



# RIDE WORLD WIDE

## SPAIN

### SEGOVIA ESCAPES 2026

#### RIDE INFORMATION

The province of Segovia is in central Spain's 'Meseta', the 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' and exploring it is a journey through history. These short rides are based out of medieval **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. Close by is another jewel of Spanish history: the royal site of La Granja de San Ildefonso, with its grand baroque palace and beautiful gardens. What makes this a unique and very special short riding break? The exceptional combination of historic sites accessible by horse and the open, unspoilt Castilian countryside. History at a canter!



## HORSES

The horses used are owned by the Camiruaga family and based at their equestrian centre, Hipica Eresma, just outside Segovia. Hipica Eresma was founded by Enrique Camiruaga, an experienced horseman and riding instructor with a background in show jumping and cross-country, and is now co-owned and managed by his daughter Ana who leads most rides. Enrique, Ana and their team have carefully selected all the horses used for the rides for their good nature and endurance. Most are cross breeds, mainly Anglo-Hispanos (Andalucian and Thoroughbred crosses) with some Lusitano crosses, ranging in height from about 15 to 16hh. They are well-schooled for hacking, schoolwork and jumping, calm to handle, fit, responsive and fun to ride.

## TACK

Good quality English style, with leather general-purpose saddles and most horses ridden in snaffles. Small saddle-bags (pouches) for a water bottle and a few personal items are provided.



## RIDING

The itinerary includes 3 days riding with between 4 and 6 hours in the saddle each riding day covering roughly around 95kms in total. Riding groups are usually led by Ana, or another lead guide, accompanied by a second back-up rider (occasionally for small groups of 4 or less, there may be just one riding guide) with additional vehicle support on hand at breaks and lunch stops. Rides are run for a minimum of 4 (less at a supplement) and maximum of 10 riding guests (occasionally more for a private group). Horses are prepared for riding each day by grooms or your guides (although you are welcome to help if you wish) and luggage is moved ahead where necessary by back up vehicle, which also meets the group at aperitif and lunch stops.

## WEIGHT LIMIT

90kgs (14st 2lbs) in riding clothes (although one or two heavier experienced riders *may* be possible by advance arrangement). If you are close to this, please contact us before booking to ensure a suitable horse is available.



## PACE

Riding is usually at a good energetic pace overall, with plenty of chances for long trots and exhilarating cross-country canters. The pace always varies according to the terrain, with slow going where the ground requires, as well as adaptations, as far as possible, to suit riders' ability and wishes - but overall these are intended to be quite 'sporty' rides with lots of chances for energetic canters.

## RIDING EXPERIENCE

The 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 independently control a well-schooled horse in open country at all paces (including a fast canter) and is used to riding in different environments. 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 need a reasonably good level of riding fitness too as hours can be fairly long and the pace often 'sporty'.

## TERRAIN

The area's natural landscape is diverse and includes the alpine Sierra de Guadarrama, sandy 'transhumance' trails, open fields and ancient Valsain forests of pine, oak, holm oak and holly 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 you negotiate woodland or the ground is rough or stony and terrain steep. As you are riding close to the city of Segovia, which is self-contained but still busy, there is some road work every day and some of the riding is in an 'urban' environment with roads to cross, a railway track, underpass and a bridge or two! You should expect mixed going but routes are well thought out, the horse negotiate natural and man-made obstacles with ease and you quickly get to some lovely open, rural countryside.

## GUIDES AND SAFETY

Ana, who leads most riding groups personally, is an experienced, professionally qualified guide and a fluent Spanish, English and French speaker. She rode competitively as a teenager (her brother is a high-level show jumper who often represents Spain nationally) and has many years' experience, but is also very approachable, friendly and fun making the rides a real pleasure. As well as this she is well informed and extremely knowledgeable about the history and culture of the Segovia area and always delighted to share her knowledge with you. Guides are first aid trained and carry a cell phone(s) and small first aid kit when riding. They are in close contact with the support vehicle and stables in case of emergencies.



## ACCOMMODATION

For 2026, riders will usually spend the first 2 nights at a hotel in La Granja de San Ildefonso, site of the grand, baroque Royal Palace and gardens, about 10 kilometres outside Segovia and the last 2 nights at a hotel in Segovia itself. At La Granja, the charming, boutique-style hotel La Farm is usually used and in Segovia accommodation is (subject to availability) either at the Parador of Segovia, a modern building with wonderful views over the city and one of Spain's 'national paradors' all of which are chosen for their unique setting or history, or the Hotel San Antonio el Real, a 4\* hotel built in the cloisters of a 15th C monastery, 5 minutes' walk from Segovia's Roman Aqueduct and a short way up to the old town. Rates are based on twin or double shared rooms, but singles are possible for those travelling alone at a supplement. Rooms have en-suite bathroom (usually shower only but some with bath).

## MEALS

All meals, from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last, are included as well as a mid-morning aperitif on riding days. Breakfast will be at the hotel and served buffet style with a selection of dishes - bread, toast or croissant, perhaps yoghurt, fruit, eggs and tea or coffee - on offer. When out riding, there is a mid-morning stop for an 'aperitif', with a selection of drinks as well as light tapas, and lunch will normally be a substantial picnic, eaten at a long table set up in the countryside. Lunch usually includes a selection of salads, bread and a main course such as Spanish omelette, barbecued steak or fish or a local speciality. Dinner is three courses, either at the hotel or a local restaurant, sometimes with a choice from the 'a la carte' menu or sometimes a set menu, with a couple of options available. The expected mealtime programme is roughly breakfast usually around 8.30 am, aperitif at 12.30-1pm, lunch at around 2 to 2.30pm and dinner at about 9-9.30pm. Vegetarians and those with other dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice but 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 early spring and autumn when days are usually sunny and bright. The warmest months are July and August. March and April are early spring, when average maximum daytime temperatures are usually between 11 and 16C but there is often still snow on the mountains, depending when spring arrives! In May, maximum high is about 18 to 21C, although temperatures can get up to the high 20sC and increase as the month progresses. In September historical highs are around 20-26C (cooler towards the month end) and in October expect days of between 14 and 20C. It can rain at any time, with rain showers more likely in the early and late season, March, April and October.

## WHAT TO BRING

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

## ITINERARY

**Example itinerary** The following is an example of the itinerary planned although **note** it is only an example and the day-by-day route, hotels used and riding programme may be changed by your guiding team if the weather or other local conditions require.

**Day 1** Your own arrangements for a flight to Madrid. The group will be met at Madrid airport at about **15.00** and driven about 1 ½ hours to a hotel in La Granja de San Ildefonso about 10 kms outside Segovia. Meet your Spanish guide and host on arrival and, after settling in, there may be time for a short drive to the ‘Hipica Eresma’ equestrian centre to meet the horses before returning to the hotel for dinner and the night (D).

**Day 2** Breakfast, and if you wish visit the baroque Royal Palace and Gardens at La Granja before meeting your guide and a drive of about 15 minutes or so to the stables. Mount up and once everyone is settled, head out riding, following cattle drovers (‘transhumance’) tracks, such as the Cordel de Santillana and the Cañada Real Soriana, before stopping for a rest and aperitif. After the break, continue riding, following the reservoir waters to the Acebeda stream. Meet the vehicle back up for a picnic lunch at tables set up along the route, a short siesta and then continue riding along the Eresma River valley to reach the forest of Valsain, traditionally a hunting reserve for the kings of Castile and nowadays protected as a natural park. Ride back to the stables in the late afternoon. Transfer back to the hotel and time to shower, change and for a drink, before meeting up for dinner at a restaurant in La Granja. Return to the hotel for the night (B,L,D)

**Day 3** Collected at about 10 am and driven to the stables. Mount up and set off riding in the direction of La Granja. After passing the town of Palazuelos de Eresma, cross the Eresma River at the El Ponton reservoir and head on along the waters’ edge until you reach the La Granja polo field. Aperitif stop then mount up again, riding through pine forest on the hills around La Granja, with magnificent views of the gardens and Royal Palace below. Picnic lunch at the Tejera del Cambrones farm, before riding back to the stables along the western side of Ponton lake. A short drive from the stables to your accommodation for the next 2 nights, usually either the Parador of Segovia with its fabulous views over the city or the Hotel San Antonio de Real in central Segovia. Dinner and night. (B,L,D)





## 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 airline options from London or regional airports, depending on the season. Fares 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.

**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 day 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 usually around 150 Euro but confirmed on booking).

## 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 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 30/01/2026)

