



Classical Dressage in Portugal

PORTUGAL

The perfect **riding holiday** for the dressage lover or for those who wish to discover this magnificent art. Just outside Lisbon, stay at this **dressage centre** and have lessons on their highly schooled Lusitano horses from one of their experienced instructors.

Dressage stays	 8 days / 6 riding	 From £1,178	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Classical dressage, Portuguese Equitation lessons in small groups of 2 or 3 riders (maximum 4 in a group)
- Choose to have one or two lessons each day (each lesson lasts between 50 and 60 minutes)
- Beautifully schooled Lusitano horses, some of whom are capable of high school movements
- Non riders are welcome
- Plan your week to allow time to visit some of the surrounding area such as local monasteries, Lisbon city or the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art at Queluz.

Day 1 — 1 : HOME - LISBON - No lesson



Your flight to Lisbon can arrive at any time, although please note that there is no discount if your late arrival means that you miss dinner on the first night.

You will be met on arrival at Lisbon airport and transferred to the equestrian centre which is located just 25km from Lisbon. Alternatively you may prefer to hire a car and drive yourself to the centre - we can provide driving directions.

Day 2 — 2 : DRESSAGE - 1 or 2 lessons



You will have pre-booked either one or two lessons today.
Each lesson comprises 2 - 3 riders and lasts between 50-60 minutes.

The morning lessons start around 09:30 and the afternoon lessons start around 16:00, although this can vary depending on the time of year and weather.

Lessons usually start in walk with the chance to practice shoulder-in, leg yielding and travers before moving onto trot and canter. For those with prior dressage experience it may be possible to practice Spanish walk, piaffe, passage or pirouettes. Classical dressage is particularly focused on lightness, beauty and expression.

If you have chosen only one lesson today, then this could be either in the morning or the afternoon and the rest of the day can be spend relaxing at the centre, by the pool or perhaps off-site visiting Lisbon, Mafra or Sintra.

Please note that over the duration of your stay, you might take lessons with different instructors, depending on your riding abilities and language preferences.

Day 3 — 3 : DRESSAGE - 1 or 2 lessons

 Alcainca

Again you will have booked either one or two dressage lessons for today. It is not always possible to request additional lessons once you have arrived so you should be certain to book enough in advance.

Day 4 — 4 : DRESSAGE - 1 or 2 lessons

 Alcainca

Again you will have booked either one or two dressage lessons for today. It is not always possible to request additional lessons once you have arrived so you should be certain to book enough in advance.

Day 5 — 5 : DRESSAGE - 1 or 2 lessons

 Alcainca

Again you will have booked either one or two dressage lessons for today. It is not always possible to request additional lessons once you have arrived so you should be certain to book enough in advance.

Day 6 — 6 : DRESSAGE - 1 or 2 lessons

 Alcainca

Again you will have booked either one or two dressage lessons for today. It is not always possible to request additional lessons once you have arrived so you should be certain to book enough in advance.

Day 7 — 7 : DRESSAGE - 1 or 2 lessons

 Alcainca

Again you will have booked either one or two dressage lessons for today. It is not always possible to request additional lessons once you have arrived so you should be certain to book enough in advance.

Day 8 — 8 : LISBON - HOME - No lesson

Transfer to the airport so you can catch your flight home.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
24/11/2024	01/12/2024	£1,178	Guaranteed departure
01/12/2024	08/12/2024	£1,178	Guaranteed departure
08/12/2024	15/12/2024	£1,178	Guaranteed departure
15/12/2024	22/12/2024	£1,178	Guaranteed departure

05/01/2025	12/01/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
12/01/2025	19/01/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
19/01/2025	26/01/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
26/01/2025	02/02/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
02/02/2025	09/02/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
09/02/2025	16/02/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
16/02/2025	23/02/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
23/02/2025	02/03/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
02/03/2025	09/03/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
09/03/2025	16/03/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
16/03/2025	23/03/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
23/03/2025	30/03/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
30/03/2025	06/04/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
06/04/2025	13/04/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
13/04/2025	20/04/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
20/04/2025	27/04/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
27/04/2025	04/05/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
04/05/2025	11/05/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
11/05/2025	18/05/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
18/05/2025	25/05/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
25/05/2025	01/06/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
01/06/2025	08/06/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
08/06/2025	15/06/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
15/06/2025	22/06/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
22/06/2025	29/06/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
29/06/2025	06/07/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
06/07/2025	13/07/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
13/07/2025	20/07/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
20/07/2025	27/07/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
27/07/2025	03/08/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
03/08/2025	10/08/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
10/08/2025	17/08/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
17/08/2025	24/08/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
24/08/2025	31/08/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
31/08/2025	07/09/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure

07/09/2025	14/09/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
14/09/2025	21/09/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
21/09/2025	28/09/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
28/09/2025	05/10/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
05/10/2025	12/10/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
12/10/2025	19/10/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
19/10/2025	26/10/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
26/10/2025	02/11/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
02/11/2025	09/11/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
09/11/2025	16/11/2025	£1,365	Guaranteed departure
16/11/2025	23/11/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
23/11/2025	30/11/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
30/11/2025	07/12/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
07/12/2025	14/12/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure
14/12/2025	21/12/2025	£1,230	Guaranteed departure

Price details

IMPORTANT: THERE ARE NO LESSONS ON SUNDAYS

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room during the ride.

- Dates are flexible and you can arrive/depart on any day and stay for as long as you like with discounts for longer stays. We recommend arriving on Sundays as there are no lessons on Sundays. Please contact us for a personalised quote.

- There are 2 set programmes available (applicable in 2025):

> Moderate (includes 4 group lessons + 1 private lesson)

> Intense (includes 8 group lessons + 2 private lessons)

- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a room with another guest of the same sex. To guarantee your own room there is a single supplement of approx. £210/€245/\$270. In 2025, solo riders will be given a single room free of charge.

- Transfers are not included but can be arranged (invoiced before departure):

From the airport to the dressage centre approx. £95/€110/\$125 return (1-3 passengers);

From the city centre to the dressage school costs approx. £115/€130/\$145 return (1-3 passengers).

Alternatively you may prefer to hire a car and drive yourself - we can provide driving directions.

- Riders from 12 years are welcome if they have the required riding level and a good level of concentration, and if accompanied by their parents.

- A driver is available during your stay if you wish to take a local excursion, such as to the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art, Mafra or Lisbon - these excursions are at additional cost and payable locally.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

English speaking instructors

LOGISTIC

1 horse equipped with classical dressage/Portuguese saddle and bridle (the horse can change during the stay)

ACCOMMODATION

Double room in Guesthouses (7 nights)

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 8

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverage and personal extra

TRANSPORT

International flights

EXTRA

Tips to local team

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

TRANSPORT

Airport transfers on destination

EXTRAS

Private lessons - on request

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

There are approximately 12 horses available for guests and they are all pure-bred or part-bred Lusitanos. Some are stallions but mainly they are geldings. The horses are at varying levels of training, so there are schoolmasters for intermediate riders or those just starting out in dressage as well as horses capable of producing high school movements for experienced riders.

Guide & local team

There are two main instructors and it is likely that you will have lessons with one of them throughout your stay for continuity and consistency in your training.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You should be able to walk, trot and canter and be a confident rider.

Riders who have some prior experience of dressage will get the most from this holiday. An understanding of some basic terms, such as shoulder-in is required. The centre cannot cater for beginner riders. You will be expected to wear a hard hat when mounted and please note that we can not guarantee that your lessons will be with a particular instructor.

On some occasions, novice riders may be welcomed (special package), please enquire for further details.

Rider weight limit - 89 kgs / 13.5 stones. Heavier riders please contact us.

PACE

Depending on your experience you will work in all three paces and may include movements such as shoulder-in, travers, half pass, piaffe etc.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be expected to assist with grooming, tacking up and untacking your horse each day but grooms are available to assist you if necessary.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

No special difficulties, but a prior knowledge of basic dressage is required. You will get more out of the tuition if you have some experience of basic dressage terms, such as shoulder-in.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Spurs and sticks will be made available to you if the instructors feel you require them.

Riding helmets are mandatory. We recommend all our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

The guesthouse at the equestrian centre has four twin rooms and one double room, each with private bathroom and located close to the stables. There are also an additional three twin rooms just over the road. The dining room, communal living area with TV and bar, as well as the unheated swimming pool are all available year round.

MEALS

You eat all your meals in the dining room at the riding centre, which overlooks the indoor arena.

Breakfast is continental and buffet style.

For lunch you will have traditional Portuguese food.

Dinner is usually fish with salads and vegetables. The focus is on traditional Portuguese cuisine and all is prepared locally by the chef.

Wine is included.

Vegetarians can be accommodated. Please let us know in advance.

CLIMATE

Portugal has a pleasant climate with mild temperatures all year round:

Winter: 12 - 15c

Spring: 20 - 25c

Summer: 30 - 35c

Autumn: 15 - 20c

There is rarely rain during the summer months, but rain is common in winter and can occur in spring also.

TIPS

Tips are appreciated but not expected. You should give what you feel is appropriate and you feel comfortable with.

PACKING LIST

Head

- A helmet is mandatory. Equus Journeys strongly recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses

Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts to provide protection from the sun
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm polar fleece or equivalent, particularly in winter
- Waterproof jacket - rain can be difficult to predict and it's better to be prepared.

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long boots, particularly if you are used to riding in them.
- Shoes for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun whilst riding

Nightwear

- Pyjamas etc (something warm in winter as the nights can be cold)

Other useful items

- Swimsuit - the pool is open during summer months
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

In your luggage

- Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant unless they are less than 100ml and all bottles can fit in a small, clear, plastic ziplock bag.
- Swiss army knife or equivalent

In your hand luggage

- Any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.
- Your riding hat

Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Our Recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Carry a copy of your passport and insurance policy with you.

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#) .