

ride to portugal



George Scott Rides

Please join me for an incomparable experience – a seven-day, 200-kilo- metre journey on horseback through an ancient and beautiful landscape, from Taramona, my home in the hills north of Seville, to the border of Portugal.

Three years in the making, the trip has been planned with precision. I've met every mayor from our starting point to the border of Portugal, piecing together the beautiful and sometimes challenging trails that form our route. But despite the precise planning, this is a journey that's open to serendipity and gentle detours. There will be unexpected views, warm smiles from villagers, a glimpse of a vulture or wild boar and, if you're very lucky, the Iberian lynx.





The Journey

Flying into Seville airport, you'll be transferred to Taramona, from where this extraordinary journey commences. You'll be joining a group of between eight and ten people on a very special ride – one that can only take place once a year.

You'll set off into a deep Spain that travellers very rarely see, weaving a path back and forth across the borders of Andalucía and Extremadura – a remote wilderness of mountains and valleys dotted with olive groves, pine and oak forests, verdant homes to an extraordinary variety of flora, fauna, wild life and bird life. This is a spring ride, which means comfortable temperatures by day, and a carpet of stunning wild flowers along the route.

You will be travelling through a region untouched by tourism, following old cattle trails and ancient Roman footpaths, crossing rivers and passing through sleepy villages where traditions have barely changed in centuries. Lunch will be in a carefully selected spot, a place to rest and soak up the beauty of the surrounding countryside. Pressing on through more breathtaking scenery, you'll arrive at the camp-site for the evening.



THE CAMP

The spots where we camp are selected for their natural beauty, but also to enrich your understanding of the history and culture of this corner of Spain. You'll camp in isolated places that are only accessible by horse, as well as in the middle of a magnificent old bullring, in the grounds of a Medieval castle, next to a convent, and close to the sanctuary of a venerated local saint.

Wherever we end up, you'll find a luxurious camp-site awaits – your luggage and belongings in an exquisite bell tent equipped with carpets, furniture, luggage racks and proper beds dressed with cotton sheets, duvets, blankets and feather pillows. You'll shower under piping hot water inside another dedicated tent. As night falls, the camp will be illuminated by oil lamps, fire torches and candlelight. As you emerge from your tent, a barman awaits by a fully stocked cocktail bar, before dinner is served by the camp fire.

THE FOOD

The food prepared along the way is a true reflection of the area through which you've ridden, drawing on seasonal ingredients gathered from producers on our route. Dinners are all about the theatre; with fire cooking by our Uruguayan cook Lucrezia who previously worked for Francis Mallman.

These are evenings like no other, when a sumptuous dinner is eaten and tales of the day are exchanged, sparks rising into a magnificent night sky studded with a thousand stars, before you settle in for a blissfully comfortable sleep.

In the morning, after a fortifying breakfast, you'll set off on another day of adventures and ever-changing scenery, safe in the knowledge that the camp and your luggage await at the end of the trail.

important information



FLIGHTS

YourDestination is Seville where we shall arrange your transfers to Cortijo Taramona on the 23rd which is a 1 hour drive away. On the 30th we will arrive at Barrancos, Portugal where a transfer will be organised for you back to Seville.

WEATHER

This is a spring ride, which means comfortable temperatures by day and cooler evenings. Typically the 'long rains' fall between the months of February and March. However we can expect occasional rain showers.

HORSES

Our horses are mainly Anglo-Arab or Hispano-Arab. They have great endurance and are evenly tempered. There is a wide range of horses to suit each individual, and every effort is made to match horse and rider. The horses are sure in their terrain and comfortable in their environment.

RIDING ABILITY

The minimum riding level must be of an intermediate standard (comfortable at all paces) with the ability to post to the trot for stretches of up to fifteen minutes at a time and also be able to take off and canter. We are unable to accept beginners.

SAFETY

A guest's full medical insurance is required and policy details must be submitted prior to arrival. A small medical kit is carried on horseback and a more comprehensive kit is kept in the vehicles.

WHAT TO BRING

We recommend light neutral colours of greens and khakis. We recommend that you wear a riding hat and please bring your own if you can. Your luggage will be sent ahead to each of our destinations and you will be provided with saddle bags where you can bring a few of your belongings such as sun cream, hat, camera etc...



I hope you decide to join us. This journey is a window into a forgotten Spain, a ride rich in scenery, culture, history and gastronomy. A unique opportunity that very few others have the chance to enjoy.

For further information and bookings

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Price per person 7000€