

Jerez Feria

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From 02 - 09 May 2010 Jerez will be holding its annual feria in Gonzalez Hontoria Park. This is one of the most important events in the equestrian calendar of Andalucia. Jerez is home to some of the grandest families in the region, originally their wealth came from the production of fine wines and Sherries cultivated in the fertile lands that surround the city. This wealth enabled the landowners to invest in impressive studs and bull-breeding farms that can be seen dotted around this beautiful old city.

This spectacular event lasts for 7 days during which time you will be treated to the regions finest displays of carriage driving, show-jumping, dressage and the more traditional Doma Vaquera competitions, to say nothing of the sampling of the best local wines! Jerez is one of the most prestigious ferias in Spain some of the world's leading horses and riders compete here; to win best of breed at Jerez feria is a great honour.

For equestrian enthusiasts this event is a once in a lifetime trip and we have limited availability for 4 - 7 night packages. We have included centrally located accommodation and the opportunity to ride on beautiful Andalucian horses. The price for a 5 day package with accommodation and riding starts from £695. Please read on for a sample itinerary although this is a flexible itinerary and we can offer you a tailor-made package.

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive at Seville, Malaga or Jerez airport and make your way to your accommodation in the centre of Jerez. We can offer you charming self-catering apartments or hotels from three to five stars. All of the accommodation is situated within walking distance of 'La Plaza del Caballo', The Royal Riding School and Gonzalez Hontoria Park where the Feria is based. Jerez offers an endless choice of fine restaurants and tapas bars so you will never be short of somewhere to sit with a glass of wine in the cool of the evening.

Day 2

After breakfast this morning you will be walking the short distance to The Royal Riding School of Jerez where you will be allocated your seats for the wonderful display: 'How the Andalusian horses dance.' The Royal Riding School is renowned throughout the World for their breathtaking exhibition and their painstaking training methods make this show a real delight as they perform intricate and demanding movements with effortless grace and control. This equestrian ballet is set to traditional Spanish music and demonstrates both styles of Spanish Riding, Doma Vaquera and Doma Clasica. This afternoon you can enjoy a ride around the vineyards of Jerez on beautifully trained Andalucian horses. We have horses suitable for all ages and abilities! Later relax and reflect on the experiences of the day with a glass of Jerez's finest wine. This evening in Gonzalez Hontoria Park you will have your first taste of this colourful and spectacular celebration.





Day 3

Today you will be free to enjoy the Feria. There is a huge programme of events that run throughout the day and late into the night. All you need do is to plan your day from the mouth watering catalogue! You really can't visit Andalucía without witnessing at first hand the passion of the Flamenco dance! The origin of this dance is still unknown, although it is generally believed to be a mixture of gypsy and Arabic dance. However, you can't question the passion and fervour of the performers as they combine the acoustic guitar with singing, dancing and staccato hand clapping. Definitely a night to remember!



Day 4

Today you will be able to enjoy a performance by La Yeguada de la Cartuja (The National Stud Farm). Each year they bring a selection of their finest breeding mares, stallions and youngstock to the show. Here they are paraded with great pride and even the most hardened equestrian fan walks away with a lump in their throat! The history of this stud has ensured that the purest of bloodlines has been maintained in these exceptional examples of Spanish stock. This afternoon you will be able to choose from a dressage lessons on a fine Andalucian horse or another ride out in the countryside that surrounds Jerez.



Day 5

This morning you will be free to visit one of Jerez's many bodegas, take a horse drawn carriage ride through the town or you can simply relax in the central plaza and watch the world pass-by. The most famous bodega in town is Gonzales Byass Bodega, founded in 1835 and the birthplace of 'Tio Pepe,' which was first exported to Great Britain in 1844. Today, the impressive visitor centre sets you on a course of discovery as you learn to appreciate and savour the wonderful local wines.



Prices

Prices start from £730 per person in quality self-catering apartment:

- 4 night's accommodation in a good location in central Jerez
- Visit to The Royal Riding School display
- Ride around the vineyards of Jerez (2 hours)
- Dressage lesson or hack out (1 & 2 hours respectively)
- Flamenco Show and Dinner

Optional Excursions:

- Horse drawn carriage ride around Jerez
- Bodega visit and tasting
- Airport Transfers

You can choose to extend your stay if you would like. Hotels are also available from 3 - 5 stars.