



HATS & HORSES

EXPERIENCE

MENORCA 2022

FALL EQUESTRIAN TRIP

Sept.12-19, 2022



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue equestrian helmet, a red and blue striped polo shirt, and dark riding pants, is smiling and leaning towards a dark brown horse. The horse is standing in a sandy paddock with a white fence and trees in the background. The text "General Information" is overlaid in white serif font on the lower right side of the image.

General Information

Imagine an island filled with all-black stallions
and mares, dotted with quaint white villages,
surrounded by turquoise waters and soft
Mediterranean breezes ...

.A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve with rich archaeological treasures and delectable food, all dotted with a rare breed of horse...

Such is the island of Menorca, with its Purebred Menorca Horse threading through its centuries of history and its dream vacation locations. Dark, handsome, brave and kind, the Menorca Purebred Horse is said to be descended from various Spanish island and mainland breeds, as well as from the breeds of the many invaders the centuries brought to this land.



Photo Son Bou-Horse riding.

.To ride through his magical island is to live history, from the crystalline beaches that beckoned Phoenicians, Greeks and Carthaginians, through the still existing cobblestone routes of the Romans, past the influences of Moorish invasions, the kingdoms of Mallorca and Aragon, and beyond the French and English occupations. An island where classical dressage, Menorcan dressage, harness racing, trail riding and even jumping are widely available. An island where the horse reigns supreme.



First class experience ...

Created by Hats & Horses Menorca, Alejandra Abella-Learning Through Animals, and Son Bou Horse-riding, **Hats & Horses Experience** trips are like no others: they will take you through all the aspects of the island of Menorca, including not only its deep cultural and historical connection to horses, but also its beautiful beaches and coves, archeological wonders, incredible food, and rich folklore. And you have several trips to choose from!

The spring trips include the unique Hats & Horses harness racing event, and the fall trips include authentic Menorcan horse festivities in small towns, led by local experts. On all the trips you will be able to ride horses through the island and experience the Purebred Menorca Horse, and both classical and Menorcan dressage at one of the island's premier equestrian centers.



... First class views and service



You will stay at five-star hotel **Meliá Cala Galdana**, with the beach and several boating options out the back door, and a quaint little town within walking distance.

These trips allow for all levels of riders and/or non-riders to enjoy every experience, as the level of horses and rides will be tailored to your needs and there are many entertainment, cultural and gastronomic options for non-riders. Whatever your level, you will leave this experience feeling refreshed, surprised, and excited at what you have learned and experienced with horses and their historical connection to this magical island.

Take a look at the schedule of activities for your visit and ¡BENVINGUTS A MENORCA!



The magic of the Purebred Menorca Horse

It comes from a **200-year history**, and always **at the center of the island's holidays and festivities** for that long at least.

The Feast of St. John, held in the castle-topped city of Ciutadella in June, is the best known, but the breed is a staple of Menorcan life year-round, and festivities also take place in the fall in a more intimate environment.

The Menorcan Horse even has its own discipline: Menorcan dressage, with its traditional and spectacular "bots", in which the horses rear and walk or jump several feet on their hind legs while people reach out to touch them for good luck.



Photo Son Bou-Horse riding.

Incredibly sure-footed, they move like agile goats through the frequently rocky Menorcan landscape. Most of the stallions and geldings are worked in Menorcan dressage in traditional Menorcan tack - including a slightly high-cantle saddle to hold you in while you do the "bot" - and all are **extensively trail ridden**. The breed is also starting to enter classical dressage in Spain and throughout Europe, with their incredibly **docile and cooperative temperament** being one of their most beloved traits. They are kept as studs whenever possible to ensure the future of the breed. An association was formed in 1988, and a stud book in 2008, and the breed standard today is for an elegant and agile, always black horse, that starts at about 15.1 hands and can go up to 17 hands.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the price of this trip?

The trips are priced starting at €1,970 for 7 days (not including the departure date) and 7 nights for riding participants. Companions that prefer not to ride, can enjoy the trip for a lower cost as the trips offer several equestrian and non-equestrian experiences to give riders and non-riders, from beginner level and above, a comprehensive and culturally rich adventure.

The price for riding participants includes your lodging and breakfasts each day in the five-star Meliá Cala Galdana, plus all the activities detailed in the schedule and one meal a day for scheduled days, typically before or after a scheduled activity. Transportation to/from the airport and to/from included activities, plus a translator during all included activities, are also already included in the price of the trip. Please see the itinerary and a-la-carte/add-on options available. Please inform us if you will be accompanied by a non-riding participant to receive a quote.

Not included are the international, national and/or regional flights and travel insurance to arrive in Menorca, but we do have a travel agency to assist you with those arrangements. Also not included but available, are several a-la-carte/add-on activities and services at your disposal such as private rental cars, extra site visits, etc. Please see the detailed schedule and offerings to make your selections.

Where will I be staying and is transportation provided?

You will be staying at the exceptional, five-star hotel Meliá Cala Galdana, with the beach, boating options, restaurants and shops all right out the back door. Transportation from/to the airport and to each included activity is provided, and a specialized travel agency is available to help you book rental cars if you prefer. Taxis are also available on call throughout the island, and ride-sharing services are available in the southeast side of the island.



What breed/type/level of horses will I be riding and meeting?

On all trips you will be riding and experiencing the rare Purebred Menorca Horse (PRMe), and a variety of trail horses including P.R.E.s (Pura Raza Espanola) and their crosses in a variety of tack. The PRMe horses are so well trained that even advanced beginner riders will be able to not only learn, but also perfectly perform classical and Menorcan dressage high school movements such as piaffe, flying changes, the Spanish step, and the Menorcan “bot,” (airs above the ground) among others. On the spring trips you will also get to see and meet harness racing Spanish and Iberian Trotter horses. Riding guests only must weigh under 215 lbs. and the riding experiences will be tailored to match the level of each rider, so beginner through advanced riders are welcome. Each included riding session will last approximately one hour plus one hour of on-site/handling, with up to 2 hours of riding per day depending on the schedule/rider choices. More riding/intensive training can be created and customized upon request.



Is there interesting shopping to be done?

Do save room in your suitcase for your Menorcan purchases because there is a lot of fun shopping to be done! Menorca is known for its leather goods, and its famous “avarcas,” an incredibly comfortable, versatile and elegant leather sandal unique to the island. There are also lots of other shoe and accessory shopping options like espadrilles, ballerinas, and jute bags, and delicious cheeses and other food products. You will receive a shopping guide upon arrival to your hotel, but we are happy to provide it prior to your travel if needed.



What will the weather be and what should I pack?

This trip will take place during the Menorca off-season but the weather is still quite nice, with lows in the high 50s to mid 60s Fahrenheit at night. As there are Mediterranean island breezes, do pack a sweater, cardigan, or light jacket for the evenings. During the day, the temperatures typically rise into the 70s Fahrenheit and the water will be warm enough for swimming, so do bring a swimsuit. If you are going to be riding, PLEASE DO PACK YOUR RIDING HELMET AND ATTIRE, including breeches/jodhpurs or comfortable pants and boots with a heel. Do also remember to bring sunglasses, a sun hat and sunscreen, or you can buy all that and riding attire on the island if you prefer. Finally, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK AND PACK YOUR PASSPORT! Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months past the date you are expected to return home, and pack masks, in case they are still required in-transit.

What are the current Covid and other health regulations?

As we have all learned from the Covid-19 pandemic, things can change rapidly, and we will inform you immediately if any health issues arise that might affect your trip. Currently Spain is requiring full vaccinations against Covid-19 or a negative Covid test within 24 hours of arrival for all travelers, in addition to masking in some enclosed settings and in all medical facilities. To see updated information on requirements, please visit:

<https://es.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

What is the electric current and plug type?

For international travelers, please note that Spain operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. Electric outlets take a plug with cylindrical metal bars, not flat like in the U.S. You might want to pack a travel adaptor for your electronic goods.

What are the currency and best flight and/or travel options?

The currency in Menorca is the Euro. Dollar exchange rates can/will vary with currency exchange fluctuations. To see the latest exchange rate, use any currency converter available online or visit:

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h10/current/>

Menorca is one of the smallest and most unique islands in the Mediterranean but there are direct flights from several European airports. If you are coming from the U.S. and a seasoned traveler, you may want to fly into the Madrid or Barcelona airports in Spain, and take a flight to Menorca from there. Please note that with international flights, however, you will want to have plenty of time between connections and that might mean a late arrival into Menorca, making for a long travel day. For more leisurely travel, we recommend that U.S. travelers elect to spend a night in their entry city and fly to Menorca from there the next day. London, Paris, Rome, Madrid, Barcelona...these are all fascinating cities that are well worth visiting for a night or more and you will arrive in Menorca feeling more refreshed! If you choose to enter Spain through Barcelona, there is also a Fast Ferry to Menorca, if you prefer to arrive by boat, but please note that it does take 4 hours. Remember to check in for all your flights at least 24 hours prior to travel, and to select special meals if required at the time of check-in. Most international flight prices do not include your preferred seat selection, so you may also want to pay for advanced seat selection or select your seat at check-in.



What type of food should I expect?

Menorca is one of the smallest Mediterranean Islands, which only adds to its mystique and charm, but it is also very international so almost every type of cuisine is available. There are many restaurants all over the island and the typical Mediterranean fare is fantastic, with lots of healthy fish, meat and rice options. You won't want to miss the many Menorcan cheese varieties and the famous "ensaimada," a flaky pastry that can be found widely and consumed at any time of day!



Menorca Awaits

A photograph of several riders on horses silhouetted against a bright sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and casting long shadows. In the foreground, a white concrete wall runs across the bottom of the frame. In the background, a sign with the letter 'K' is visible on a fence.

AND IT WOULDN'T BE
THE SAME
WITHOUT YOU

Monday, September 12th

Arrival day

Welcome to Menorca!

We will pick you up from our airport and drive you to our magnificent, seafront hotel:

MELIÀ CALA GALDANA.

One of the most privileged spots in the island, with a beach, shopping and restaurants, all within walking distance. Rest and relaxation await you on your first day.

A welcome cocktail hour will be served in the evening.



Tuesday, September 13th

MORNING: BREAKFAST IN THE HOTEL AND CAMÍ DE CAVALLS TRAIL RIDE



A magnificent excursion along the historic CAMÍ DE CAVALLS, following the coastline, with incredible views and reaching the magical Menorcan coves.

At lunchtime, you will enjoy a picnic overlooking the sea, surrounded by a unique landscape.

AFTERNOON: INTRODUCTION AND GROUND WORK WITH MENORCAN HORSES



Free evening for all participants. Restaurant/Site visit/Beach/Shopping recommendations will be offered.

Wednesday, September 14th

MORNING:

BREAKFAST IN THE HOTEL AND FIRST RIDING SESSION WITH MENORCAN HORSES



Did you know Menorca claims to have more horses per square kilometer than any other European Union territory? Horses and more horses!

A MORNING TO GET TO KNOW THE ISLAND'S HORSES, FOLLOWED BY A TYPICAL MENORCAN LUNCH



Free evening for all participants. Restaurant/Site visit/Beach/Shopping recommendations will be offered.

Thursday, September 15th

MORNING: BREAKFAST IN THE HOTEL AND SECOND RIDING SESSION WITH MENORCAN HORSES



**LEARNING TO RIDE
CLASSICAL AND
MENORCAN
DRESSAGE,
FOLLOWED BY
LUNCH**



Free evening for all participants.
recommendations will be offered.

Restaurant/Site visit/Beach/Shopping

Friday, September 16th

MAKING THE MEMORIES OF
A LIFETIME!

**MORNING:
BREAKFAST IN THE HOTEL AND THIRD RIDING SESSION WITH MENORCAN HORSES,
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH**



Free evening for all participants. Restaurant/Site visit/Beach/Shopping recommendations will be offered.

Saturday, September 17th

MORNING: BREAKFAST IN THE HOTEL AND A FREE MORNING TO ENJOY THE BEACHES, SHOPPING AND ALL THE WONDERS OF MENORCA

Restaurant/Site visit/Beach/Shopping recommendations will be offered.



AFTERNOON & EVENING:

**DINNER AND THE
EXCITEMENT OF THE
FESTIVITIES ON THE
BEACH AT CALA EN
PORTER!**



Sunday, September 18th

FREE DAY

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Go shopping, hang out on the beach, or **rent a boat** and enjoy a day discovering the most beautiful spots in the island...

Visit the beautiful **BINIFADET winery**

Visit **SON MERCER DE BAIX**, a traditional cheese farm.



And so many other options like **TOUR AND/OR LUNCH AT THE ARCHEOLOGICAL TREASURE THAT IS "ISLA DEL REY" AND ITS HAUSSER MUSEUM**



Monday, September 19th

BREAKFAST IN THE HOTEL AND PARTICIPANT DEPARTURES

Transportation to the airport provided.



GOOD BYE, BEAUTIFUL
MENORCA! SEE YOU AGAIN
SOON!

Photo Son Bou-Horse riding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT

:

HATSANDHORSES.COM

ALEJANDRAABELLA.COM

OR

SONBOURUTASACABALLO.COM

