

# GORMET TOUR: THE TASTE OF ANDALUCIA



## CONTACT DETAILS

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## ITINERARY

6 Nights

3 N Priego

3 N Córdoba

- Sample and savour the local gastronomy. Learn about olive oil production and Andalusian wines by visiting hand-picked family farms and boutique wineries.
- Your palates will be delighted with the taste of the “Jamón Ibérico” from *Los Pedroches*, the goat cheese and the Olive oil from *La Subbética*, and the unique wines from *Montilla-Moriles*, all protected denominations of origin.
- Visit a local market to get the fresh ingredients for your amazing hands-on cooking experience.
- Learn the different cultural influences to the most traditional dishes of the Andalusian cuisine
- Experience the real Southern Spain and enjoy the peaceful countryside by staying in authentic rural accommodations.
- Discover the magnificent great Mosque and Cathedral of Cordoba, the most unique and finest Islamic architecture in Western Europe.
- Enjoy an amazing equestrian performance at the historic Royal Stables in Cordoba, birthplace to the pure Andalusian horse.

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## MON Malaga: meet & greet (D)

### DAY

#### 1 Early afternoon

Upon arrival in Malaga, you will meet with your tour leader with whom you will spend the next 6 days “*tasting*” Southern Spain. Once you've met everyone in your group, your private driver will transfer you all to your luxury family-run accommodation in rural Andalucia. Casa Olea is located just outside Priego de Córdoba, in the heart of the Subbética Natural Park.

After check-in and getting settled in, you will enjoy a lovely **welcome dinner**. We have hand-picked a selection of traditional Andalusian dishes by which you will be delighted.

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## **Subbetica day trip (B+L+D)**

**TUE**

**DAY**

**2**

### **Morning**

Today it's off to explore the stunning natural park of *Sierras Subbéticas* and the prettiest white villages of this picturesque area

After enjoying a fresh home made breakfast, your driver and tour guide will pick you up from Casa Olea to take you to **Rute** where you will be visiting the famous aniseed liquor factory and museum. There, you will have the opportunity to sample two of the most emblematic products of the region (anís and brandy)

We will then take you for a scenic drive across the Iznajar Lake where you will be able to take some lovely pictures from the most breathtaking viewpoints. Towards lunchtime we would have reached our next destination, the picturesque whitewashed town of Priego, a hidden gem in the Cordoba province.

Today, **lunch** will be at a local restaurant in Priego which only serves local and seasonal products.

### **Afternoon**

Our local guide will take you on a short orientation walking tour of aprx 2hrs around Priego to discover its charming Moorish medina (name as "barrio de la villa") and its impressive Baroque architecture of the palaces and churches within the town center.

After the tour will be driven back to your hotel where you will have the rest of the afternoon free to do a short hike or simply relax by the pool.

**Dinner** will be served at the hotel's restaurant where you will be able to admire the magnificent views of the olive groves and the Subbética mountains.

The **Sierras Subbéticas** is a stunningly beautiful, rugged park located in the heart of Andalucia between the three great cities of Córdoba, Granada and Sevilla. The park was designated a natural park in 1988. It is home to one of southern Spain's largest breeding colonies of griffon vultures, as well as around 70 other bird species, like booted, Bonelli's and short-toed eagles. It also has a rich variety of wildflowers. The park comprises 32,056ha of largely limestone plateau, from 500m to the 1,568m peak of La Tiñosa, the highest in Cordoba province.

During your stay in this picturesque area we will be exploring some of the more interesting towns: *Rute, Iznajar, Priego and Zuheros*.



**WED**  
**MAY**

## Zuheros day trip (B+L+D)

Today, you will enjoy a beautiful day outdoors exploring the attractive village of Zuheros and hiking the Via Verde railway path!

**3**

### **Morning – Hiking the Via Verde**

Your driver and guide will meet you after breakfast to take you for a short hike along the Via Verde. This abandoned railway line was once the main transport route for olive oil between the towns of Jaen and Lucena (56 km). It has now been converted into a popular walking and cycling route. Today you will take a leisurely hike along a 8 km path for around 2 hrs, starting at Luque, stopping off at some spectacular viewpoints looking over the olive groves of the Subbetica Natural Park and ending at the picturesque town of **Zuheros**. It is a very comfortable, easy and enjoyable walk.

### **Lunch**

After visiting the charming village of Zuheros and its Moorish castle, it's time for **cheese tasting** seeing as Zuheros is the most popular goat cheese producer of the region.

The cheese tasting will be followed by a **wine-pairing lunch**. The wines you will try over lunch are mostly organic and will be provided by our local wine producer who is part of the famous Montilla-Moriles wine region known from its varied, flavorful and unique wines.

A trip to Zuheros is not complete without admiring the views of the Bailon river and gorge from one of the highest points of the Natural Park.

Once done, you will return to Casa Olea where you can relax and enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening before **dinner-time**.

**Zuheros** is a stunning Subbética village nestled in a gorge backed by steep rock cliffs. A cluster of white houses tumbles down the hill below a romantic Moorish castle carved directly into the cliff. On the edge of a small square, the archeological museum displays fascinating finds from the Cueva de los Murciélagos (bats cave). This cave is located in the hills above the village and was first explored in 1938. Nearby Zuheros, there are many scenic walking and cycling routes such as the old olive oil railway trail (Via Verde), with dramatic views of the whole Subbetica landscape



**THU  
DAY  
4**

## **Montilla olive oil & wine region (B+L+D)**

### **Morning**

After breakfast and check out, you will start your journey towards Cordoba. Today we make a stop on the way to explore a very unique area which is off the beaten paths between Granada and Cordoba: the wine region of rolling hills and breathtaking views of Montilla-Moriles.

This exciting tour is designed for curious and adventurous wine-lovers, amateurs and experts alike! Olive oil, gastronomy, and wine are part of Andalucia's popular wisdom and with this tour, you will delve into the fascinating world of **olive oil and wine**.

Your first stop will be a **family-run olive oil mill** where you will discover the full process of olive oil making. You will enjoy a tour of the family groves and learn about the different characteristics, culinary uses and health benefits of olive oil. After a visit to the mill and the on-site museum you will watch a very interesting short video about oil production. The experience will be concluded by a tasting of two of their delicious varieties along with freshly baked bread also made by the very same family!

The second experience of the day is a visit to a local **family-run boutique winery** located right in the heart of the **Sierra de Montilla**, a stunning rural landscape with endless vineyards and rolling hills. Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by a truly passionate viticulturist who will take you to the family vineyards to tell you about the history of this ancestral winery. Next, you will be guided into the wine cellar, named by the family as "**Sacristia**", a remarkable sacred space where their oldest wines are kept. On this educational tour, you will learn about the unique grape variety that grows exclusively in Montilla, the popular and worldwide known "**Pedro Ximenez**". You will also learn about the entire process and aging system of these unique dry and sweet wines, a process that is probably the oldest in Spain. The visit will end with a delicious tasting session including the 5 different varieties produced in the area: Joven, Fino, Amontillado, Oloroso and Pedro Ximenez dulce. Raise your glass for a toast to a great wine experience! Your olive oil and wine experience will be completed with a lovely **pairing lunch** at one of the most emblematic taverns in town.

After **lunch**, you will be driven to your quaint accommodation in Córdoba, Alberca Deluxe, a small family-run guest house located in the city centre.

## **Cordoba Orientation walk**

### **Evening**

Once checked-in, you will have some free time to yourselves, after which your tour guide will take you on a short orientation walk of Cordoba on your way to the restaurant where you will be having **dinner** tonight



FRI

DAY

5

## Cordoba (B+L+D)

There's no better way to learn about Cordoban cuisine than by learning to prepare it yourself.

### Morning-Cooking class

Today you will join our local expert guide to visit the **local market** (Mercado La Corredora). You will have the opportunity to speak to vendors about their locally sourced products and pick some fresh ingredients that you will use on the cooking class. Your guide will point out some of his favorite Andalusian specialties and share fascinating stories about the city's classic dishes.

Next, your group will continue to the kitchen of a nearby guest house & restaurant where a talented local chef will guide you through a hands-on cooking experience featuring some of Cordoba's most popular dishes. The menu will include an appetizer, a main dish and a delectable dessert. Dishes chosen will vary according to season but could include *salmorejo*, *cogollos al ajillo*, *paella* and *arroz Cordobes*. Once everything is prepared, you will all enjoy your creations, perfectly paired with some bottles of Andalusian white & red wines.



### Afternoon-Cordoba guided tour

Your art historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel for an introductory walking tour of aprx 2.5hrs to discover the main sites of this Unesco listed city of Cordoba (the Mosque/Cathedral, the Jewish quarter, the Sinagogue and the Royal Alcazar/Palace).

After the guided tour, you can spend a couple of hours resting back at your hotel before getting ready for a **traditional tapas dinner** within the Jewish quarter.

**Córdoba** is a city in the southern Spanish region of Andalusia, and the capital of the province of Córdoba. It was an important Roman city and a major Islamic center in the Middle Ages. It's best known for La Mezquita, an immense mosque dating from 784 A.D., featuring a columned prayer hall and older Byzantine mosaics. After it became a Catholic church in 1236, a Renaissance-style nave was added in the 17th century.



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## SAT Los Pedroches day trip (B+L+D)

### DAY Morning

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Half day trip of approx 5h to Los Pedroches Natural Reserve (1:30h drive from Cordoba) to visit a family run Iberian pig farm.

Your private driver and tour guide will pick you up from your hotel to drive you through the scenic Sierra Morena mountain chain to take you to Los Pedroches.

Today, you will discover the unique landscape of the Spanish "Dehesa" habitat where the black pigs are released and bred in complete freedom from November through March.

This is a very exclusive experience for an enjoyable outdoor day including: **Iberian ham** cutting workshop, ham tasting and homemade lunch of delicious grilled vegetables, fresh salad, local cheese and traditional dessert. You will get to know the farmers, its family traditions and visit the old farmhouse where several family generations have lived in the past few hundred years.

#### Late afternoon

Back in Córdoba, you will have the option to either stay in or indulge in an Arabian bath/Spa and massage at the Hamman Al Andalus (please let us know in advance if you are interested and we will send you further information with options and prices and book an appointment for you around 18:00h).



### Evening-Andalusian Equestrian Show at the Royal Stables in Cordoba

One of the sights you can't miss when visiting the city of Córdoba is the Royal Stables, home to the Cordoba Equestrian Show. This emblematic and historical building was founded in 1570 by King Felipe II, a great horse lover with the dream of making a pure Spanish thoroughbred. The structure of the Royal Stables is quite grand, with vaulted ceilings and archways. Once the birthplace of the Andalusian Horse and now an unparalleled setting for this unique equestrian show.

This 1 hour performance is a chance to marvel at the beauty and magic of these animals showing different disciplines and the extraordinary skills of the riders. You will enjoy a magic evening which is accompanied by music, lights and dancing and also combined with the most majestic horses' dressage exercises.

After the show, you will enjoy a **farewell dinner** at one of the most emblematic restaurants and Bodegas in Cordoba.



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## SUN    Cordoba-Free Morning (B)

**DAY 7** Before heading back to Malaga airport, you can enjoy this last morning in Cordoba at your leisure to do some art craft shopping (*Cordovan* leather and silver) or revisit some of your favourite corners by strolling the narrow streets of the Jewish quarter.

If you wish, you can also visit some interesting museums in town, namely:

- The Viana Palace (a beautiful manour house with stunning courtyards and gardens)
- Julio Romero Museum (a very interesting local painter's art collection)



### End of your trip

*Unfortunately all good things must come to an end...*

**We hope you enjoy this culinary experience with us here in Spain.  
Hasta pronto!**

