

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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Land of the Thracians - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT03

8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,960.00

Dates: Apr-Oct

Trip Rating: ●●●●●

Difficulty: ●●●●●

Lodging: ●●●●●

Tack: Western and English
Endurance saddle ~...

Horses: Shagya Arabs, East-
Bulgarian breed, An...

Pace: 4 to 6 riding hours per day.

Approx. 4...

Walk, Trot, Canter,

Airport: Sofia airport



Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria

This trail ride goes through the Bulgarian Rose Valley and Sredna Gora Mountain - the land of the Thracians, the mineral sources, the roses and lavender. It offers the perfect combination of gallops through boundless meadows and riding among the breathtaking Sredna Gora Mountain.

The main goal of this carefully designed holiday is to give great pleasure to your body, senses and mind. This trail ride offers you an extraordinary combination of the physical loading of the riding with the strengthening SPA treatments and the refreshing massages. During the holiday you will enjoy the delicious food, prepared from wholesome local produce and sample famous Bulgarian wines. You will also discover part of the archaeological, historical and architectural landmarks of Bulgaria.

Accommodation

Accommodations

This is a progressive ride so nights will be spent in different locations. You will be staying in 5 different accommodations total.

Description

All nights are spent in high quality hotels or in guesthouses in double rooms with private washroom and shower. TVs, cleaning services, and WIFI is available at all locations.

Swimming pools and sauna are available at most of the overnight accommodations.

Laundry is not available while on the trip.

Accommodation Itinerary 2023 - subject to changes based on availability

Nights 1 & 7: SPA Hotel Hello in Hisarya

Night 2: SPA Hotel Aqua Termi in Krassnovo

Nights 3 & 4: Hotel "Eagle Rock" in Koprivshtitsa

Night 5: SPA Resort in Strelcha

Night 6: Winery & Spa complex in Starosel

Accommodation Itinerary 2024 - subject to changes based on availability

Nights 1 & 7: SPA Hotel Hello in Hisarya

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Nights 3: Hotel "Eagle Rock" in Koprivshtitsa

Night 4 & 5: SPA Resort in Strelcha

Night 6: Winery & Spa complex in Starosel



SPA Hotel Hello in Hisarya

This small hotel offers comfortable rooms with a modern décor. All rooms come equipped with air conditioning, a TV, free Wi-Fi and a private bathroom. The hotel also has a garden with an outdoor seasonal swimming pool.





SPA Hotel Aqua Termi in Krassnovo

This hotel is located on the outskirts of Krassnovo and features simple and comfortable rooms equipped with all the necessities: TV, Wi-Fi internet, air conditioning and private bathroom. The hotel has a large variety of mineral pools (both indoor and outdoor) and beautiful gardens filled with flowers.



Hotel "Eagle Rock" in Koprivshtitsa

This property features an original building located a few miles away from Koprivshtitsa. This hotel offers simple and comfortable rooms with Wi-Fi access, a TV and a private bathroom. There is also a garden from which you can admire the beautiful scenery around you.



SPA Resort in Strelcha

This small hotel offers simple accommodations in the heart of Strelcha. All rooms are fitted with a Wi-Fi access, a TV and a private bathroom. There is also a small garden with a terrace and a small swimming pool.



Winery & Spa complex in Starosel

This beautiful complex features spacious and modern rooms with elements that reminds guest of the surrounding nature such as wood. Each room has a TV and a private bathroom with hairdryer. Wi-Fi is available in common areas. Amenities include an outdoor swimming pool and a Spa equipped with a hot tub, sauna and Jacuzzi.

Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory if we are unable to find another rider to share.





Meals

All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.
The food featured on this trip is a mix of international and traditional Bulgarian cuisine.

The hotels and guesthouses provide breakfast and dinner, offering delicious traditional dishes made with fruits and vegetables from local farms.
The midday meals are in the open-air and consist of warm homemade food, beer, cold and warm up drinks.

Wine and beer are included with meals, but no hard liquor.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.



Riding



Pace

Varying from walk on the steeper slopes to a faster pace on the open spaces, which are great for long canters. Usually we do about 40% Walking, 30% Trotting and 30% Cantering. This proportion could be changed according to the requirements and the abilities of the riders. The program includes 6 riding days with 4-6 hours per day in the saddle. We cover about 140 km in total.
You should be a strong and confident rider, capable of all paces and fit enough for long canters through rough terrain.

Horses

We have Shagya and purebred Arabs, East-Bulgarian breeds, and cross-bred horses with Akhal-Teke blood - all well trained and calm. The height of the horses is from 150 to 165 cm.

Riding Terrain

Sredna Gora is one of the smoothest mountains for riding in Bulgaria. It has no steep climbs or descents and a level ridge great for canters. It also offers an amazing 360-degrees view of all the highest mountains – Rila, Pirin, Rhodope and Balkan mountains. This trail goes on for 3 days into the mountain and 3 days into the valley, so you will get to explore the deep, century-old beech forests and to marvel at the breathtaking sights of the mountain. Lovely canters between rose gardens and free herds of cows in the valley complete the experience.

Guides

We always have 2 guides per group: one to lead and the other to support the group with a jeep and all of the luggage. The riding guides are experienced and professional and know all the horses and routes well. They have a sound knowledge and awareness of safety, of looking after horses and guests out on a ride. The guides speak English, German or French fluently.

Non-Riders

All the accompanying non-riders will have the possibility to participate in all the non-riding activities of this program: SPA treatments, swimming, wine tasting, visit to the ancient Roman town Diocetianopolis, visit to the Thracian complex in Kazanluk and sightseeing.

Itinerary



Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival

Pick up from Sofia Airport and transfer to the famous SPA Resort –the town of Hissar, located 180 km South-east from the capital.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at SPA Hotel Hello in Hissar

***Highlights:** Hissar health resort is situated almost in the centre of Bulgaria, on the southern slopes of Sredna Gora Mountain, 336 m above sea level.

The first settlers of the small valley, where the town is situated were Thracians from the Bessi tribe. Eventually, the area was reached by Macedonians, but it was not until Roman times when Hissar developed into a large town and resort, called Dioclecianopolis, after the Roman emperor Dioclecian /284 - 305 AD/. The town was built according to all requirements of Roman town planning - with wide, straight streets, decorated with statues of gods and goddesses, with marble baths, beautiful palaces and villas for Roman aristocracy. To protect the town from enemy invasions, it was surrounded with a wall raised by the skillful hands of Thracian master-builders.

Day 2 (Sunday): Hissar to Krasnovo

Breakfast in the hotel. After saddling the horses and preparing for the ride, we start our ride among beautiful nature around the village of Starosel. Picnic in a wooden shelter in the middle of the forest, close to Matenitsa village. In the afternoon you will ride to the village of Krasnovo, famous with its mineral baths, situated on the southern slopes of Sredna Gora Mountain next to a big dam. Before dinner you will have aquatic relaxation procedures and massages and swim in the mineral water pool.

Riding: About 26 km (4.5 hours)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at SPA Hotel Agua Termi

Day 3 (Monday): Krasnovo to Koprivshtitsa

Breakfast at the guest house. We start our ride from Krasnovo village through the rose garden, before going uphill into the heart of the mountain. We have lunch in the beautiful Hut Buntovna at 1180 m altitude, located in an old beech forests with amazing view.

In the afternoon, we will ride through the deep beech forest and the beautiful open tops of the mountain. In the evening, we reach the town of Koprivshtitsa.

Riding: About 35 km (6 hours)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel "Eagle Rock"

Day 4 (Tuesday): Ride to Sredna gora

After breakfast, we ride through an untouched forest to the Spa Resort Strelcha and reach the very top of the beautiful peak "Wolf" - 1240m, with an amazing panoramic view of the Upper Thracian Plain and the surrounding mountains.

We stop for picnic under a cosy wooden shelter just a few kilometers down the "Wolf" peak.

Overnight in hotel "Sredna gora" with a hot mineral pool, sauna and massage centre. Before dinner you will have time to relax with a massage.

Riding: About 25 km (4.5 hours)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel in Sredna gora

Day 5 (Wednesday): Strelcha Ride

Breakfast at the hotel. Then, you go on a 2.5 -hour ride in the beautiful area of Strelcha. You will stop for lunch at a restaurant, followed by a guided tour to the Historical Museum in the town of Panagyurishte. The museum complex includes the vault hall of Panagyurishte's treasure, the Historical Exposition dedicated to the April Uprising, the Dudekova House, the Jounova House, the Sinia Hadzidimitrova House, the Byala Hadzidimitrova House, the House of Raina Knyaginya, the Tuteva House, the Lekova House, the Drinova House.

After the visit, enjoy some free time for shopping and exploring the charming galleries, craftsman shops and coffee retreats.

Dinner and night at the hotel.

Riding: About 12 km (2 hours)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel in Sredna gora

***Highlights:** The museum serves the Apriltsi Memorial Complex, dedicated to the participants in the April Uprising of 1876 and the historical site "Oborishte". The Panagyurishte treasure is by far the richest and most brilliant gold hoard yet discovered which was unearthed by accident by three brothers – Pavel, Petko and Michael Deykovs in 1949, during clay digging near the town of Panagyurishte. The Panagyurishte gold has been dated to the 4th century BC.

Day 6 (Thursday): Strelcha to Starosel

Breakfast in the hotel. You will ride through the rose fields, nice vineyards, and along sandy lakes. Picnic in a garden, next to the village of Krustevich. You will be accommodated at the beautiful Vinery Spa complex in Starosel. A copy of the Starosel Thracian Temple is made in the cellar of the complex. When you stand in its centre your voice sounds like coming from the Cosmos, but only you can hear it. This is a part of the Thracian mysteries.

Before dinner, you can enjoy the spa or go on a wine tour.

Riding: About 28 km (5 hours)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Winery & SPA complex

***Highlights:** Wine tasting with 5 wines and special food for each of them - 20 EUR per person.

Day 7 (Friday): Starosel to Hisaraya

After breakfast, you will visit the Thracian complex in Starosel. It was only discovered in 2000 by the archaeological expedition of Dr. George Kitov. It is the largest preserved Thracian complex with a temple-mausoleum in Southeast Europe. The temple dates back to the 5th century BC. You will learn about the mysterious Thracians and their amazing cultural heritage and historic significance.

Later on, you will enjoy beautiful long gallops among the meadows, and ride by one of the biggest lakes of the area (Pyasachnik) with a panoramic view of the mountain.

Picnic lunch in the meadows near village Panicheri.

In the afternoon, we ride across the forest, meadows and along lakes, making our way back to Hisaraya.

Accommodation in a SPA hotel with mineral swimming pool and sauna. In the evening enjoy a Farewell dinner.

Riding: About 25 km (4 hours)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at SPA Hotel Hello in Hissar

***Highlights:** The Thracian cult complex in Starosel.

The suppositions are that the temple is from the time of the Thracian King Sitalk, even his own. The rich findings in the stone-built tomb date from the end of the fifth and the beginning of the fourth century BC. A main staircase with monumental corridor, ritual landing and two chambers, leads to the temple. The entrance is outlined with slabs with plastic and colour decoration. The inside area is a round, domed chamber with semi-columns and colour ornaments, where the initiated established connection with gods.

It is surrounded by a 263 yard long wall made out of some 4000 stone blocks and was hidden under a 20 m high mound of earth.

Day 8 (Saturday): Departure

After breakfast transfer to Sofia.

Meals included: Breakfast

Other Info

Meeting: Sofia airport

Airport: Sofia airport

Transfer: Included from Sofia airport

Distance: 190 km

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is included from Sofia Airport (SOF) at set times. Pick-up time on Day 1 is available between noon and 4:00pm. Drop-off on the last day is between 11:00am and 3:00pm.

Tack: Western and English Endurance saddle - Othoflex, Podium and other various good quality saddles.

Horses: Shagya Arabs, East-Bulgarian breed, Anglo-Arabs and other warm blood horses

Pace: 4 to 6 riding hours per day. Approx. 40% Walk, 30% Trot, 30% Canter. This can be changed according to the requirements and the abilities of the riders.

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level:     (3 to 4 out of 5) Intermediate

Age: Min 12 Max 75

Weight: 209 lbs

Riders: Min 4 riders Max 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

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Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-BGRT03

Rates include: Accommodations, All your meals and beverages, 6 riding days with English speaking guide, 1 massage, Support vehicle with mobile phone connection & Transfer from/to Sofia airport included at set time
Guides can speak English, German or French

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip, 6 riding days	€1780	\$1960

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

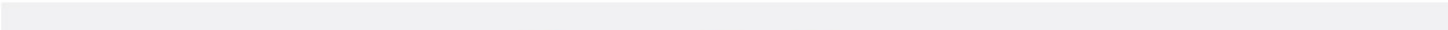
2024	Transfer from Sofia airport included at set time		
2024	Private transfer from Sofia, pp	€260	\$285
2024	Single supplement	€200	\$220
2024	Wine tasting, pp	€30	\$35

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	04/06/2024 - 04/13/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	04/20/2024 - 04/27/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days

Min/Max: 4/10

Rates do not include:Private transfers from/to Sofia, Hard alcoholic beverages, Wine tasting (20 euros), Personal travel insurance (mandatory) & Gratuities



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 Interm.	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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