

Castles of Gredos, Spain

Day 1

During your transfer from Madrid you will get the chance to look around the old city of Avila. Avila is surrounded by ancient city walls, gateways, watchtowers and turrets and is one of the best-preserved medieval bastions in Spain.



After a refreshing drink you continue onto your accommodation for the night.

Over dinner you get to know your guide and chat about the week ahead.

The following is the proposed itinerary but please note that changes are possible due to weather and local conditions. During the warmer months there will be the opportunity to swim in the rivers and streams at most lunch stops (weather permitting), so remember to pack your costume just in case!

Please note that although this is not a fast paced ride, there should be some opportunities for trots and canters most days (terrain permitting).

Day 2

After breakfast there is a short drive to the stables to meet your horses, saddle up and set off for your first morning ride.

This morning is a quiet ride through the pine forests and the Tornes valley, allowing you the chance to get to know your horse for the week.



Lunch is at a fisherman's hut beside the river and you might be lucky enough to sample Mamen's homemade paella.

After a post lunch siesta, there is a short afternoon ride along the mountain paths following the path of the river to Navaceda.

When you arrive at your new overnight accommodation you might be needed to help to see to the horses, feeding them and helping to turn them out into their fields/paddock for the night. Later meet for supper at c.9pm. This will be the usual plan each evening when you reach your new accommodation for the night.

Day 3

In the morning you might be asked to help to catch your horse, groom and feed them (this is the same each morning during the trail). Then it is time to have breakfast before heading back outside to tack your horse up and set off.

Today is a long day riding and you will have some beautiful views of the Gredos Mountains. You ride to the top of the valley through small and remote shepherd villages and lunch is near to Aliseda de Tormes beside the river.



The afternoon ride is back down the valley to Barco de Avila and here you encounter a more open valley and different landscape, navigating your way along the narrow tracks along the hills, through the cover and farmland. Later you will arrive at your new guesthouse for the night.

Day 4

After helping with your horse, have breakfast. Once riding you will cross the River Tormes by the roman bridge in Barco de Avila and ride into the Salamanca province, a flat and dry area.



You ride through a very rural region, passing fields with stone walls where we may see farmers riding donkeys.

Lunch today is by the river and weather permitting you might get the chance to take a little dip from the river's small beach.



Later you get to hopefully enjoy some good canters along the wide tracks before arriving at your new guesthouse for the night.

Day 5

Today you ride on the flatter terrain in the Corneja River Valley before a bar-be-que lunch.



In the afternoon you climb into the mountains and here you will be challenged by steep and rocky terrain. It is amazing how the horses climb and clamber so easily without slipping.

Tonight you will leave your horses in their paddock in the mountains and you will be transferred by vehicle (15 mins) into the old town of Pihedrahíta to your hotel for the evening.

Day 6

After breakfast you will be driven back into the mountains to the horses.

Today is a slower ride. You continue to climb to the highest place of the ride with a magnificent view of the Alberche river valley and San Martin de la Vega.



Along the way you clamber across rocky terrain and at times are surrounded by quietly grazing cattle with their cowbells chiming in time to their chewing.

Lunch today is in the shade of woodland with the views of the Gredos Mountains beyond (no swimming opportunities today).



Later you ride down the valley to finish the trail where you began.

After saying goodbye to your horse at the stables, you will be driven back to your guesthouse for the evening. This is usually the same guesthouse as the first night.

Later there will be a farewell supper at c. 9pm.

Day 7

After breakfast transfer back to Madrid.