

Southern Spain from Seville to Córdoba

Spain

Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

The Best of Southern Spain

If you've ever seen the movie *El Cid*, you know that the Moors invaded Iberia then the Spanish chased them out. Of course, that took almost 800 years—and in the process created Europe's richest and most fascinating culture. Seville is the suavest of cities. The Alhambra? The way water in all its variety is used to cool air that whispers through beautiful stone fretwork is unimaginable. The vastness of la vega, the province's plain, is truly cinematic, scattered with whitewashed villages, punctuated by ruined alcazares (fortresses), and carpeted in vineyards, swatches of gnarled olive trees and stately groves of poplar. We stay in fantastic accommodations and at one of Spain's finest 5-star hotels. And the walks—in both city and country, through mosques and Spanish palaces—are gentle revelations every step of the way. Our local guides are exceptionally well-connected, so you get introductions to families that own the olive groves and even Alhambra's resident wood inlay expert. Can you tell Andalucía is one of our favorite places on earth?

DAY 1

SEVILLE

- Enjoy a stroll through the historic Santa Cruz district
- Marvel at the gorgeous architecture of the Alcázar

We meet in Seville for an afternoon exploration of one of our favorite European cities. The cultural capital of southern Spain, it hosted world expositions in 1929 and 1992. The first provided Seville with several of its classic buildings. The second led the city to refurbish its incredible collection of monuments and connected it to Madrid by way of high-speed AVE trains.

We start with a walk from our hotel to the world's third largest cathedral, built on the foundation of the previous mosque. If you'd like, join our guides for an ascent to the top of the bell tower for a commanding view over the 2,000-year-old city. Leaving the cathedral, we walk through the Santa Cruz district, famous for its tranquil, secluded courtyards filled with flowers, trees and fountains. The American writer Washington Irving lived in one of the mansions, which commanded some of the most expensive real estate prices in Europe.

After a stop in Plaza de los Venerables for a cool drink at the little restaurant where Don Juan regaled his friends with his tales of conquest, we continue on to the Alcázar. You'd guess it was built by the Arabs during their reign, but the Alcázar was actually erected after the Spanish Catholics conquered the Moors. We explore the public and private rooms, marveling at the intricate blend of Arabic geometric designs with Spanish influences.

After a very Spanish rest, we take dinner at an excellent local restaurant.

Overnight: Seville

Meals: D

DAY 2

SEVILLE / RONDA

- Morning tour of Triana Market and cooking instruction
- Explore picturesque Zahara de la Sierra
- Take in breathtaking views of Ronda's cliffs and Tajo gorge

We begin the day with a tour of the Triana Market, where we explore local products we will use in learning how to make traditional Andalusian dishes, together with our local guide and friends.

Mid-afternoon following our luncheon, we drive to Zahara de la Sierra. It's one of Los Pueblos Blancos, the dazzling whitewashed villages that sparkle in the sun on the mountainsides. Then we're headed for the hills - and Ronda, one of Andalusia's most dramatic and romantic towns. (Hemingway said that Ronda would be "the perfect place to...spend a honeymoon.")

On arrival, we'll check into our hotel. It's the ideal location for exploring the town on foot. First, we take the New Bridge (finished in 1793) across the 300-foot-deep gorge. The views of the perched city and the valley full of fruit trees, olive groves and vineyards are truly breathtaking. On an easy path flanked by almond trees, we meander down to the foot of the city where we meet our local guide Carmen. She leads us up the cobbled streets to re-enter the city as medieval visitors would have. Many of the palaces, homes and churches are a treasury of buildings dating to the 13th century, and we'll learn about them as we go.

Afterward, we'll enjoy a relaxing evening and dinner in Ronda at your leisure.

Overnight: Ronda

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

RONDA / BENAJOÁN

- Stroll the picturesque banks of the Guadiaro River
- Enjoy the views on a local train ride
- Taste the luscious varietals on a winery visit

After breakfast, we're off for a delightful walk along the Guadiaro River. The path is easy and level, perfect for letting us focus on the scenic surroundings. We're shaded at the start by an oak forest. Villages peek through the branches, and the Benaoján Sierras soar in the distance. There are farmsteads, too, with well-tended orchards and fields of produce. And then the valley narrows to an impressive red rock ravine where a dense forest is alive with birds. Emerging at the village of Jimera de Libar, we board a local train for the return ride.

After a relaxing lunch at your leisure, we make the 20-minute stroll from Ronda to Finca Descalzos Viejos, a wine estate surrounded by three parks. The site has a surprising array of microclimates that suit grapes from Syrah and Grenache to Merlot and Chardonnay. That makes for interesting variety when our friends at the winery invite us for a tasting in the wine cellar housed in a former 16th-century convent.

Overnight: Ronda

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

EL TORCAL NATURAL PARK

- **Seasonally, spot Spain's largest colony of flamingos**
- **Enjoy a scenic walk amid natural sandstone pillars**
- **Check into our luxurious 5-star resort**

This morning, we make the drive to nearby El Torcal Natural Park. Sometimes, the weather conditions are right for the flamingos to make their home at Laguna de Fuente de Piedra, a natural body of water almost five miles long. When they are, we'll make an impromptu stop along the way to pay them a visit.

On arrival at El Torcal Natural Park, we'll wander through one of the most fantastical landscapes of stone in all of Europe. Thousands of years of erosion have carved the limestone into fascinating rock fins and spires and pillars of pink and silver. A rich mix of plant life sprout from crevices in the stone walls—like a rock garden gone mad. El Torcal is also on a major migratory route for birds, and we have a good chance of spotting many species, such as the Imperial Eagle and the peregrine falcon.

After the wilds of the park, our day ends in luxury as we settle into our 5-star hotel. Dinner is in one of the property's gastronomic restaurants, where the terraces overlook olive groves and the Loja mountain range.

Overnight: Loja

Meals: B, D

DAY 5

GRANADA

- **Explore with your guide the famed Alhambra Palace**
- **Shop the alcaizeria, reminiscent of Morocco's souks**

Today we make a day trip to Granada, the last outpost of the former Moorish kingdom. Built on three hills at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Granada was a cultural center during the Moorish occupation (711-1492) and the Renaissance.

With our local guide Rosa, we explore the magnificent 13th-century Alhambra. Constructed as the Moorish king's idea of paradise on earth, it makes wonderful use of space, light and water. Following the fortress and palace, we cross the medina and gardens to the Generalife, the ancient summer palace of the Nasrid kings. The palace is located on the Cerro del Sol, and the terraces of the palace provide incredible views of the city and the distant vega (plain). As we pass through the medina, we visit the workshop where our host's family has engaged in the art of inlaid woodworking for over 300 years.

We enjoy a walk downhill and along the river to the cathedral and Plaza Nueva, where we have some free time for lunch and a visit through the alcaizeria, a former silk market similar to the souks in Morocco. Following lunch, you can walk or ride up the hill to the Albaicin, the old Muslim quarter of Granada. Built on a steep slope, the district faces the Alhambra to give us a spectacular view. We explore the twisting, cobblestone streets, whitewashed houses and carmenes—villas with flowered courtyards and patios, some with undeniable Moorish decoration and architecture.

Before dinner tonight, take some time to cool off in the pool or enjoy a spa treatment.

Overnight: Loja

Meals: B, D

DAY 6

CÓRDOBA

- **Taste the olive oil pressed at a traditional mill**
- **Marvel at flamenco during a festive farewell dinner**

Enjoy a final country breakfast, then sit back for a scenic drive through silvery green olive groves. Before we reach Córdoba, a very special visit and walk awaits in beautiful Montilla. We'll visit the olive groves and historic mill to learn about the olive

DAILY ITINERARY

Spain: Southern Spain from Seville to Córdoba | Cultural Walking Adventure

oil process, from harvesting the olives to blind tasting a variety of oils. Be prepared for a fruity, grassy flavor unlike anything you've tasted before.

Córdoba is a lively contrast to the countryside of the morning, but our hotel, a former palace, is a lovely oasis amidst it all. It's just 5 minutes from the Mezquita (Mosque), now the city's cathedral, and the labyrinth of flower-bedecked streets and plazas are nearby as well.

You'll have some time this afternoon to lounge or do a little exploring on your own.

This evening, we'll promenade to dinner. Later, we witness a remarkable first class flamenco performance that will keep you on the edge of your seat!

Overnight: Córdoba

Meals: B, D

DAY 7

CÓRDOBA

- Explore the famous Mezquita
- Stroll through the old quarter

Today we join our local guide for a tour of the Mezquita. Built between the 8th and 10th centuries, this is one of the earliest and most beautiful examples of Spanish Muslim architecture. Inside, more than 850 columns of granite, jasper and marble support the roof. Beyond the columns are red and white striped horseshoe arches and a patio filled with orange trees.

Later in the morning, we have a chance to explore the cobblestone streets of the old quarter before parting company midday at our hotel. From here, it's just a short transfer to the rail station where high-speed AVE trains take you to Madrid in less than one and a half hours.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Legado Alcázar

Built within the historical complex of the Reales Alcázares Palace, this four-star boutique luxury hotel rests upon important Moorish, late medieval and contemporary archeological remains and assures an unforgettable stay in Seville's city center.

OVERNIGHT: Seville | **NIGHTS:** 1



Catalonia Ronda

The hotel, newly opened in 2017, features a unique and beautiful Spanish modernist façade, an elegant rooftop terrace with outstanding views, and is located just opposite the iconic bullring on the town's main pedestrian shopping street.

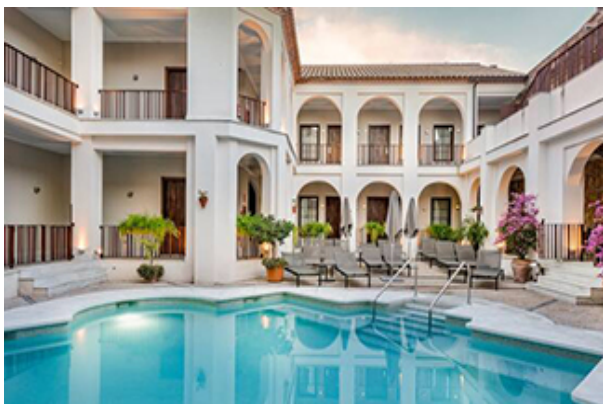
OVERNIGHT: Ronda | **NIGHTS:** 2



La Bobadilla Hotel

La Bobadilla is in the style of a typical Andalusian village to greet its visitors and transmit an authentic luxury experience, surrounded by the amazing scenery of the Sierra de Loja mountain range, between Granada and the Costa del Sol.

OVERNIGHT: Loja | **NIGHTS:** 2



Hotel Amistad

Boasting an ideal location in the historic heart of Córdoba, close to shops and sites, the hotel is made up of two 18th century palaces and traditional courtyards completely restored with modern touches and historic views from every room.

OVERNIGHT: Córdoba | **NIGHTS:** 1

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Lobby of Legado Alcazar, Seville, Spain
END	Lobby of Hotel Amistad, Córdoba, Spain
TERRAIN	At your option, 3 to 4 hours of easy to moderate walking per day on good trails and paths, with a mini-van in close support.

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 1 lunch (cooking instruction) and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics and are there to help with anything
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Perfect Pairings Dinners
- Privileged Access Events
- Wine on Us

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

Franklin
President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Spain...

- Hands-on cooking instruction of classic Andalusian dishes at the Triana Market in Seville
- Taking in the breathtaking views of Ronda's cliffs and Tajo gorge
- Exploring the "white village" of Zahara de la Sierra and the scenic ruins of its Moorish fortress
- Luxuriating in La Bobadilla, your 5-star resort in the style of an Andalusian village hidden in the Sierra de Loja mountains
- Tasting olive oil at a mill after roaming through silvery olive groves

"I loved the cultural aspects - towns and villages. And the meals and wine were outstanding."

-Barbara G., Incline Village, NV.