

SPAIN - SIERRA NEVADA - CONTRAVIESA RIDE

ITINERARY

Day 1

Transfers from Malaga airport are included in the price for trails of 5 or more nights. Airport transfers for short breaks are payable locally.

The collection time at Malaga is scheduled for 17:00 so you should book a flight with an arrival time before 16:00 to allow for luggage collection. Your return flight should depart from Malaga after 12:00.

The drive from Malaga to Bubion takes about two and a half hours. Private transfers from Malaga and Granada airports may be arranged on request.



The meeting point at Malaga Airport

Arrive at Bubion and settle into your accommodation. Later meet your guide, have dinner and learn about the week ahead.

Please note that there are often slight changes to the itinerary depending on the weather and the group. Sometimes paths are closed because of repairs, sometimes a higher route is used because it is cooler or a lower one because it is warmer. For example, on the last Contraviesa ride of Spring it may be too hot in the valleys and this ride may have to incorporate some of the routes of the Alpujarra.

In the Alpujarras during the winter months the peaks are under snow and the spring melts and rains can cause damage to paths, riverbeds and tracks. As such the paths and itineraries maybe changed in places or it may be necessary to dismount and lead on different sections. We also recommend riding in footwear that you can comfortably walk in with non-slip soles.

Overnight Casa La Sevillana. Casa La Sevillana is a 19th Century town house, it has seven bedrooms with private shower-rooms, a large patio, a sitting room and a breakfast room. It is located in the heart of the village within a few minutes walk from the local restaurants and cafes.



Day 2

After breakfast you will be collected and driven to the stables situated 5 kilometres from the village of Bubion at an altitude of 1.650 metres.

Today you will ride locally to the stables enabling you to acclimatise slightly to the area and the altitude. Also giving time to get to know your horse prior to setting out for the rest of the week the follow day. Leaving the stables you take

a small mountain path up through summer pastures to join the main forestry dirt road into the National Park. Here there are opportunities to canter. You will follow the track to approximately 2,300 metres where it joins a bridle path. Following this path through the pine woods you will come out on the ridge of Barranco Habali at approximately 2,100 metres.

Picnic lunch in the pine woods. After lunch a gentle descent through the woods down to the stables. There are a few places where it is necessary to lead the horses on foot (c. 10 minutes each time).

(Approximately five hours riding)



Overnight Casa La Sevillana.

Day 3

Heading east you set off for the village of Trevelez, at 1,486 metres, this is the highest village in Spain. During the morning gradually descend (c. 350 metres) on forestry tracks and bridle paths. Passing through orchards and small terraces and skirting the villages of Capilerilla, Pitres and Portugos.

There are a few sections where it is necessary to lead the horses on some of the steeper descents. Leaving the village of Portugos below, start the 600 metre climb to your picnic spot. With stunning views to the Med, picnic in the shade of the pine woods.

After lunch join the main forestry track to Trevelez. This track maintains pretty much the same altitude as it winds its way through woodlands and small mountain farms. There are some good opportunities for trots and nice canters.

At the end of the day there is a c. 15 minute walk down an old stone path into the village.

(Approximately six hours riding)



Overnight La Fragua. Overnight and dinner in the comfortable Hotel La Fragua.

Simply decorated, country hotel situated in the old Berber quarter of Trevez. Amenities include an outdoor pool with views of the mountains (use of pool June to late September).



The pool at La Fragua



A typical bedroom at La Fragua

Day 4

The route continues east to the village of Berchules. After a 10 minute walk through the streets of Trevelez, water the horses at one of the many springs. Then mount up and head down to the river.

Once across the river, the centuries-old bridle path follows firstly a Moorish irrigation channel. Then works it's way up through evergreen Holm oak and pine forests to the open pasture lands of the Sierra of Juviles (altitude of c. 2,200 metres).

Picnic lunch in the shade of the pine woods with spectacular views across the valley of Trevelez to the Mediterranean Sea. After lunch the path continues to climb for another 20 minutes to reach the top of the ridge and then commence the descent to the village of Berchules.

During the afternoon follow a combination of bridlepaths and forestry tracks to descend through pine woods, open hill-sides, pasturelands and old farms. The path will bring you to the top of the village where you will need to dismount and lead the horses down to the stables - a c. 25 minute walk.

(Approximately six hours riding)



Overnight Hotel Los Berchules. Comfortable family run hotel (use of pool June to late September).



The pool at Berchules



A typical bedroom at Berchules

Day 5

Today is a shorter ride with a late lunch at the hotel Alqueria de Morayma where you will also be staying tonight. The route takes you down to the Contraviesa foothills, through very different and rapidly changing terrain.

The morning starts with a c. 15 minute walk down to the riverbed. Here you will mount up and ride through small cultivated terraces and orchards to the town of Cadiar.

Leaving Cadiar below, head into the foothills. The terrain becomes much more arid and eroded. Green cultivated land gives way to wild rosemary, thyme, almonds, figs and vineyards.

This afternoon is free to relax at the hotel.

(Approximately three hours riding)



Overnight Alqueria de Morayma. The hotel Alqueria de Morayma is in a beautiful setting amongst almond groves and above the river Cadiar. It is approximately 2 kilometres from the town of Cadiar (use of pool June to late September).



Day 6

Today you head back to the village of Trevelz on a much lower route than that of day four. The first part of the path is through vineyards to the riverbed. Crossing the riverbed, pass along a dry arroyo to join the path up to the village of Lobras. From Lobras approximately 10 minutes on a small secondary road to the tiny village of Timar. From here, climb steeply on an old stone path to the village of Juviles and then on to the open hills of the Sierra of Juviles.

Picnic lunch in the pine woods before starting the descent into the village of Trevelez. On this descent there are places you will be required to lead your horses on foot.

(Approximately 6 hours riding)



Overnight La Fragua.

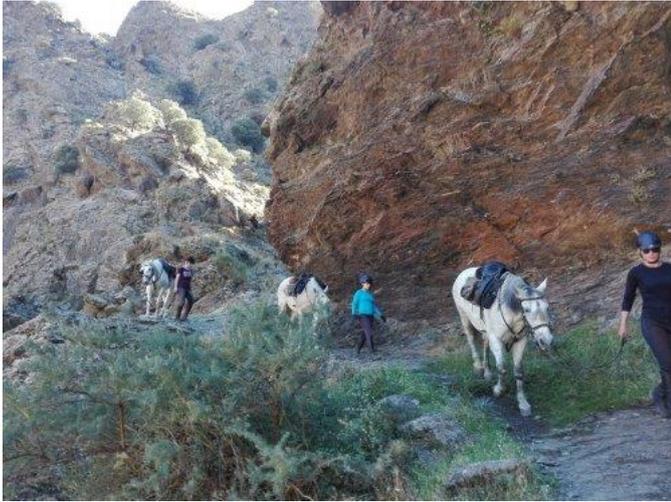
Day 7

On the final day of the trek you return to the village of Bubion following the forestry track through pine and oak woods. There are opportunities for some nice canters.

Late lunch in the village of Bubion, with the chance of a well deserved siesta and maybe a little shopping.

Farewell dinner this evening.

(Approximately three hours riding)



Overnight Casa La Sevillana.

Day 8

You will be transferred to Malaga airport.