

## An Equestrian Dream in Andalucia.

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### Andalucia

Andalucia's warm, Mediterranean weather with its high proportion of hours of sunshine seems to mark the cheerful, hospitable character of the region's people making it a popular holiday destination. Horses have played an integral part in the rural life of this region for centuries and now we are delighted to offer you the chance to experience the very best of the culture and tradition of Andalucia with a unique blend of visits and equestrian experiences.

### Itinerary

#### Day One

Arrive at Malaga Airport and head to Ronda (1 ½ hour drive) where you will be staying in a charming Andalucian cortijo. Ancient Ronda is a colourful tapestry woven from a skein of tangled threads which make it one of the most breathtaking cities in all of Andalucía. The landscape, the layout of the town, its history, the romantic legend of its bandits with their evocative names, the bullfighters and artists whose names have gone down in history: all this makes Ronda a unique city. This afternoon or early evening you will be able to enjoy an equitation lesson or a ride out on a beautiful Andalucian horse.



#### Day Two

There is no better way to become acquainted with the historic town of Ronda than by taking a tour around the narrow streets in a horse drawn carriage. The city invites you to explore its streets, absorbing every detail of this ancient Arab "medina" on the south bank of the Guadalquivir river, whose walls are still partially standing. You will cross the Puente Nuevo ("new bridge") and visit the Alameda del Tajo, where around every corner you find a historic monument, and then restore your strength in one of the restaurants offering an abundant selection of dishes from the local cuisine. This afternoon there is the option to ride again.



#### Day Three

Today you will be travelling to Jerez de la Frontera (1 1/2 hour drive) Jerez has long been an internationally recognised city thanks to its wine and sherry production. For horse lovers Jerez is more notably the equestrian capital of Andalucía and home to The Royal Riding. Jerez is steeped in equestrian heritage and culture. Late this morning you will be visiting one of Jerez's





bodegas. 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. In the late afternoon you will have the opportunity to ride around the vineyards of Jerez or you can hone your equestrian skills by having a lesson on one of Jerez's magical dancing horses.

#### **Day Four**



This morning you will visit the famous Royal Riding School of Jerez. You will be watching the wonderful performance: 'How the Andalusian horses dance.' The Royal Riding School is renowned throughout the world for their breath-taking 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 there is the option to ride again in Jerez with our expert trainer and horseman. This evening a Flamenco dinner will be included in the old town.



#### **Day Five**

This morning you will be heading for the coast and the beautiful sandy beaches close to Tarifa. En route we suggest that you first head for Medina Sidona a lovely little hill top town made unique by its fascinating blend of Spanish and Moorish architecture. Here you will have the option to visit one of the regions much acclaimed bull farms. A guided tour will explain to you the daily routine on these farms and you will see at close hand the wonderful black bulls of Andalucía in their natural habitat and marvel at the skill of the 'vaqueros' or Spanish cowboys as they go about their daily duties. Later today as you approach 'La Costa de la Luz' (coast of light) you will quickly understand from where this region has gained its name. The light here seems to possess a quality all of its own. The sand on the beaches on this western coast of Spain is finer and a more golden colour than the neighbouring Costa del Sol, even better for riding on! This evening you will be riding on the beautiful Andalucian horses that live on the edge of the beach of Tarifa. Tonight, you will be staying in a typical Andalucian cortijo close to the beach.



#### **Day Six**

Today you will be riding on the beach; for many this is seen as the high light of their trip. For experienced riders you will be able to trot and canter along the golden sands with the opportunity for your horses to dip their hooves in The Atlantic Ocean. This beach is part of a nature reserve and many migrating birds use it as a stop over before they fly to Africa. Tonight you will be staying in the beach hotel once more.



### Day Seven

Today the choice is yours either relax on the beach or enjoy another day riding in this spectacular area.

### Day Eight

Head back to Malaga for your flight home.

## Prices

### Included in the package price of £995 per person in a shared twin:

- 7 nights accommodation & breakfast in typical Andalucía cortijos / charming hotels
- Ride in Ronda (lesson or hack)
- Tour of Ronda in horse drawn carriage
- Flamenco dinner in Ronda/Jerez
- Bodega visit in Jerez
- Tickets for The Royal Riding School Display in Jerez
- Ride around the vineyards of Jerez (or take a lesson on Andalucía horses)
- Ride in the countryside at Tarifa (2 hours)
- Ride on the beach in Tarifa (2 1/2 hours)

### Optional Extras

- Additional ride in Ronda
- Additional ride on the beach
- Medina Sidona Bull Farm visit (closed Nov – March)

Please note occasionally we will need to make changes to the order in which this itinerary is run as several of the visits are only open certain days of the week.

