



The route begins in the Sierra de Gredos and ends in the region of La Vera, in Extremadura, along the **same path that the Emperor Charles V traveled in the 16th century** on his journey to the Monastery of Yuste, where he retired.

During the route we will enjoy the wonderful **mountain scenery** of the Sierra de Gredos. We will cross alpine meadows, rivers, medieval bridges, and **picturesque villages** whose beauty still remains **hidden to mainstream tourism**.

And just as the Emperor did, we will travel on horseback, eat like a King, and stay in some of the castles and emblematic buildings that hosted the monarch during his journey. In short, it is a **perfect route for lovers of horseback riding, history, nature, and good food**.



Day 1.

MADRID – AVILA – NAVARREDONDA.

Pick up in Madrid. On our way to Sierra de Gredos, we will stop in **Avila** to visit its impressive **XII century wall**. Its **medieval heritage** and its famous cuisine are well worth the visit. After lunch, we will be only 1hr away from the village of Navarredonda. Accommodation at **Parador Nacional de Gredos**, a former **hunting lodge used by King Alfonso XIII of Spain** in his horse-hunts at Gredos National Hunting Estate in the early XX century. Trip briefing and welcome dinner.



Day 2.

SIERRA DE GREDOS (LOOP TRAIL)

Pick up at the hotel after breakfast and transfer to the stables (15 min.) Loop trail on a bridle path across the **North face of Gredos Range**. Valleys, deep gorges, rivers, forests, high mountain scrub and shepherd's huts at the top of the mountain. If we are lucky, we will be able to see the most emblematic creature of these mountains: the **Spanish Ibex**. We might also see other animals like vultures, eagles and other alpine wildlife. Picnic with the typical **"carne a la teja"**, beef cooked on a ceramic roof tile heated over the fire. Arrival at the stables in Hoyos del Espino, and transfer to the hotel (10 min.). Dinner at a local restaurant and second night at Parador Nacional de Gredos.

Estimated riding time (including stops): 8 hours (6 hours in the saddle).

Day 3.

HOYOS DEL ESPINO – NAVALPERAL DE TORMES

Pick up at the hotel after breakfast and transfer to the stables (10 min.) Ride to Laguna de la Cañada del Gallo, an **alpine plain with small glacier lagoons**, where we will have a gorgeous view of the highest peaks of Gredos Range. Picnic or lunch in a local restaurant. Descent to the **Tormes River Valley** and ride alongside the river, until we reach the village of Navalperal de Tormes, where our horses will spend the night in a comfortable paddock. Accommodation at the Cuarto de Milla Rural Hotel and dinner in a local restaurant.

Estimated riding time (including stops): 7 hours (5 hours in the saddle).

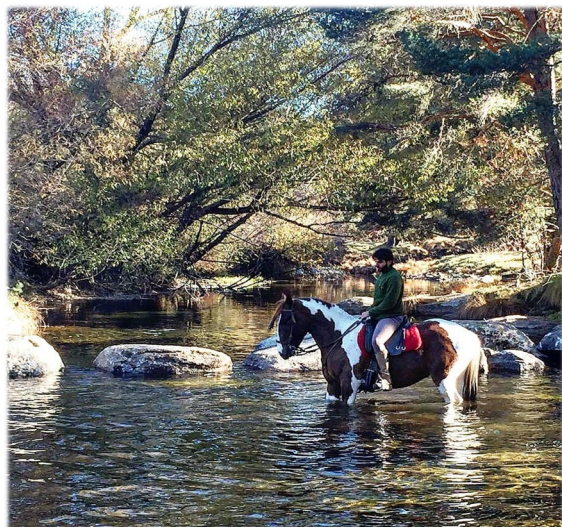


Day 4.

NAVALPERAL DE TORMES – BARCO DE ÁVILA

After breakfast, we will ride along a **historical cattle trail**, used for many centuries to drive the herds of cows, sheep and goats from the summer pastures to the lower areas where they will spend the winter months. Picnic or lunch at a village restaurant. We will leave the mountains behind and reach to the plains, to El Barco de Ávila. El Barco is a **monumental walled town**, with a historic castle, a Romanic bridge and very interesting churches. Accommodation and dinner at Hotel y Spa Puerta de Gredos, with our horses grazing on a meadow within the hotel's premises.

Estimated riding time (including stops): 7 hours (5 hours in the saddle).



Day 5.

EL BARCO DE ÁVILA – JERTE

Emperor Charles V was resting in the castle of El Barco de Ávila in 1556 AD and from there he continued to his definitive retreat at Monastery of Yuste. The riders will leave the village **crossing the Romanic bridge** over the river Tormes, as the Emperor did. We will follow the same path that he and his court followed, until we reach the stables near the village of Jerte. Picnic or lunch in a local restaurant. Accommodation and dinner at Hotel El Cerezal de los Sotos, in Jerte, known for its **terraced cherry groves**.

Estimated riding time (including stops): 8 hours (6 hours in the saddle).

Day 6.

JERTE – JARANDILLA DE LA VERA

On our last day riding, we'll be again on our horses on the Charles V path. This stage was the toughest of his trip, because he had to cross the mountains on narrow and dangerous trails, through the "Garganta de los Infiernos" ("**Hell's Gorge**"). It will also be tough for us, because of some complicated passes for the horses that will force us to dismount and lead on foot. If the weather is good, we can take a dip in the **natural pools**. Throughout the day, there will be no access for the support vehicle, so we'll have to carry the food for the picnic in our saddlebags. After a long day riding, we will arrive at the town of Jarandilla de la Vera, where we will spend the night at the **Parador Nacional de Jarandilla**, a **XV century castle**, turned hotel, where Charles V rested on his trip, while the works for his final residence at Monastery of Yuste were being finished. Special farewell dinner at the hotel.

Estimated riding time (including stops): 9 hours (7 hours in the saddle).



Day 7.

JARANDILLA DE LA VERA – MONASTERIO DE YUSTE

After breakfast we'll go by car to **Monastery of Yuste**, where Charles V lived the last two years before his death. We will have a private tour of the Monastery, the end of the trip for Charles V and also for us. Transfer to Madrid Barajas airport (3 h by minivan). Arrival at the airport around 3:00 pm.



THE TRIP INCLUDES

- **Private transfers** by road, from/to the international airport of Madrid Barajas.
- **Horses and tack and support vehicle.**
- **Accommodation** in 4* (except for one night in a rural hotel), selected among the best of each area.
- **All meals:** Breakfast at the hotel, lunch (picnic or local restaurant) and dinners (top-end restaurants). The food culture experience is important to us. Restaurants have been carefully selected to enjoy the local cuisine. We will also taste good Spanish wines during the trip. Drinks, snacks and fruit for the saddle bags.
- **English-speaking guides** from IVERYAN will accompany the group throughout the trip to assist the travelers with anything that may arise.



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The travel program is indicative, and is subject to modifications depending on weather conditions, delays, cancellations, temporary closure of any of the accommodations or any other circumstance beyond IVERYAN's control. However, the essence of the trip will remain unchanged and possible modifications will not substantially affect the experience.

7 days - 6 nights

5 days riding

Dates :

Spring: April, May, June
 Fall: September, October

Price:

Around 500-600€ per
 person/night.

Depending on dates, group
 size and final program.