Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Kingdom of the Lusitano

PORTUGAL

A fabulous **trail ride** through hilly meadows full of wild flowers, culminating in a visit to a national Portugese stud farm where you can view the new foals, mares and stallions. Well schooled horses and plenty of opportunities for canters make for a wonderful **trail ride**.

Trail Riding	**8 days / 6 days riding**	**From £1,763**	


Discover Portugal in the saddle


Enjoy a lovely trail riding holiday in sunny Portugal


Ride beautifully well-schooled Lusitano and Lusitano cross horses

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Beautifully well-schooled Lusitano and Lusitano cross horses
- A chance to visit Alter Real stud and view the new foals
- The trail runs in the spring when the meadows are full of flowers
- Plenty of opportunities for good, long canters
- Convivial and friendly guide
- Comfortable and unique accommodation - converted farmhouses and quality hotels

Day 1 — 1: Lisbon - Fronteira - No riding

Monte Dos Aroeirais

Fly to Lisbon airport. Fights are not included but can be booked upon request.
Please make sure to book a flight landing at no later than 4pm.

You will be transferred north-east c. 200km to the town of Fronteira. For your first night you stay in a traditional farmhouse, Monte dos Aroeirais. This lovely historic accommodation has a very welcoming host who will introduce you to typical Portuguese cuisine.

You will have dinner with your guide and the rest of the group.

Day 2 — 2: Fronteira - Monte dos Aroeirais - 4-6 hours riding

Monte Dos Aroeirais

Meet your horses and ride in the area of Fronteira town. Your destination for today is Herdade Grande, where we will stop for lunch. The landscape

consists of pine and cork trees, with scenic views and flowers and birds all around.
The day ends at Monte dos Aroeirais where you can spend the evening and dinner in the beautiful garden by the pool.

Day 3 — 3: Monte dos Aroeirais - Alter do Chão - 4-6 hours riding

Varandas de Alter

Todays ride takes you from Monte dos Aroeirais to the town of Alter do Chão, through meadows where they raise wild bulls. After a picnic lunch and siesta you arrive at the hotel - Varandas de Alter.
The lovely owner of the hotel lets our horses stay in the hotel garden!

Dinner and overnight at Varandas de Alter.

Day 4 — 4: Alter do Chão - 2,5h riding

Varandas de Alter

Today in the morning you will ride through the vast flower-filled meadows on the lands of the stud farm. After lunch at the hotel, you will visit Alter do Chão, the stud and breeding farm. Horses bred here are very famous and traded under the name Alter. This is often a highlight and not only for horse-lovers. In this idyllic location, hundreds of mares and their colts graze on large meadows filled with flowers. You should also get the opportunity to see some of the stallions and young horses.

Return to the town of Alter where, time allowing, we stop at a Portuguese tack shop where you can buy local riding products such as leather chaps, boots or belts. Dinner and overnight at Varandas de Alter.

Day 5 — 5: Alter do Chão - Ribeira da Seda - 4-6 hours riding

Monte Dos Aroeirais

Leave the stud farm behind and ride to Ribeira da Seda through large meadows with only one remote farmhouse to remind you of the presence of people.
You will enjoy views of the picturesque towns of Alter Pedroso and Cabeço de Vide.

Dinner and overnight at Monte dos Aroeirais.

Day 6 — 6: Alentejo's Countryside - 4-6 hours riding

Monte Dos Aroeirais

After leaving the hotel behind you will see an old train station – not in use anymore – with the typical Portuguese tiles or ‘azulejos’.
You'll ride past authentic farms, crossing wildflower fields where cattle grazes peacefully.
You will stop for lunch next to the dam of Catarina Velha and return to Monte dos Aroeirais.

Dinner and overnight at Monte dos Aroeirais.

Day 7 — 7: Herdade dos Atoleiros - 4-6 hours riding

Monte Dos Aroeirais

After breakfast, you will ride through Alto Alentejo, crossing open fields, farmland and lanes lined by oak trees.
You will arrive at Herdade dos Atoleiros where, in the 14th century, a famous battle was fought between the Portuguese and the Spanish.

Riders and horses return to Monte dos Aroeirais for a farewell dinner.

Day 8 — 8: Monte Dos Aroeirais - Lisbon - No riding

After breakfast, transfer back to Lisbon and departure. You should book a flight departing after 2pm from Lisbon.

Earlier flights can be accommodated but you will have to pay for a private transfer - please contact us.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
11/04/2027	18/04/2027	£1,763	Guaranteed departure
18/04/2027	25/04/2027	£1,763	Guaranteed departure
02/05/2027	09/05/2027	£1,763	Full
09/05/2027	16/05/2027	£1,763	Full

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

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

- Rides are confirmed for a minimum of 5 riders and a usual maximum of 10 riders, plus your guide.

- Please note: the ride will also confirm for 3-4 riders on payment of a supplement. This is 25% of the rate for 3 riders, 10% for 4 riders. Once the group has reached 5 people, we will remove this supplement from your invoice and refund you if you have already paid it.

- 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. €710/£615/$820. You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date.

- Transfers payable locally (€100 per person, in cash) as long as you arrive before 4:30pm (on time for your 5:30 pm transfer) and depart after 2:00 pm. If you wish to book flights outside of these times then a private transfer may be arranged (on request) but is a taxi at your own cost.

- Competent children aged 10 and over can join the ride as long as they are comfortable riding horses (there are no ponies) and are accompanied by an adult. There is no discount for children.

- Non-riders are welcome and benefit from a discounted rate - €1160/£1005/$1340, per person (twin room). No activities are provided - they can travel in the support vehicle and meet the group for lunch, or relax at the hotels.
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 horse guide

LOGISTIC

1 support vehicle
1 cook
1 assistant cook
1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle

INLAND TRANSPORTS

Private bus

ACCOMMODATION

Double room in hotel standard 3/4*
Double room in Guesthouse

MEALS

Full board from dinner on D1 to breakfast on D8. Water, wine and soft drinks are included at lunch. Drinks with the exception of water are not included at dinner.

EXTRA EQUIPMENT

First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Drinks at dinner times and personal extras
Meals on day 1 and 8 depending on your flights

TRANSPORTS

International flights bookable on request
Return airport transfers payable locally

EXTRA

Small group supplement (between 3-4 riders)
Tips to local team

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurances are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend to take out an insurance policy as soon as your travel is booked in case of cancellation.

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

You ride the beautiful and calm Lusitano and Lusitano cross-bred horses which are bred in Portugal. They are well-schooled and a pleasure to ride. There are calm and quiet horses for intermediate riders and more spirited mounts for experienced riders. You ride in English style tack with comfortable sheepskin covered saddles.

Guide & local team

Your guide is Miguel and he has been guiding in this area for many years and helped discover the routes you ride. He was a prestigious dressage instructor before choosing to guide trails instead and speaks fantastic English. He is supported by a back-up vehicle driver who meets you for lunch each day and transports your luggage.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You need to be at least an intermediate rider, capable of riding a sensible horse at all paces in the outdoors. There are more spirited horses available for experienced riders.

There is a rider weight limit of 85kgs/13.3 st/187 lbs. Heavier riders please contact us.

PACE

The pace is varied to include trots, canters and possible gallops. Some of the canters can be long and across varied terrain so you need to be secure in the saddle.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to assist with grooming, tacking and un-tacking your horse.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You should have experience riding outdoors on trails and be confident riding in open spaces. You need to be fit enough for some long canters in the sometimes hot Portugese sun.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

English tack.
Saddlebags are not provided.

We recommend all our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

You stay in renovated farmhouses or local hotels. Some of the hotels are of a high standard and level of comfort. The rooms are double/twin and have en-suite bathrooms. Most of the hotels have swimming pools.

MEALS

Lunches are picnic - usually BBQ meats or fish with salads and bread. Red wine is provided.
Evening meals are in the hotel and usually the dish of the day - typical Portugese cuisine and all fresh and locally produced. Drinks are payable locally.

CLIMATE

Portugal has a pleasant climate with mild temperatures all year round:
Winter: 12 - 15c
Spring: 20 - 25c
Summer: 30 - 35c
Autumn: 15 - 20c
There is rarely rain during the summer months, but rain is common in winter and can occur in spring also.

TIPS

Tips are appreciated but not expected. You should give what you feel is appropriate and you feel comfortable with.

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.

Head
- Riding helmet
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the elements

Upper body
- Long sleeved shirts to provide protection from the sun
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm polar fleece or equivalent
- Waterproof jacket - rain can be difficult to predict and it's better to be prepared.

Legs
- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Waterproof over trousers
- Casual clothes for the evenings (jeans or walking trousers)

Hands and Feet
- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps or long boots.
- Lightweight shoes for the evenings

- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves

Nightwear
- Pyjamas

Other useful items
- Swimsuit - there are pools on some nights
- Bumbag for carrying small items whilst riding
- Water bottle
- Ear plugs

Medical kit
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- 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
- Re-hydration sachets
- 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.
- 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!
- Carry a copy of your passport and insurance documentation with you.

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 .