

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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from within the USA or Canada or

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4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

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Skype: hiddentrails

Natural Hot Springs Adventure - USA, North America

Tour Code: RTC003

6 days / 5 nights ~\$2,575.00

Dates: July - Sept.

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : 🏠

Tack: Western

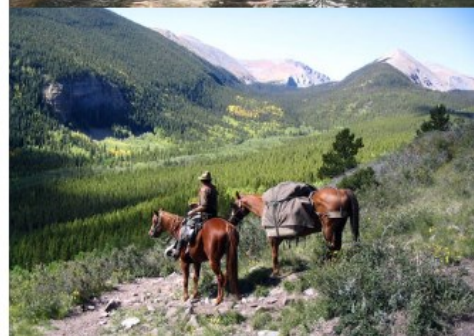
Horses: Appaloosa and Quarter

Pace: 5-6 hrs a day - Crosses a

13000 ft pas...

Walk/Trot,

Airport: Colorado Springs



Introduction

Colorado, USA

Crossing the backbone of the continent on seldom traveled trails through the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, we descend into the broad San Luis Valley to camp two relaxing nights at the historic Valley View Hot Springs. The trails are steep and challenging; the camps are remote and scenic. We may see any variety of wildlife, including hawks, eagles, elk, deer, and bear. Participants must have some familiarity with horses, and be in good health and physical condition. This is mainly a journey for experienced riders, though a confident beginner with some experience can enjoy the trip just fine.

The horses are sure-footed, no-nonsense and willing. We'll assign you your own horse and teach you how to saddle, picket and care for it. Mountain riding techniques are taught as we travel. We'll share our extensive knowledge of geology, plants, wildlife, and history of the area, as well as teach you minimal impact camping skills. Tasty camp meals are served around the campfire beneath a weatherproof kitchen canopy.

At the hot springs, we'll have camp tables, chairs, a wood-fired sauna, and a heated bathhouse. There are numerous hot soaking pools in a natural setting of wildflowers, birds and wandering deer. These are not well-visited pools and have been only minimally 'improved' from their natural state. Be prepared: like most western hot springs, many soak without clothes. Bathing suits are optional, to wear or not is your choice!

Accommodation

Accommodation

This is a progressive ride where nights are spent at different locations.

Description

The first night is spent at a hotel and the remaining 4 nights are spent camping.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Radisson Inn Colorado Springs Airport

Night 2-5: Camping

Radisson Inn Colorado Springs Airport

This hotel provides a free transfer service to the airport as well as free Wi-Fi and a hot breakfast buffet.

The rooms are modern and include a flat-screen TV, microwave, min-fridge and a private bathroom. You can also relax in the hot tub, sun terrace or indoor pool.

If you need an extra night in Colorado Springs on Day 6- please let Hidden Trails know and we will be happy to book this for you.

Camping

Guests stay in a dome tent (4-man tent). Clients should bring sleeping bags with a little foam pad. There are showers and toilets at the hot springs campground.

The wranglers cook and take care of the horses. If you want to help, you are more than welcome to.

We can supply: saddlebags, sleeping bags, ground mats, and duffel on request for additional fee. Please inquire at time of booking.

Room Occupancy

Single tents can be requested at no extra fee but a single supplement applies for the first night at a Colorado Springs hotel.

Meals

All meals are included (from breakfast on day 2 to lunch on last day) except in Colorado Springs. Meals on the first day are not included but we offer 20% off for dinner at the hotel's restaurant in Colorado Springs.

Dietary Restrictions

We have experience with and are happy to accommodate special dietary needs such as Kosher, vegetarian, and lactose-free. Just let us know when you make your reservations of your special needs.

Riding





Horses

The ranch owns 60 head of Appaloosa and Paint horses. The horses are sure-footed, no nonsense and willing. We will assign you your own horse and teach you how to saddle, picket and care for it.

Riding Experience

Our trip begins with hands-on instruction on saddling and care of your mount. At the same time, our program allows for diversity to accommodate and challenge the advanced rider as well. Our philosophy is simple; the more you know about your horse and equipment, the more you will enjoy your vacation.



Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to change

Please, note that due to factors beyond our control, we occasionally find it necessary to change the order or the route of these activities

Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival

Arrival in Colorado Springs and transfer (by shuttle) to your Hotel near the airport. Dinner is not included, but the hotel offers a 20% discount for our guests.

Overnight at Hotel in Colorado Springs

Day 2 (Monday): First ride

Early morning full hot breakfast at the hotel (starting at 6 AM). At 7:30 AM, our transfer will pick you up from the hotel lobby. We drive 2 hours to a trailhead on the eastern slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. As the pack string is carefully loaded with duffels and supplies, one of two colorful wrangler/guides picked for the adventure (our staff fight to go on this one) gives detailed instructions on riding, saddling and caring for your mount. Setting out around midday, we wind up through aspen groves, Gambel oak and lodge pole pine, up and into a long glaciated valley. The trail is almost lost as we work around downfall Engelmann spruce, fording the tumbling stream that gurgles down toward the Arkansas river and eventually the Mississippi. We stop to rebuild a section of trail that has slid away from a section of muddy down-sloping rock. A dark tassel-eared squirrel chatters indignantly as we pass. Higher up, a cow elk with ungainly calf in tow ambles across a meadow lush with purple larkspur and yellow composites. We set camp below a gigantic rock glacier just at timberline. The horses are picketed out. The tents are up in carefully selected flat areas well away from each other, and the small campfire is glowing cheerfully as we sip happy hour spirits while awaiting dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight camping

Day 3 (Tuesday): Ride to Hot Spring

The aroma of brewing coffee and the fluttering of Steller's jays signals the start of the day. After a leisurely breakfast, the packhorses are carefully packed with balanced loads. Staff competes to tie the best load. If perfectly packed, the load should not have to be touched until we unpack at the end of the day. Not much is worse than a load sliding off on the steep pass, creating a scene from a Charlie Russell painting! Leaving the last twisted spruce and bristlecone pine behind, our train winds up and over a wind sweep 12,500' pass. Awestruck, we silently stare at the immense vast grandeur of the San Luis Valley stretching beyond vision to the hills of Taos far to the south. Then, down, down winding switchbacks to lunch in an alpine meadow. A small herd of elk scramble indignantly down into the dense timber below. Leaving the forest behind, we ride out on a vast open prairie framed by towering peaks. We wait for the burst of orchestral music that Hollywood would surely furnish, but only the quiet whisper of the afternoon wind disturbs the solitude. Evening finds us soaking peacefully in a warm pool, favorite beverage in hand, as the orange-red globe of the Sun settles behind the western mountains. We camp among the aspen along a warm water stream, minutes from the pools.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Overnight camping at Valley View

Day 4 (Wednesday): Rest day (no riding)

Valley View is a private, minimally developed resort with limited public access. The Springs were considered sacred by the Mountain Ute who came to revitalize and give thanks after a successful buffalo hunt. Although quiet during the week, we share the resort with other members coming to soak in this magical spot. The day is set aside to soak, take saunas, to relax. Numerous natural pools offer a choice of soaking with others or finding a private small pool. You may decide to hike or explore the old Orient Iron mine nearby, returning in time for another sunset soak.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight camping at Valley View

Day 5 (Thursday): Ride to Horse Thief Basin

Breakfast, a last early morning dip, then back in the saddle again. Relaxed and stress-free we ride quietly up into the silent pine forest to make a late afternoon camp at the base of the great pass. Around the evening campfire, our wranglers share tales of the days when The Ute hunted these high valleys or when John Fremont's ill-fated expedition wintered here. A horse whinnies in the darkness, an owl hoots out a reply, the camp Winchester rests nearby as we drift off in restful sleep.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight camping at Horse Thief Basin

Day 6 (Friday): Ride back to Trailhead

Up early, we help break camp, catch the horses, pack loads. Now a seasoned, trained outfit, we are soon moving across the meadow and up the pass. Thunderclouds threaten, so we hasten along, stopping only to check chinchies and loads. Dropping easterly over the crest, we stay well above timberline to find the beginning of an old cow trail leading down past a series of blue green glacial lakes. Finding a better trail below, we hurry into the valley as the high ridges erupt in claps of rolling thunder and electric display. We are, too soon, back at the road and waiting transport to urban reality.

At the end of your trip you will be brought back to Colorado Springs sometime between 5:00 and 8:00 pm. We recommend making prior lodging reservations if you plan to spend the night. If you must fly out that evening, please do not schedule a flight before 8:30 pm, to make certain you can make your flight.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch

Other Info

Meeting: Colorado Springs

Airport: Colorado Springs

Transfer: Colorado Springs hotel 7:30 am on Day 2.

Distance: 6.5 km / 4 miles

Your trip will include the first night at the Radisson in Colorado Springs (free airport shuttle)

On Day 2, please be ready in the hotel lobby for 7:30 AM pick up and transfer to trailhead.

On Day 6, your return to Colorado Springs is in time for late evening flights (do not schedule a flight before 8:30PM). Or book an extra hotel night in Colorado Springs (not included).

Tack: Western

Horses: Appaloosa and Quarter

Pace: 5-6 hrs a day - Crosses a 13000 ft pass. Moderate with trots

Walk | Trot |

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2 to 3 out of 5) Novice

Age: Min 7

Weight: 250 lbs

Riders: Min 3 riders Max 8 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

If you prefer not to wear a riding helmet, you can sign a waiver form.

Rates and Dates 2024 - RTCO03

Rates include: Accommodations, Meals from breakfast on day 2 to lunch on last day, 4 riding days & Transfers
Saddle bags provided
Sleeping bags, ground mats, and duffel can be provided on request for additional fee (\$35US per item)

Packages and Options

Season	Description	~US\$
A 2024	6 day trip (high)	\$2575
	Extra night at hotel, single occ., per night, (incl. 10.2% tax)	\$230
	Single supplement for the first night at hotel	\$110
	Extra night at hotel, double occ., per night, (incl. 10.2% tax)	\$245
B 2024	6 day trip (low)	\$2540
	Single supplement for the first night at hotel	\$80
	Extra night at hotel, double occ., per night, (incl. 10.2% tax)	\$180
	Extra night at hotel, single occ., per night (incl. 10.2% tax)	\$170

Tax:\$ 3

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Transfer from Colorado Springs Airport is included by hotel	
2024	Sleeping bag and mat rental – please inquire	
2024	Small group supplement (1 or 2 pax only), pp	\$335

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	06/30/2024 - 07/05/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	07/07/2024 - 07/12/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	07/14/2024 - 07/19/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	07/21/2024 - 07/26/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	07/28/2024 - 08/02/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	08/04/2024 - 08/09/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	08/11/2024 - 08/16/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	08/18/2024 - 08/23/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
A 2024	08/25/2024 - 08/30/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (high)
B 2024	09/01/2024 - 09/06/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (low)
B 2024	09/08/2024 - 09/13/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (low)
B 2024	09/15/2024 - 09/20/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (low)
B 2024	09/22/2024 - 09/27/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (low)

Min/Max: 3/8

Rates do not include:Meals on first day (20% off for dinner at the hotel restaurant), Gratuities & Taxes



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"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<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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Hidden Trails

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