

Transhumance South Ride, Spain

Itinerary

Day 1: Madrid Airport to Navarredonda de Gredos

On arrival to Madrid Airport you will be transferred to Navarredonda de Gredos (c.2 hours). Enroute stop for a short visit in Avila town, an amazing walled medieval town which is a World Heritage Site UNESCO.



Later enjoy your welcome dinner at the hotel with your hosts in Navarredonda de Gredos, a mountain village at 1,600 m altitude with beautiful views of the highest peaks in Sierra de Gredos, where our adventure on horseback starts!

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 autumn heads south from Navarredona de Gredos to Trujillo and follows the Cañada Real (a 75m wide track over 1,000 years old) for 200kms. You cross three difference regions (Extremadura, Castilla la

Mancha y Castilla y León), from the summer pastures in the mountains to the flat lowland winter pastures in Extremadura.

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 (terrain permitting).

Overnight at a hotel in Navarredonda de Gredos.

Day 2: Navarredonda de Gredos to Cuevas Del Valle-Mombeltrán

After breakfast it is time to meet the horses. Today's ride takes you through the Tormes valley, a pine forest and open fields with stunning views of Gredos Mountains.

Lunch is usually at Puerto del Pico.

After lunch you ride down the Roman Road which is more than two thousand years old but very well preserved. Later cross Cuevas del Valle, a picturesque mountain village before ending the day in Mombeltrán, a beautiful village with a Castle from the century 12th.

Dinner and night in a charming rural hotel in the centre of the town.



Day 3: Mombeltrán to Nevalcán

Today you continue to follow the Cañada Real down the mountain with amazing views of the Gredos Mountains.

After crossing the Tietar River you will dismount and have a picnic lunch beside the river. This afternoon's ride leaves Ávila province as you cross into Toledo province.

Dinner and night in a charming rural inn in Nevalcán.



Day 4: Nevalcán to Ventas de San Julián

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 Ventas de San Julián with stunning views of the Gredos Mountains.

Dinner and night in a medieval castle | Parador de Oropesa,

Day 5: Las Ventas de San Julián to Navalmoral de la Mata

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. This part of the trail is really remote and far from the civilization. The ride today crosses Cáceres province into Extremadura.

Dinner and night at Rural Hotel in Navalmoral de la Mata.



Day 6: Navalmoral de la Mata to Casas de Miravete

Today you continue riding along the Cañada Real. You cross the Tagus river using the Albalat Bridge which dates back to 16th Century. Lunch is a picnic beside the Tagus river reservoir.

This afternoon's ride takes you along the Tajo River in the direction of Casas de Miravete.

Dinner and night at a hotel in Casas de Miravete.



Day 7: Casa de Miravete to Torrecillas de la Tiesa

This morning we set off after breakfast, riding uphill with magnificent views of Dehesa Extremeña. After lunch we ride to Torrecillas de la Tiesa. The terrain this afternoon should allow for some trots and canters.

Dinner and night in a charming rural inn.



Day 8: Torrecillas de la Tiesa to Herguijuela to Trujillo

This morning you will be riding in open countryside with great views of Trujillo town.

The ride this afternoon takes you back to our base in Extremadura. There should be some chances of good canters this afternoon to finish your week.

After the ride there is time to visit Trujillo town and later have a farewell dinner.



Day 9: Trujillo to Madrid

Departure day.

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