

# Transhumance North Ride, Spain

## Itinerary

### Day 1

On arrival at Trujillo there may be time to look around this beautiful town.



The old town was settled on the granite batholith and dates back to the Roman times. It contains many medieval and renaissance buildings which were built by 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.

Spain is criss-crossed by 700km of old drovers' routes called "Cañadas Reales". These have been important routes for centuries and permitted the "transhumance", the pastoral practice whereby livestock spent the winter months in the lowlands and moved up to hill pastures for the summer, which indeed is still practiced today by cattlemen and shepherds.

Our Transhumance Ride in the spring heads north from Trujillo to Navarredona de Gredos and follows the Cañada Real (a 75m wide track over 1,000 years old) for 200kms. You cross three different regions (Extremadura, Castilla la Mancha y Castilla y León), from the flat lowland winter pastures, through valleys and high up into the summer pastures in the mountains.

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 faced paced ride, there should be some opportunities for trots and canters most days (terrain permitting).

Overnight at the Monastery Hotel.

### Day 2 Trujillo to Herguijuela to Torrecillas de la Tiesa

After breakfast you transfer from Trujillo town to Herguijuela (10 minutes drive) and meet your horses. Saddle up and set off along the Cañada Real.

Lunch may be specially prepared paella in the countryside.

In the afternoon, ride across open countryside to Torrecilla de la Tiesa.

Dinner and overnight in a casa rural. Riding time approx. 5 hours.

### Day 3 Torrecillas de la Tiesa to Casas de Miravete

After breakfast, set off through olive groves and open countryside. The terrain this morning should allow for some trots and canters.

Lunch is a picnic in the countryside.

Continue riding to Casas de Miravete

Dinner and overnight in a casa rural. Riding time approx. 5 hours.

### Day 4 Casas de Miravete to Calzada de Oropesa

After breakfast your morning ride continues along the Cañada Real with impressive views of the Gredos Mountains.



You cross the Tagus river using the Albalat Bridge which dates back to 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Lunch is a picnic beside the Tagus river reservoir.

Continue riding to Navalmoral de la Mata. Dinner and overnight in a rural hotel. Riding hours approx 7 hours.

#### **Day 5 Navalmoral – Las Ventas de San Julian**

Today you follow the Cañada Real in a flatter area which usually permits some trots and canters.

Here the path is usually wide, up to 200m in places. You leave the horses at Las Ventas de San Julian. You are transferred to a casa rural. Dinner and overnight. Riding time approx. 6 hours.



#### **Day 6 Las Ventas de San Julian to Navalcán**

You continue following the Cañada Real, here the landscape begins to change as you ride along the edge of a reservoir close to the town of Navalcán with stunning views of the Gredos Mountains.

Dinner and overnight in a casa rural. Riding time approx. 6 hours.

#### **Day 7 Navalcán to Momblerán**

After breakfast, begin your ride from Navalcán to Ramacastañas. You change to a different Cañada (shepherd's trail) taking you high up into the mountains, with spectacular views.

After lunch bid farewell to Toledo province as you cross into the Avila province in Castilla y León.

Tonight you will leave the horses in Ramacastañas and you will travel to the next village of Momblerán where you will stay overnight.

Dinner and overnight in Momblerán. Riding time approx. 6 hours.



#### **Day 8 Ramacastañas to Cuevas del Valle to Navarredonda de Gredos**

Continue riding in the Cañada Real with amazing views of the mountains.

Arrive at the picturesque mountain village of Cuevas del Valle.

Lunch is usually at Puerto del Pico.

From Puerto del Pico, the landscape begins to change from beautiful mountainous scenery to green pastures, stone walls with views towards the highest peaks of the Gredos.



Dinner and overnight in Navarredonda de Gredos.

#### **Day 9**

Departure day.

After breakfast, transfer back to Madrid at c.10am in time for your flight home.