

LA FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE TOURISME EQUESTRE (FITE)



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PRESENTATION

The Fédération Internationale de Tourisme Equestre (FITE) was created in 1975 on the initiative of France, supported by Belgium and Italy. Its objectives are to unite National Equestrian Tourism Organizations (NETOs) from all over the world, in order to represent them, coordinate their action and foster the development of all tourism activities involving the use of horses.

Since 2015, Frédéric Bouix (France) has been the President, Hervé Delambre (France) has been the President Delegate, Frédéric Pierrestiger (Canada) has been the General Secretary, and Bernard Pavie (France) has been the Treasurer.

PRIORITIES

The FITE has placed a certain number of priorities on its roadmap. They include:

- Equestrian tourism infrastructures (itineraries, tracks and trails, lodges and stopovers),
- Training for instructors and riders,
- Equestrian tourism products,
- International exchanges,
- Animations and competitions of equestrian tourism.

ADMINISTRATION

The FITE is administrated by a general assembly and an executive board. Its head and administrative office is based at Lamotte-Beuvron (France), in the offices of the French Equestrian Federation (Fédération Française d'Équitation, FFE).

The FITE is handling the technical matters of its activities thanks to a Technical Delegate and through the work and the proposals Commissions. They aim to create rules and to develop the competitions of outdoor and traditional riding, such as TREC or working equitation.



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MEMBERS

Today, the FITE gathers more than twenty National Equestrian Tourism Organizations (NETOs) from Europe for most of them but also from America and Africa. The loyalty of members and the membership of new ones are two of the FITE's goals because it brings new know-how and it allows the increase of its resources while developing its international influence.

List of the NETOs: www.fite-net.org/La-FITE/Membres.



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EU COMMITTEE

As a result to European NETOs' demands, the FITE has created an EU committee which aims to discuss on national and European regulations that are related to equestrian tourism. A monitoring has also been put in place to analyse European legislations that have an impact on horses' sanitary conditions and on the promotion of tourism and of means related to non-motorised travel routes.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Equestrian Tourism, an economic and cultural reality, is one of the best ways to develop horse-riding by making it more accessible to a wider range of people.

Its values, focused on nature, human relationships, and a different way of using horses, appeal to many. It offers rural areas a way to regenerate themselves, diversify their activities, and open up to new perspectives.

Requiring appropriate infrastructures for travelling, it contributes to protect the environment and to preserve and maintain natural leisure areas, and it encourages the discovery of local heritage. It offers reasonable adventures in the company of an animal whose history has been intimately linked with mankind for thousands of years. Equestrian Tourism encourages human relationships, social mixing, and exchanges between riders and the populations that they meet along the way.

The International Federation of Equestrian Tourism (FITE), that organises, develops and promotes equestrian tourism in the world, is its international advocate.

Frédéric Bouix, President

HORSE TREKKING

The FITE supports and helps to develop transnational equestrian routes in order to improve prestige and access to equestrian tourism at international scale. To this aim, the FITE has conducted a study on cross-border routes which has revealed that the international organisation of equestrian tourism is suffering from many disparities among the countries. The FITE's goal is therefore to work for the harmonisation of secure and internationally recognised equestrian paths, along which places providing the necessary services for riders and horses during stops can be found.

The FITE is also taking part to meetings for outdoor sports at European level to represent equestrian tourism at international scale and it is especially active in the associative networks in order to promote rural life.

TRAINING

The freedom of travel is very close to the capacity to be autonomous and responsible in a natural space. Training is therefore a key part in the equestrian tourism offer. If it first and foremost involves the qualified officials, who are those who detain the responsibility to lead and to escort riders on trekking paths, it also involves the riders who want to learn about the specific knowledge of outdoor riding.

For more than fifteen years, thanks to the thrust and with the help of the FITE, many NETOs have compared their teaching methods in order to harmonise their relative diplomas. By bringing professionalism and quality, this convention answers the growing concerns about security, seriousness and comfort. Thanks to a work conducted by the FITE, the Equestrian Tourism diplomas have also been added in the equivalence grid of IGEQ (International Group for Equestrian Qualifications).



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COMPETITIONS

Together with the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI), the FITE organises, regulates and promotes a certain number of competitive sports disciplines: the TREC (Techniques de Randonnée Equestre de Compétition), the driving TREC, as well as Traditional Working and Pastoral Riding events. Each year, the FITE delegates the organisation of an international championship to a NETO: the World and/or the European Open TREC Championships for Seniors and Juniors.

The TREC is originated from the desire to see the outdoor riders competing among themselves through diverse tests: Parcours d'Orientation et de Régularité (POR), Parcours en Terrain Varié (PTV) et Maîtrise des Allures (MA). They depict the common exercises of an outdoor rider and they allow to prepare and to train horses and riders. The TREC, within the FITE, is playing a part in the friendly rapprochement of riders coming from all around the world thanks to sport. In less than twenty years, the TREC has become a top-tier competition.

As a sport aiming to preserve and to develop equestrian capacities regarding cattle leading and cattle sorting, the working equitation is also one of the main goals of the FITE. Coming from a great rural and outdoor background, this equestrian activity is spread worldwide in a large amount of States.

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