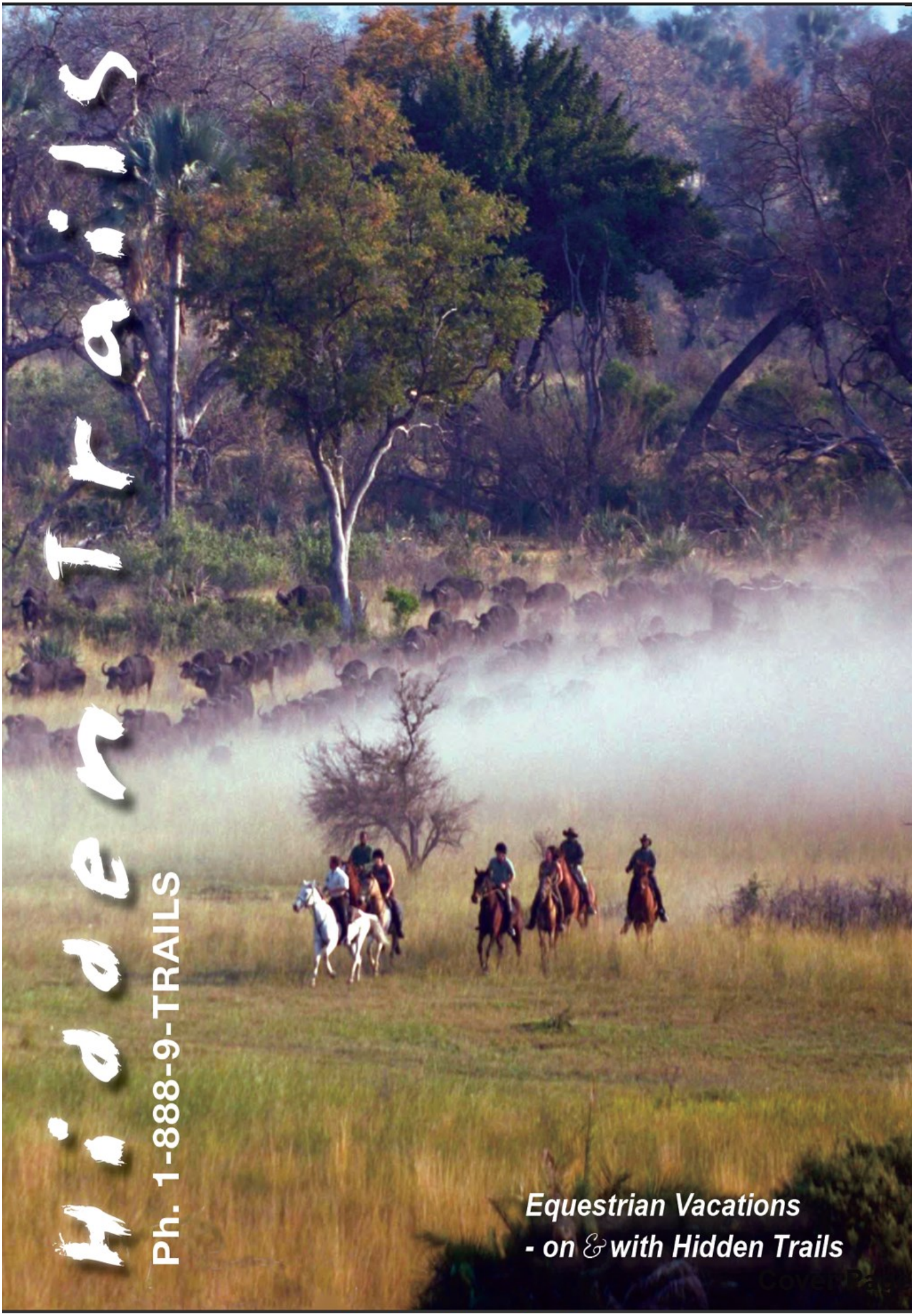
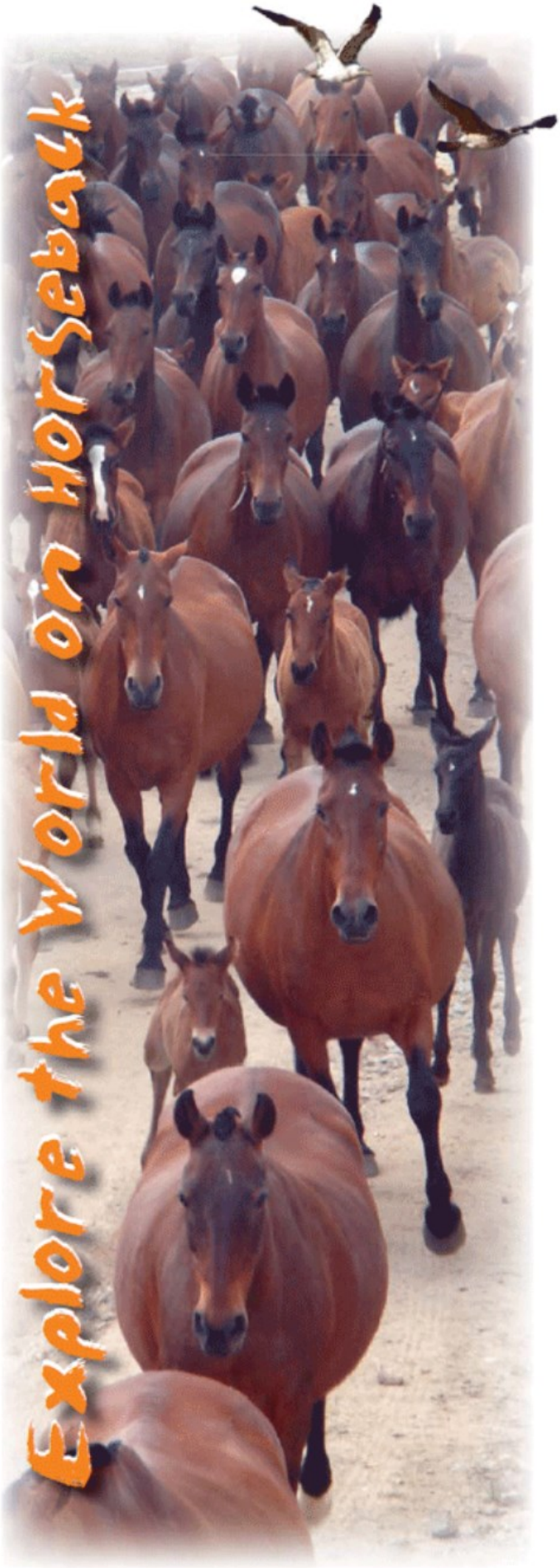

Hidden Trails
Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS
Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails

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
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

Green Azores Island Rambler - Portugal, Europe

Tour Code: IT-PGSRAZ
8 days / 7 nights ~$2,255.00
Dates: Available all Year

Trip Rating :
Difficulty :
Lodging:

Tack: English
Horses: Lusitano, Lusitano/Arab cross
Pace: At all paced according to riding level...

Airport: Ponta Delgda (PDL) - Joao Paulo II, Azores

Introduction

Azores, Portugal
Welcome to the Azores, a collection of nine green and volcanic islands in the middle of the Atlantic with a wonderful climate that creates a paradise for orchid lovers (especially on the island of Flores). The Azores are also one of the best places in the world to see whales and dolphins and among the most sighted species are the sperm whale, the fin whale, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin and Atlantic spotted dolphin. Your horseback adventure with Hidden Trails will be a discovery of the Isle of São Miguel, which has an extensive network of secluded tracks that are perfect for exploring by horseback. These paths have been built throughout the centuries throughout the countryside and most are still used by rural farmers going about their daily routines. Your base for this wonderful riding holiday is at a rural Quinta (farm) on the south of the island not far from the main town of Ponta Delgada, home to some beautiful examples of Portuguese architecture dating back to the 17th Century. There are five lovely guest rooms, each with en suite facilities as well as a comfortable dining room and lounge.

The riding week offers a collection of half and full day rides combined with interesting sightseeing trips into towns, craters and hot springs. Experience a different experience and new scenery each and every day. On some days horses and riders are transported to different trail heads, providing for riders the most variety of trails possible, different landscapes and riding paces. These unique variations can make it seem almost as if someone has taken small parts from the five continents, blended them all together and tossed it into the ocean to create exotic Sao Miguel. Some people even say this island of the Azores is the sunken Atlantis.

Accomodation

Accommodation
This is a stationary ride where all nights are spent at the same location.

Description
The historic house of the Quinta (farm) is one of the oldest homes on the island and dates from the 17th Century. There are 5 lovely guest rooms, each with en-suite facilities as well as a comfortable dining room and lounge.
Each guest room has been individually furnished and decorated to give our guests a feeling of being at home - all with private bathrooms (with hair dryer), accessories and cable TV. Each bed has 2 single duvets- so you do not have to fight over the duvet at night.
Wi-Fi is available at the Quinta.

If you want to stay in a fancy hotel room which could be in any hotel anywhere in the world, this is not the place for you. It is a special place, where Claude and Christina will make your stay personalized and unforgettable.

Meals
All meals are included in your trip.

The food is a real highlight of the holiday. Christina's home cooked food is delicious! As much as possible local ingredients are used. We try to serve Azorean-style food whenever possible.
An array of seasonal fruit and vegetables will appear in all the wonderful breakfasts, lunches and dinners consisting of local produce, allowing you to experience the different flavors from the Azores.

The breakfast is a delight every morning and there is a big selection of fresh fruit, usually pineapple and a minimum of 3 varieties of melon, kiwi, pomegranate etc. There is also a selection of breads and jams and meat and cheese, every taste catered for and all fresh.
Each evening meal includes 3 different courses. Christina will take into account guest preferences and dietary requirements. Soup to start, different every night, followed by, for example, fresh tuna or chicken in a creamy herby sauce, concluded with the best chocolate mousse.

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

Riding

For private groups the riding level can be adjusted. Riding lessons are available on request.

Riding Experience
You should be a competent rider in control of your horse at walk, trot and canter across sometimes rugged and/or steep terrain. There are areas where you may have to dismount and lead your horse.
Please, note that riding on the beaches is not allowed in the Azores.

Horses
The riding center has some 49 much loved horses. They are all well-schooled and a pleasure to ride, whether in the arena or out on the trail.

Non-Riding Activities
Golf, Tennis , Water sports (Windsurfing, Sailing, Snorkeling, Diving, Deep Sea Fishing), Whale and Dolphin watching, Jeep Safaris& Walking Tours.

Itinerary

Sample Itinerary: Green Azores Rambler - *subject to changes*

Please note this is just a suggested itinerary and is subject to changes ... some of the order of rides may vary.

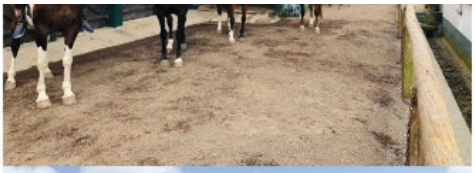
Day 1: Arrival
Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center.
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 2: Introductory Ride & Visit of Ponta Delgada
After breakfast we enjoy a one hour riding lesson in the Picadeiro to get used to our new mounts. We enjoy lunch before heading off for our half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. After lunch we all go an visit Ponta Delgada, the main city of Sao Miguel.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 3: Livramento to Calhetas
After breakfast we get ready for a full day ride across Sao Miguel island. We start in Livramento and end on the north coast in the village of Calhetas. During the day we will enjoy everything from lush green valleys, admire splendid sea views look at green pastures and ride through villages. Our lunch picnic is out in nature.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 4: Pico do Fogo Ride & Gorreana tea plantation visit
The half-day ride goes through the village and takes us up to Pico do Fogo, a mountain surrounded with what almost seems to be a tropical forest. We enjoy lunch. Afterwards, we do a half day excursion by car to Gorreana tea plantation. In the fantastic crater of Furnas, we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 32 - 37 degrees.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 5: Relva to Varzea
Today we have an early breakfast to get ready for another full day ride along the south coast to the village of Varzea. We will admire spectacular nature and beautiful views across the ocean. Lunch is served at a restaurant



in the village of Feteiras.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 6: Half-Day Ride
After breakfast, we will have a half day of leisure (maybe shopping, going to the beach, or visit the whale and dolphin safari for 55 Euro per person). We have lunch and then head for a half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with a magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride
Today will be an unforgettable day, this is like riding in a fairytale. The full day ride takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and Blue lakes. Picnic on the grass shore of the Green lake.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 8: Departure
Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport.
Meals included: Breakfast

Sample Itinerary for 2022: Green Azores Rambler - *subject to changes*

Due to extreme rainfall, the following changes have been implemented for this year.

Day 1: Arrival
Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center.
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 2: Introductory Ride & Visit of Ponta Delgada
After breakfast we enjoy a one hour riding lesson in the Picadeiro to get used to our new mounts. We enjoy lunch before heading off for our half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. After lunch we all go an visit Ponta Delgada, the main city of Sao Miguel.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 3: Livramento to Calhetas
After breakfast we get ready for a full day ride across Sao Miguel island. We start in Livramento and end on the north coast in the village of Calhetas. During the day we will enjoy everything from lush green valleys, admire splendid sea views look at green pastures and ride through villages. Our lunch picnic is out in nature.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

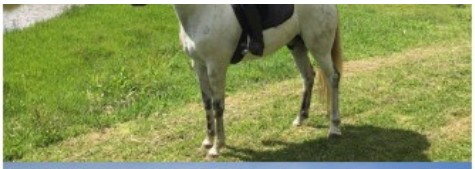
Day 4: Pico do Fogo Ride & Gorreana tea plantation visit
The half-day ride goes through the village and takes us up to Pico do Fogo, a mountain surrounded with what almost seems to be a tropical forest. We enjoy lunch. Afterwards, we do a half day excursion by car to Gorreana tea plantation. In the fantastic crater of Furnas, we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 32 - 37 degrees.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 5: Remedios & Cabuco Ride
We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of S. Miguel.
Later on, our itineraryleads up and down winding roads with several nice opportunities for canter.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 6: Half-Day Ride
After breakfast, we will have a half day of leisure (maybe shopping, going to the beach, or visit the whale and dolphin safari for 55 Euro per person). We have lunch and then head for a half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with a magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride
Today will be an unforgettable day, this is like riding in a fairytale. The full day ride takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and Blue lakes. Picnic on the grass shore of the Green lake.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 8: Departure
Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport.
Meals included: Breakfast



Sample Itinerary: The Micaelense Ride - *subject to changes*

This program is suited for novice riders. However, please note that the program includes long trots and some canters.

Please note this is just a suggested itinerary and is subject to changes ... some of the order of rides may vary.

Day 1: Arrival
Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center. Enjoy a delicious dinner and solid night's rest
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 2: Livramento Ride
After breakfast we get to meet our horses and get to know one another during a 1-hour riding lesson to get to know our horses and then break for lunch. The ride this afternoon takes us through the village and along fantastic stone walls, which are easily looked over from horseback. Passing pastures with milking cows up to what almost seems to be a rainforest "jungle".
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 3: Lagoa do Fogo Ride
Today we take a half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. Afternoon at leisure (or maybe a whale & dolphin safari extra cost 55 euro/person)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 4: Pico do Refúgio Ride
Half day ride exploring the beautiful north cost. Valleys covered with exuberant vegetation, charming villages and panoramic sea views. After lunch, half day excursion by car to the fantastic crater of Furnas we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 34 - 37 degrees. Drink sparkling mineral water directly from the spring and more.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 5: Pico da Multa Ride & Ponta Delgada Visit
Today a ride that offers a bit of everything including fun canters. We start the ride close to the ocean, then up and over the hill Pico da Multa, continuing through the village of Gramas and we finish close to Ribeira Grande. After lunch, we visit to Ponta Delgada to do some shopping.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 6: Sightseeing & Half-Day Ride
We leave by car to visit one of the most spectacular places on the island. Lagoa do Fogo (Firelake) and Caldeira Velha, a warm natural swimming pool with a beautiful waterfall. At the top of the mountain we look down in the crater of an extinct volcano to see the enormous lake. Next stop is Caldeira Velha where the warm water river joins into a waterfall, forming a pool in a steaming geyser under the leafy forest of tree ferns. Time for a nice bath. After lunch, we spend a charming half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride
An unforgettable day, it is like riding in a fairytale landscape. The ride in Sete Cidades (twin lakes) takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and the Blue lakes.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 8: Departure
Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport.
Meals included: Breakfast

Sample Itinerary for 2022: The Micaelense Ride - *subject to changes*

Due to extreme rainfall, the following changes have been implemented for this year.

Day 1: Arrival
Transfer from the airport to the lodge and riding center. Enjoy a delicious dinner and solid night's rest
Meals included: Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 2: Livramento Ride
After breakfast we get to meet our horses and get to know one another during a 1-hour riding lesson to get to know our horses and then break for lunch. The ride this afternoon takes us through the village and along fantastic stone walls, which are easily looked over from horseback. Passing pastures with milking cows up to what almost seems to be a rainforest "jungle".
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 3: Lagoa do Fogo Ride
Today we take a half day ride on the south side of Lagoa do Fogo. We ride on small roads and over pastures. A large part of the ride is on fields with milking cows. From the green pastures we have nice views over the middle parts of Sao Miguel. Afternoon at leisure (or maybe a whale & dolphin safari extra cost 55 euro/person)
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 4: Pico do Refúgio Ride
Half day ride exploring the beautiful north cost. Valleys covered with exuberant vegetation, charming villages and panoramic sea views. After lunch, half day excursion by car to the fantastic crater of Furnas we will have a swim in a warm natural pool with water temperatures between 34 - 37 degrees. Drink sparkling mineral water directly from the spring and more.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 5: Pico da Multa Ride & Ponta Delgada Visit
Today a ride that offers a bit of everything including fun canters. We start the ride close to the ocean, then up and over the hill Pico da Multa, continuing through the village of Gramas and we finish close to Ribeira Grande. After lunch, we visit to Ponta Delgada to do some shopping.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 6: Sightseeing & Half-Day Ride
We leave by car to visit one of the most spectacular places on the island: Lagoa do Fogo (Firelake) and Caldeiras da Ribeira Grande, thermal bath dating back to 1811.
After lunch, we spend a charming half day ride leading up and down on winding roads with several nice opportunities for a canter. We ride to the top of a field with magnificent view of the north as well as the south coast.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 7: Sete Cidades Ride
An unforgettable day, it is like riding in a fairytale landscape. The ride in Sete Cidades (twin lakes) takes us along the volcano crater rim overlooking the twin lakes on one side and the ocean on the other. The tranquility of the waters and the scent of the Hydrangeas, which border the crater rim, contrast the steep sides of the crater, creating a fascinating sight. Continuing down into the crater to the small and picturesque village of Sete Cidades and the Green and the Blue lakes.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at the Quinta

Day 8: Departure
Departure after breakfast and transfer to the airport.
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: Ponta Delgda, Azores
Airport: Ponta Delgda (PDL) - Joao Paulo II, Azores
Transfer: Ponta Delgda
Distance: 6 miles
Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Ponta Delgada airport (PDL). Transfer times are available anytime on any day of the week.
Check-out on the last day is at 12:00pm (noon).

Tack:	English
Horses:	Lusitano, Lusitano/Arab cross
Pace:	At all paced according to riding level. 3 to 6 hrs per riding day
Level:	(2.5 to 4 out of 5) Intermediate
Age:	Min 11
Weight:	200 lbs / 90 kg
Riders:	Min 1 riders Max 9 riders
	Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-PGSRAZ

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals including wine with lunch and dinner, 6 riding days, Activities as described in itinerray & Transfers
Can provide riding helmet

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US$
A 2024	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (High)	€2050	$2255
	Non-rider	€1100	$1210
B 2024	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (High)	€1995	$2195
	Non-rider	€1160	$1275
C 2024	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (Low)	€1960	$2155
	Non-rider	€1025	$1130
D 2024	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (Low)	€1855	$2040
	Non-rider	€1080	$1190

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 Sao Miguel airport included at any time		
2024	Single Supplement	€325	$360
2024	Extra night with breakfast (no riding/activities), dbl	€170	$190
2024	Extra night with breakfast (no riding/activities), sgl	€145	$160

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
C 2024	01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (Low)
D 2024	01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (Low)
A 2024	04/01/2024 - 10/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (High)
B 2024	04/01/2024 - 10/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (High)
C 2024	11/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, Green Azores Rambler (Low)
D 2024	11/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, The Micaelense Ride (Low)

Min/Max: 1/9

Available all year on request.
Sold Out Dates:

Rates do not include:Optional whale & dolphin safari, Extra nights & 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	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. _____

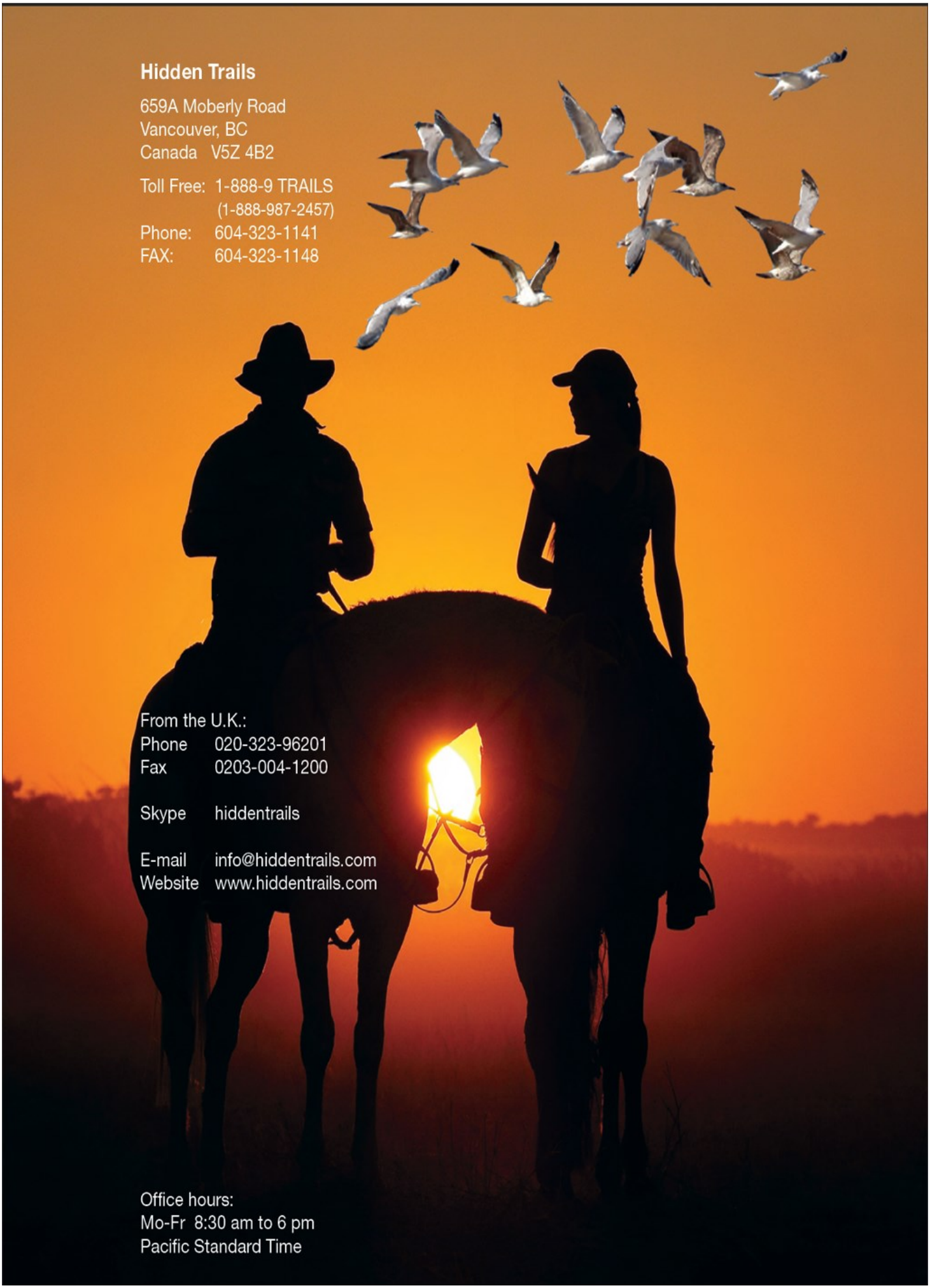
4. _____

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


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