

# Tour Extension 'Western Andalucía'



## Overview

Our 'Western Andalucía' extension takes you to the area of Andalucía near the Portuguese Border, the Cities of Jerez de la Frontera 'Jerez' and Cádiz before returning for a final night in Málaga.



**Day 1: JEREZ** After breakfast, we depart for Jerez. Famous for Sherry, Flamenco and Andalusian Horses, Jerez is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest City in Andalucía.

It is mostly known for its production of Sherry in the Bodegas that dot the City and from the vineyards in the surrounding countryside.

Wealthy merchants built palatial mansions in the centre of the City and their Sherry & Brandy Bodegas were established close by.

After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the Vandals and the Visigoths ruled it until the Arabs conquered the area in 711.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries, when the 'Almohads' conquered the city, Jerez underwent a period of great development, building its defence system and setting the current street layout of the old town.

In 1231, the Battle of Jerez took place. Christian troops under the command of Álvaro Pérez de Castro, lord of the House of Castro and grandson of Alfonso VII, King of Castile and León, defeated the troops of the Emir Ibn Hud, despite the numerical superiority of the latter.

After a month-long siege in 1261, the City surrendered to Castile, but its Muslim population remained.

It rebelled and was finally defeated in 1264.

In 1492, the discovery of the Americas, and the conquest of Granada, made Jerez one of the most prosperous cities in Andalucía, through trade and its proximity to the ports of Cádiz and Seville.



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After the devastation to the wine trade in the 1990s, due to the Phylloxera outbreak, the City has sought to widen its interests.

Tourism has been successfully promoted. The City's strong identity as a centre for wine, flamenco, and horses, its popular festivals, MotoGP hosting and its historical heritage, have all contributed to this success.

Jerez is the home of the Carthusian sub-strain of the Andalusian horse breed, known as the 'Caballo Cartujano'.

In the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century, Carthusian monks began breeding horses on donated lands. When the Spanish Crown decreed that Spanish horse breeders should breed their Andalusian stock with Neapolitan and central European stock, the monks refused to comply and continued to select their best specimens to develop their own jealously guarded bloodline for almost four hundred years.

Jerez is the home of the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art, a riding school comparable to the famous Spanish Riding School of Vienna.



The drive to Jerez is particularly picturesque and, arriving in the City, we give you a short orientation walk, take a tapas lunch and then you are free for the afternoon.

We definitely recommend taking a tour of a Sherry Bodega.

Recommended restaurants for dinner include:

- Albores
- La Carboná
- Albalá
- La Espartería



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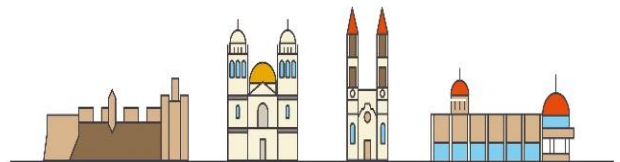
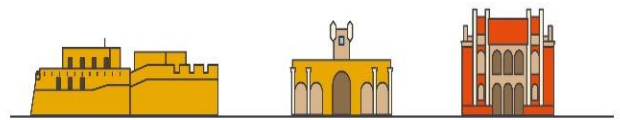
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**Day 2: CÁDIZ** After breakfast we depart for Cádiz. A short 30 minutes journey.

Check-in to your hotel and we will give you an orientation walk around Cádiz.

We will walk into the impressive main square, with the town hall depicting the coat of arms of Hercules, the lion and the pillars, and then walk around to the old walls which encompass the original City and the oldest barrios/districts of El Pópulo, La Viña and Santa María.



**CADIZ**



We will stop at the fascinating Roman Theatre for a visit before continuing to the exit of the old City in the beautiful Cathedral Square.

From here, we will walk through the shopping district, past the flower market, until we reach the bustling market, which is great for some tapas, snacks and to see all the produce.

We will then take you to the Torre Tavira, where they have a superb Camera Obscura.

Cádiz is a long peninsula and if you purchase the 24 hour City Tour Bus Pass, it is a good option for

transport to move about the City, since you can hop on and off at many different stops.

Founded around 1104 BC as 'Gadir' by Phoenicians, Cádiz is regarded as the most ancient city still standing in Western Europe.

The Phoenician settlement traded with 'Tartessos', a city-state whose exact location remains unknown, but is thought to have been somewhere near the mouth of the Guadalquivir River.

But legend has it that Hercules founded the City after performing his tenth labour, the slaying of 'Geryon', a monster with three heads and torsos joined to a single pair of legs.



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Jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean, like the keel of a ship, Cádiz has the cooling breeze of the Atlantic ever present.

It has been the principal home of the Spanish Navy, with the famous Armada sailing to invade Great Britain in 1588.

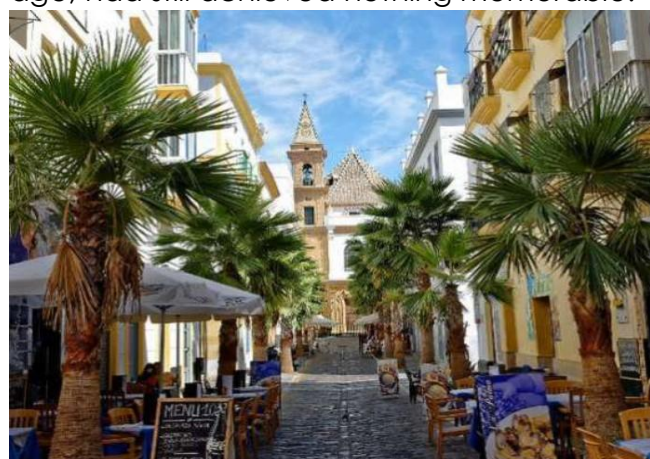
Since Columbus' voyage came from around the Cadiz and Huelva area, then many of the Hispanic people in Latin America have roots that go back to this region.

The population of the City of Cádiz is around 120,000.

It is a delight to wander the atmospheric streets and enjoy the beautiful architecture of the old merchant houses and small plazas.

Cádiz became the base for Hannibal's conquest of southern Iberia, and he sacrificed there to Hercules/Melqart before setting off on his famous journey in 218 BC to cross the Alps and invade Italy.

It was a major City in the Roman times, and when visited by Julius Caesar, as Junior Senator, he saw a statue of Alexander the Great and was apparently saddened to think that he himself, though the same age, had still achieved nothing memorable.



Under Moorish rule between 711 and 1262, the city was called 'Qādis', whence the modern Spanish name was derived.

A famous Muslim legend developed concerning an idol 'Sanam Qādis' over 100 cubits tall on the outskirts of Cádiz, whose magic blocked the strait of Gibraltar with contrary winds and currents, its destruction, around 1145, supposedly permitted ships to sail through the strait once more.



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Christopher Columbus sailed from Cádiz on his second and fourth voyages and the city later became the home port of the Spanish treasure fleet.

Consequently, it became a major target of Spain's enemies.

The 16th century saw a series of failed raids by Barbary Corsairs.

In April 1587, a raid by the Englishman 'Francis Drake' occupied the harbour for three days, captured six ships, and destroyed 31 others.

The event became known in England as 'The Singeing of the King of Spain's Beard'.

The attack delayed the sailing of the Spanish Armada by a year.

Recommended restaurants for dinner include:

- El Faro (famous, but expensive)
- El Tio de la Tiza
- Aljibe
- Candela
- La Espartería
- Arrebol



**Day 3: CÁDIZ to MÁLAGA** Enjoy time in Cádiz and late morning we will depart for Tarifa, the southmost point in Europe.

From Tarifa you can clearly see Africa, not far away, across the straits of Gibraltar.

Take lunch in Tarifa and, after lunch, drive to Málaga, along the coastal road, and check-in to your hotel for the evening and night.

At this point your Tour Leader will say goodbye.

Make your own plans for departure the next day for your onward travel.



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## Notes

- Our Tour Leaders will give you background information of the Cities and places we visit, but they will not enter the monuments with you. Audio guides are available for rental at the major monuments if you wish to have one
- The walking distance during each day can normally vary between 4km and 8km. Wear comfortable shoes, drink lots of water and use sunscreen cream
- All bookings are subject to our terms and conditions, which are in the booking form
- Prices are based on two guests sharing a room
- Prices are in £GBP



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