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Great Monuments and Gardens of Spain 2024

7 MAY – 26 MAY 2024

Code: 22409

Tour Leaders Anneli Bojstad, John Patrick

Physical Ratings

Garden Designer John Patrick and Anneli Bojstad, art historian and author of 'Great Gardens of Spain', share a feast of splendid gardens & great monuments from Seville to Old Castile, north of Madrid.

Overview

This tour, led by art historian Anneli Bojstad, and garden designer, John Patrick, visits splendid gardens and great monuments from the Mediterranean coast to Old Castile.

- Visit a number of the country's greatest monuments: Seville's magnificent Alcázar and Cathedral, Córdoba's Great Mosque, Ronda's Puente Nuevo, Granada's Alhambra and Segovia's Alcázar, La Granja de San Ildefonso, and Roman aqueduct.
- View Spain's finest hidden gardens hosted by their owners including: El Romeral de San Marcos in Segovia, designed by landscape designer Leandro Silva; an outstanding Mediterranean classical garden outside Málaga; and a romantic oasis garden in the outskirts of Madrid; and the gardens of a 16th-century private palace in Ronda.
- In Seville visit the Museo de Bellas Artes considered one of the best fine arts museums in Spain.
- Discover Córdoba's delightful, hidden, Islamic-style courtyard gardens during the Festival de los Patios.
- Tour Málaga's historic La Concepción garden and visit the Centre Pompidou and Picasso Museum.
- Talented design duo Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner show us an exciting new garden near the walled city of Ávila.
- With a naturalist, explore the Monfragüe National Park, an outstanding site for the Eurasian Black and Griffon vultures, as well as the Spanish Imperial, Golden and Bonelli eagles.
- Meet famed Spanish landscape designer Eduardo Mencos, author of *Hidden Gardens of Spain*. Eduardo and Anneli will show us their landscaped working farm 'La Lancha', in Extremadura.
- View the work of 17th-century masters including Velázquez and Goya, as well as German and Italian masterpieces, in the Museo del Prado.
- 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 organic family farm near Toledo; and an Andalusian *cortijo* (country estate) with a lush semi-tropical garden.
- Enjoy an evening reception at a private palace in Segovia with magical views of the Roman aqueduct from the garden.

Overnight Seville (3 nights) • Córdoba (2 nights) • Ronda (1 night) • Málaga (1 night) • Granada (3 nights) • Toledo (2 nights) • Jarandilla de la Vera (2 nights) • Segovia (2 nights) • Madrid (3 nights).

Testimonial

This was the best tour I have ever done! The destinations on the itinerary were well-selected; the hotels were excellent. Our tour leaders were exceptional. Their knowledge, professionalism, enthusiasm and personal skills were outstanding – they made the tour the success it was. This was a rich and diverse tour, a wonderful experience overall. Lyn, VIC.

Stephan Ryan's visit to two Contemporary Spanish gardens during ASA's tour in 2023.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REXicl_GkI0

Leaders

Anneli Bojstad

Anneli has hosted ASA groups for 10 years with husband, landscape designer Eduardo Mencos. Author of 'Great Gardens of Spain', she has curated exhibitions including 'Jardines del Alma' in the Real Jardín Botánico.

Anneli Bojstad has lived and worked in Spain for the past 31 years. She gained her BA in Art History at Stockholm University and a MA in Hispanic Studies at Complutense University, Madrid. 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*. In 2002, she curated the exhibition 'Jardines del Alma' in Madrid's Real Jardín Botánico (Royal Botanical Garden). Anneli also worked for over 10 years for the landscape architecture practice, Estudio Eduardo Mencos. Anneli first joined ASA as a lecturer in 2008.

John Patrick

Garden designer, prolific author, radio and former TV presenter for ABC's 'Gardening Australia'. John founded the Australian Open Garden Scheme. He initiated ASA's garden tours and has led over 50 tours to Europe, Asia & the USA since 2003.

John Patrick will be familiar to many for his work on radio and television presenting programs relating to gardens, their plants and their history. Until recently, he was a presenter on ABC's television series *Gardening Australia*. John has also written extensively on gardens throughout the world, including articles in *Vogue Living* and *The Australian Garden Journal*. He has written thirteen books as diverse as *Trees for Town and City Gardens* and *A Brief Biography of Robert Sweet*. John has lectured widely in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand and has worked as a judge and consultant to garden shows and events. In 1985 he organised the opening of gardens for Victoria's Sesquicentenary which led to his involvement in the founding of what is now Australia's Open Garden Scheme. His knowledge of European history allows him to place garden history in a special context, one that reflects the social milieu in which gardens were created. His encyclopaedic knowledge of plants will give garden visits a special appeal and permit a greater appreciation of the particular environment and conditions of the garden. John has led ASA tours to New Zealand, the USA, South Africa, China, Japan, Bhutan, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France and Britain. He is an enthusiastic traveller with a special interest in the food and culture of countries he visits.

Combine this tour with

The Scottish Highlands: Great Country Houses, Castles & Gardens 2024
27 MAY – 10 JUN 2024

Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens, heritage sites, museums and other 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 7 May, Arrive Seville

- Tour commences at 4pm in the foyer of the Hotel Inglaterra
- Welcome Meeting & short orientation walk
- Welcome Dinner at a private 17-century palace

Meeting Point: The tour commences at 6pm in the foyer of the Hotel Inglaterra situated 250 metres from the Cathedral, overlooking the Plaza Nueva. We commence the tour with a short Welcome Meeting which will be followed by an orientation stroll through the city.

This evening we also 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.

Seville gained great importance and prosperity in the 12th century when the Almohad dynasty of North African Berbers made it the capital of Muslim Spain (*al Andalus*); and again in the 16th century, when it became the Spanish entrepôt for silver and tobacco 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. (Overnight Seville) D

Day 2: Wednesday 8 May, Seville

- Santa Cruz Quarter and the Hospital de los Venerables (Fundación Focus)
- Royal Alcázar of Seville
- Cathedral of Seville

This morning we 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 one of Seville's many charitable institutions, this is now a cultural centre. Of particular interest is its sunken courtyard, which is a fascinating fusion of a convent-cloister and a patio, a central court so characteristic of Spanish secular architecture. Arcaded galleries supporting the upper levels of the house surround this courtyard. Its design is a pleasant interplay of spaces of square and curved plan.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we visit Seville's Alcázar, a fine Muslim palace built, not by the Islamic city's Almohad dynasty, but by the Christian king, Pedro the Cruel, in the 14th century. This palace, its courtyards lined with fine stucco reliefs and coloured tiles, speaks of the cultural ambivalence of the Christian invaders who emulated the tastes of the vanquished Islamic princes. The Alcázar echoes the Alhambra (Granada) in its richness, and was, in fact, built in conscious imitation of that great group of mansions. The complex grew beyond Pedro's original palace and eventually included, for example, the Oratory of the Catholic Monarchs, with splendid early 16th-century polychrome tiles, a fine garden with a subterranean bath, and rooms in which expeditions to South America were planned. Appended to the palace is one of Spain's greatest and most interesting gardens. These began as a typical Almohad 'paradise' garden, and although little remains of the original because of successive plantings by Christian monarchs (especially in the 19th and 20th centuries), much of the *Mudéjar* architecture (pavilions), the lovely discrete walled gardens near the palace, the ubiquitous pools and gently bubbling fountains, all reflect Spain's cultural debt to the Muslims. *Magnolia grandiflora*, pittorosporum, palms, peaches, 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 colonies.

We then walk to 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 and the tomb of Christopher Columbus. (Overnight Hotel Inglaterra, Seville) B

Day 3: Thursday 9 May, Seville

- Museum of Fine Arts
- Casa de Pilatos

This morning we visit the Museum of Fine Arts of Seville, a large museum of Andalucian art which was refurbished for Expo '92. The museum is located in the former convent of the Merced Calzada whose architecture exemplifies Andalucian 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.

Unlike their Parisian counterparts in that city's aristocratic district, the Marais, 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. This afternoon 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. The walls that enclose the gardens and their *loggias* are covered with brilliantly coloured bougainvillea and wisteria. Paths with yellow sand, also used in the bullrings of southern Spain, add yet more colour. Mature palms and figs give the gardens ample shade. (Overnight Seville) B

Córdoba - 2 nights

Day 4: Friday 10 May, Seville – Peñaflor – Palma del Río – Córdoba

- Private garden, Peñaflor
- Lunch at the Monasterio de San Francisco, Palma del Río
- Evening walking tour of the Patios of the Zona Alcazar Viejo, San Basilio District of Córdoba

Today we drive from Seville to Córdoba, capital of the great Caliphate of Córdoba, the earliest Muslim State in Spain (712-1031). Our first visit is a private garden in the small town of Peñaflor. Originally an orange grove adjacent to a farm house and barns, the garden was laid out in the 50's by the present owners' father following the traditional style of the Andalusian gardens with green hedges creating different garden rooms, water features and lush subtropical vegetation, communicating with the old buildings through a network of lovely patios. Nearby, we enjoy lunch at the Restaurante Monasterio de San Francisco, a religious foundation founded by the seventh Lord of Palma in the late 15th century.

Our visit to Córdoba has been planned to coincide with the Córdoba Patio Festival. This city has some of the loveliest small urban gardens in Spain, located in the courtyards of old Córdoban 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. Even if houses were constructed later, they follow earlier plans because their foundations (and many of their cellars) are the walls of older houses. Once a year, Córdoba opens its patios in an Andalucian version of our open garden scheme; prizes are given to the best exhibits. Many of the previous prize-winners are in the San Basilio district of the city near our hotel. (Overnight Córdoba) BL

Day 5: Saturday 11 May, Córdoba

- Synagogue, Córdoba
- Great Mosque, Córdoba
- Time at leisure
- Late afternoon walking tour of Córdoba Patios including the patios of the Palacio de Viana

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 Ummayad dynasty. Its outer façades boast exquisite geometrical and floral patterns set in the *tympana* 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.

Following some time at leisure, we continue to explore the patios of Córdoba including 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

Ronda - 1 night

Day 6: Sunday 12 May, Córdoba – Ronda

- Puente Nuevo, Ronda
- Bullring, Ronda
- Alameda del Tajo, Ronda

This morning we depart early for the magnificent Andalusian 'white town' of Ronda, 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 Guadelvin 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.

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 1794. 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 in the *Mercedillo*.

We will conclude our afternoon visit of Ronda with a stroll through the picturesque Alameda del Tajo, surrounded by lush gardens and scenic vistas, appreciating the tranquil beauty of this remarkable spot.

Tonight we dine together in the restaurant of the Parador de Ronda, which serves Andalusian specialties and fresh local produce. (Overnight Ronda) BD

Málaga - 1 night

Day 7: Monday 13 May, Ronda – Málaga

- Exclusive visit at private palace, Ronda (by special appointment)
- Visit and lunch at a private country house hosted by the owners, province of Málaga
- Centre Pompidou

This morning 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 Catolicos. 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.

We then 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 Andalucian and Catalan specialties.

We arrive in Málaga in the afternoon and visit a branch of Paris' famous Pompidou Centre, which opened on Málaga's waterfront in 2015. Housed in an extraordinary post-modernist coloured glass cube, the Centre, like its Parisian parent, has a collection of 20th century art, including works by Robert Delauney, Vassily Kandinsky, Fernand Léger, René Magritte and Frida Kahlo, and also holds interesting temporary exhibitions.

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. (Overnight Málaga) BL

Granada - 3 nights

Day 8: Tuesday 14 May, Málaga – Granada

- Walking tour of Málaga

- Picasso Museum
- Visit and lunch at a private Andalusian farmhouse hosted by the owners, Málaga
- Historical-Botanical Garden La Concepción, Málaga

We spend the morning visiting key sites in Málaga including the Renaissance Cathedral with its fine Baroque façade, the remains of the Roman theatre and the exterior of Málaga's Alcázar (citadel).

We also 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.

We then drive south of the city to a traditional Andalusian *cortijo* (country estate), owned by one of Spain's most well known literary families. The estate features a lush subtropical garden with an outstanding *Phytolacca dioica* tree and an alley of Pecan trees. Following a tour of the garden, we enjoy a sumptuous lunch of local specialities hosted by the owners and learn about the estate's literary history.

Nearby we visit Málaga's La Concepción garden, begun in 1889 by Thomas Livermore, who was the British consul in this city. La Concepción, which at one point commands views down over the city, is an important example of a Mediterranean coastal garden.

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 will encounter along this road. (Overnight Granada) BL

Day 9: Wednesday 15 May, 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 paradisal, 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, inspired by the Generalife, 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 10: Thursday 16 May, 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 shall 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

Toledo - 2 nights

Day 11: Friday 17 May, Granada – Almagro – Toledo

- Lunch at leisure in Almagro and short visit to Corral de Comedias

Today we drive north, through the Sierra Morena, into the vast, arid plain of La Mancha, famed for its association with *Don Quixote*, and for its dry wine and *Manchego* cheese. After stopping in Almagro for lunch and a short visit to the Corral de Comedias, a 17th-century theatre, we travel to Toledo via Consuegra and its iconic windmills. Toledo, located on a promontory created by a bend in the River Tagus or *Tajo*, is another Spanish city with a multi-layered past. Inhabited at least from Roman times onwards, Toledo (*Toletum*) was a provincial town until the Visigothic period when it became an important ecclesiastical centre, and in the mid-6th century AD, the Visigothic capital. Visigothic Toledo was dominated by its castle, and although it is long gone, the Alcázar, its successor, stands on its original site.

Toledo was conquered by Arabo-Berber armies in 712 AD and became part of the Umayyad state of Córdoba. The inhabitants of the city regularly revolted against their Umayyad masters and in the early 11th century when the Umayyad Caliphate collapsed, Toledo, like many other cities, became the seat of a *Ta'ifa* (petty) kingdom. During this period, Toledo became the centre of the Mozarabic Church, whose Visigothic rituals and liturgy were deeply influenced by Muslim culture. It also played an important cultural role in transmitting the rich syncretic literary and scientific heritage of *al-Andalus* to the Christian north of the Iberian peninsula and on to northern Europe. Toledo was captured by Alfonso VI of Castile in 1085 and was thus one of the first major Muslim cities to fall to the Christians.

Culturally, however, Toledo remained 'Islamic' for centuries after the imposition of Christian rule. Large Muslim and Jewish subject communities remained, and they were employed by their new Castilian rulers to emulate earlier Muslim art and architecture, creating a distinctively Toledan *Mudéjar* style. This style is a blend of Roman, Visigothic, Umayyad and later Almohad styles characterised by decorative screenwork realised in brick on the exteriors of churches and bell towers. Toledan *Mudéjar* can also be found in the former synagogues of the *Judería* (ghetto), Santa Maria la Blanca and El Tránsito, which contain stuccowork decoration that mimics Almohad and Nasrid styles respectively. The cathedral, built on the site of the great mosque, also bears many traces of Toledo's multi-cultural character, whilst the narrow twisting streets of the old city and its absence of open squares and public spaces perpetuate Muslim urban-planning. (Overnight Toledo) B

Day 12: Saturday 18 May, Toledo

- Museo El Greco
- Santo Tomé Church

- Cathedral
- Afternoon at leisure

This morning we start our program with a visit to Museo El Greco. This museum displays a great collection of the painter's works, including several of his portraits of apostles and saints, as well as the *View and Plan of Toledo*. We then walk to the nearby Santo Tomé Church, home to El Greco's famous *The Burial of Count Orgaz* (c.1586).

Our morning tour of this splendid city ends with a visit to Toledo's Cathedral, a Gothic cathedral modelled upon Bourges Cathedral in France. Its construction began two centuries after Toledo's capture by Alfonso VI of Castile in 1085, and until then the Christians worshipped in the re-dedicated great mosque of the city. In the 14th century the great mosque was finally torn down and a Gothic cathedral constructed on its foundations. Later monarchs and state dignitaries embellished the cathedral by the addition of a rich choir, decorated with reliefs recounting the conquest of Granada, and sumptuous chapels. We shall look at both the exterior and interior of the cathedral, noting in particular the opulent *retablo mayor*, the choir and the lateral chapels.

The Cathedral Museum holds a range of works by El Greco, Titian, Zurbarán, and Ribera, and the Almohad banners captured by the Castilians at the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa in 1212. In the Treasury we shall see an illuminated manuscript given by St Louis of France to Alfonso X and a massive Gothic gold monstrance in the shape of the intricate flèche of a cathedral.

The afternoon is at leisure for you to explore this splendid city and you may wish to visit the nearby Franciscan monastery of San Juan de los Reyes, originally intended, before the capture of Granada, as the mausoleum of Ferdinand of Aragón and Isabella of Castile. The mausoleum church itself will remind you of the Capilla Real in Granada. (Overnight Toledo) B

Jarandilla de la Vera - 2 nights

Day 13: Sunday 19 May, Toledo – Jarandilla de la Vera

- Museo Sefardí
- Synagogue of Santa María La Blanca
- Visit and lunch at a private organic farm hosted by the owners, Toledo province

This morning we visit the two former Mudéjar synagogues of El Tránsito and Santa María la Blanca. El Tránsito is a 14th-century structure with stucco panels of a similar style to those in the Alcázar of Seville and the Alhambra. It also houses a small museum that catalogues the Jewish presence in Spain. Santa María la Blanca is a 13th-century building which bears a strong similarity to contemporary Almohad architecture further south.

From Toledo in Castile, we head to the western frontier region of Extremadura, famous for its conquistadors like Francisco Pizarro, who conquered much of South America. We travel through an area of undulating hills where traditionally the noble Trujillanos had their olive groves and vines producing oil and wine for their own consumption. Today the region of Extremadura produces approximately 3.3% of the total olive oil produced in Spain. The types of olives that are cultivated in this region for the production of oil include *Cornicabra*, *Carrasqueña* and *Morisca*.

We visit an organic farm that specialises in free-range livestock (sheep and cattle), fresh produce, and specialty products such as extra virgin olive oil, sheep and goat cheeses, and organic wheat products. We

shall take a tour of the property and enjoy a lunch of fresh seasonal produce and homemade treats hosted by the owners.

Tonight we stay at the countryside Parador of Jarandilla de la Vera. Housed in a 14th-century castle, this parador retains many historic features including Gothic galleries, a fireplace specially built for Emperor Charles V, and an ancient garden featuring a fountain famous for bringing good fortune. (Overnight Jarandilla de la Vera) BL

Day 14: Monday 20 May, Jarandilla de la Vera – Monfragüe National Park – Jarandilla de la Vera

- Monfragüe National Park
- Visit and lunch at 'La Lancha' – private farm of Eduardo Mencos & Anneli Bojstad, Jarandilla de la Vera

This morning we explore Monfragüe National Park, a UNESCO listed Biosphere Reserve. Accompanied by a local naturalist, we shall study the many species of Mediterranean plants and trees, and visit a number of observation blinds located along the course of the river Tagus in order to view (with the aid of telescopes) the park's magnificent variety of birds of prey. Monfragüe is an outstanding site for raptors, with more than 15 regular breeding species, including the world's largest breeding concentration of the Eurasian Black Vulture, a large population of Griffon Vultures, and several pairs of Spanish Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle and Bonelli's Eagle. During our tour we shall also view a number of the park's geological and cultural landmarks including the 'Bridge of the Cardinal' the ruined Castle of Monfragüe; and the Penafalcon, an impressive rock face carved by the river Tagus.

Famed Spanish landscape designer, writer and photographer Eduardo Mencos considers the Spanish countryside to be this great 'maestro' and source of inspiration. On the grounds of his 30-hectare country farm 'La Lancha', Eduardo has produced his version of an 18th-century 'ornamental farm' – a landscaped working farm with decorative features such as arbours, antique wells, water reservoirs, ruins. You won't see a single wire or a water deposit (they are hidden underground). Here Eduardo and Anneli grow organic olives and breed Merino sheep, which roam free around the property. Following a leisurely lunch, we tour the farm and learn about Eduardo's work and passion for the gardens of his native Spain. (Overnight Jarandilla de la Vera) BL

Segovia - 2 nights

Day 15: Tuesday 21 May, Jarandilla de la Vera – Ávila – Segovia

- Visit and lunch at private garden by landscaping and garden design studio Urquijo-Kastner, Ávila
- Romeral de San Marcos, Segovia

Near the walled city of Ávila, we visit a newly established garden by talented design duo Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner. Miguel fell in love with gardening in England while studying biology at the University of Buckingham in the 1980s. Renate has a Master's Degree from the Technical University Munich/Weihenstephan, Germany's premier school of Landscape Architecture. Their Ávila garden is particularly interesting for their successful cultivation of the olive tree, a traditional Mediterranean plant, in an area subjected to a harsh continental climate of cold winters and scorching summers. In this rugged landscape, they have planted over 40 olives trees, the owner's favourite, along with cypresses, giving a distinctly Mediterranean character to the garden. Carefully worked stone walls create terraces and make up the main structure, while Mediterranean shrubs and perennials provide seasonal interest.

In the afternoon we drive to Segovia, where we visit the beautiful Romeral de San Marcos, situated below limestone shelves on the Eresma river at the foot of Segovia's great castle. The famous landscape architect, Leandro Silva, created this intimate half-acre garden to echo the paradisal feel of an old Segovian *huerta* (orchard or market garden). Its sheltered position creates a microclimate that protects a wide variety of plants that would not normally prosper in the tough Segovian climate. At times, this small garden bursts into colour provided by a feast of different flowers.

We then check in to our hotel ideally located in the centre of Segovia. (Overnight Segovia) BL

Day 16: Wednesday 22 May, Segovia

- Walking tour of Segovia including Segovia's Alcázar
- Evening reception at a private palace overlooking Segovia's Roman aqueduct
- Dinner at Mesón de Cándido Restaurant, Segovia

We spend the morning exploring Segovia, a city settled since Roman times. During the early Islamic period, Segovia stood in the marches between the Kingdom of the Asturias and Umayyad Córdoba and may have been temporarily deserted. In the 10th century, the Umayyad caliphs constructed a frontier fortress here. Segovia subsequently became part of the *Ta'ifa* kingdom of Toledo, and Castilian after the fall of Toledo. In the 14th and 15th centuries, the Muslim fortress was rebuilt as a Christian castle and in the 16th century, a Gothic cathedral with unusual Classical domes was constructed. Segovia's Roman aqueduct, a remarkable dry-stone structure, was partially destroyed in the Middle Ages and rebuilt by Isabella of Castile in the 15th century.

This evening we enjoy exclusive access to a private palace overlooking Segovia's aqueduct, where we shall be hosted by the owners and enjoy a glass of Sangría in the garden.

We then dine at a Segovia institution, El Mesón de Cándido, to feast on the town's local speciality, roast suckling pig. (Overnight Segovia) BD

Madrid - 3 nights

Day 17: Thursday 23 May, Segovia – Madrid

- The Royal Palace of La Granja de San Ildefonso
- Prado Museum

In the morning we visit the gardens of Royal Palace of La Granja de San Ildefonso. Once a farm run by the Order of Saint Jerome, it was purchased as a summer residence by King Philip V, after he abdicated. The site, with 146 hectares of forests and landscaped grounds, is reminiscent of Versailles not only because of its sumptuous baroque halls but also due to its magnificent gardens, designed by René Carlier, a disciple of Louis XIV's architect.

We then travel to Madrid, where we will spend three days. In the afternoon we visit the Prado Museum. One of the gallery's key collections comprises the works of Hieronymus Bosch and the Flemish School from the collections of Philip II. The extraordinary apocalyptic visions of Bosch were once housed at the Escorial in the Philip II's private apartments, but were stored away during the Enlightenment because they were considered too extreme. It was Goya who revived interest in them. We shall also look at the collections of Dürer, Titian and Rubens before moving on to the works of the Spanish Baroque. Our encounter with works by Velázquez and Zurbarán, El Greco and Goya will explore the strange mix of realism and fantastic

distortion which distinguishes the Spanish tradition. We shall study the grand portrait tradition, works by Velázquez, such as *Las Meninas*, and the extraordinary mystical visions of El Greco. We also trace Goya's development from the early tapestry cartoons through the royal portraits, and horrific visions of the war with the French, to the so-called 'Black Paintings' of his old age. (Overnight Madrid) B

Day 18: Friday 24 May, Madrid

- Patrick Blanc's Vertical Garden, CaixaForum, Madrid
- Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid
- Visit and lunch at private landscaped rose garden near Madrid
- Royal Collections Gallery

We make a brief visit to Madrid's CaixaForum to view an example of Patrick Blanc's vertical gardens. This is not only the first to be installed in Spain but also the largest implemented to date on a façade without gaps, as it has a planted surface area of 460 m2. The vertical garden forms an impressive natural tapestry made up of 15,000 plants of 250 different species that have transformed one of the buildings adjoining the developed area of the CaixaForum Madrid into a surprising garden.

Nearby are the Royal Botanical Gardens, established by Charles III and designed by Francesco Sabatini and Juan de Villanueva, architect of the Prado. It is understandable that the ruler of a great empire in the Americas should be interested in collecting exotic species. Charles III, in fact, financed plant-collecting expeditions to Mexico, Columbia, Peru and Chile. Despite the fact that the garden lost many valuable trees in a tornado in 1886, most of its important exhibits remain. The garden is shaded by large specimens of tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), cork oaks, camphor trees, eucalyptus, olives, European field elms and mulberries, walnuts, nettle trees and crape myrtle, among many others. In 2005 a modern addition designed by well-known Spanish landscape architect Fernando Caruncho, with architect Pablo Carvajal, was commissioned to house the extensive *bonsai* collection of former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González. The new garden called the 'Terraza de los Laureles' consists of an elevated avenue, a central square with a pond and a small greenhouse, and provides a grand panorama of the historic gardens below.

We then visit a landscaped rose garden created as an oasis in the city by its owner, a 'rose expert' and artist specialising in painting botanical motifs on ceramics and porcelain, as well as an exceptional cook. We shall tour the rose beds and enjoy lunch in the gardens.

In the late afternoon, we will explore the newly opened Royal Collections Gallery, housed in an innovative building, showcasing five centuries of the Spanish monarchy's passion for art. (Overnight Madrid) BL

Day 19: Saturday 25 May, Madrid – Guadalajara – Madrid

- El Capricho Park
- Private garden and farewell lunch hosted by Eduardo Mencos' family

This morning we visit El Capricho Park, a remarkably preserved monument to 18th-century taste, created by the Duchess of Osuna. The Capricho has been called 'the essence of a feminine garden' and its design reflected the exquisite taste of the aristocrat. Her main architect was J.P. Mulot, a French gardener who had previously worked for Marie Antoinette, although much of the Madrilenian park is in the English style with simulated landscapes between smaller formal gardens.

We then enjoy a very special highlight of our tour with an exclusive lunch and visit to the private garden of one of Spain's great gardening families. Here we explore how they have changed the arid meseta near the

nation's capital with their distinctive garden. (Overnight Madrid) BL

Day 20: Sunday 26 May, tour ends, Madrid

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

Our tour ends in Madrid after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to the Madrid Airport. B

Accommodation

All hotels are rated 4-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

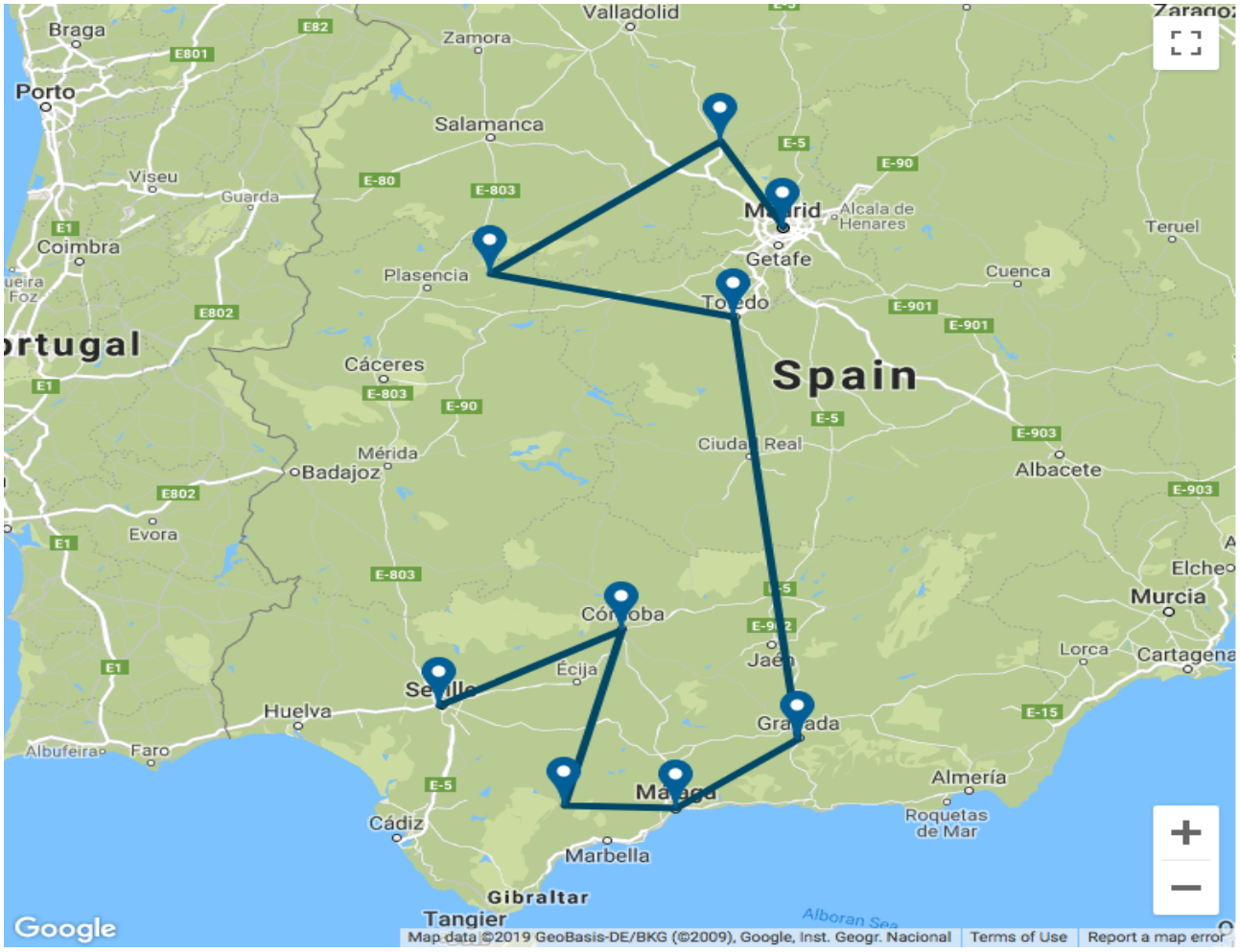
- Seville (3 nights): 4-star Hotel Inglaterra – situated 250 metres from the Cathedral, overlooking the Plaza Nueva. As Seville's most prestigious establishment in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it received visits from illustrious people of the time, including King Alfonso XIII, Queen Elizabeth of Belgium and the Prince of Wales. www.hotelinglaterra.es
- Córdoba (2 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. www.lascasasdelajuderiadecordoba.com
- Ronda (1 night): 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. www.parador.es
- Málaga (1 night): 4-star Hotel Molina Lario – recently renovated hotel housed in two refurbished 19th century buildings and retaining their original façade, located in the centre of Málaga opposite the Cathedral and just a short distance from the port, the Picasso Museum and the city's pedestrian district. www.hotelmolinalario.com
- Granada (3 nights): 4-star Hotel NH Collection Granada Victoria – renovated charming hotel in a central historic building close to the Cathedral and Alhambra Palace. www.nh-hotels.com/hotel
- Toledo (2 nights): 4-star San Juan de los Reyes Hotel – located in the famous Jewish quarter, within easy walking distance of the town's historic monuments. www.hotelsanjuandelosreyes.com/en
- Jarandilla de la Vera (2 nights): 4-star Parador de Jarandilla de la Vera – housed in a 14th-century palace/castle in the countryside of Western Spain (Extremadura). The hotel retains many historic features including Gothic galleries, a fireplace specially built for Emperor Charles V, and an ancient garden featuring a fountain famous for its fortune properties. www.parador.es
- Segovia (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Real Segovia – newly renovated hotel located on a pedestrian street just a short walk from the Roman aqueduct and Segovia's Cathedral. www.hotelrealsegovia.com
- Madrid (3 nights): 5-star Hotel NH Collection Madrid Paseo del Prado – ideally situated just across the street from the Prado, and a short walk from the Reina Sofia and Thyssen museums. www.nh-collection.com

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


Braga
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Coimbra
Plasencia
Madrid
Alcala de Henares
Getafe
Toledo
Teruel
Cuenca
Spain
Cáceres
Mérida
Badajoz
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Evora
Elche
Murcia
Córdoba
Écija
Jaén
Lorca
Cartagena
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Huelva
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Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD $14,190.00 Land Content Only - Early-Bird Special: book before 14 April 2023

AUD $14,390.00 Land Content Only

AUD $2640.00 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
- Porterage 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, Madrid-Australia
- Airport transfers
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)

Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, six to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 20-day tour involves:

- A moderate amount of walking, often up and down hills (e.g. steep inclines in Granada and Ronda) and/or flights of stairs, along cobbled streets and uneven terrain
- Standing during museum and other site visits
- Moderate coach travel, often on minor roads
- Early-morning departures (between 8.00-8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (between 5.30-6.30pm)
- 4-star hotels with seven hotel changes
- You must be able to carry your own hand-luggage. Hotel porterage includes 1 piece of luggage per person
- Evening meals are generally not served until 8-8.30pm.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: 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. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Plant Identification App

During the tour you may wish to consider using a plant identification app. Tim Entwisle, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria suggests "that for a garden tour of Europe that two apps be considered. Download Pl@ntNet for free and use its 'Western Europe' dataset, then consider investing $1.03 for the Flowerchecker+ app, which gives you three free identifications from an expert then 1USD for any subsequent identification. Pl@ntNet is probably the most useful for someone just curious about a few plants along the way but it won't help you with all the garden plants that come from outside Europe (although it does have a couple of other datasets – South America, for example – which might be very useful)." For further information see Tim Entwistle's review at: www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-11/plant-recognition-apps-no-replacement-for-botanists/8251280

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.

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

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

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

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

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products

☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts

☐ Other _____

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 _____

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Medical Information

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?	◯	◯
2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?	◯	◯
3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?	◯	◯
4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?	◯	◯
5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?	◯	◯
6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?	◯	◯
7. Can you administer your own medication?	◯	◯
8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour?	◯	◯

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.

	YES	NO
1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?	◯	◯

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.

	YES	NO
1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances?	◯	◯

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.

	YES	NO
1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour?	◯	◯

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.	◯	◯

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

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

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Payment Form

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

_____

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