

SPAIN - LOS ALAMOS - VILLA BASED RIDE

ITINERARY

Day 1

The closest airport is Gibraltar. Your flight should be scheduled to arrive to Gibraltar before 13:00 on the first day. On the last day, your flight should be scheduled to depart after 10.30.

Alternatively, transfers are also available from Malaga. If flying to Malaga, your flight should arrive before 12:00 on the first day. On the last day, your flight should depart after 11:00.

Please note that transfers are at pre-set times. If you choose to book flights outside of these times then an additional transfer fee of EUR 150 each way may be applicable, or you may wish to hire a car at the airport.

Arrive at Los Alamos in the mid afternoon and enjoy a light Spanish style lunch. Later meet the horses and have dinner at the villa.

Below is an example of a typical week's riding holiday. This may vary depending on local conditions and the ability of the group, but always with your best interests in mind.

The normal pattern (weather permitting) is to set off at about 10:00 and stop for lunch at a local village bar and then ride on again in the afternoon. However, the introductory ride is usually shorter in duration.

In the hot summer months particularly July and August, you set off earlier in the cool of the morning and return to Los Alamos around lunchtime. Lunch is usually at a local village bar. The location of the ride will depend on the heat, if it is very hot then the ride is unlikely to go into the open countryside. The afternoons are by the pool or on the beach (Los Alamos will take you there by car and you would return by taxi).

Normally between mid-June and mid-September riding close to the ocean's edge is not allowed, but Los Alamos has been granted a licence to ride on the beach in the summer months providing they are on the beach early in the

morning. So for the beach ride you will set out around 07:30 and have breakfast en-route. Beach riding is always subject to the tide conditions.

Los Alamos is set in the Hacienda “Jacaranda”, named after the beautiful Jacaranda trees. The accommodation is in set in private gardens of palm, cactus and fruit trees.



The pool at Los Alamos

There is plenty of space for relaxing with a good book or just sun-bathing. There is also a large swimming pool (not heated).



One of the bedrooms at Los Alamos

Most of the rooms have one double bed and there is one room with two double beds. Single rooms are available at no extra cost.

Each room has an en-suite shower and loo.

There is a spacious dining area and comfortable lounge with an open fire, television, DVD and music system.

Your hosts Andrew and Rhiannon also live in a villa in the grounds.

Day 2

After breakfast at the villa, meet at the stables (a short walk away from the villa) where you will be introduced to your horse.

Set off into the forest for your first ride - today is a fairly quiet ride giving rider and horse the opportunity to get to know one another. Wind along old drovers' tracks, through the heart of the National Park. Visit a local bar for lunch, then continue riding, arriving back at Los Alamos mid-afternoon.



Riding through the Umbrella Pines

On arrival the guides will untack your horse and you can help washing the bit and bridle. The rest of the afternoon is for you to relax before meeting for dinner at around 19:30.

Day 3

This will usually be your first visit to the beach with your horse. Ride through the edge of the forest down on to the beaches of Cape Trafalgar and El Palmar. There will usually be the opportunity to experience some faster riding, but please note that a beach canter is not always possible as it is dependent on the tide conditions.

Heading away from the beach, you cross back into the forest, following drovers' trails that have been used for hundreds of years. Stop for lunch at a local village bar, then twist and wind back through the forest, arriving back at the villa by mid-afternoon. After the horses have been cared for you have the rest of the day to relax before dinner.



The beach at Cape Trafalgar

Day 4

Today's ride takes you through the forest. You may get the chance to experience some faster canters through the twisting forest tracks and enjoy an exhilarating gallop along the sandy firebreaks.

Have lunch out in the forest at an old Spanish taverna serving local cuisine. Arrive back at base and have the rest of the afternoon at leisure.



Day 5

Today the horses have a rest day and you are driven to Jerez to visit the Royal School of Equestrian Art for a display of "Dancing Andalusian Horses", along with Carriage Driving. Depart from Los Alamos at around 08:15 and have breakfast at a café in Jerez.

During the morning you can visit a nearby tack shop and wander around the school's gardens and warm up areas before taking your seats for the start of the show at around midday. Afterwards have lunch in a local Tapas bar and sample the famous local sherry. Return to Los Alamos in the afternoon.



Display at the Royal School of Equestrian Art

For those guests who choose not to visit the Royal School of Equestrian Art there may be the opportunity to experience a sherry tour in Jerez. Please ask if you would like more details.

If you have been to Jerez before you might choose to simply relax by the pool at the villa or take a walk in the forest. Or you might take a taxi to visit the small market town of Barbate which has a promenade by the beach and restaurants for lunch. Vejer de la Frontera is also an interesting town to visit. If you stay at the villa there will be food in the fridge for you to make your own lunch.

Day 6

Today's ride takes you to the beach. Ride along quiet tracks meandering through the forest and down to the dunes. On reaching the beach, traverse your way through the sand dunes with views out over the ocean. Stop at a beach bar for lunch (or breakfast if riding in summer).

It is a pretty ride back through the umbrella pines, with the sounds of cowbells and the intoxicating scent of French lavender never far away.

If visiting during the summer months you will be taken out to the local village bar for lunch.

Once again the rest of the afternoon is for you to siesta or just relax by the pool, before meeting up in the evening for dinner.



Day 7

Your last day's riding! A quieter riding day where you head off into the forest over to the Moorish look-out tower of "El Tajo" which incorporates the fantastic cliff views of Africa. Canter gently through the forest along the narrow windy forest paths before stopping to enjoy lunch at a local bar.

After lunch remount your horses and head off for one final burst of speed at the edge of the forest along a firebreak. After saying a final farewell to your horse you have the afternoon to relax. Meet again at around 19:30 for a farewell dinner with new found friends.

