



Ethology week in Gabo de Gata

8 days/7 nights/6 riding

Best Airport: Almeria

Max weigh: 90kg



Discover a unique equestrian experience in the heart of the Cabo de Gata Natural Park in Andalusia. Over three days, refine your relationship with horses through ethology training, followed by three days of horseback riding across wild volcanic landscapes and idyllic beaches. Perfect for experienced riders wishing to deepen their harmony with horses while exploring the region's natural beauty in a privileged environment. An immersive adventure to develop your skills and create unforgettable moments in nature.

The riding

This stay offers personalised, immersive lessons for a unique group. The goal is to deepen body awareness, sensation, and synchronisation with horses during a three-day journey with sensitive and well-trained horses to ensure a safe and smooth experience.

Discover an exceptional adventure along the stunning coast of Cabo de Gata. You will also have 3 days, explore breathtaking landscapes, beaches where legendary films were shot—Indiana Jones or Lawrence of Arabia—and lunar-like volcanic craters. The rides, lasting 5 to 6 hours, offer moments of pure freedom as you can gallop at the pace of sensitive and well-trained horses. Formerly watched over by watchtowers, the coast provides a total immersion in wild nature and a friendly atmosphere for experienced riders seeking to deepen their connection with horses and the natural environment.

Level of Riding & Fitness

This workshop is aimed at those who wish to improve as riders and trainers, with a focus on excellence, deep understanding of the horse, and its well-being—all within the context of an exceptional experience.

For this journey, you must be an advanced-level rider to fully enjoy the 3 days of training and the 3 days of riding.

Maximum weight: 90 kg

Guides & Group Size

With over 20 years of experience in training, education, and rehabilitation of horses and ponies for both professional and private riders in Spain and France, Agustí Llauro has extensive practical expertise and a strong commitment to learning. He has helped riders of all levels improve their relationship with their mounts and has offered courses focused on mutual trust, revealing each horse's potential regardless of the rider's level.

He holds a solid background in classical and ethological riding, officially recognised in Spain and France. He is a Galope 7 certified in classical dressage and has obtained several certifications in ethological riding, including levels 1 and 2 of the EDC method and the Federal Certificate of Ethological Riding, issued by the French Equestrian Federation. He also holds the 5 Federal Knowledges in Ethological Riding, attesting to an in-depth, respectful, and coherent approach to working with horses.

The guide for the three days of riding will be Antonio, one of the owners of the center: Antonio has been organising horseback holidays in this pristine region of Andalusia for over thirty years. He will guide you through truly spectacular locations.

Group sizes are kept small to create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Minimum 2 – 6 riders

The Horses

There are approximately 20 horses at this destination, mainly Andalusians, Arabians, and Hispano-Arabians. They live outdoors in comfortable paddocks, and when they are not on

the riding trail, they stay together in a herd and are free to move around. Chosen for their good temperament and strength, most of these horses stay with the hosts for life and are trained using natural horsemanship techniques. They are safe, brave, respectful, and sensitive horses that enjoy human company. The saddlery and riding style are of the English type. Saddle bags are provided so you can carry your daily essentials, such as sunscreen, water, etc.

Tack & Riding Equipment

The saddlery and riding style are of the English type: the company offers English saddles to clients who prefer them, although it normally provides trail riding saddles. They also have a few western saddles, but can only offer these in certain cases.

Accommodation & Dining

The two hotels used on this trail are Sotillo Hotel or Dona Pakyta, located 5 minutes from San José, and Oro y Luz Hotel in Rodalquilar. Sotillo Hotel features a swimming pool and guarantees a restful, relaxing stay. Quality restaurants serving traditional Andalusian cuisine are selected for dinners, and lunches are picnics taken along the trail. The team sets up a beautifully set table in the park for the lunch, with food provided by local restaurants. (Please note, for 1 to 3 riders, the picnic may be simpler.) Vegetarian meals can be provided upon request.

Itinerary

Day 1:

Arrival at Sotillo Hotel (or Doña Pakyta) in San José.

At 8:00 PM, welcome and informational meeting.

Dinner and overnight stay at Sotillo Hotel (or Doña Pakyta Hotel) in San José.

Day 2-4:

Theory and practical preparation.

Training from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, with a 2-hour lunch break.

Accommodation and breakfast at the Sotillo Hotel or Doña Pakyta.

Lunch at a restaurant.

Dinner at the hotel.

Day 5:

San José - Mónsul - San José. The Indiana Jones beaches -5 to 6 hours of riding.

Gathering and preparing the horses after breakfast, at 9:30 AM, at our stables in San José (5 minutes' walk from the Sotillo Hotel, 5 minutes' drive from the Pakyta Hotel). A brief explanation about equipment and safety.

Departure towards the beaches of Genoveses, Mónsul, and Media Luna, where scenes from "Indiana Jones," "Lawrence of Arabia," and "A Fistful of Dollars" were filmed.

These beaches offer the opportunity to gallop and experience that wonderful feeling of freedom.

After a picnic lunch, riders return to San José, crossing the Tesorillo Valley.

Day 6:

San José - Rodalquilar. 5 to 6 hours of riding.

Today's destination is Rodalquilar, located to the north. The route winds through the Sierra de Gata and its lunar-like landscapes featuring ancient volcanic craters, stopping in the small village of "Los Albaricoques," where famous scenes from "For a Few Dollars More" and "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" were filmed.

Picnic lunch at "El Cortijo del Fraile," one of the iconic sites of the park where the events that inspired Federico García Lorca to write "Blood Wedding" took place.

Day 7:

Rodalquilar - Escullos - San José - 5 to 6 hours of riding.

Return to San José, with the route winding along the coast lined with 18th-century watchtowers, offering stunning views and an oasis of palm trees. The watchtowers were used to monitor the coast in case of pirate attack.

Picnic lunch on the beach of Los Escullos, next to the San Felipe fortress.

Day 8:

Departure before noon and airport transfer.

International Flights & Airport Transfers

Do not book flights or train tickets before receiving the booking confirmation email from SaddleTravel.com.

Please plan your flights to/from as follows:

You can fly to Almeria, with a transfer of about 30 minutes.

Alternatively, flights to Granada or Malaga, which are approximately 3 hours by road.

Arrival in Almeria on Day 1, with pickup at 5:00 PM at the bus station or at 5:30 PM at Almeria airport.

Departure from Almeria on Day 8, with hotel departure at 11:00 AM.

Price Includes

- 3 days of ethology courses
- 3 days of riding
- Shared double room
- Full-board accommodation

Price Excludes

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- Airport Transfers
- Single Room

Climate

Andalusia has a warm climate all year round and many warm, sunny days right through winter. Daytime temperatures vary from about 15°C from November to March and from 30°C and above during June, July and August. Rainfall is very light with virtually no rain from the beginning of May to the end of September. However it can rain in winter months with most rainfall in November and early December and again in March/April.

Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at the National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Spain for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

The currency in Spain is the Euro. You will need to bring local currency (or debit/credit cards) for any drinks you want to buy in the restaurants.

Riding declaration

"I am confident and in control at trot and canter out in the open and over uneven ground. I'm able to mount and dismount unaided and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others."

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If the ride operator is closed or you are unable to travel due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. We suggest you take out insurance as soon as you book as, should your circumstances change, all our deposits are non refundable and non transferable. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.



Contact details

+44 1497 888 228 WhatsApp
trails@saddletravel.com

saddletravel.com
CN: 05411320

<https://saddletravel.com>