

Transhumance South Ride, Spain

Itinerary

Day 1: Madrid Airport to Navarredonda de Gredos

Be met on arrival at Madrid Airport.

You will be transferred to Navarredonda de Gredos (c. 2 hours). On the way the transfer will stop for a short visit in Avila town, a walled medieval town which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Later there will be a welcome dinner at the hotel with your hosts in Navarredonda de Gredos. Navarredonda is a mountain village at 1,600 m with beautiful views of the highest peaks in Sierra de Gredos, where your adventure on horseback begins.

Spain is criss-crossed by 700 km 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. This is still practiced today by cattlemen and shepherds.

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

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

Please do also note that there will be occasions where you will be asked to dismount and lead your horse, sometimes downhill. This could be for between 30 minutes to an hour.

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 the Gredos Mountains.

Lunch is usually at Puerto del Pico.

After lunch 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 12th Century.

Dinner and overnight in a charming rural hotel in the centre of town. Please note that on occasions alternative guesthouses may be used that require a short vehicle transfer between the horses and the accommodation (this applies to all itinerary nights).



Day 3: Mombeltrán to Nevalcán

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

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

Dinner and overnight in a charming rural inn in Nevalcán.



Day 4: Nevalcán to Ventas de San Julián

Continue following the Cañada Real. 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 overnight in a medieval castle in Parador de Oropesa (<https://www.parador.es/en/paradores/parador-de-oropesa>).

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

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

Here the path is usually wide, up to 200 m in places. This part of the trail is really remote and far from civilization. The route crosses Cáceres province into Extremadura.

Dinner and overnight at rural hotel in Navalmoral de la Mata.



Day 6: Navalmoral de la Mata to Casas de Miravete

Continue riding along the Cañada Real. Cross the Tagus River using the Albalat Bridge which dates back to the 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 overnight at a hotel in Casas de Miravete.



Day 7: Casa de Miravete to Torrecillas de la Tiesa

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

Dinner and overnight 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 the horses' base in Extremadura. There should be some chances of good canters this afternoon to finish your holiday.

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



Day 9: Trujillo to Madrid

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