



Unguided Panorama Trail

7 Days / 6 Nights / 6 Riding Days

Best Airport: Barcelona or Girona

Max weight 90kg



Overview

Do it your way – unguided trail ride with a map and GPS. Go on your own personal self-guided riding tour by discovering an unknown Catalonia on horseback. On this demanding Panorama Trail, you are your own guide! This is as individual as it can be, as only you decide the pace.

Come with your partner or a friend and experience the feeling of capturing the terrific mountains of Catalonia – just you and your horses. Get acquainted with the wonderfully diverse landscape and enjoy great panoramas in absolute tranquility. Luminous mixed forests, volcanos and majestic table mountains.

As we want you to fully enjoy a self-guided riding tour, we support you with the logistics; carriage of your luggage, delicious food, and cozy lodgings. For your four-legged companions, we organize stables and meadows with appropriate food. All "horse hotels" are very close to your own accommodation. If you want to discover these fascinating mountains, of course you need to be well-prepared: with very good riding skills and the right materials.

Itinerary

Day 1: 'Climb into the saddle and ride your dream!'

The sun is shining; you saddle your horse and are almost ready to leave. Your self-guided trail starts in Catalonia. You arrive at the Panorama-Trails horse riding centre on the morning of a self-chosen day. Here you meet your four-legged companion and get all the material and knowhow that you need from us (how to saddle, where to go, feeding the horses etc.). We also give you an introduction to the maps. After a small snack, you are ready to go! The path leads you through thick forests of stone oaks and pines. Now you're really on your own - what a great feeling! You ride through a varied Mediterranean landscape. Behind you lie the snow-covered mountains - in front of you the Mediterranean glistens through the treetops. Finally, you arrive at an old oil mill. Your charming accommodation for the night is just next door. There is a horse pasture next to the house where your companions can relax. Savour a delicious lunch from your hostess and relax after an exciting first day of riding. Another delicious meal awaits you in the evening.

Day 2:

Before breakfast, you give your horses a delicious mix of cereals and then have a cup of tea or coffee while studying the trail riding map for today. Now that you are all feeling refreshed from your night's sleep, your comrades are groomed and saddled - and off you go again! You leave the beautiful natural stone village where you spent the night. You pass through dense forests and wide fields until you reach the river Fluvia. At a looming peak of rock, you discover a cave church with a wonderful view over the river and across the Pyrenees. What a great place to enjoy your saddlebag picnic. Treat yourself and your four-legged companion to a well-deserved break! Freshly fortified and well rested, you can continue your journey. A track runs magnificently along the Fluvia. At a quick pace, you soon reach Besalú, a real gem of the Middle Ages. Settled right next to a world-famous natural stone bridge dating to the 16th century, you find a hotel set in an ancient castle - this is where you stay for the night. If you feel like it, you

can take a walk in the afternoon through the narrow alleys of this picturesque village. How about a cup of coffee at the "Plaza" while soaking up the Mediterranean atmosphere of this beautiful place?

Day 3:

A wonderful morning! With the sunrise, you feed your horses. At breakfast, you study the map then saddle the horses and you start your day. Today a special adventure awaits you: you cross the river Fluvia more than once! You can hear the water rushing by. Your horse takes the first steps into the water and now you are right in the middle of the river! The water is around you and you can feel the powerful muscles of your horse working against the current.

You arrive at the shore safely and relax - you completed the challenge successfully! At the other side of a wooded crest is where you may like to sit for a picnic and give yourself and the horses a break. At the waterfall of the "volcano stream Ser" you find the perfect spot for this! Here you can also have a swim before you move on into the ancient volcanic landscape. Another medieval pearl of Catalonia rises up in the middle of this fertile stretch of land. You find your cosy hotel right next to the market place.

Day 4:

On horseback, you wander through the million-year-old volcanic landscape - the Garrotxa. The earth colour now turns from yellow ochre to black. The dark rocks are a contrast to the luminous green of the deciduous forests of this area. In a typically Catalan village, lunch is waiting to be ordered at a nice little bar. The fountain ripples and the trees shade you from the midday sun. From here, the path winds steeply up to a pass at 1200 metres! You and your companions spend the night in a mountain hotel.

Day 5:

Today you ride to an amazing panoramic view! On the Table Mountain, you find yourself on "top of the world"! Powerful rock walls fall down steeply, but your sturdy horses climb higher and higher safely along the cliff. High up in the air you can see the vultures circling, as if warning you to "Be careful...!". In a canyon, you find Rupit, a hidden bandit's village that was built into the rocks. The food in the rural restaurant of the village is delicious! Your horses take you to the end of the mountains after lunch where your accommodation is perched on the edge of a Table Mountain. Josep is the landlord and a huntsman - he and the innkeeper, Lourdes, will entertain you and provide a terrific wild boar goulash.

Day 6:

At breakfast, you can check on the horses in their meadow from the hotel's terrace. On the "meadow above the clouds" you are warmly welcomed by your horses! In the morning sun, the

Table Mountain is shimmering in a reddish colour. In the valley, there is a sparkling lake and at the horizon you can see the mountains of Montserrat behind seemingly endless wooded hills. The trail leads you to lovely grasslands. Cows and sheep are grazing peacefully here in this great backdrop of mountain pastures, oak forests, and Table Mountains. In this ambience, you happily reach your destination, the special farmhouse of our friends Jodi and Isabell. A glass of red wine, a hotpot with pine nuts and plums brings your unforgettable Panorama Trail to an end.

Day 7:

For the last time, you feed your faithful companions and say goodbye to them and your friendly hosts. Now it's time for your homeward journey - with a collection of unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime!



Level of riding and fitness

For participation on our self-guided trails, we require a responsible and positive attitude towards both the horses and to nature!

It is important for us to emphasize that the most important part of this self-guided trail is not the speed but enjoyable trail riding! Since you are traveling on your own, you should have appropriate riding experience in the field and experience in the independent handling of horses and their food. Absolute seat strength is a must! The welfare of the horse and the safety of horse and rider must always come first. Do not overexert your four-legged travel companion and do not put yourself or the horse in unnecessary danger. Although the riding pace is individually flexible, this must always be adapted to the different terrain and the condition of the horse and rider. This Trail includes both mountainous and flat terrain. At difficult passages, it is necessary to lead the horse. Comfortable walking shoes are necessary. Our surefooted horses help you in varied terrain for necessary security. To master the challenge of this self-guided trail ride, you and your four-legged partner must make a good team. Daily 4-6 hours in the saddle.

Guides & Groups sizes

Mapping and guidance. On the first day, you will meet your four-legged partner, who will faithfully accompany you during the next few days. After a detailed introduction you will be ready to go!

2-6 Riders

Horses & Tack

You will have the chance to ride beautiful Andalusian horses,

They are selected for their appropriate temperament and a lot of time is spent on training them, so our happy Spanish horses make absolutely reliable and sure-footed companions for you. Each of our "Spaniards" has a unique personality, but they have one thing in common: they are high performance athletes.

A selection of around 40 lovely and reliable Andalusian and Spanish horses is waiting for you, to make your riding holiday a unique experience!

High-quality trail saddles designed for long-distance riding at all paces, developed in collaboration with the saddler 'Hidalgo' for maximum comfort and safety. Handmade saddle cloths use medical-grade "anti-pressure sore fleece" for optimal horse back protection. Each rider is also provided with a handcrafted saddlebag, designed specifically for trail riding needs.

Accommodation and Dining

You will experience a special feeling of Catalonia in our accommodations, which offer you a cosy ambience. Far away from mass tourism you will be spoiled by attentive hosts with local specialties. You will get to know the food culture of the region through the lovingly prepared

dishes from fish, game, vegetables and fruits. This experience is refined by the fine wine from the growing areas of the Empordà -your taste buds will not be neglected on this journey!

What to pack

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
- Water bottle 1L
- Plastic bags (protect personal belongings from water damage)
- Travel insurance
- Medical kit
- Half chaps
- Helmet
- Gloves
- Sun protection
- Insect repellent
- Mosquito bite relief
- A non-breakable water bottle
- Swimsuit
- Light summer clothing/warm clothing depending on weather & time of year
- Sunglasses
- Warm jacket if travelling in spring or autumn
- Camera

Each rider gets a saddle bag, in which you can stow personal things away. For quick access, a hip or abdominal bag has proven itself useful.

Flights & Airport transfers

This trip is only available on request. Before proceeding with the deposit payment, please send us an email or a WhatsApp message. We need to check availability for your dates first, otherwise we will not be able to confirm your booking.

Flight and airport transfers

Transfers:

€230 return Barcelona

€160 return Girona

Taxi Gerona €45

Taxi Barcelona €220

Single supplement on request £200

Do NOT book flights until you have received the 'Booking Confirmation Email' from saddletravel.com

You should fly into Barcelona airport, ideally as early as possible to be in time for the introduction session which starts at 10:00am. Therefore, we suggest arriving the day before with an overnight stay at the Castell Bardera with a supplement of £70- £90 per room depending on the season.

Your departure flight on the last day after breakfast (9:00am). Departure with transfer to the next train station (Llança 45€) or airport transfer can be arranged.

Climate

The climate of Catalonia is typically Mediterranean, with many hours of sunshine, mild in winter and warm in summer. The Pyrenees and the neighbouring areas have a high-altitude climate, with minimum temperatures below 0°C, annual rainfall above 1000 mm and abundant snow during the winter. Along the coast, the climate is mild and temperate with temperatures increasing from north to south, while the rain behaves the opposite way. The hinterland, far from the sea, has a continental Mediterranean climate, with cold winters and very hot days.

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.



Contact details

+44 1497 888 228 WhatsApp
trails@saddletravel.com

saddletravel.com
CN: 05411320

<https://saddletravel.com>