

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

Website: 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

Cefalu to Etna - Italy, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ITSIC04

8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,925.00

Dates: May to June / Sept to Oct

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging: ●●●

Tack: English, Western (on request)

Horses: Sicilian, Andalusian,

Quarter Horse, A...

Pace: All riding paces - 6 to 8 hrs in the s...

Airport: Palermo, Catania



Introduction

Sicily, Italy

Although so close to Italy's mainland, Sicily couldn't be more unique and diverse in attitude and atmosphere. This island is rich in history and culture and promises an unforgettable time. Trekking across the entire North-Eastern area of Sicily on horseback will leave you breathless with wonder. This route takes you through Val Demone and across four parks called the Madonie, Nebrodi, Etna, and Alcantara. Enjoy relaxing in new accommodations every night. Many of the farmhouses are from the 18th century that have been restored to use as lodgings but still maintains the artistry builders once used when making them. Each guesthouse offers locally grown foods and such delicious cooking you'll have yourself asking for seconds!

Start off the tour with an enchanting ride through the largest cork forest in Sicily to charming old medieval towns, maintaining the ancient atmosphere and giving you a feel for how people used to live. Many cities can be dated back to Ancient Greece (800-500 B.C.) which still carry many old customs and traditions. Explore abandoned castles and scenic paths through landscapes lost in time. Nebrodi Park offers you glimpses on the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Aolian Islands in one direction but if you turn your head you see the vast hinterland provinces. You'll ride past native sanfratellani horses, a famous breed in Sicily known for their strong bodies and large heads, grazing in the wild. Alcantara Park hosts a large beautiful river which you ride along as you head towards Catania province. Volcanic caves, and chestnut and oak forests will greet you as you ride through the Etna Park. Depending on volcanic conditions, you'll be able to ride around the craters that were created by the last eruption in 2002.

Cefalu to Etna takes you whirling through Sicily's northern landscapes and towns with new sights and experiences after each step. This is an unforgettable opportunity that you wouldn't want to miss if you love the mixture of horses, landscapes, history, and culture!

Accommodation



Accommodations

This is a progressive ride so nights will be spent in different accommodations.

Description

Accommodations along trail are in comfortable hotels, Agriturismo farms and B&B guesthouses. Most of the accommodations do have WIFI access on this trip.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Day 1: Agriturismo Tenuta Luogo Marchese

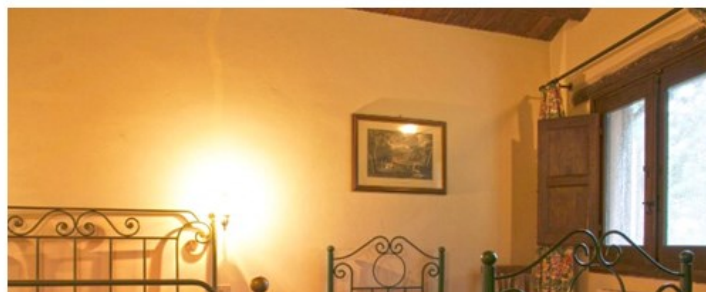
Day 2: Casalvecchio Geraci

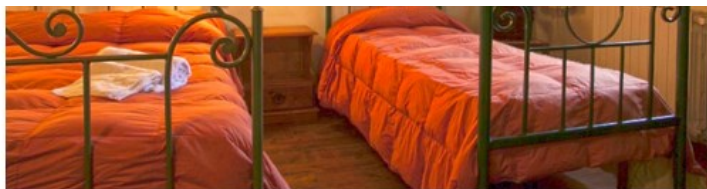
Day 3: La Sugherita

Day 4: Rifugio del Parco

Day 5: Hotel in Monte Colla

Day 6 & 7: Il Vecchio Torchio Del Casale





Agriturismo Tenuta Luogo Marchese

This traditional Italian farmhouse was recently renovated in order to provide comfortable accommodation to its guests. However, it has kept some of its original features such as exposed stones and beams. Rooms are decorated in Sicilian style and all come with ensuite bathroom and heating. There are common areas where guest can relax and access the free Wi-Fi. There is also a beautiful outdoor swimming pool with panoramic view of the surroundings.

Casalvecchio Geraci

This stonewall farmhouse was built in the 19th century and now provides guests with 7 well-equipped bedrooms. All rooms have private facilities, free Wi-Fi access and a TV. Guests can share about their adventure around the fireplace, in the house's living room. The property benefits from incredible views over the hilly landscape.

La Sugherita

The original ancient buildings have been transformed into a comfortable home. The property is surrounded by a green reserve with woods, and several paths.

Rifugio del Parco

This mountain refuge has incredible views over the surroundings. Each room comes with private facilities and free toiletries (hairdryer provided). There is a shared lounge at the property where guest can relax and connect to the free Wi-Fi.

Hotel in Monte Colla

This 18th century house has recently been restored for the comfort and relaxation of guests. It offers a great panoramic view of Etna and the Alcantara Valley. There is no Wi-Fi access here.

Il Vecchio Torchio Del Casale

Tonight, you sleep in an ancient millstone. Nestled between the slopes of the northern slope of Etna and the Alcantara valley, on a hill from which you can enjoy enchanting country landscapes, the farm covers an area of about three hectares of vineyards, olive groves and orchards, whose products are strictly used for the preparation of delicious dishes. There are 3 bedrooms, all equipped with private bathroom, air conditioning and TV.

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 provided during the riding tour from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8. Wine is included with dinner and you can bring your own bottle(s) if you wish.

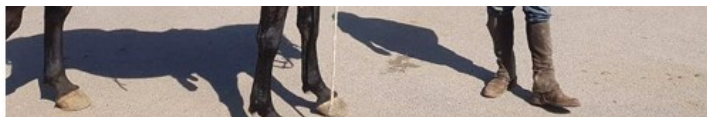
You will have the opportunity to taste typical Sicilian dishes made with local products. All the dinners are at the accommodations and include 4 courses: starter, first dish, second dish, fruit, wine and water.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to all dietary restrictions with advance notice.

Riding





Riding Experience

You need to have a strong intermediate riding level. You must be able to control the horse on every paces, in difficult situations (ex. crossing rivers, walking on rocky tracks) and able to lead the horse on foot for short parts of the ride, if the ground is not the best.

You should be able to sit on horseback for up to 8/9 hours, with a considerable physical effort.

Horses

The horses are bred by us. They are Sicilian-native (indigenous), Arabs, Arab mixed, Andalusians and Sanfratellani. They are trained with a good attitude for long distance rides. They are safe, proud and happy to go everywhere you ask them to go.

Staff

Luciano is a breeder of indigenous Sicilian thoroughbred horses and has extensive knowledge of the paths and brideways of the Nebrodi and Madonie mountain range. In addition, he is an expert guide of all the trails and speaks fluently French, Italian, Sicilian as well as basic English.

Sergio has been an expert in the field of tourism in Sicily for many years. His passion for promoting tourism in Sicily is second to his passion for horses. He speaks fluently English, French, Italian and Sicilian.



Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival

Pickup then transfer to the farm.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese

Day 2 (Sunday): Luogo Marchese to Casalvecchio

Assignment of horses and saddles. At about 9am departure from Tenuta Luogo Marchese the countryside around Castelbuono, charming medieval town rich in history and tradition. Ascent through the largest cork forest of Sicily to Geraci, a mountain town (about a thousand meters high) which is famous for its castle and its mineral water.

After a short refreshment stop we leave forests and ancient abandoned paths, until we arrive in the afternoon at "Casalvecchio Geraci", a beautiful farmhouse recently restored on the banks of the river Raino, a tributary of the river Pollina, surrounded by the Sicilian countryside planted with wheat. You will enjoy a hearty dinner of local products and meat.

Riding: 7 hrs

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Casalvecchio Geraci

Day 3 (Monday): Casalvecchio to La Sugherita

From our farm walk along an old "trazzera" (ancient route dating back at least to the Bourbon) with a scenic overview through fields of wheat and forage up to an altitude of about a thousand feet and then getting to step Malpassetto, the border of the provinces of Palermo, Enna and Messina.

We enter in the woods of the reserve 'Sambughetti-Campanito' where we eat the picnic, then we enter in the



territory of Nicosia and Cerami, before going down on an old steep path and set in a forest of cork which brings us at the "La Sugherita" where we stay for our third night and from where you can take a short walk to a prehistoric troglodyte.

Riding: 5 hrs

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at La Sugherita

Day 4 (Tuesday): La Sugherita to Rifugio del Parco

In this stage we enter in the heart of the Park of Nebrodi along the famous "Ridge" a long dirt road (about a hundred kilometers) between forests and high mountain pastures.

A place full of charm and extraordinary views on the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Aeolian Islands and in the other side on the Sicilian hinterland provinces of Enna, Caltanissetta, Agrigento, Siracusa, Catania and Etna. Through the beech woods in the territory of San Fratello, famous for its sanfratellani horses, a native breed which is very strong and durable, with a very large head. They can be seen grazing in the wild.

Lunch will be held in a small clearing in the shade of trees near a source of water (Nocita). We will arrive in the afternoon at the hotel "Rifugio del Parco" where we will eat a great dinner of local Nebrodi products.

Riding: 8 hrs

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Rifugio del Parco

Day 5 (Wednesday): Rifugio del Parco to Monte Colla

This is probably the most beautiful stage, runs for 40 kilometers along the "Dorsale dei Nebrodi" including mountains, forests and lakes and a landscape of amazing beauty.

Now we come to the lake Maulazzo, dominated by Mount Soro, the highest peak in Nebrodi (1847 meters) covered by magnificent beech woods, then the famous lake "Biviere di Cesarò" stopping place for migratory birds. Continue along the "Dorsale" where lush forests give way to panoramic clearings, from which you can see to the north the Aeolian Islands and to the south the majestic peak of Mount Etna.

We will arrive in the evening tired but satisfied in Monte Colla, which is a unique old farmhouse dating from the 18th Century that has been converted to an agriturismo. Monte Colla is more than 1400 meters in altitude in the territory of Randazzo.

Riding: 8 hrs

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Monte Colla

Day 6 (Thursday): Monte Colla to Al Vecchio Torchio Del Casale

We will depart Monte Colla and make our descent into the town of Randazzo, gaining a lovely view of Mt. Etna along the way. Randazzo dates back to Greek time and retains a very rich monumental heritage that can be appreciated on the ride through the city. Picnic lunch will be near the city.

We continue then along the valley of Alcantara river and come into the territory of Castiglione di Sicilia (Catania province) where we'll find our stay at Al Vecchio Torchio Del Casale.

Riding: 6 hrs

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Al Vecchio Torchio Del Casale

Day 7 (Friday): Al Vecchio Torchio Del Casale to Etna

After going through a rich and evocative agricultural area characterized by its crops of peaches, almonds, olive groves, vineyards and drywalls of lava stone, we enter in the Etna natural Park where we will ride thru beautiful forests of pine, oaks and chestnuts. We'll visit volcanic caves and admire breathtaking views of the mountains of Sicily and Calabria. After that we will ride into the "Ragabo" pine forest about 1500 meters above sea level.

There we'll stop for lunch and then continue to climb through the pine forests to Piano Provenzano (about 1800 meters above sea level) and according to the season and the weather and volcanic conditions, continue to climb up to the craters of the last great eruption of 2002. At the end of the day we come down to spend the second evening at Al Vecchio Torchio Del Casale, where after a good dinner we will spend the last night with the beautiful images of the trail etched in our minds for a long time yet.

Riding: 7 hrs

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Al Vecchio Torchio Del Casale

Day 8 (Saturday): Departure

Breakfast then transfer to train station/ airport.

Meals included: Breakfast



Other Info

Meeting: Cefalu - ends in Etna

Airport: Palermo, Catania

Train station: Cefalu

Transfer: Cefalu - drop off Catania

Distance: From Catania - 3 hours drive. Palermo -1,5 hours

Your ride tour starts and ends in different locations.

Pick-up from Cefalù (~45-minute drive) is free.

Pick-up from Palermo airport (~2-hour drive) and Catania airport (~2-hour 20-minute drive) are

possible for an additional cost.

Drop-off to Catania airport (~1-hour 15-minute drive) is free.

Drop-off to Palermo airport (~3-hour 45-minute drive) is possible for an additional cost.

Tack: English, Western (on request)

Horses: Sicilian, Andalusian, Quarter Horse, Arab and "San Fratellani" mix

Pace: All riding paces - 6 to 8 hrs in the saddle

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

Riders: Min 6 riders Max 12 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ITSIC04

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, 6 riding days with support vehicle, Pick-up from Cefalu railway station & Drop off to Catania airport
Helmet and half chaps can be provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	€1750	\$1925

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

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Single Supplement	€250	\$275
2024	Pick-up from Cefalù railway station – free of charge		
2024	Pick-up from Palermo airport, per car, one way (1-3 pax)	€290	\$320
2024	Pick-up from Palermo airport, per car, one way (4-6 pax)	€350	\$385
2024	Pick-up from Catania airport, per car, one way (1-3 pax)	€315	\$345
2024	Pick-up from Catania airport, per car, one way (4-6 pax)	€375	\$410
2024	Drop-off to Catania airport, per car, one way (1-3 pax)	€190	\$210
2024	Drop-off to Catania airport, per car, one way (4-6 pax)	€215	\$235

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	05/04/2024 - 05/11/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/07/2024 - 09/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 6/12

Dates run Saturday to Saturday. Additional dates are available on request for groups of 4+ riders!

Rates do not include:Alcoholic beverages, Pick up from Palermo or Catania, Drop off to Palermo airport & 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 Inter.	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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>

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 Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141

Hidden Trails

659A Moberly Road
Vancouver, BC
Canada V5Z 4B2

Toll Free: 1-888-9 TRAILS
(1-888-987-2457)

Phone: 604-323-1141
FAX: 604-323-1148

From the U.K.:

Phone 020-323-96201
Fax 0203-004-1200

Skype hiddentrails

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

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

