



RIDE WORLD WIDE

SPAIN

MOUNTAINS & VALLEYS OF GREDOS 2026

RIDE INFORMATION

These rides explore the four valleys of the Sierra de Gredos, west of Madrid in Castille, central Spain. The mountains that make up the Gredos range are situated between the provinces of Avila, Caceres and Salamanca and are crossed by the Duero and Tajo rivers. The majority of peaks are higher than 2000m and the summit of the best known, the Circo de Gredos Almanzor peak, is about 2590m and always snowy against the horizon. In between these imposing mountains, there are grassy moorland valleys that are scattered with a gorgeous array of wild flowers in spring and summer. These provide wonderful going for horses and the area is a lovely example of rustic, rural Spain. The Gredos rides we offer are organised by Equiberia, under the expert guidance of Maria Elena Dendaluce. Her experience, together with the dedication and enthusiasm of the Equiberia guides and local staff, mean that both horses and guests are looked with the greatest care. A unique feature of Equiberia rides, is accommodation at some of Spain's wonderful Parador hotels and this, combined with good horses, unspoilt, un-touristed countryside and an approach that focuses on being personable, welcoming and highly professional, makes the Gredos rides one of the best on offer in Europe.



DATES

Several different ride itineraries are run from set dates between April and November. There are three 7 night options, running from Sunday to Sunday which include riding on 5 or 6 days. The Valleys of Gredos Ride follows a route that progresses from village to village over the course of the week; the Sierra de Gredos Ride is a little more flexible, combining a 'loop' ride with a few days riding out from a village hotel - an excellent choice for summer months when it can be hot or for those who are less sure how much riding they wish to do each day; the Gredos & Segovia Ride combines 3 days riding in the Gredos with 3 days riding a little further north, close to Segovia and is an ideal way to sample the two different areas (see our separate Segovia information file for more details). For those short of time, 4 night Gredos Escapes (Wednesday to Sunday) are another option allowing 3 full days riding. Please see dates overleaf and contact us to discuss plans, dates and availability.

HORSES

The horses used are all owned by Equiberia and Maria Elena, who have about 24 in all, most of which are locally bred Arab and / or Andalucian or Lusitano crosses. They average between 15hh and 16hh and are well-schooled, enjoyable and responsive to ride. They are also good-natured, sure footed and well adapted to the going which makes riding them a real pleasure. The majority of the horses have been owned or known to the team since they were young and have been carefully brought on and schooled. They are calm, kind and well-loved and one of the Equiberia skills is matching riders with their ideal horse.

TACK

Good quality English style (general purpose saddles) tack is used with seat savers and saddle-bags provided.

RIDING

The Valleys of Gredos and Gredos & Segovia Rides include riding on 6 days, whilst the Sierra de Gredos Ride has riding on 5 days and a day in Avila for sightseeing. Gredos Escapes include 3 full days riding. Riding days usually include around 5 to 6 hours in the saddle, broken up with rests to stretch legs, for drinks and a long lunch. Set date rides are run for a maximum of 10 riding guests and minimum of 4 although will run with less than 4 riders for an additional charge (see below). Rides are lead by an English-speaking guide, often accompanied by a back-up rider (according to group size), with at least one additional helper / groom on hand at lunch breaks and to look after the horses in the evenings. Back up and logistics are ably managed by Evelyn, originally from Venezuela but resident in Spain. Luggage is moved between accommodation by back up vehicle and a vehicle meets riders at mid-morning drinks stops and for lunch most days.

WEIGHT LIMIT

90kg (14 stone) in riding clothes. If you are close to this please let us know in advance so we can check horses are available.



PACE

The riding pace is moderate overall although it varies from time to time with the terrain. The Gredos area itself is used for endurance riding competitions and there are some lovely open grassy valleys (rather like moorland) where you can canter off-track, as well as wide woodland paths that provide good going. When riding higher and on winding paths, there are places where the pace will be slow but as you descend, for example to the area around the Corneja valley, the going is generally flatter and fairly open and there are wide sand and dirt tracks, the old cattle drover roads, that provide excellent chances to move on. Overall the rides are at a moderate, well-varied pace and the horses are active and energetic.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

The rides are all aimed at reasonably experienced riders and to participate you are expected to be a reasonably competent rider, who is comfortable and secure in the saddle and able to independently control a well-schooled horse in open country at all paces. Although you don't need to be an expert rider, you should be used to riding over varied terrain at a varied pace with a group of horses. Riding hours are well managed with regular breaks but you should also be reasonably riding fit as the hours can be quite long. Of the 7 night itineraries, the Sierra de Gredos Ride has the most flexibility (and one day less riding) so a good choice for anyone not sure of their riding fitness.

TERRAIN

The rides for the most part explore the four valleys of the Tormes, Corneja, Alberche and Tietar Rivers. Although this is a region of high mountains, there are forested slopes of oak, pine and chestnut and vast open moorland pastures nestled in the valleys. This rough grassland, which is scattered with craggy rocks, acres of broom **cont.**

TERRAIN cont.

and grazed by wild goats, provides wonderful going for horses. Much of the going is good although there are occasional rocky and steep paths where you might need to dismount to lead your horse and there will also be some road work each day riding through small villages, where you will be watched by locals who love to see riders on a beautiful horse. You also ride along forested river valleys and past small, isolated villages with age-old traditions, architecture and a unique character.

ACCOMMODATION

Nights are spent in comfortable, carefully chosen hotels. On all rides some nights (the first 2 and last of the Valleys of Gredos Ride; the first 2 of Sierra de Gredos Ride; the first 3 of the Gredos & Segovia Ride and all 4 nights on the Gredos Escape) are usually spent at the Parador of Gredos, a hotel belonging to Spain's national chain of Parador hotels chosen for their special building or setting. The impressive Parador of Gredos was built in 1926 as a hunting lodge for Alfonso XIII and was the first establishment in Spain to be converted to a Parador. Rooms are comfortable and the hotel has several dining areas and well-appointed terraces where you can sit with a drink and enjoy the mountain views. The last night of the Sierra de Gredos Ride is at another good quality Parador, in the medieval walled city of Avila. Nights in between, and remaining nights on the Valleys of Gredos Rides, are in small, comfortable country and village hotels or guesthouses. These range in style and character, with the standard varying a little over the week (choice is limited), but are equivalent to a good 2* to 3* standard and chosen for their character, food and / or position. On the Gredos & Segovia Ride after transferring to Segovia, you spend a night at the lovely Parador at La Granja de San Ildefonso, about 30 minutes' drive from the city of Segovia, then 2 nights in different hotels, one in the centre of a picturesque small town and the other in a country setting, before a final night in central Segovia, close to the Roman Aqueduct. Rooms at all hotels are twin or double bedded, with en-suite bathroom (usually shower and loo). Single rooms are possible at a supplement (although one or two hotels are small with limited rooms and, if the ride is full, you may be asked to share with another guest on one night).



MEALS

Breakfast, lunch and dinner every day when riding is included (dinner first day to breakfast the last day) except lunch in Avila on Day 7 of Sierra de Gredos Rides. Breakfast is at your hotel and is generally simple - 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 will normally be a substantial picnic, eaten at a long table set up in the countryside. It usually includes a selection of freshly prepared salads, bread, and a main course such as Spanish omelette, barbecued steak, fish or a delicious Paella. Dinner is three courses, usually at your hotel, sometimes with a choice from the a la carte menu and sometimes a set menu, although often a choice of meat or fish. Great care is taken with menu choices and the team works closely with local restaurants to include regional specialities. Meal times are generally a little later than in the UK with breakfast usually 08.30 to 09.00am, aperitif at 12.30 to 1.00pm, lunch at 2.00 to 2.30pm and dinner at about 9 to 9.30pm. Tea and coffee are included with breakfast and a selection of soft drinks, beer, good local wines and tea and coffee are included with lunch and dinner. Vegetarians are well catered for with prior notice - please tell us of any special diet when you book.



WEATHER

The area's climate in summer is usually dry, but as you are close to the mountains the weather can be unstable with rain always possible! Temperatures are strongly influenced by the altitude which is between 1600 and 1700m. In spring maximum daytime temperatures are usually between 15 and 20 C, in summer maximum is around 28 to 30 C and in autumn, temperatures average 12 to 18 C. Days are normally sunny with clear blue skies - the sun can be very intense because of the altitude but as you are high it is often very pleasant even in high summer with average daytime temperature in July and August around 25C. Evenings are cool and in March, April, early May and October can be cold - warm layers and a warm (waterproof) coat are necessary.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when your booking is confirmed.

ITINERARIES

The daily routine on all rides is generally breakfast at about 08.30, set off riding at about 10.00 stopping for a rest and aperitif at about 12 noon to keep you going until lunch. 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 18.00 or sometimes a little later. Dinner is usually at about 21.00. Below are day-by-day detailed itineraries for The Valleys of Gredos and Sierra de Gredos Rides. Please ask us for other itineraries and note that itineraries are only examples of what is planned; daily arrangements and routes may be varied if the weather or other local conditions require.

Example itinerary - Valleys of Gredos Ride

Day 1 Collected from Madrid airport, usually 3pm, and driven about 2 hours to Navarredonda de Gredos, a small village in the Gredos with a splendid view of the Almanzor peak. Time allowing, a stop en route from Madrid at the historic walled town of Avila for sightseeing before driving on to the first night's hotel, the imposing Parador of Gredos (or El Milano Real Boutique Hotel) just outside the village of Navarredonda de Gredos. Welcome dinner and night at the Parador. (D)

Day 2 Breakfast, then a short drive to the stables to meet the horses. This is an easy introductory day so you can get used to your horse at all paces. After mounting up, set off following cattle tracks through pine woods and across open pasture towards the mountains with magnificent views of the Sierra de Gredos. A mid-morning aperitif and then stop for a delicious lunch, perhaps at an old sawmill by the river, followed by a short siesta before riding back to the stables in Navarredonda by a different route. Dinner and second night Parador (or El Milano Real Boutique Hotel). (B,L,D)



Day 3 Breakfast and return to the stables. Set off through the woods and beautiful meadows along the Tormes River Valley with chances to trot and canter. Cross a stone bridge over the river to a magical picnic spot at the 'Poza de las Paredes', the gorge of Barbellido. Picnic in a shady cherry orchard and in summer months sunbathe or swim from the rocks by the river (even in spring those who are brave enough can have a refreshing dip in the pools in the river). After lunch, mount up for a lovely ride along cattle trails to the town of Navalperal de Tormes and to the night's lodging in a guesthouse set by itself in the countryside, a short walk from the river. Accommodation is simple but the guesthouse is in a lovely situation for an evening sun-downer and you might take a gentle stroll down to the river as the horses graze nearby, before dinner and the night. Night Hostal Rural Cruz del Gallo. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Breakfast then set off on a long half-day ride continuing along cattle paths in the Tormes river valley passing the village of Aliseda de Tormes. There is a marked change in the vegetation as you ride deeper **cont. over**

VALLEYS OF GREDOS ITINERARY cont

Day 4 cont. into the mountains until you eventually arrive on the outskirts of the small town of Barco de Avila where the night is spent at a comfortable hotel, converted from a lovely country house. The afternoon free to explore Barco de Avila, a 15th century walled town with a beautiful medieval bridge over the river, about 15 mins walk from the hotel. Or just rest and relax by the hotels heated indoor swimming pool. In the evening a special wine tasting and dinner pairing is often organised in conjunction with one of the top 10 wine shops in Spain. Dinner and overnight Hotel Puerta de Gredos or similar. (B,L,D)

Day 5 After breakfast, mount up and ride on starting with a little road work and then riding along cattle tracks, through holm oak woods and across grassy pasture heading away from El Barco. The going today is quite flat and there will be a chance to canter as you follow winding tracks through grassland dotted with huge granite boulders and rocky outcrops. Continue to the village of Puente del Congosto, with its XV century bridge and castle. A picnic lunch in the shade near a lovely swimming spot in the river. In the afternoon a short, fun ride to a small country hotel just outside the village of Hoyorrendondo. The horses are turned out to graze in the fields around the hotel and there will be time for a drink in the garden, before dinner. Overnight rural hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 6 After breakfast at the hotel, set off riding. This is a day of contrasting landscapes starting in the open flat country of the Corneja river valley until a mid-morning aperitif stop. Then follow the Corneja river to its source, stopping for a picnic lunch near one of the many old water mills, which used to produce most of the flour for this part of Castile. In the afternoon, a bit of riding on a tar road, before cutting into the hills to follow the path of an ancient Roman road to the Puerto de Chia (5,686 feet) for a breathtaking panoramic view of the Corneja Valley on one side, and the Alberche river on the other. Descend to San Martin de la Vega where the horses spend the night. A short transfer to Parador de Gredos (or El Milano Real Boutique Hotel) for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Breakfast and a short drive to meet the horses. Set off riding back towards the Sierra de Gredos with some great views of the distant peaks. Head down towards the Tormes valley, to where the ride started. Stop for at a beautiful spot with panoramic views of the mountains for special lunch. A short afternoon ride takes you back to the stables in Navarredonda de Gredos. Farewell to the horses before being driven the few minutes from the stables to the Parador in Navarredonda where the final night is spent. After settling into your rooms, you might meet up for a drink on the terrace, with its glorious views over the pine forest towards the mountains, and then a farewell dinner before your last night at the Parador(or El Milano Real). (B,L,D)

Day 8 Breakfast in the hotel, before your transfer to Madrid (arriving about 12 noon) for onwards flights. (B)



Example itinerary - Sierra de Gredos

Day 1 Collected from Madrid airport, usually at 3pm and driven about 2 hours to Navarredonda de Gredos, a small village with splendid views of Almanzor peak. Welcome dinner and night at the Parador de Gredos. (D)

Day 2 Breakfast, then a short drive to the stables to meet the horses. This is an easy introductory day so you can get used to your horse at all paces. After mounting up set off following cattle tracks through pine woods and across open fields towards the source of the Tormes river, with magnificent views of the Sierra de Gredos. A mid morning aperitif, another hour or so riding and then stop for a delicious picnic lunch at a small restaurant by the river or at tables set up in the countryside. After a siesta, ride back to Navarredonda by a different route. There is a nice spa in the village where massages can be arranged, or an evening bird walk is another option. Dinner and second night at Parador de Gredos. (B,L,D)

SIERRA DE GREDOS ITINERARY cont.

Day 3 Breakfast and return to the stables. Set off through the woods and beautiful meadows along the Tormes River Valley with chances to trot and canter. Cross a stone bridge to a magical picnic spot at the 'Pozo de las Paredes', the gorge of Barbellido. Picnic in a shady cherry orchard and in summer months, sunbathe or swim from flat rocks by the river (even in spring the brave can have a refreshing dip in the river pools!). After lunch, mount up for a lovely ride along cattle trails to the town of Navalperal de Tormes and to the night's lodging at a guesthouse set by itself in the countryside, a short walk from the river. Accommodation is simple but the guesthouse is in a lovely situation for an evening sun-downer and you might take a gentle stroll down to the river before dinner, as the horses graze nearby. Dinner and night Hostal Rural Cruz del Gallo (B,L,D)



Day 4 From Navalperal, take the cattle path to Navacepeda de Tormes once again and on to the Tormes River itself. Lunch by a fisherman's hut at Hoyos del Collado, another ideal spot for bathing. The afternoon to relax in the shade by the river before heading through the scented pinewoods back to the stables in Navarredonda. Short drive to the neighbouring small village of Barajas de Gredos and dinner and overnight at a village hotel, Hotel Rural la Dehesilla (B,L,D)

Day 5 In the morning a short drive back to the stables and then mount up to ride to the heights of Cañada del Horno, through open fields and area of dense broom (there are more than 10 different species of broom in the Gredos and the hills in spring and summer are spectacular colours of yellow and cream) with panoramic views of the Alberche river valley. Lunch at a bar in the village or at tables set up in a shady spot in the countryside. Ride on in the late afternoon with great views of the Sierra de Gredos, before descending again towards Barajas de Gredos and the stables in Navarredonda. Transfer a short way back to the Hotel Rural la Dehesilla for dinner and night. (B,L,D).

Day 6 Breakfast, meet the horses and a final riding day takes you on a route to the heights of the Sierra de Gredos with magnificent views. Climb to the Covacha gorge and then down towards the gorge of Barbellido. Lunch by the river, a wonderful spot for a swim. In the afternoon climb to the heights of Siete Fuentes and descend to the pinewoods of Hoyos del Espino before riding back to the stables in Navarredonda de Gredos. Short transfer to the Parador de Gredos (or El Milano Real Boutique Hotel) for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)

Day 7 After breakfast in the hotel you will be collected and driven about an hour to the lovely walled city of Avila, a World Heritage City and one of 660 cultural sites in the world that are considered of outstanding universal value. Avila is a small city, easy to navigate on foot and a lovely place to spend the day. A private tour guide will be arranged to show you the main sites and the rest of the day is yours to enjoy as you wish - soaking up the atmosphere and architecture, sampling some of the restaurants and bars or enjoying the local shopping - see below for further information on Avila. Dinner and night at the luxurious National Parador of Ávila 4* (or Palacio de los Velada 4*, or Hotel Palacio de Valderrábanos 4*). (B,D)

Day 8 Breakfast and onward transfer to Madrid airport (arriving about 12 noon) for your flight home. (B)



Please note that 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.

Valleys of Gredos Ride

26th April to 3rd May

10th to 17th May

24th to 31st May

Euros 3,200 per person (single supplement 300 Euros)

6th to 13th September

20th to 27th September

4th to 11th October

18th to 25th October

Sierra de Gredos Rides

12th to 19th April

3rd to 10th May

21st to 28th June

Euros 2,800 per person (single supplement 300 Euros)

5th to 12th July

19th to 26th July

30th August to 6th September

11th to 18th October

Gredos & Segovia Ride

17th to 24th May

31st May to 7th June

Euros 3,500 per person (single supplement 350 Euros)

7th to 14th June

14th to 21st June

13th to 20th September

27th September to 4th October

Gredos Escapes

8th to 12th April

22nd to 26th April

1st to 5th July

Euros 1,600 per person (single supplement 200 Euros)

15th to 19th July

29th July to 2nd August

28th October to 1st November

4th to 8th November

11th to 15th November

NB - Single supplements are payable on arrival in Spain in cash

Rates **INCLUDE** all riding, 7 nights (4 for Gredos Escapes) twin hotel accommodation (single room if paying supplement), meals from dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 8 (Day 5 for Gredos Escapes), except lunch on Day 7 of Sierra de Gredos Ride, mid-morning aperitif most days, wine, beer and a selection of soft drinks with meals and transfers from / to Madrid airport with the group at set times on the first and last day.

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DATES & RATES 2026 cont.

Rates **EXCLUDE** international flights / travel to Madrid and taxes, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), lunch on Day 7 of Sierra de Gredos Ride, any extra drinks at bar stops, before meals etc, any visa fees, personal extras at hotels (telephone calls, laundry, bar bill etc)., charges for transfers outside the set times and any tips you may wish to leave.

Rates are based on a **minimum of 4 riding guests**. Rides will run for less than 4 riders BUT there will be a small group supplement for extra transfer / logistic costs.

Valley of Gredos & Sierra de Gredos - small group supplement: Euros 300 per person

Gredos & Segovia - small group supplement: Euros 350 per person

Gredos Escapes - small group supplement: Euros 150 per person

Single supplements Rates assume twin shared rooms in hotels and the single supplement is payable if you are travelling alone *OR* wish to book a single room (NB one or two hotels have a limited number of rooms and if the ride is full you *may* be asked to share with another guest for one night even if paying a single supplement - you would of course be refunded this part of the supplement). 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 a sharer - if there is no-one, the supplement will be charged.

Private groups Rides can be booked / run exclusively for private groups. For the above rates to apply, 10 riders are usually required, but rides can be run for smaller groups at a supplement. Please contact us to discuss.



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS & TRAVEL

Madrid is the nearest International airport and the ride meeting point is Madrid airport. There are several flights a day to Madrid from London with British Airways and Iberia. 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. You need to aim to arrive in Madrid by about **14.15** at the latest on the first Sunday (or Wednesday for Gredos Escapes) and should book a return flight which leaves **after 14.00** on the final Sunday to allow time for transfers. The transfer takes about 2 ½ hours each way. Airfares to Madrid 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.

FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION cont.

Transfers Please note when organising flights that there is ONE set transfer for the group on the first / last day of the rides. Pick up is normally 3pm on the first day and the drop off is about 12 noon on the last day. If you cannot get to Madrid in time for the pick up or if you need to arrive in Madrid earlier than the drop off time on the last day, it might be possible for the group to wait a short time / leave a little earlier but you will **probably** have to pay extra for a private transfer / taxi (we can help arrange this - around 150 Euros one way).



GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is only a brief outline - further information will be sent to you 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 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.

NON RIDERS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA

Non-riders can join any riding group by hiring or bringing their own car. They can meet up with riders in the evenings for dinner and spend nights at the same hotels. It is usually also possible to arrange to meet in the middle of the day for aperitifs and / or lunch if you are confident driving to different locations. Non-rider participation is a tailor-made option so if you are interested please contact us for rates. The area of the Gredos is a Natural Park and there is some wonderful walking and hiking. The Tormes River also has good trout fishing from April to August - if you are interested please contact us as a permit is required. There is also some excellent bird watching (best in May). The region is in the heart of Castille, home to some of Spain's most historical towns and cities. Avila, Segovia, Salamanca and Toledo have all been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

NON-RIDERS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA cont.

Avila is a medieval town, surrounded by walls constructed in the 11th and 12th century (2500m in length, 88 towers, 9 gates). These walls were built to protect the Spanish territories from the Moor and are still pretty much intact. Known as the “City of Saints and Stones”, it is the birthplace of St Theresa and the burial place of the Grand Inquisitor Torquemada. Avila has kept its medieval austerity and the purity of form can still be seen in its Gothic cathedral and the fortifications which are the most complete in Spain. There are charming squares and beautiful quiet pedestrian streets which make it a wonderful historic town to explore on foot. The Parador de Avila is very comfortable and in the centre of the city; there are a number of other smaller, stylish hotels that are also very good. A visit is included on the Sierra de Gredos itinerary, but for Valleys of Gredos, if you decide to stay the Saturday before the ride in Avila it is usually possible to meet the transfer vehicle in Avila (an easy train ride from Madrid) on the Sunday (it will pass through at around 16.30 to 17.00). Please liaise with us if you would like to do this

Websites worth visiting are: <http://whc.unesco.org> & www.spain.info/tourspain & www.avilaturismo.com
www.paradores-spain.com

Segovia has many magnificent monuments including a Roman Aqueduct built in the 1st & 2nd C AD and a castle - Alcazar - dating back to the 12th Century where Isabella la Catolica was proclaimed Queen of Castile.

Salamanca was conquered by Hannibal in the 3rd C AD. The university of Salamanca, founded in the 12th C, is the oldest in Spain and one of the oldest in Europe. There are many fascinating monuments to explore.

Toledo the medieval capital of Spain, is one of the most impressive historical - artistic complexes anywhere in the world. The town, perched on a hill and skirted by a sharp bend in the river Tagus has remained largely unaltered since the end of the Middle Ages. Romans, Visigoths and Moors lived there in successive centuries, each leaving a mark in the development of the city. Alfonso VI, king of Castile, conquered the city in 1085 and thenceforth three ethnically distinct communities grew up - Christians, Jews and Moslems all leaving a profound mark on its architecture and culture. Of all cities in the area, Toledo is impregnated with a fascinating history and culture. A few days exploring on foot, with a night or two in the Parador, a lovely 4 * hotel, is a wonderful addition to any ride.

(DRAFT 17/12/2025)

