



# Mountain Riders

## KOMANI HIGHLANDS

At our ranch in Oraovica, just 15 minutes from Podgorica, riders will enjoy pristine nature and the traditional village life of the Komani region. Horse rentals are offered year-round. We cater to individuals and small groups, and the adventure can be tailored to meet the needs and wishes of new and experienced riders alike.



### Komani Highlands Trail Introduction

During this two-hour relaxing introduction to trail riding, guests will receive an orientation to trail riding and experience the natural beauty of the region from horseback.

**Itinerary:** Upon arrival, riders will be fitted with safety gear and given a brief introduction to the horses and equipment. Our round pen and small arena offer an opportunity to learn or refresh basic riding skills from a certified riding coach. The

instructor(s) will work with guests individually to ensure that each feels confident and is able to safely control the horses. We will then go next door to practice horse riding in diverse terrain typical of the region: a vineyard of traditional grape varieties, old stone walls, rocky paths, small meadows, little trails through small woods and open grassy pastures. Our trail course offers the chance to learn or practice trail-riding skills such as safely negotiating rocky areas, or riding up and down steep inclines.

We then head out along quiet "roads" and pass traditional farms. Our way turns into an old rocky path and then into a small, winding trail along the mountain side. On clear days you can see all the way to the mountains of Albania and to the Ostrog monastery. Sections of the old Roman road to Podgorica are still discernible. There are several places that require good balance and equilibrium, as the trail is steep and rocky in parts. We take a scenic break about halfway through, and then return. On the return route, we go up a path to a hill with a small Montenegrin Orthodox chapel recently restored by local residents. This offers nice views over the entire river valley.



**Experience required:** This ride is suitable for beginners, or for any rider who wishes a relaxing ride through the countryside with beautiful views.

For more information, please see: [www.mountainriders.me](http://www.mountainriders.me)

Minimum group size: 2 riders. 1 rider with 30% single supplement.

Maximum group size: 4 riders

Minimum rider age: Ages 16 to under-18 with prior written consent of a parent (parent must be present to sign).

Age 12 to 15 if the child has completed a riding school or course of lessons (please provide copy of certificate or diploma) and with signed parental consent. Must be accompanied by a parent on the ride.

### **Komani Highlands Half-Day Ride**

This is a half-day (approximately 3-hour) panoramic trail ride in Oraovica, Komani, Podgorica. It is suitable for sportive & fit beginners and intermediate riders alike, and appropriate for couples, families, or groups of friends with different experience levels.

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permitting, we go up a path to a hill with a small Montenegrin Orthodox chapel recently restored by local residents. This offers nice views over the entire river valley.

**Itinerary:** After getting acquainted in our ranch arena, we practice in the field next door. We then head "roads", which turn into gravel then into a small, winding path along side. There are several places that balance and equilibrium, as the trail is in parts. We take a scenic break about and then return via a higher path. On can see all the way to the mountains the Ostrog monastery. Time

**Experience required:** This ride is suitable for sportive beginners (with balance and equilibrium) and intermediate riders, or mixed groups.



Minimum group size: 2 riders. 1 rider with 30% single supplement.

Maximum group size: 4 riders

Minimum rider age: Ages 16 to under-18 with prior written consent of a parent (parent must be present to sign.) Age 12 to 15 if the child has completed a riding school or course of lessons (please provide copy of certificate or diploma) and with signed parental consent. Must be accompanied by a parent on the ride.



### **Komani Highlands Mountains & Rivers Ride**

For contact information, please see: [www.mountainriders.me](http://www.mountainriders.me)

This is an 18-20 km mountain and river trail in the Komani region just outside of Podgorica. It requires 4 - 6 hours in the saddle, plus breaks. It is suitable for experienced riders with fitness, stamina, surefootedness (some walking on steep, rocky slopes required) and a desire to explore! Maximum group size is 4.

**Itinerary:** After getting acquainted with the horses in our ranch "arena", we practice steep/rocky hills in the land next door. We then head out along quiet village roads, and pass traditional farms. Our way turns into an old rocky path and then into a small, winding trail along the mountain side. On clear days you can see all the way to the mountains of Albania and to the Ostrog monastery. Sections of the old Roman road to Podgorica are still discernible. There are several places that require good balance and equilibrium, as the old trail is steep and rocky in parts.

Above the village of Cafa, we descend a serpentine road to the river valley 380 meters below. The flat, grassy paths invite a brisk trot/canter along the fields of the river valley, our path changing with the growing season, (and the water levels!) Around hour 2, (km 12), we ascend through a dark forest, our path winding its way through moss-covered boulders. We then offer the horses water from the well of the ruins of the old village school, now a monument to the local Partisan forces who fought at this location during World War II. Returning to the river, we continue along the banks of the Matica on a shady trail. Our route soon joins up with an old boulder-lined way carved into the mountain. This old footpath was set above flood levels and linked the isolated farmsteads of the area. At a deserted stone cottage built into the mountain, we take a break -- the horses have a chance to eat fresh grass, (usually interspersed with oatmeal cookies), and the riders can snack, rest and stretch their legs. Our trail then continues through the fields along the river.



We soon reach a small rural road -- often too overgrown for all but the smallest of cars. We then ride past small farms with their stone walls, haystacks and cisterns until reaching a series of winding paths back up the small mountain to the ranch. The return climb leads through some forested areas that may require some leading of the horses, or at least ducking under some branches.

**Important note:** This trail is offered from May through October. If temperatures are expected to exceed 35 degrees C, or if the river is too high to pass along the banks, for safety reasons, we will substitute a shorter ride (e.g. the half-day trail). The price will be adjusted down accordingly.

**Experience required:** riders should have a good level of fitness, be comfortable at a walk, trot, and canter (lope), and able to mount and dismount as necessary to lead the horse through tricky sections of the trail. This trail is **not appropriate for beginners**, or for persons without prior experience riding outside of an arena. These riders should please consider the half-day trail ride.

Minimum group size: 2 riders

Maximum group size: 4 riders

Minimum rider age: 16 with written parental permission. Parental permission required for all riders under age 18.

A parent must be present to sign.

For bookings, policies, and contact information, please see: [www.mountainriders.me](http://www.mountainriders.me)

## Directions to Mountain Riders in Oraovica, Komani

[Download directions to reach us by car, from Podgorica.](#)

From the coast, first drive to Podgorica via the Sozina Tunnel (e.g. from Bar or Sutomore), or via Cetinje (e.g. from Budvar or Kotor).

## Activities for non-riders

Options for accompanying non-riders and children under 12: Non-riders can explore the many quiet rural roads and paths in the hills via mountain bike or on foot. (GPS-recorded tracks and maps available.)

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Information regarding routing and facilities is indicative and subject to change with conditions of nature or manmade alterations out of our control. Please contact us before planning your trip.

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For bookings, policies, and contact information, please see: [www.mountainriders.me](http://www.mountainriders.me)