

Transhumance Trail

Weight limit: 90kg

Nearest airport: Madrid

9 days / 8 nights / 7 riding days



Travel on horseback from Extremadura to the Gredos Mountains following the 'Cañadas Reales', a thousand year old route used by cattlemen who still practice transhumance to this day.

Ride 200km over 7 days through three different Spanish regions; like cattlemen of the past the route takes you north from Extremadura to the Gredos Mountains in the spring, and in the autumn the trail is ridden in reverse.

The Riding

The pace of this ride is moderated, with trots and long canters where the terrain allows. The distance covered is approximately 25-35 km per day.

Guides & Group sizes

You will be guided by Emilio, an English-speaking guide who, with 30 years of riding experience knows each stone of every path. Emilio knows the Cañadas reales very well; keeping up his family tradition of practicing transhumance with cattle.

There will be a maximum of 10 riders in a group.

Horses and Tack

You will be expertly matched by Emilio to one of his excellent Hispano-Arab horses. Born at home, very much loved and extremely well looked after, these horses love their job and make for very easy, relaxed riding. All horses are fitted with English tack, with a silicon seat saver and saddle bags supplied for small personal items. A support vehicle will transport your luggage and will be available at your lunch breaks.



Level of riding and fitness

Intermediate to experienced riders, means that you should be comfortable to walk, trot and canter in a group and in open spaces and your seat should be independent from your hands. You will be riding for between four to seven hours a day so it is important to be as riding fit as possible.

Accommodation & Dining

The accommodation varies from charming rural inns to a delightful 4* hotel in Trujillo town. All rooms have private bathrooms and are very clean and comfortable.

Single rooms are possible on request for a single supplement.

The food is another highlight of this trip; your hosts will delight you with tapas-breaks during the trail, with serrano ham, manchego cheese, olives, nuts, etc. Lunchtime is a relaxing and social affair with delicious home cooked Spanish dishes such as paella, tortilla española, iberian pork bbq, salads, and soft cheese very typical of the Extremadura region.

After your day of riding, your dinner will be served at your guesthouse and you will have a choice of different dishes and courses from local Spanish recipes.

Dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice.

Itinerary

Day 1

Meet at Madrid airport at 3pm and transfer to Trujillo, a 2.5 hour drive. There will be time to visit the spectacular town before a welcome dinner at the hotel with your hosts, where you will learn about the route and region on the map.

Day 2

After breakfast, a 5 minute transfer from the hotel to meet the horses. After becoming acquainted with your mount you will head off on the "Cañada Real". Lunch in the countryside with excellent paella cooked by your hosts. In the afternoon you will enjoy beautiful riding, crossing the Almonte river with its impressive medieval bridge to Jaraijejo. Night and dinner in a very nice rural Inn.

5 hours riding.



Day 3

Departure after breakfast. The morning will see you trotting and cantering in the open countryside through dehesas and beautiful landscape. After lunch there will be a short afternoon ride to Casas de Miravete, a small village in a spectacular enclave in the Monfrague National Park. Dinner at a local bar with good local food and overnight accommodation at a rural inn.

6 hours riding.

Day 4

Riding in the morning along the “Cañada Real”, with impressive views of Sierra the Gredos in front of you. You will cross the 16th century Albalat Bridge over the Tagus River, one of the important public works built during the reign of His Catholic Majesty Charles I of Spain and V of Germany. Picnic lunch by the Tagus river reservoir. Riding in the afternoon to Naval Moral de la Mata, where you will have dinner and overnight accommodation at a small hotel.

7 hours riding.

Day 5

Departure after breakfast following the Cañada Real over flatter terrain, allowing for good trots and canters. The horses will spend the night at Las Ventas de San Julian; riders will be transferred for dinner and overnight accommodation at the amazing “Parador de Oropesa”; a medieval castle restored and converted into a luxury and magical 4* hotel (dinner “a la carte”, drinks not included).

6 hours riding.

Day 6

Departure after breakfast, continuing along the Cañada Real where the landscape now changes; riding along the reservoir close to Navalcan with beautiful views of the Gredos Mountains.

Dinner and overnight at a lovely rural Inn in Navalcán.

6 hours riding.



Day 7

Today is a beautiful day from Navalcán to Mombeltrán; the route changes from the Cañada Real another Cañada, taking you into the Gredos Mountains. Here you will experience the beautiful views, with Toledo province on your left as you cross to Avila province in Castilla y Leon. Dinner and overnight at a hotel in Mombeltrán.

Day 8

After breakfast you will start to climb the Roman Road which is more than two thousand years old and very well preserved. It was used for the Roman armies and the transport of metals crossing the Sierra de Gredos through the abrupt mountain pass to Puerto del Pico. Later on, it worked as a cattle drove in medieval times, and despite the passage of centuries, is still in good condition. You will follow the Roman road up into the mountains with it's amazing views, crossing the picturesque mountain village Cuevas del Valle, to Puerto del Pico.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant, surrounded by beautiful mountainous landscape. After lunch the trail will take you through green mountain pastures with stone walls and the highest peaks of Gredos in front of you. The perfect way to finish an amazing horse riding trip.

Day 9

Breakfast at your hotel before departure from Navarredonda de Gredos at 10 am, to arrive at Madrid Airport for approximately 12.30 pm.

Prices includes

- Transfers
- All meals
- wine with lunch and dinner (apart from day 5)
- Accommodation in twin bedded rooms with private bathroom
- Riding
- Luggage transport and excursions described in itinerary

Not included

- International flights
- Single supplement
- Alcoholic drinks other than wine with dinner
- Massages
- Items of a personal nature and gratuities.

International flights & Airport transfers

On arrival day please plan your flight to arrive at Madrid by 2pm in time for the 3pm group

transfer. You will be transferred back to Madrid in time for 12:30pm, so your departure flight can be any time after 2pm.



What to bring

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

- Your own well-fitted hard hat
- Comfortable jodhpurs or riding trousers
- Riding / hiking boots with good grip
- Chaps
- Riding gloves
- Waterproof coat
- Long sleeved T-shirts
- Warm layers such as fleece or woolen jumper
- Comfortable clothes for the evening
- Lightweight shoes for after riding
- Swimming costume and light weight towel

- Sun cream & lip balm
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent & bite cream
- Bumbag
- Headtorch
- Plug adapter
- Copy of your travel insurance
- Personal medication

Climate

Extremadura has a continental climate with cool, mostly damp winters and hot, dry summers. Thanks to the many hours of sunshine you can easily be outdoors even in the winter months and enjoy the splendid scenery and the quiet.

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 National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Spain for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain>

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

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

The local currency in Spain is Euro. Your holiday is fully inclusive and we recommend not to bring too much cash with you, just enough if you wish to buy drinks outside of mealtimes or souvenirs etc.

Tipping your guide is at your discretion.



Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

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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