



# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*

## About Hidden Trails

Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Hidden Trails

Phone: 604-323-1141

Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

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

Address:

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

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Blue Coast Ride - Portugal, Europe

Tour Code: PG-PAAC

8 days / 7 nights ~\$2,195.00

Dates: May-June, Sept

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : ●●●

**Tack:** Portugese cavalry saddle like English ...

**Horses:** Lusitanos

**Pace:** 4-6 hrs Pace Moderate, long canters

Walk, Trot, Canter,

**Airport:** Lisbon



## Introduction

Alentejo / Blue Coast, Portugal

The Costa Azul or "the Blue Coast" is the southern stretch of Portugal's western coastline, and is as long and beautiful as the popular Algarve. However, on the breath-taking Costa Azul there is one of the rarer deserted beaches, a place where you do not have to worry about mobs of tourists and their hustle and bustle.

Ride across old paths through the virgin landscape of southwest Portugal - through vast valleys to the Atlantic shore with rocks and dunes, inviting for a refreshing canter. Overnights are excellent in country hotels with traditional gastronomy. Experience empty sand dunes and beautiful landscape of the Blue Coast on horseback.

Magnificent horses and above average accommodation make this ride one of the top riding vacations in Europe. If you want to experience Portugal and avoid the crowds of the Algarve, the Blue Coast is the destination for you!

## Accommodation



### Accommodations

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

### Description

Accommodations in 3 and 4-star lodging. Laundry facilities are available at Hotel Vila Park and Quinta da Malmerda for a small fee.

Accommodation Itinerary (South to North) - *subject to changes based on availability*

Nights 1-4: Casas Verdemar in Casas Novas

Night 5: Quinta de Malmerda in Santiago do Cacém

Nights 6 & 7: Hotel Vila Park near Natural Reserve of the Lagoons of Santo André and Santa Sancha



### Casas Verdemar in Casas Novas

This accommodation is an old tavern that was restored in order to accommodate guests in comfortable bedrooms. Each room has air conditioning and private facilities. There is an outdoor swimming pool and a beautiful garden where guests can relax. Free Wi-Fi access is available in common areas.

### Quinta de Malmerda in Santiago do Cacém

This charming farmhouse is surrounded by nature and features both an outdoor and indoor pool. All of the 12 rooms are simply decorated and feature a TV, free Wi-Fi access, air conditioning as well as a private bathroom.



**Hotel Vila Park near Natural Reserve of the Lagoons of Santo André and Santa Sancha**

This hotel offers modern accommodations only a few steps away from a beautiful natural reserve. The 79 rooms are all fitted a TV, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi access and a private bathroom with hairdryer. There is also an outdoor pool where guests can cool off after a long day riding.

**Room Occupancy**

If we are unable to find another rider to share the room with you, the single supplement fee does apply.



**Meals**

The package includes all meals and drinks at lunch time. The meals are usually traditional Portuguese food.

Lunches are eaten on the trail and usually included grilled food. The dinners are eaten in local restaurants or in the hotels' restaurants.

**Dietary Restrictions**

We can cater to most dietary restrictions with advance notice.



**Riding**



**Horses**

You will be riding pure-bred and part-bred Lusitano Horses. The Lusitanos, which come from the same origin as the famous Andalusians, can be considered as some of the finest horses in Europe. Together with their Spanish brothers, the Lusitanos were the first horses which were brought to the New World and thus became ancestors of all American breeds. They are known for their splendid abilities and glamour performing the collected movements. You can indeed look forward to getting a mount which is not only well tempered and of a docile character but who will allow you to explore the great feeling of riding a well-trained horse.



#### Tack

The saddles that you will be using are mostly Portuguese Army saddles covered with sheep skin which are very comfortable and well-suited for the purpose of long distance rides. English style bridles are used. We do not provide saddle bags. There is a bottle holder provided with each saddle.

#### Weight Limit

The weight limit for this ride is 85 kg / 190 lbs, but we can accept riders exceeding this weight if they are experienced (under confirmation).



#### Itinerary



#### Sample Itinerary: South to North - subject to changes

*Note: This is a sample itinerary only and subject to changes at the tour operator's discretion. Riding times and distances are subject to change due to group dynamic and rider levels.*

#### Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival

Arrival in Lisbon and transfer at 5:30pm. We take the direction of the Cercal Mountains, approximately 200 km to the south. You will stay overnight at Casas Verdemar, a rural, renovated farmhouse. Here you can relax, and enjoy dinner and your first night in Portugal.

You will stay for four nights at Casas Verdemar, a beautifully renovated tavern with individual rooms and cottages around the gardens. There is a pool, fruit trees and plenty of places to relax and enjoy the countryside. Take your meals either on the veranda or inside in the dining room. Your hosts are Christine Nijhoff, a specialist in antiques restoration and Nuno Vilas Boas Lebreiro, artist and cook.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at Casas Verdemar*

#### Day 2 (Monday): Meet your horse

Today for your first day's ride you explore the mountains of Cercal. You will ride to the chapel of Nossa Senhora das Neves from where you have a splendid view of the area you have been riding through in the morning. For lunch, a delicious picnic will be prepared with grilled meats or fish with salad accompanied by fresh bread and local wine. After lunch, return to Verdemar.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Casas Verdemar*

#### Day 3 (Tuesday): Ride to the dam

Today after breakfast you set off into the mountains of Cercal, close to the dam of Campilhas where you have lunch. The scenery is varied and interesting and after some trots and canter you return to Verdemar. Relax and enjoy the quiet of a typical 'monte alentejano' after a dip in the pool.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Casas Verdemar*

#### Day 4 (Wednesday): Visiting Vila Nova de Milfontes

Today we ride through the mountains of Cercal. We will have our usual picnic close to the hotel. The afternoon is free to visit Vila Nova de Milfontes, a fishing village close to the sea, with a very nice beach and spectacular views of the ocean. This is a great destination if you like to swim in the open ocean.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Casas Verdemar*

#### Day 5 (Thursday): Canter through forests

Today we ride inland enjoying many canter through eucalyptus and pine forests. After lunch in a shady place in the woods, we continue towards Quinta da Ortiga where you leave your horses before a short transfer of 30 min to your accommodation, a modern, luxury rural hotel in the vicinity of Santiago do Cacém where you will have dinner and overnight.



*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at Quinta de Malmadra*

**Day 6 (Friday): Towards the ocean**

Today we ride in the direction of the ocean and reach Hotel Vila Park. After lunch we pass through rice fields we continue in the direction of Melides, an area of great peace and tranquillity. The beach is about 3km away so if you have enough energy left from the day's ride, you can enjoy a nice swim (without the horses) before dinner. We will stay in a nice country hotel. Dinner in a local restaurant.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at Hotel Vila Park*

**Day 7 (Saturday): Beach ride**

Today you ride to the beach. Between June 1st and September 15th, this ride is at dawn to avoid the holiday makers on the beach. It's a beautiful ride at first light as the sun rises over the dunes. There is the possibility of a beach canter before reaching a lovely picnic spot in the pine forest where your horses rest while you may swim in the sea and after lunch. After lunch you ride through the dunes, returning to your hotel. Farewell dinner.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at Hotel Vila Park*

**Day 8 (Sunday): Departure**

After breakfast, transfer back to Lisbon and departure.

*Meals included: Breakfast*



**Sample Itinerary: North to South - subject to changes**

*Note: This is a sample itinerary only and subject to changes at the tour operator's discretion. Riding times and distances are subject to change due to group dynamic and rider levels.*

**Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival**

Arrival in Lisbon and transfer at 5:30pm. You will travel to the south to the town of Melides, approximately 135kms. Settle into your room in a nice country hotel. Later at dinner you will meet your guide and learn all about the trail.

*Meals included: Dinner  
Overnight at Hotel Vila Park*

**Day 2 (Monday): Beach ride**

Today you meet your horse and ride towards the beach. Between June 1st and September 15th, this ride is at dawn to avoid the holiday makers on the beach. It's a beautiful ride at first light as the sun rises over the dunes. If everyone is comfortable and secure on their horses, then there is the possibility of a gallop or canter on the beach before reaching a lovely picnic spot in the pine forest where your horses rest while you may swim in the sea and later have lunch. For lunch, a delicious picnic will be prepared with grilled meats or fish with salad accompanied by fresh bread and local wine. After lunch, you ride through the dunes, returning to the hotel. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at Hotel Vila Park*

**Day 3 (Tuesday): Ride past the lagoon**

Today you ride in the direction of Santiago do Cacém, past the Santo André Lagoon. In this beautiful place you may see flamingos and storks. Ride past the rice fields of the area, which in late summer prior to harvest are an astonishing colour of green. Stop for a picnic in the pine tree forest.

After lunch you continue towards the Quinta da Ortiga where we will stable the horses. A short transfer of 30 min takes you to your hotel, a modern, luxury rural hotel, where you have dinner and spend the night.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at Quinta de Malmadra*

**Day 4 (Wednesday): Climbing the mountain**

Today you continue to ride southwards towards Cercal, always with the sea in sight. Climbing the mountain through the 'montados' you ride through one of the last unexploited regions of Portugal.

In the afternoon you arrive at your accommodation at Casas Verdemar. This is a beautifully renovated tavern with individual rooms and cottages around the gardens. There is a pool, fruit trees and plenty of places to relax and enjoy the countryside. Take your meals either on the veranda or inside in the dining room. Your hosts are Christine Nijhoff, a specialist in antiques restoration and Nuno Vilas Boas Lebreiro, artist and cook.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at Casas Verdemar*

**Day 5 (Thursday): Visit to Vila Nova de Milfontes**

Today you have a morning ride exploring the fields around the farm and trails into the mountains of Cercal. The afternoon is free to visit the fishing village of Vila Nova de Milfontes which is a popular seaside resort in the summer months. There is time for shopping, sightseeing or relaxing on the beach.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at Casas Verdemar*

**Day 6 (Friday): Exploring the area around the dam**

Today after breakfast you set off into the mountains of Cercal, close to the dam of Campilhas where you have lunch. The scenery is varied and interesting and after some trots and canters you return to Verdemar. Relax and enjoy the quiet of a typical 'monte alentejano' after a dip in the pool.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Overnight at Casas Verdemar

**Day 7 (Saturday): Up towards the chapel**

For your last day's ride you continue exploring the mountains of Cercal. You will ride to the chapel of Nossa Senhora das Neves from where you have a splendid view of the surrounding area. After lunch, you return to Verdemar. Farewell dinner at Casas Verdemar.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

Overnight at Casas Verdemar

**Day 8 (Sunday): Departure**

After breakfast, transfer back to Lisbon and departure.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

**Non Riders**

Non-riding companions are welcome to join this trip. It is best to have a car in order to do some sightseeing while the rest of the group explores on horseback.

**Other Info**

**Meeting:** Cercal (N) / Melides (S)

**Airport:** Lisbon

**Transfer:** From Lisbon included at 5:30 p.m.

**Distance:** 180 km

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Lisbon Airport/ Humberto Delgado Airport (LIS) only. Pick-up is scheduled for 5:30pm on Day 1 of the trip. Drop-off on the last day is scheduled for an arrival at the airport in Lisbon around 10:30 AM (starting 2026 drop-off time will be at 2:00 PM).

**Tack:** Portugese cavalry saddle like English Endurance with sheepskin

**Horses:** Lusitanos

**Pace:** 4-6 hrs Pace Moderate, long canters

Walk | Trot | Canter |

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

**Weight:** 188 lbs / 85 kg

**Riders:** Min 5 riders

Max 10 riders

## Rates and Dates 2026 - PG-PAAC

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, 6 riding days, Luggage transfers

### Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2026	8 day trip - North to South	€1830	\$2195
B 2026	8 day trip - South to North	€1830	\$2195

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

### Transfer Option

#### Description

2026	Single supplement	€610	\$670
2026	Transfer from Lisbon airport at 5:30 PM	€100	\$110
2026	Small group supplement (3pax) +25% pp		
2026	Small group supplement (4pax) +10% pp		
2026	Small group supplement (2 pax only) – please inquire		
2026	Non-rider – please inquire		

#### Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	03/15/2026 - 03/22/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - North to South
B 2026	03/22/2026 - 03/29/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - South to North
A 2026	04/05/2026 - 04/12/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - North to South
B 2026	04/12/2026 - 04/19/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - South to North
A 2026	05/24/2026 - 05/31/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - North to South
B 2026	05/31/2026 - 06/07/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - South to North
A 2026	09/06/2026 - 09/13/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - North to South
B 2026	09/13/2026 - 09/20/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - South to North
A 2026	09/27/2026 - 10/04/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - North to South
B 2026	10/04/2026 - 10/11/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip - South to North

Min/Max: 5/10

Rates do not include: Alcoholic beverages at dinner or from from bar, Gratuities, and Airport Transfers

# 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"/>	<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

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From the U.K.:

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

