




Andalucía: Cultural Landscapes of Southern Spain 2025

23 SEP – 10 OCT 2025

Code: 22531

Tour Leaders **Anneli Bojstad, Dr Christopher Gribbin**

Fitness Level 

Level 2 - Intermediate

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

Explore Andalucía's UNESCO heritage-listed Islamic and Renaissance monuments, Roman ruins, Prehistoric megaliths and cave art, troglodyte dwellings & the karst landscape of El Torcal de Antequerra.

Overview

Author and art curator, [Anneli Bojstad](#), and historian, [Dr Christopher Gribbin](#), introduce the diverse cultural landscapes of Andalucía.

- Explore the culture of Islamic Spain through its magnificent monuments including Seville's Royal Alcázar, Córdoba's Mosque-Cathedral, the Umayyad palace-city of Medina Azahara and Granada's Alhambra and Generalife gardens.
- Study fascinating relationships between Christian, Jewish and Islamic visual culture at palaces, synagogues, mosques and baths in Córdoba, Úbeda, Granada and the iconic town of Ronda.
- View the magnificent Renaissance Monumental Ensembles of Úbeda and Baeza – both cities are UNESCO World heritage listed.
- Enjoy a private tour of the Cueva de la Pileta to view spectacular prehistoric cave art including abstract symbols and animal paintings.
- Explore the ancient landscapes of Antequera including the Dolmen of Menga, Dolmen of Viera and Tholos of El Romeral; and the spectacular karst landscape of El Torcal de Antequera National Park.
- Trace the importance of the Iberian peninsula during antiquity at the Roman ruins of Itálica and Baelo Claudio. We also view fine floor mosaics in Córdoba's Archaeological Museum and two 5th-century BC Phoenician sarcophagi in the Museo de Cádiz.
- Discover the unique troglodytic landscape of Almagruz and Guadix visiting a number of private cave dwellings.
- In Jerez de la Frontera visit the Royal Andalucían School of Equestrian Art and enjoy a sherry tasting at one of Jerez's famous bodegas.
- Learn about the artistic traditions of Andalucía: visit a pottery workshop in Guadix, and in Úbeda learn how *ubedíes* rugs are made from esparto grass, a technique that dates to the 11th century.
- Journey through *The Olive Grove Landscapes of Andalucía* shortlisted for UNESCO heritage status, and learn how the olive tree has influenced the culture of the region.
- In Seville visit the Museo de Bellas Artes, one of the best arts museums in Spain; view works by Zurbarán and Goya in Cádiz; and tour Málaga's Picasso Museum and Carmen Thyssen Museum.
- Visit private gardens hosted by their owners including a Mediterranean classical garden outside Málaga and the gardens of a 16th-century private palace in Ronda. We also visit Málaga's historic La Concepción and Córdoba's delightful, hidden, Islamic-style courtyard gardens.
- Feast on regional specialities at local restaurants and private homes, including a 17th-century stately home in the heart of Seville; an elegant restaurant overlooking the Alhambra; an Andalucían *cortijo* (country estate) and the grand Café Royalty in Cádiz.

Overnight Seville (3 nights) • Cádiz (2 nights) • Ronda (2 nights) • Málaga (2 nights) • Granada (3 nights) • Baeza (2 nights) • Córdoba (3 nights)

Leaders



Anneli Bojstad

Author and curator Anneli has lived & worked in Spain for the past 36 years, dividing her time between Madrid and Andalucía. She obtained a BA in Art History (Stockholm University) and a MA in Hispanic Studies (Complutense University, Madrid). Anneli has hosted ASA's tours to Spain since 2008.

Swedish-born Anneli Bojstad has lived and worked in Spain for the past 36 years, dividing her time between Madrid and Andalucía. She spends her time developing and managing cultural projects in various fields, curating art exhibitions, and publishing books on gardens, architecture and Spanish landscapes. Anneli gained her BA in Art History at Stockholm University and a MA in Hispanic Studies at Complutense University, Madrid. She is fluent in both Spanish and English.

She is the author of *Great Gardens of Spain* (2011), *Jardines Mágicos de España* (2011) and *La Gran Aventura de los Indianos* (2008) and has contributed articles to major publications including *Architectural Digest*, *Vogue*, *Elle Deco*, *Telva* and *Casa & Campo*. She has curated exhibitions including 'Jardines del Alma' in the Real Jardín Botánico. For over 10 years she worked as Administration and Communications Manager for the landscape architecture practice, Estudio Eduardo Mencos (www.eduardomencos.com).

Anneli joined ASA in 2008, sharing her passion for Spanish history, culture and garden design. Her tours include 'Great Monuments and Gardens of Spain' and 'Art and Culture in Spain'. In 2025 she leads ASA's new tour entitled 'Andalucía: Cultural Landscapes of Southern Spain' for which she spent several months researching. Anneli is also currently assisting ASA in designing a new literary tour of Spain which is scheduled for 2026.



Dr Christopher Gribbin

An Adjunct Lecturer at La Trobe University, Christopher has a Ph.D. in Classics and has taught at Melbourne, Monash and La Trobe universities. He enjoys sharing his passion for the literature and architecture of the ancient world with the general public through formal and creative endeavours.

Christopher has been fascinated by the ancient world since the age of four, when he saw an exhibition of objects from Pompeii. That led (some time later) to a Ph.D. in Classics, looking at the interaction between religion and philosophy in sixth century BC Greece. Christopher has a particular interest in understanding how people make sense of the world, whether through religion, philosophy, story-telling, art or architecture. He is an Adjunct Lecturer at La Trobe University and has previously lectured in Classics at Melbourne and Monash Universities.

In 2002, Christopher set up the University of Melbourne's popular Classics Summer School and ran it for 15 years. In 2018 he began teaching with the Hellenic Museum Summer School (www.hellenic.org.au/summer-school). Christopher's summer schools provide short courses on ancient Greece and Rome for the general public each January. Participants particularly enjoy his relaxed but enthusiastic and thought-provoking style and the summer school have become an annual fixture for many people.

Christopher has also been involved with some less traditional means of bringing the ancient world alive for modern audiences. He was an academic advisor for the Hellenic Museum's Retrial of Socrates, which featured prominent barristers arguing about Socrates' guilt before a panel of Supreme Court and County Court judges. He worked on the ABC's award-winning website *Winged Sandals*, which brings ancient myths to life for modern children. A highlight of that for Christopher was developing an interactive recreation of the Delphic oracle. He also runs regular Socratic discussion groups, where people use the techniques of the ancient philosopher Socrates to discuss modern issues.

Christopher first joined ASA as a tour lecturer in 2016. His tours include *An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik* (2016-2019) and *Cyprus: Civilisations of the Eastern Mediterranean* (2023-2024). In 2025 he co-leads ASA new tour *Andalucía: Cultural Landscapes of Southern Spain*.

Combine this tour with

Silver Coast and Golden River: Art, Architecture & Culture of Portugal 2025

5 SEP – 22 SEP 2025

Sicily and the Aeolian Islands 2025

10 OCT – 24 OCT 2025

Istanbul in Depth: Your "Most Pleasant and Lasting Dream" 2025

9 SEP – 22 SEP 2025



Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of sites which we plan to include. **Some** are accessible to the public, but others require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches & dinners indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

Seville - 3 nights

Day 1: Tuesday 23 September, Arrive Seville

- Tour commences at 10am in the foyer of the Hotel Inglaterra
- Welcome Meeting
- Santa Cruz Quarter and the Hospital de los Venerables (Fundación Focus)
- Cathedral of Seville
- Welcome Dinner at a private 17-century palace

Meeting Point: The tour commences at 10am in the foyer of the [Hotel Inglaterra](#) situated 250 metres from the Cathedral, overlooking the Plaza Nueva.

Seville gained great importance and prosperity in the 12th century when the Almohad dynasty of North African Berbers made it their capital in *al-Andalus* (the Muslim ruled area of the Iberian Peninsula); and again in the 16th century, when it became the Spanish entrepôt for silver and gold from the Americas. Its major monuments and most important works of art date from these periods and from the 13th and 14th centuries, when Ferdinand III of Castile wrested the province from the Muslims in 1248. Seville therefore boasts fine Muslim, Gothic, *Mudéjar* and Baroque monuments ('Mudéjar' is the term which denotes buildings built for Christians by Muslim craftsmen). In the 17th century it vied with Madrid as the centre of Spanish sculpture and painting. Zurbarán, Velázquez and Murillo all worked in Seville and the city produced

a fine school of polychrome wood sculpture, examples of which are still used in processions for Holy Week (*Semana Santa*). In the 19th century, Seville became a picturesque setting for Northern European Romantic novels, artworks and operas, because of the popularity of Murillo's paintings of street urchins, Seville's famous bullfights, and the magnificence of its celebrations during Holy Week.

We commence our tour with a Welcome Meeting which will include an introductory talk by Anneli. This will be followed by a walk through the Santa Cruz quarter, Seville's medieval ghetto. Despite its narrow winding streets, this precinct grew in popularity in the 16th and 17th centuries. Aristocrats built small palaces here, without disturbing its original, picturesque street plan.

We also visit the 17th-century Hospital de los Venerables. Originally a residence of elderly priests, this is now a cultural centre. Of particular interest is its very original sunken courtyard, with arcaded galleries at a higher level and a central fountain, which is descended via circular steps decorated with tiles. Its design is a pleasant interplay of spaces of square and curved plan.

This afternoon we visit Seville's Cathedral. This huge building, which is the largest Gothic structure of its type in Europe, was built upon the foundations of the Almohad Friday Mosque by the Christian conquerors of the city. It retains the general plan and dimensions of the mosque and its courtyard that was used by the Islamic population for ritual ablutions. The courtyard, as its name – Patio de los Naranjos – suggests, is now dominated by a veritable forest of orange trees. Although now used primarily as a thoroughfare, the courtyard would once have provided Islamic students with a quiet shady place for the study of the *Qur'an*; plantings would have been more diverse at that time. The cathedral boasts what is arguably Spain's greatest *retablo mayor*, a massive gilt and painted wood retable occupying the whole of the chancel wall. It also contains a number of major medieval, Renaissance and Baroque artworks (including paintings by Goya and Murillo) and the tomb of Christopher Columbus.

This evening we enjoy an exclusive Welcome Dinner at an elegantly restored private 17th-century Casa Palacio (stately home) in the heart of Seville, a short walk from our hotel. (Overnight Hotel Inglaterra, Seville)
D

Day 2: Wednesday 24 September, Seville

- Archivo General de Indias
- Casa de Pilatos
- Royal Alcázar of Seville

This morning we visit the Archivo General de Indias. The archive, established in 1785, houses an extremely valuable collection of documents and maps illustrating the history of the Spanish Empire in the Americas and Asia. Here we may view some fascinating letters and hand-drawn maps. The building itself dates to 1572 when Philip II commissioned architect, Juan de Herrera (architect of the Escorial) to house the *Consulado de mercaderes* – the merchant guild of Seville. It represents a fine example of Italianate Spanish Renaissance architecture and was registered by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site together with the adjoining Cathedral and Alcázar in 1987.

Seville's noble palaces are usually found, not in exclusive suburbs, but in the narrow streets of the city that in the past would have been inhabited by vendors, craftsmen, beggars, and Murillo's street urchins. Their often bland façades, however, give on to lovely patios and gardens which, following Islamic tradition, are enclosed, secret paradises embedded in, but contrasting dramatically to, the noisy, dirty, smelly city outside the walls.

Late morning, we visit a Sevillian mansion of the late-15th and 16th centuries, the Casa de Pilatos. Built by Fabrique de Ribera in 1519, it owes its name to a legend that it was modelled upon Pilate's house in Jerusalem. Processions during Holy Week used to leave this building, winding their way out of the city to the Cruz del Campo, the distance believed to be exactly that from Pilate's Jerusalem *Praetorium* to Golgotha, where Christ was crucified. The house, organised around a great patio, is a fascinating mix of *Mudéjar*, Flamboyant Gothic and Renaissance elements. An antique sculpture collection, adorning the main patio and the *Jardín Chico* (small garden), reflects the humanist tastes of its original owners. This garden also has a delightful pool, which was the water tank of the original house. This, and the *Jardín Grande*, have a marvellous variety of plants, including clusters of citrus and banana trees that thrive in Seville's warm climate, and myriad flowers.

We continue with a visit to Seville's Alcázar, a sublime collection of gardens, patios and architecture which is a journey through the soul of Seville; it represents a fusion of the cultures that shaped the city's art and history. The first fortified palace dates from the tenth century, and was built by Islamic rulers on an old Roman settlement, later transformed by the Christians after the conquest of Seville in 1248, when it became the palace of Fernando 'the Holy'. It is the oldest continually occupied palace in Europe. Traces of Gothic architecture date from this early Christian era, but far more important are the *mudéjar* elements from the reigns of Pedro I 'the Cruel' in the fourteenth century. The term *mudéjar* refers to the work of Muslims who were permitted to stay in the newly Christian territory, a unique fusion of the oriental and occidental. The garden created by Pedro I in 1366 has recently been rediscovered, having been hidden under marble paving for 400 years. A curious sunken garden with a central pool and planted borders edged with interlaced brickwork, it exemplifies the Christian king's fascination with the Hispano-Arabic world. With the coming of the Habsburg dynasty in the sixteenth century, the Royal Palace and its gardens entered another heyday. The ancient orchards were transformed into Italianate gardens, at first in accordance with Renaissance precepts and later in a mannerist style. In 1526 the Emperor Charles V converted an old Muslim oratory into an exquisite pavilion which combined Renaissance style with a *mudéjar* heritage. The new gardens were grander and more palatial, very different to their intimate and enclosed Hispano-Arabic antecedents. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the old orchards around the Alcázar were transformed into new gardens. Magnolia grandiflora, myrtle, palms, roses and bitter oranges share this garden with fascinating Central and South American species brought back to Spain when Seville prospered as the country's gateway to its overseas territories colonies. (Overnight Seville) B

Day 3: Thursday 25 September, Seville – Itálica – Seville

- Archeological Ensemble Itálica
- Museo de las Bellas Artes
- Hospital de la Caridad
- Torre del Oro (exterior)

This morning we take a short drive north of Seville to Itálica, birthplace of Roman Emperors Trajan and Hadrian. Founded by General Scipio in 206 BC during the second Punic War, Itálica is home to many Roman remains, including the Colossus of Trajan, ancient cobbled streets, and one of the largest amphitheatres in the Empire.

Returning to Seville, we visit the Museo de las Bellas Artes, a large museum of Andalusian art. The museum is located in the former convent of the Merced Calzada whose architecture exemplifies Andalusian 17th-century mannerism, designed around three patios and a large stairway. It opened its doors to the public in 1841 with the works from closed down convents and monasteries. Today it is one of the best fine arts museums in Spain, whose impressive collection extends from the medieval to the modern, focusing on the work of Seville School artists such as Francisco de Zurbarán, Juan de Valdés Leal and Bartolomé Esteban

Murillo.

The Hospital de la Caridad is a Baroque hospital commissioned by Don Miguel de Mañara (1661-1664) to care for the sick, the poor and the starving. Mañara was a typical Counter-Reformation Spaniard in that he believed that salvation could be gained by good works. The hospital's chapel contains Valdés Leal's two extraordinary images of death, *In Ictu Oculi* and *Finis Glorae Mundi* (1672), which visually explore the themes of death, decay and the transitory nature of life. The great masterpieces of this chapel are, however, Murillo's beautiful cycle of paintings depicting mercy executed between 1660 and 1674. *The Feeding of the 5,000*, *Moses Striking the Rock*, and *St Elizabeth Nursing the Lepers*, are particularly fine examples of Murillo's masterful handling of light and shade.

Nearby we view the exterior of the Almohad Torre del Oro (Tower of Gold) which was part of the Almohad river fortifications guarding the port of Seville. It was originally one of a pair of towers either side of the river which held the great defensive chain stretching across the Guadalquivir River. (Overnight Seville) B

Cádiz – 2 nights

Day 4: Friday 26 September, Seville – Jerez de la Frontera – Cádiz

- Fundación Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre (Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art)
- Bodega Tio Pepe – Gonzalez Byass
- Alcázar and Cathedral of Jerez de la Frontera

Today we travel to Jerez de la Frontera where we experience a quintessential Andalusian itinerary of thoroughbred Spanish horses, fine Islamic and Christian architecture and a drop of sherry.

Our tour begins with a visit to the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art, home to some of the finest horses in the world which are trained to 'dance' to classical music. Archaeological evidence suggests that the ancestors of Spanish horses inhabited the Iberian Peninsula more than 3000 years ago. However, the origin of the pure Spanish horses called "Pura Raza Española" (PRE) that star in this performance dates to 1567 and the reign of King Philip II. In his personal quest to create a Spanish horse in the ideal image found in centuries-old mythology, folklore and art, he ordered the royal horse master to acquire numerous Spanish mares and stallions throughout Andalucía for selective breeding. We shall tour the Royal School facilities including: the *Recreo de las Cadenas* (Harness Workshop, Palace and Gardens), Museum of Equestrian Art, the Carriage Museum, and the Stables and Saddlery. We also watch some of these fine animals go through their paces during their daily training sessions in the outdoor exercise rings and inside the *Picadero* (indoor arena).

Following lunch and a glass or *copita* of sherry wine at one of Jerez's famous bodegas, we take a walking tour of Jerez. The 12th-century Alcázar, which is considered one of Andalucía's best-preserved Almohad monuments, was erected as both residence and fortress for the Almohad Caliphate. It features an octagonal tower, Islamic-style gardens and a beautiful small mosque later transformed into a chapel. The Catedral de San Salvador erected between 1695 and 1778 is a mix of Gothic, Baroque and Neoclassical style. The interior houses Zubarán's *Virgen niña meditando* (Virgin Mary as a Child, Asleep). (Overnight Cádiz) BL

Day 5: Saturday 27 September, Cádiz

- Museo de las Cortes de Cádiz
- Guided walking tour of the Old Town: Catedral de Cádiz & Oratorio de la Santa Cueva
- Torre Tavira

- Palacio de Mora – by special appointment
- Museo de Cadiz
- Dinner at Café Royalty

Located on a peninsula on a large bay, Cádiz was founded in 1100 BC as a Phoenician port, prospered under the Romans, but declined under the Visigoths (5th century). Córdoba and later Seville eclipsed it during the Muslim period and it only revived with the American trade in the 16th century. When the Casa de Contratación (Office of the Americas) was moved here from Seville in 1717, Cádiz prospered as Seville had done, through a virtual monopoly of American trade. Surrounded in the 18th century by fortifications, the French laid siege to the city from 5 February 1810 until withdrawing on 24 August 1812. During this siege Cádiz's Spanish patriots promulgated Spain's first modern constitution. This act heralded the development of the concept of liberalism in Western politics. We make a brief visit to the Museo de las Cortes de Cádiz to view the 1770s model of 18th-century Cádiz made in mahogany, silver and ivory.

We continue with a walking tour of the old town including a visit to the golden-domed cathedral. The church was known as "The Cathedral of The Americas" because it was built with money from the trade between Spain and America. This largely Baroque-style Cathedral, built between 1722 and 1838, was initially designed by architect Vicente Acero who also built the Granada Cathedral. However, Acero was later succeeded by several other architects who made changes to the original design adding Neoclassical elements to the dome, towers and main façade. Within the cathedral is one of Andalucía's finest intricate wood-carved choirs. In the crypt lies the tomb of composer and pianist, Manuel de Falla, an important musician of the first half of the 20th century. We also visit the Oratorio de la Santa Cueva, an exquisite example of 18th century Baroque, which sports three restored works by Goya.

We also visit the 18th-century Torre Tavira, one of 128 *miradors* (watch towers) remaining from approximately 170 towers that overlooked the sea from the centre of Cádiz. By this time Cádiz had become the major entrepôt for trade with the Americas; the river port of Seville had collapsed because silting had closed the Guadalquivir to navigation. Cádiz merchants added these towers to their residences; from them they would scan the horizon, anxiously awaiting the return of their precious cargoes.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, by special appointment we visit a private palace located in the historic centre of the city. This mid-19th century palace was designed by architect Juan de la Vega y Correa who was also responsible for directing the works of the Cathedral during its last phase. It was inaugurated with a gala ball, presided over by Queen Isabel II, on September 26, 1862.

We end the day in the archaeological, fine arts and ethnographic sections of the Museo de Cádiz. The archaeological section documents the city's important ancient history and features two Phoenician marble sarcophagi and a giant marble 2nd-century statue of Emperor Trajan from Baelo Claudia. The highlight of the Fine Arts section is the collection of 18 superb 17th-century canvases of saints, angels and monks by Zurbarán.

This evening we dine together at the Café Royalty, one of the few preserved grand romantic cafes in Andalucía, located in Cádiz's historic centre. The Café features rich paintings by well-known Spanish artists such as Felipe Abarzuza, beautifully handcrafted carpentry from the era, and gold leaf plaster details together with early 20th century furnishings. Inaugurated in 1912, it soon became the most popular spot in Cádiz, and was frequented by renowned writers, intellectuals, politicians, artists and musicians, such as the great local composer Manuel de Falla, who delighted customers with his concerts. (Overnight Cadiz) BD

Ronda – 2 nights

Day 6: Sunday 28 September, Cádiz – Tarifa – Algeciras – Ronda

- Baelo Claudia: Roman Archaeological Site
- Tarifa Old Town
- Algeciras and view of the Rock of Gibraltar
- Jimena de la Frontera, Andalusian White Town

This morning we drive south to the archaeological site of Baelo Claudia, one of the best and most complete Roman urban sites in Spain, surrounded by beautiful vistas of the Gibraltar Range National Park. This small Roman coastal town is thought to have emerged at the end of the 2nd century BC, and subsisted mainly on tuna-fishing, sauce-making and olive-oil pressing industries. Its origins and subsequent development are closely linked to its commerce with North Africa, and it is thought to have served as a main port of embarkation for Tingis (modern Tangier). It became a Roman *municipium* under the Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD) and displays features of centralised town planning of the early imperial period with an interest in public buildings, such as the forum, temple complex, market and public bath complex built along the *Decumanus Maximus*, the principal thoroughfare.

We then follow the coastline road south-east to Tarifa, which offers spectacular views of the Strait of Gibraltar over to Morocco and the Rif mountain ranges. We stop for lunch in Tarifa, named after the Moorish leader Tarif Ibn Malik who led a first expedition to the southern tip of Spain in 710, a year before the main Moorish invasion of the peninsula. We will have time to explore the attractive old town with its narrow streets, white-washed houses and flowered balconies, and view its Moorish castle dating back to the 10th century. Christians took over the town in 1292 but suffered several counter-attacks, during which it was defended by Alonso Pérez de Guzmán, nicknamed El Bueno "the good", for allowing his son to be captured and killed rather than surrender the town to the Moors.

Strategically located on the far side of the bay opposite Algeciras stands the dramatic Rock of Gibraltar. We will stop briefly for a chance to view and photograph this famous landmark, which to the ancient Greeks and Romans was one of the two Pillars of Hercules marking the western edge of the known world.

From Algeciras we continue inland to Ronda making a brief coffee stop at the foot of Jimena de la Frontera, a small historic white town of narrow cobbled streets built on a rock escarpment dominated by its castle. The landscape we encounter this afternoon and for the next two days is dominated by the white towns for which Andalucía is justly famous.

We spend the next two nights in the Parador de Ronda, housed in a former 18th century town house; it is located in the historical centre alongside the famous Tagus River, next to the Puente Nuevo and the bullring. Tonight we dine together in the restaurant of the parador which serves Andalusian specialties.
(Overnight Ronda) BD

Day 7: Monday 29 September, Ronda – Benaolán – Ronda

- Puente Nuevo
- Plaza de Toros (Bullring) and home to the Real Maestranza de Caballería de Ronda (Royal Riding School)
- Plaza de Toros (Bullring) and
- Baños Árabes (Arab Baths)
- Exclusive visit to private palace (by special appointment, subject to confirmation in 2025)
- Cueva de la Pileta, Benaolán: Guided tour of prehistoric caves conducted by torch and paraffin lamps

The iconic Andalucían town of Ronda is dramatically sited on sheer cliffs above a deep ravine, with grand panoramic views framed by mountains. The early 19th-century artists David Roberts and J.F. Lewis both painted the picturesque view of the Puente Nuevo (New Bridge) which spans the deep ravine, 'El Tajo', separating the two parts of Ronda, the old Muslim town and the Christian district, the *Mercadillo*. The Guadalvin River cut this ravine, and the high bridge which spans it was built in the late 18th century. Of Roman origin, Ronda became an almost impregnable Muslim fortress city until the armies of Ferdinand and Isabella took it in 1485. It retains a Roman bridge which we cross to visit the 13-century Arab baths which feature horseshoe arches, columns and clearly designated divisions between the hot and cold thermal areas.

In 1493, eight years after the Christian capture of the city, the *Maestranza*, a Company of Knights was formed here for the supervision of bullfighting. Ronda's bullring, the second oldest in Spain after that of Seville, was built here in 1785. In the 18th century Ronda's greatest *matador* was Pedro Romero, who is believed to have developed the classical bull-fighting style of the School of Ronda. We shall visit the bullring, including the small museum, Museo Taurino, which contains various memorabilia, costumes as well as artwork by Picasso and photos of famous fans such as Orson Welles and Ernest Hemingway.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we enjoy special access to one of Ronda's finest stately residences. The *palacio* is an 18th-century renovation of an earlier 16th-century building, gifted to the current owner's family by the Reyes Católicos. Its impressive Baroque entrance displays sculpted figures believed to represent natives of South America. The classical garden was conceived to frame the superb views of Ronda city walls and surrounding landscape.

In the late afternoon we reconvene for our journey south to Harillo Farm, located outside the rural village of Benaolán, to visit the Cueva de la Pileta. This cave features beautiful prehistoric art including depictions of fish, a pregnant mare, cattle, horses, reindeer and mountain goat – the quality of which is comparable with the famous caves of the same period found in Cantabria and France. The cave is formed in Jurassic limestone and contains over 3000 artworks from the Upper Palaeolithic through to the Bronze Age. There are figurative paintings in the French and Cantabrian styles, Palaeolithic engravings, and schematic art from the Neolithic era. The first cavern, containing paintings, pottery shards and skeletal remains were discovered in 1905 by José Bullón Lobato. The cave, which was declared a National Monument in 1924, continues to be cared for by the Bullón family who will provide us with a private guided tour which tells the story of their discovery, early settlers and their art. To protect the artworks, the tours are conducted by paraffin lamp and torchlight. (Overnight Ronda) B

Málaga – 2 nights

Day 8: Tuesday 30 September, Ronda – Pizarra – Málaga

- Visit and lunch at a private country house hosted by the owners, province of Málaga (by special appointment, subject to confirmation in 2025)
- Walking tour of Málaga
- Picasso Museum

This morning we drive through the hills above the Mediterranean coast to Málaga. En-route we visit an outstanding example of a Mediterranean classical garden created with cypresses and geometric hedges in terraces. The owners, who are keen gardeners, will give us a tour of their creation and host a delicious lunch of Andalucían and Catalan specialties.

Málaga, (*malaka*: fish salting place), was founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC. The city grew to

become a major port in Roman times, exporting olive oil and *garum* (fish paste), as well as copper, lead and iron from the mines in the mountains around Ronda. Málaga continued to flourish under Moorish rule from the 8th century AD and became a prosperous port of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada. The city held out against the invading Christian armies until 1487 and displayed equal tenacity against Franco's fascists during the Spanish Civil War.

We arrive in Málaga in the afternoon and visit the Picasso Museum, housed in a fine 16th-century palace built on 2500-year-old Phoenician remains. Pablo Picasso was born in Málaga in 1881 and in 2003 a Picasso Museum was established here in response to the artist's desire for his work to be exhibited in his city of birth; it features 233 paintings, sculptures and ceramics created between 1892 to 1972. This rich collection was donated by Christine and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso, the artist's daughter-in-law and grandson. The opening of the Picasso Museum initiated a revival in the cultural life of the city. (Overnight Málaga) BL

Day 9: Wednesday 1 October, Málaga – Antequera – El Torcal – Málaga

- Dolmens of Antequera: UNESCO World Heritage Site
- White town of Antequera
- Walking tour of El Torcal de Antequera National Park: UNESCO World Heritage Site (1hr walk)

This morning we journey 50km north of Málaga to the foothills of La Peña de los Enamorados which rise nearly 900m above sea level to tower over the Antequera plains. This ancient landscape, which has captivated the imagination of people here for millennia, was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2016. The site comprises a megalithic ensemble along with two natural monuments: the mountainous formations of La Peña de los Enamorados and El Torcal. Their UNESCO World Heritage status not only reflects the astounding beauty of the region, but also its cultural influence in prehistoric times thanks to its location at the natural gateway to central Iberia from the Mediterranean.

We begin with a visit to Antequera's dolmens – large earth-covered burial mounds. They were constructed of megalithic slabs of stone by Bronze Age people; the oldest tomb dates back to the year 2500 BC. The site consists of three megaliths: the Tholos Romeral, the Viera Dolmen and the Menga Dolmen (the largest and one of the most impressive megalithic monuments to be built in Europe).

Roman *Antikiera* became a Muslim fortress city, dominated by a castle. First taken by the Christians in 1410, it became a major centre of humanist learning in the 16th century. At this time it gained palaces to rival the masterpieces of Baeza and Ubeda. Mid-morning we drive to the town centre where we walk through this white town to view its palace façades and churches built in the Spanish-Baroque style. Lunch will be enjoyed at a local restaurant whose dishes are based on traditional recipes from the region.

En route back to Málaga we take a guided walk through the limestone rock formations of El Torcal de Antequera National Park. The area is regarded as one of the most impressive karst landscapes in Europe. These formations were formed during the Jurassic Period, 150 million years ago. This ancient sea floor has been uplifted by tectonic activity to the extent that it now lies some 1200 metres above current sea level. There will also be time to watch the documentary and explore the exhibits on karst landscape, wildlife and vegetation, or enjoy a coffee break at the impressive visitors centre. (Overnight Málaga) BL

Granada – 3 nights

Day 10: Thursday 2 October, Málaga – Granada

- Walking tour of Málaga: Cathedral, Roman theatre & exterior of Alcázar

- Malaga Museum (Palacio Aduana)
- Carmen Thyssen Museum
- Historical-Botanical Garden La Concepción, Málaga

We commence with a walking tour visiting the remains of the Roman theatre and the exterior of Málaga's Alcázar (citadel). We then visit the Malaga Museum, housed in the impressive Palacio de la Aduana. This historical building, once a customs house, now holds an extensive collection of art and archaeology that showcases the city's rich cultural heritage.

Next, we visited the Carmen Thyssen Museum, located in the former Villalón Palace. The museum features an exquisite collection of Spanish and Andalusian art, with a particular focus on 19th-century works.

We then drive north of the city to a Málaga's La Concepción garden, a romantic tropical garden laid out in the mid 19th century by Jorge Loring and his wife Amalia who were one of the many wealthy cosmopolitan families of Málaga, which at this time was the second most important industrial region in Spain. Through their international business contacts the founders obtained species from the five continents creating a dense exotic paradise where they hosted leading social events, political meetings and cultural salons.

We continue our drive through the Sierra Nevada, which acted as a barrier, protecting Spain's last Muslim kingdom, Granada, from Christian incursions. We shall gain a deeper understanding about the way the mountains isolated Granada from the grand views we encounter along this road. (Overnight Granada) B

Day 11: Friday 3 October, Granada

- Alhambra and Generalife
- Carmen of the Fundacion Rodriguez Acosta (optional visit)
- Dinner at the Mirador de Morayma Restaurant

Today we visit the Alhambra (1354-1391) and Generalife (summer palace and villa of the Nasrid rulers) to study the architecture and garden design of Nasrid Granada. We visit palaces and villas in the complex that centre upon the Court of the Myrtles, the Court of the Lions, and the Generalife. The first complex – comprising of the Patio de Machuca, the Mexuar, the Patio del Cuarto Dorado, and the Patio de Comares (Court of the Myrtles) – gives a sense of the disposition of an Islamic palace, the discrete, hermetic spaces of which bespeak Islam's emphasis on privacy. This complex combines areas where the ruler sat in court or received ambassadors with a harem designed to isolate the royal household from the outside world. In essence the palace is introverted, its main façade secreted within the Patio del Cuarto Dorado, rather than turning outwards to announce to the outside world the palaces within, in the way of a Western façade. The Hall of the Ambassadors is an example of the spatial rhetoric of power, while the Patio de Comares used a great pool and trees (later replaced by hedges of myrtle) to create a paradisaal, secluded core to the complex. Next to this group is the villa of the Nasrids, built about the Court of the Lions, whose fine stucco arches and slender columns are, some scholars argue, the architectural evocation of an oasis. Here we find rooms decorated with exquisite detailing, such as the Abencerrajes Gallery, the Sala de los Reyes, and the Sala de las Dos Hermanas, two of which have extraordinary stucco domes reproducing star bursts in the desert sky. Beneath this villa there is yet another villa, to which are attached the Royal Baths.

We then walk out across the pine-forested hills of the Alhambra Mountain to the Generalife, an exquisite villa retreat and hunting lodge of the Nasrids. Here we see gardens to rival the Villa d'Este outside Rome, with fine fountains whose sounds were intended to provide a poetic counterpoint to the architectural aesthetics of the Arab palace or villa.

Finally, we shall visit the Alcazaba, the fortress of the Alhambra, which has a broad panorama of the Sierra Nevada. The Alhambra and Generalife complexes sit within what could almost be termed a 'forest' that covers their hills. Watered by conduits from the Sierra Nevada, this lush environment enabled not only the inimitable orchestration of buildings and plants in the main complex, but also a proliferation of fine small villas with gardens called *carmenes*. A *carmen* is a typical house of the old quarter of Granada that has a walled garden, the counterpart of, but different to the *patios* of Córdoba. The word comes from the Arabic word for garden: *karm*. These villas became fashionable in the 16th century when wealthy Christians purchased a number of old, Islamic, town houses and demolished parts of them to make a walled garden. They often employed Moorish craftsmen to design and decorate them. The *carmenes* of Granada were, of course, both inspired by, and measured, the great Islamic palace and villa complex of the Alhambra.

Just a short walk away is the Carmen of the Fundación Rodríguez-Acosta, arguably the best Spanish example of interplay between early modern architecture and gardening. Built by the painter José María Rodríguez-Acosta, a native of Granada and friend of the musician de Falla, this fine modernist house develops the local *carmen* tradition to create a unique interplay of simple brilliant white architecture and the various greens of the garden. The garden, an extraordinary balance of art and nature, classical and modern, East and West, is made up of a number of terraces oriented towards the plain and the Sierra Nevada in which the fragments of walls and columns in the purest modernist style interplay with cypress hedges whose shapes are 'architectural' in their composition, massing and the precise lines of their profiles. The Foundation, which occupies the original house, has works collected by Acosta supplemented by an important collection of Manuel Gómez Moreno composed of works from most periods of Spanish art history. This visit is optional.

Tonight we shall dine together at the restaurant Mirador de Morayma, in Granada's ancient Moorish quarter, the Albaicín, with breathtaking views of the Alhambra. This elegant restaurant housed in a traditional *carmen*, features traditional local cuisine and ecological wine produced at the restaurant's own country estate in the Alpujarra region. (Overnight Granada) BD

Day 12: Saturday 4 October, Granada

- Albaicín quarter
- Casa del Chapiz
- Capilla Real
- Cathedral
- Corral del Carbón
- Afternoon at leisure

We begin this morning by exploring Granada's most important residential quarter, the Albaicín which nestles below the Alhambra. The Albaicín was the last refuge of the Muslims of Granada and traces of its Islamic heritage remain to be discovered, including a beautiful and tranquil bathhouse, and fragments of minarets converted into church towers.

We also visit Muslim and Christian sites in the centre of Granada. The Capilla Real (Royal Chapel), built in flamboyant late Gothic style, houses the magnificent Renaissance tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella, their daughter Joan 'the Mad' and her husband Philip 'the Handsome'. In the adjacent Sacristy is a dazzling collection of royal regalia and Flemish paintings. We then walk to the cathedral, one of Spain's last, which was envisaged by its founder, Charles V, as a model of the heavenly Jerusalem.

We end our tour at the market centre of Islamic Granada where we shall visit the Corral del Carbón, a 14th-century warehouse and inn for merchants, which is the only one of its type to have survived in Spain.

Despite recent restoration, the ground plan, the central water trough for animals, and the delicately carved brick and plaster gateway date to the Middle Ages. From here we shall make our way through the Alcaicería, an area of narrow gridded streets which were once part of the covered market (Arabic: *al-Qaysariyya*) of the Muslim rulers of Granada.

The afternoon will be at leisure. (Overnight Granada) B

Baeza – 2 nights

Day 13: Sunday 5 October, Granada – Almagruz – Guadix – Baeza

- Casas Cuevas Almagruz y Centro de Interpretación Hábitat Troglodita Almagruz
- Walking tour of Guadix including the Cathedral
- Barrio de las Cuevas: Troglodyte Village, Guadix
- Alfareria José Balbao Pottery, Guadix

This morning we journey west to visit Almagruz and Guadix, located within the Granada Geopark which was declared a World Geopark by UNESCO in 2020. Our journey takes us through the Sierra de Huétor whose mountainous area features dramatic geological features characteristic of limestone areas, with narrow ravines, steep cliffs and springs. Almagruz and Guadix, which lie on a high plain at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, are located in a strange, heavily eroded landscape likened by some to Göreme in Turkey, and have similar troglodyte dwellings. In Guadix, over two thousand caves, hewn over centuries from the bizarrely shaped countryside, form the biggest concentration of inhabited caves in Europe.

We begin with a visit to the Almagruz Troglodyte Interpretation Centre where we learn how, for centuries, the inhabitants of the area used the steep slopes of the badlands to dig out their dwellings, taking advantage of a temperature that is practically constant in the different seasons of the year. In both Almagruz and Guadix we also visit private cave dwellings, and learn about the diversity of troglodyte constructions which, from medieval times, included not only domestic dwellings but also watch towers, granaries and dovecotes.

While in Guadix we also take a walking tour of the old town, visiting the Cathedral which was built between the 16th and 18th centuries in a mixture of Gothic, Renaissance and Gothic styles; and make a special visit to the pottery workshop of José Balbao Félix Balboa. Here we may view his traditional pieces which are characteristic of the Guadix region – distinguished by their very reddish colour which is typical of the clay in the area.

In the late afternoon we journey north to the UNESCO World Heritage listed city of Baeza. (Overnight Baeza) B

Day 14: Monday 6 October, Baeza – Puente del Obispo – Baeza

- Walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage listed city of Baeza incl. the Cathedral, historic university and Romanesque Church of Santa Cruz
- Museo de la cultura del Olivo & Olive oil tasting Hacienda La Laguna, Puente del Obispo

This morning we explore the small city of Baeza. Baeza and its twin, Úbeda, arguably have the best preserved examples of Renaissance urban planning and architecture in Spain. Located on a Roman road to eastern Spain, these two cities rose to prominence during the Muslim period. They were captured by Ferdinand III in 1234 who settled a number of aristocratic families here, making them Christian bastions

against the Nasrid kingdom of Granada. The towns experienced great prosperity again in the 16th century through agriculture and the production of textiles and it is from this period that most of their finest palaces and churches derive. We shall walk through Baeza's historic university which was founded in 1538; view the magnificent Isabelline Gothic façade of the Palacio de Jabalquinto (sometimes also known as the Palacio de los Condes-Duques de Benavente); and visit the cathedral, built between the 13th and 16th centuries. We also view the small, 13th-century Church of Santa Cruz which is considered a very rare example of Romanesque architecture in Andalucía.

The Olive Grove Landscapes of Andalucía, a designated cultural landscape, is among the contenders to receive protected status from the United Nations at UNESCO's July 2024 meeting. Andalucía is one of the main locations where olive trees are grown extensively. The Romans consumed olives and olive oil from the province of *Hispania Baetica* (roughly corresponding to modern Andalucía) on a large scale, and helped improve the techniques for cultivation and transportation. It is estimated that during this period *Hispania* exported more than 30 million vessels of olive oil, with thousands of them being sent to Rome. Today, in the province of Jaén, olive trees occupy nearly 600,000 hectares. This sea of 70 million olive trees is the biggest tree plantation in Europe. The region produces 43% of Spain's olive oil and 28% of the world's supply.

Following some time at leisure for lunch we journey 8kms from Baeza to Puente del Obispo where we visit The Museum of the Culture of the Olive Tree. Here we may view models of old oil mills demonstrating the process of oil production: grinding, pressing and decantation. There is also a garden containing different varieties of olive trees and a winery. We also enjoy an olive oil tasting at the Hacienda La Laguna.

(Overnight Baeza) B

Córdoba - 3 nights

Day 15: Tuesday 7 October, Baeza – Úbeda – Córdoba

- Walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city of Úbeda including the Chapel of San Salvador
- Sinagoga del Agua, Úbeda
- Ubedíes Artesanía con Esparto
- Late afternoon walking tour of Córdoba Patios including the patios of the Palacio de Viana

This morning we depart Baeza for Úbeda where we take a walking tour through the city's historic quarter visiting the Holy Chapel of San Salvador. It is rare in Spain to find a church built during a short period in a unified style without a large number of later accretions. Such is Úbeda's Chapel of San Salvador, particularly the interior, whose decoration and furnishings have altered little since its construction. We also visit the medieval Sinagoga del Agua (Water Synagogue), discovered by chance during renovation works in 2006. The complex includes the rabbi's house, women's gallery, a bodega with giant storage vessels, and a *miqvé* (ritual bath).

Úbeda has one of the largest and most varied concentrations of artisan workshops in Andalucía. Many of the traditional techniques used by artisans include Arab, Mudéjar and Renaissance influences. For example, Úbeda's pottery, which is identified by its intensive olive green colour, is cooked in traditional Arabic wood-fired ovens. The production of crafts made from esparto grass, a vegetable fibre known as *ubedíes* dates to the 11th century. By special appointment we visit the workshop of Pedro Antonio and Jesús Blanco who are sixth generation esparto artisans. Here we learn about traditional esparto weaving and view their products which include mats, baskets and the renowned *ubedíes* rugs.

Following some time at leisure for lunch we drive to Córdoba, capital of the great Caliphate of Córdoba, the earliest Muslim State in Spain (712-1031). This city has some of the loveliest small urban gardens in Spain, located in the courtyards of old Córdoba houses. Some of these houses are very, very old; everywhere in the ancient city fragments of Muslim dwellings built before the end of the 11th century can be found. On arrival in Córdoba we begin our exploration of these the patios with a visit to the Palacio de Viana. Located on the northern edge of the old town, this traditional Andalusian mansion features twelve patios covering the Renaissance and Baroque periods with fountains, formal parterres, citrus trees, date palms and roses with a profusion of pots, pebbled floors and elegant arches. (Overnight Córdoba) B

Day 16: Wednesday 8 October, Córdoba

- Synagogue, Córdoba
- Great Mosque, Córdoba
- Museo Arqueológico

After breakfast at our hotel located in the Jewish Quarter (*Judería*) of the city, we visit Córdoba's delightful small synagogue. The Jews arrived in Córdoba before the Muslims and almost immediately made it a centre of learning. They established the Jewish Quarter after the city had become the capital of Muslim Spain. Its 14th-century synagogue is one of three surviving medieval synagogues in Spain. It has a women's gallery, and the upper reaches of its walls are in the *Mudéjar* stucco style, with Hebrew inscriptions. These stuccoes, like those of many mosques, alternate geometrical and vegetal motifs.

We continue with a visit to the Great Mosque of Córdoba. The mosque (c.786-986), one of the earliest and finest still standing, was constructed by successive members of the Umayyad dynasty. Its outer façades boast exquisite geometrical and floral patterns set in the *tympaña* of horseshoe arches and in panels above them. Within the prayer hall is a forest of columns supporting superimposed tiers of polychrome arches thought to have been modelled upon the Roman aqueduct at Mérida. The *mihrab* (prayer niche) is adorned with exquisite abstract designs in mosaic executed by a school of Byzantine mosaicists from Constantinople. These mosaics, and those of the domes above the *mihrab*, give meaning to Allah's prescription to the prophet concerning images: that they should act as a simile to nature, not an abstraction of it; and that they should convey by their delicacy the notion that nothing material has meaning or permanence. The mosque is punctured by a huge cathedral; its minaret became the cathedral bell tower.

This afternoon we visit Córdoba's Archaeological Museum which contains a diverse collection of artefacts dating from the prehistoric period to the 18th century. Highlights of the collection include Roman mosaics, Islamic ceramics and Visigothic goldwork. The Roman mosaics, which are considered to be some of the finest in Spain, were excavated from the nearby Roman city of Colonia Patricia, founded in the 2nd century BC. In the basement lies the remains of the city's Roman theatre. (Overnight Córdoba) B

Day 17: Thursday 9 October, Córdoba

- Medina Azahara – Conjunto Arqueológico Madinat al-Zahra
- Afternoon at leisure
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant

This morning we visit the ruins of Madinat al-Zahra', the palace complex of 'Abd al-Rahman III and his son al-Hakam II. 'Abd al-Rahman was the first Umayyad to take the title 'caliph' and he built the magnificent palace of Madinat al-Zahra' as the architectural expression of his dynasty's power and wealth. It was started in 936 and finally finished in 986. In style, orientation and structure it resembled contemporary and earlier Middle Eastern palace complexes: the 'Abbasid complexes in Iraq and the Fatimid complex in Cairo. When

the Umayyad state fragmented in the early 11th century, Madinat al-Zahra' was looted systematically and destroyed.

Following an afternoon at leisure we enjoy a Farewell Meal at a local restaurant. (Overnight Córdoba) BD

Day 18: Friday 10 October, tour ends, Córdoba

- Tour concludes in the morning
- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Córdoba after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance. **Note:** there is a high-speed train (bullet train run by AVE) from Córdoba to Madrid. This scenic journey of 318km travels takes just under two hours. B

Accommodation

All hotels are rated 4-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All rooms include en suite bathroom.

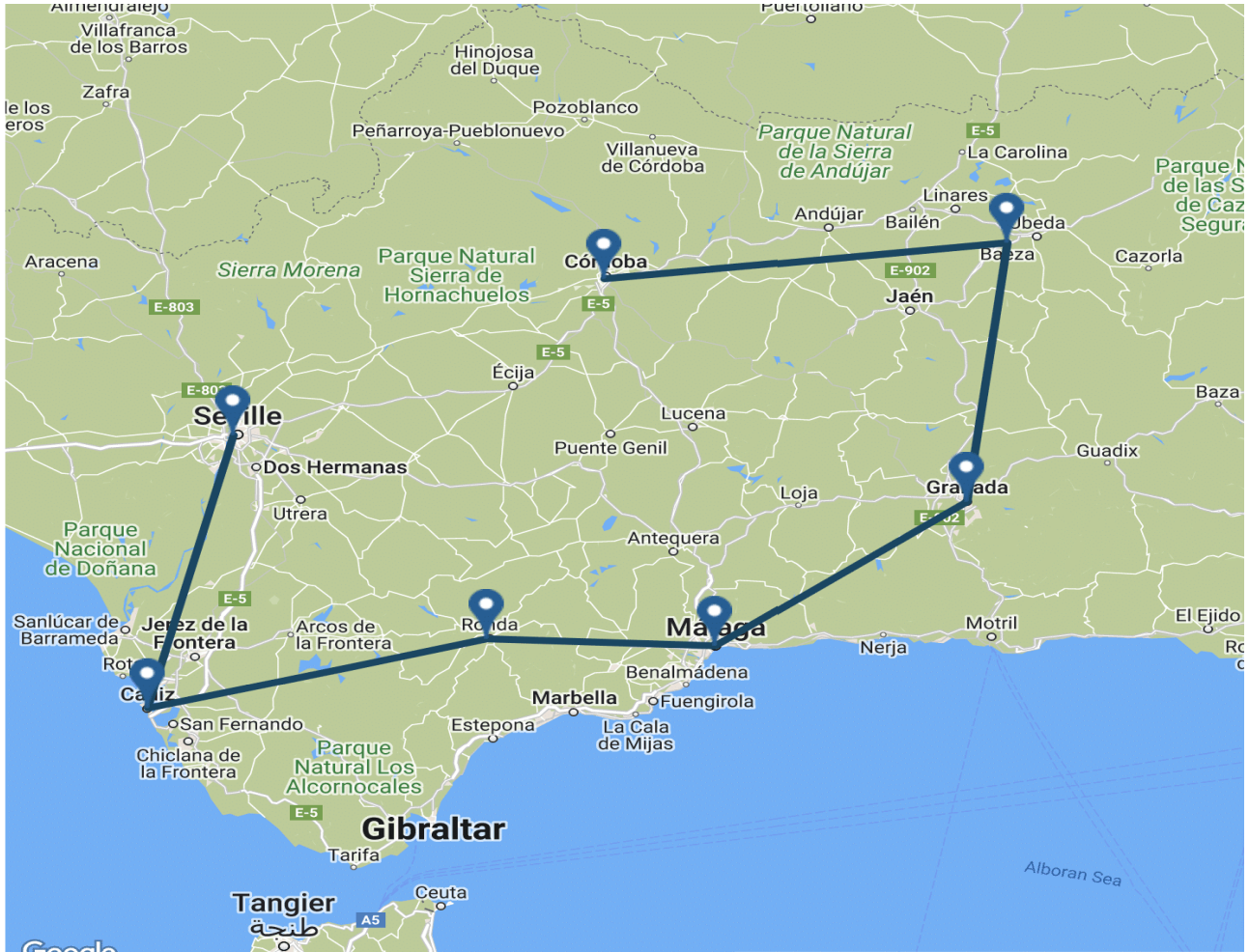
- Seville (3 nights): 4-star [Hotel Inglaterra](#) – situated 250 metres from the Cathedral, overlooking the Plaza Nueva. As Seville's most prestigious establishment in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it received visits from illustrious people of the time, including King Alfonso XIII, Queen Elizabeth of Belgium and the Prince of Wales.
- Cádiz (2 nights): 4-star [Senator Cadiz Spa Hotel](#) – located in the historic centre, 450m from the Cathedral de la Santa Cruz, and housed in a former mansion.
- Ronda (2 nights): 4-star [Parador de Ronda](#) – housed in the former 18th-century city hall, located in the historical centre, alongside the Tagus River, next to the Puente Nuevo and the bullring. Ernest Hemingway lived and wrote here. His famous novel, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, tells of the atrocities committed here during the Spanish civil war.
- Málaga (2 nights): 4-star [Hotel Molina Lario](#) – housed in two refurbished 19th century buildings; and located opposite the Cathedral and a short distance from the port and the Picasso Museum.
- Granada (3 nights): 4-star [Hotel NH Collection Granada Victoria](#) – charming hotel in a historic building close to the Cathedral and Alhambra Palace.
- Baeza (2 nights): 4-star [Cetina Hotel Palacio de los Salcedos](#) – a charming boutique hotel in a former 16th-century Renaissance-Gothic palace.
- Córdoba (3 nights): 4-star [Hotel Las Casas de la Judería](#) – ideally located on the edge of Córdoba's historic Judería (Jewish Quarter) and just 200 metres from Cordoba's Mosque-Cathedral, the hotel occupies five beautifully converted ancient noble houses set around a series of Renaissance and Mudéjar-style patios with trickling fountains.

Note: *hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single occupancy throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$14,790.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 September 2024

AUD \$14,990.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2720.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4-star hotels
- Breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Portage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour notes
- Light refreshments as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Seville, Córdoba-Australia
- Airport transfers
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)



Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level 

Level 2 - Intermediate

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to six hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace to explore towns extensively on foot. Some days include walking tours of at least 5-7kms. Many walks include uneven terrain, cobbled streets and steep ascents/descents (eg. Ronda, Granada & Antequera).
- keep up with the group at all times.
- negotiate challenging historic monuments, archaeological sites and prehistoric caves which may include poor lighting, low ceilings, steep stairs or uneven terrain.
- stand for one to two hours during visits to galleries and museums without the need to sit.
- contend with a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.
- cope with tour schedule which is planned around the siesta (midday break):
 - Length of days: Regional museums are often closed between 1 and 4pm; many days therefore include early-morning departures (between 8.00-8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (between 5.30-6.30pm).
 - Late meal times: lunch is usually between 1 and 2pm. Evening meals are generally not served until 8-8.30pm.

Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.



Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____
TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other _____
FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____
MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____
POSTAL ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____
TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____
EMAIL address _____
Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

Passport Number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____ / ____ Nationality _____
☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Covid Certificate ☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

Travel Plans

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date ____ / ____ / ____
☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy
I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products
☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts
☐ Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____
Address _____
TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____
EMAIL address _____

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel: 1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? ☐ ☐

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine? ☐ ☐

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic? ☐ ☐
- Are you insulin dependent? ☐ ☐
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? ☐ ☐
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
 - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of \$1000.00 is non-refundable.**

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

**\$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form ☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

Tour / Course Name _____

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel ☐ Tour Deposit
- ☐ Balance of Payment ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- ☐ Travel Insurance ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code ANZBAU3M
BSB 013-423
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended _____

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) _____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

Postcode _____

State _____

Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature _____