

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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Cristo Rey Pilgrimage Ride - Mexico, North America

Tour Code: IT-MXIR06
9 days / 8 nights ~\$4,755.00
Dates: January

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

Tack: Charro, Western, English on request

Horses: Quarter horse, Azteca and Mexican Crio...

Pace: Moderate riding pace according to terr...

Walk, Trot, Canter, Gallop,

Airport: Guanajuato International Airport (BJX)



Introduction

Central Mexico, Mexico

Be part in one of the most important equestrian pilgrimages in Mexico.

This is a tradition that is over 500 years old and which gathers thousands of Mexican riders at the foot of the monument of Cristo Rey (Christ the King), on the Cubilete mountain, considered the Geographical center of Mexico.

This yearly event takes place every January, as a sign of faith and devotion to a tradition of equestrian pilgrimage. This exceptional event starts to attract the attention of riders from all over the world. Be part of this old tradition and be one of the first foreign riders to live it.

Share this ride with Mexicans, and learn about their traditions, gastronomy, music and beliefs, while riding beautiful horses through rural roads, mountains and villages.

Accommodation



Accommodations

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

Description

All accommodations are chosen for authenticity and comfort. The variety allows you to appreciate the diversity of life in Mexico. The described accommodations, are used regularly and most of the time during our trips. However, if for reasons beyond our control, we have to use a different accommodation as the one described, we will use as a replacement a similar hotel, located as close as possible to the intended area.

Bathrooms are shared in most accommodations.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Jesuit Hacienda near Sierra de Lobos

Night 2: Camping near Nuevo Valle de Moreno

Night 3: Parador Sangre de Cristo

Night 4 & 5: Hacienda Jesus Maria near Sangre de Cristo

Night 6: Camping near Valley of Blue Birds

Night 7 & 8: Hotel Posada Santa Fe in Guanajuato

Jesuit Hacienda

The hacienda is located in a mountainous area, surrounded by oak forests. The rooms are equipped with a cable TV with and a private bathroom with free toiletries.

There is Wi-Fi access at this property.

Parador Sangre de Cristo

This hostel type accommodation offers spacious and comfortable shared rooms (separate room for men and women) with shared facilities.

No Wi-Fi available.

Hacienda Jesus Maria

This charming hacienda is part of a sustainable tourist complex and offers panoramic views of Sangre de Cristo. All rooms include a flat-screen TV, a coffee machine, free Wi-Fi access and ensuite facilities.

Hotel Posada Santa Fe in Guanajuato

This beautiful colonial hotel is housed in a historic building, and first opened its doors to the public in 1892. It offers comfortable accommodations with cable TV and private bathroom in the historic center of Guanajuato. Free Wi-Fi is available at this property.

Camping

Our camps are safely mounted in strategic sites that allow our guests to enjoy the natural environment surrounding them. We install a tent with awning for rain and a capacity for up to 4 people (used only by two people). The tents are approx. 2 m high and come equipped with cot beds. We also have a dining gazebo, chairs for each rider, led lighting for the perimeter of the camp, and cooking utensils. We build a campfire every night.



for each rider, re-lighting for the perimeter of the camp, and cooking utensils. We build a campfire every night. A small tent with shower is installed and a small toilet service is enabled.

Room Occupancy

There are no single rooms available on this trip.

Meals

Meals are included from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on the last day (except for lunch on Day 8).

Meals are based on regional Mexican food and include beef, pork, chicken, eggs, fruits, vegetables, cereals, rice, milk, coffee, natural fruit juices, and purified bottled water. During the horse trail most of the food is prepared by the rural communities we visit, made with quality and hygiene, and in many cases with Prehispanic ancestral recipes so the flavors and textures are unique and can be very different. Breakfast and dinners are eaten at the accommodations and lunches are eaten on the trail.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to most dietary restrictions if given prior notice. However, please note that changes to the menu made locally (without prior notice) might incur additional charges locally.

Riding



Required riding level:

Intermediate - A rider who has a firm seat, is confident and in control at all paces and can get on and off without help.

Difficulty of terrain: 45% easy- 25% intermediate – 30% difficult

Physical effort required: 65% easy - 30% moderate - 5% intense

On the trail: 6 riding days

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Note: this program is directly linked to the pilgrimage organization and for reasons beyond our control may undergo changes.

Day 1: Arrival

Meet at 12h30 in the city of León Guanajuato, in the lobby of Hotsson Hotel (Blvd. Adolfo López Mateos 1102, Los Gavilanes, 37266 León, Gto.) and from there, visit a local saddlery shop with traditional clothing and equipment of the Mexican equestrian culture. It will be the perfect opportunity to buy clothing, for those who wish to dress up in the Mexican horseman style for the following days.

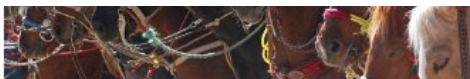
After the visit, we will be transferred by car (about 2-hour drive) to a former Jesuit Hacienda located between the mountainous area of Sierra de Lobos, where we will enjoy a welcome dinner and stay for the night.

Accommodation: Former Jesuit Hacienda or similar

Meals included: Welcome dinner

Day 2: El Salto del Ahogado to Nuevo Valle de Moreno

After breakfast at our accommodation, we will be transferred to the community of "El Salto del Ahogado" where our horses await us. Here, we will join a group of Mexican riders coming from "El Torreon" who will stop here to receive us and allow us to join them. Then, we all will depart on horseback, in the direction of Nuevo Valle de Moreno. Today's ride goes through ancient roads in the mountainous area of Santa Barbara, until we reach the community of Nuevo Valle de Moreno. Tonight, we set camp and enjoy dinner with a local family, who will open



their home doors for us.
Accommodation: Camping
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 3: Nuevo Valle de Moreno to Cristo Rey

After a quick breakfast at our campsite, (before 5am), we get ready so we can be in the saddle before by 6am, long before dawn. We will ride by starlight until the sky turns grey-pink and the sun finally rises. With the light of a new day, we will be surprised by the immense number of riders going in the same direction, moved by their faith. We will eventually reach "Tuna Mansa", on the slopes of the Cubilete mountain, considered the geographical center of Mexico. There, we will stop for lunch, as hundreds of riders will do. Our support team will have prepared a delicious lunch with typical food just for us. After a delicious lunch and a short break, in our comfortable makeshift dining room, it is time to test our horses, since they will have to make an ascent of 657 meters on 7.6 kilometers, in order to reach the Cubilete mountain top, place where the monument to Cristo Rey is located.

At the top of the mountain, we will all gather. We will witness the hospitality of Mexicans, since we will receive various invitations to each of the different campsites to enjoy food and drinks. Most of local riders will remain there the whole night before the big celebration. In the evening, we will be transferred to our comfortable accommodation, just a few kilometers from there.

Accommodation: "Parador Sangre de Cristo" or similar
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 4: Mass & Mexican Culture

After an exquisite breakfast, we will attend the celebration of Holy Mass with the presence of the Archbishop and with over 3,500 horses and riders. This is an experience, difficult to describe in words.

Today, we will spend most of the day witnessing and living the Mexican equestrian tradition, sharing this wonderful experience with hundreds of riders from different parts of Mexico.

At lunch time, we will enjoy a delicious typical food of the region, served by one of the most recognized traditional cooks, from the area of "Sangre de Cristo".

After lunch, we will be transferred to Hacienda Jesus Maria, a charming hotel located in a historic place and part of a sustainable tourist complex of the Sangre de Cristo community.

Accommodation: "Hacienda Jesús María" or similar
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 5: Mystery Villages Ride

After breakfast at the hacienda, and having concluded the pilgrimage together with thousands of local riders, we now continue on our own journey. Today, we will explore the surrounding area on horseback.

We will ride through what is known as "The Mystery Villages", three old communities (Sangre de Cristo, Mineral de la Luz, and San Ignacio) marked with historical aspects such as Chichimeca indigenous people, The Cristero region (The old Cristero War) and Silver mining.

At the end of the 19th century, the three villages became ghost towns. However, in the past, this was one of the most prosperous mining enclaves in the region.

Accommodation: "Hacienda Jesús María" or similar
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 6: Ride to Valley of the Blue Birds

After breakfast, it is time to continue our ride in the direction of "El Valar": a nature reserve that is located in the north of the state of Guanajuato, adjoining the rural communities of Joya de Lobos, Santa Rosa, La Concepción and Los Mexicanos.

The predominant type of vegetation is the Encino Forest, combined with native species such as Madroño and Pinguica. It is also the natural habitat for many mammals such as the white-tailed deer, wildcat, cacomixtle (ring tailed cat), listed skunk and long-nosed bat, and over 170 species of birds including Cooper's hawk, the peregrine falcon and the cuckold owl.

Today's journey takes us to the valley of the blue birds, where we will set up our camp and enjoy this magnificent natural setting.

We will spend the night in a safari style camp, and enjoy a night of barbecue ranchera with campfire and guitars.

Accommodations: Camping
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 7: Ride to Santa Rosa

After a lovely breakfast accompanied by the singing of the birds and with spectacular views, we will continue on our last day of trail ride, to the rural community of Santa Rosa.

We will ride along ancient path, that border a mountainous area and pass through a cavern that houses a spring of crystalline water that filters through the Santa Rosa mountains. We continue ascending and descending through natural landscapes, home to hundreds of animal species, such as the puma, the coyote, raccoons, armadillos and many others. We eventually reach Santa Rosa, where we will enjoy lunch, and end our adventure on horseback.

Accommodations: Hotel Posada or similar
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 8: Guanajuato City (no riding)

After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a walking tour to discover Guanajuato City.

The first known inhabitants of the area were the prehispanic indigenous groups Otomi, who were then displaced by the Chichimeca. There was Purépecha presence as well, due mostly to ancient trading routes.

The oldest known name for the area is "Mo-o-ti," which means "place of metals." Later, it was called "Paxtitián" by the Aztecs, which means "place of straw." The current name of Guanajuato comes from Purépecha "Quanax huato," which means "hilly place of frogs".

Mining had been done in this area long before the Spanish arrived. Late in the pre-Hispanic period, the Aztecs had a presence here, specifically to look for metals to make ornamental objects for their political and religious elite. Some stories from this time state that the area was so rich in minerals that nuggets of gold could be picked up from the ground.

Nowadays, the city of Guanajuato is a colonial city with beautiful buildings, that contain the elements from the two main cultures that created the city: indigenous and Hispanic. Protected by its inhabitants and government, state and municipal. Guanajuato was declared by UNESCO as the "Historic Town of Guanajuato and Adjacent Mines" in December 1988.

Farewell Dinner will be taken in a traditional thematic restaurant cantina, where the joy of music will make you enjoy an authentic Mexican party.

Accommodations: Hotel Posada or similar
Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 9: Departure

Breakfast at the hotel and end of our services.

Meals included: Breakfast





Other Info

Meeting: León

Airport: Guanajuato International Airport (BJX)

Train station: --

Transfer: --

Distance: 30 km / 18.5 miles

Transfers are not available for this trip. You will meet your guide and the rest of the group at the Hotel for 12h30 on Day 1 of your trip.

Tack: Charro, Western. English on request

Horses: Quarter horse, Azteca and Mexican Criollo

Pace: Moderate riding pace according to terrain with several trots and canters.

Walk | Trot | Canter | Gallop |

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

Age: Min 14

Weight: 240 lbs / 110 kg

Riders: Min 6 riders

Max 14 riders

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-MXIR06

Rates include: Accommodations, Most meals, Soft Drinks, Riding with English speaking guide
Saddle bags, water bottle & bandana provided

Packages and Options

| Season | Description | ~US\$ |
|--------|-------------|--------|
| A 2026 | 9 day trip | \$4755 |

Rates Note:

Private trips possible with minimum of 10 riders and +15% to rate.

Transfer Option

Description

| | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 2026 | Late transfer fee | \$250 |
| 2026 | Small group supplement (2-5 pax only), pp - please inquire | |
| 2026 | Single supplement - please inquire | |

Tour Dates

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

Rates do not include: Some meals (lunch on Day 8), Airport transfers, Museum or any additional attractions entrances fees, Travel insurance, Gratuities & Alcoholic Beverages
Please, bring your own sleeping bag.

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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