Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Burgundy's Black Mountain Trail

BURGUNDY

This exhilarating **riding trail** includes long and frequent canters, steep downhill descents and lake crossings. A region rich in history, this holiday is for competent riders who love adventure, speed and good food. The diverse landscapes and miles of country roads are perfectly suited for fast riding. With long riding days, between 30 and 40 km every day, this is a **demanding ride** for experienced riders looking for an exhilarating equestrian adventure!

Fast Ride	**9 days / 7 days riding**	**From £1,860**	


A sportive trail ride in Burgundy, France


This is a fast trail riding holiday, for experienced riders


Discover Burgundy (France) in the saddle

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ride home bred, confident, endurance horses

- Typical regional accommodation and local hearty and tasty meals

- Historical sites : Quarré Graves, Vézelay, Corbigny, Chateau- Chinon, in light Saint Beuvray Vauban

- Morvan is a regional park in the centre of Burgundy that will astonish you with its diverse landscapes and miles of country roads perfectly suited for riding

- Adventure, speed, strong emotions and good food will make this an unforgettable trip

Day 1 — 1: EUROPE - DIJON - SOMMANT

We recommend flying to Dijon (or Paris, Lyon), or take a train to Creusot or Autun.

The equestrian centre team can pick you up at the train/bus station in Autun at 6pm or train station TGV in Creusot. Or you may wish to hire a car at Dijon airport and make your own way to the equestrian centre.

You will meet with your horse and be briefed on the riding style and your itinerary for the week ahead. Dinner with your guides and the other riders.

Day 2 — 2: SOMMANT - ANOST FOREST - 6 hours (approx. 40km)

For this first day of your riding holiday, you will explore the north-eastern part of the park, passing through hedged farmland and the Anost forest, with some good canters to be had. This is a particularly remote area, with few other people to be seen until you reach your accommodation for the night! Your day ends in the small village of Moux en Morvan, on the edge of a small lake where you can go for a swim.

Overnight stay at the Hôtel Beau Site in Moux en Morvan.

Day 3 — 3: SAUT DU GOULOUX - BRASSY - 6 hours (approx. 40km)

Today, you will begin the morning with a ride through hedged farmland, forests, and the Saut du Gouloux, a small waterfall in the Morvan. The morning will end with a long canter on the Breuil tracks, and you will have lunch by the river where you can cool off.

There's still a long way to go before you reach the lively little village of Brassy, where you'll spend the night at the Hôtel du Nord.

Day 4 — 4: BRASSY - VEZELAY - 7 hours (approx. 50km)

This morning, you're back in the saddle for a ride to Vézelay.
This town is the starting point for pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago.
Donations from pilgrims enabled the construction of the Basilica of Saint Madeleine. It was also here that Bernard de Clervaux preached the Second Crusade. But after such a busy day, you'll have no trouble falling asleep, saving a visit to Vézelay for the following morning.

Day 5 — 5: VEZELAY - AUBUES - 4 hours (approx. 30km)

Today you'll have a shorter riding day, but a fast one nonetheless!
The early part of the morning will be devoted to a quick tour of Vézelay. You'll then meet up with the horses for a beautiful morning ride, passing the site of Pierre Perthuis and its two bridges.

You will have lunch at the foot of the Château de Bazoche, the former property of Maréchal de Vauban, which you'll have the chance to visit! After this very historic morning, you will take some beautiful paths to reach the Aubues gîte, a magnificent estate set in the middle of nature.

Day 6 — 6: LAC DE PANNECIERE - CHATEAU CHINON - 6 hours (approx. 40km)

Hôtel du Parc

After breakfast, you set out to Lac de Pannecière. Here, riders can enjoy a swim (weather permitting), before heading on to Château Chinon.

Overnight at the Hôtel du Parc.

Day 7 — 7: CHATEAU CHINON - SAINT LEGER SOUS BEUVRAY - 6 hours (approx. 40km)

Hôtel du Morvan

This challenging stage will take you through the magical forests of Haut Folin, before you set off for Bibracte! The climb to Mont Beuvray, at an altitude of 800m, will be the high point of the ride.
You will have time to visit the archaeological site before setting off again for your destination.

Dinner and overnight in Saint Léger sous Beuvray, at the Hôtel du Morvan, a charming little country hotel!

Day 8 — 8: SAINT LEGER SOUS BEUVRAY - SOMMANT EN MORVAN - 5 hours (approx. 30km)

Today, at a more leisurely pace, the route will take you along forest and mountain tracks, through beautiful, unspoilt countryside.
The trails of the Sommant international race will take us to the stables where this holiday will end. If you wish, you can visit your hosts' Arabian horse stud.

Dinner at the riding centre and overnight stay at the Domaine in guest rooms or at the Château de Vareilles.

Day 9 — 9: SOMMANT - DIJON - EUROPE

After breakfast you will be transferred to the bus or train station in Autun or Creusot.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
22/05/2027	30/05/2027	£1,860	Guaranteed departure
19/06/2027	27/06/2027	£1,860	Open
28/08/2027	05/09/2027	£1,860	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Flights or trains to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room during the ride.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 4 riders and a maximum of 12 international riders, plus guides.

- Transfers from Autun train station are included. Transfer from Le Creusot train station is €50 in 2026 or €60 in 2027 each way per vehicle, payable locally. Pick ups are usually arranged between 4:30pm-6pm. For departure, please book a train leaving after 11am.

- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a room with another guest of the same sex. To guarantee your own room there is a single supplement of €400/£340/$435 in 2026 or €440/£380/$510 in 2027, payable locally (cash only).
Please note single rooms are only available 7 nights out of the 8 nights on this trail.

- In 2027, it's possible to leave on day 8 after 5pm. In this case you will have a discount of €70/£60/$80 per person.

- Accompanied minors are welcome from 16 yo, provided they match the riding requirements.

IMPORTANT: Riders over 95 kg /210 lbs / 15 st must contact us before booking
Please Note
The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.
The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 English speaking horse guide

LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider
1 vehicle and driver

INLAND TRANSPORT

Transfers from Autun train station

ACCOMMODATION

Double/twin room

MEALS

Full board from dinner on arrival to breakfast on departure

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights/trains
Transfers to/from le Creusot train station. To be paid locally - see dates and prices

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked in case of cancellation.

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement (see dates and prices)

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The horses are from the first stud to breed endurance horses in France! They are mostly pure bred Arabs and there are 4 Arabian stallions. They are forward going, quiet and safe and have been selected and trained especially for endurance.

Guide & local team

All of the guides are qualified equestrian guides and experienced in the outdoors. Jean, Amélie, Nathalie, Simon and Thierry all know the area and their horses like the back of their hand. The level of English can vary from one guide to another but they will do their best to ensure you have a great time!

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You should be a confident rider, capable of handling a forward going horse across varied terrain. You must be secure in the saddle at speed and be comfortable riding for long hours.

IMPORTANT: Riders over 95 kg /210 lbs / 15 st must contact us before registering.

PACE

The pace includes walk, trot and canters. Some of the trots and canters will be for long periods of time and you cover up to 50km each day. The terrain is sometimes difficult with steep descents and through water.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Everyone is required to groom, saddle and unsaddle their horses.
You can also participate in feeding and watering the horses.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You must be in great physical condition and be an experienced rider as this is a very strenuous ride. You must be able to trot and canter for a long time and be confident downhill.

Each day in the saddle covers about 40-50 km with long trots and long canters (up to 10+ min).

A backup vehicle follows the trail and meets the group at lunchtime and in the evenings. This is especially useful if one of the riders needs a break in the afternoon - you will be able to follow the ride in the vehicle.

Please note that there's no back up guide on this ride.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

A riding helmet is mandatory and you will not be able to ride without one. We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

Due to the active pace of this ride, not all horses carry a saddle bag so we strongly recommend you bring a bum bag to carry small essentials.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

Stay in small hotels along the route (2** standard).
All will give you a cosy bed and a shower.

MEALS

Lunches are prepared by your hosts and served on a table whilst on the trail. They can be either hot or cold.

Breakfasts and Dinners are taken at the various hotels along the trail.

CLIMATE

The climate is oceanic with a semi-continental trend. This means that there is the possibility of rain all year round, although there is less in summer. Temperatures are higher here than in other regions of France and it is this that allows for the cultivation of the famous Burgundy vines. If it is 15c in Paris then it is likely to be 18c in Burgundy.

TIPS

In France it is customary to tip - usually this is by rounding up the price when you are satisfied with the service in a restaurant. You may wish to leave a tip with the guide who can split it amongst all members of the team.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. This list must be adapted depending on the season and individual needs.

To help with logistics, guests' luggage should not exceed 18 kg per person.

Head
- Helmet
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun and dust

Upper body
- Thermals in case of cold weather
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun, which can be fierce at altitude
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm polar fleece or equivalent (plus a spare in case one gets wet)
- Waterproof jacket - rain can be difficult to predict and it's better to be prepared. In the mountains the weather can change quickly

Legs
- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Waterproof over trousers
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)
- Thermals (can also be used as nightwear)

Hands and Feet
- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Several pairs of warm socks
- Gloves

Nightwear
- Pyjamas, tracksuits or thermals for sleeping in

Other useful items
- Swimsuit - for swimming/bathing in rivers
- Small backpack for accessing items required during the day (carried by support crew)
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Water bottle (bottles over 1l are not allowed)
- Wet Wipes or equivalent (for when washing facilities aren't available)
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

Medical kit
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Our Recommendations
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page .