



Equus Journeys

HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Virgin beaches of Andalucía

SPAIN / SPAIN

A **horseback ride** in the heart of the Cabo de Gata Natural park. Enjoy the magnificent **Spanish bays and beaches** of Andalusia, and ride through villages that witnessed the era of piracy in the Mediterranean. In a region that is renowned for its beauty, experience some of the whitest beaches as you **discover the hidden gems of Spain**.

Beach Ride	 8 days / 6 days riding	 From £1,387	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Discover the untouched beauty of the landscapes of Andalusia
- Ride along the white sand beaches and discover hidden bays
- Enjoy being on the set of some of the most famous Wild West films
- Relax in the comfort of local hotels

Day 1 — 1: EUROPE - ALMERIA

Arrival before 6pm on time for your 7pm transfer. You will be transferred to the accommodation where you will meet your guide and fellow riders. Enjoy your first night in Spain with a delicious locally cooked dinner, before a good night's sleep in your comfortable hotel.

Day 2 — 2: SAN JOSÉ - GENOVESES BEACH - SAN JOSÉ - 5-6 hours riding

After breakfast, your guide will introduce you to the safety procedures, and pair you with your horse.

Start your trail ride towards Genoveses - arguably one of the most famous beaches in Spain. Discover the pristine coastline of the Mediterranean as you allow your horse to stretch their legs across the white sands of Mónsul, Media Luna and El Arrecife de las Sirenas. A perfect photo opportunity set in one of the most iconic film sets for films such as "Indiana Jones" or "Lawrence of Arabia". Enjoy a picnic at the foot of the Cortijo "El Romeral", an Andalusian farm situated amongst centenary olive trees. End your day on a high as you ride up into the Del Tesorillo valley. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 3 — 3 : SAN JOSÉ - RODALQUILAR - 5-6h riding

After breakfast, you will start today’s ride in the north of the park where the Sierra de Gata Mountains are located. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the mountain range as your ride across the beautiful landscape, and pass through an original Spanish village of Los Albaricoques. Today, most of the village houses have been refurbished, stripping away the original Old West style theme, but as you ride through the narrow streets, you may see some familiar street names of famous films and actors that were made here. Let your horses have a well deserved break in the iconic spot of El Cortijo del Fraile, where you can enjoy a picnic lunch. You will ride back to the hotel in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 4 — 4: RODALQUILAR - EL PLAYAZO - RODALQUILAR - 5h riding

Today, you will start the fourth day of your riding holiday in the eastern part of Cabo de Gata natural park, Andalusia’s largest coastal protected area.

The route climbs up to La Torre de los Lobos, from where you can enjoy panoramic views of the park and the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada (season dependent).

Stop at Cala del Cuervo to enjoy a picnic by the seaside. From there, after passing through a palm tree oasis, you will reach the famous beach of El Playazo, popular since Roman times and a passageway for pirates. Return to Rodalquilar.

Dinner at a local restaurant on the beach to enjoy a special menu of grilled fish.

Day 5 — 5: RODALQUILAR - GOLD MINE - RODALQUILAR - 5-6h riding

Today’s ride will begin along the ancient paths of the goldmine. Let your horse guide you along the narrow ravines, before crossing the volcanic crater which now forms the Rodalquilar valley. As you ride through the valley, uncover the hidden gold, which is said to be concealed by mineral walls. End your day's ride with a step back into history as you visit the old mines that were used throughout the 1930’s right until the end of the 1980’s.

After a full day in the saddle, enjoy a delicious locally sourced dinner and a relaxing night at the hotel.

Day 6 — 6: RODALQUILAR- LAS NEGRAS -RODALQUILAR - 3h riding

Today you will uncover the beauty of Las Negras, an ancient fishing town. Las Negras gets its name from the “Black Mountain” of El Cerro Negro, situated close to the village. This impressive rock formation fills the shores in its dark black stones. Enjoy the bright blue waters of the bay whilst you soak up the sun and enjoy your last few moments on horseback.

Arrival in Rodalquilar at noon where you will transfer to the town of "Las Negras" to taste a traditional paella.

Afternoon at leisure - you can enjoy the Spa facilities at the hotel (treatments are payable locally)*

* Note: not available for the New Year departure (spa facilities are closed)

Day 7 — 7: RODALQUILAR - ISLETA DEL MORO- SAN JOSÉ - 5-6 hours riding

Your final day in the saddle. As you leave behind Rodalquilar, you will ride along the beautiful coast line on a track that was once used to protect the local villages from pirate attacks. Take a look back into history as you pass the small castles and watch towers of this idyllic region. After an adventurous morning, enjoy a picnic in a small oasis, under the shade of large palm tree leaves on the beautiful beach of Escullos.

Day 8 — 8: ALMERIA - EUROPE

The last breakfast with your group and your brilliant guides, before saying goodbye.

Note: Check out from the hotel at 12 noon at the latest.

DATES & PRICES			
DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
19/05/2024	26/05/2024	£1,387	Guaranteed departure
01/06/2024	08/06/2024	£1,387	Guaranteed departure
23/06/2024	30/06/2024	£1,387	Open
01/09/2024	08/09/2024	£1,387	Guaranteed departure

22/09/2024	29/09/2024	£1,387	Open
20/10/2024	27/10/2024	£1,387	Guaranteed departure
24/11/2024	01/12/2024	£1,387	Open
29/12/2024	05/01/2025	£1,470	Open

Price details

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR DATE: this is a special date following the same route. However, on the 31st first, you will have a special NY dinner party at the hotel (included). On the 1st of January, you will have brunch and leave at 12:00 am, riding the whole afternoon with no picnic break

- International flights are not included, but can be booked upon request.

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

- The group is made up of 4 to 8 international riders.

- Please note: the ride will also confirm for 2-3 riders on payment of a supplement of around:

2024 - €280/£240/\$300 per person for 2 riders, or €150/£130/\$160 per person for 3 riders

Once the group has reached 4 people, we will remove this supplement from your invoice and refund you if you have already paid it.

- Single room supplement of approx:

2024 - €235/£200/\$250 in the low season or €350/£300/\$375, Easter-July-August-Semana Santa-New Year

If you register alone and we do not have any other riders available to share a room, a single room supplement will be charged.

- Transfers:

> Transfers from/to Almeria airport or train stations are included. The transfer on the first day is scheduled for 7pm. The transfer on your way back leaves at around 11:00 am (60 min transfer, drop-off 12:00). If your flight times do not match, a private transfer can be organised at an extra cost.

> A transfer to and from Malaga airport can be organised and is payable locally. Starts from of €200 per person return (subject to change) for a minimum of 3 people per car (2h30 - 7:00 pm day of arrival, 9:00 am day of departure)

It is also possible to take a bus from Malaga or Granada to Almeria: see www.alsa.es (needs to be prebooked to guarantee space).

- Children must be accompanied by an adult and are welcome from the age of 14, provided that they have the required equestrian level.

- A shorter version of this ride is available. Please ask for further information. On request we can also organise tailor-made itineraries to combine riding lessons, horsemanship, trail rides, yoga, hiking....

- No riding on arrival and departure days.

- There is a rider weight limit of 95kg /208lb/14.9st.

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

1 English speaking horse guide

LOGISTICS

1 support vehicle

INLAND TRANSPORT

Transfers from/to América airport - see "dates and prices" for schedule

ACCOMMODATION

Full board accommodation in hotels

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on the final day

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

TRANSPORT

International flights

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

Small group supplement - see above for the details

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

TRANSPORT

Return airport transfers from Malaga

EXTRAS

Trip extensions or additional activities

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

A team of 20 beautiful Andalusian, Hispano-Arab or Spanish bred horses. They are a very intelligent and responsive team of horses that are well-schooled and polite, with three even paces.

Guide & local team

You guides are Antonio, Michel and Desi. They are extremely professional and very good at what they do meaning you will be in safe hands throughout your trail ride. They speak Spanish and a reasonably good English.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

This holiday is suited for intermediate riders who ride regularly, or are planning to get back in the saddle before the trip. You will have to be in good physical condition and be ready for long hours riding under the sun. Riders must be able to ride confidently over varied terrain, but this is not a very

technical or challenging trail.

There is a rider weight limit of 95kg /208lb/14.9st.

PACE

The main pace of the ride is the walk, with some good trots and canters when the terrain allows.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

All riders are responsible for grooming and tacking their own horse. You are also expected to help the team to feed and water the horses when required.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Good levels of fitness and endurance are needed since you will spend long hours in the saddle every day. The trip does not offer many technical difficulties but you must remain in control of your horse at all times and be comfortable riding in the outdoors.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

English tack. Some horses are ridden in a sidepull or hackamore bridle.

Small saddlebags are provided.

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

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

This is a semi mobile ride with two different hotels on this riding holiday. The accommodation is of 3 or 4**** and have a pool or offer spa amenities.

Riders stay in double or twin rooms (or single room for solo riders, with a supplement), which are comfortable and have a private bathroom.

MEALS

The Spanish cuisines are varied and will give you a taste of the Mediterranean flavours.

Lunch will be mostly picnics of local, home-made food (no sandwiches).

Typical Spanish dishes will be served for dinner every night at the chosen hotels. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice.

CLIMATE

During springtime temperatures generally reach 15-20°C, where as in summer the temperature rises at around 25°C (June) and can even reach 35°C. In Autumn temperatures are approx. 20 – 25°C. December temperatures can get to 15°C with cool evenings.

This ride does not run during summer due to high temperatures and busy beaches.

TIPS

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

PACKING LIST

Head

- Riding helmets are mandatory and we recommend that you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun and dust

Upper body

- Thermal long-sleeved tops are a lightweight way of providing extra warmth if you need it (in the winter)
- Long sleeved shirts to provide protection from the sun
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper

- Warm polar fleece or equivalent
- 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
- Waterproof over trousers
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps.
- Lightweight shoes for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, wind or rain whilst riding

Nightwear

- Pyjamas etc

Other useful items

- Swimsuit - there are pools on some nights
- Small backpack for accessing items required during the day.
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre)
- 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

General information

- We recommend taking any valuables, such as your camera, iPod, iPad, medicines and glasses etc. in your hand luggage. Travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes is highly recommended - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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](#) .