Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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A taste of the Camino de Santiago

GASCONY - THE DORDOGNE

On this riding holiday, you will be exploring one of the most popular routes of **the Way of St. James**. You will be riding from village to village, learning about **ancient tales** and enjoying the **beautiful landscapes** of the Camino along the way. You will be staying in guest houses and gîtes which will give you a taste of the **French way of life** and the Camino experience. This riding holiday is a great choice for **competent riders**. Non-riders are also welcomed to this holiday and are invited to join everyone on the **trails by bicycle**.

Trail Riding	**8 days (6 days riding)**	**From £1,482**		Open to non-riders





ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ride along the GR 651 and the Via Podiensis – one of the most popular routes on the Way of St. James
- Explore multiple quaint villages and enjoy guided tours of different historical landmarks
- A great way to live the Camino experience and get a taste of the life in the French countryside

Day 1 — 1: Home – Pech Merle - No riding

You are expected at around 7:00 pm at the equestrian centre - transfers from the train station in Cahors can be arranged upon request (see dates and prices). You will meet your hosts Pascal and Charline before meeting the other riders. You will also meet your horses and help get the gear ready for the week.

Dinner and overnight at the equestrian farm.

Day 2 — 2: Pech Merle – Cabrerets – Marcilhac sur Cele - Approx. 5h riding

Today you will set off on your first day of riding along the GR 651. You will ride through the Célé valley before reaching the town of Marcilhac, located at the foot of the great limestone cliffs. You will then head for the village of Cabrerets, where you will get a glimpse of its magnificent castles.
At lunch time you will stop for a picnic and visit the open-air museum of Cuzals. In the afternoon you will make your way to the medieval village of Marcilhac sur Célé, where you will have the opportunity to take a guided tour of the village and its ancient abbey before dinner.

Overnight at a guest house.

Day 3 — 3: Marcilhac sur Cele – Beduer - Approx. 5h riding

After breakfast, you will set off on horseback and begin exploring the Célé valley. You will ride through the cliffs and enjoy the beautiful landscapes surrounding you.
After lunch you will get back on your horse and ride towards Sainte Eulalie, a 10th century church. You will arrive at your chalet at the end of the afternoon.

Day 4 — 4: Beduer – Cajarc/Salvagnac Cajarc - Approx. 5/6h riding

Today you will set off on horseback along the main route of the “Camino de Compostela”, the GR 65. You will pass through the beautiful villages of the Lot and Célé valleys.
Stop for lunch in Gréalou. In the afternoon, you ride towards the village of Cajarc and its famous medieval town.

Dinner and overnight at a guest house.

Day 5 — 5: Cajarc/Salvagnac Cajarc – Concots - Approx. 6h riding

After breakfast, you will set off on horseback and follow the old Roman road, the "Cami Gasco" or "Cami Ferrat" which connected Caylus to Cahors. You will ride through dry grasslands before visiting the castle of Couanac. This castle was built in the 12th century and renovated in the 16th century into a Renaissance style residence.
At the end of the day, you will arrive at a Quercy-style house where you will have dinner with your hosts.

Day 6 — 6: Concots - Belfort du Quercy - Approx. 5h riding

Today you will have a glimpse of the White Quercy, before enjoying lunch at the foot of the convent of Vaylats. In the afternoon, you will leave for your evening stopover in a typical renovated Quercy Blanc farmhouse at the home of Richard, an emblematic figure in equestrian tourism.

Day 7 — 7: Belfort du Quercy – Pech Merle - Approx. 5h riding

On your last day, you will change direction and ride through the Lot valley to enjoy the beauty of its breathtaking nature in the heart of the Pays de Figeac. You will visit a few villages along the way and stop to have lunch in a local restaurant.
In the afternoon, you will make your way to the equestrian farm.

Day 8 — 8: Pech Merle – Home - No riding

After breakfast, individual departure of the riders by car or shuttle to Cahors station. We recommend you visit the Pech Merle cave in the morning and leave in the afternoon. This cave is filled with astonishing drawings dating from prehistoric times.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
27/03/2027	03/04/2027	£1,482	Open
15/05/2027	22/05/2027	£1,482	Open
17/07/2027	24/07/2027	£1,482	Open
04/09/2027	11/09/2027	£1,482	Open
23/10/2027	30/10/2027	£1,482	Open

Price details

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

- Rates are per person sharing a double or triple room.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 4 riders and a maximum of 8 international riders, plus guide.

- Please note: the ride will also confirm for 2-3 riders on payment of a supplement:
2 riders: €900/£790/$1060, per person

3 riders: €600/£530/$705, per person
Once the group has reached 4 people, we will remove this supplement from your invoice and refund you if you have already paid it.

- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share. If you wish to have your own room the supplement is €300 (there is only one single room per departure).

- Transfers are available from/to Cahors train station, payable locally: €80 each way by taxi, divided by the number of guests (generally, please aim for an arrival at Cahors before 5:00 pm and departure after 11:00 am on the last day). From Brive la Gaillarde airport: €200 per car, return rate.

- Two nights, before and after the beginning of the ride, are included in the holiday. Arrival in the morning of day 2 and departure in the evening of day 7 is possible. This gives you a total discount of €120/£105/$140 on the total rate.

- Accompanied young riders are welcome from 12 yo, provided they match the riding requirements.

- Non-riders are welcomed and benefit from a special rate. Please contact your advisor to know more.
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

LOGISTICS

1 vehicle and driver

ACCOMMODATION

7 nights in guest houses, gîtes or similar. Rooms and bathrooms are shared.

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags
First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages (outside of meal times) and personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights
Transfers

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team
Park, museum and other site entry fees
Small group supplement - see above for the details

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

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

On this riding holiday you will ride either Arabian or Barb crosses. They are sure-footed and are very used to the trails. They range between 14.7hh and 15.7hh

Guide & local team

Pascal and Charline are both delighted to share their region with their guests. They are very involved with the local community. Pascal speaks English while Charline has some knowledge of Spanish.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You should be a confident rider, capable of riding over varied terrain at all paces.

Rider weight limit: 85kgs / 187 lbs / 13.3 st. This is a strict limit.

PACE

This ride offers good opportunities for long trots and regular canters, and is generally speaking a little more active than most of our standard rides.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be responsible for grooming, tacking and untacking your horse.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Please note that this ride is quite demanding. You need to be fit and have good stamina. You will be riding for up to 35km a day. The terrain may present some difficulties and you may be asked to dismount and lead your horse for a short period.

Experience of riding a trail over several days would be an advantage but is not essential. Riders who do not ride regularly would need to get back into the saddle before joining this ride.

Please note that a back-up vehicle will be carrying your luggage throughout the holiday, please travel light.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags are provided.

Please note that the use of helmet is not mandatory but highly recommended.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

During the trail you will be staying in guest houses or gîtes. The rooms are shared between 2 to 3 riders.

Gite accommodation in France don't typically provide towels, so please make sure to bring your own.

MEALS

Typical French breakfasts (toast, butter, jam, juice, tea/coffee).
At lunch you may stop at a local restaurant, while on some other days you can expect picnic lunches (sit down picnics). They can consist of a variety of salads, quiches, cheese, and more.
Dinners will most often be prepared by the hosts at the guest houses.

CLIMATE

Summers are very hot with little rainfall, with temperatures often exceeding 30°C. Winters vary, often with sub-zero temperatures and night frosts, but

the climate remains relatively mild. Please note that in this area there is a risk of summer thunderstorms.

TIPS

In France, it is customary to tip at coffees and restaurants - usually this is by rounding up the price and not mandatory. You may wish to leave a tip with the guide who can split it amongst all members of the team - this is not obligatory and is entirely at your discretion (we recommend €30-40 per person, split between the team)

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.

Keep in mind that your luggage will be transported by a back-up vehicle so please travel light.

Head
- Riding helmet
- Cap or hat for the sun
- A bandana, scarf or shawl to protect the neck or face from dust and sun
- A pair of high protection sunglasses

Upper body
- Cotton T-shirts + long-sleeved shirts (for protection against the sun) or T-shirts made of fast-drying technical materials.
- 1 light fleece or equivalent jumper or 1 warm fleece or equivalent
- 1 waterproof jacket.

Legs
- 1 or 2 pairs of riding pants
- 1 change of trousers (hiking or jeans or equivalent)
- 1 pair of waterproof over trousers
- Non-irritating cotton or synthetic underwear

Hands and Feet
- Comfortable hiking boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Slippers
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the elements

Sleeping
- Pyjamas

Other useful items
- Water bottle
- Fast drying towel
- Earplugs
- Eye mask
- Swiss Army knife or equivalent
- Microfiber towel

Medical kit
- Any medication you regularly take
- A soothing cream to alleviate any areas irritated by long days spent in the saddle
- 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
- 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 (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 .