

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

# Andalucia

## Seville to Cordoba

**CLASSIC JOURNEYS**  
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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

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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.

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

## 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

### → PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

### → PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

### → WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

### → INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

## 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.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

## Seville

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.

MEALS: D                      OVERNIGHT: SEVILLE

DAY 2 »

## Seville / Ronda

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.

MEALS: B, L                      OVERNIGHT: RONDA

DAY 3 »

## Ronda / Benaoján

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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: RONDA

DAY 4 »

## El Torcal Natural Park

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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: LOJA

DAY 5 »

## Granada

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 Albaicín, 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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: LOJA

DAY 6 »

## Córdoba

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 Priego de Córdoba. We'll visit the olive groves and historic mill to learn about the olive 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!

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: CÓRDOBA

DAY 7 »

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## Córdoba

Today we join our local guide, Ana, for a guided 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.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



### 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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### 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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### 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.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



# Arrival & Departure

## → ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Legado Alcazar**  
START CITY: **Seville**  
START TIME: **2:30 PM**

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## → DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of Hotel Amistad**  
END CITY: **Córdoba**  
END TIME: **12:00 PM**