

# Ultimate Andalucia



Duration 11 days/10 nights

The Ultimate Andalucía tour is a wonderful 'circuit' tour that takes you to visit the Andalucian Cities and villages of Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Malaga, Ronda, Jerez, Cádiz and Setenil de las Bodegas. You stay in high quality Hotels in the centre of the principal Cities.

This tour is for a maximum of six guests per tour vehicle, each with its own Tour Leader.



## Day 1: ARRIVAL MIJAS & MÁLAGA

We collect you in Málaga from the airport, train station or our meeting point and, subject to time, we take you to visit the pretty 'Pueblo Blanco', white mountain village of Mijas.

Or, like many guests do, you may wish to consider arriving in Málaga before the tour start date and we book an additional night/s in the hotel for you.

Mijas is set high above the Costa del Sol, with lovely views over the Mediterranean below, and you can wander the pretty lanes with colourful trailing geraniums in bright blue pots contrasting against the white walls.

Take lunch in the one of the Gastro Tapas Bars and maybe make some purchases from the craft stores that surround the main Plaza and down the little lanes.

Originally founded by the Tartessians in prehistoric times, the Romans used to mine Marble from the area, calling the village 'Tamisa' before it became a Moorish mining town 'Mixa' which morphed later on into 'Mijas'.



The Mijas residents resisted the attacks from the Catholic Monarchs during the siege of Málaga in 1487, but after Málaga fell, the inhabitants surrendered with most, unfortunately, being sold into slavery.

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A beautiful jewel of the Costa Del Sol, it sits 400m above sea level offering superb vistas all around. It is the ideal location to ease yourself into a holiday frame of mind and relax.

During the Spanish Civil War, which started in 1936, Manuel Cortés Quero (1906-1991), aka 'El Topo de Mijas', the Mole of Mijas, was the last Republican Mayor of Mijas during the Civil War.



On 6 February 1937, Cortés fled Mijas, together with his wife, Juliana, and their daughter, María, aged 18 months.

One day later, he asked Juliana to go back to Mijas with María and he joined a group of fighters heading to Almería.

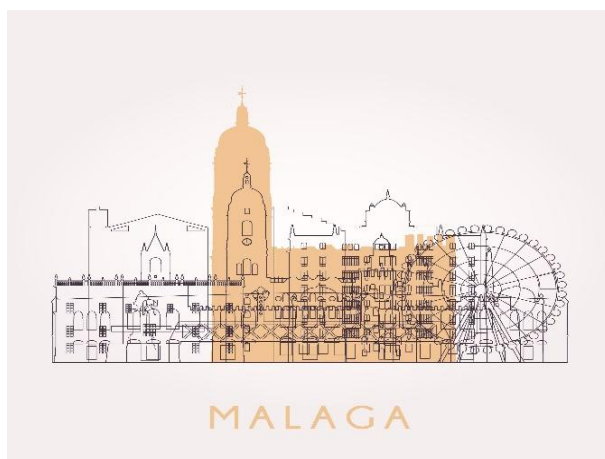
Secretly back to Mijas on the evening of 17 April 1939, after the disbanding of his unit in Valencia, Cortés hid in his own house for the next three decades, in a secret room with the entrance through a wardrobe.

On 28 March 1969, he heard on the radio the amnesty granted by the Government for all 'crimes' committed between 18 July 1936 and 1 April 1939 and emerged to the astonishment of the local people.

After his "re-birth", Cortés said to his friends: *"The war is finally over for me"*.

A replica of the bedroom has been reconstructed in the Folk Museum of the village.

After the visit, we will take you to your hotel in central Málaga for check-in and then give you a short orientation walking tour of Málaga.



Málaga is a lovely Mediterranean City with a great vibe.

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One of the oldest Cities in Europe, and one of the most continuously inhabited Cities in the world, Málaga was a Phoenician seaport and the main entry points into the Iberian Peninsula due to its natural harbour.

The Phoenicians called it *Malaka*' not far from how it is known today.



There are marble pavements, a mainly pedestrianised old quarter and often a light breeze blowing in from the sea.

The massive Alcazaba fortress looms over the ancient Roman Theatre.

Close by, the Plaza de la Merced is the birthplace of the famous painter and sculptor '*Pablo Picasso*'.

Málaga is The second largest City in Andalucía, with a municipal population of around 600,000.

It is the southernmost large City in Europe and a bustling seaport with goods/cargo passing through daily and it is also on the Cruise Ship circuit.

With its chilled lifestyle, temperate sunny climate, '*Chiringuito*' fresh fish barbeque restaurant shacks on the beach, and full of tapas bars and cafeterias, to be a Malagueño explains why the people are so happy.

Suggestions for dinner include:

- Casa Lola (popular often with waiting lines)
- Meson Iberico
- Taberna Uve Doble
- Alumbre
- Buenavista Gastrobar & Tapas
- Restaurante Montana
- La Cosmopolita
- Santa Monica
- Restaurant Sanchez Pastor



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## Day 2: MÁLAGA – HERRADURA – GRANADA



Spend a free morning in Málaga, maybe visit the Alcazaba Fortress or Picasso Museum.

We will meet you at the hotel at 12:00 and commence the drive to Granada.

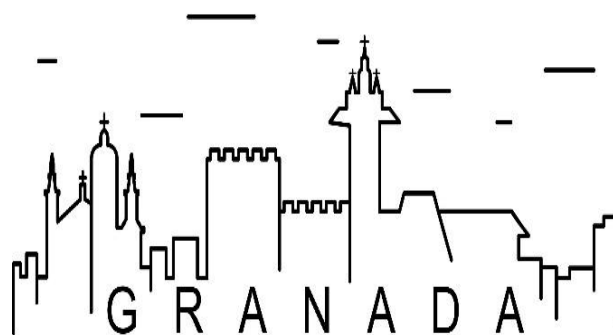
We will stop halfway, at La Herradura, to have lunch at a typical 'Chiringuito' where they barbeque fresh fish on Olive Wood fires.

La Herradura is a small beach resort and a popular holiday spot for the Spanish.

After taking lunch, we drive, for not much more than 1 hour, to arrive in Granada, the *Jewel of Andalucía*.

Check in to your centrally located hotel for 2 nights.

We will give a late afternoon walk around the historic centre and leave you to enjoy the evening in Granada.



Suggestions for dinner include:



- La Castanada
- La Fabula
- Entrebrasas
- Taberna La Zarzamora
- La Vinoteca
- Chikito
- Damasqueros
- Palacio Andaluz Almona (Moroccan)

# Ultimate Andalucia

Duration 11 days/10 nights



## Day 3: GRANADA & ALHAMBRA

Your Tour Leader will meet you at 09.30 and drive you up to the Alhambra for your visit.

You will normally have an entry time into the Nasrid Palaces, within the complex, of 12.00 and you will have time to explore the Gardens and other areas before the Palaces.

We don't accompany you into the Alhambra, but if you want us to organize a Private tour for you, we can often arrange this. You just pay the guide directly after the tour. Some of our Tour Leaders are also licenced Alhambra Guides.



The Tour Leader will depart once you are in the Alhambra and, after your visit, you can just stroll down the hill into the City Centre or, if you prefer, take a local bus or taxi.

The rest of the day is yours to enjoy.

You can take lunch and, in the afternoon, visit any of the monuments, such as the Cathedral, the Capilla Real, or just relax.



For the evening, we recommend you taking a short taxi ride to Restaurante 'Jardines de Zoraya' at the top of the Albayzin hill, opposite the hill of the Alhambra. They have an excellent authentic Flamenco Performance.

Arrive around 18.30, take dinner and the performance starts at 20.00. Since it is popular, and one of the top rated Flamenco performances Southern Spain, you

need to let us know in advance if you wish to go and we will make a reservation for you.

As long standing friends of the restaurant, our Guests receive a 40% reduction in the entry price for the show and you simply purchase what you want to eat & drink.

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They serve full meals and tapas options.

After the performance, you can walk to the Mirador 'San Nicolas' to see the Alhambra lit up across the valley before returning to your hotel. The restaurant can organize a return taxi for you.

'*Gar-anat*' meaning '*Hill of the Pilgrims*' or '*Hill of the Strangers*', now known as Granada, nestles at the bottom of the towering mountain range, the Sierra Nevada.

Romantic and majestic, it was once wealthy and the home of both Sultans and Christian Monarchs, including the famous Ferdinand and Isabella, who made it their final resting and burial place.



The Islamic Kingdom of Granada held on for nearly a quarter of a millennium after the rest of the Iberian Peninsula was recaptured by the Christian '*Reconquista*'.

Imposing Islamic Fortresses spread throughout the region to try and defend the territory.



Now a vibrant City of Education and Business, the reminder of its great importance looms high and visible in the form of the '*Alhambra*', the spectacular royal complex of Fortress and Palaces and one of Europe's most visited sites.

After the collapse of the Umayyad Caliphate, when '*al-Andalus*' broke down into a series of '*Taifas*', or small independent kingdoms, the Berber Zawi ben Ziri established the Taifa of Granada which was essentially, and surprisingly, a Jewish state in all but name.

The Muslim King being mainly a symbolic figurehead, the power and control of the Taifa and its armies were under Jewish control.

It was the centre of the Jewish Sephardi culture and learning.

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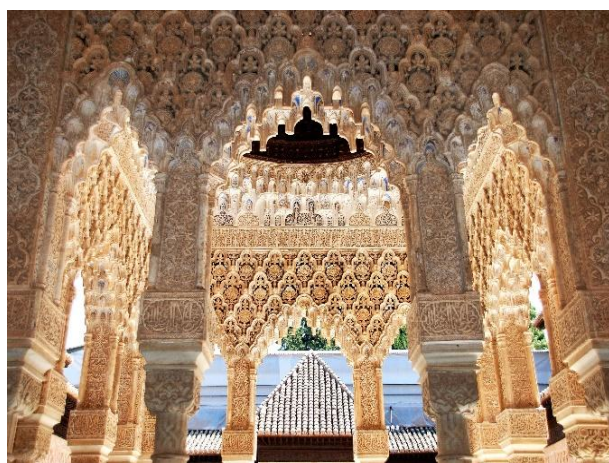
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Early Arabic writers often refer to the Taifa of Granada as '*Garnata al-Yahud*', Granada of the Jews.

'*al-Qal'at al-Hamra*' the 'Red Fortress', sits proudly on top of the hill of '*La Sabika*' the '*Hill of Gold*' as an imposing gesture of the dynasties that once ruled this land.

It is by far the most famous monument in Granada, a renowned Islamic historical legacy set of buildings, Palaces, Fortress and Gardens.



Originally constructed in 889 as a fortress, on top of older Roman fortifications, it remained almost a set of ruins until renovation in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century by the Nasrid Emir '*Mohammed ben al-Ahmar*' who added the Palaces and walls.

Moorish poets describe it as a '*pearl set in emeralds*' in reference to the colour of its buildings and the surrounding woods.

It is also often referred to as a ship sailing towards the City of Granada, with the large watch tower of the Alcazaba fortress being the prow.

The Gardens and the Pools of the Alhambra are spectacular with fragrant flowers in abundance.

The Palaces are highly decorative with beautiful columns, stalactite vaulted ceilings and highly ingenious hydraulic water management systems.

Water featured greatly in the complex and, in the '*Fountain of the Lions*', every hour one of the twelve white marble lion statues surrounding the fountain would produce water from its mouth.



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A marvel and baffling at the time.



Granada is located at the confluence of four rivers, the Darro, the Genil, the Monachil and the Beiro. It has an elevation of 738m (2,421 ft) and has a municipal population of around 240,000.

The University of Granada is highly regarded and has an estimated 82,000 students, spread over five campuses around the City. They bring a vibrant young life to the City.

As you walk around, you start to notice the Pomegranate emblem all around the City on drainpipes, carvings and metal work, because, of course, in Spanish, Pomegranate is 'Granada'.

## Day 4: GRANADA – CÓRDOBA

At 09:30, we depart Granada for the historic City of Córdoba.

We arrive around 11.30 and you check-in to your hotel.

The old quarter of Córdoba is a world heritage site and, as a visitor, you are transported back in time to

when it was both the Capital of the Roman and Moorish Empires in the Iberian Peninsula.



-Cordoba-



It was once, one of the most powerful and important Cities in the world.

Amongst the largest Cities in the world, in terms of its population in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, it now is roughly the same size as Granada, but has an intimate feel of a much smaller and contained City.

The ancient walls of the City appear almost recently built and they surround the City giving the visitor the

feeling of emerging into the middle ages, as you walk through them.

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Famous for its patios brimming with colourful flowers, the courtyards of Córdoba are a lovely, cool retreat from the heat of the summer sun.

To many, the mesmerising 'Mesquita', the greatest ancient Mosque in the Western World, is the most impressive building in the whole of Andalucia and certainly the only Mosque in the world with a Baroque Cathedral right in the centre.



Cordoba prides itself on its gastronomy with local dishes, such as 'Salmorejo Cordobés' and dishes with a distinct Arabic flavour.



The first references to a settlement is from the Carthaginians, who named this 'Kartuba', around 800BC.

Conquered in 206BC, by the Romans, it was renamed 'Corduba' and during the Roman Civil War, the City was sacked by Julius Caesar in 45BC, due to its Pompeian allegiance.

It was later settled with veterans by the Emperor Augustus.

It became the Capital of 'Baetica', one of three Roman provinces in 'Hispania', the Iberian Peninsula, and had a provincial forum and many temples.

The great Roman philosopher 'Seneca' came from Roman Córdoba.

In 711, when the Moors invaded the peninsula, Córdoba was captured by the Umayyad army.

The new Umayyad commanders established themselves within the City and, in 716, it became a provincial capital, subordinate to the Caliphate of Damascus, known as 'Qurṭuba'.



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The Saint Vincent Church was shared for worship by Christians and Muslims, until, in 785 AD, construction of the Córdoba Mosque started on the same spot under the Umayyad Sultan, 'Abd-ar-Rahman I'.



Designed along the lines of the Great Umayyad Mosque of Damascus, the Sultan personally laboured laying stones during its construction.

In May 766, Córdoba was chosen as the capital of the independent Umayyad emirate.

Córdoba flourished, becoming a megacity of the time with widely ranging population estimates of between 400,000 and 1,000,000 people.

In the 10th and 11th centuries, it was one of the most advanced cities in the world, and a great cultural, political, financial and economic centre.

Córdoba had a prosperous economy, with manufactured goods including leather, metal work, glazed tiles and textiles, and agricultural produce including a range of fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices, and materials such as cotton, flax and silk.

In particular, filigree silver work, from silver mined in the Sierra Morena mountains behind the City, is a craft that lives on today with many small workshops producing and selling unique jewellery in this fashion.

It was famous as a centre of knowledge, home to over 80 libraries and institutions of learning, with an understanding of medicine, mathematics, astronomy, botany far exceeding the rest of Europe at the time.

In 936, a powerful ruler 'Abd-ar-Rahman III' was inaugurated as the first 'Caliph of Córdoba' and became known as the red haired, blue eyed Caliph due to his non-Arab appearance.

But, after his death, and several subsequent and weaker rulers, the caliphate collapsed, as did Córdoba's economic and political hegemony.



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Duration 11 days/10 nights



The old quarter of Córdoba is officially the largest old quarter of any European City with much of it a Unesco World heritage Site.

Of all of the places you visit on one of our tours, you get the feeling that Córdoba is the place where ghosts of the past come alive and the presence of a glowing Golden Age is most felt.

After checking in to your hotel, we will give you a short walking tour of the City before taking a relaxed tapas lunch where you can sample typical dishes from the region.

We will take you through the Jewish Quarter and the Campo de los Martires, where the Caliph 'Abn al-Rahman III', had the remains of his enemy, the Mozarab Omar Ben Hasfum', who led the rebellion 'against the Umayyad Dynasty, dug up and crucified alongside his two captured sons.

We will show you the Christian Alcázar with its beautiful gardens, which you can visit the following morning.



And we will walk through the cobbled streets of the pretty San Basilio district of the City, where many of the famous patios are located and give you some historical background to Córdoba.



You will see the beauty of the white-washed houses with trailing geraniums in blue pots dangling from the 'rejas', window railings, and you can visit a typical Córdoba Patio.

Walk up the little lane of the flowers for an iconic photo opportunity and have free time to visit the Mosque 'Mesquita', the Roman Bridge, or shop if you wish.

We will send you instructions to pre-book tickets for the Mesquita.

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Enjoy the charismatic old quarter before spending the evening and night in historic Córdoba.

For horse lovers, the Caballerizas Reales, or Royal Stables, hosts a highly rated equestrian show 'Pasión y Duende del Caballo Andaluz' at 21.00 on certain nights.



Recommended restaurants for dinner include:

- Casa Pepe de la Juderia
- La Bodega Mesquita
- El Churrasco
- La Regadera
- La Tinaja
- La Nena
- Restaurante Damasco

## Day 5: CÓRDOBA – SEVILLE



After breakfast, visit the Christian Alcazar, or have free time, and we will meet you at your hotel at 11:00 to drive to the elegant and colourful City of Seville, with its impressive buildings, parks and culture.

Seville is the capital of the autonomous region of Andalucia.

It has a municipal population close to 700,000, making it the fourth largest City in Spain, after Madrid,

Barcelona and Valencia.

Check in to your hotel and enjoy a tapas lunch in, or around, the Barrio Santa Cruz, the old Jewish Quarter.

Seville, voted in 2018 the Lonely Planet's number 1 City to visit, is a stylish city with impressive buildings, parks, great tapas and most of all 'fun'.

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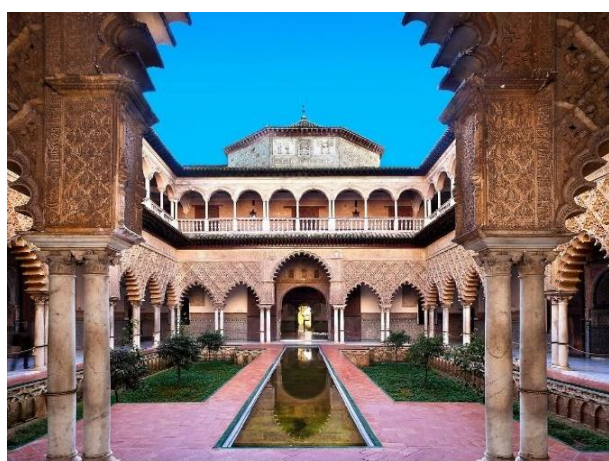
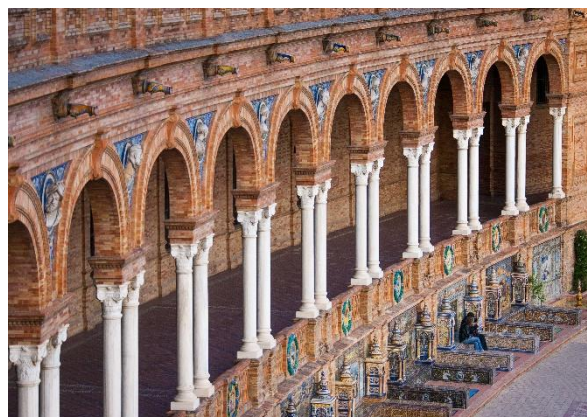
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Duration 11 days/10 nights

It definitely has the 'Wow' factor.

With one of the world's largest Cathedrals, 'Mudéjar' Islamic style Palaces, majestic fountains, winding narrow lanes, a day in Seville passes in the blink of an eye.

Once the wealthiest City in Europe, as a result of trade with the Americas, Seville is located on the banks of the Guadalquivir river, which empties into the Atlantic, some 80km to the west, making Seville once the most inland port in Europe.



The 'Reales Alcázares de Sevilla' are the oldest Royal Palaces in Europe still in use.

Built in the style of the Alhambra Palaces, they are spectacular and a delight to visit.

The Sevillanos people of Seville, love to sing and party and truly know how to enjoy themselves.

Originally founded by the Romans, it was called 'Hispalis' and was taken by the Muslim conquest in 712

and renamed 'Ishbiliyya'.

In 1147, the Almohad Islamic Sect, meaning 'Those who profess the unity of God', made 'Ishbiliyya' their centre.

Great constructors, they built the famous Giralda Tower that looms over the City, now the Cathedral Bell Tower, but once the Minaret of the Great Mosque, which was mainly destroyed as part of the construction of the large Cathedral.



The Patio of the Oranges, some original walls and some entrances into the original Mosque are all that remain.

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As the economic centre of trade with the Americas, Seville grew extremely wealthy opening a new Golden Age of arts and literature.

Beautiful, impressive Baroque Buildings were built and wealthy merchants commissioned mansions for themselves and their families.

The narrow lanes of the colourful Barrio Santa Cruz district are known as the 'kissing lanes', since the balconies of the buildings either side of the lanes nearly touch each other.

Opening onto pretty little plazas, it is a lovely place to meander.

There are three Unesco World Heritage sites in the old quarter: The Alcázar Palaces, the Cathedral and the General Archive of the Indies, which houses the National Archives, including details of Christopher Columbus' voyage to the Americas.

In 1519, Ferdinand Magellan departed from Seville for the first circumnavigation of the Earth.



When the Guadalquivir river silted up in 18<sup>th</sup> century and became no longer navigable, the merchants and trade moved and relocated to Cadiz, deserting Seville and leaving it to enter a serious decline.



The incredible Plaza España, built as part of the 1929 Ibero-Americana exposition, has been the setting for several hit movies, including Lawrence of Arabia and Star Wars.

The exhibition was a huge attempt to restore the fortunes of Seville, putting it at the forefront of trade with the New World, but it unfortunately failed to restore trade and its fortunes.

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However, the City has more recently recovered from investment in new industries, services, tourism and the University.

The Alcazar Palaces are also star of the glittering screen having been some of the Palaces in the 'Game of Thrones' and as the Palaces of Jerusalem in the 2005 Ridley Scott epic 'The Kingdom of Heaven'

Known as the City of Opera, Seville is the setting for around 100 operas, the most famous, surely, being 'Carmen'.



Renowned composers such as Beethoven, Bizet, Mozart, Rossini and Verdi have all been inspired by this fabulous City.

After lunch, we will give you a walking tour around the main historic area of the City.

We will visit the vast Plaza de España with its towers, buildings, fountain and ceramics set in a huge semi-circle. A walk through the old Jewish Quarter the Barrio Santa Cruz and pass by the historic buildings of Seville telling you their background and into the Cathedral Square, housing the largest Gothic Cathedral in the world with its imposing presence.



Recommended restaurants for dinner include:

- La Bartola (Tapas)
- La Brunilda (Tapas)
- El Pasaje (Tapas)
- La Bodeguita (Tapas)
- Espacio Eslava
- El Disparate
- Bar Postiguillo (Tapas)

## Day 6: SEVILLE (FREE DAY)

Time to wind down and enjoy a free day in Seville without the company of the Tour Leader.

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We recommend visiting the main monuments today.

Maybe the Royal Alcazar in the morning, have a tapas lunch and then the Cathedral in the afternoon, whatever time suits you.

We will send you instructions for you to prebook your entrance tickets to help minimise waiting in line and you can book audio guides if you wish.

Seville Cathedral houses the tomb of Christopher Columbus and the Giralda Tower, once the Minaret of the large Mosque, is now the Cathedral Bell Tower, with a winding internal ramp to the top, where you can enjoy a birds-eye view over the City.



In the evening, maybe have a walk to the Metropolitan Parasol, 'Las Setas de Seville' the world's largest man-made wooden structure.

It is particularly impressive lit up at night and you can go up to the top for great night-time views of Seville.

Spend a second evening and night in Seville.

If you wish, you may consider a tapas tour of Seville, or maybe a cooking class, and you can find these online.

One thing is for sure, you will not be short of things to do when visiting Seville for a couple of days.

## Day 7: SEVILLE – JEREZ – CÁDIZ

At 11:00, we will drive to Jerez de la Frontera, or just 'Jerez', famous for Sherry, Flamenco and Andalusian Horses.

Take lunch and visit the Lustau Sherry Bodega for a tour and tasting.

We will send you instructions to pre-book your visit.



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When the Spanish Crown decreed that Spanish horse breeders should breed their Andalusian stock with Neapolitan and central European stock, the monks in Jerez refused to comply and continued to select their best specimens to develop their own jealously guarded bloodline for almost four hundred years.

The breed being known as the 'Caballo Cartujano'.

The Royal Andalusian Equestrian Centre is world renowned and based in Jerez

Each year, normally in May, a colourful Horse Show 'Feira del Caballo' is held in Jerez, attracting horse lovers from all over the world.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the 'Almohads' conquered the City, Jerez developed greatly.

In 1231, the Battle of Jerez took place within the town's vicinity,

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.



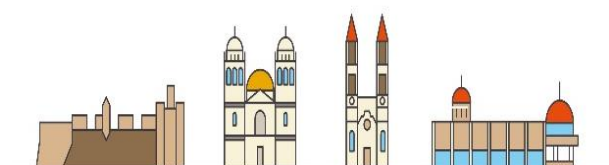
In 1261, the city surrendered to Castile, but its Muslim population remained.



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

After the visit to Jerez, we make the short drive to stunning Cádiz and check in to your hotel for 2 nights.

We will give you an early evening orientation walking tour of Cádiz.



**CADIZ**

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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 very old walls which encompass the original City and the oldest barrios/districts of 'El Pópulo', 'La Viña' and 'Santa Maria'.

We will show you the fascinating Roman Theatre, which you may wish to visit the next day, before continuing to the exit of the old City in the beautiful Cathedral Square.



Recommended restaurants for dinner include:

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

## Day 8: CÁDIZ (FREE DAY)

Cádiz is a long peninsula and, if you purchase the 24 hour City Tour Bus Pass, it can a good mode of transport to move about the City, since you can easily hop on and off.

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

The Phoenicians established the port in the 7th century BC.

The 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.



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Duration 11 days/10 nights



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.

Cádiz has a great central market, which is open in the morning and lunch time during the week, including Saturdays. It's a fun, bustling pace to take a tapas lunch.

Since Columbus' voyage came from around the Cádiz and the 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 and, in recent years, it has steadily declined due to a lack of work opportunity.

It is a popular destination for cruise ships and it is a delight to wander the lanes and enjoy the beautiful architecture of the old merchant houses and small plazas.

Hercules is sometimes credited with founding 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.



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

A major city in Roman times, when visited by Julius Caesar, as Junior Senator, he saw a statue of Alexander the Great there and was apparently saddened to think that he himself, though the same age, had yet nothing memorable !

# Ultimate Andalucia



Duration 11 days/10 nights

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



During the Age of Exploration, the city experienced a renaissance.

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

In April, 1587, a raid by the Englishman 'Francis Drake' occupied the harbour for three days, capturing 6 ships, and destroying 31 others, an event which

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 and when the Armada eventually set sail for the invasion of Great Britain in 1588, the English had gained time to make preparations for the defence of the realm.

## Day 9: CÁDIZ – RONDA

We depart Cádiz at 10.00 and drive to the spectacular town of Ronda.

After 1 hour 15 minutes, we take a short coffee/toilet stop near Algodonales and then drive 30 minutes to arrive in Ronda around lunch time.

Ronda, perched on top of the impressive Tajo Gorge, is a town of two halves, the old town on one side and the new town on the other.



Set in a stunning location, surrounded by the Serrana de Ronda range of mountains, it sits high above the Guadalevin River.

Check in to your hotel near the famous historic bullring and then take lunch.

The impressive *Puente Nuevo* bridge that spans the gorge joins the two main areas of Ronda together.

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On one side the famous bullring, the oldest in Spain, and on the other, the old town, with its narrow lanes and palatial houses, once owned by the nobility.

Ronda is quite a large town with beautiful surrounding scenery.

Your stay here is not about rushing around, it is all about slowly strolling through the lanes, visiting one or two monuments, such as the bullring, nowadays a

museum.

Enjoying a relaxed meal, whilst admiring the amazing setting.

The current Ronda is of Roman origins, having been founded as a fortified post in the Second Punic War, by *Scipio Africanus* and Ronda received the title of City at the time of Julius Caesar.

In the old town, the 14th-century Palacio de Mondragón, a former Moorish palace, is decorated with ornate mosaics and surrounded by landscaped gardens.



Beyond the old town, the restored 13th-century *'Baños Arabes'*, Arab baths, feature vaults with striking, star-shaped skylights.



Ronda was one of the last Islamic Cities to fall to the Christians.

The Islamic domination of Ronda ended in 1485, when it was conquered by the Marquis of Cádiz.

Shortly after 1492, when Granada, the last outpost of Muslim presence in the Iberian Peninsula, was conquered, the Spanish decreed that all Muslims must

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either vacate the peninsula without their belongings or convert.

Many people overtly converted, to keep their possessions, while secretly practicing their religion.

Muslims who converted were called 'Moriscos'.

They were required to wear upon their caps and turbans a blue crescent and traveling without a permit meant a death sentence.

This systematic suppression forced the Muslims to seek refuge in mountainous regions of southern Andalusia; Ronda was one such refuge.

For dinner, eat at one of many lovely restaurants in Ronda, including:



- Duquesa de Parcent
- 'Azahar' in Hotel Catalonia Reina Victoria
- Meson Carmen de la Ronda
- Meson El Sacristan
- Almocabar
- Casa Santa Pola

## Day 10: RONDA – SETENIL DE LAS BODEGAS – MÁLAGA

Enjoy some free time in the morning in Ronda and at 10.30 we will depart to visit the nearby



beautiful 'Embalses de Ardales' Lakes, where you can take lunch at a restaurant overlooking the lake.

The Lakes are a stunning turquoise colour and located in the Andalucían Countryside North of Málaga.

The visit here allows you to experience more of the varied landscape of Andalucía.

On the way to the Lakes, we have a short stop at Setenil de las Bodegas, where the cliffs overhang the

# Ultimate Andalucia



Duration 11 days/10 nights

white village. Please note that we just drop you off near the main street of Setenil, since we have to park the tour vehicles some distance away, and we return to collect you 1 hour later.

Unlike most of the 'Pueblos Blancos' white villages of Andalucia, Setenil de las Bodegas nestles in a small gorge with a bubbling stream running through.

The history of the village is that the Romans used to store their wines in wine cellars 'Bodegas' carved out of the cliffs. This provided a relatively stable year round temperature helping to preserve the wine.



Having enjoyed lunch at the Ardales Lakes, we return to Málaga, where the hotel, with breakfast, is included for your final night.

You will arrive back at the hotel in the late afternoon and, at this point, your Tour Leader will say goodbye.

## Day 11: MÁLAGA & ONWARD TRAVEL

After breakfast, spend free time in Málaga before making your own way for onward travel or departure.

We don't provide any transfer services this day.

Taxis are readily available for the short journey from the hotel to the airport or train station.

### Typical Hotels

- Málaga 4\* MS-Maestranza (*nights 1 & 10*)
- Granada 4\* Eurostars San Anton (*nights 2 & 3*)
- Córdoba 4\* Eurostars Conquistador (*night 4*)
- Seville 4\* Fernando III (*nights 5 & 6*)
- Cádiz 4\* Montepuertatierra (*nights 7 & 8*)
- Ronda 4\* Catalonia Ronda (*night 9*)

Hotels are subject to availability and we may use alternative city centre hotels.

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# Ultimate Andalucía

Duration 11 days/10 nights



Tour Price £GBP	Per Person	Single Supplement
<b>Ultimate Andalucía</b> 11 days/10 nights	<b>£2,695</b>	<b>£750</b>

## What's included

- Tour transportation in one of our air-conditioned tour vehicles.
- Collection transfer from airport, train station and local Málaga Hotels between the hours of 09:00 and 18:00 on Day 1 of the tour.
- Dedicated Tour Leader.
- Bed and breakfast accommodation for 10 nights.
- Orientation and background walking tour in Cities.

## What's not included

- Any other meals, drinks, subsistence.
- Any shows, performances, including the dinner with Flamenco in Granada
- Collection/hotel transfer not on the official tour start day.
- Monument entrance fees.
- Any taxi, train, bus or air fares.
- Departure transfer, you make your own way for onward travel after the tour.
- Any expenditure not included above.



# Ultimate Andalucia

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## Notes (please read)

- 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 most of the major monuments.
- The daily walking distance can vary between 5km and 10km. Wear comfortable shoes, drink lots of water and use sunscreen cream.
- **VERY IMPORTANT** Please bring no more than **one suitcase per person, up to 70cm (h) x 45 cm (w) x 25cm (d) OR up to 28 inches (h) x 18 inches (w) x 10 inches (d)** and one small backpack per guest. All luggage must fit in the luggage area of the Tour Vehicle and we have to cater for all guests.



Our tour vehicles are not coaches and they park in underground car parks in the City Centres. If you require, we may be able to organize a low cost laundry service during the tour. Light casual clothes are all you require, no need to 'dress up'. Please pack sensibly.



- All bookings are subject to our terms and conditions, which are included in the booking form.

- Please request the latest tour schedule for the dates of the tours.
- Prices are based on two guests sharing a room. Single supplements apply.
- This tour is confirmed when the minimum number of 2 guests are booked on it.
- Prices are in £GBP.
- If you arrive before the official tour start day, you make your own way, by taxi/private transfer, or public transport, to your 'pre-tour' accommodation. Our airport, train station collection service is strictly only available on the official tour start day. We can normally book additional nights at the Málaga Hotel for a supplement. Please ask.
- Most of our tour vehicles will seat up to 7/8 passengers, but we limit the number to 6. At busy periods, we may run two tour vehicles in parallel, each with a Tour Leader. Hence, the maximum number of guests on any tour is 12.

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**Tour Vehicle**      **Mercedes Vito Tourer with passenger Air Conditioning**



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