

# PORTUGAL - ALENTEJO TRAILS - DOLPHIN TRAIL

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Shared transfers from Lisbon airport (payable locally) are at 17:30 and so your flight should be scheduled to arrive into Lisbon no later than 17:00. The journey from the airport takes about one and a half to two hours.

Your return flight should depart after 12 noon on the day of departure.

If you book flights outside of these guidelines then you will need to pay for a private taxi or have a rental car.

Overnight Monte das Faias. Small hotel, simply and traditionally decorated with a restaurant, bar, swimming pools and tennis court. This rural house has a refined ambience and charming staff where you can unwind in comfortable rooms.



One of the bedrooms at Monte das Faias

## Day 2

It is a short drive of around 20 minutes to meet your horses. Today you ride south through the Serra de Grândola in the direction of Santiago do Cacém. Ride along farm tracks round and up and over hills covered in cork-oak plantations.

After a tasty picnic and a rest, continue through the forests of pines and cork oaks until you reach the Quinta da Ortiga where you leave your horses before a short transfer to your hotel, Quinta de Malmedra.



The horses rest here for the night.

Overnight Quinta de Malmedra. This is in the countryside, 2 km from the town. It has 12 rooms with private balcony and 2 large suites facing the outdoor pool, overlooking the castle.





A bedroom at Quinta de Malmadra

### Day 3

Today you explore the forest of eucalyptus in the vicinity of the hotel. Have a picnic and maybe a swim at Morgavel's Water Reservoir. Afterwards, you may enjoy some great canters on sandy tracks. Return to your hotel Quinta de Malmadra for dinner and to overnight.

For those who are interested you are also near some cultural attractions including the Castle of Santiago and Roman ruins of Mirobriga.



Overnight Quinta de Malmadra.

### Day 4

Either in the morning or afternoon join a two hour boat trip to see the dolphins play in the estuary. Sightings cannot be guaranteed but are very likely. Please note that the boat trip is subject to weather conditions.



Today's ride from the Pousada is along sandy trails through fields and forests, allowing several long canters. You ride past the Santo Andre Lagoon - in this beautiful place you may see flamingos and storks. Ride past the rice fields of the area, which in late summer prior to harvest are an astonishing colour of green.

Dinner and overnight at Hotel Vila Park



Overnight Vila Park. This is a modern, comfortable hotel where you can enjoy a swim in the pool.



Pool at the Vila Park Hotel



A bedroom at Vila Park

## Day 5

Ride from Hotel Vila Park onto the beach. Between 1 June and 15 September, this ride is at dawn to avoid the holiday makers on the beach. It's a beautiful ride at first light as the sun rises over the dunes. Hopefully enjoy some beach canters before reaching a lovely picnic spot in the pine forest where your horses rest whilst you may take a swim in the sea and have lunch.

After lunch you ride through the sand dunes before arriving back at Hotel Vila Park. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Please note that the timing of the beach ride is dependent on tides and so you may ride this day in reverse and visit the beach in the afternoon.



Overnight Vila Park.

## Day 6

Today you ride from Hotel Vila Park towards Grândola. You ride from the sandy tracks of the pine and eucalyptus forests to the red ground of the hills of Grândola where you may see some herds of cows or sheep.

The horses stay at a field near to Grândola, while you return to Barradas da Serra with the opportunity for a refreshing swim before dinner.



Overnight Monte das Faias.

## Day 7

Today you ride through the undulating landscape of the Sierra of Grândola. Ride through picturesque villages, where the noise of the shoes of your horses attract the curious inhabitants of the village out of their houses. Say your goodbyes to the horses and transfer back to Barradas da Serra for a farewell dinner and overnight.



Overnight Monte das Faias.

## **Day 8**

After breakfast transfer back to Lisbon for your flight home.