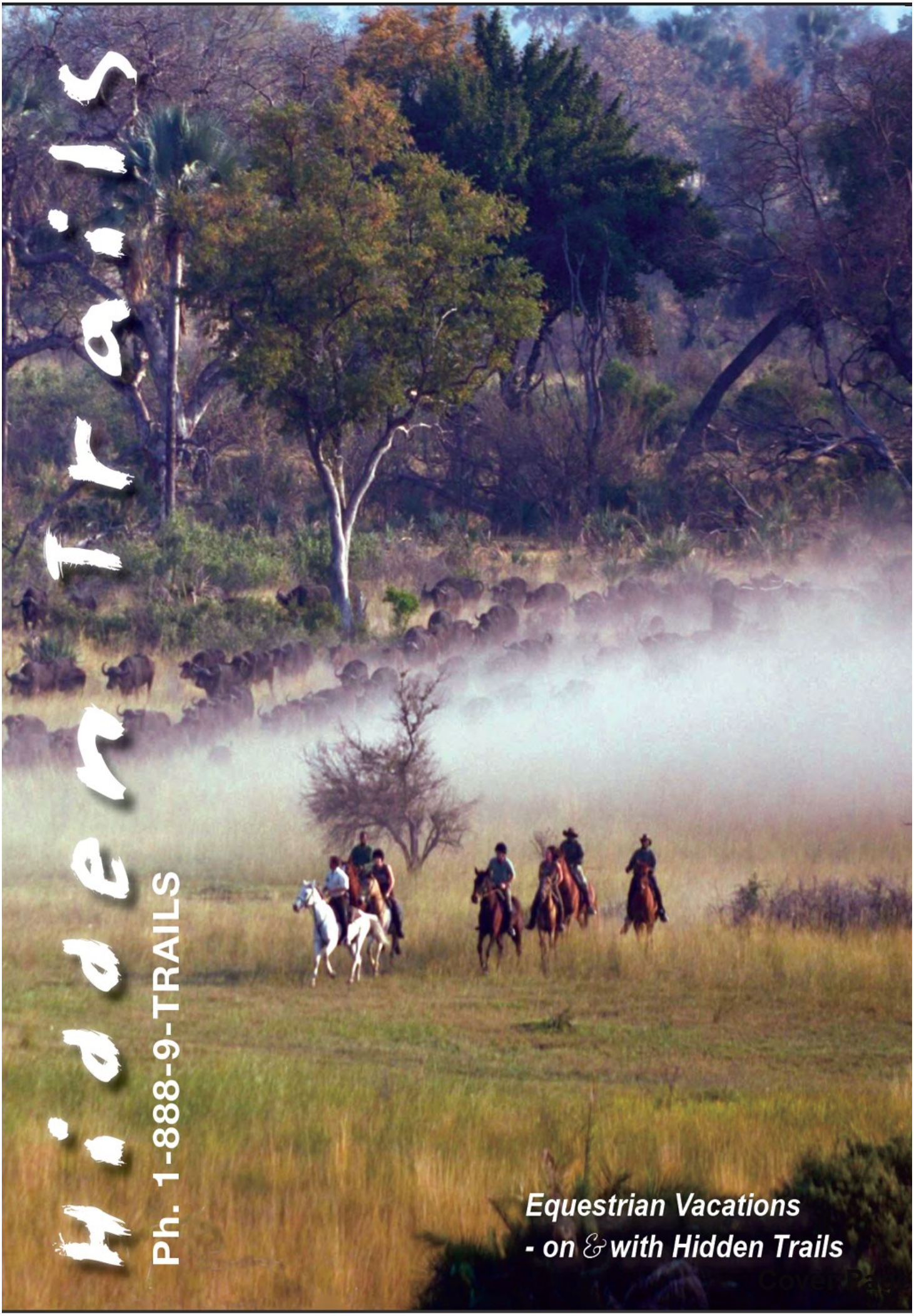

Hidden Trails
Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS
Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

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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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

Learn to Ride in Albania - Albania, Europe

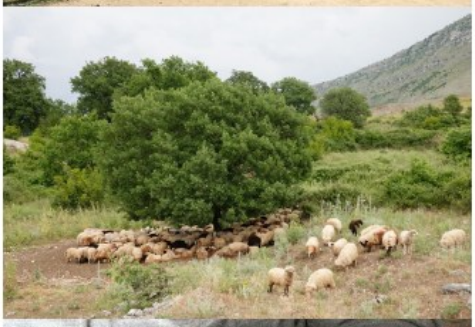
Tour Code: RCAL01
8 days / 7 nights ~$1,355.00
Dates: Apr-Dec

Trip Rating :
Difficulty :
Lodging: BASIC

Tack: English Trekking
Horses: Albanian Local Breeds
Pace:
Walk,Trot,

Airport: Tirana International Airport
Nënë Tereza (TIA)















Introduction

Central, Albania
This program is designed for nature enthusiasts who want to take intensive basic riding lessons and discover Albania.

Based in the village "Asim Zeneli" near Gjirokastër in the South of Albania, the program was created to give the opportunity to beginner riders to improve their skills while getting to know this part of Albania from a local perspective. During your stay, you will gain knowledge about riding in nature that will enable you to undertake short journeys on horseback anywhere in the world.

Your instructor has many years of experience, teaching in several countries and a natural approach to horse and rider training techniques.
The program is based on the Parelli method but adapted to the English style of riding. The program respects the health and character of the Albanian horse and aims to create a personalized relationship between the horse and the rider.

In addition to riding, the program offers opportunities to learn about local life: helping the staff at the horse stable (if desired), participating in the daily activities of the host family, interacting with the villagers,...
The program also includes quiet times for other activities such as bathing in the river, hiking, visiting archaeological sites and a lot of free time to meditate, read or attend art classes.

Welcome to the exciting and immersive equestrian adventure of a lifetime! Get ready to embark on a week-long journey filled with thrilling horseback riding experiences, cultural explorations, and delicious culinary delights.

Accomodation

Accommodations
This is a stationary ride so all nights will be spent at the same accommodations.

Description
You will be sleeping in a small village near the stables. Your host family will be happy to welcome you into their home.
The rooms are simple but comfortable. Please, note that facilities are shared between guests and the host family.



Meals
All meals are included in this trip from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on the last day.

You will get to enjoy local Albanian food (local meats, fruits, and vegetables) traditionally cooked with organic products.

Breakfasts usually include eggs, butter, cheese, local pancakes, fruit jams, honey, milk and tea.

Dietary Restrictions
We can cater to all dietary restrictions with prior notice.

Riding

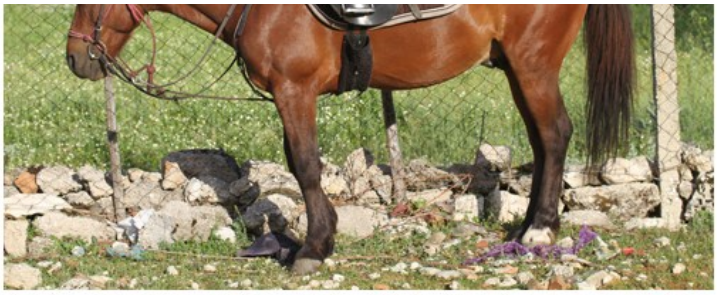












Horses
The horses used for this ride are locally bred and ideal for the terrain. They are small but very robust and surefooted Albanian horses (between 13 and 14.2 hands). The Albanian horse, a unique mountain breed that is s local mixture of the archaic Tarpan and medieval Arab horse. They are great climber, have a clear mind and are surefooted. Our breeding program aims to help saving this declining breed of horses.
Our stable include 38 horses and is situated amidst scenic hills, green valleys, surrounded by high mountains. Our horses are trained with natural horsemanship techniques that we are pleased to share with the guests.

Instructor
Alexa is an American riding instructor who decided to settle in Albania a few years ago. She has a lot of experience teaching horseback riding in several riding schools around the world.

Itinerary



Day 1: Arrival
Upon your arrival at Tirana airport, ideally in the morning but no later than 14:00, our team will greet you and transport you to Gjirokastra, a journey of approximately three hours. Settle into your hotel, conveniently located a short walk from the historic center of Gjirokastra. Before dinner, take your own tour through the town, exploring the old Bazaar, Gjirokastra Castle, the Church of the Old Bazaar, the Mosque of the Bazaar, and Skenduli House, offering a glimpse into traditional life in Gjirokastra. Enjoy a traditional dinner at a local restaurant, where our guides will discuss the program, itinerary, answer any questions, provide advice, and offer valuable insights.

Day 2: Getting Acquainted with Horses Morning Session
Participants will familiarize themselves with horses and receive lessons in ground handling, including exercises on maintaining safe distances, grooming, harnessing, feeding, and understanding equine behavior.
Lunch will be served in a village restaurant.
The afternoon session will focus on basic riding positions, balance exercises in the arena, and overall skill reinforcement.
In the evening, participants can opt for a rural village experience or spend time with family on the veranda. Friends are welcome to join cooking sessions and assist with other tasks. An optional visit to the horse stables is available if willing to walk 15 minutes one way to the stables.

Day 3: Independent Horse Preparation and Nature Ride Testing Morning Session
Begin with independent horse preparation followed by a nature ride test to assess skills acquired during the morning session.
Lunch will be served at a local village restaurant.
The afternoon session will include basic knowledge tests on the track and guided horseback riding in nature, focusing on safety measures, risk management, and using reins in outdoor settings.
Dinner will be served at the guesthouse, where you'll enjoy a traditional meal prepared by the hosts.

Day 4: Trotting Preparation and Riding in Nature Morning Session
Revisit all lessons learned so far and prepare for trotting on the track. Morning concentration will be paramount as participants practice trotting techniques in the arena and apply them briefly in outdoor settings. Lunch options will be served at a local restaurant.
After lunch, there will be further trotting practice on the track, horse leading downhill followed by a session on uphill riding positions.
You will have dinner at the guesthouse, where you can enjoy a comforting meal to end the day.

Day 5: Mastery Trek to Cini Lake (one session)
It's a day you've been eagerly awaiting, a chance to put your skills to the test in the rugged beauty of Albania's countryside.
The day kicks off with the familiar routine of preparing the horses.
Now, it's time for the real challenge—a trek to Cini Lake.
With the horses saddled and ready, riders take a moment to mentally review the lessons of the past days. Mounting your steeds, you set off for the morning session—a series of advanced trotting exercises designed to push your limits.
Throughout the ride in nature through hills, valleys and pastoral life the instructors provide guidance and feedback, fine-tuning techniques and addressing any lingering questions. Riding in pairs fosters camaraderie and teamwork, reinforcing the bond between rider and horse.
It's a journey that will test your mettle, but also a chance to forge memories that will last for long.
After accommodating the horses back in stable lunch will continue and also free afternoon and evening for











different activities. Dinner again with the host family.
Riding 4-5 hours

Day 6: Intensive Trotting and Horse Games Morning Session
The morning will focus on intensive trotting sessions on the track, as well as engaging in various horse games. Participants will practice riding in pairs, maintaining safe distances, and applying technical elements of trail discipline.
After lunch, participants will continue with trotting and horse games in the afternoon, with additional testing of trotting and short canter fragments for balance assessment. The afternoon the session will be out in nature going through the very diverse landscape of Gjinofshat hills possible to test all the lessons so far.
Optional activities during break times may include relaxation, stable work, or village exploration.

Day 7: Final Test and Lake Adventure (one session)
This last day is the culmination of a week-long journey, a day awaited with equal parts excitement and trepidation. The morning unfolds with purpose as riders gather in the arena, their steeds poised and ready for the ultimate challenge. You embark on a comprehensive skills test—a culmination of all you've learned throughout your equestrian odyssey.
Under the guidance of experienced instructors, participants navigate through a series of exercises, each one designed to assess their proficiency in the saddle. From precision maneuvers to fluid transitions, every aspect of your riding ability is put to the test.
You will mount your trusty companions once more, ready to embark on the final leg of the journey—a scenic trek to Qestorati Lake. Along the way, you'll pass by the imposing castle of Santa Triada, its ancient walls standing as a silent testament to the region's storied past.
The journey will also take you through the charming village of Dhoksat, where time seems to stand still amidst cobblestone streets and rustic buildings.
And so, as you set off into the unknown, guided by the gentle rhythm of hoofbeats and the whisper of the wind, you carry with you the memories of a week filled with laughter, learning, and the timeless bond between horse and rider the foundation of a new passion.
Riding 4-5 hours

Day 8: Departure Morning
After a rural breakfast at the guest house, being also the last moments of this equestrian experience, you will be transferred to the airport.

Note: Itinerary subject to changes

***Optional Activities with extra costs paid on site:**
Wood crafting workshop – 36 Euro per person
Cooking class – 46 Euro per person
Buggy tour – 35 Euro per person
Cold War city tour – 55 Euro per person (including entrance tickets in three monuments)
Guided hiking tour – from 48 – 64 Euro per person depending on the itinerary
Embroidery class – from 25 Euro per person
Dress as a local – from 15 Euro per person
Ice cream making activity – from 13 Euro per person
Farming activity – From 34 Euro per person

** price subject to changes*

Other Info

Meeting: Gjirokaster
Airport: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA)
Transfer: Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA) or Saranda Port.
Distance: 220 km / 136.7 milles
Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA). Scheduled transfers every Saturday at 12:30 pm and 14:30 pm Recommended arrival time for flights: No later than 14:30 pm Recommended departure time for flights: Not earlier than 1:00 pm On the last day, we will drop you off at the airport between 9:00am and 12:00pm (noon), so please do not book your departure flights for before 1:00pm!

Tack: English Trekking
Horses: Albanian Local Breeds
Pace:
Walk | Trot |
Level: (1 to 2 out of 5) Beginner
Age: Min 14
Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg
Riders: Min 2 riders Max 6 riders
Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2026 - RCAL01

Rates include: Accommodation, All meals, Transfers between accommodation & stables & Riding lessons as decsribed in itinerary

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US$
A 2026	1 week clinic	€1130	$1355

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

Rates Note: Please, provide your passport information at time of booking

Transfer Option

Description

2026	Single supplement	€175	$210
2026	Small group supplement (1 pax only)	€155	$185
2026	Transfer from Tirana Airport to Gjirokastra, return, pp	€90	$110
2026	Private transfer from Tirana, (1 pax) one way	€140	$170
2026	Private transfer from Tirana, (2 pax) one way, pp	€70	$85
2026	Private transfer from Tirana, (3 pax) one way, pp	€55	$65
2026	Transfer from Saranda Port to Gjirokastra, return, pp	€50	$60

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	10/03/2026 - 10/10/2026	8d / 7n	1 week clinic
A 2026	10/31/2026 - 11/07/2026	8d / 7n	1 week clinic
A 2026	12/12/2026 - 12/19/2026	8d / 7n	1 week clinic

Min/Max: 2/6

Rates do not include:Aiport transfers, Gratuities & Activities (apart from riding)

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. _____

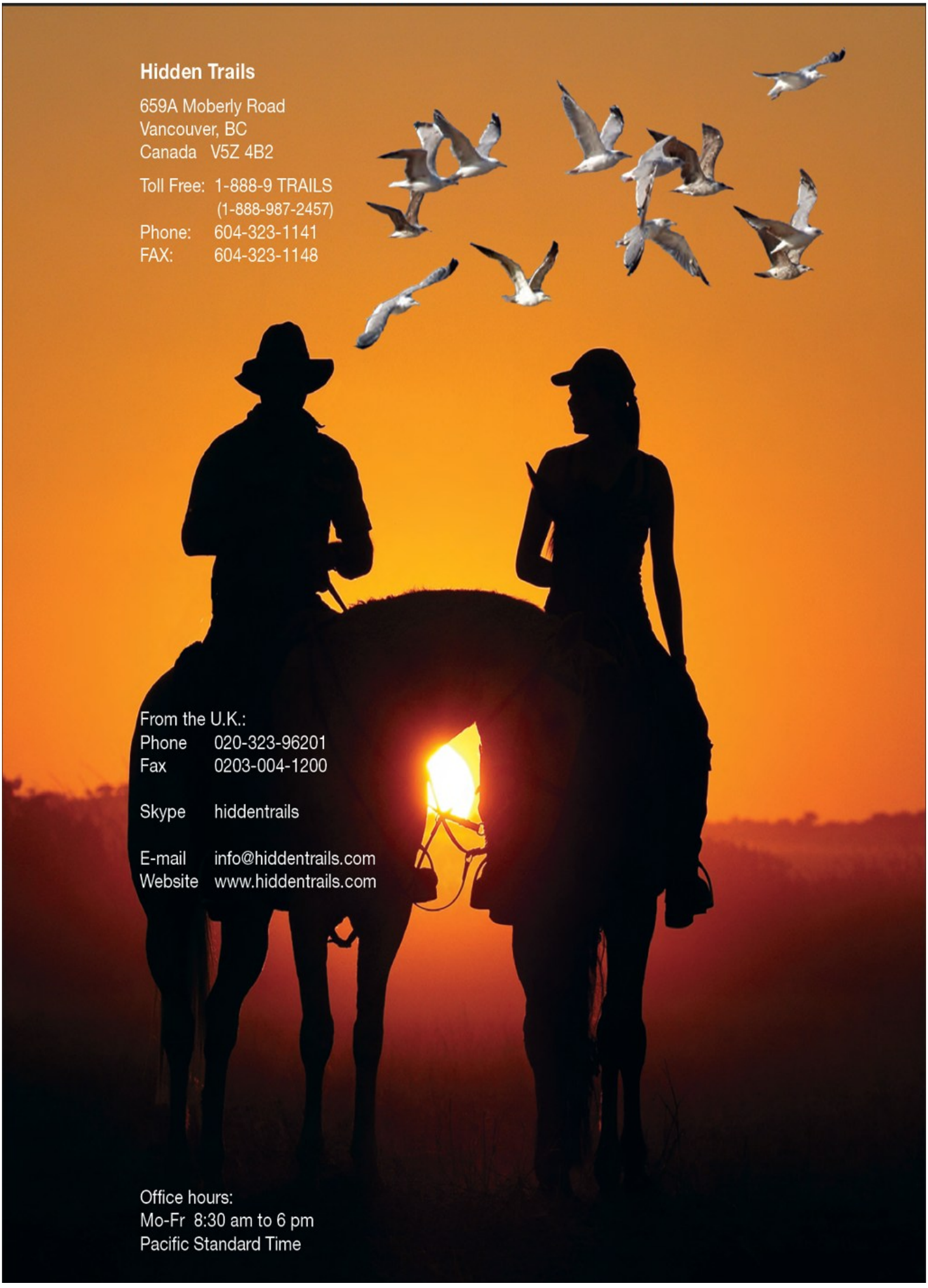
4. _____

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


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