



Jewel of Risaralda Trail

Weight limit: 90 kilos

Nearest airport: Pereira

9 days / 8 nights / 6 days riding



An 8-night trail from Marsella to the thermal springs of Santa Rosa, crossing the Colombian Andes and staying in comfortable hotels and haciendas along the way. Explore the region of Risaralda in the heart of the coffee triangle of Colombia where you can experience rural Latin America at its finest, riding open trails that lead you through over 100 miles of beautiful landscape. The open grasslands high up in the Andes mountains provide plenty of opportunities to canter. At the end of the trail reward yourself with a soak in the therapeutic waters of the natural thermal hot pools. Suitable for those who are confident cantering and have a sense of adventure.

The Riding

This ride is suitable for intermediate and experienced riders. All riders should be confident and in control while cantering out in the open and over uneven ground. The pace of the ride is moderate with trots and canters where the terrain allows faster riding. Some sections of the ride allow for lovely long canters through long grasses and open meadows whereas there is a slower pace on steeper sections. Over the course of the trail you'll cover around 100 mile travelling through beautifully preserved Unesco World heritage sites. The entire region has a very proud and rich horse culture.

Level of riding and fitness

You should be a competent rider who is confident in walk, trot and canter across varied terrain. A good level of riding fitness is required as you'll be spending 5-8 hours in the saddle each day.



Guides & Groups sizes

These trails have been created using the knowledge of local guides to take you to the most unspoilt and untrodden parts. All guides are bi-lingual Spanish and English and head guide Marc is a member of the Long Riders Guild and has ridden all over the world. Group size is between 2-6.

Horses & Tack

The horses used on this trail are a variety of breeds, such as Appaloosas, Criollos, Paso Finos, Quarter horses, American Paint horses and Percherons. All horses are hand-picked and trained to respond to both English and Western riding styles.

Accommodation and Dining

You'll spend the first and last night at your host's traditionally restored ranch house set in 12 acres of subtropical farmland. You'll have time to relax by the pool as well as to meet the herd and get to know your horse. Enjoy a chef-prepared family style evening meal before beginning your adventure the following day. Over the next six days you'll enjoy nights in a variety of spectacular settings, luxurious converted coffee farms and traditional haciendas run by local coffee growers.

Colombia's cuisine is influenced by its variety of landscapes, with a great diversity of fauna and flora as well as a huge mixture of cultural traditions in each region. Some of the most common ingredients are: cereals such as rice; potato and cassava; assorted legumes; meats, including beef, chicken, pork and goat; fish; and seafood. Meals also feature a variety of tropical fruits such as cape gooseberry, feijoa, arazá, dragon fruit, mangostino, granadilla, papaya, guava, blackberry, lulo, soursop and passionfruit. During the trail all of your meals are included as well as evening drinks (wine and local beer). Of course, trying the local coffee is a must when you are in the coffee capital of Colombia.

Itinerary

Day 1

You'll be collected from the airport or bus terminal in Pereira and transferred to your host's ranch. Here you will be welcomed into their home, with time to relax by the pool, explore the grounds and meet your horse. Also you will be given the chance to learn how to tack up western style and get a chance to try out your horse in the arena. The evening will include a poolside BBQ and a briefing on the upcoming trail.



Day 2

Depart the ranch after a relaxed breakfast and head to the hills of Risaralda (car transfer). This short ride will give you a chance to view the terrain you'll be riding over the next 6 days. After lunch in the picturesque town of Marsella, you'll head out for an afternoon sunset ride and your first taste of trail riding in Colombia.

Day 3

Your horse will be groomed and tacked up for you, but feel free to join in and help. You'll be out on the trail all day today winding your way through the Central Andes, the highest of the three branches of the Colombian Andes. Passing coffee, plantain and cattle farms before ending your

day at your luxurious accommodation; a coffee farm high up in the mountains with endless views to enjoy from the infinity pool.

Day 4

Today you'll spend the morning riding through the lush green landscapes through coffee farms and tropical vegetation. At lunchtime you will arrive at your evenings accommodation; a glamping resort just a stone's throw from the spectacular natural thermal hot springs of Santa Rosa. After lunch you can spend the afternoon enjoying the thermal hot springs, soaking in the therapeutic waters. Spend an evening under the stars enjoying the warmth of a campfire.

Day 5

After breakfast it's time to saddle up for today's ride, you'll be climbing open trails with spectacular views, passing by waterfalls and crossing rivers as you head towards the next overnight stop.

Day 6

Out on trail all day, taking you to the most northern tip of Risaralda. Endless views as you climb your way through the Andes, ending your day at a traditional coffee farm with over 200 years of production history.

Day 7

Today you'll make your way back to Marsella. A full day's ride through an area steeped in history, once home to the Quimbaya, you'll see petroglyphs dating back thousands of years. This area is home to countless species of birdlife, giant butterflies, capybaras and more. At the end of the day you'll head into the town of Marsella for an evening meal in the historic town centre, soaking in the vibrant atmosphere of this welcoming traditional town.

Day 8

Breakfast before a brief trip into Marsella. A chance to visit this unspoilt Colombian town, enjoy coffee in the town square, visit the Cultural house and artisan stalls before making your way back to the ranch where you'll enjoy a freshly prepared meal and discuss the last 7 days.

Day 9

Breakfast before transferring back to the airport or bus terminal depending on your plans.



Price includes

- Airport transfers to/from Pereira
- 8 nights accommodation
- Breakfasts
- Tea, coffee
- Lunches
- Dinners
- 5-8 hours riding on 6 days
- Evening drinks (wine and local beer)

Not included

- International flights
- Travel insurance

Flights & Airport transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com.

Please plan your flights to/from Pereira, Colombia

What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your helmet in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

Please use the packing list as a guideline, bearing in mind the time of year you are riding.

- Riding hat
- Long riding trousers/jodhpurs
- Riding shoes/boots with a heel
- Casual wear for evenings
- Swimwear
- Flipflops/sandals
- Sunglasses
- Suncream
- Reusable water bottle
- Waterproof jacket
- Camera
- Insect repellent

Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at the National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Colombia for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/colombia/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Riding Declaration

“I am confident and in control at trot and canter out in the open and over uneven ground. I’m able to mount and dismount unaided and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others.”

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If the ride operator is closed or you are unable to travel due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.



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