



# RIDE WORLD WIDE SPAIN

## UNKNOWN VIEWS OF MENORCA 2024

### RIDE INFORMATION

These rides on the island of Menorca 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.



Menorca is the western island of the Balearic archipelago. The second largest in the group after Mallorca, it covers just over 700 square kilometres and has a population of around 75,000. Nominated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1993, it has a picture-postcard coastline with numerous hidden beaches, craggy rocks, a turquoise sea and sky that seems always blue. 'El Camí de Cavalls' is an ancient coastal trail that completely encircles the island. Created as far back as the 15th and 16th C to safeguard the coast and allow communication between strategic battlements and watchtowers it is a magical route allowing unrivalled access to a coastline that would otherwise be inaccessible. Using Menorquin horses, these rides will show you breathtaking sea views, they will immerse you in the island's nature and show you the building blocks of its character, one on which Megalithic, Roman and Byzantine civilisations, 13th C Christian conquests and British and French invasions have all left their mark.

### DATES

6 night rides are run from set dates during spring and autumn when the island & beaches are quieter. Please see dates overleaf and contact us to discuss plans, dates and availability.

## HORSES

Menorca has always been considered a 'horse-island' and has its own Menorquina breed or "Pura Raza Menorquina" (P.R.M.). A relatively young breed, officially recognized in its own right in 1987, PRM bloodlines show traces of Arab, TB and also the 'Pura Raza Español' or Andalusian. Toni breeds PRM horses and also a lighter and more athletic Menorquín horse / Menorquín trotter (both typically pitch back) cross. The horses used for the rides are carefully chosen Menorquín crosses and also Andalusian crosses, selected for their suitability, size, character and endurance. They are all calm, sensible to handle and extremely sure footed on what is often tricky terrain. Although the riding pace is generally slow the horses are fit, responsive and fun to ride.

## TACK

English style with general-purpose leather and wintec saddles and small saddle-bags provided (seat savers are discouraged because of the uneven terrain for which a natural, deep seat is preferable).

## RIDING

These rides include 5 days in the saddle with 4 to (on one day) 6 ½ hours riding each day covering a total distance of about 82 miles / 130kms. They are lead by an experienced Menorquin guide, Toni, who owns the horses. Occasionally Maria Elena of Equiberia also accompanies as co-host. Equiberia's experience of organising rides in various regions of Spain and their attention to detail, together with Toni's horses, knowledge and passion for Menorca, ensure a wonderful, memorable week. Set date rides are run for a minimum of 6 and maximum of 8 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 of the group by vehicle.

## 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 riding is mostly at a walk because of the rough and changing going, but with occasional chances to trot and for short canters on some of the sandy paths and beaches. Although it is a slow ride, the horses are keen, walking with energy and enthusiasm.

## 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 confident and relaxed, able to control a well-schooled horse in open country and also comfortable handling a horse from the ground - you will be asked to get off occasionally and to lead your horse without help (usually walking down hill). Although you don't need to be an 'expert' rider at a fast pace, you must be well balanced, secure and used to riding over varied, sometimes tricky terrain, with a group of horses. There are some difficult passages on the ride and you need to remain calm on tricky going, trusting your horse. You also need a reasonable level of riding fitness as hours can be long and where the going is up and down, agility and flexibility in the saddle are required. If you are nervous of heights or have problems walking down hill, please contact us to discuss in more detail as there are places where you will be on steep paths, or riding alongside sharp drops.

## TERRAIN

The route follows the coastal “Camí de Cavalls” which was re-established for public use in 2008. For the first three days the route heads west to east along the island’s wilder north coast and for the last two days, you go east to west along the more sheltered, southern coast. The latter is more populated and built up but there are still some lovely unspoiled beaches and inland views. Overall the going underfoot is a combination of sandy tracks, open sandy beaches, grassy coastal plain, tarmac roads through small villages and narrow, winding paths with some difficult passages between rocks, up steep rocky (or stepped) ascents and down sharp descents where you need to allow your horse to find its footing and carefully pick its own way.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in a selection of country hotels, chosen for their location, charm and character. They are all different and although the choice is sometimes limited by location, they are a reasonably good 2\* to 4\* standard, typically Menorcan in style - yellow ochre or whitewashed walls, tiled roofs, simply decorated bedrooms with terracotta tiled floors, painted in light and pastel colours - and most have swimming pools. Bedrooms are double or twin bedded with private en-suite bathroom (shower and loo). Single rooms can be arranged for a supplement.



## MEALS

Breakfast, lunch and dinner every day is included (dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 7). Breakfast is at your hotel and generally simple in Spanish style - bread, cake or croissant, perhaps yoghurt, fruit and tea or coffee. Lunch is normally a substantial picnic, eaten at a long table in the countryside and including salads, bread and dishes cooked at a local restaurant and brought to the lunch spot by back up vehicle (much of the route is inaccessible to vehicles so riders are only met once a day at lunch). Dinner is three courses usually at your hotel, either with a choice from the a la carte menu or sometimes a carefully selected menu, with a couple of options available. Meal times are generally a little later than in England with breakfast usually about 8.30am, lunch at around 2 to 2.30pm and dinner at about 9pm. Vegetarians and those with 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, tea and coffee are all included with lunch and dinner.



## WEATHER

Menorca enjoys a classic Mediterranean climate with mild winters and hot (though not excessive) summers. Rainfall varies widely, with virtually none during the summer and lots in winter! The result is a verdant green landscape throughout all but the hottest periods, whilst the island still sees over 300 days of sunshine a year. A special mention to the famous *tramontana* - a prevailing northerly wind, the reason Menorca is known as the "windy island", blowing particularly in March (the islanders actually have names for all eight winds (depending on their direction)).

## WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

## ITINERARY

**Example Itinerary** The daily routine is generally to set off at about 10am riding around 3 hours, perhaps stopping for short breaks, until lunch at around 2pm. After lunch and a siesta, you set off again at around 4pm, riding for another 2 or 3 hours. Dinner is late in Spain, not usually before 9pm. An example of the ride itinerary is below but please note this is only an example and your guide may change the day-by-day route if the weather or other local conditions require.

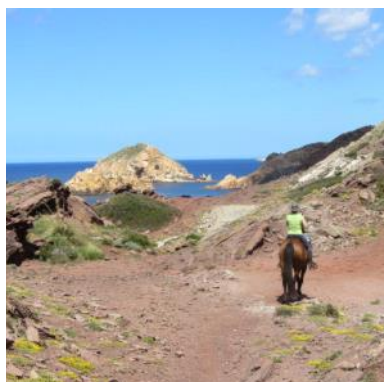
**Day 1** Your own arrangements to arrive Mahón, Menorca. Met at the airport at a set time (generally mid afternoon) and driven to the first night's hotel in the town of Ciutadella. Depending on arrival times, there may be a chance to meet the horses and your local guide Toni at his stables at Son Angel and for a short trial ride, before returning to the hotel for dinner. Overnight Ciutadella at the Sant Ignasi hotel (or similar), a medium sized hotel (about 25 rooms) in a typical country house dating back to the 18th C, now sympathetically restored and with extensive grounds, swimming pool and restaurant (D)



**Day 2** Horses will be transferred to the start of the ride, Eugues de Flo, near Torre del Ram and after breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven the short way to meet them there. This first riding day shows you the arid, dry Menorca, exploring one of the wildest parts of the island where the only traces of human presence are lighthouses, the remains of shepherd huts and corrals and some ancient archaeological sites. Riding inland and along the coast, arrive at Cala Morell for a picnic lunch at the Caves of Cala Morrell, where there is a burial site dating from 1500-300 B.C. After lunch a short afternoon ride along the coast, then south takes you to Son Angel where you will leave the horses for the night. Dinner and night at your hotel in Ciutadella, Sant Ignasi (or similar). (B,L,D)

**Day 3** Breakfast, then a short drive back to Son Angel. Riding in the area known as Tramuntana, there are chances to ride in and out of the sea this morning and also to see some of the region's extraordinarily rich variety of endemic plants. Head along the coast, crossing several beautiful beaches - Algaraiens, Plà de Mar and El Pilar - all of them different - before arriving at Els Alocs, for lunch. Some parts of the morning's route are quite rough and you may dismount and walk, or may take inland paths to avoid the difficult passages. After lunch, continue along the coast past several more lovely beaches and onto Binimela where today's ride ends. Transfer back to Ciutadella, Sant Ignasi (or similar) for dinner and night. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** Transfer to Sant Vincent to meet the horses. The ride today heads through sand dunes in an area rich in birdlife then to Binimel là Cala Mica and the beach of Cavaleria. Climbing the cliff to Cap Cavaleria, with a spectacular view, you get to the Eco-museum of the Cap for lunch. In the afternoon ride onto Cala Tirant, ending the day on a small road which takes you to Ses Salines. Dinner and night at the Hostal Port Fornells where there is a field for the horses and great views of the sea, marina and town of Fornells (B,L,D)



## ITINERARY cont.

**Day 5** After breakfast, riders and horses are driven to Torre d'en Galmes, in southwest Menorca. There should be time to visit the largest "Talayotico" site of the island - the Talayots were watchtowers built by pre-Roman settlers between 1000 and 123 B.C - before mounting up to ride south, joining the Camí de Cavalls at Llucalari. Head around Son Bou, through cultivated land and changing vegetation to that characteristic of the wetlands. Ride on to Sant Tomas and lunch at the Es Bruc restaurant. A siesta and in the afternoon, turn inland, visiting the spectacular cave Cova des Coloms (also called 'The Cathedral', a clue to its dimensions) and finally arrive at a country hotel, Binigaus Vell. (B,L,D)



**Day 6** From Binigaus, ride south back to the Camí de Cavalls then inland around and along deep gorges, the 'Barrancos'. Head through Cala Mitjana and Cala Galdana, one of the few beaches on the island where you will see a big hotel, to the unspoilt beach Cala Macaralleta. Then head inland to the private finca Torralbet, where you can taste a selection of the Menorquin pork products (sobrassada, carn I xua, cuixot) and cheeses. Say goodbye to the horses and transfer to Binigaus Vell. A farewell dinner and second night at hotel Binigaus Vell (B,L,D)

**Day 7** Breakfast and transfer to Mahon airport for your flight home. (B)

## DATES & RATES 2024

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

**Unknown views of Menorca (6 nights): 2600 Euros per person**

(single supplement 250 Euros, payable in Spain)

21st to 27th April

6th to 12th October

5th to 11th May

20th to 6th October

**Rate INCLUDES** 6 nights twin / double accommodation (single if paying supplement), all riding, guiding (including experienced bilingual guide) and equipment, meals (dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 7), wine, beer and soft drinks with meals, support vehicle and back up throughout, transfers to and from Mahon on the first and last days at set times

**Rate EXCLUDES** International flights to Mahon and taxes, transfers from / to Mahon 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 tips you wish to leave and personal items such as shopping, telephone calls etc.

The rate is based on a minimum of 6 participants; if there are less the ride will still go ahead but there will be a supplement of 250 Euros per person payable.

## DATES & RATES 2024 cont.

**Single supplements** - The rate assumes twin bedded hotel rooms and the single supplement is payable if you are travelling alone or wish to book a single room. If you are travelling alone and are prepared to share with another (same sex) guest to save paying the supplement, we can sometimes arrange this - let us know and we will see if we can find a sharer - if there is no-one, the supplement will be charged.

Rides can be booked exclusively by private groups. For the above rates to apply, a group of 6 to 8 riders is required, but rides can be run for smaller groups at a supplement. Please contact us to discuss. Other dates can also sometimes be arranged for private groups on request.



## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS & TRAVEL

You need to fly to Mahón (Menorca's main airport) where you will be met at a set time. There are direct flights from London Gatwick to Mahon with Easyjet and also from other regional airports or you can fly via Barcelona, Madrid or Mallorca. If you would like help booking flights or a fare quote please contact us - our ATOL number for flight bookings is 6213.

**Transfers** Pick-up and drop off time in Mahon on the first and last day will be tailor-made as far as possible to suit general group arrival times - it is normally mid to late afternoon on the first day and around 10 am on the last. There is usually only **one set** transfer for the group and if your flight is early or very late you may need to wait or take a taxi at your own cost (we can help arrange this).



## GENERAL HEALTH & VISA 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, EU or US 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 12/12/23)

