



# RIDE WORLD WIDE

## SPAIN

### SEGOVIA: HISTORY AT A CANTER 2024

#### RIDE INFORMATION

These rides in central Spain are one of the special Portfolio of Spanish rides developed by our long term partner in Spain, Equiberia, in conjunction with carefully selected local guides. The rides, which are in different regions of Spain, have been chosen primarily for the quality of horses and riding experience they offer - but also for their dedicated owner-operating guides, who are passionate about their horses, their local area, its history and customs. We believe that on a small group holiday, your guides are all-important. Equiberia takes great pride in their local Spanish guides who are experienced, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. They will show you what is unique about the region you are visiting and will do their utmost to ensure a fantastic experience - there's no better way to see Spain.



The province of Segovia is in Central Spain, in the 'Meseta', the great high plateau of the Iberian Peninsula. It is situated between the provinces of Madrid, Guadalajara, Soria, Burgos, Valladolid and Avila, in the region of Castilla y Leon. Exploring it is a journey back in history. The Segovia Ride starts and ends in the medieval city of **Segovia**, a UNESCO World Heritage Town, which boasts a magnificent cultural heritage including the 1st century AD colossal Roman Aqueduct and the Alcazar Fortress with its stunning views of the city. The route also visits some of the jewels of Spanish history: the castles of Pedraza and Castilnovo; the Romanesque churches of Sotosalbos and Sepulveda and the royal site of La Granja de San Ildefonso, with its grand baroque palace and beautiful gardens. What makes it unique? The exceptional combination of historic sites accessible by horse and the open, unspoilt Castilian countryside that is ideal for riding. History at a canter!



## DATES

The standard Segovia: History at a Canter Ride is a 7 night itinerary, with 6 days riding from village to village, running Sunday to Sunday from set dates in April, May, June, September and October. We also offer a combined Gredos & Segovia Ride in June and September which includes 3 days riding in the Gredos mountains (see our separate Gredos information file) and 3 days riding in the Segovia area. Please see set dates at the end of this Information sheet and contact us to check availability.

## HORSES

The horses used are Andalucian crosses, mainly Anglo-Hispanos (Andalucian and Thoroughbred cross), ranging in height from about 15 to 16hh. They are owned by Enrique Camiruaga, an excellent horseman and riding instructor with a background in show jumping and cross-country, and are selected for their good nature and endurance. They are well-schooled by him and his team for hacking, flat work and show jumping and are fit, willing and fun to ride. Several are quite young but they are calm, well mannered and relaxed to handle.

## TACK

Good quality English style, with leather general-purpose saddles with deep knee rolls. Saddle-bags are provided and seat savers are available to borrow.

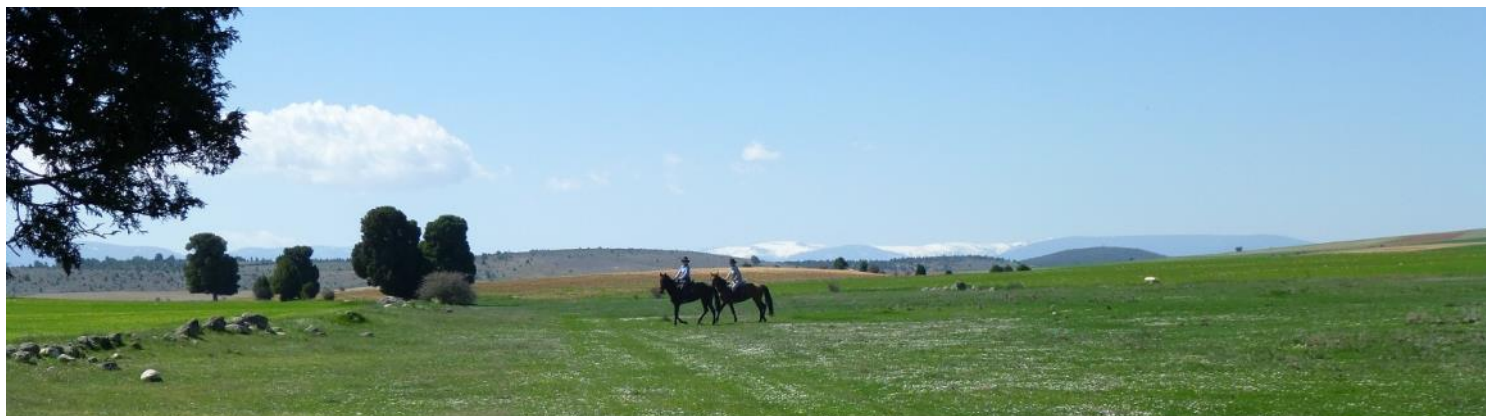


## RIDING

Itineraries include 6 days (3 days on Segovia Escapes) riding, with between 4 and 6 hours in the saddle each day. The route on the History at a Canter Ride covers a total distance of approximately 115 miles / 182kms (an average of 30 kms a day). Riding in the Segovia area is at a lively pace and rides are led either by Enrique, or his daughter-in-law Ana, who speaks excellent English, is also an accomplished rider (married to Enrique's son, a professional show jumper and member of the Spanish national team) and usually anyway accompanies Enrique to translate. Set date rides are run for groups of a minimum of 4 (less at a supplement) and maximum of 10 riding guests. Horses are prepared and looked after by grooms or your guides (although you are welcome to help if you wish) and luggage is moved ahead by support vehicle, which also meets the group at aperitif and lunch stops.

## WEIGHT LIMIT

90kgs (14st 2lbs) in riding clothes - if you are close to this please contact us before booking so we can ensure a suitable horse is available.



## PACE

The standard Segovia Rides are run at a good energetic pace overall, with plenty of chances for long trots and cross-country canters. The pace varies from time to time according to the terrain and there will be slower going where the ground requires as well as adaptations as far as possible, to suit riders' ability and wishes - however overall this is quite a 'sporty' ride with long energetic canters and even chances for a few small cross-country jumps if you wish. On the combined Gredos & Segovia itinerary, riding in the Gredos area is usually a little slower due to terrain and riding in Segovia, energetic as above.

## RIDING EXPERIENCE

These rides are aimed at reasonably experienced riders who are fit, well balanced and secure in the saddle. To participate you should be a reasonably competent rider, who is comfortable, secure and able to control a well-schooled horse in open country at all paces. You should also be comfortable handling a horse from the ground and able to get on and off and to lead your horse without help. Although you don't need to be an 'expert' rider, you must be used to riding over varied terrain at a varied pace, including long energetic canters, with a group of horses. You also need a reasonable level of riding fitness as hours can be fairly long and the ride is often at a 'sporty' pace. Some of the horses are also quite young and sensitive requiring an independent balanced seat and soft hands.



## TERRAIN

The area's natural landscape is diverse and includes the alpine Sierra de Guadarrama, the sandy 'transhumance' trails, open fields and ancient Valsain forests of pine, oak, holm oak and holly bush where Spanish kings used to hunt bear and wild boar. There are also vast grain fields, the Eresma River Valley and spectacular gorges of the Duraton River nature reserve. Generally the going underfoot is good and there are plenty of opportunities for long trots and canters although there are also places where the ground is rough or stony and terrain steeper.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in a selection of comfortable 3\* and 4\* hotels, all carefully chosen for their location and character. Rooms are double or twin bedded with private en-suite bathroom (shower and loo). Single rooms can be arranged on request at an additional charge. The first and last nights of 'History at a Canter' are usually spent at the Hotel Convento de San Antonio el Real, a charming 4\* hotel built in the cloisters of a 15th C monastery a 5 minute walk from Segovia's Roman Aqueduct and a short way up to the old town. One night is at the 4\* National Parador of La Granja, ancient residence of the King's infants and in another great location, close to the Royal Palace of La Granja. Remaining nights are at a selection of country and village hotels - a 3\* hotel in what was a nobleman's house in Pedraza; a typical 18th C market town house now converted to a hotel and a country hotel near Sotosalbos. The first three nights of the Gredos & Segovia Ride are spent at the impressive Parador of Gredos, built in 1926 as a hunting lodge for Alfonso XIII and the first establishment in Spain to be converted to a Parador. It has comfortable rooms and several dining areas and terraces where you can sit with a drink and enjoy the mountain views.





## MEALS

Riding itineraries include breakfast, lunch and dinner every day (dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 5 / 8) as well as a mid-morning aperitif most days. Breakfast is at your hotel and is generally simple in Spanish style - bread, toast or croissant, perhaps yoghurt, fruit and tea or coffee. On most days you stop for an 'aperitif' mid morning, with a selection of drinks as well as light tapas. Lunch is normally a substantial picnic, eaten at a long table set up in the countryside. It will include a selection of dishes - salads, bread and a main course such as Spanish omelette, barbecued steak or fish or a local speciality. Dinner is three courses usually eaten at your hotel, sometimes with a choice from the hotel's a la carte menu or sometimes a set menu, with a couple of options available. Meal times are generally a little later than in England - breakfast is usually around 8.30am, aperitif at 12.30-1.00pm, 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 when you book. A selection of soft drinks, beer, good local wines and tea and coffee are all included with lunch and dinner.



## WEATHER

The area around Segovia has a dry continental climate with temperatures and rainfall strongly influenced by the altitude. Rides are run in spring and autumn when days are usually sunny and bright. In April, early spring, maximum daytime temperatures are around 13C and the average low is about 4C. In May, maximum high is about 18 or 19C (although temperatures can get up to the high 20sC); average low around 7C. These months usually have about 6 or 7 hours of sunshine a day and an average of 7 or 8 days with rain. In September, maximum daytime temperature is about 24C; low about 10C with around 9 hours a day of sunshine and 4 rainy days. In October maximum temperature would be about 18C high, 8C low and an average of 8 or 9 days with rain.

## WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

## ITINERARY

The daily routine is generally breakfast at about 08.30 and set off riding at about 10am, continuing for a couple of hours before stopping for a rest and aperitif at around 12.30. You then ride on for about 2 hours before lunch. After lunch and a siesta until about 4pm, you ride until early evening, stopping at about 6 or 7 pm or sometimes a little later. Dinner is usually at about 9pm. The following is an example of the itinerary planned for the Segovia; History at a Canter Ride although this is only an example and your guide may change the day-by-day route if the weather or other local conditions require. Please ask for the Gredos & Segovia and Segovia Escape itinerary.

**Day 1** Met at Madrid airport at about 3pm and driven about 1 ½ hours to the Hotel San Antonio El Real (4\*) (or similar) in Segovia. The hotel is built in the cloisters of a 15th C monastery in the heart of the city, a 5 minute walk from the Roman Aqueduct. After settling into your rooms meet your guides and host and a short drive to the Equestrian Centre to meet the horses. Later in the evening a chance to visit the city of Segovia by car and a welcome drink in the main square. Dinner and night hotel San Antonio El Real (or similar). (D)



## ITINERARY cont.

**Day 2** Breakfast then a short transfer by vehicle to the stables. Mount up and ride out from Segovia following cattle drovers ('transhumance') trails, such as the Cordel de Santillana and the Cañada Real Soriana and passing reservoirs and the Acebeda stream as you head to the water source for the Roman aqueduct. Then, following the Eresma River valley, arrive at the forest of Valsaín for a picnic lunch. These forests were traditionally hunting reserves of the kings of Castile and are now protected nature parks. In the afternoon ride on to La Granja de San Ildefonso, where the night is usually spent at the luxurious (4\*) National Parador of La Granja. Time to visit the baroque palace and gardens of this royal site, built in the time of Felipe V before dinner at a local restaurant. Night at the Parador (or similar). (B,L,D)

**Day 3** From La Granja rejoin the Cañada Real at the Caserio de Gamones and ride on the slopes of the Sierra de Guadarrama, to reach Sotosalbos. Stop for an aperitif and to visit the 13th C Romanesque church before heading on through holm oak woods and the small village of Requijada to a picnic spot near the river Cega. After lunch and a siesta, ride to the Ermita de Las Vegas, then follow the Cega River to Pedraza, a beautiful medieval town with imposing castle, charming cobbled streets and main square. Dinner and night Hotel de la Villa (or similar), a 3\* hotel in the centre of town. (B,L,D)



**Day 4** Today a half-day ride from Pedraza, follows ancient bridle paths through nearly abandoned rural villages, with the area's typical stone and timber architecture. An aperitif in the country before riding on through open farmland to the plains. The ride finishes close to the Castle of Castilnovo where you leave the horses and transfer to the medieval city of Sepúlveda and to Hotel La Posada de San Millan. Time to change, a late lunch in Sepulveda and in the afternoon a drive to the Duraton River gorges and wonderful 'Ermita de San Frutos'. Dinner and night Hotel La Posada de San Millan (or Vado del Duraton or similar). (B,L,D)

**Day 5** After breakfast, a short drive back to the horses, then set off following the Duraton river, through the valley and hill of Los Cortos. Stop for an aperitif at Duraton village, then ride up towards the Sierra to rejoin the Cañada Real (a wide, open transhumance trail). Today's picnic is near Enebralejo and after lunch ride on to Pradena, a typical village at the foot of the mountains. Time to visit the prehistoric caves close by before dinner and night at the Posada del Acebo (The Holly Bush Inn) a typical 18C house (or similar). (B,L,D)





## ITINERARY cont.

**Day 6** After breakfast meet the horses and ride on across the slopes of the Sierra de Guadarrama on the Cañada Real and through the oak forest of Pradena. Aperitif on the Cañada Real, which you follow to Navafria, a mountain village with a tradition of timber production. Picnic lunch by the River Cega and in the afternoon ride to Collado Hermoso. Dinner and night at Hotel El Rancho de la Aldegüela (or Posada Fuente Plateada). (B,L,D)

**Day 7** The final morning's ride, with exciting canters in open country, takes you to the well preserved remains of an old ranch, where shepherds used to stop to shear their sheep during the long transhumance journeys. Stop for an aperitivo here and then continue back to the stables in Segovia. A late lunch at the stables and, after saying farewell to the horses, you will be driven a short way to the Hotel San Antonio el Real in Segovia. The late afternoon free to explore the city or relax, before a final dinner and night at your hotel. (B,L,D).

**Day 8** After breakfast transfer (about 1 ½ hours) to Madrid airport, arriving about 12 noon for your onward journey. (B)



## DATES & RATES 2024

**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.**

### **Segovia; History at a Canter (7 nights) 3100 Euros per person sharing\***

(single supplement 250 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

28th April to 5th May

26th May to 2nd June

8th to 15th September

12th to 19th May

9th to 16th June

29th September to 6th October

13th to 20th October

### **Gredos & Segovia Ride (7 nights) 3100 Euros per person sharing \***

(single supplement 250 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

19th to 26th May

16th to 23rd June

23rd to 30th June

15th to 22nd September

### **Segovia Escape (4 nights) 1500 Euros per person sharing\***

(single supplement 150 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

24th to 28th April

8th to 12th May

4th to 8th September

23rd to 27th October

Rates **INCLUDE** 7 (or 4) nights twin / double hotel accommodation, all riding, guiding and equipment, breakfast, lunch and dinner each day (dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 5 / 8), wine, beer and soft drinks with meals, support vehicle and back up throughout and transfers from / to Madrid on the first and last days with the group at set times.

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## DATES & RATES 2024 cont.

Rates **EXCLUDE** International flights to Madrid and taxes, transfers from / to Madrid at times other than scheduled, any visa fees, additional drinks (at bars, your hotel or outside mealtimes), 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.

\*Note that rates above are based on a **minimum of 4 ride participants**. Rides will still run for less than 4 riders **BUT** there will be a supplement for transfers / logistics of 350 Euros per person for the week long rides; 250 Euros per person for 4 night Escapes.

**Single supplement** - Rates assume twin shared rooms in hotels and a single supplement is payable if you are travelling alone or if you wish to book a single room. If you are travelling alone and are prepared to share with another (same sex) guest on the ride to save paying the supplement, we can sometimes arrange this - let us know and we will see if we can find someone to share with you. However if there is no sharer, the supplement will be charged.

Rides can be booked exclusively by private groups - usually 8 riders required. Please contact us for details.



## FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The ride meeting point is Madrid International Airport. There are several flights a day to Madrid from London - British Airways have regular flights from Gatwick and Heathrow and Iberia fly several times a day from Heathrow. Easyjet also usually have a daily flight from Luton and Gatwick and there may be other 'budget airline' options from London or regional airports, depending on the season. Fares to Madrid vary but expect to pay from around £120 to £220 per person economy return. We can book British Airways and Iberia scheduled flights from London if required. Our ATOL number for flight bookings is 6213. If you would like help booking flights or a fare quote please contact us.

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## FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION cont.

**Transfers & Flight times** Please note when organising flights that there is **ONE set** transfer for the group on the first / last day of the ride. The pick up in Madrid is normally **15.00** on the first day and drop off is about 12 noon on the last day so you need to aim to arrive in Madrid by about **14.15** at the latest on the first Sunday and should book a return flight which leaves **after 13.30** on the final Sunday to allow time for transfers. The transfer takes about 1½ hours each way. If you cannot get to Madrid in time for the set pick up or need to arrive Madrid earlier than the set drop off time on the last day, you will have to pay extra for a private transfer / taxi (we can help arrange this—cost is usually around 150 Euro per car but to be confirmed on booking).

## GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

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

**Visas** If you hold a full British passport you do not need a visa for visits to Spain whatever the length of stay, although for visits of over 90 days residence permits are required. Please check up to date requirements with the Spanish consulate.

**Health** No vaccinations are needed by UK 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 24/01/2024)

