

Wolves and Wild Horses, Portugal

Itinerary

Saturday

Transfer from Porto to the village of Castro Laboreiro.

Arrive at Ecotura Country House, 2 km from the village of Castro Laboreiro. Settle into your room and relax after your journey. Later meet your hosts and guide over dinner and learn about the week ahead.



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 you will have three half day rides and three all day rides. It may be possible to have additional riding or riding lessons in place of the non-riding excursions and this is an extra cost payable locally.

Sunday

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 09:00 (normally) you will be collected and taken to the stables at Pedro & Anabela'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 in a local restaurant. Later you visit the visitor centre of the National Park and learn more about the area through which you will be riding.

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

Dinner and overnight at Ecotura Country House. (About 4 hours riding)

Monday

Today you ride almost to the eastern border of Portugal with Spain. Along the way you should see some herds of wild Garrano horses. The focus of the ride is to reach the megalithic monuments, which are the largest megalithic necropolis of the Iberian Peninsula.



Have a picnic lunch in the mountains before riding back to the riding centre. Some long canters may be possible today.

Today you will also have the option of attending a meditation class at Ecotura Country house.

Dinner and overnight at Ecotura Country House.
(About 6 hours riding)

Tuesday

Today is a morning ride of about 3 hours into the mountains, which may allow for some faster riding.

Drive to lunch at a local restaurant.



In the afternoon there is a non-riding visit to the old historical Mergaço village which is known for its old churches and castle.

Along the way you stop at the Alvarinho Centre to sample the wonderful, fresh local white wine. A typical Portuguese wine, the Alvarinho wine is one of the most important varieties of the Tart Wine Region. A true top quality wine.

Dinner and overnight at Ecotura Country House.
(About 3 hours riding)

Wednesday

Today you leave the mountains and ride into the Monteiro hills in the direction of the winter valley. Don't forget your camera today. The dramatic landscape with the granite rocks will make this day a highlight. You ride through old hamlets full of history and traditions.

Lunch is a picnic in the mountains.



After lunch you return on horseback along an ancient transhumance (route taken by farmers to move their cattle and sheep between summer and winter pastures) which was also a route to Spain.

Dinner and overnight at Ecotura Country House.
(About 5 hours riding)

Thursday

This morning is a non-riding visit to Castro Laboreiro medieval Castle and Peneda pilgrimage sanctuary and village. This huge and beautiful sanctuary in the middle of the mountain was built in the 18th century.



Lunch is a picnic next to the Laboreiro river, near a natural pool with an extraordinary Roman bridge. Depending on the time of year you might have the opportunity to swim in the river.

After lunch you have an afternoon ride exploring the area.

Today you will also have the option of a yoga relaxation class at Ecotura Country house.

Dinner and overnight at Ecotura Country House.
(About 3 hours riding)



Friday

A final day of riding towards the fabulous Valley of the Wolves. Full of biodiversity this area is rich in rare sightings of wild animals. In this valley you can hopefully spot the best herds of wild Garrano horses to be found in this region.

Picnic lunch in the mountain



Enjoy a farewell dinner and overnight at the Ecotura Country House.
(About 5 hours riding)

Saturday

After breakfast you are transferred to the airport.