Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

+44 (0) 1905 388977 info@equus-journeys.com

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Epona - Intensive Dressage Programme

SPAIN

One of our most popular **riding holidays takes place in Andalusia, Spain,** and is perfect for lovers of classical dressage. Close to Seville and the Royal Andalusia School of Equestrian Art in Jerez, this **dressage training holiday in Spain** offers various levels of dressage courses supervised by a team of passionate instructors on beautifully schooled horses.

Dressage stays	**7 days/ 5 days riding**	**From £1,961**		Open to non-riders


Train with competent, BHS-approved dressage instructors


Ride beautiful schoolmasters at Epona, Spain


Enjoy high school dressage lessons in a beautiful environment

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Enjoy private, semi private or small group lessons (programme dependent).

- Stay in a charming 4 star hotel in the nearby town of Carmona.

- Experience one lesson with Rafael Soto, Olympic silver medalist, current Technical Director of the Royal Andalusia School of Equestrian Art in Jerez and coach of the Spanish dressage team (programme dependent).

- The riding centre is BHS approved so you can be assured of the quality of horses and tuition.

- Visit the renowned Royal School of Equestrian Art in Jerez.

- Accompanying non-riders are welcome - for golf lovers, there is one of the best courses in Europe only a 20 minutes drive from the Hacienda.

Day 1 — 1 : SEVILLE - EPONA - No riding

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

Arriving into Seville (flight not included). You will be met by your taxi driver and transferred to your hotel in Carmona, just 20 minutes away by car. The cost of this transfer is not included, and you may choose the option of a free transfer from the train station at 4:30 p.m

You will be shown to your room and depending on the your arrival time - and mood -, you may choose to take a dip in the outdoor swimming pool, lounge out on the patio or have a classic Spanish siesta!

Carmona is a remarkable city, renowned for its history visible from its varied styles of architecture influenced by the people who have lived and occupied the city throughout the ages.

In the evening, you will have your first taste of Sevillian and Andalusian cuisine, which has many delicious traditional dishes. You will have dinner with your host and over the course of the meal, Fernando will explain the itinerary for the rest of your week

You will spend the night at the Alcazar de la Reina hotel.

Day 2 — 2 : DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION - Programme riding hours vary

After breakfast, Fernando will be waiting to collect you from the hotel and drive you to the hacienda where your dressage training will begin.

Your day's lesson will depend upon your chosen programme (to be specified when booking):

- Intensive Training: a group dressage lesson allows your instructor to evaluate your level and your experience and identify areas that need to be worked on. After a short break, you will have your first lunging session. Lessons are in groups of up to 4 riders (max.).
- Classical dressage training: You will have a semi- private lesson (2 riders), then after a short break you will change to a new mount for a private lesson. This will then be followed by doing some groundwork or a lunge lesson - great for improving your seat, balance and posture.

All the riders will come together to have a traditional Andalusian lunch, courtesy of the resident cook, and in the afternoon you will have 'free-time'.

After each lesson you can take time to relax in the garden, by the pool, or in the comfortable lounge area. You will also be very welcome to watch the horse training taking place in the yard daily - Vivi, the trainer will be happy to answer any of your questions!

At the end of the afternoon, after the final lesson, you will be transferred back to your hotel in Carmona. You are free to eat at any of the restaurants in town, or even to use room-service if you are tired! Dinner is payable locally.

Day 3 — 3 : DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION - Programme riding hours vary

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

After breakfast, you will be collected from your hotel and driven to the hacienda.

This morning, you have the opportunity to visit the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art to see the famous Andalucians Stallions performing a show. Renowned throughout the world for their breath-taking exhibitions on ‘How the Andalusian horses dance’, these shows are a real delight as the horses perform intricate and demanding movements with effortless grace and control.

Depending on your chosen programme:

- Intensive training: group dressage lesson (max. 4 riders), lunge line lesson, lunch followed by another group lesson.
- High School dressage training: semi-private lesson (max. 2 riders), followed by a private lesson then a lunge line lesson. After lunch, you are free to relax as you please.

You will be transferred back to Carmona for dinner and to spend the night in the hotel (dinner payable locally).

Day 4 — 4 : DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION - Programme riding hours vary

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

After breakfast, you will be transferred from Carmona to the hacienda.

Depending on the chosen programme:

- Intensive dressage: Group lessons, hopefully performing some more advanced movements, then a lunge line lesson - after lunch you will have another lesson (up to 4 riders).
- High School dressage training: Semi-private lesson (2 riders), a private lesson. After a break, ground work where the trainer will demonstrate one to one, the techniques used for some of the more advanced movements.

You will have lunch in the hacienda's dining room and spend your afternoon relaxing.

Later in the afternoon, you will be transferred back to Carmona to have dinner (payable locally) and relax in the hotel or explore the town.

Day 5 — 5 : DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION - Programme riding hours vary

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

After breakfast, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the hacienda.

Depending on your chosen programme:

- Intensive training: group lesson, lunch and in the afternoon another group lesson (up to 4 riders).
- High School Dressage: Semi- private lesson (2 riders), private lesson and work in hand.

At the end of the day, you will be transferred back to your hotel for dinner (payable locally) and to spend the night.

Day 6 — 6 : SEVILLE - DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION - Programme riding hours vary

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

After breakfast, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the hacienda.

Depending on your chosen programme:
- Intensive training : Enjoy your last training lesson in the morning before tasting the famous paella, freshly prepared and accompanied by Sangria. After an afternoon nap or swim, you will be driven to Seville to watch a Flamenco Show (payable locally €37).

- High School Dressage Training: Private lessons given by Rafael Soto, semi-private lesson and a working demo.
Rafael Soto usually gives lessons on a Friday, but this will depend on his schedule. If the lessons are likely to be on a different day, you will be told on arrival.
After a delicious lunch of paella, freshly prepared and accompanied by Sangria and an afternoon nap or swim you will be transferred to Seville for a visit to the tack shop, and then free time to explore the city or even take a carriage drive.

You will have dinner out on the town (the team from Epona will recommend a good restaurant - payable locally). At the end of the night you will be transferred back to Carmona for a final night in the hotel.

Day 7 — 7 : EPONA - SEVILLE - Programme riding hours vary

There maybe time to relax this morning and enjoy one last swim before packing up your things and being transferred back to the train station or airport. The first transfer from the hotel to the airport will be at 8:00 am and the last transfer will be at 11:00 am.

- High School Dressage Training: You will have your final lesson in the morning before the last transfer to the airport leaves.

If you book an evening flight, you may choose to leave your luggage at the airport and set off to explore a bit more of Seville.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
29/11/2026	05/12/2026	£1,961	Guaranteed departure
03/01/2027	09/01/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
10/01/2027	16/01/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
17/01/2027	23/01/2027	£2,018	Open
24/01/2027	30/01/2027	£2,018	Open
31/01/2027	06/02/2027	£2,018	Open
07/02/2027	13/02/2027	£2,018	Open
14/02/2027	20/02/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
21/02/2027	27/02/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure

28/02/2027	06/03/2027	£2,018	Open
07/03/2027	13/03/2027	£2,018	Open
14/03/2027	20/03/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
21/03/2027	27/03/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
28/03/2027	03/04/2027	£2,018	Open
04/04/2027	10/04/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
11/04/2027	17/04/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
18/04/2027	24/04/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
25/04/2027	01/05/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
02/05/2027	08/05/2027	£2,018	Open
09/05/2027	15/05/2027	£2,018	Open
16/05/2027	22/05/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
23/05/2027	29/05/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
30/05/2027	05/06/2027	£2,018	Open
06/06/2027	12/06/2027	£2,018	Open
13/06/2027	19/06/2027	£2,018	Open
20/06/2027	26/06/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
27/06/2027	03/07/2027	£2,018	Open
04/07/2027	10/07/2027	£2,018	Open
11/07/2027	17/07/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
18/07/2027	24/07/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
25/07/2027	31/07/2027	£2,018	Open
01/08/2027	07/08/2027	£2,018	Open
08/08/2027	14/08/2027	£2,018	Open
29/08/2027	04/09/2027	£2,018	Open
05/09/2027	11/09/2027	£2,018	Open
12/09/2027	18/09/2027	£2,018	Open
19/09/2027	25/09/2027	£2,018	Open
26/09/2027	02/10/2027	£2,018	Open
03/10/2027	09/10/2027	£2,018	Open
10/10/2027	16/10/2027	£2,018	Guaranteed departure
17/10/2027	23/10/2027	£2,018	Open
24/10/2027	30/10/2027	£2,018	Open
31/10/2027	06/11/2027	£2,018	Open
07/11/2027	13/11/2027	£2,018	Open

14/11/2027	20/11/2027	£2,018	Open
21/11/2027	27/11/2027	£2,018	Open
28/11/2027	04/12/2027	£2,018	Open
05/12/2027	11/12/2027	£2,018	Open

Price details

- Flights to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room (half-board).

- Lessons are held with 2-4 people.

- There are two programmes you can choose from:
> "Intensive dressage training" for riders who wish to improve their dressage. This programme includes: 8 dressage lessons in small groups and 2 individual lunge lessons (listed price). Please note schoolmasters are not available on this programme.

> "High School dressage training" for riders who want to experience High School riding or refine it. This programme includes: 5 semi-private lessons, 5 private lessons one of which is with Rafaël Soto, 2 lunge sessions and 2 sessions in hand on the ground. The price for this programme is €2880/£2470/$3285 in 2026 or €2965/£2530/$3380 in 2027. Important, your last lesson is in the morning of day 7 and not in the afternoon of day 6.

- If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider and there are no other riders likely to share your room, you will be charged a single room supplement of approx. €345/£295/$400 (2026/2027). You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date.

- Pick-up transfers are available from San Justa train station at set times (4:30pm). For pick-ups at the airport, a taxi driver can be booked for meeting on arrival. Please enquire to know the exact rate.
Please note that the dinner on the first day is served at 7:30pm.

- Extras (subject to availability, paid locally):
1h group lesson: €70 in 2026 or €75 in 2027
1h semi-private group: €85 or €90 in 2027
High school classes with Andalusian schoolmaster: €110 in 2026 or €115 in 2027
1h trail ride: €60 in 2026 or €65 in 2027

- Rate for non-riders: €1075/£925/$1225 in 2026, or €1110/£950/$1265 in 2027.

Activities for non-riders (subject to availability, paid locally):
- Guitar lessons (on request)
- Bike (on request)
- Land Rover tour of the Donana (on request)
- Transfer to the beach - approx. €35
- Transfer to Jerez - approx. €27
- Flamenco classes - approx. €150
- Golf

- SPECIAL DATES (2026)
SEMANA SANTA (Holy Week) March 29-04 April
FERIA DE ABRIL (Seville Fair) April 21-26
FERIA DEL CABALLO (Jerez Horse Fair) May 09-16
FERIA DE CARMONA May 17-23

- SPECIAL DATES (2027)
SEMANA SANTA (Holy Week) March 21-28
FERIA DE ABRIL (Seville Fair) April 13-18
FERIA DEL CABALLO (Jerez Horse Fair) April 24-1 May
FERIA DE CARMONA May 13-16
Please Note
The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the

itinerary as needed.
The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking teacher

INLAND TRANSPORT

Transfers from the train station at 4:30 pm

ACCOMMODATION

Double room in 4* hotel

MEALS

Half board from breakfast on day 2 to breakfast day 7
Dinner on day 1

EXTRAS

1 hour access to the hotel sauna (to be arranged locally)

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Dinners from day 2 to day 7
Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORT

Airport transfers
International flights - can booked upon request

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

A stable of 60 horses of all levels. Most are Pure Bred Spanish horses and some Anglo- Arabians, Lusitanos and other breeds .
Instructors will match you to the horse that suits you best depending on your level, your approach and your temperament.

Guide & local team

Fernando runs the courses at the centre and he will come to collect you in the mornings to drive you to the hacienda for your lessons.

Viviane and Catalina, his daughters, are accomplished dressage riders and will be your instructors throughout your stay. All Epona instructors are qualified by the British Horse Society, Association of British Riding Schools and the Spanish Equestrian Federation which means that they are trained to always have the horse and rider's safety at heart. Viviane studied at the renowned Andulusian school in Jerez . Both Viviane and Catalina speak English and Spanish.

They also train their dressage horses themselves and are happy to answer any of your questions during the daily training sessions!

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

A prior knowledge of dressage is essential to get the most out of these lessons. Equally important is the openness to learn new ways of doing things. The goal at Epona is that you see a huge improvement in your riding but also have fun. You must be competent at walk, trot and canter.

Rider weight limit: 85kgs (intensive) or 80kgs (high school). Riders over the limit please contact us.

PACE

Please see below the breakdown of each programme.

"Intensive programme": eight small-group lessons and two lunge lessons. The lessons are slip between morning and afternoon.

"High Shool programme": five semi-private lessons, five private lessons (including one with Rafael), two lunge lessons, and two in-hand sessions. Most of the riding activities will take place in the morning.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

The grooms will tack and untack your horse. However, you are welcome to assist in untaking and washing of the horses.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

There are no requirements, but you must be in good physical condition and have a good basic knowledge of dressage to get the most out of the lessons.

Please note that schoolmasters are only available for those who book the "High School programme".

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Dressage saddles and simple bridles or bits.
If necessary, the team also provides spurs and a whip.

Helmets are mandatory and there are some available locally for guests to borrow. Equus Journeys highly recommends that riders bring their own hats to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

You will stay in a charming 4 star hotel in the heart of Carmona, in double or twin rooms. Their are ensuite bathrooms and towels are provided. The hotel has a restuarant, a tapas bar and an Irish bar, as well as a swimming pool and patio areas. In the town of Carmona there are many restaurants to choose from - simple tapas to silver service - or you can choose to eat at the hotel or use their room service.

During the day, at the riding centre's hacienda, there is a swimming pool (towels will be provided), a relaxing lounge and outdoor seating areas. You will have lunch in their dining room each day.

Please note: Epona has good Wi-fi service, however at the hotel the connection is limited.

MEALS

Breakfast is continental and dinner is had all together, buffet style, at the hacienda. Apart from the first evening where you will enjoy a buffet dinner with your host Fernando, dinners are not included. You may choose to eat in the restaurant at the hotel or in local restaurants.

CLIMATE

Situated in southern Spain, not far from the African continent, Seville enjoys a Mediterranean climate. Being set inland from the sea, in the vast Guadalquivir plain, this allows for relatively mild and clement weather all year long.

The average yearly temperature is around 19.2 °C.

Seville's summers can be long and scorching with average temperatures often over 25 °C from May to October; with a record high of 46.6 °C. The temperatures peak between June and September with the temperature routinely reaching/ or topping 30 °C.

TIPS

It is customary to leave a tip in restaurants in Spain. Around 10% of the bill is the standard, although it is often include – so do check. Tipping both in restaurants and to the team at the hacienda rests at your discretion.

We suggest two alternatives when you leave a tip. You can hand out the chosen amount personally to the staff member or members to whom you wish to show your appreciation, or you can put a general amount in an envelope and hand it to a member of the Garcia family (preferably Vivi), to be divided up equally, or according to your specifications, among the staff. Please do not give tips to be divided, to any members of staff, to avoid confusion and sometimes problems among the staff.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. This list must be adapted depending on the season and individual needs.

In Spring, Autumn and especially in the summer months, it can get very hot, so to avoid feeling sweaty and sticky all the time, try to choose natural fabrics, especially cotton. Dress at Epona is very casual, even for the visits, jeans and T-shirts or a summery dress, are fine. For emergencies, at the hotel there is a laundry service.

Head
- Riding helmet
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding

Upper Body
- Half or long-sleeved cotton shirts (to provide protection from the sun) or T-shirt in a quick-drying material
- A lightweight fleece or jumper
- Swimsuit
- If coming in winter, autumn or spring, a light shower jacket (the kind you can fold up into a little ball)

Legs
- 2 pairs of jodhpurs or riding trousers
- 1 pair of casual trousers (tracksuit bottoms, leggings or jeans)
- Cotton or synthetic underwear (non-irritant)

Hands and feet
- Short jodhpur boots and half chaps are the best option as they are much cooler and easier to transport, but if you are used to riding in your long boots and want to wear them it is fine.
- Lightweight shoes, sandals or trainers for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves

Medical kit
- Any medication you regularly take
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing deet
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Our Recommendations
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page .