Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Epona - Rafael Soto Dressage Clinic

SPAIN

Improve your dressage skills with Olympic medallist and Spanish team trainer **Rafael Soto**. Train with the team at Epona on real schoolmasters before training under the supervision of this international champion. An excellent **dressage programme** for all of those riders looking to take their skills to the next level.

Dressage stays	**8 days/ 6 days riding**	**From £2,838**		Open to non-riders


Enjoy riding advanced movements on Andalusian schoolmasters


Train with excellent, BHS approved instructors


Some programmes include lessons with Olympic medallist Rafael Soto

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Learn from one of the best dressage trainers in Europe and take your riding skills to the next level.

- Practice on beautiful and well-behaved schoolmasters, most of them Andalusians.

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

- 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 - CARMONA

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 pm.

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

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

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

Today, you will get 2 semi-private dressage lessons from Epona's highly skilled instructors, focusing on your weaknesses and any aspect of your riding you would like to improve. During your stay, you will also get two lessons on the lunge line to improve your seat and posture - the days for these lessons will be decided once you're there.

After your lesson, why not relax by the pool or in the lovely gardens! You are also more than welcome to watch the other riders in the arena.

In the afternoon, after the last lesson, you will be taken to Carmona for your dinner (to your own account) and night.

Day 3 — 3 : JEREZ

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

In the morning, at 9:00 a.m you will head out 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. Entry for the show is €28 - payable locally.

Later you will be taken back to Epona for a late lunch and some afternoon lessons.

Transfer back to Carmona for dinner.

Day 4 — 4 : DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

Today, you get two semi-private dressage lessons. This is the opportunity to try out different horses and find the perfect match.

Day 5 — 5 : DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

One semi-private lesson in the morning, followed by a traditional "Paella" for lunch. After a relaxing siesta, you will be taken to Seville for a visit to the tack shop, and then free time to explore the city or even take a carriage drive.

Day 6 — 6 : DRESSAGE INSTRUCTION

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

Today is your opportunity to show Rafael Soto what you have learned or practised during the first four days. You get two private dressage lessons with the Spanish team trainer (45 min each). You are also welcome to watch the other lessons as they take place.

Day 7 — 7 : EPONA - SEVILLE

Alcazar de la Reina Hotel

You finish this great riding clinic with two more lessons with Rafael Soto. This is your chance to ask your last questions and clear any doubts you still may have. After the riding clinic is over, the riders will participate in a "diploma ceremony" accompanied by a glass of Cava with Rafael and the other instructors.

Day 8 — 8 - CARMONA - SEVILLE

After breakfast, you are taken to Seville for your flight home. Transfers from the hotel to the airport will start at 8:00 am and the last transfer will be at

11:00 am.

DATES & PRICES			
DEPARTURE	**RETURN**	**PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS**	**STATUS**
01/11/2026	08/11/2026	£2,838	Full
06/12/2026	13/12/2026	£2,838	Full
31/01/2027	07/02/2027	£2,925	Full
28/02/2027	07/03/2027	£2,925	Guaranteed departure
28/03/2027	04/04/2027	£2,925	Full
31/10/2027	07/11/2027	£2,925	Guaranteed departure
05/12/2027	12/12/2027	£2,925	Guaranteed departure

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.

- 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 (accommodation + breakfast)

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

Pick up from the train station at 4.30 pm and return at the end of your stay

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 40 horses of all levels. Most are Pure Bred Spanish horses, but you will also be able to find some Andalusians and Andalusian crosses.

During this week, the instructure will pair riders with Pure Bred Spanish-Andalusian stallions and geldings. Just a few of the horses will be cross Andalusians. Instructors will match you to the horse that suits you best depending on your level, your approach and your temperament.

Guide & local team

Rafael Soto, Olympic medallist in dressage, needs no introduction. Now retired from the competition, he dedicates his time to teaching and training.

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 Andalusian 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 ideal to get the most out of these lessons. Yet, if you are an intermediate rider your instructors will find you a horse to match your abilities. 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: 80 kg. Riders over the limit please contact us.

PACE

The programme includes lessons in the morning and afternoon, plus some lunge sessions which are excellent for improving seat, balance and posture. You will hopefully get to experience passage, piaffe and flying changes.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

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

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 centres 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 .