



# Your Andalucia

## AROUND ANDALUCIA TOUR

### 10 DAY PRIVATE TOUR ITINERARY

#### Day 1.

We will collect your group from Malaga and take the is a 30-minute drive from Malaga airport to **Mijas Pueblo, which** is one of the most famous 'Pueblos Blancos', (white towns), in Andalucia and is set 500 metres above sea level overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Mijas is a lovely place to ease in to the Andalusian pace of things and also a great place to have lunch. Around 4pm, we will meet in the main plaza of the town and set off on our journey to the city of Cordoba, checking into your hotel in the historic centre of this beautiful city.

We will orientate you and make suggestions of restaurants to have your evening meal then we will leave you to relax in Cordoba.

#### Day 2.

We will collect you after breakfast at 9.30am and carry out our walking tour of the romantic city of **Cordoba** which was the Capital of the Moorish empire of Al-Andalus for almost 300 years. Cordoba was a beacon of light during the troubled medieval times and was a city where peoples of all faiths and backgrounds lived in harmony for a time. The jewel in the crown of Cordoba is of course the incredible World Heritage site of the Mezquita, (the 500 year old Christian Cathedral built inside a 1200 year old Muslim Mosque), but during our morning walking tour you will also have the opportunity to visit other impressive sites such as the 14<sup>th</sup> century Alcazar of the Christian Monarchs, (infamously used as a headquarters of the Spanish Inquisition from 1492), the Royal Stables, (now the home of the famous 'Passion and Spirit' Andalusian Equestrian Stable), the 14<sup>th</sup> century Synagogue, (one of only three medieval Synagogues left in Spain) and the early 15<sup>th</sup> Century Chapel of Saint Bartholomew, (built in the Mudejar style).

We will arrive at the entrance of the Mezquita at around 12 noon and this is where we will meet our Cultural Guide and commence your guided tour of the monument. We will finish the visit to The Mezquita at 1.00pm, just in time for lunch at the best Tapas restaurant in Cordoba, where we can of course guide you and explain the delicacies that are only to be found in Cordoba. After lunch you will have free time to continue

exploring the other highlights of the historic city, such as the Roman Bridge, the Calahorra Tower, the Gateway of Triumph and Saint Raphaels Triumph, (a monument to the Saint Protector of Cordoba).

In the evening we will have arranged tickets so that you can take in the wonderful show by the Andalucian Horses set in the Royal Stables. The show commences at 7.30pm and lasts for around 75 minutes.

### **Day 3.**

We will collect you after breakfast at around 9.00am and drive to our next destination, the iconic town of **Ronda**, spectacularly set high above the Guadalevin gorge with the hills of the Grazelema National Park as its backdrop. We aim to arrive in Ronda around 12 noon, making a stop at Teba castle on the way. We will of course built coffee stops built into the journey.

Ronda is more than just a picture postcard town, it is a place steeped in history, its very name being an adaptation of the name given to the site by the ancient Celts who settled there in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC; **Arunda**. Ronda is also the birthplace of modern-day bull fighting and has beguiled many a famous traveller, (including Orson Welles and Ernest Hemingway, as well as the famous 20<sup>th</sup> century German poet, Rainer Maria Rilke), who were all seduced by the beauty and history of this town. Hemingway is said to have been inspired by the famous Puente Nuevo, (New Bridge), in Ronda when writing his account of Spanish Civil War atrocities in his book, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Ronda is the perfect Andalucian town to explore at your own pace and after arriving and checking into your hotel, we will take the short walk to the historic centre of the town where you will be free to visit the museums and sights and choose one of the many quality restaurants to have lunch.

After lunch, we will meet up again and drive into the mountains to visit 'La Cueva de la Pileta', a natural limestone cave/cavern formed over millions of years, where you will be able to see actual cave paintings produced by Neanderthal man 34,000 years ago. Your visit to the cave system will be most probably planned for 5pm. After our guided visit to the cave, which will take around 60 minutes, we will return to your hotel in Ronda. The evening will be free time for your group.

### **Day 4.**

In the morning we will visit a vineyard on the outskirts of Ronda for your Tour of the Bodega, its vines, production facility and bottling house. You will then be able to sample some of the produce of the Bodega and have lunch on the property.

After lunch we will return to Ronda and you will have free time for your group to further explore Ronda and recharge batteries.

### **Day 5.**

We will collect you after breakfast at 10.00am and drive to the Andalucian Capital of **Seville**, where we will check in to your hotel in the historic centre of the city. Once checked in we will carry out a guided walking tour through the historic centre,

explaining the background to the important World Heritage sites such as the 15<sup>th</sup> century Cathedral, the Royal Alcazar and the General Archive of the Indies, as well as the other iconic sites of this magnificent city.

After our walking tour you will have free time in the evening to relax and dine in one of the many fine restaurants that the Andalucian Capital has to offer.

### **Day 6.**

This morning after breakfast, we will meet up with our Cultural Guide at 9.30am for you visit to and to The Alcazar Real, (The old Moorish Palace that was rebuilt by the Christian King Pedro the Cruel) and The Cathedral of Seville. This guided visit will take three and a half hours.

In the evening, we will have arranged a cooking class for those who wish to attend. This will commence at 5.30pm and the subject will be a Spanish culinary classic – seafood Paella. Anyone who doesn't wish to attend may choose to take a boat trip on the famous river Guadalquivir or just enjoy browsing around the narrow streets of the old Jewish Quarter and The Old Town. In the evening, you will have free time to enjoy the city at your own pace.

### **Day 7.**

We will collect you after breakfast at 8.30am and transfer you to the Historic City of Granada, (the last of the Moorish Emirates in Spain before it surrendered to the Catholic Monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1492) and check in to your hotel in the historic centre of the city. Once settled in you can have lunch and then enjoy free time to relax, shop or browse in this historic city.

In the evening we will arrange a tapas tour which will take approximately two and a half hours. On this tapas tour you will be guided by an English speaking local from Granada.

### **Day 8.**

We will collect you from the hotel at 9.30am and explore the historic city of Granada a little bit further. To commence, we can sample a local tradition of 'churros and chocolate' before continuing our walking tour where you will have the opportunity to visit the 16<sup>th</sup> century Cathedral, The Royal Chapel and Mausoleum of Queen Isabel and King Fernando, (Los Reyes Catolicos, who completed the Christian re-conquest of Spain when they accepted the surrender of Granada in 1492), and The Madraza, (reported to be the oldest seat of higher learning still standing in all of Spain). We will complete the city centre tour around 12pm, in time for a light lunch and at 1pm head to The Alhambra Complex where we will meet up with our Cultural Guide for your tour of the palaces, gardens and fortresses that make up this incredible site.

In the evening, we will transfer you to The Upper Albaycin where you can enjoy an authentic Flamenco Show. After the show, we will accompany you to the viewpoint of Saint Nicolas where you will have the opportunity to take in the panoramic view of The Alhambra Complex in all its floodlit glory. We will then transfer you back to your hotel at around 10pm.

### **Day 9.**

We will collect you from your hotel at 9.30am and drive to the coastal city of Malaga. We can break the journey by visiting The Dolmens of Antequera, which are half-way between Granada and Malaga. The Dolmens are three man made stone structures which were built by Celtic-Iberians between 2500 and 4500 years ago. Once we finish our visit to The Dolmens, we will continue our journey to Malaga and you can choose if you would like to have lunch at a typical sea front restaurant, where of course, fresh sea food is the order of the day. After lunch we will take the ten-minute drive to the historic centre of Malaga and check-in to your hotel. We will then provide you with a short guided walk in the historic part of the city after which you will have free time to visit the Cathedral, The Picasso Museum, or one of the many others Malaga museums, or simply enjoy the café culture that Malaga city is famous for. In the evening, you will have free time to enjoy the city at your own pace.

### **Day 10.**

Departure day. You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to Malaga airport for your departure flights.



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