

# Alpujarra Ride, Sierra Nevada, Spain

---

## Day 1

Arrive at Bubion and settle into your accommodation in a comfortable village guest house. Later meet your guide, have dinner and learn about the week ahead.

Please note that there are often slight changes to the itinerary depending on the weather and the group. Sometimes paths are closed because of repairs, sometimes a higher route is used because it is cooler or a lower one because it is warmer. For example, on the last Contraviesa ride of Spring it may be too hot in the valleys and this ride may have to incorporate some of the routes of the Alpujarra.

In the Alpujarra during the winter months the peaks are under snow and the spring melts and rains can cause damage to paths, riverbeds and tracks. As such the paths and itineraries maybe changed in places or it may be necessary to dismount and lead on different sections. We also suggest riding in footwear that you can comfortably walk in too with non-slip soles.



## Day 2

Today you will get to know your horse as you explore the more inaccessible parts of the Poqueira valley. With the Mulhacen (the highest mountain in Spain) forming the backdrop, this valley is often described as the most beautiful in the Alpujarra. Make your way along narrow paths through high pastureland and across ancient irrigation streams to the head of the valley. Here have a picnic lunch in the shade of a pine wood beside a mountain river and in the afternoon follow a forestry track back down the mountainside

towards Bubion. You will have dinner in a local restaurant and stay in Bubion again tonight. (Approximately six hours riding).



## Day 3

Heading east you set off for the village of Trevez, at 1,476 meters, this is the highest village in Spain. During the morning you will follow the old mule paths through the countryside to the village of Pitres and then Portugos. Leaving the village you start the 600 metre climb to a picnic spot in the shade of the pine woods.



After lunch join a broad forestry track through the pine and oak trees to Trevez. This afternoon there may be some opportunities for canters. There is a c.15 minutes walk down an old stone path in to the village where the horses will be stabled. Overnight and dinner in Trevez. (Approximately six hours riding).

## Day 4

Today the bridle paths take you east over totally different terrain, through pine forests and mountain farms to the village of Berchules. On leaving the stables lead your horses through the streets of Trevez (c. 10 minutes walk). Here you will water the

horses at one of the many springs, mount up and head down to the river.

Once across the river, the path follows first the Moorish irrigation channel. Then you'll work your way through oak and pine forests to the open pasture lands of the Sierra of Juviles.

There are two options, depending on the weather you will continue to climb and picnic at about 2,300 meters or start a gentler descent and picnic in the oak woods above the village of Juviles.

Both lovely rides with stunning views. Both these rides are slow as you are mostly climbing on mountain paths. The final stretch of path is very rough and it is necessary to lead the horses down this and through the village to the stables (c.30 minute walk). Overnight in Berchules in a comfortable family run hotel. (Approximately six hours riding).



#### Day 5

Berchules takes its name from the old Spanish word Berchel, meaning literally, mountain garden. During the morning you will ride along an ancient Moorish bridle path, once the main trade route over the mountains to Granada.

As the path passes through terraced orchards and fields, high above the course of the river, it is easy to see how the area came by its name.

Leaving the path you'll stop for a picnic lunch in the shade of the pine woods.



After lunch you will join the main forestry track built in the early 1900s for improving access to farming and reforestation in the area. There may be opportunities for some trots and canters this afternoon. Second night in the comfortable Hotel Berchules. (Approximately seven hours riding).

#### Day 6

Having made a semi-circle you head back to the village of Trevelez. Leaving the village of Berchules below you have a steep climb to approximately 2,400 metres.

During the morning the route follows dirt tracks through farm and pasture lands up to the tree line. There may be opportunities for some canters.

Today's picnic lunch on the edge of the pine woods.

The ride today offers wonderful views over the valley of Trevelez, the sea to the south and the Mulhacen mountain at 3486 metres (the highest mountain on the mainland) to the north.

During the afternoon you descend on a bridle path through the woods to the village of Trevelez. There are some places you will need to lead your horse for short periods. Overnight and dinner in Trevelez. (Approximately five hours riding).



#### Day 7

Today is a shorter ride. Following the forestry tracks through the pine and oak woods you will ride towards the stables high above the villages of the Poqueira. This route will offer you superb views out over the Contraviesa mountains towards the Mediterranean sea. There should be opportunities for some canters.

After a late lunch in the village of Capileira or Bubion you will return to the stables. This afternoon you are free to explore the local shops or take a siesta. Tonight there is a farewell dinner in Bubion.  
(Approximately 3-4 hours riding).

Day 8

Depart for Malaga after breakfast.

---

For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997 Email: [rides@inthesaddle.com](mailto:rides@inthesaddle.com), Internet: [www.inthesaddle.com](http://www.inthesaddle.com)