

Pilgrimage to Guadalupe Monastery, Spain

Itinerary

Day 1

Your transfer from Madrid will take you to the old town of Trujillo and there will be time to look around this beautiful town.

The old town originally was settled on the granite batholith and dates back to the Roman times. The town contains many medieval and renaissance buildings which were built by many of the conquistadors born in the city. The most important monuments are the castle, the church of Santa Maria (13th century) and the church of San Francisco.



Later over dinner you get to know your guide and chat about the week ahead.

The following is the proposed itinerary but please note that changes are possible due to weather and local conditions.

Please note that although this is not a fast paced ride, there should be some opportunities for trots and canters most days.

Day 2

After breakfast it is time to meet your horses, saddle up and set off for your first morning ride.

The morning ride takes you through the 'Dehesa' which is a multifunctional agrosylvopastoral system. This is used primarily for grazing but also produces a variety of products such as honey, cork and firewood. This also provides a protected habitat for endangered species such as the Iberian lynx and Spanish Imperial eagle.

After lunch you have a short ride through the flat terrain of the Madroñera.



When you arrive at your overnight accommodation you may have to help to see to the horses, feeding them and helping to turn them out into their fields/paddock for the night. Later meet for supper at c.9pm. This will be the usual plan each evening when you reach your new accommodation for the night.

Riding time approx 5 hours

Day 3

In the morning you might be asked to help to catch your horse, groom and feed them (this is the same each morning during the trail). Then it is time to have breakfast before heading back outside to tack your horse up and set off.

Today you follow the cattle trail to the town of Zorita. There are plenty of opportunities for trots and canters especially through the 'Dehesa'. Along the way you may see local cows, sheep, goats and Iberic pigs.



Dinner and overnight at a guesthouse. Riding time approx 5 hours.

Day 4

This morning follow the old railway line which was built in the 1920s and was never finished due to the Spanish Civil War. Along the way you may see old

buildings which were abandoned when the railway was never finished.

During the day you will have chance to admire the impressive Villuercas landscape. It would be handy to have your camera easily accessible so you don't miss a photo opportunity.

Dinner and overnight at a guesthouse. Riding time approx. 5 hours.

Day 5

After breakfast, mount up on your trusty steed and ride through the vineyard in Cañamero, which is famous in Spain for their good wines and olive gardens.



You will see the landscape change today due to the Rucas river cutting its way through the earth and forming canyons.

Dinner and overnight at a guesthouse. Riding times approx. 5 hours.

Day 6

Your final ride is shorter today as you ride from Cañamero to Guadalupe. Today you follow the old cattle roadways of Cañada Real.

The ride finishes just outside of Guadalupe. You will say goodbye to your horse which will be transferred back to Trujillo.

You spend the evening visiting the sites of Guadalupe town and the Monastery. The Monastery has origins dating back to the 13th century when a shepherd discovered a statue of the Blessed Virgin on the bank of the Guadalupe river. The statue had apparently been hidden by the local inhabitants of the Moorish invaders in 714.

This evening you will have dinner and stay overnight in the monastery.

Riding times approx. 4 hours.



Day 7

After breakfast depart from Guadalupe back to Madrid in time for your flight.