



# RIDE WORLD WIDE SPAIN

GEORGE SCOTT RIDES, ANDALUCIA 2025

## RIDE INFORMATION

These rides take place in the Sierra Morena in southern Spain, an area of sparsely populated rolling hills stretching across northern Andalusia. They are run by George Scott, who was born in Seville and has lived and breathed the Andalusian way of life since he was a child. As a boy he loved to explore the wild and unspoilt countryside on his horse, learning folklore and traditions from the local people. The hills of the Sierra Morena held no secrets for him and in recent years, with the permission of neighbouring landowners, he has been re-discovering and, in some places, painstakingly restoring, old cattle-droving routes, many of which have been untrodden for decades. The Sierra Morena is situated north of Seville, capital of Andalusia and without doubt one of Spain's most beautiful cities. Its people, the Sevillanos, are extremely proud and passionate and to many, 'Sevilla' is not just a place, it is a way of life. These rides, under George's personal guidance, introduce you to the magic, history and romance of this beautiful part of the country.



## DATES

Rides are run between March and mid-June and from mid-September to early December with itineraries of 3, 5 and 7 nights. A 7 night ride following a route west towards Portugal is also planned once a year and tailor made itineraries can be arranged for private groups on request. Please see dates below and contact us to discuss plans and check availability.

[WWW.RIDEWORLDWIDE.COM](http://WWW.RIDEWORLDWIDE.COM)



## HORSES

The horses used are all owned by George and are Hispano-Arab, Anglo-Hispano, Anglo-Arab and Andalucian crosses ranging from about 15hh to 16hh. There are about 15 horses in total, all selected for their good nature and endurance. They are calm and well-mannered but also energetic, fit and a delight to ride.

## TACK

Tack is a mix of Spanish and English style. There are a few traditional Spanish vaquero saddles which have a high back and pommel but most saddles are a lighter weight 'potrera' saddle, more similar to an Australian stock saddle and very comfortable for long hours of riding. There are also some English style saddles. Most of the horses are ridden in snaffle bits and saddle bags, ponchos and waterproofs are all provided when necessary.



## RIDING

The standard 3, 5 and 7 night trips include riding on 3, 5 and 7 days respectively. They generally follow a place-to-place route, moving accommodation every couple of nights, although itineraries always vary. Usually you can expect to spend between 4 and 6 hours in the saddle on each riding day, covering around 20 to 35kms. George aims to lead each ride personally, accompanied by one or two back-up riders who are on hand to help with the horses. Rides are usually run for at least 6 and not more than 12 guests (although often less). Back up throughout is excellent; horses are prepared and looked after for you (you are welcome to help if you wish), a support vehicle transports luggage between accommodation and a back-up vehicle meets the riding group at lunchtime each day. The Ride to Portugal is a 200 km long exploratory journey aimed at those who have ridden with George before. Although the route has been planned with precision over several years and discussed in detail with each mayor of each province crossed, as it is only ridden once a year, it is always subject to the unexpected - challenging ground, delays, detours and the unexpected are all part of the adventure!

## WEIGHT LIMIT

95kgs (15 stone) in riding clothes - if you are close to this please contact us *before* booking to ensure a suitable horse is available.

## PACE

The riding pace is relaxed and moderate overall. Generally riding in the morning is slow, mostly at a walk although there may be some opportunities to trot and canter depending on terrain. In the afternoon the pace may be a little faster, but again it always depends on ground conditions, vegetation and terrain. Overall the pace is leisurely and relaxed, the aim being to gently immerse yourself in the natural landscape that surrounds you, rather than riding at speed through it.

## RIDING EXPERIENCE

Rides are aimed at reasonably experienced riders and to participate you should be well balanced, secure in the saddle and able to control a well-schooled horse at all paces. Although you don't need to be an expert, you must be used to riding in open country, with a group of horses, over different terrain and at a varied pace. You also need a reasonable level of riding and general fitness as you will be in the saddle for fairly long hours on several consecutive days and may be asked to get off to lead occasionally if the ground requires. The Ride to Portugal is for experienced fit riders only; it is generally only open to those on a return trip who have ridden with George before.

## SAFETY

Your guides carry a basic medical kit for both horses and riders with a more comprehensive kit available in the vehicles. Mobile 'phones are also carried and in an emergency, a vehicle can access most points of any ride within 30 minutes.

## TERRAIN AND WILDLIFE

The area you ride through is one of rolling hills - there are no high mountains - with vegetation that is a mix of ancient cork, holm and Mediterranean oak forest, olive groves, wild pasture and open meadow. There are small rivers and streams to cross and the occasional vineyard. Riding is predominantly on winding sandy paths and gravel tracks, often on privately owned estates, and overall the going underfoot is excellent for horses (there may be a little road work, but you seldom come across a tar road). Birdlife includes eagles, griffon and black vultures, flycatchers and brightly coloured bee-eaters and you may see red and fallow deer, wild boar, foxes and if you are very lucky, could catch a glimpse of the rare Iberian lynx.



## ACCOMMODATION

The first night of most rides is spent at Taramona, an atmospheric, crumbling in parts, 16th Century farmhouse where the horses are based. The house has been restored in its traditional style and has a cosy kitchen with fireplace where breakfast is eaten, a beautiful upstairs dining room, and various outbuildings with traditional brick ovens and fireplaces which set the scene for bewitching candlelit dinners. Bedrooms, most of which have their own simple bathroom (although sometimes bathrooms are shared) are simple but adequate and thoughtful touches such as luxurious cotton bedlinen, soft feather pillows and hot water bottles if it is cold, ensure you are comfortable. One night may be spent 'off grid' at a traditional and unrestored farmhouse, with no electricity or indoor bathrooms (there is a shared loo and shower (with hot water) in the outbuildings) - but where beautiful high-ceilinged rooms, tiled walls and open fireplaces in the mirrored upstairs dining room provide an unmatched ambiance for a candle-lit dinner. Or you may stay at the much-loved 15<sup>th</sup> C family finca, Trasierra, in which George grew up, now renovated as a comfortable and homely country-house-cum-guest-house, with gardens of orange trees, figs and aloes interspersed with wisteria, roses and herbs.



## ACCOMMODATION cont



On some rides nights are in George's magnificent Rajasthani-style tented safari camp (inspired by his visits to Jodhpur), sleeping in large walk-in tents, decorated with colourful linings and furnished with kelims, bedside tables, camp chairs and luggage racks. Tents have a separate dressing and washing section with hot-water bucket shower, there is a central mess tent with sofas and armchairs, a shared loo in camp and with candle and oil lamps dotted around, flamenco gypsies playing wild music and the chance to sit or dance under the night sky, a night here is a magical experience. Occasionally one night may also be in a more simple mobile 'fly' camp sleeping on proper beds in smaller bell tents.



## MEALS

All meals are included from dinner on your first day to breakfast on your last. Breakfast is generally in Spanish style – a selection of bread, cake or croissant, yoghurt, fresh fruit, cheese and ham, with eggs (from the chickens at Taramona) and bacon usually also on offer. Lunch is a substantial picnic, eaten at a beautifully-dressed long table set up in the countryside. There are often tapas such as Iberian ham (you will see the black Iberian pigs foraging for acorns in the forest), local cheeses and olives before a main course, which may be a gazpacho soup followed by a dish of lentils and chorizo, or grilled pork and vegetables. Dinner is cooked by the chef who travels with you, with menus carefully chosen to highlight traditional and local specialities and use locally sourced ingredients - after drinks and tapas you might have a delicious risotto, a dish with lamb from one of the farms you ride through or with sea bass from the Atlantic coast. Tea, coffee and a good-varied bar (wine, beer, spirits and a selection of soft drinks), are all included. Meal-times are generally a little later than in England - breakfast is usually around 8.30am, lunch at around 2 to 2.30pm and dinner served at about 9pm. Vegetarians and those with other particular diets can be catered for with advance notice - please tell us of any special diet requests when you book.





## WEATHER

The climate in this part of Spain is nearly tropical and winter months are best for riding with gentle temperatures ranging, on average, from a daytime maximum of 18 to 22°C and a minimum at night of around 8 to 10°C. In February, March and November the average number of days with rain is about 5 a month.

## WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

## ITINERARY

Each trip itinerary is different with George aiming to lead you through a story he has curated and to surprise you as each page is turned! There are many routes to explore, several farmhouses where you might stay, and the camp is re-located every season. The ethos is for each trip to be individual and routes, direction and the order of accommodation used are intentionally changed almost every ride. Below is an example of a 3 night ride itinerary - but note this is **only** an example and there will always be changes and some element of surprise!

**Day 1** Met in central Seville usually around 16.00 to 17.00 , and driven about 1 ½ hours to Taramona, a traditional farmhouse where the horses are based, about 85km north of Seville near Cazalla de la Sierra. Time to settle in and perhaps meet the horses before drinks, a candlelit dinner and the night at Taramona. (D)



**Day 2** Breakfast, before setting off (usually at around 10.00 although will depend on the weather) and riding for about 2 ½ hours, perhaps climbing to one of the highest points of the mountain range where there is a panoramic view of the Sierra and Pantano del Pintado lake. Head down to the lake where the back-up team are waiting with aperitifs, tapas and a delicious safari-style lunch. After lunch and a siesta, mount up to head off again riding to meet the ancient cattle trail of Garagantafria which climbs back up the hills to Taramona. Arrive in time for tea and cakes and afterwards aperitivos around the fire whilst supper is being prepared. An atmospheric dinner, surrounded by fire torches and candles. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** After breakfast set off on a beautiful ride of around 3 hours heading down to the Rio Benelija and traversing your way up stream to stop under an ancient Mediterranean oak tree, a favourite spot to set up the lunch tables. This part of the ride is the wildest, covering untrodden ground. After lunch ride on “La Canada Real de la Senda” with majestic views towards the Ribenar del Hueznar and some beautiful open fields where you can enjoy a few canters before crossing the river to climb up towards George’s wonderful Rajasthani tented camp. Overnight in the camp which is lit by oil lamps, firelight and candles, with beds warmed by hot water bottles and dinner cooked over a wood fire and served under the stars. (B,L,D)





## ITINERARY cont.

**Day 4** Breakfast, and leaving the camp behind, set off into a completely different landscape. Descend to the Ribera del Hueznar River which you follow downstream until diverting up the Camino Viejo to reach the traditional village of Cazalla de la Sierra. Here you have a chance to see the local architecture and village life as you wind your way through the streets and head to lunch which will be waiting by a lake, served under the shade of the open lunch tent. After lunch ride through the parkland formed by Mediterranean oaks and fields until finally arriving back at your initial starting point, Taramona. Tea will be waiting for you and you will have time to freshen up before departing to Seville airport for onward travel. (B,L)



## DATES & RATES 2025

**Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, ride rates are quoted in Euros. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the euro/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.**

### Autumn 2025

#### 3 days / 3 night ride (tented) - 3,000 Euros per person

11th to 14th September

23rd to 26th October

20th to 23rd November

16th to 19th October

13th to 16th November

#### 5 days / 5 night ride (tented) - 5,000 Euros per person

16th to 21st September

23rd to 28th September

7th to 12th October

4th to 9th November

Rates are based on a minimum of 6 ride participants.

Other dates are run for private groups on request and may be added through the season March and mid-June and mid-September to mid-November.

Please contact us with your preferred date / time of year to check availability.

**Rate INCLUDES** twin / double accommodation, all riding, guiding (including English speaking guide) and equipment, meals (dinner Day 1 to lunch Day 4 / 6 / 8) and aperitifs, wine, beer and soft drinks with meals, support vehicle and back up throughout and transfers from / to Seville on the first and last days with the group at set times.

**Rate EXCLUDES** International flights / travel to Seville and taxes, any visa fees, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have with cover to ride), any gratuities you wish to leave and personal items such as shopping, telephone calls etc.

**Single rooms** - if you are travelling alone every effort will be made so you have your own room / tent, however you may be asked to share with another rider (same gender) in certain circumstances (including if there are several singles on the ride).



## FLIGHTS AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

The ride meeting point is Seville, usually in the city centre although occasionally at the airport. There is no pre-set meeting time and transfers will be co-ordinated according to travel plans of the group - however the transfer will generally be at about 16.00, usually meeting at a restaurant in central Seville – so you should plan to arrive Seville late morning / early afternoon. On the return you will be driven back to Seville in the afternoon and departing flights should be **after** 18.00.

British Airways and Easy Jet have direct flights from London Gatwick to Seville but not every day; Ryanair also have direct flights from London Stansted on certain days. You can also fly to Seville from London via Madrid (or other major Spanish cities) or can take the high speed AVE train from Madrid to Seville (approx. 2 hours). Airfares to Seville vary but expect to pay from around £150 to £250 per person economy return. If you would like help booking flights or a fare quote please contact us - we can book British Airways scheduled flights for you. Our ATOL number for flight bookings is 6213.

**Extra nights in Seville** You may like to plan an extra night or two in Seville - highly recommended as it is a beautiful city that is well worth a visit and an extra night here also means you can be more flexible with flight arrival and / or departure times. There are lots of lovely hotels. We can help with suggestions if required.

## GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is only a brief outline - further information will be sent if you make a confirmed booking.)

**Visas** Spain is part of the Schengen area and if you hold a full British passport, you do not need a visa for visits to Schengen countries as a tourist as long as your combined visits to all Schengen area countries do not exceed 90 days in total in any 180 day period. Please check up to date requirements with the Spanish consulate.

**Health** No vaccinations are needed by UK or EEC residents to enter Spain (according to the Spanish and World Health Organisations). If you have a particular condition requiring special medical treatment, in case of emergencies you should carry a letter from your own doctor translated into Spanish describing your condition and the medicine / treatment required.

(DRAFT 27/02/2025)

