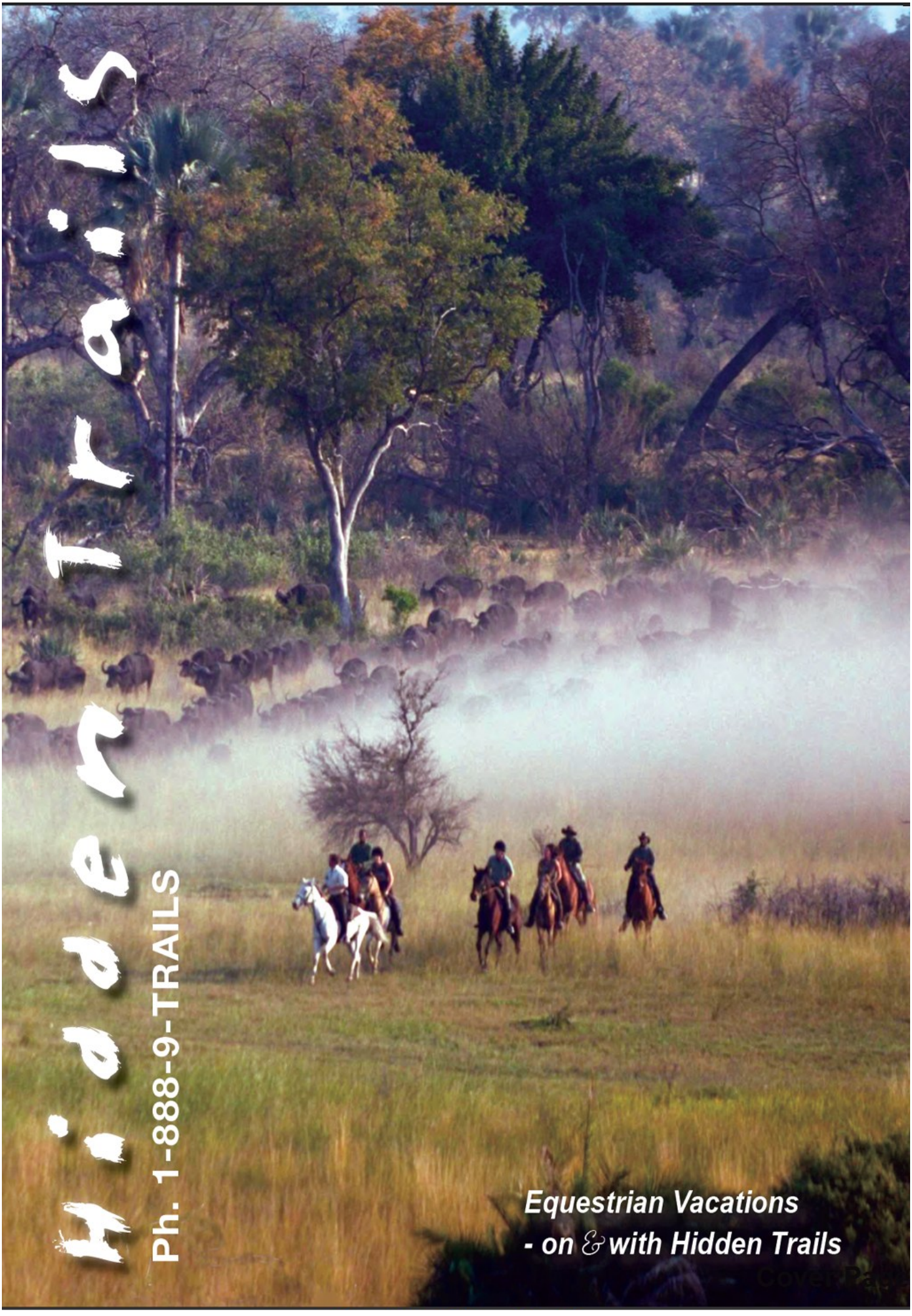

Hidden Trails
Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS
Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

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, 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

Transylvania Ride - Romania, Europe

Tour Code: IT-RORT01
7 days / 6 nights ~$2,390.00
Dates: April - October

Trip Rating :
Difficulty :
Lodging:

Tack: English
Horses: Shagya-Arabian, Lipizzaner, Gidran, an...
Pace: Moderate with many opportunities for t...
Walk,Trot,Canter,

Airport: Bucuresti Otopeni









Introduction

Transylvania, Romania
Enjoy Transylvania's historical landscape of endless rolling hills adorned by wild flower meadows, forests and tiny villages, set against the backdrop of the Carpathian mountain range. This may well be Europe's last riding heaven! Transylvania may be closely associated as the homeland of Count Dracula, but is also part of the dramatic history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and boasts well-preserved Medieval villages and excellent Romanian wines. We invite you to discover Transylvania as it once was in the 1800's.

The concept of our treks is to introduce our guests right into the heart of our culture – where horses have kept their original role. The ride is led through unmarked terrain, over hills and through forests, connecting one small village to another by unnoticeable tracks used by horses and carts. Up to 8 riders are led by 2 local guides. The small groups (often made up of a number of people who have booked separately) make for friendly and interesting riding.

The rides have often been described as a Tolstoy-esque experience, being accommodated at Count Kalnoky's Castle and at King Charles III's private retreat; but our guests are also fond of getting an insight into the reality of the region by staying 2 nights in villager's homes during the 5-day ride. Evening meals are served together as table d'hôte at the accommodations.

You ride out of Miklósvár (Micloşoara), a remote village situated in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains, from which you will be able to explore Transylvania freely, past and present. Miklósvár is the oldest documented settlement of the region. Its castle was first mentioned in 1211 AD as a border fortress between the territory donated to the Knights of the Teutonic Order and the rest of the of the Kingdom of Hungary. Today's castle was started in the 1500s as a hunting manor for the family and still contains many Renaissance elements, including its lovely painted wall decorations. It has been abandoned during the last fifty years and is currently under restoration.

Your hosts, the Kálnokys, are one of the most ancient families of Transylvania! Their history reaches back to obscure medieval times. In 1252 AD the family was documented in this eastern part of Transylvania. The current 25th generation came back after 50 years of exile in the West and are now reshaping their lost heritage.

Accomodation

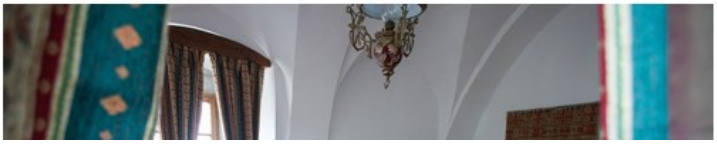


Accommodation
Both the long and short ride option are progressive rides whit nights spent at different locations.

Description
Accommodation on the ride is quite varied and you will experience life as the locals live in the village, but also enjoy the vernacular charms of Count Kalnoky's and King Charles III's Private Retreat.
While staying at villager's homes bathrooms might have to be shared.

Long Ride Accommodation Itinerary - *subject to changes based on availability*
Night 1: Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar
Night 2: Accommodation in Malnaș Băi
Night 3: Accommodation in Bățanii Mici
Night 4: Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar
Night 5 & 6: King Charles III's Private Retreat in Valea Zălanului

Short Ride Accommodation Itinerary - *subject to changes based on availability*
Night 1-3: Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar
Night 4-6: King Charles III's Private Retreat in Valea Zălanului



















Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar
From 2023, you will now be able to sleep at the Count's castle. This beautiful Transylvanian Castle (late Renaissance) has been carefully restored by the family over the years. Each of the 5 bedrooms is furnished with antique Transylvanian furniture and has an ensuite bathroom.
There is free Wi-Fi available at the property.



King Charles III's Private Retreat in Valea Zălanului
All the rooms have been lovingly restored and furnished with authentic antiques and textiles from Transylvania. The way we restore derelict houses is barely noticeable, rather would it seem that the buildings have aged gently and gradually without recent intervention. In order to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility, there is no television or radio; instead, you will find plenty of interesting books on the shelves. Each room has an electric kettle, with tea and coffee provided. All bathrooms are private, most are en-suite (although the old Transylvanian village cottages were conceived without bathrooms).
There is a saltwater-filled bath barrel where you can relax in the evening, while enjoying the view over the pastures.



Other Accommodations
While sleeping in local family houses the rooms are more basic but always clean and comfortable. You might have to share bathrooms during 1 or 2 nights.

Wi-fi internet access
There is wi-fi access in the main house and reception area in Miklosvar. There is also wi-fi access with weaker signal at King Charles III's Private Retreat. Wi-fi access is not available in all accommodations throughout the itinerary but on most places it will be.













Meals
All meals are included.

Food in rural Romania is generally organic and full of flavor and you will have the chance to sample some traditional dishes although the choice can be limited by what vegetables, etc are in season. Meals at the guesthouses are taken together as 'table d'hôte'. Food is prepared on site by local staff, mostly from local ingredients as available. Menus are set for every day of the week and no choice 'à la carte' is possible. Food is locally grown and fresh, however usually only one menu is prepared at the guesthouses and there is limited choice.

Breakfast is eaten at your guesthouse or inn and is typically a selection of eggs, cheese or cold meats, bread or toast and butter and jam, with perhaps a choice of tea or coffee to drink with some milk (which is often straight from the cow!).
Lunch is generally a very simple picnic out riding - ham or cheese sandwiches with fruit for dessert.
Dinner, which is eaten at your guesthouse or inn, is often soup (a strong point of Romanian cooking!), then a main course which will sometimes include a regional specialty such as wild boar or venison stew, peppers stuffed with meat or vegetables, different types of sausage, seasoned minced-meat wrapped in cabbage or vine leaves or perhaps spicy meatballs, followed by a cake or fruits.

Dinner includes mineral water, tea or coffee. Alcoholic drinks are not included. Mineral water is carried in saddle bags while riding and for lunch (soft drinks and alcohol are not usually available). Tea (chai) in Romania is not often the black, PG Tips style - but more commonly green or herbal - so you may want to take your own tea bags.
You will also be offered 'Kömények' the local caraway seed brandy quite regularly - be warned that it can be very strong! (It is perfectly acceptable to decline!)

It is possible to purchase wine during all dinners for an extra cost (to be paid at the end of the trip by card or cash).

Dietary Restrictions
Vegetarians can of course be catered for, but please let us know in advance.

Riding

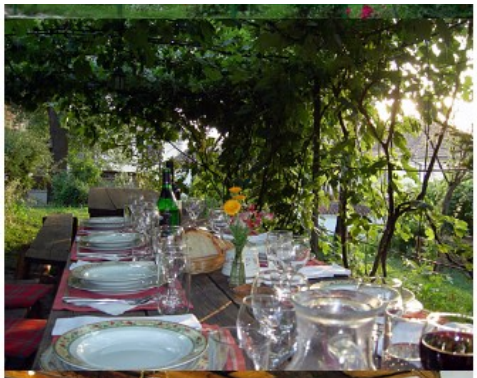


Riding Experience
To participate in these rides you should have a reasonable amount of previous riding experience. The minimum requirement is that you are comfortable and secure in the saddle at a walk, trot and canter and are used to riding in open country and over different types of terrain. You should also be reasonably riding fit to take part and we recommend you ride regularly at home before you go to accustom yourself to the hours you will spend in the saddle.
The horses used are sensible and well-mannered to ride so they are well suited to people of intermediate riding ability and above.

Terrain
The area you ride through is very unspoilt and little touched by tourism. Some of the riding is through forest and up and down mountains and there are one or two places where riders might need to dismount to walk over rough ground, depending on conditions - a good chance to stretch your legs! However overall the area is excellent for riding, with plenty of space, wonderful open mountain pastures full of wild flowers in the spring, varied scenery and many wonderful views.

Pace
The full trail ride takes 5 days in the saddle, a shorter 3-day version and day-rides are also possible.
Riding days are generally between 3 and 6 hours in the saddle, with breaks to rest and for lunch.
The rides are at a moderate pace overall, with routes taking you through forest and up and down mountain tracks.
There are many opportunities for trots and canters each day as much of the riding is across open grassland.
There is a little road work each day (some on tar roads) in the vicinity of the villages you pass through, but roads are generally very quiet with little motorized traffic.
The terrain is varied and you cover about 150km during the course of the week.

Horses
Our current breeds are Shagya-Arabian, Gidran, Lipizzaner and Lipizzaner cross with Hutzuls, the Carpathian









mountain ponies. They range from around 14.2hh to 17hh.
They are keen and spirited, adaptable and well suited to the trails, which can get rough and steep in places. They are also of calm temperament and sensible to handle.
As every horse and every rider are different, we match horse-rider couples during a personal meeting before the trek.

Tack
English general-purpose saddles are used and saddle bags are provided. The horses are ridden in snaffle bits. Please note that there are NO Western Saddles available. However, we have some American style saddles.

Guides & Staff
Rides are led by two guides (one English speaking). When moving accommodations, luggage is transported for you by back-up vehicle.
In 2023, many rides will be guided by the Kálnoky family's eldest son, 28-year-old certified riding guide count Mátyás Kálnoky, who is eager to show you the marvels of the wonderful region he has grown up in and calls his home.

Non-Riders
Non riders are welcome on this trip. We can arrange activities such as walking, cycling, bird watching and traveling by horse-drawn carriage. Specialist guides can be provided for walking and cycling. Riders and non-riders stay in the same overnight accommodation, and on some days meet for lunch.



Itinerary



Sample Itinerary: Long Ride Program - *subject to changes*

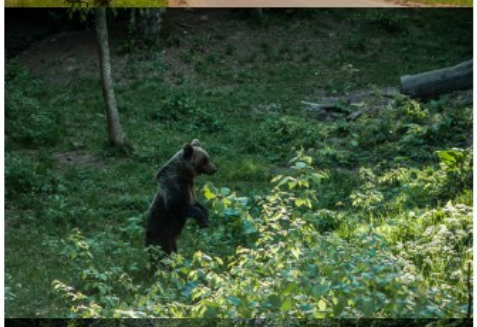
This is the standard itinerary available from the beginning of April to the beginning of November. Around 4-6 hours are spent in the saddle daily and a variety of terrain is traversed as you travel through wild hills and forest landscapes. The villages are situated at 450-700m, the hills reach 800-900m. This whole region is called Erdővidék, or "Woodlands", and has been looking very much the same for the last centuries.

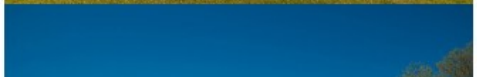
Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival
You will arrive at Miklósvár / Miclosoara after being transferred from the airport/station.
The village of Miklósvár was part of the Kálnoky family estate and the old hunting manor is on the edge of the village. The area was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire and became Romanian during the 1st World War. A number of the traditional houses in the village have been carefully restored in order to preserve their original Transylvanian charm. .
Meet Countess Anna Kálnoky to discuss about the horses you will be riding during the tour.
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar

Day 2 (Monday): Ride to Malnas Bai
Transfer to the riding centre at Valea Crisului (Sepsikőröspatak, "Round Brook"), 40 min. by car. The ride starts ascending slowly onto a ridge, where we are heading north on high pastures with magnificent views stretching to the high Carpathian Range. We leave the villages of Kálnok and Zalán to our right below us down in the valley, meet shepherds and their flocks on the pastures. At the end of the day, we descend through the forest to reach Malnas Bai (Málnásfürdő, "Raspberry Baths"), where the riders stay for the night as guests of a local hunter's family (bathrooms might have to be shared). It is a thriving spa village with plenty of mineral water springs and typical wooden turn-of-the-century Transylvanian architecture.
Riding approx. 4-5 hours (21 km)







Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Malnas Bai

Day 3 (Tuesday): Malnas Bai to Batanii
We ascend back up into the deep forests of the Hatod region, where 6 villages share the same woods (hatod = "one sixth"). We travel along a quiet forest track, where bear traces are often to be found. After having ridden around the extinct volcano called "Murgó", we descend on gentle grassy slopes to the Batanii villages ("Big Bacon and Little Bacon") to reach our accommodations in village houses at lovely "Little Bacon" where we shall have common dinner at a local family. The villagers here are known to be especially hospitable and friendly, and before dinner they will take pride at showing you their still functioning watermill and traditional looms.
Riding approx. 5 hours (22 km)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Malnas Bai

Day 4 (Wednesday): Batanii to Miklosvar
We head northwest through forests and hay meadows, to climb up to Szép Arca ("Pretty Face") hill on the southern slopes of the Hargita Range. Wide views open out on distant Barót and Olt Valley. We descend south and cross a valley to reach the hills south of Barót where we will have our picnic at a small lake. It is the result of a collapsed mine and is situated at the old mining settlement 'Köpecbánya' which is now mainly populated by gypsies. From here, we follow the lower line of the forest along the beautiful valley of the Olt river, reaching Miklosvar's manor grounds and stables in the afternoon. Visit the castle, its museum and park in the afternoon and hang out at the Stone Pub for pre-dinner drinks in the evening.
Riding approx. 6 hours (25 km)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar

Day 5 (Thursday): Miklosvar to Valea Zalanului
We leave Miklósvár and head east along forests and pastures, passing through Szárazajta / Aita Seaca ('Dry' Ajta village), to climb up to the ridge above Zalánpatak valley. Wide views open out on the distant Carpathian mountain range. We descend southeast to the village of Zalánpatak / Valea Zalanului, which was part of the Kálnoky family estate as a glass manufacture and now harbours H.R.H. King Charles III's private retreat. Several traditional houses in the village have been carefully restored, where you will be accommodated for the next 2 nights. Before dinner, you will have a walk in the evening on the estate to watch wildlife venturing out onto the meadows at sundown.
Riding approx. 5-6 hours (21 km)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Valea Zalanului

Day 6 (Friday): Back to the Stables
From Zalánpatak, we return to Kőröspatak crossing the hills and brooks. This trip was very common for many a generation of the Kálnoky family who had to ride often between the two villages. It is a medium ride through spectacular surroundings with wonderful views from the high pastures. After crossing the ancient village of Kálnok, the final canter will reach the ruins of the old tower above Kőröspatak. Before reaching the stables you will dip the horse's legs in the little stream crossing the village. You will be transferred back to Zalánpatak guesthouse for the evening.
Riding approx. 4 hours (19 km)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Valea Zalanului

Day 7 (Saturday): Departure
Depart after breakfast, or adding on a few days of relaxation and tours based at Count Kalnoky's Guesthouses in Miklosvar.
Meals included: Breakfast



Sample Itinerary: Short Ride Program - *subject to changes*

Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival
You will arrive at Miklósvár / Miclosoara after being transferred from the airport/station.
The village of Miklósvár was part of the Kálnoky family estate and the old hunting manor is on the edge of the village. The area was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire and became Romanian during the 1st World War. A number of the traditional houses in the village have been carefully restored in order to preserve their original Transylvanian charm. .
Meet Countess Anna Kálnoky to discuss about the horses you will be riding during the tour.
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar

Day 2 (Monday): Sightseeing (no riding)
Discover the estate and its craftsmen who will help you create your own Transylvanian crafts item which you can take back home. Then, the cooks will help you make our traditional Szekler 'Chimney Cake' over open fire. Your own cake will be served for desert or tea. The local blacksmith will show you how he beats hot iron into shape in the old smithy.
The rest of the day will be spent at the renaissance manor which has recently been restored. Discover its interiors which reflect lifestyles of past centuries. Have tea on the southern terrace sheltered by the manor's towers and









ancient elmtrees, discover the english park or relax at the pond or the formal garden.
Meet your guide or Countess Anna Kálnoky to discuss about the horses you will be riding during the tour.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Count Kalnoky's Castle in Miklosvar

Day 3 (Tuesday): 'Middle Ajta' Ride
Transfer to the riding centre at Valea Crisului (Sepsikőröspatak, "Round Brook"), 45 min. by car. The ride starts ascending onto a ridge with a good canter, where we are heading west on high pastures with magnificent views stretching to the high Carpathian Range. We will meet shepherds and their flocks on the pastures and at the end of the day we descend into a meandering valley to reach the picturesque village of 'Middle Ajta'. From there, a short way over the hill will lead us back to Miklósvár. Pre-dinner drinks in the Stone Pub, then dinner in the wine cellar.
Riding approx. 6-7 hours (25 km)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Count Kalnoky's Cottage in Miklosvar

Day 4 (Wednesday): Miklósvár to Zalánpatak / Valea Zalanului
We leave Miklósvár and head east along forests and pastures, passing through Szárazajta / Aita Seaca ('Dry' Ajta village), to ascend the ridge above Zalánpatak valley. Wide views open out on the distant Carpathian mountain range. We descend southeast to the village of Zalánpatak / Valea Zalanului, which was part of the Kálnoky family estate as the region's first glass manufacture and now harbours H.R.H. King Charles III's private retreat. Several traditional houses in the village have been carefully restored, where you will be accommodated for the next 3 nights. Before dinner, you will have a walk in the evening on the estate to watch wildlife venturing out onto the meadows at sundown.
Riding approx. 5-6 hours (21 km)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Valea Zalanului

Day 5 (Thursday): Ride back to Stables
From Zalánpatak, we return to Kőröspatak crossing the hills and brooks. This trip was very common for many a generation of the Kálnoky family who had to ride often between the two villages. It is a medium ride through spectacular surroundings with wonderful views from the high pastures. After crossing the ancient village of Kálnok, the final canter will reach the ruins of the old tower above Kőröspatak. Before reaching the stables, you will dip the horse's legs in the little stream crossing the village. You will be transferred back to Zalánpatak guesthouse with a stopover at the local spa 'Raspberry Baths' for a refreshing dip in mineral water (bring your swimming gown!).
Riding approx. 4 hours (19 km)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Valea Zalanului

Day 6 (Friday): Relax (no riding)
Relax at the estate with the villagers by carving your own walking stick from hazel branches, helping to make hay, discovering the tiny village museum or going to the bear-hide in the evening. It's the perfect place to unwind after 3 days in the saddle!
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight in Valea Zalanului

Day 7 (Saturday): Departure
Departure after breakfast. You can also add a few days of relaxation and discovery based at Count Kálnoky's Guesthouses in Miklósvár or at King Charles III's private retreat.
Meals included: Breakfast

Other Info

Meeting: Miklosvar
Airport: Bucuresti Otopeni
Train station: Brasov
Transfer: Brasov train station
Distance: 3 hours

There are easy and frequent train connections from Bucharest to Brasov (best to book first class seats for a few extra dollars).

A private transfer from Bucharest can be arranged on request for an extra fee

Tack: English

Horses: Shagya-Arabian, Lipizzaner, Gidran, and Lipizzaner's sure-footed crosses with Hutzuls They range from 14.2hh to 17hh

Pace: Moderate with many opportunities for trots and canters each day - about 3 - 6 hours daily 5 days of riding for the long program and 3 days od riding for the short program

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: (3 to 5 out of 5) Intermediate

Age: Min 12

Weight: 198 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 3 riders Max 8 riders

Introducing Transylvania

The landscape of Transylvania is reminiscent of pre-Industrial western Europe. This is due in part to the traditional non-intensive farming methods that continue to be practiced in this region. Approximately 500 people live in the village, the majority of which are involved in subsistence farming. Horses are found working the fields and the elegant scythe remains a key farming tool. This makes the countryside very wildlife-friendly; for example, bird species that are suffering a decline in western Europe continue to thrive in Transylvania. More visibly, the wealth of wild flower meadows that seem to coat the entire landscape in ever-changing colors in the spring and summer. Orchids also thrive here. Where flowers abound, so does insect life; in particular, butterflies. Armed with a field guide, a person can spend a whole day spotting rarities that are still considered common here!

Transylvania, as its name implies, is also a land of forests. Beautiful beech and hornbeam forests can be found near Miklósvár, changing to fir and spruce at the higher altitudes. During the spring, forests and ponds provide a home to yellow-bellied toads and fire salamanders. As autumn approaches, the forests change from vivid green to yellow and red, while a plethora of fungi and mushroom life coats the forest floor. Upland pastures, where the grazing of sheep takes place, resembles parkland with magnificent oaks and beeches intermingling with wild pear trees. Romanian shepherds and their formidable dogs can still be found here, safeguarding their flocks from predators.







The forests are also the preserve of the European brown bear and wolf, which have become predominantly nocturnal in their habits to avoid contact with humans. During the day, bears seek refuge in dense cover, such as young tree plantations, only venturing out to feed at dusk. The wolf is even more elusive. Wild boar, red deer and roe deer can often be spotted darting between trees. Tracks and signs of these animals can be found in the forests. Transylvanian winter is a particularly good time for snow tracking. During this period, thousands of bats can also be found roosting in caves.

Miklósvár
The village of Miklósvár is surrounded by rolling pastures, deciduous and coniferous forests, wild flower meadows, and deep valleys through which flows the River Olt and its tributaries. This Transylvanian region is also known as Erdővidék (which means 'forest region' in Hungarian). So rich in natural value, the area surrounding Miklósvár is currently a candidate for EU Natura 2000 designation. Some places near Miklósvár are already designated as nature reservations, including a wetland exhibiting important flora and fauna. Wildlife includes black stork, lesser spotted eagle, bee eaters, brown bear, wolf, and lynx to name but a few of the species present.

Historic remains

Miklosvar
Archaeological digs exposed prehistoric dwellings and medieval stone foundations under the present building. In 2003, in the cellar we discovered silver coins dated early 1500s, which had presumably fallen out of our ancestors' pockets.
Several building phases: Renaissance (16-17th century), Baroque (18th) and Classicism (19th).
Current restoration phase: Research and archaeology almost fully completed.
Architectural planning: Restoration of the carved stonework, exposure and preservation of the outside wall decorations in fresco technique.
Completed in 2002: Southern façade fresco decorations.
Completed in 2003: Research and Archeology.
Completed in 2004: Last digs, restoration of the first part of the roof.
Completed in 2005: Restoration of the renaissance stone balcony and stone entrance door frame.
Completed in 2006: Structural restoration of the original renaissance entrance loggia, last planning.

Valea Zalanului
The tiny hamlet of Zalán Valley (Zalánpatak in Hungarian, Valea Zălanului in Romanian) was first documented in the 16th century as belonging to Bálint (Valentin) Kálnoky of Kőröspatak, one of the Transylvanian ancestors of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. The family had originally founded a glass factory in this part of the hills, which has since ceased to exist. Today, around 120 inhabitants live in the village. Prince Charles owns the property that had been built for the former 'judge' who was overseeing the glassworks and the village. It is composed of several buildings, and has a patch of forest and extensive flower meadows, with mineral springs and small brooks belonging to it. The property is characterized by its rich biodiversity of plants, insects, birds, mushrooms and large mammals including bears (sometimes crossing the back yard). One of Europe's rarest and most spectacular orchids, the Lady Slipper (Cypripedium calceolus), of which only one single wild specimen has survived in Britain up to date, is blossoming in the valley's forests in May and June.

VISCRI - The Prince of Wales Property
In 2006, The Prince of Wales acquired an 18th century farmhouse in Viscri (Deutschweisskirch).
The house had already partly collapsed in 2001, but was still lived in by old Sarah Fernolend, who died in 2003. It is thanks to her neighbour and village responsible Caroline Fernolend, that the building could be saved. The structural restoration of the house was carried out by the Mihai Eminescu Trust, under the patronage of The Prince of Wales. Restorer Colin Richards and architect Gabriel Lambescu supervised local craftsmen who gradually brought the house back to its former shape and character.
Three years after the old lady had died, His Royal Highness decided to buy the property and asked us to assist with the interiors and the courtyard. During the works, we have discovered many personal items, textiles, some furniture and many farming tools of the last inhabitant. We cleaned, washed, mended and ironed most of the wonderful original textiles, and managed to save most of them.
We used these original features to recall the atmosphere from times when the previous inhabitant was still alive, and arranged the courtyard in a similar way. We added little more furniture, some rugs, and three beds. We tried to make the house comfortable enough to be used as a guesthouse, yet keeping it in line with what it may have been like previously. We even repaired the old radio so that it is working again.
The house has now three double bedrooms, two bathrooms and a kitchen. There is also a terrace with benches and a long table.

Bram Stoker's Dracula

This is the land of the literary Count Dracula, anti-hero of Bram Stoker's famous novel. Here are the places that inspired Bram Stoker's imagination back in the late 19th century. So this is the authentic land of the Dracula novel, with all the mystery and romance, the quiet roads and deep forests, the horse-drawn vehicles, the peasant farmsteads, and the wolves howling at night.

It was some 20km south of our village that Bram Stoker set the castle of the vampire Count Dracula. The Borgo Pass is a real place, and the setting certainly appropriate for a remote and mysterious castle. The prototype for Dracula, Prince Vlad the Impaler, lived rather further south, although it seems that he did make it as far north as the Borgo Pass.

Rates and Dates 2027 - IT-RORT01

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Luggage transfers & 5 riding days or 3 riding days (depending on program)
Saddle bags are provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US$
A 2027	7 days Trip (long ride) - peak season	€1990	$2390
B 2027	7 days Trip (long ride)	€1750	$2100
C 2027	7 days Trip (short ride) peak season	€1600	$1920
D 2027	7 days Trip (short ride)	€1370	$1645

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

Rates Note:** possible with 3 riders without supplement but with slightly modified itinerary (different guest house in some days, but amount of riding and scenery to see will be almost the same as original program).

Transfer Option

Description

2027	Transfer from the Brasov train station, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. cost	€35	$45
2027	Transfer from Bucharest airport, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. cost	€90	$110
2027	Transfer from Sibiu airport, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. cost	€80	$95
2027	Transfer from Cluj Napoca airport, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. cost	€100	$120
2027	Transfer from Bucharest downtown, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. cost	€100	$120
2027	Transfers for singler rider- double transfer cost		
2027	Single supplement (where available), per night	€40	$50
2027	Transfer from Augustin train station to Miklósvár is free of charge		
2027	Additional day in Miklosvar or Valea Zălanulu, with meals and activities, (dbl), pp	€220	$265
2027	Additional day in Miklosvar or Valea Zălanulu, with meals and activities, (sgl), pp	€245	$295
2027	Bear watching (min 2 pax), pp	€70	$85
2027	Private Ride Supplement, min. 8 pax, or add supplement per free spot	€750	$900

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
B 2027	04/04/2027 - 04/10/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	04/18/2027 - 04/24/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
A 2027	05/02/2027 - 05/08/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride) - peak season
A 2027	05/16/2027 - 05/22/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride) - peak season
A 2027	05/30/2027 - 06/05/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride) - peak season
A 2027	06/13/2027 - 06/19/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride) - peak season
A 2027	06/27/2027 - 07/03/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride) - peak season
B 2027	07/11/2027 - 07/17/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	07/25/2027 - 07/31/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	08/08/2027 - 08/14/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	08/22/2027 - 08/28/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	09/05/2027 - 09/11/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	09/19/2027 - 09/25/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	10/03/2027 - 10/09/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2027	10/17/2027 - 10/23/2027	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)

Min/Max: 3/8
Short rides are available on request only (depending on availability) - please inquire

Rates do not include:Additional sightseeing, Alcoholic drinks, Personal insurance (mandatory), Use of telephones and/or fax machines, Gratuities & Pick-up and Drop-off transfer

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-RORT01

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Luggage transfers & 5 riding days or 3 riding days (depending on program)
Saddle bags are provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US$
A 2026	7 days Trip (long ride) - peak season	€1990	$2390
B 2026	7 days Trip (long ride)	€1750	$2100
C 2026	7 days Trip (short ride) peak season	€1600	$1920
D 2026	7 days Trip (short ride)	€1370	$1645

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

Rates Note:** possible with 3 riders without supplement but with slightly modified itinerary (different guest house in some days, but amount of riding and scenery to see will be almost the same as original program).

Transfer Option

Description

2026	Transfer from the Brasov train station, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. Cost	€35	$45
2026	Transfer from Bucharest airport, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. Cost	€90	$110
2026	Transfer from Sibiu airport, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. Cost	€80	$95
2026	Transfer from Cluj Napoca airport, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. Cost	€100	$120
2026	Transfer from Bucharest downtown, pp, one way (2-3 pax) - approx. Cost	€100	$120
2026	Transfers for singler rider- double transfer cost		
2026	Single supplement (where available), per night	€40	$50
2026	Transfer from Augustin train station to Miklósvár is free of charge		
2026	Additional day in Miklosvar or Valea Zălanulu, with meals and activities, (dbl), pp	€220	$265
2026	Additional day in Miklosvar or Valea Zălanulu, with meals and activities, (sgl), pp	€240	$290
2026	Bear watching (min 2 pax), pp	€70	$85
2026	Private Ride Supplement, min. 8 pax, or add supplement per free spot	€625	$750

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
B 2026	09/06/2026 - 09/12/2026	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2026	09/20/2026 - 09/26/2026	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2026	10/04/2026 - 10/10/2026	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)
B 2026	10/18/2026 - 10/24/2026	7d / 6n	7 days Trip (long ride)

Min/Max: 3/8
Short rides are available on request only (depending on availability) - please inquire

Rates do not include:Additional sightseeing, Alcoholic drinks, Personal insurance (mandatory), Use of telephones and/or fax machines, Gratuities & Pick-up and Drop-off transfer

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	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Interm.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking
1.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.		☐				☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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 maling address):

_____

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ◯

Additional Signatures:

2. _____

3. _____

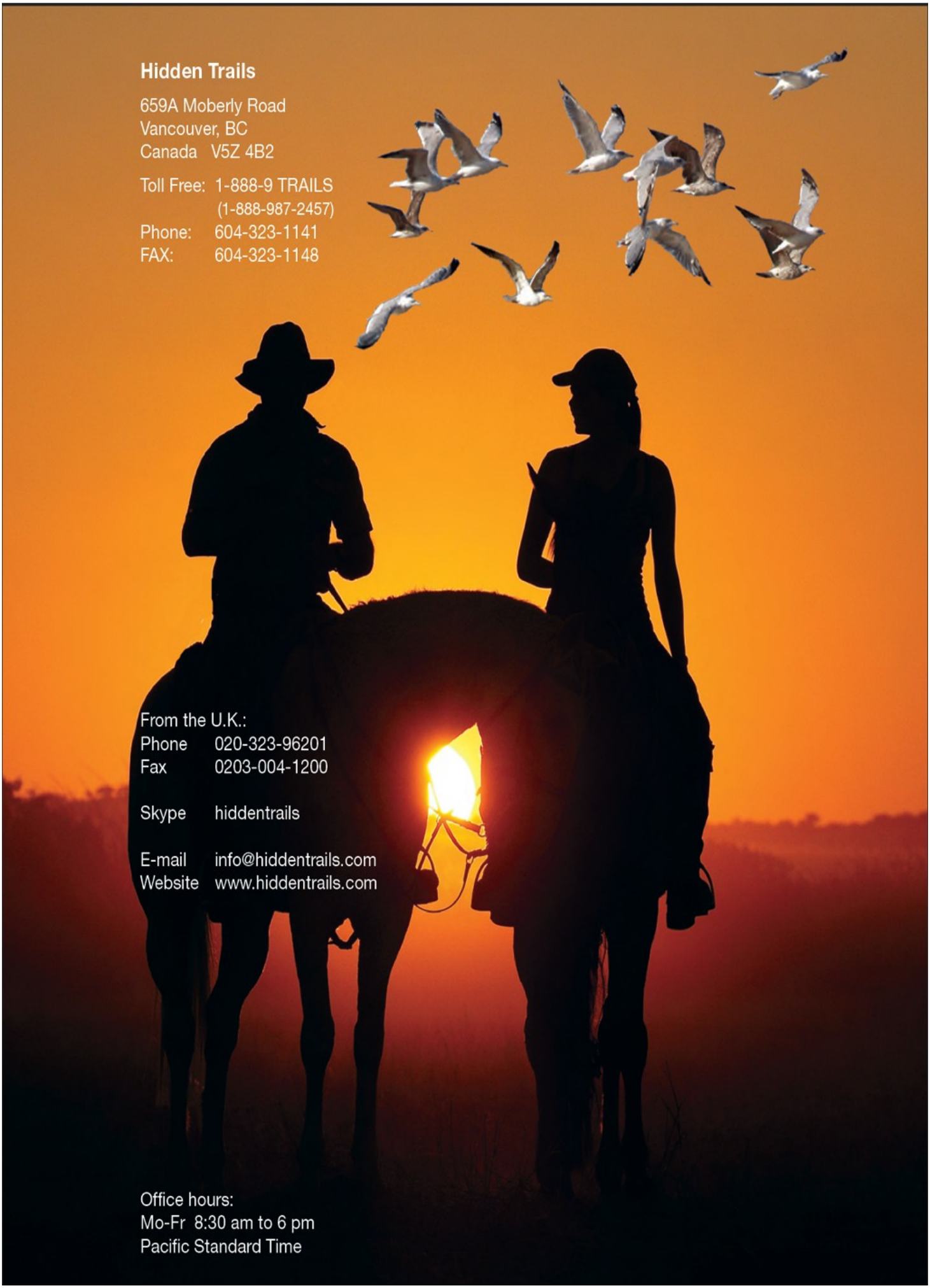
4. _____

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