Spain - Los Alamos - 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 Gibraltar 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 Malaga 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 in the morning and be back for lunch, with the rest of the afternoon to relax.

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 rides 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, amidst gardens of palm, cactus and fruit trees.

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

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

All the rooms are en-suite and have air conditioning.

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.

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Riding through the Umbrella Pines

On arrival back at the stables the guides will untack your horse and you can help washing the bit and bridle. After lunch at a local bar 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 a breakfast at a local village bar, then twist and wind back through the forest, arriving back at the villa the afternoon. After the horses have been cared for you have the rest of the day to relax before dinner.

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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.

Arrive back at base, head out for lunch, 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 Andalucian 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

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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 a break (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.

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.

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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.

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.

Day 8

After an early breakfast say your goodbyes and transfer as a group back to the airport. Leaving times will depend on the timing of the first flight out and can be quite early.

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