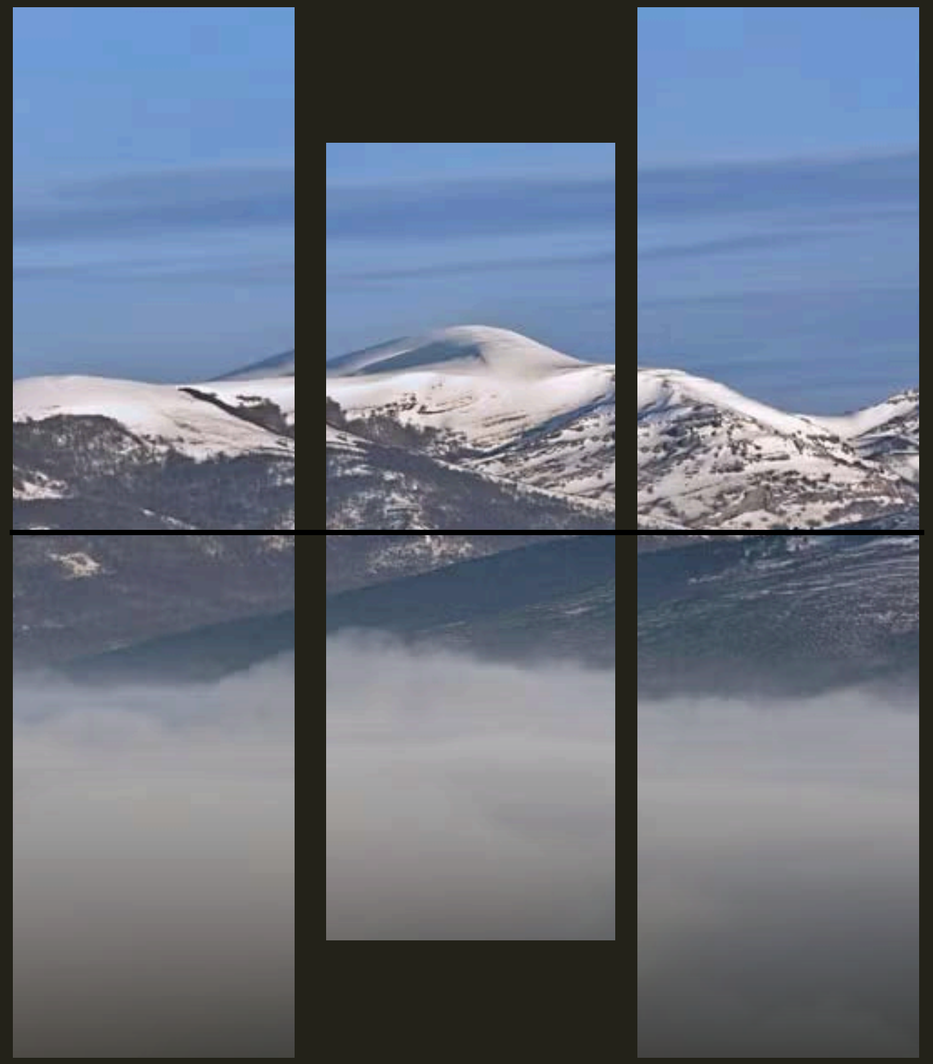
RIDER BOOK ENG

Le Centaure

GOPEGI · ZIGOITIA · ÁLAVA
BASQUE COUNTRY · SPAIN



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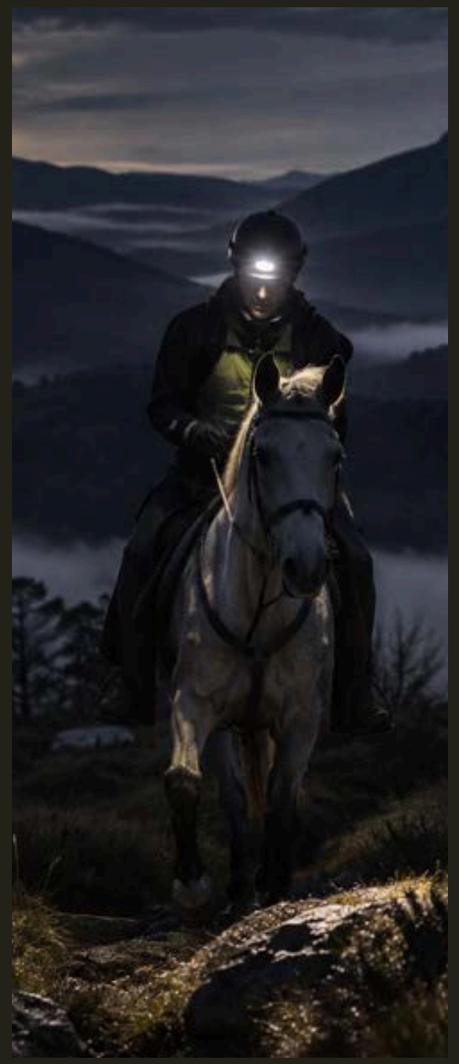
5-7 MARCH 2027
by Hípica Gopegi

2027 Gorbeia

rider book

LE CENTAURE 27 · GORBEIA
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Read it before you come.
It might save you a few surprises.



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WELCOME TO LE CENTAURE

If you are reading this Rider Book, there are two possibilities:

- You have already entered **Le Centaure 27 · Gorbeia**.
- You are still trying to decide whether to.

In the first case, we are sorry.

In the second, there is still time to close this document.

Although we suspect you won't.

Either way, welcome.

Le Centaure has never been an easy event.

There will be darkness. There will be mountains. There will be moments when you know exactly where you are... and others when Gorbeia does not share your opinion.

Above all, you share this adventure with your horse.

Manage its effort. Let it drink. Dismount when the terrain calls for it. Listen to it.

The real goal is for both of you to arrive together and in good condition.

→ **FINISH IS TO WIN**

RIDER DOCUMENTATION
ID card or passport.
Federation licence and/or valid insurance.
Documentation required by the Regulations.

HORSE DOCUMENTATION
Passport or identification document.
Health documentation and vaccinations.

before you come

Five minutes now could save you a much less amusing conversation with the Secretariat on Friday.

arrival in Gopegi

Reception open from Thursday, 4 March.

Earlier arrivals: by prior arrangement, €30/day, participant and horse included.

You can stay until Monday, 8 March.

No need to arrive in a hurry.

You'll still have around 100 km to do that later.

Lighting + spares · compass · protection from rain and cold · mandatory equipment.

And anything else you don't want to discover you're missing on Friday night.

check your equipment

THE HORSE

ITS WELL-BEING COMES BEFORE ANY SPORTING RESULT.

Manage its effort. Slow down when necessary and dismount on difficult terrain.

Make the most of the water points. Keep an eye on its hydration and general condition. The cold may make the need to drink less obvious, but it does not eliminate the risk of dehydration.

01 Friday · before the first night
02 During the first night
03 Saturday · before the second night
04 During the second night

Vet Checks

Additional veterinary checks may be carried out if necessary. Veterinary decisions regarding the horse's fitness to continue must be respected.

Gorbeia comes as it is

GORBEIA, IN MARCH, HAS A CERTAIN TENDENCY TO DO WHATEVER IT WANTS.

The route will cross natural terrain. Very natural.

MUD · WATER · ROCK · BRANCHES · FALLEN TREES · VEGETATION · SLOPES · UNEVEN GROUND · FOG

and any other last-minute contribution that Gorbeia considers necessary.

Gorbeia does not adapt to Le Centaure

IT IS LE CENTAURE THAT ADAPTS TO GORBEIA

The organisation will take care of many things during the event. Making the mountain more comfortable is not one of them.

If it has rained, there will be mud.
If it has been windy, there may be branches.
If there is fog, you will see less.

And if a hill goes up... unfortunately, it will still be going up when you get there.

RESPECT GORBEIA

For two nights, Gorbeia will be our adventure ground.
But it is not ours.
It is a living territory.
Respect paths, land and property.
Leave no litter.
Do not damage gates, signs or facilities.
Respect livestock.
Avoid unnecessary disturbance.
Follow any special access instructions.

GATES AND FENCES

If it was closed, leave it closed.
If it was open, leave it open.
It sounds easy.
At four in the morning, it should be too..

Gorbeia is a Natural Park and a protected area.
Before you come, take a few minutes to learn its rules. During Le Centaure, we will be passing through a territory that has its own rules 365 days a year.

OTHER USERS

You may come across local residents, farmers, hunters, cyclists, hikers, vehicles, forestry workers or any other users of the area.
Slow down when necessary.
Say hello.
Give way.
Avoid arguments.
If a problem arises, report it to the organisation.
Let them remember:
“Yes, the Centaure people.”
And not:
“Ah, yes... THOSE PEOPLE.”

LEARN THE RULES OF GORBEIA NATURAL PARK →

The path will not always be a path.

The route may follow a clear path, a good track, a hidden narrow trail, a faint trace through the vegetation… or practically nothing.

There will be moments when you'll really need to work with map, compass, landmarks, direction, distance and azimuth.
This is Le Centaure, not a ride where you just follow the trails.

OBSTACLES
Gorbeia doesn't know you're taking part in Le Centaure.
And it isn't going to move aside to let you through either.

You may encounter branches, fallen trees, vegetation, mud, water or other natural obstacles.

If a passage is not reasonably safe, don't force it. Find the nearest safe alternative.

DON'T FIGHT THE MOUNTAIN.
READ IT. ADAPT. RESPECT IT.
If you argue with it, it will probably win.

no route markers

Map. Compass. Terrain. And your decisions.

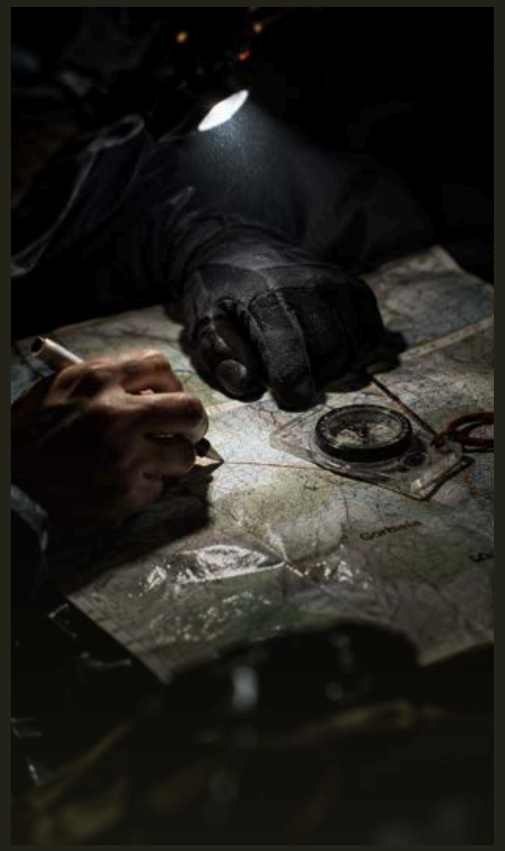
THE MAP ROOM

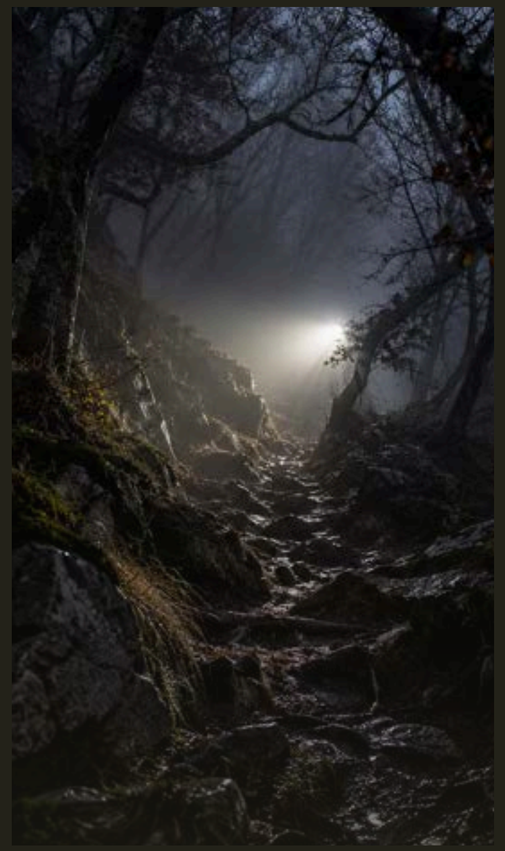
Before each night, you will have time to transfer the route onto your map.
Take your time. Check it.
And when you're done, check it again.
A small mistake at 21:30 can turn into quite an interesting excursion at 03:30.

THERE IS NO ONE TO FOLLOW

The rider in front may know exactly where they are.
Or they may be following the rider in front.
Who is following the rider in front.
Who is following you.

Each participant is responsible for their own navigation.





your GPS is not invited

Le Centaure is navigated with a map and compass.
GPS, smartwatches, phones and other electronic devices may not be used as navigation aids.

THE PHONE

It is mandatory for safety reasons and must remain switched off and sealed according to the procedure established by the organisation.

If an emergency affects your safety or your horse's:
BREAK THE SEAL.
SWITCH IT ON.
USE IT.
Without hesitation.

The classification can wait.
You and your horse cannot.

two nights

Le Centaure doesn't end when the sun comes up. That's one of its little details.

FIRST NIGHT · 60 KM

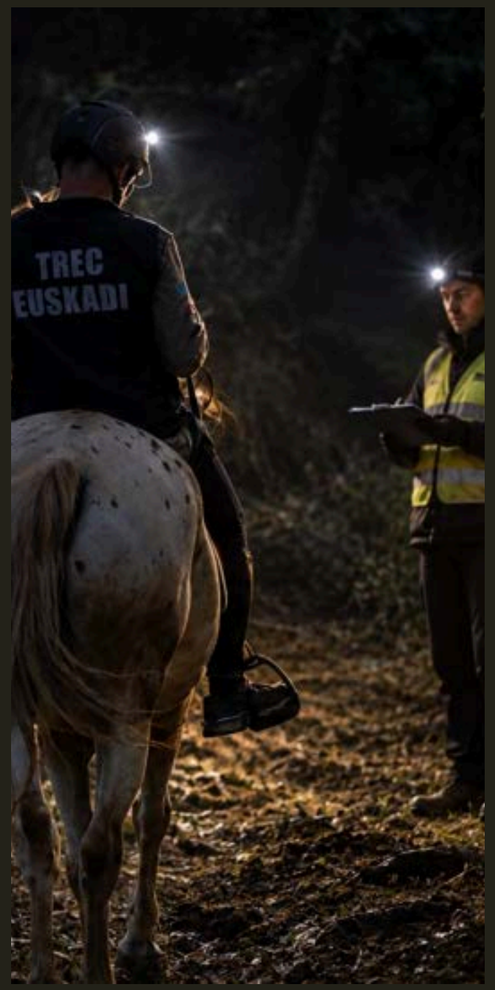
The first real encounter with Gorbeia.
Night. Navigation. Mountains. Hours in the saddle.
Before the start, the first veterinary check will take place, and there will be another during the route.
Carry enough lighting and plenty of battery life. Don't leave anything at an assistance point that you may need later – you'll definitely miss it.

SECOND NIGHT · 40 KM

Fewer kilometres does not necessarily mean easier.
The second night may be more technical and demanding in terms of navigation.
And this time, fatigue will also have something to say.
The start will take place in reverse order from the first night.
The good news: fewer kilometres remain.
The bad news: now you know what's waiting for you out there.

a light in the middle of the night

Don’t worry, it’s not the finish yet



CONTROLS

You will find passage and section controls. Some may include water, food, assistance or a veterinary check.

Slow down. Follow the instructions. Dismount when instructed. Always appreciate the work of the controllers.

WATER

There will be water points along the route. Make use of them.

Cold weather does not mean your horse no longer needs to stay hydrated.

YOUR ROUTE SHEET

Protect it from the water. And make sure you know where you put it.

Searching for it for ten minutes in your saddlebags while everyone at the control watches you is an entirely avoidable experience.

if something goes wrong

KNOWING WHEN NOT TO CONTINUE IS ALSO PART OF LE CENTAURE.

Le Centaure is long, nocturnal and demanding.
There may be fatigue, a fall, broken equipment, disorientation
or simply a horse that is not feeling well.

IF YOU DECIDE TO WITHDRAW

-If you are at a control, inform the person in charge.
-If you withdraw at any other point along the route, you must immediately inform the organisation using the contact details provided.

If we don't know that you have withdrawn, as far as we are concerned you are still out there.
And that really is a problem.

The organisation will try to assist with the recovery of participants and horses when circumstances allow, but you should not assume that we will be able to pick you up immediately from any point along the route.

THE PHONE

If an emergency requires you to break the seal and use the phone, do it. Without hesitation.
No control, no kilometre and no classification justify putting a rider, a horse or a fellow participant at risk.

WITHDRAWING IS NOT THE PROBLEM.
DISAPPEARING WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE IS.

EMERGENCY?

DON’T WORRY. YOU’RE NOT ALONE OUT THERE

More than 40 people will be looking out for you during the two nights.
Along the route, controllers, veterinarians, organisers and support staff will be following the progress of the event.
Even if for many kilometres all you see is darkness, forest and your horse, there will be a whole team behind you.
If something happens, stay calm and let us know.

IF YOU NEED HELP

At the controls you will find members of the organisation.
And if you need to contact us directly, when you collect your race number you will receive a LAMINATED EMERGENCY CARD with the operational phone numbers for LE CENTAURE
KEEP IT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.

When you contact us, tell us clearly:
NAME AND RACE NUMBER · WHAT HAS HAPPENED · RIDER’S CONDITION · HORSE’S CONDITION · WHERE YOU ARE OR WHAT LANDMARKS YOU HAVE · WHETHER YOU ARE ALONE OR WITH SOMEONE

If an emergency requires you to break the phone seal:
BREAK IT. SWITCH IT ON. CALL.
The classification can wait.
YOU AND YOUR HORSE CANNOT.

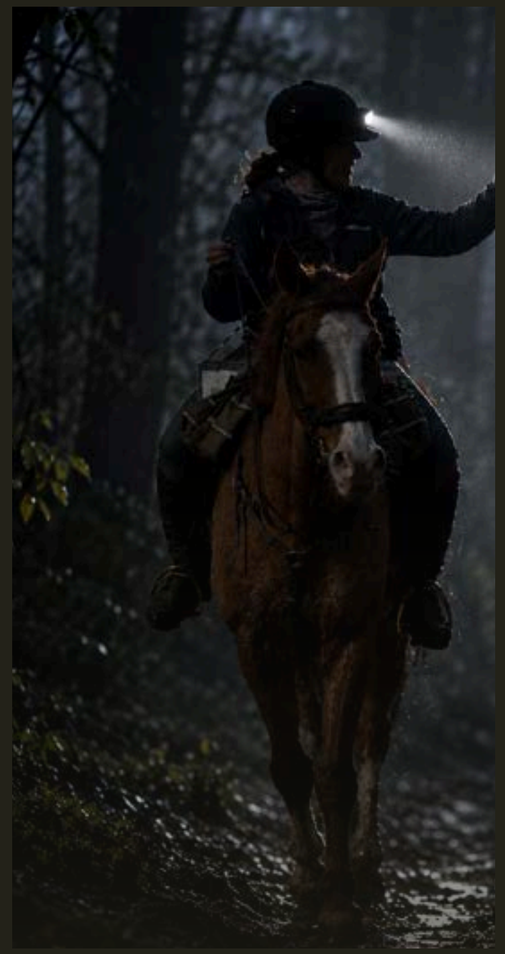
Centaure spirit

LE CENTAURE IS INDIVIDUAL OR DUO IN THE CLASSIFICATION. NOT IN THE MOUNTAINS.
If you find a rider with a problem, ask.
If they need help, help.
In the event of a fall, a problem with the horse or any situation that may compromise safety, stop for as long as necessary.

ARE YOU LOST?
Before using such an unpleasant word, we can say that you are:
“TEMPORARILY IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE MAP”.

Sharing your reading of the terrain or lending a hand is part of the Centaure spirit.
Doing the other rider’s 100 kilometres of navigation for them is something else.

FAIR PLAY
Navigate using your own means.
Respect the rules and the controls.
Do not use prohibited electronic aids.
Getting there first has merit.
Getting there first by cheating has considerably less.



→ FINISH IS TO WIN

the Finish

Enjoy it.
You've made it.
Hug whoever you want. Take the photo. Look at your horse. Find the course setters and congratulate them. And try to remember that entering was entirely your own choice.
But before you start thinking about the shower, breakfast, or never doing anything like this again in your life,
the horse comes first.
Walk it if it needs it.
Let it drink.
Cover it if conditions require it.
Check its condition.
Help it recover.
You have looked after it for approximately 100 kilometres.

We're not going to ruin it now for a few slices of toast

yes, you did it

For two nights, the finish has been just a place on the map.
Now it is right in front of you.
You've been cold. You've had doubts. You've made mistakes. You've found your way again.
And your horse has been with you every kilometre.
Now cross the line.
Look around.

REMEMBER THIS MOMENT.
Because this is what will stay with you.

on Sunday

Now it's over.
Take care of your horse.
Then eat, drink, shower, sleep, tell your stories and find that person you swore to, at that lovely control during the second night, that you would never do anything like this again.
Try not to say those things too loudly.
We all know how those promises end.

MEAL · PRIZES · CLOSING CEREMONY

When everyone has returned, we'll meet again.
Food. Stories. Sleepy faces. Some interesting ways of walking.
And, of course, the prize-giving ceremony.
The top three finishers in the INDIVIDUAL and DUO categories will receive the traditional LE CENTAURE buckles.
The classified teams will also receive their recognition and the prizes established for LE CENTAURE 27 · GORBEIA.

AND THEN, YES.
Le Centaure 27 · Gorbeia will be over.
After two nights wishing you could finally arrive...
we're pretty sure you'll be sorry to leave.

IT'S OVER

You've read the Rider Book.
You know the rules.
You know what's waiting for you.
Well... more or less.

TWO NIGHTS.
AROUND 100 KM.
ONE HORSE.
ONE RIDER.
ONE MAP.
ONE COMPASS.

You'll discover the rest here.
GORBEIA COMES AS IT IS.
And so should you.

ONE LAST NOTE

There will be moments when you wonder what the hell you're doing out there.
That's normal.
There will be others when you swear you'll never do Le Centaure again.
That's normal too.

The worrying part would be if, after getting back to Gopegi, getting some rest and regaining feeling in certain parts of your body...
you start wondering where **Le Centaure 28** will be.

READY TO GET LOST AGAIN?

IF AFTER READING ALL THIS YOU STILL WANT TO COME...
THE REGISTRATION QR CODE IS YOURS

FINISH IS TO WIN.
See you in the dark.