



The Schwäbische Alb Distanz

A 350 km endurance ride over the German mountains

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Gerhard Hinz, JJ Sprei & Talitha Bakker

Every year, the Schwäbische Alb distanz takes place in the German mountains. The endurance ride covers 350km in five days and the horses have to climb thousands of altimeters. The race is part of the Araber Trophy.





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This trophy was created in 2005 following a discussion between show horse breeders and endurance breeders, in which the breeders of endurance Arabians challenged the show horse breeders to throw a saddle on their show doll and participate in an endurance ride. The challenge was accepted and thus the Araber Trophy was born. A friendly competition between the show horse breeders in the Swabian alb area, where they would ride from one farm to the other. Over the years, other riders are also taking part and the competitions have grown into an

international event that also attracts foreign participants. Also this year, Ina Baader organized the Schwäbische Alb endurance ride. One of our contributing writers, Talitha Bakker, participated with the 19 years old Geraldine el Jamaal. Bred by Haras Meia Lua in Brazil and a direct daughter of Ali Jamaal.

The ride started on top of the hill in Lindenau. The ride followed the Lone river and had the lunch break with show horse breeder Beluga Arabians. The ride continued





until the arrival in Heroldstatt. Here was the first overnight stop where the horses and riders could rest for the night.

The next day, the ride went through the beautiful Schadental and ended at the Landgestüt Marbach. Home of many Arabian Horses. Here the camp was set up and the riders had the possibility to do a tour around the farm.

The following day the ride covered the gorgeous valleys of Lerchental, Hennental and Lautertal and followed the Lauter river until the arrival in Schemmerhofen. The tour was absolutely beautiful with fantastic views from the Mountains!

Day four was mainly through villages. It was raining a lot and when all arrived at the camp in Inzigkofen, it was nice to have a restaurant there to sit dry and warm up.

The last day also started with rain, but once the sun came out, it was like riding in a dream. The trail was unbelievable pretty. It was a lot of climbing and descending. The Donau river was followed for a few kilometers with great views on the castles and valleys. The lunch was this time with Arabian show horse breeder Andy Letsch and his family. Then it was time for the last kilometers. The climb of the Zellerhorn.

It was tough but the view on top of the mountain was rewarding! Riding through this area for 350 km on top of a horse is just amazing! Ina Baader and team did once again a fantastic job with the organization! At the end of the ride, Talitha Bakker and Geraldynel el Jamaal finished at the 11th position! □

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