

# Pirate Trail, Spain

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## Day 1

Transfer to your first nights accommodation at a fishing village near to the French border.

Over dinner, meet your guide to discuss the trail ahead.

On the trail you ride along the Costa Brava coastline. This combines steep cliffs, hidden coves and beaches. This coastline was home to one of Spain's most notorious Turkish pirates - Barbarossa Khair ad Din known as "red beard". Along this coastline he attacked small seaside villages, stole spices, wine and ceramics and ran an oppressive slave trade. To forewarn against pirate attacks, many forts and Moorish towers were built along the coast.

Please also note that on every day it is necessary to lead your horse on foot on some sections of the trail. Sometimes the ground can be rocky and the walking can be both uphill and downhill, sometimes on uneven terrain. This could be for 30 minutes at a time. It is essential that you wear riding boots that are suitable for walking over rough terrain and which provide good support at the ankles and have rugged non-slip soles.

## Day 2

After breakfast you meet your horses for the week. Your mornings ride climbs across stony rock paths towards the Benedictine monastery Sant Pere de Rhodes. This monastery is located above the sea level making it safe from possible pirate raids and lies between the Rhodes mountains.



After a picnic lunch your journey continues downhill towards the village of Selva de Mar. There are two sections where you will need to get off your horses – the second one for 30 minutes over some difficult terrain.

This evening you stay in a fishing village called Port de la Selv. Please note that at this guest house you may need to share a bathroom.

## Day 3



Today's ride will take you to the coves along the coastline called the Cap de Creus. The bays were often used as hideouts for the pirates planning their raids.

After lunch you may get the chance to go swimming in the bay.

This afternoon's ride takes you high above the sea along the cliff tops. There is one difficult steep section where you will need to lead your horse for about 15 minutes.

It is about a 20 minutes walk from where you leave the horses to your accommodation in Cadaques. This whitewashed fishing village holds a host of crooked alleyways and is considered by some to be the most beautiful place on this wild coast.

You may wish to take an evening stroll to see the church. Back in the 16th century, the church Santa Maria was ransacked by the pirate Barbarossa and completely burned down.



#### Day 4

Today's ride opens out onto a mountain landscape covered with bushes and flowers.

Lunchtime is spent by a beach where you can have a swim.

This afternoon's ride twists and turns over the mountain pass. There is a steep section where you will need to lead your horse for about 15 minutes.

Tonight you stay in a small family guesthouse.



#### Day 5

The landscape changes today as you follow olive groves along terraced slopes. You head towards Roses and along the way visit the citadel, La Cuitadella. This fort was built to protect the region from pirate attacks. Inside the walls you will find the remains of the old monastery. This area is also known for sighting flamingos, storks and little egrets, which are native to the wetlands you are riding through.



Tonight you stay on the border of the national park, Aiguamolls.

#### Day 6

Today starts with a beach ride along the sand at Playa Grande. You then ride up and into the sand dunes and into the pine forest beyond. Emerging from these woods you have sight of the impressive cliff tops of the Costa Brava and this is where you have your picnic lunch, followed by a well-deserved siesta.



This afternoon you follow the paths above the sea and along the coast. Occasionally dolphins can be seen jumping out of the waters. There is one section where you need to walk on foot steeply downhill for about 20 minutes.

You are transferred back to Mas Alba or similar for your farewell dinner.

#### Day 7

After breakfast, transfer to Barcelona or Girona.