

PORTUGAL - WOLVES AND WILD HORSES

ITINERARY

Day 1

Shared transfers (payable locally) are possible from Porto Airport at set times on Saturday. Your flight should arrive in Porto no later than 14:00. The transfer leaves at 15:00.

Your return flight should depart after 13:00 on the day of departure.

Please note that these transfers are at pre-set times on Saturday. If you choose to book flights outside of these guidelines then you will need to hire a car at the airport or pay for a private transfer.

Arrive and settle into your room and relax after your journey. Later meet your hosts and guide over dinner and learn about the week ahead. Dinner each night is normally at about 20:30.

Two alternative accommodations are used depending on the number of people booked on a particular week. You stay either at Falagueiras House which is quite near the stables or an apartment in Assureira hamlet which is 3 km south of Castro Laboreiro. You will be transferred between the accommodation and stables.

Falagueiras House is a large recently renovated house in the village of Castro Laboreiro. It is a short car journey to the stables.



All the bedrooms are en-suite, and there is a large communal living/kitchen/dining room. There is a kettle and a coffee machine.



Day 2

The following outlines the proposed itinerary for the week but the weather and local conditions may mean that the day by day itinerary varies. Over the course of the week the plan is to have three half day rides and three all day rides. The riding is mostly at a walk due to the terrain, but the canters you do have are fast and so you do need to be confident.

Breakfast ingredients are left for you to have your own breakfast at a place and time to suit you. Today sets the pattern for the week.

At around 10:00 you will be collected and taken to the stables at Pedro's home on the other side of Castro Laboreiro (a drive of about 10 minutes). After matching horses to riders you set off on your first ride in the beautiful tracks of Peneda Mountain.

After your ride you normally wash down the horses and return them to their fields and go by car to have lunch together. Later you visit the visitor centre of the National Park and learn more about the area through which you will be riding.

(About 2.5 hours riding)

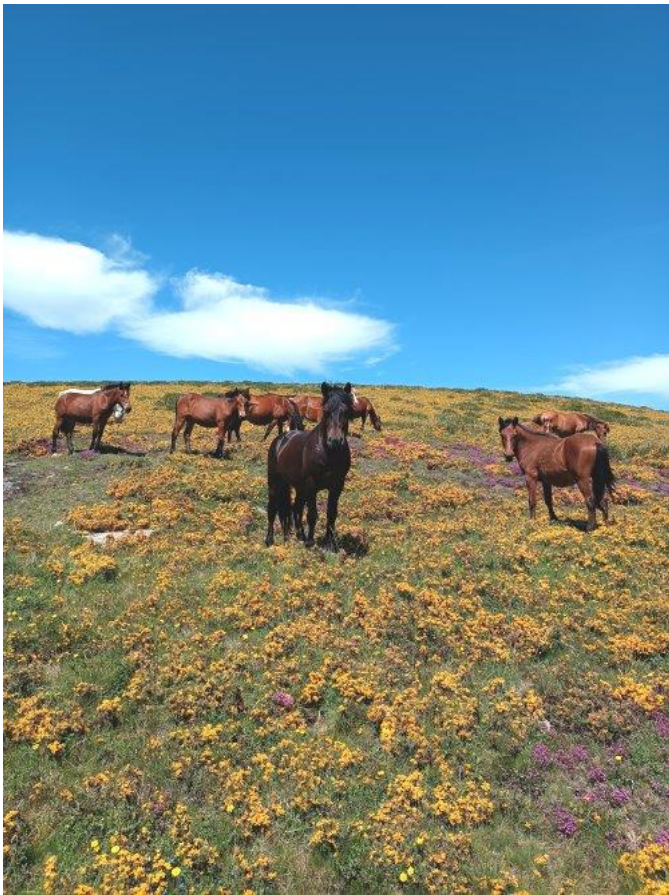


Day 3

Today is a full day ride which takes you towards the Valley of the Wolves. This is an area full of biodiversity. There are occasionally sightings of wild animals and you can often spot the wild Garrano herds in this valley.

Lunch today is a picnic in the mountains.

(About 4 hours riding)



Day 4

Today you ride towards the source of the Laboreiro river, at the top of the mountain. Here there are a concentration of small springs which come together to start the Laboreiro River. On the way you pass Rodeiro village, the highest village in the region. If conditions allow, you will reach the highest point of the Plateau, around 1,340 metres to enjoy a breathtaking 360 degrees view.



This afternoon you visit the Castle of Castro Laboreiro.

(About 2.5 hours riding)

Day 5

Today you cross the Monteiro Hills and after passing the lakes of Portelinha, you start to descend in the direction of Castro Laboreiro village. This ride offers a variety of terrain with both views of the mountains and the tranquility of paths through the oak forest between small hamlets.

This ride will allow you to see the difference between the high-altitude landscape and the more hidden valleys of Castro Laboreiro.

Lunch will be a picnic in the mountains.

After lunch, head back to the stables with views over the mountains and birds of prey overhead keeping you company along the way.



(About 3 hours riding)

Day 6

This morning you can choose between a free morning to relax and rest, or a visit the Castro Laboreiro Museum to get to know more about the village's history.



In the late afternoon you tack up the horses for a sunset ride to track and hopefully find the wild Garrano horses.

If the weather is not favourable, today may be swapped around so you are riding earlier in the day rather than at sunset.

(About 2.5 hours riding)

Day 7

Your final ride heads east towards the border with Spain. On the way you may see the Garrano horses and also the amazing megalithic monuments which represent the largest megalithic necropolis in the Iberian Peninsula.

Lunch today is in the mountains.

The ride continues with the possibility of some long canters.

Your final dinner will be together in the village.

(About 5-6 hours riding)



Day 8

You will be transferred to Porto airport.