

Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

Outdoor Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

About Hidden Trails



Explore the World on & with Hidden Trails

Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love the outdoors and adventure activities. We have been involved with outdoor vacations for over 20 years. We have collected the best outdoor vacation destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These vacations are about forging rivers, biking along canals and through forests, hiking 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 the outdoors has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends.

These trips have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special outdoor 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.

Ryan Schmidt
Hidden Trails

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/outdoor

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE USA 19802

Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Tonga Islands Kayaking - resort based - Tonga, Oceania

Tour Code: ZZ-SKEC-20
7 days / 6 nights ~\$3,000.00
Dates: June to September

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

Tack: --
Horses: --
Pace: Whilst no experience is required for o...

Airport: Salote Pilolevu Airport



Introduction

South Pacific, Tonga

Resort-based Kayaking Adventure

The 7-day Tonga Islands Kayaking package is a great choice for non-campers and families as well that do not have 10 days to spend. Paddle the lee side of the Lifuka Archipelago to Serenity, an Eco-resort situated on picturesque Uoleva Island, renowned for its expansive white sandy beaches. Island walks, whale watching, snorkeling and a day paddle to offshore Luangahu Island feature in this resort based package.

Situated approximately halfway between Vava'u and Tongatapu, the Ha'apai Islands are everything you might imagine of a tropical island paradise.

On our Tonga sea kayaking expeditions we strive for a healthy balance between relaxation and adventure. We generally paddle in the mornings leaving the afternoons free for snorkeling amidst colorful coral and inside legendary marine caves; exploring lush tropical bush; and, observing the traditional village lifestyle. The pace of life in Vava'u is slow and relaxed - much like it was a century ago.

Accommodation

Accommodations

You will be spending 2 nights at Evaloni's Guest House or Lindsay Guesthouse and 4 nights at Serenity Beaches Resort or Sea Change Eco Retreat.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Evaloni's Guest House or Lindsay Guesthouse in Pangai (Ha'apai Island)

Night 2, 3, 4 & 5: Serenity Beaches Resort or Sea Change Eco Retreat on Uoleva Island

Night 6: Evaloni's Guest House or Lindsay Guesthouse in Pangai (Ha'apai Island)

Evaloni's Guest House - Pangai (Ha'apai Island)

The guesthouse is located in only a two minute walk from the center of Pangai and has 8 clean rooms (some ensuite and some with shared facilities) and 2 ensuite fales (Tongan for "house"). All rooms have mosquito nets, fans and power plugs. Single and double rooms are available at this property with the possibility to add one extra bed in each room, for bigger group or families. No wifi available. Cold water only.

Lindsay Guesthouse - Pangai (Ha'apai Island)

It is a place full of pleasant surprises and is a ten minute walk from the center. It has 12 quaint, clean rooms (8 with shared facilities and 4 with private facilities). All rooms (single, double and triple rooms available) have power plugs and mosquito nets and fans are available on request. The big sitting area and airy veranda create good relaxing spots. No wifi available. Cold water only.

Serenity Beaches Resort - Uoleva Island

This charming rustic eco resort offers 11 fales, each with an ocean view, porch, separate area with a queen-sized bed and ensuite bathroom. A hot solar shower bag is delivered between 4:00 and 5:00pm daily. Electricity is collected from the sun. Wifi is available free of charge

Sea Change Eco Retreat - Uoleva Island

The fales have been carefully designed and well-spaced to provide privacy while being only meters away from the beach. We offer two different types of fales:

- Our spacious safari tent fales are approximately 3.6 metres wide by 2.7 metres long and more than 2 meters tall. Each tent fale comes with a queen size bed as standard. Or two XL single size beds can be requested instead if available. They also include a private bathroom with instant hot water showers, basin/sink and a composting toilet - and solar lighting within the tent and bathroom.

- Our new large wooden fales have a very large interior living area of 4 by 6 metres, large wooden decks and private bathrooms with basins/sinks, toilets and showers. Bedding arrangements come with a queen size bed plus a king single which can be arranged for families with children.

Although we are located on a remote island, we offer wifi access (complimentary 100mb per day for guests staying here), and there is mobile/cellular access. However we encourage our guests to try and "unplug" as much as possible, and we are happy for you to say to others that you cannot be reached while on your holiday!

Single occupancy:

Tour package accommodation is based on double occupancy. A single supplement applies to those who prefer a private fale/room or who cannot be paired with another single participant.

Extra nights

If you plan to extend your stay in Tonga and/or need to overnight in Tongatapu, please advise us of your accommodation requirements in advance and we will be happy to book on your behalf.





Meals

All meals stated in itinerary are included and eaten at the accommodations. When, on an excursion, lunch is picnic-style.

Food is usually homegrown and you will get to try home-style dishes. Most of the food is sourced from local farmers and fisherman, and healthy meals are prepared from fresh, unprocessed ingredients.

Alcohol is not included but guests can purchase some at the hotel restaurant or bar.

The tap water in Tonga is treated well water with a high mineral content, giving it a metallic taste. While the tap water is potable, for people unaccustomed to the local water, it is advisable to drink rainwater. The drinking water at the resorts is fresh, clean water from collected rain stored in cement holding tanks. We have never encountered a problem on tour with water-borne diseases or infections.

Special Diets

The resorts can cater for a range of dietary requirements including vegetarian, vegan and gluten intolerance. Please let us know well in advance of the tour of your dietary needs.

Riding

FITNESS AND EXPERIENCE

Whilst no experience is required for our sea kayak tours, a moderate level of physical fitness and a sense of adventure are important. A typical day entails two to three hours of paddling interspersed with rest stops. The guides endeavor to balance the group by pairing slower paddlers with stronger, more experienced paddlers. However, the slower paddlers always dictate the pace. Base camps offer the luxury of paddling empty kayaks or a lay day for exploring and relaxing. Paddling into southeasterly trade winds of 12-18 knots requires extra effort and can make the distance we travel feel longer. Those who engage in regular exercise such as walking, cycling or swimming tend to derive more enjoyment from their adventure. Physical conditioning exercises and camping experience are recommended.

KAYAK GUIDES

A minimum of one Tongan professional guide accompanies all of our trips. Depending on the group size, there is an additional guide (guide: guest ratio = 1:6). The guides are responsible for making safety decisions, coordinating logistics and activities, preparing meals as well as interpreting the natural and cultural features of Vava'u. Our guides lend invaluable local knowledge and cultural flavour to the experience and also offer outdoor safety, first aid and risk management expertise.

SEA KAYAKING

The concept of sea kayaking is still new to many people, who may have visions of paddling in small unstable kayaks typically used on river trips. In contrast, we use stable, seaworthy double kayaks (Necky Tofino) especially suited to novices and the ocean environment. No previous kayaking experience is required, but a moderate level of fitness is necessary. Non-swimmers are welcome since everyone is required to wear a life vest. The issuing of single kayaks (Necky Arluk III, Quality Kayaks Southern Aurora and Puffin) is at the guides' discretion as this depends not only on the paddler's ability, but also on weather, sea conditions and group composition.

Your guides cover boat handling basics; paddling strokes; use of the foot controlled rudder; boat entries and exits; and rescue procedures in the protected warm waters of the Port of Refuge. They also cover trip safety and carry a cell phone and flares for emergency use. Sea kayaking is a very safe sport when conducted properly. The expedition always paddles as a group, but there is still ample opportunity for individuals to enjoy their personal space on land if so desired. Certain rules of sea kayaking must be agreed to and observed by all trip participants to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment. We discuss these rules and why they are necessary as well as contingency plans. We do everything reasonable to minimize the risks of this outdoor pursuit to ensure your safety and expect you to do the same.

WHALE WATCHING & SNORKELLING

From July to October Tonga's warm sheltered waters are annual breeding and calving grounds for the southern ocean humpback whale. Join our preferred whale watch operator for a fun, educational day on the water. Their knowledgeable guides provide interesting facts and anecdotes about these amazing mammals, once on the brink of extinction. Witness the whales' acrobatic aerial displays and, with the aid of a hydrophone, listen in on their mystical songs. You might also see spinner dolphins and seldom-sighted pilot whales. You will have the opportunity to snorkel in Vava'u's spectacular underwater world. Confident swimmers who elect to swim with the whales do so at the skipper's discretion and at their own risk. From November to June when the whales have returned to their Antarctic feeding grounds, join our preferred sailing operator for a relaxing day of sightseeing and snorkelling in the beautiful Vava'u Archipelago. Both excursions include snorkelling gear, wetsuits and lunch.

SCUBA DIVING

Experience diving at its best in warm clear waters where visibility is often up to 40 metres. The distinctive landscape of Vava'u creates a unique diving environment with dramatic drop-offs, caverns, and swimthroughs. Explore the myriads of reefs with colourful hard & soft coral, sea fans, abundant reef fish, sharks, manta rays, nudibranchs, crustaceans, pipefish and more. In winter you might even hear the humpback whale song! Time permitting, enjoy a swim or snorkel from a pristine outer island beach. Includes full equipment, snacks and water.

SAILING & SNORKELLING

Enjoy a relaxing day with our preferred operator sailing and exploring the myriads of reefs in warm crystal clear waters. In winter the average water temperature is 25 degrees Celsius and in summer up to 29 degrees. Snorkel directly from the vessel and/or from pristine beaches. A perfect way to discover the stunning Vava'u Archipelago and learn about the flora, sea birds, and marine life along the way. You might even see southern ocean humpback whales in season (July – October). Snorkelling gear, wetsuits and lunch included.

MEDICAL FORMS

Every trip participant must provide an accurately completed medical form. Participants aged 65 years and over must also provide a medical certificate.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Although your guides will be carrying a comprehensive first aid kit, all tour participants are encouraged to bring a basic personal first aid kit including the following items:

- Medication (pain relief, anti-inflammatory, mild anti-nausea drugs)
- Antiseptic swabs and cream
- Anti-histamine cream (for insect bites)
- Antibiotic cream or powder (powder is best in the humid tropics)
- Fabric plasters (more waterproof than plastic plasters)



- Lip sunscreen (SPF30+ or zinc)
- General sunscreen (water resistant, SPF15+)
- Insect repellent (DEET is the most effective)

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Personal travel insurance is not included in the trip cost and is a pre-requisite for trip participation. We recommend you purchase a policy that includes airfare, trip cancellation (in particular cancellation owing to severe weather), and medical coverage.

Itinerary

Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Note that the following itinerary is a sample only and is subject to alterations.

It is possible that route or itinerary changes and/or delays may become necessary for reasons of safety or enhancing the quality of the trip. These disruptions could be due to inclement weather, acts of God, delayed transport, political or cultural considerations, government restrictions, participants' limitations, or any other cause. If we are unable to paddle, we will endeavor to offer alternate activities (e.g. snorkeling, bush walks, land tours, village tours).

The trip participant shall be responsible for any additional expenses such as accommodation, meals, transport, prepaid airline tickets, fees for visas, etc. in connection with changes and/or delays to a route or itinerary.

If possible, ensure some degree of flexibility in your travel plans. A sense of adventure and tolerance for the unexpected are essential attributes when visiting developing nations such as Tonga where "Tonga Time" is synonymous with delays and waiting.

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 1: Arrival & Orientation

A driver awaits your arrival at Salote Pilolevu Airport on Lifuka Island and transfers you to your accommodation. Situated in the quaint township of Pangai, locally owned Evaloni's and Lindsay Guesthouses offer clean accommodations with a Tongan flavour. Shortly after check-in, your guide welcomes you and confirms the time (normally 4:00pm) and venue for this afternoon's 45-minute orientation talk. It is important that all participants attend this informative talk. Dinner this evening will be at either your guesthouse or at a local café.

Meals: D.

Accommodation: Evaloni's Guest House or Lindsay Guesthouse (subject to availability).

Day 2: Kayaking to Uoleva island

Transport departs early this morning (exact time is tide-dependent) from your accommodation property to our launching site near Pangai township. Here, the guides give a safety briefing before launching our kayaks. Today we paddle along the leeward shores of Lifuka and Uoleva Islands, skirting villages and beaches. Our base for the next 4 nights is Serenity Beaches Resort, a small island hideaway situated on a crescent white sand beach on the leeward shore of Uoleva Island. An eco-resort, Serenity features fresh rain water, solar and wind generated electricity, natural foods and private showers open to the stars. In the event that Serenity is fully booked, our accommodation will be Sea Change Eco Retreat featuring beachfront wooden fales and elevated luxury tents with decks, hammocks and private bathrooms.

Accommodation: Serenity Beaches Resort or Sea Change Eco Retreat (subject to availability).

Meals: B, L, D.

Destination: Uoleva Island.

Paddling Time: 3-4 hours.

Day 3: Kayaking to Luangahu Island

Weather permitting, we paddle offshore to Luangahu, a tiny uninhabited island visited only by local fishermen and nesting sea snakes! Whilst paddling, we may be fortunate to sight turtles, dolphins, and humpback whales, the latter of which migrate annually (July through October) to Tonga's warm sheltered waters to breed and calve. After a picnic lunch, we circumnavigate the island on foot observing makeshift fishermen's shelters and octopus drying trees. Those with sharp eyes may find remnants of whalebone in the sand dunes from Tonga's whaling days. After a refreshing swim and snorkel, we paddle back to our resort in time for happy hour.

Accommodation: Serenity Beaches Resort or Sea Change Eco Retreat (subject to availability).

Meals: B, L, D.

Destination: Luangahu Island.

Paddling Time: 2-3 hours.

Day 4: Whale Watching (July to October) or Snorkeling (November to June)

At 10:00 this morning we depart for a day of whale watching (July-October) and or snorkeling (November-June). A team of whale educators discusses humpback whale migration, mating, surface activity and song. From July through October we can observe the impressive acrobatic displays of these magnificent mammals who migrate from Antarctica annually to breed, give birth and nurse their new-born calves in Tonga's sheltered, warm waters. Outside the whale watch season, enjoy a day of snorkeling, picnicking and sightseeing in the beautiful Lifuka Archipelago.

Accommodation: Serenity Beaches Resort or Sea Change Eco Retreat (subject to availability).

Meals: B, L, D.

Destination: Lifuka Archipelago.

Excursion Time: 5-6 hours.

Day 5: Lay Day

Today, Sunday, is by Tongan law a day of rest and worship. Tour operators are not permitted to conduct guided physical activities anywhere within the Kingdom on a Sunday. Take advantage of today's more relaxed pace and explore Uoleva Island. In the cool hours of the morning we stretch our legs with a stroll through low-lying bush to the windward side of Uoleva Island. Following lunch back at the resort, a short walk to the southern tip of Uoleva takes us to a reef drop-off at the edge of Auhangamea channel. Confident swimmers may drift snorkel along a spectacular coral wall. There are also lovely pockets of coral and reef fish closer to shore. Reading, eating and socializing are also pleasant diversions on this enforced lay day.

Accommodation: Serenity Beaches Resort or Sea Change Eco Retreat (subject to availability).

Meals: B, L, D.

Destination: Uoleva Island.

Day 6: Kayaking to Lifuka island

On our final day of paddling, we paddle north along the leeward shores of Uoleva and Lifuka Islands back to Pangai township where we started our journey 5 days ago. From the kayaks we observe traditional village life including fish nets and traps; pandanus leaves soaking in the sea to soften and bleach in preparation for weaving mats; and colourful commuter boats piled high with baskets of market produce and cheerful locals. From Pangai, we transfer by taxi back to your accommodation and, later on, enjoy a sumptuous farewell dinner!

Accommodation: Evaloni's Guest House or Lindsay Guesthouse (subject to availability).

Meals: B, L, D.

Destination: Lifuka Island.

Paddling Time: 3-4 hours.

Day 7: Departure

The trip concludes today with transfers to Salote Pilolevu Airport.

The trip concludes today with transfers to Salote Pilolevu Airport.
Meals: B.

Other Info

Meeting: Salote Pilolevu Airport

Airport: Salote Pilolevu Airport

Train station: --

Transfer: Salote Pilolevu Airport

Transfers from/to Salote Pilolevu (Ha'apai) included

Tack: --

Horses: --

Pace: Whilst no experience is required for our sea kayak tours, a moderate level of physical fitness and a sense of adventure are important.

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2 to 2 out of 5) Easy to Moderate

Age: Max 65

Riders: Min 4 riders Max 16 riders

Rates and Dates 2024 - ZZ-SKEC-20

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Transfers from/to Salote Pilolevu airport, 45-minute orientation talk, Kayaks and accessories, 3 days kayaking with professional guide (guide to guest ratio is 1:6) & 1 day whale-watching (July-Oct) or snorkeling (Nov-June)

Packages and Options

Season	Description	NZ\$	~US\$
A 2024	7-day eco-resort kayaking	\$4995	\$3000

The US Dollar Rate is based on a NZ\$ Exchange Rate of 0.6 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

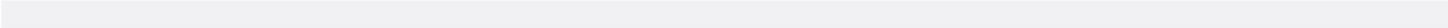
2024	Transfer from/to Salote Pilolevu (Ha'apai) included
2024	Single supplement- please inquire

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	06/26/2024 - 07/02/2024	7 d / 6n	7-day eco-resort kayaking
A 2024	07/31/2024 - 08/06/2024	7 d / 6n	7-day eco-resort kayaking
A 2024	09/11/2024 - 09/17/2024	7 d / 6n	7-day eco-resort kayaking

Min/Max: 4/16

Rates do not include:Beverages with exception of complimentary farewell drink, Expenses incurred as a result of delays due to inclement weather, delays of scheduled aircraft, logistical delays, and resultant changes to the itinerary, Gratuities, Personal travel insurance (mandatory), Airport taxes & Excess baggage fees.



Reservation Form

Hidden Trails Outdoor 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**	Allergies	Medical Con.	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor	Fitness Level	Need to rent equipment
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"/>		
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"/>		
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"/>		
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"/>		

* If more than 200 lbs we need to reconfirm with our partners first

** Details on dietary needs on separate sheet, please.

Special Diets: _____

How often do you exercise? _____ Describe your experience: _____

Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? _____ Trip: _____

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 8 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) _____

Street _____ e-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone (wk) _____ (hm) _____ Fax _____

Date _____ Signature (mandatory) 1. _____

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before starting 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. _____

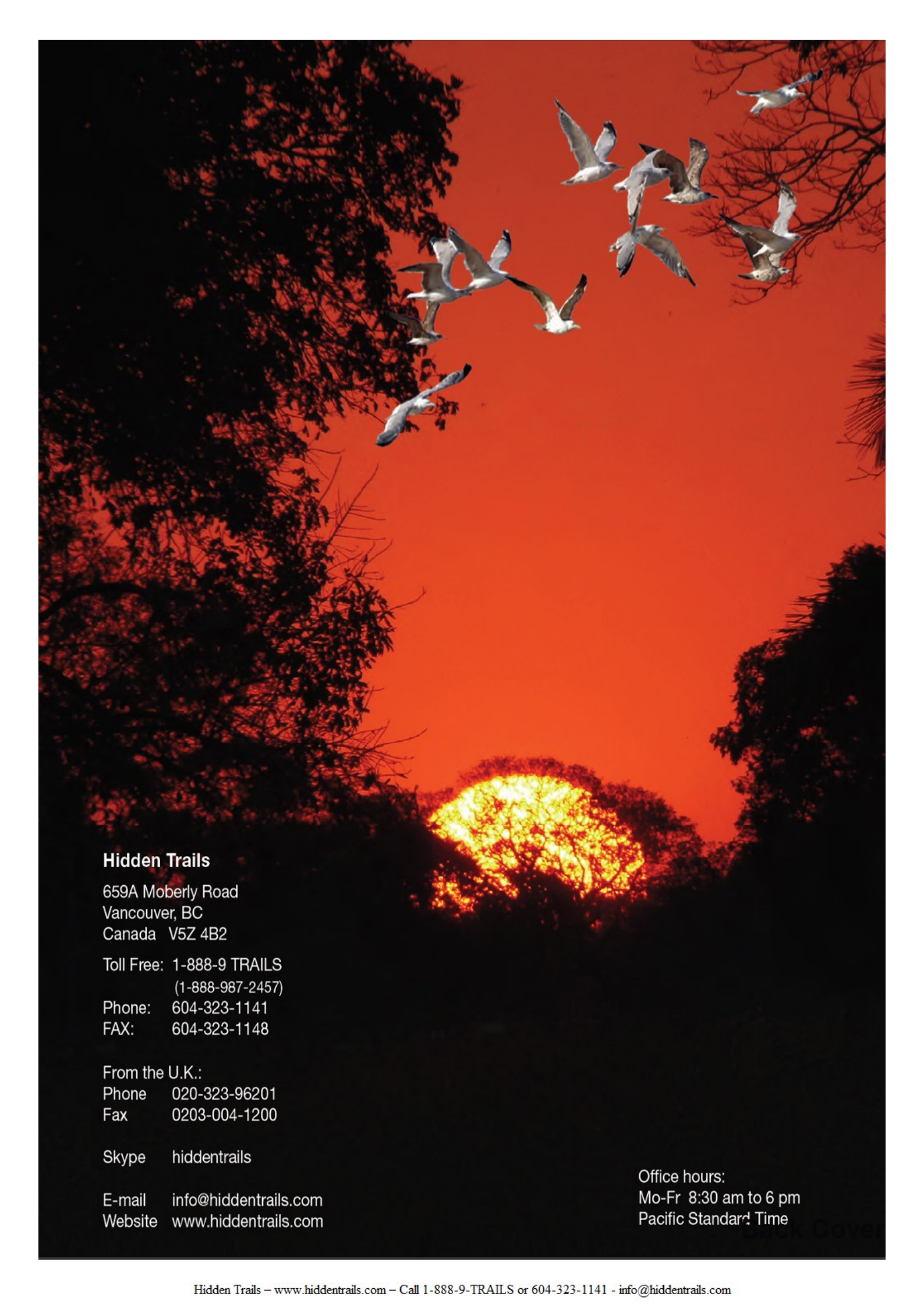
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial _____

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Rd. 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