# RIDE WORLD WIDE
## SPAIN
### GEORGE SCOTT RIDES, ANDALUCIA 2026

## 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 Andalucian 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 over the last decade, 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 years. 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 and 5 nights. Please see dates below and contact us to discuss plans and check availability.

## 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 20 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 some English style saddles, 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. Most of the horses are ridden in snaffle bits and saddle bags, ponchos and waterproofs are all provided when necessary.

## RIDING

The standard 3 and 5 night trips include riding on 3 and 5 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 leads most rides personally, but in some cases his assistant, another experienced guide, Selma Salome will fill in, and either way they are 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.

## 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, a swimming pool 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$^{th}$ C family finca, Trasierra, in which George grew up. Now renovated as a comfortable and homely country house-cum-guest house, it has a swimming pool and shady fragrant 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 always magical experience. Occasionally one night may also be in a simpler mobile 'fly' camp, sleeping on proper beds in smaller 'bell' tents set up in another location.

## MEALS

All meals are included from dinner on your first day to lunch on your last. Breakfast is generally in Spanish style – a selection of bread, cake or croissant, yoghurt, fresh fruit, cheeses 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 may see the black Iberian pigs foraging for acorns in the forest), local cheeses and olives before a main course, such as 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 risotto, lamb from one of the farms you ride through or 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 almost sub-tropical and spring and autumn months are usually best for riding. Temperatures range, on average, from a daytime maximum of 20 to 30ºC and a minimum at night of around 8 to 10ºC. Rain is typically expected in winter and early spring months, between December and March, with rain most likely in February and March although occasional rain showers are possible throughout the year.

## 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 main camp is re-located to a new spot 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, and driven about 1 ½ hours to Taramona, a traditional 16th century 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 and meet the horses. Then mount up and once everyone is settled set off, usually at around 10.00 although will depend on the weather, riding along old cattle-driving routes and bridle ways carefully chosen by George to give you a glimpse of a hidden Spain few discover. Look out for eagles, griffon and black vultures, flycatchers and bee-eaters as you ride, perhaps also red and fallow deer, wild boar and, if you are very lucky, elusive Iberian lynx. After stopping for a rest, mid-morning aperitif and light tapas, ride on until you reach the delightful lunch spot, a beautifully set table, beneath an Indian canopy if it is hot, with a fully stocked bar, Jamón Ibérico and other locally sourced delicacies, all surrounded by the remarkable beauty of rural Spain. Lunch and a siesta, before riding to the night's destination, perhaps another farmhouse or you might stay in an atmospheric Rajasthani style tented camp that has been set up in a picturesque spot. The camp, lit by oil lamps, firelight and candles, with beds warmed by hot water bottles, is always a magical place to overnight. A delicious dinner and the night. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** After breakfast set off on another beautiful ride, following river valleys and crossing hills and pasture, on a route that uncovers more of Spain's untouched natural beauty and wildlife along the way. You might stop for an aperitif under an ancient Mediterranean oak tree and later on, for lunch in a favourite shady spot. After a siesta, in the late afternoon ride on to Taramona, arriving for drinks and a new dining experience in a different part of the house. The night at Taramona. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** Breakfast and a final morning ride, perhaps climbing to a high point for a view of the sierras, returning through the parkland of Mediterranean oak and fields. Aperitivos along the way and a later lunch at Taramona with time afterwards to pack and freshen up before departing at about 16.00 for Seville airport or city and onward travel. (B,L)

## DATES & RATES 2026

**<u>Please note</u> 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.**

**Autumn 2026**
**3 days / 3 night ride - 3,500 Euros per person**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8th to 11th October | 22nd to 25th October | 5th to 8th November |
| 15th to 18th October | 29th October to 1st November | 12th to 15th November |
| | | 19th to 22nd November |

Rates are based on a minimum of 6 ride participants.
Private group rides are sometimes possible on request. 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) 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 <u>must</u> 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 make 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** 19.00.

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 pre-arranged visa to visit 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. Note that new EU requirements for registration under the EUs Exit / Entry System (EES) have been introduced in 2026 but these are to be done on arrival with no advance steps currently required. Please check up to date requirements with the Spanish consulate.

**Health** No vaccinations are needed by UK or EU 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 01/09/2026)**