

CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

# 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 *alcazars* (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

Meet in Seville for an afternoon exploration of one of our favorite European cities, on foot at eye level. The cultural capital of southern Spain, this vibrant city hosted world expositions in 1929 and 1992. The first provided Seville with several of its classic buildings with beautiful architecture. The second led the city to refurbish its incredible collection of monuments and connect it to Madrid by way of high-speed AVE trains.

Begin with a walk with your guide 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. Make your way past city hall, Triana market and along the quaint streets filled with bustling cafes and shops.

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, 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. Explore the public and private rooms, marveling at the intricate blend of Arabic geometric designs with Spanish influences.

Continue your walk along The Plaza de Espana, hearing your guide's insightful stories along the way. Enjoy a very Spanish rest before your dinner at an excellent local restaurant with regional dishes to savor.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: SEVILLE

DAY 2 »

## Seville / Ronda

After breakfast, you're off for a delightful walk along the Guadalquivir River. The path is easy and level, perfect for letting you soak in the scenic surroundings. Follow the footpath as villages peek through the branches, and the Benaoján Sierras soar in the distance. You'll soon arrive at the lively Triana Market, discovering local products to use in learning how to make traditional Andalusian dishes, together with your local guide and friends. Then roll up your sleeves for an 'only with Classic Journeys' cooking instruction with a local chef. Together you'll create traditional dishes and then dine on your delicious paella... salud!

Satiated from lunch, stretch your legs on a 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 you for a tasting. Sip and sample in the wine cellar, which is housed in a former 16th-century convent.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: RONDA

DAY 3 »

## Ronda / Sierra De Las Nieveas

Fortified from breakfast, you'll drive to Province Malaga to visit the Los Pueblos Blancos, the dazzling whitewashed villages that sparkle in the sun on the mountainsides. Then head towards Ronda, one of Andalusia's most dramatic and romantic towns. (Hemingway said that Ronda would be "the perfect place to...spend a honeymoon.")

First, 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, meander down to the foot of the

city where you'll meet our local guide Carmen. She leads you 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 you'll learn about them as you go.

Your evening continues with a live guitar concert of traditional music that you won't soon forget.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: RONDA

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DAY 4 »

## El Torcal Natural Park

This morning, you're off to nearby El Torcal Natural Park. On arrival, enjoy a walk 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 sprouts from crevices in the stone walls—like a rock garden gone mad. El Torcal is also on a major migratory route for birds, and you'll have a good chance of spotting many species, such as the Imperial Eagle and the peregrine falcon.

After the wilds of the park, pause for lunch in the charming town of Antequera. Stretch your legs on walk up to Iznájar Castle, with views of the surrounding lake, before making your way to your perfectly-sited hotel in Granada for the evening.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: GRANADA

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DAY 5 »

## Granada

Today you're off 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 your local guide Rosa, 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, 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). Passing through the medina, visit the workshop where our host's family has engaged in the art of inlaid woodworking for over 300 years.

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

This evening, get the opportunity to see a remarkable first-class flamenco performance that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: GRANADA

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DAY 6 »

## Córdoba

Enjoy a final country breakfast, then sit back for a scenic drive through silvery green olive groves. En route, enjoy an 'only with Classic Journeys' visit and walk in the olive groves to a historic mill. Here you'll learn about the olive oil process, from harvesting the olives to

production of their award-winning oils. Be prepared for a sampling of fruity, grassy flavors unlike anything you've tasted before.

Córdoba is a lively contrast to the countryside of the morning and you'll follow your guide's lead through the labyrinth of flower-bedecked streets. Admire the architecture and soak up the sun in the lively plazas as well. After, you'll have some time this afternoon to lounge or do a little shopping on your own.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: CÓRDOBA

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DAY 7 »

## Córdoba

Today join our local guide, Ana, for a guided tour of the Mezquita (mosque) that is now the city's cathedral. 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, and beyond the columns are red and white striped horseshoe arches for a dazzling display. Stroll through the patio, which is filled with orange trees as you make your way around the grounds.

Later in the morning, explore the cobblestone streets of the old quarter before parting company midday.

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



### Parador De Ronda

Built as the town hall in 1762, this parador sits alongside the famous Tajo Gorge. From your beautiful room's private balcony or lounging poolside, you'll marvel at the panoramic views of the arched stone bridge and the Tagus River some 120 meters below.

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: **Legado Alcazar**  
START CITY: **Seville**

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## → DEPARTURE DETAILS

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