

# Contraviesa Ride, Sierra Nevada, Spain

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## Day 1

Arrive at Bubion and settle into your accommodation in a comfortable village guest house. 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.



## Day 2

Today's ride will allow you to get to know your horse and will be high through the valley Poqueira, claimed by many to be the most beautiful valley in the region.

Tonight you will return to Bubion for a second night at the guesthouse.



## Day 3

Heading east you set off for the village of Trevelez, at 1,476 m, this is the highest village in Spain. During the morning you will follow the old mule paths through the countryside to the village of Pitres and then Portugos where you will have lunch on the way.

After lunch you will climb up to join a broad forestry track through the pine and oak trees to Trevelez. This afternoon there may be some opportunities for canters.

Overnight in Trevelez.



## Day 4

After leading the horses through the village we mount up and take the old Moorish bridlepath bordering an 800 year old irrigation channel, climbing steadily through oak and pine woods to an altitude of approximately 2,500 m. After a picnic lunch you climb again through gorse, lavender and thyme to join the path as it winds its way down to the village of Berchules.

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For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997 Fax: 01299 272 935, Email: [rides@inthesaddle.com](mailto:rides@inthesaddle.com), Internet: [www.inthesaddle.com](http://www.inthesaddle.com)



The evening is spent in a comfortable family run hotel.

#### Day 5

Today you will do a circular ride dropping down to the Contraviesa foothills riding through very different and rapidly changing terrain.

The morning starts with approximately 15 minutes of walking. You head down to the riverbed where you will mount up and ride through small cultivated terraces and orchards to the tiny village of Narila.

After a steep climb out of the village, the terrain becomes much more arid and eroded; green cultivated land gives way to wild rosemary, thyme, almonds and fig trees.

Ten minutes on a small secondary road will take you to the village of Golgo, where you will join the path leading you to the bottom of the valley. After an early lunch by the stream in the shade of tall poplar trees, the path climbs steeply through the deeply eroded hills to join a dirt track which will take you down to the valley of Yator.

Late afternoon you will join one of the dry river beds which offer opportunities for some great canters and short gallops. The end of the day you will cross and re-cross the river of Cadiar, passing through orchards and small holdings to re-join the bridlepath leading back to the village of Berchules.

Tonight you will stay in the attractive hotel Alqueria de Morayma situated in the orchards above the river Cadiar. The pool is open late May to late September.



#### Day 6

The ride today follows a circular route and is slightly shorter to allow horses and riders a relaxing afternoon before the long day on Friday.

During the morning follow a very attractive trail starting along the Rio Cadiar. Leaving the river below the trail ascent through almond, fig groves and vineyards, reaching an altitude of approximately 1,500 m. On a clear day there are wonderful views of the Alpujarra and the high peaks of Sierra Nevada.

Early afternoon a steep descent to one of the dry gullies where you will have a picnic lunch.

After lunch, a short afternoon ride following the dry river bed and the foothills back to the Hotel Alqueria de Morayma.

Second night and dinner in the hotel.



#### Day 7

Your final day's ride returns you to the village of Bubion, which is a long journey for the horses. Crossing the river Guadalefao, you will follow a steep bridlepath west of the villages Lobras and Timar. From here you will follow a quiet road for approximately 7 km before a steep descent into the spectacular gorge

of Trevezlez. This descent is on an ancient Roman path cut into the sides of the gorge and must be made on foot leading the horses.

On the other side of the gorge you ride up past the pretty village of Busquistar and onto Portugos for a well-deserved lunch. You then continue onto Bubion.

After a long day's ride, you arrive back to the horse's base in the late afternoon and later have a farewell dinner at a restaurant in Bubion.



Day 8

Depart for Malaga after breakfast.

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