RIDE WORLD WIDE
SPAIN
SEGOVIA, HISTORY AT A CANTER 2027

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. All itineraries include nights in medieval Segovia, a UNESCO World Heritage Town, which boasts a magnificent cultural heritage - its 1st century AD colossal Roman Aqueduct and Alcazar Fortress with its stunning views of the city are nothing short of spectacular. The 7 night 'History at a Canter' ride also includes other '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. For those with limited time, the Segovia Escape is a fabulous short break and if you wish to see two different regions of this central part of Spain, the 7 night 'Gredos & Segovia Ride' is a super choice combining a few days riding further south in the rural Gredos mountains with a few days around Segovia. What makes riding in this area 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

Rides are run from set dates March to June and late August to September**.** 7 night History at a Canter Rides have 6 days riding from village to village and are run between late March and June and in September and October. Short 4 night Segovia Escapes with 3 days riding are usually in March, April and late August to October. There is a special 6 night Wine Tour Ride early May, and a 7 night Castles Ride late May-June. Combined Gredos & Segovia Rides, which include 3 days riding in the Gredos mountains south of Segovia (see our separate Gredos information file) and 3 days riding in the Segovia area, are also 7 nights, running May, June, September and October. Please see dates below and contact us to check availability.

HORSES

The horses used are owned by the Camiruaga family and are 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 rides for their good nature, ability 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

7 night itineraries include riding on 6 days (3 days on Segovia Escape) with between about 4 and 6 hours in the saddle each day. The History at a Canter Ride covers a total distance of approximately 115 miles / 182kms, an average of 30 kms a day, and other rides generally cover between about 20 and 30kms a day. 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. Set date 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 - if you are close to this please contact us before booking so we can ensure a suitable horse is available. Occasionally experienced riders who are a little heavier may be taken but *only* by prior arrangement.

PACE

The rides are run 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 'sporty' rides with lots of chances for energetic canters. On the combined Gredos & Segovia itinerary, the first few days riding in the Gredos area are usually slower due to terrain, although the moorland valleys of the Gredos still offer lovely chances for trots and canters.



RIDING EXPERIENCE

The rides are aimed at reasonably experienced riders who are fit, well balanced and secure in the saddle. To participate you must be a reasonably competent rider, who is comfortable, secure and able to independently control a well-schooled horse in open country and on different ground at all paces, including a fast canter. You should also be happy 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 reasonably good level of riding fitness as hours can be fairly long and the pace often 'sporty'. 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, wide sand 'transhumance' tracks, 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. The stables base is on the outskirts of Segovia and on some days, particularly on the short Segovia Escapes, riding is in quite an 'urban' environment with occasions when you cross or go under roads, ride on verges, negotiate a railway or bridge and ride on tarmac through the town - all of which the horses do with great ease.

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

Nights during the rides are in a selection of comfortable, mostly 3* and 4* hotels, chosen for their location and character. Rooms are double or twins with en-suite bathroom (shower & loo). The first and last nights of 'History at a Canter' will usually be (subject to availability) in Segovia, either at the Parador of Segovia, a modern building with wonderful views over the city and one of Spain's 'national paradors' all chosen for their unique setting or history, or at 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 upto the old town. The next night is at the 4* Parador of La Granja, ancient residence of the King's infants and in another great location, close to the Royal Palace of La Granja and remaining nights are at a selection of country & village hotels - a 3* hotel in what was a nobleman's house in Pedraza; a village hotel in Pradena (the simplest hotel) and a 'boutique' country hotel in Torrecaballeros. The Segovia Escapes usually uses a boutique hotel close to the Royal Palace of La Granja for the first 2 nights and the Parador of Segovia or Hotel San Antonio el Real for the final 2 nights. The first 3 nights of the Gredos & Segovia Ride are at the Boutique Hotel Milano Real. All rates are based on two sharing but single rooms can be arranged on request at an additional charge.

MEALS

Rides include breakfast, lunch and dinner every day (dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 5 / 8) as well as a mid-morning aperitif on riding days. Breakfast is at your hotel and is generally simple in Spanish style - bread, toast or croissant, perhaps yoghurt, fruit and tea or coffee, with a cooked breakfast sometimes 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 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, either at your 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. Mealtimes are generally a little later than in England - breakfast is usually around 8.30 am, aperitif at 12.30-1pm, lunch at around 2 to 2.30pm and dinner served 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 strongly influenced by the altitude. Rides are run in 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 about 11 and 16C but there is often still snow on the mountains, depending when spring arrives! **cont. over**

In May, maximum high is about 18-21C, although temperatures can reach 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 early and late season, March, April and October.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

ITINERARIES

The daily routine is generally breakfast at about 8.30am and set off riding at about 10am, stopping for a rest and aperitif at around 12.30. You then ride on for about 2 hours before a long lunch break and, after a siesta until about 4pm, ride until early evening, usually stopping at about 6pm or sometimes a little later. Dinner is generally at about 9-9.30pm. The following is an example of the itinerary planned for History at a Canter although *note* it is only an example and the day-by-day route and riding programme may be changed by your guiding team if the weather or other local conditions require. Please ask for Segovia Escape; Wine Ride; Castles of the Reconquista and Gredos & Segovia itineraries.

Day 1 Met at Madrid airport at about 3pm and driven about 1 ½ hours to the Parador of Segovia with its wonderful views over the city (or depending on availability Hotel San Antonio el Real, a short walk from Segovia's famous Roman Aqueduct and historic centre). After settling in meet your guide and host and a short drive to the equestrian centre to meet the horses. Later in the evening there should be time for a welcome drink in Segovia's main square. Dinner and night Parador of Segovia (or Hotel San Antonio el Real or similar). (D)

Day 2 Breakfast and 10 minute transfer to the stables. Mount up and, once everyone is settled, ride out from Segovia following cattle drovers ('transhumance') trails, such as the Cordel de Santillana and the Cañada Real Soriana, 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, traditionally hunting reserves of the kings of Castile, are now protected nature parks. In the afternoon ride on to La Granja de San Ildefonso, where the night is usually spent at the (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. 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 3* Hotel de la Villa (or similar) 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. Lunch in a restaurant 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 similar) in Sepulveda. (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 family house from the 18th century (or similar). (B,L,D)

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 Navafría, 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 Hotel El Rancho de la Aldegüela (or similar) in Torrecaballeros. (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 sheer their sheep during the long transhumance journeys. Aperitif stop before continuing 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 Parador of Segovia (or Hotel San Antonio el Real or similar). The late afternoon free to explore the city or relax, before a farewell dinner and night at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 8 After breakfast transfer (about 1 ½ hrs) to Madrid airport, arriving about 12 noon for onward journeys. (B)



DATES & RATES 2027

<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.

Segovia; History at a Canter (7 nights) 3450 Euros per person sharing
(single room supplement 350 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

7th to 14th March	11th to 18th April	17th to 24th October
4th to 11th April	19th to 26th September	

Segovia Escape (4 nights) 1880 Euros per person sharing
Ribero del Duero Escape (4 nights) 1980 Euros per person sharing
(single room supplement 250 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

17th to 21st March	6th to 10th June*	8th to 12th September
31st March to 4th April	16th to 20th June	6th to 10th October
21st to 25th April	1st to 5th September	27th to 31st October

* Ribero del Duero short

Ribera del Duero Wine Ride (6 nights) 3850 Euros per person sharing*
(single room supplement 400 Euros payable in cash on arrival)
2nd to 8th May

Castles of the Reconquista (7 nights) 3450 Euros per person sharing
(single room supplement 370 Euros payable in cash on arrival)
30th May to 6th June

Gredos & Segovia Ride (7 nights) 3900 Euros per person sharing*
(single room supplement 400 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

14th to 21st June	27th September to 4th October

Rates **INCLUDE** 7, 6 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 / 7 / 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.

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 *mu*st have with cover to ride), any entrance fees, any tips and gratuities you wish to leave and personal items such as shopping, telephone calls etc.

NOTE Rates above are based on a **minimum of 4 ride participants (6 on Gredos & Segovia and Wine Ride)**. Rides will still run for less than 4 riders BUT there will be a small group supplement to cover transfer / logistic costs - if less than 4 riders the supplement is 300 Euros per person for 7 night rides; 150 Euros per person for 4 night Segovia Escapes; 200 Euros for Royal Progressive.

Single supplement - Rates assume twin or double shared rooms and a single supplement is payable if you are travelling alone or wish to book a single room. If you are travelling alone but 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 try to find a sharer. However if there is no- one, the supplement will be charged.

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



FLIGHT & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The ride meeting point is Madrid International Airport. There are several flights a day to Madrid from London - British Airways and / or Iberia have regular flights from Gatwick and Heathrow. Easyjet also usually have a daily flight from Luton and Gatwick and there are other airline options from London or regional airports, depending on the season. Fares to Madrid vary but expect to pay from around £150 to £300 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.

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

(**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 04/11/2026)

