

Kingdom of the Lusitano Trail

Sunday

The meeting time at Lisbon airport is 17:30. You are transferred 95 miles north-east to the town of Avis. For your first night you stay in a renovated farmhouse, the Monte do Padrão.

Please note that it is sometimes necessary to substitute riding routes and use other hotels of similar or greater standard, but always with your best interests at heart.

Monday

Meet your horses and ride over hilly meadows and down to a river, where you stop for lunch. This is a large-scale landholding and there are few fences and roads. Most of the stone bridges over the numerous rivers date back to the Romans.

In the afternoon you continue along the banks of the river – it may be necessary to dismount and lead your horse over some particularly rocky sections.

The day ends in another manor, the Monte dos Aroeirais. Spend the evening in the beautiful garden by the pool.



Tuesday

Today you ride from Monte dos Aroeirais to the town of Altér do Chão, through meadows where they raise wild bulls.

After a picnic lunch and siesta, arrive at the town of Altér do Chão, near the famous Alter Real stud.

Overnight at the comfortable three-star hotel - Varandas de Altér.

Wednesday

Today, visit the horse breeding farm of Altér do Chão, one of the two national stud farms. The horses bred here are so famous that they are traded under the name Altér.



In the morning, ride through flower-filled meadows and along rural tracks near the stud farm.

After lunch at the hotel, return to visit the stud farm and museum. This is often a highlight and not only for horse-lovers. In this idyllic location, hundreds of mares and their colts graze on huge meadows. You should also get the opportunity to see some of the stallions and young horses.

Return to the town of Altér where, time allowing, you may stop at a Portuguese tack shop where you can buy local leather chaps or belts. Overnight at Varandas de Altér again.

Thursday

Leaving the stud farm area behind, ride through large meadows, past fields and, with only one remote farmhouse to remind you of the presence of people, ride to Ribeira da Seda. The horses stay at Monte do Padrao and you transfer a short distance to overnight at the manor of Monte dos Aroeirais as on the second night.



Friday

Today you ride through large meadowlands. The well watered plains of the upper Alentejo favour extensive fruit growing. Arrive back to your starting point Monte do Padrão. This huge 3,000-hectare farm has deer and boar, but you are unlikely to see them. Overnight at Monte do Padrão as on the first night.

Saturday

You ride from the farm towards Lake Maranhão through the private hunting grounds of the Calatrava, consisting of mixed pine and cork forests. Enjoy lunch on the banks of the dam, before returning to the farm by a similar route.

Farewell dinner and overnight at Monte do Padrão again.

Sunday

After breakfast transfer back to Lisbon for your flight home.

Accommodation

The accommodation varies from beautifully renovated former farmhouses, to small hotels.

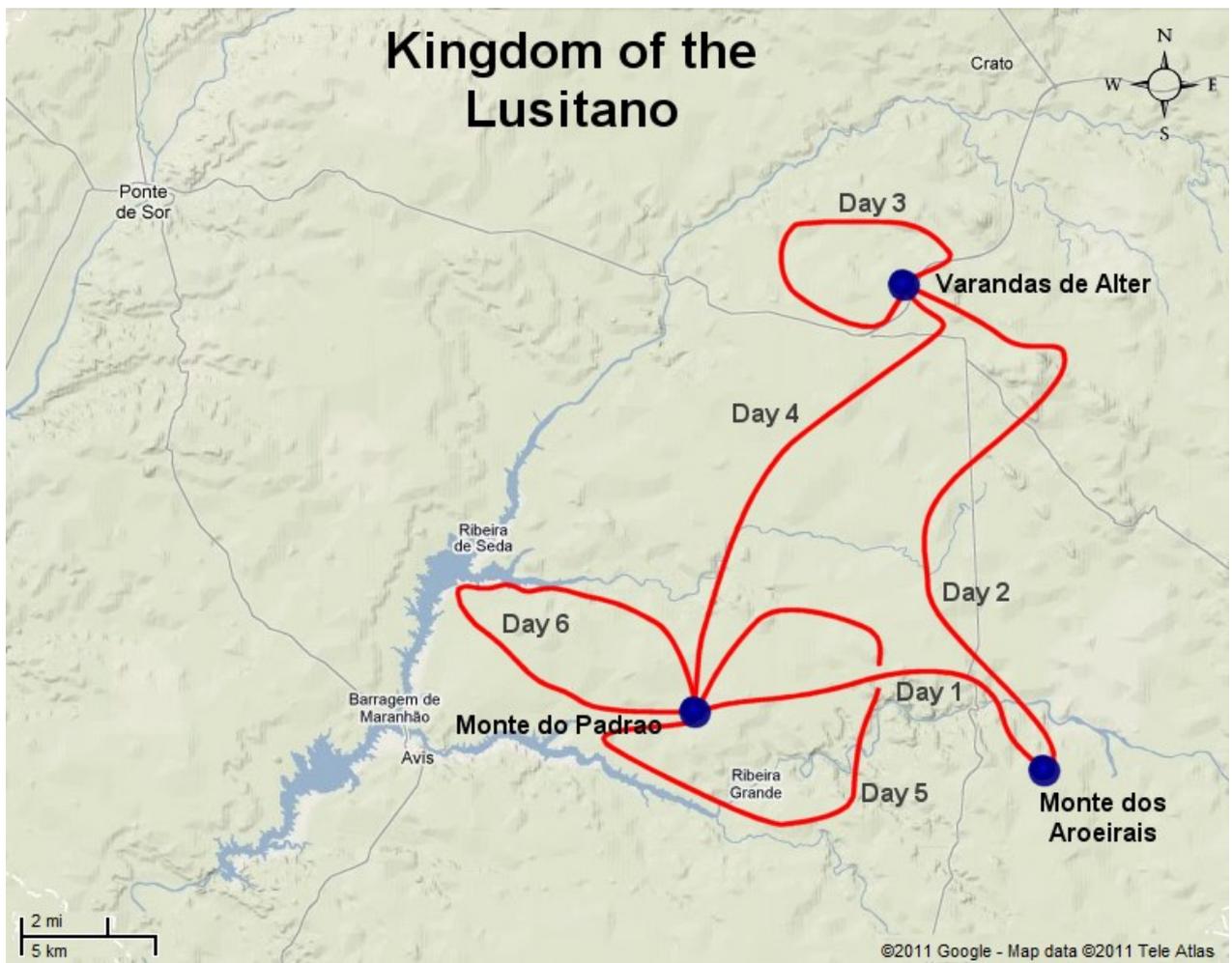
Some have a swimming pool to enjoy a cooling dip after a day in the saddle.

The rooms all have private shower/loo, and some have a bath. The rooms mostly have two beds which are made up separately but pushed together, so you can separate as you need.

A single supplement is payable to guarantee a single room. If you are willing to share, the supplement is payable initially and then refunded if we find you a sharer.



Monte dos Aroeirais



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