



RIDE WORLD WIDE

SPAIN

SEGOVIA: HISTORY AT A CANTER 2025

RIDE INFORMATION

These rides are part of the special portfolio of Spanish rides developed by our long-term Spanish partner, Equiberia, in conjunction with carefully selected local guides. Equiberia rides, which are in different regions of Spain, have been chosen primarily for the quality of horses and riding experience they offer - but also for their dedicated owner-operating guides, who are passionate about their horses, their local area, its history and customs. We believe that on a small group holiday, your guides are all-important. Equiberia takes great pride in their local guiding teams who will show you what is unique about the region you are visiting and will do their utmost to ensure a fantastic all-round experience - there's no better way to see Spain.



The province of Segovia is in central Spain, in the '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. Exploring it is a journey through history. The 7 night 'History at a Canter' Ride starts and ends in the medieval city of **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. The route also visits some 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. 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

The History at a Canter Ride is a 7 night itinerary, with 6 days riding from village to village. It is run Sunday to Sunday from set dates March to June and September and October. We also offer a combined Gredos & Segovia Ride, which includes 3 days riding in the Gredos mountains south of Segovia (see our separate Gredos information file) and 3 days riding in the Segovia area, as well as a short 4 night Segovia Escape with 3 days riding. Please see set dates at the end of this Information sheet and contact us to check availability.

HORSES

The horses used are cross breeds, mainly Anglo-Hispanos (Andalucian and Thoroughbred crosses), ranging in height from about 15 to 16hh. They are owned by Enrique Camiruaga, an experienced horseman and riding instructor with a background in show jumping and cross-country, and are based at his family equestrian centre, Hipica Eresma. The horses have been carefully selected by Enrique and his team for their good nature and endurance, have been well-schooled for hacking, schoolwork and jumping, are calm to handle and fit, responsive and fun to ride.

TACK

Good quality English style tack is used, with leather general-purpose saddles. Saddle-bags and seat savers are provided.



RIDING

Itineraries include 6 days riding (3 days on Segovia Escape) with between about 4 and 6 hours in the saddle each day. On the History at a Canter Ride the route covers a total distance of approximately 115 miles / 182kms (an average of 30 kms a day). Riding groups are usually led by Ana Camiruaga, Enrique's daughter, who co-manages Hipica Eresma. She is an experienced, very approachable riding guide and instructor who speaks fluent English, French and Spanish. She is also well informed and knowledgeable about the history and culture of the area and always delighted to share her knowledge with you. Set date rides are run for groups of a minimum of 4 (less at a supplement) and maximum of 10 riding guests. 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 support 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.



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 quite 'sporty' rides with lots of chances for energetic canters. On the combined Gredos & Segovia itinerary, the first few days riding in the Gredos area is usually slower due to terrain, although the moorland valleys of the Gredos still offer some good 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 should be a reasonably competent rider, who is comfortable, secure and able to control a well-schooled horse in open country at all paces. 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 reasonable level of riding fitness as hours can be fairly long and the ride is often at a 'sporty' pace. 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, 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 the ground is rough or stony and terrain steep.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in a selection of comfortable hotels, mostly 3* and 4* standard, all carefully chosen for their location and character. Rooms are double or twin bedded with private en-suite bathroom (shower and loo). Single rooms can be arranged on request at an additional charge. The first and last nights of 'History at a Canter' are usually spent at the Hotel San Antonio el Real, a charming 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. One night is at the 4* National Parador of La Granja, ancient residence of the King's infants and in another great location, close to the Royal Palace of La Granja. Remaining nights are at a selection of country and village hotels - a 3* hotel in what was a nobleman's house in Pedraza; a village hotel in Pradena (this is the simplest accommodation) and a 'boutique' country hotel in Torrecaballeros. The first three nights of the Gredos & Segovia Ride are at the impressive Parador of Gredos, built in 1926 as a hunting lodge for Alfonso XIII and the first establishment in Spain to be converted to a Parador. It has comfortable rooms and several dining areas and terraces where you can sit with a drink and enjoy the mountain views.



MEALS

Riding itineraries 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 with temperatures and rainfall 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; in March and April, early spring, average maximum daytime temperatures are usually around 11-16C. This is early season and there can still be snow on the mountain tops, depending when spring arrives! In May, maximum high is about 18-21C, 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 around 14-20C. 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 you book.

ITINERARY

The daily routine is generally breakfast at about 8.30am and set off riding at about 10am, continuing for a couple of hours before 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 lunch and 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 the History at a Canter Ride although *note* it is only an example and the day-by-day route and riding programme may be changed by your guide if the weather or other local conditions require. Please ask for the Gredos & Segovia and Segovia Escape itineraries.

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ITINERARY cont.

Day 1 Met at Madrid airport at about 3pm and driven about 1 ½ hours to the Hotel San Antonio El Real (4*) (or similar) in Segovia. The hotel is built in the cloisters of a 15th C monastery, 5 minutes' walk from the Roman Aqueduct. After settling into your rooms 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 to visit the city of Segovia by car and for a welcome drink in the main square. Dinner and night hotel San Antonio El Real (or similar). (D)

Day 2 Breakfast and short 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, and 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 were traditionally hunting reserves of the kings of Castile and 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 Hotel de la Villa (or similar), a 3* hotel 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 Vado del Duraton 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 a small guesthouse in Pradena, Casa Rural el Covanchon (or Casa Rural Los Prairies, Hostal Decerca or similar). (B,L,D)



ITINERARY cont.

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 Posada Fuente Plateada) 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 shear their sheep during the long transhumance journeys. An aperitif here and then continue 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 Hotel San Antonio el Real in Segovia. 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 2025

Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, 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) 3200 Euros per person sharing*

(single room supplement 300 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

9th to 16th March

8th to 15th June

19th to 26th October

6th to 13th April

31st August to 7th September

Gredos & Segovia Ride (7 nights) 3300 Euros per person sharing*

(single room supplement 300 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

1st to 8th June

15th to 22nd June

14th to 21st September

Segovia Escape (4 nights) 1600 Euros per person sharing*

(single room supplement 200 Euros payable in cash on arrival)

19th to 23rd March

28th May to 1st June

8th to 12th October

2nd to 6th April

2nd to 6th July

15th to 19th October

16th to 20th April

27th to 31st August

29th October to 2nd November

7th to 11th May

10th to 14th September

5th to 9th November

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DATES & RATES 2025 cont.

Rates **INCLUDE** 7 (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 / 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 *must* 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 That rates above are based on a **minimum of 4 ride participants**. Rides will still run for less than 4 riders BUT there will be a supplement for transfers / logistics of 350 Euros per person for the 7 night rides; 250 Euros per person for 4 night Escapes.

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 and are 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.



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. 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.

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FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION cont.

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 15/12/2024)

