



# HORSE RIDING ON FORMENTERA



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Formentera is the smallest and most southerly of the Balearic Islands. Its 82km<sup>2</sup> paint a landscape characterised by dune systems, cliffs, the forest vegetation typical of the Mediterranean and extremely long beaches of fine white sand, stretching in all directions.

The island of Formentera has tracks that take you through the forests of pines and junipers, a lunar landscape in the rocky area of Can Marroig, the scent of the aromatic shrubs that accompany you along its paths, and the saltwater lake of Estany des Peix, with its endless palette of colours. The year-round mild climate, the mountains and the rugged landscape of Formentera make the island an ideal place for long horse rides.

In addition, and for those also wishing to take up this sport and enter the world of horses, the riding school not only organises excursions but also offers courses for different levels all year round. As well as horse riding excursions, there is also the option of taking riding lessons for all levels at the island's riding school.





2 EXCURSIONS: ROUTE 1

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All of the routes start from the Riding Centre, situated halfway between La Savina and Sant Francesc, on the main road that links the two villages. The centre offers two different excursions: a shorter ride designed for less proficient riders, and a longer one for the more advanced.

## EXCURSIONS ROUTE 1: DURATION 1 HOUR · LEVEL BASIC - BEGINNERS

This excursion is designed for those who can hardly ride or who have a basic level, taking us over very flat and mostly even terrain. The main aim is to relax and enjoy the wonderful scenery around us, from the privileged viewpoint of the saddle. And if the riders are a little more advanced, there are stretches where you can trot to make the ride a bit more exciting.

The route starts at the stables and continues westwards towards the Estany des peix. It will not take us long to reach the small road of Porto Salè. We need to cross this in order to take the path around the lake, following its edge to the opposite side. The Estany des Peix is in fact a practically enclosed bay, with a narrow mouth leading into the sea. It provides a natural harbour for numerous traditional shallow-draft boats, anchored there to take shelter all year round.

As we continue along the track, often riding along the water's edge, we can make out the village of La Savina on the other side of the lake from the opposite viewpoint to the one enjoyed from the ferry when you arrive from Ibiza. We can also see the different types of boats that occupy a large part of the bay, and which often seem to be floating above the surface as the water is so calm and clear.

As the afternoon draws on, the Estany adopts some amazing pinkish hues, against which the silhouettes of the boats create a stunning effect. In short, a charming ride along the shores of one of the finest small corners of the island

# EXCURSIONS ROUTE II

## EXCURSIONS ROUTE 2: DURATION 2 HOURS · LEVEL INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED

This second route is ridden late in the afternoon so that we arrive at Cala Saona just as the sun is setting. We set off westwards from the stables, crossing the road of Porto Salè as we do on route 1. We start off in the same direction as on the first route but then take the track that passes through Porto Salè towards Cala Saona.

The first part consists of a gentle climb until we reach Porto Salè, from where we can make out the whole of the Estany des Peix, La Savina and, in the distance, almost all of the Natural Park of Las Salinas of Ibiza and Formentera (Illetes, Espalmador and the southern part of Ibiza) and the impressive island of Es Vedrà, which stands out on the horizon with its imposing height of 385 metres. The views from here are stunning, especially on afternoons when the sky is clear, which is most of the time. The sea is tinted with orangey and reddish hues, typical of dusk, on many days making the line between the sea and the sky indistinguishable.

We continue along the route and pass through one of the prettiest rural areas on the island, following dirt tracks along which we can trot and gallop now and again. We cross vineyards, wheat fields, forests of pines and junipers. We will have a close-up view of various rural dwellings built in the traditional style, with thick whitewashed walls, giving them that appearance so typical of the Mediterranean and insulating them from the heat in the summer and from the cold in the winter. Once we have explored the innermost part of Formentera, we come to the characteristic cliffs of Cala Saona, deep red in colour due to their high iron content. From the cliffs, looking to our left, we can make out the beach of Cala Saona, a wonderful cove of fine white sand and crystal-clear waters.

As the sun begins to set, it takes centre stage all over the island of Formentera, painting the sky with colours that change, as the sun goes down, from the brightest blue to the deepest red, passing through all shades imaginable in between. Once the sun has hidden behind the horizon, it is time to return at a brisk trot, interspersed with the odd gallop, so that we can reach the stables before dark.



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Latest information and itineraries at  
[www.formentera.es](http://www.formentera.es)

