picnic lunch in an idyllic place. After lunch, we pass by the remains of a small Samnite temple. The Samnites were the original population of Molise. The Romans fought a 300-year war before assimilating them to their empire in 79 BC. We eventually arrive at a hill where you can admire the Majella massif. From there, we descend towards Montedimezzo, the ancient hunting reserve of the Bourbons and the nobles of Naples. Today the forest is part of the MAB (Man and Biosphere) project of UNESCO.

This is where today's ride ends. We stop for a drink at the kiosk while the horses will be loaded on a truck to reach Pietransieri, to spend the night in paddocks. We will go to stay overnight in a nearby hotel.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at a Hotel in Roccaraso*

Day 4 (Tuesday): Tratturo Celano-Foggia

In the morning we are brought to the horses. At about 11.00 a.m. the ride will start. We follow the Tratturo Celano-Foggia. A Tratturo is a 2,000 years old track that is still used to move cattle from one pasture to the other. We follow the Tratturo until we reach the river Sangro. Here, the Tratturo track begins to be very wild and quite overgrown leaving us narrow paths to follow.

Before our last stretch of the day, we stop on a plateau where we find typical cows of Molise with their grey fur, grazing all around us. From here, you can see which amazing way we already have been ridden today.

The horses stay overnight at a riding centre, which also features a restaurant. We will enjoy dinner there before heading for a nearby hotel for the night.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hotel in Roccaraso*

Day 5 (Wednesday): Panoramic Ride

We start our ride by following a path that leads us up to the Pietra Cernaia. We can admire the landscape of the hills of Alto Molise and the Sangro valley while we go up the path between rocks, woods and pastures. Later on, we reach a pass from where the view sweeps over the Majella mountains and the Abruzzo Park and the Pescocostanzo valley. Here we stop for a picnic.

After lunch, we descend through the woods to the valley until we reach Roccaraso. The horses will be accommodated at the riding school while we dine and sleep in the hotel.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Roccaraso*

Day 6 (Thursday): Mountain Ride

Today is a busy day. We cross the plateau along the village of Rivisondoli and after climbing the pass, we enter the great valley called Altopiano delle 5 Miglia. Here, a long canter awaits us through the plain until we enter the canyon of the Montagna Spaccata. We continue along the canyon until we stop for a picnic among the rocks.

After our break, we go up the valley and we are faced with a completely different landscape made of wide pastures of yellow grass, barren hills and mountain peaks. Below the top of Mount Greco there is a small lake with marsh grasses that feeds a bunch of transhumant sheep.

We go back to Roccaraso through the hills and the Pratello slopes.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Roccaraso*

Day 7 (Friday): Ride to Alfedena

We go down to the village of Rocca 5 Miglia where we stop for a picnic. After lunch we go back down to the valley until we reach the Sangro River that we skirt on the right bank. After a last canter stretch and after passing the village of Alfedena we stop at Sandra's equestrian center where the horses will rest in the paddock and we will spend the night in her hotel.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Farmhouse in Alfedena*

Day 8 (Saturday): Departure

Departure after breakfast. Drop-off is at 8:00 AM.

Meals included: Breakfast

Due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances the program may have to be adapted.

Other Info

Meeting: Isernia

Airport: Rome or Naples

Train station: Isernia

Transfer: Isernia train station at 7:45 PM - drop off 9:30 AM on last day

Distance: 115 miles

Pick-up included from Isernia train station for 8:00pm on Day 1. Drop-off on last day at 8:00am.

Tack: Western tack

Horses: Quarter, Haflinger, Appaloosa, Paint and cross breeds. 1 Freiburger

Pace: All paces. 6-7 hrs in the saddle on most days. Due to the mountainous terrain there are also long stretches of walking only.

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

Age: Min 12

Weight: 190 lbs / 85 kg

Riders: Min 5 riders

Max 8 riders

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-ITAB01

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals with wine and beer, 5.5 riding days, Luggage transport, Taxes & Transfer from/to Isernia
There are about 6 extra rain coats which can be borrowed. First come, first served!

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2026	8 day	€1630	\$1795

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

Transfer Option

Description

2026	Single supplement	€280	\$310
2026	Snacks and drinks fee (mandatory) - estimated cost	€50	\$55
2026	Transfer from/to Isernia train station included at set times (20:00h pickup, 08:00 drop-off)		
2026	Surcharge for riders over 85 kilos	€150	\$165
2026	Special diet requirement (other than Vegetarian) is additional charge -- please inquire		

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	09/19/2026 - 09/26/2026	8d / 7n	8 day

Min/Max: 5/8

Rates do not include: Gratuities; Snacks and drinks between meals (a collective Euro 50 per rider is to be paid locally to purchase these for the group); Drinks ordered after meals additional charge; Special diet other than Vegetarian is additional charge

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 _____

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