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Andalusian Beach Trail

Weight limit: 90 kilos

Nearest airport: Almeria

5 days / 4 nights / 3 riding days



An exciting trail through the extraordinary natural park of Cabo de Gata. This unique ride takes you into the unspoilt landscapes of the Cabo de Gata Natural Park, with its extraordinary contrasts of open beaches and volcanic mountain paths. Over the course of 5 days, the ride will take you along the picturesque coastline, across beautiful beaches and into the fascinating inland valleys. The scenery you will encounter is unlike anything else in Andalusia. Furthermore, the region's excellent climate, characterized by low rainfall and mild temperatures, allows you to enjoy this experience at any time of the year.

The Riding

Walk, lots of trots and canters where the terrain allows. Long gallops along dirt paths and deserted beaches, which alternate with stretches of volcanic trails in Cabo de Gata.



Level of riding and fitness

This trail is open to intermediate riders upwards and the riding time is around 5 to 6 hours a day, split up by a long lunch break. This trail is not suitable for beginner or novice riders and all riding guests should be confident and able to control a well schooled horse in the open at canter.

Guides & Groups sizes

You'll be guided by one of the team at Cabacci Trails whose local knowledge is second to none. Owners Antonio and Manolo have over thirty years of organising horse riding holidays in this unspoilt area of Andalusia. Assisted by guides Pilar and Desi they are able to lead you to really spectacular places. Groups are kept small and this creates a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. The maximum group size is eight.

Horses & Tack

There are around 20 horses to choose from at this destination; mostly Andalusian, Arabian and Hispano Arab. They live in the open air in comfortable paddocks and when not on the trail, they live together in a herd and are free to roam. Chosen for their good character and strength, most of them stay with your hosts for life and are trained using natural horsemanship techniques. They are sure-footed, brave, respectful and sensitive horses who enjoy the company of people. The tack and riding style is English.

Accommodation and Dining

The two hotels used on this trail ([Sotillo hotel](#) or [Dona Pakyta](#) in San Jose and [Oro y Luz hotel](#) in Rodalquilar) are integrated into the national park and are surrounded by nature and next to the horses, just a few minutes from San José or Rodalquilar. Both the hotels have swimming pools and guarantee a restful and relaxing stay. Quality restaurants serving traditional Andalusian cuisine are chosen for diners and lunches are picnics on the trail, the team set up a beautiful fully laid table out in the park for lunch (the food is provided by local restaurants where you can leave the horses grazing nearby).



Itinerary

Day 1

Collection from Almería airport at 5pm and transfer to the hotel in San José (transfer time approx. 30 minutes). There will be a welcome briefing at the hotel at 8pm where you can meet the guides and ask any questions. Dinner and overnight at the hotel (either Sotillo hotel or Doña Pakyta).

Day 2

You'll be transferred to meet the horses after breakfast, at 9.30 a.m., in the stables in San José (5 minutes walk from the Sotillo hotel, 5 minutes drive from Pakyta hotel).

Brief explanation about equipment and safety before starting the trail and heading towards the beaches of Genoveses, Mónsul and Media Luna where scenes from "Indiana Jones", "Lawrence of Arabia" were filmed. These beaches offer the opportunity to gallop on the open sands. After a picnic lunch, riders return to San José through the Tesorillo Valley stopping for a picnic at the Cortijo "El Romeral". Dinner and overnight at Sotillo hotel (or Doña Pakyta hotel) in San José.

Day 3

Today's destination is Rodalquilar, in the north. The route crosses Sierra de Gata and its lunar landscapes with craters of ancient volcanoes, stopping at the small town of "Los Albaricoques", Enjoy a picnic in "El Cortijo del Fraile", before riding on to the Oro y Luz hotel in Rodalquilar for dinner and overnight.

Day 4

Spend today riding back to San José, the route takes you around the coast lined with 18th century watchtowers and magnificent views. Enjoy a final picnic on the beach of Los Escullos, next to San Felipe fort. Dinner and overnight at the Sotillo hotel (or Doña Pakyta hotel) in San José.

Day 5

Breakfast and check out from the hotel by 11am. Breakfast at Sotillo hotel (or Doña Pakyta), in San José before being transferred back to the airport or bus station in Almería.

Flights & Airport transfers

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

Please plan your flights to/from as follows:

Arrive at Almeria on the 8th May, pick up is at 17h00 at the bus station or at 17h30 at Almeria airport.

Depart from Almeria on the 12th, departure from the hotel at 11am.

If you prefer to have your transfer outside of these set times, the price is 50€ per person each way.

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. You will be provided with saddlebags while you are on the trail to carry daily essentials eg sunscreen, water bottle.

- "All-terrain" riding boots with a heel (also should be comfortable for walking)
- appropriate riding jodhpurs/leggings/trousers
- Half chaps
- Helmet
- Gloves
- Sun protection
- Insect repellent
- Mosquito bite relief
- A non-breakable water bottle
- Swimsuit
- Light summer clothing
- Sunglasses
- Warm jacket if travelling in spring or autumn
- Camera



Climate

Andalusia has a warm climate all year round and many warm, sunny days right through winter. Daytime temperatures vary from about 15°C from November to March and from 30°C and above during June, July and August. Rainfall is very light with virtually no rain from the beginning of May to the end of September. However it can rain in winter months with most rainfall in November and early December and again in March/April.

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 Spain for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website:

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

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 currency in Spain is the Euro. You will need to bring local currency (or debit/credit cards) for any drinks you want to buy in the restaurants.

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. We suggest you take out insurance as soon as you book as, should your circumstances change, all our deposits are non refundable and non transferable. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.



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