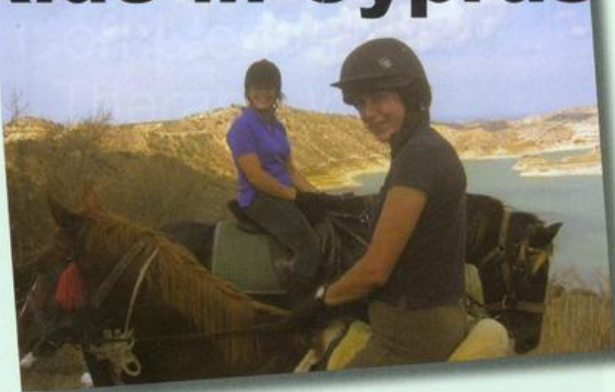


Be free . . . Ride in Cyprus

If you fancy riding amongst the most exquisite mix of sea, mountains, wildlife and history, then trail riding in Cyprus could be for you. Harpenden based Joy Lewin and her friends Jane Smythe and Sherryl MacMichael accepted an invitation from globe-trotting army wife friend Caroline Grossmith to join her in Cyprus for a riding holiday. Caroline, whose husband is based in Cyprus, started up a holiday riding company after she spent months tracing tracks across the Cypriot Troodos mountains. Caroline was in search of the old camel trail which was once used by the Venetians to take copper from the mountain mines for export from the port of Paphos. Whilst doing so, she found wonderful forest lodges, hikers' huts and luxurious hotels to stay in. Perfect for a riding holiday, hence, 'rideincyprus' was formed.



Read some of Joy's memories from the week ...

On the first day, we rode out of the ancient town of Omodos, which took us through winding olive groves and vineyards, across rushing rivers and over beautiful arched Venetian bridges. The trails vary from tracks that meander along hillsides and through villages to forest paths with high views where you can imagine you are in the Amazon. There isn't anything man-made in sight, just forest hills as far as the eye can see that open out onto sandy undulating plains. Along the way, you are reminded of the 1974 Turkish invasion by chilling remains of villages abandoned during that time.

The luxury day off gave us the opportunity to explore Polis with Caroline's 4x4. We visited an Aphrodite's bath (which has to be seen to be believed). We ended the day with a fish supper overlooking the sea and a swim back at the hotel.

The final leg of the trail took us high above dams and reservoirs. Traversing this area of deep and hidden gorges with storm clouds gathering reminded me of Carmen country and, with us all singing 'La Toreador', we raced to get to our last hotel before we were hit by the storm.

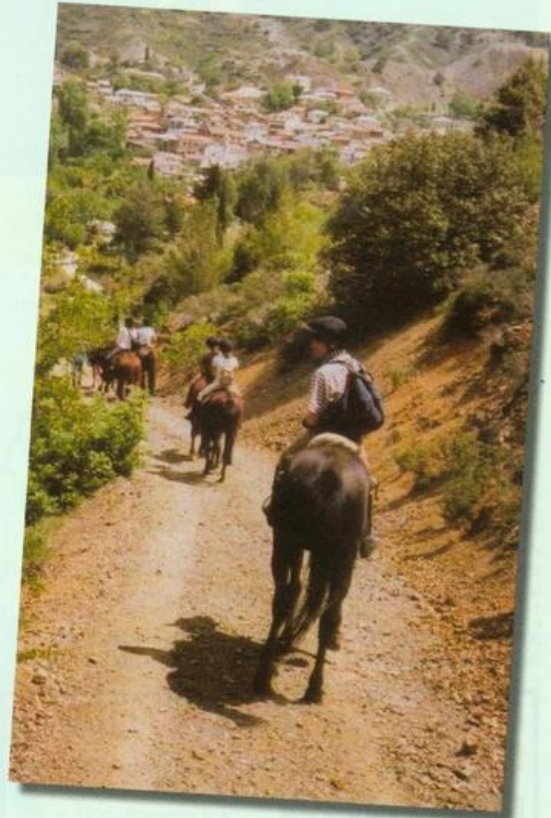
The country we rode over on the final day was like a seaside

Dartmoor with tracks criss-crossing down to sea level with the most spectacular views. We had lunch at the famous and very protected Lara beach, where turtles still come to lay their eggs.

The horses we rode were led by Ramon, a horse from Romania who is sure footed and sturdy. Some of the horses are retrained racehorses from Nicosia. Sherryl's mount, Pharouk, had exquisite highlights in his dark bay mane and Jane's Charlie was lovely. Content and sensible, the horses work well together and never think for a moment about leaving their make-shift overnight corals.

Meals for the week were a mixture of a mezzes (a table covered with small dishes), picnics, kebabs and a la carte menu accompanied, of course, by produce from local vineyards. Accommodation ranges from hikers' huts in the old schoolhouse to a luxurious hotel which overlooks the bay of Polis, where we spent our day off.

'rideincyprus' can tailor a trail riding holiday to your needs. You will ride for about four or five hours a day on a seven-day trip. Shorter trips can be arranged, which is ideal especially if you are looking for an exciting filler to a beach holiday. *Whatever your needs are, why not visit the website, www.rideincyprus.com or ring Caroline Grossmith on 0785 489 6691.*



Unique tailor made riding holidays, safaris and day rides in Cyprus

Text or call
(+44) 0785 489 6691
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See our website

www.rideincyprus.com