

# Conquistadors – Villuercas Geopark ride, Spain

## Itinerary

### Day 1

Your transfer from Madrid will take you to the old town of Trujillo and there will be time to look around this beautiful town.

The old town was originally settled on the granite batholith and dates back to the Roman times. The town contains many medieval and renaissance buildings which were built by many of the conquistadors born in the city. The most important monuments are the castle, the church of Santa Maria (13<sup>th</sup> century) and the church of San Francisco.



Later 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.

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

### Day 2

After breakfast it is time to meet your horses, saddle up and set off for your first morning ride.

This morning's ride takes you through the 'Dehesa', which is a multifunctional agrosilvopastoral system. This is used primarily for grazing but also produces a variety of products such as honey, cork and firewood. It also provides a protected habitat for endangered species such as the Iberian lynx and Spanish Imperial eagle.

After lunch you have a short ride towards Garciaz.



When you arrive at your overnight accommodation you might need to help to look after 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 you get to ride through ancient Mediterranean Forests.

After lunch you will cross the Villuercas mountains.



Dinner and overnight at a guesthouse.

### Day 4

During the day you will have chance to admire the impressive Villuercas landscape. It would be handy to have your camera easily accessible so you don't miss a photo opportunity. Sightings of vultures, eagles, azure-winged magpies, red-billed choughs, shrikes and ravens are often seen.



Villuercas has been declared Geopark (UNESCO, 2011) because of its Cultural and Natural Heritage and, of course, the great geological value of its relief. This is a very rural region containing fields with stone walls.

After lunch during the afternoon there should be an opportunity to enjoy a good canter.

Dinner and overnight at a guesthouse.

#### **Day 5**

After breakfast, mount up on your trusty steed and enjoy riding by the Dehesa. This area has lots of livestock to see. Cows, sheep, goats and iberic pigs still live in a way which is reminiscent of bygone days.

The afternoon hopefully promises another canter.



Dinner and overnight at a guesthouse.

#### **Day 6**

Today you will ride in Dehesa Extremeña, and hopefully enjoy some trots and canters.



You will spend the night at the same rural hotel as the first night.

#### **Day 7**

After breakfast transfer back to Madrid in time for your flight.