

# “GAME OF THRONES” FILMING SETTINGS



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## ITINERARY & INCLUSIONS

10 Nights:

2 N Madrid

2 N Cordoba

2 N Sevilla

1 N Ronda

2 N Granada

1 N Madrid

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## DAY 1

### Arrival in Madrid and first day at your leisure

First **afternoon** & **evening** free to get acquainted with this cosmopolitan city and the vibrant atmosphere that it will offer over your stay.

We will provide you with tips and recommendations for good places to eat and drink

*\* For early arrivals at the airport, please note that hotels do not guarantee an early check-in but if your room is not ready by the time you arrive, as the usual check-in time is 2 pm, the reception staff will do the check-in for you and will keep your luggage in their safe room. In the meantime, you could use the hotel facilities (bar area, spa, library...)*

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## DAY 2

### Madrid guided tour + Prado museum visit

#### Morning

Your art historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel to take you for an introductory walking tour of Madrid's highlights focused on the Hapsburg and Bourbon legacy and will last for aprx. 4 hours. This tour will also include a guided visit of Prado Museum during which you will learn about the stories and figures behind the art. The most characterizing pieces from diverse periods in history will be noted; starting from the Renaissance all the way to the height of Impressionism.

*Note: The majority of the tour is done on foot but occasionally, to avoid walking long distances and to optimise the time spent on site visits, public transportation is needed (either taxi or metro). The cost of this public transportation is included and no extra fees are added to the guided tour.*

**Madrid**, Spain's central capital, is a city of elegant boulevards and expansive, manicured parks such as the Buen Retiro. It's renowned for its rich repositories of European art, including the Prado Museum's works by Goya, Velázquez and other Spanish masters. The heart of old Hapsburg Madrid is the portico-lined Plaza Mayor, and nearby is the baroque Royal Palace and Armory, displaying historic weaponry.

**The Prado Museum** houses one of the finest art collections in the world. It displays thousands of European paintings, sculptures, and other works of art throughout its halls. Housing more than 8,000 works of art, the museum can be overwhelming to visit independently, but our knowledgeable guide will lead you to the most significant and admired paintings and sculptures, including works by Spanish, Dutch and Italian masters. The most famous piece in the collection that is on display at the Prado is Las Meninas by Diego Velazquez. He dedicated many of his own pieces to the museum and had a hand in obtaining several works from great Italian painters as well. In tribute to Velazquez, his statue is one of the few marking the entrances to the museum.



## Madrid-Free afternoon & evening

**Afternoon & evening** to explore other sites of Madrid at your leisure.

Here are a few suggestions:

- The Royal Palace
- Reina Sofia Museum
- Thyssen Museum
- Retiro Park (the green lung of Madrid)
- The Crystal Palace (a beautiful glass structure from 1887 located in the heart of Retiro Park)
- Las Letras neighborhood (Plaza de Santa Ana)
- The Debod Temple
- Almudena Cathedral
- Salamanca and Recoletos districts (high end shopping)
- Colon district (try lunch or dinner at the trendy food court La Platea)
- Fuencarral street or Gran Via (shopping districts)



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## DAY 3

### Morning

#### High speed train to Cordoba (1h:40min)

### Cordoba guided tour

#### Afternoon

Your art historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel for an introductory walking tour of aprx. 2.30 hours to discover the main sites of Cordoba a Unesco listed city. The visit will include the Mosque/Cathedral (La Mezquita), the Jewish quarter and the Roman bridge.

#### Free evening

**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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## DAY 4

### Montilla olive oil & wine region day trip

#### Full day trip to Montilla wine region (aprx. 7h)

You will meet your driver and travel specialist at the lobby of your hotel and will be taken to Montilla (aprx. 40 min).

**10:45** First, you will visit a local family olive oil mill to learn about extra virgin olive oil production and to taste two of their delicious varieties along with freshly baked bread.

**12:30** Afterwards, it's on to a local family winery located right in the heart of the vineyards of Montilla's hills. You will learn about the entire process involved in the production of the unique "sherry" wines of this region (one of the oldest in Spain). You will also taste the 5 different varieties they produce here. This will be followed by a traditional tapas **lunch** homemade by the winery owners.

**After lunch**, you will head back to your hotel.

**Montilla** is the center of the Designation of Origin wine zone known as Montilla-Moriles. The winemaking history of this area dates back to the Romans and the Moors and it's quite possibly the oldest in Andalucia. The landscape here is dry and the soil is a blinding white *Albariza* (white marl composed of clay, calcium and marine fossils). Its excellent moisture retention is very significant as this area is hotter than almost anywhere else in Spain. The main white grape variety in this area is the worldwide known Pedro Ximenez. With a delicate skin and high sugar content, the wines that are made from it, reach up to 14 and 16% alcohol, leaving behind plenty of residual sugar. They are then matured using the *solera* system and classified into the following styles: Joven (young and fruity), Fino (dry and nutty), Amontillado (gradually oxidized), Oloroso (richer and heavier) and Pedro Ximénez (sweet and thick, honoring the actual grape name).



## Cordoba-Free evening

**Evening** in Cordoba to enjoy at your leisure.

Here are a few more suggestions:

- The Roman Temple
- Plaza de la Corredera
- Plaza de las Tendillas



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## DAY 5

### Almodóvar del Río Castle + transfer to Sevilla

**10:00** Your private driver guide will pick you up at your hotel to drive you to Almodóvar del Río (aprx. 40 min).

**11:00** You will enjoy a 1:30-hour guided visit of the 8th-century castle which was featured in Game of Thrones's season 7 as Highgarden!

Your driver and guide will then take you to *Hornachuelos* natural park (aprx 20 min) for a lovely **lunch** (cost not included) at a local restaurant with spectacular views of the *Bembezar* river.

**After lunch**, you will continue on to Sevilla (aprx. 1h drive).

The Almodovar Castle, or **Castillo de Almodóvar**, sits above the town of Almodovar, on top of a sheer-walled monolith. Which is why, it can only be seen from a large distance, and offers spectacular views over the entire *Guadalquivir* Valley. The fortress dates back to Roman times, the current construction, however, was built by the Arabs in 760. The Castillo has always been important to the city of Cordoba since its strategic location contributed to ensuring the city's security. Located above the *Guadalquivir*, which was navigable till Cordoba in the past, the castle could control the traffic on the river.



## Sevilla-Free afternoon & evening

**Afternoon & evening** at leisure in Sevilla.

Our recommended places to visit and things to do are:

- Jardines de Murillo
- Plaza de España (representation of the Iberoamerican Exhibition from 1929)
- Maria Luisa Park
- Hotel Alfonso XIII is an excellent example of the Neo Mudejar style. Built in 1928, for the Ibero American exhibition, it belongs to the Sevilla city council & is listed as a protected monument. This means that it is not necessary to be a guest to enter, so take a look around and enjoy a drink in its courtyard or bars!
- Plaza del Salvador (Iglesia del Salvador)
- Plaza de San Francisco
- Plaza Nueva
- Casa Pilatos (a magnificent example of Italian Renaissance and Andalusian Mudejar style)
- Hospital de Los Venerables (historic building with an important art collection from Murillo and Zurbarán)
- Plaza de la Encarnacion and the Metropol platform for 360° panoramic views over the whole of Sevilla (highly recommend at sunset)



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## DAY 6

### Sevilla guided tour

**10:00** Your historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel for an introductory walking tour of aprx. 3h to discover the main historic sites Sevilla (including the Cathedral, the Royal Alcazar /Palace (Whose gardens were featured in Game of Thrones as the water gardens of Dorne)\* and the Santa Cruz Jewish quarter).

This is the perfect way to explore Seville's historical center with a knowledgeable private guide. In just a half day you'll be able to visit the most important monuments of the city and learn about the part they played in the history of Seville.

This tour includes 'skip the line' access to the Cathedral so there is no need to queue, all entrance fees are also included.

*\* Subject to availability: Being an active residence of the Royal Family, the Alcazar Palace is occasionally closed to the public. For security reasons, the information is never provided ahead of time.*

**Seville** is the capital and largest city of the autonomous community of Andalusia. It is situated on the plain of the River Guadalquivir. The metropolitan population of about 1.5 million makes it the fourth-largest city in Spain. Its Old Town, the third largest in Europe with an area of 4 km<sup>2</sup>, contains three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Alcázar palace complex, the Cathedral and the General Archive of the Indies. The Seville harbor, located about 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the Atlantic Ocean, is the only river port in Spain



## Sevilla Tapas & Wine Tasting Tour

Experience Seville's vibrant wine scene on this unique tapas and wine tour (part of a group of max 14 people)

(part of a group of a minimum of 2 and maximum of 10 people). We will confirm the running of the tour 48 hours before.

### **Duration: 2.5 hrs**

**19:50** Meet with your group and guide at Plaza Nueva. Your guide will be waiting with a Devour Seville Food Tours sign in beside the statue of King Fernando III in the middle of the plaza.

**20:00** Start of the tour

**1st stop:** If you are more than 5 minutes late for a tour and your group is no longer at the meeting spot, they will be at the first tasting location below for about 20 minutes:

Maestro Marcelino (Calle Hernando Colón, 9)

Today, you'll sample an array of Spanish wines, from full-bodied reds to innovative whites, delicious vermouth to southern Spain's much-loved bone-dry sherry. And what is wine without a delicious bite to pair it with? We'll serve up carefully chosen dishes that perfectly compliment the unique taste of each drink, enough for a full **dinner!**

After meeting your expert food and wine guide in *Plaza Nueva*, you'll make your way to one of Seville's most traditional types of eateries—an *abacería!* Here you'll enjoy a glass of vermouth just like the locals do, and it'll be paired with an array of delicious cured meats.

On the way to your next stop, your expert guide will point out one of Seville's most famous and beautiful monuments. You'll then make your way to one of the city's oldest bars. Once inside, you'll taste the things locals come back for again and again—beautifully cured acorn-fed Iberian ham, cheese and two types of sherry— a crisp glass of *manzanilla* sherry, and a richer, darker version called *amontillado*.

The final stop of the night will be quite unlike the previous two! In fact, this restaurant was one of the original pioneers in Seville's gastro food scene. Apart from its delicious food, though, it also boasts a superb wine list. This is all good news, as you'll be tasting 3 innovative tapas, each one paired with a special Spanish wine.

But eating and drinking wine is just part of this **2:30-hour** experience. As you enjoy the delicious tastes available, your passionate, expert English-speaking guide will reveal the secrets of. Spain's wines, teach you how to do tapas like a local and give you unforgettable insights into the culture of beautiful Sevilla.

Please note that in order to give you a true taste of Sevilla's tapas culture, this tour visits three authentic, busy tapas bars. The first two bars offer standing room only (as is traditional in Sevilla when tapas-hopping) but there is seating at the last restaurant.

You will also get a mini-guide packed with great places to eat in the city. Plus, exclusive to this tour, you'll also get a Seville Wine Guide, which will ensure the great wine flows freely for the rest of your trip.

So, raise a glass to the most authentic food and wine experience in Seville!

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## DAY 7

### Italica Roman ruins visit (to be confirmed) + transfer to Ronda

**09:30** Your driver will pick you up from your hotel in Sevilla and will drive you to Italica (aprx. 20 mins).

**10:00** You will meet with your art historian guide to visit the ancient Roman ruins of *Italica*. The amphitheater was featured in Game of Thrones' Season 7 as the Dragonpit (still pending for confirmation if our local guide from Sevilla is available this morning to provide a guided tour of the Roman Ruins of Italica)

After this magical experience back to the ancient Roman times, you will be transferred to your hotel in Ronda (aprx. 1.30h ride)

**Itálica** was the first Roman town in Spain, founded in 206 BC. It was the birthplace of the 2nd-century AD Roman emperor Trajan, and of his adopted son and successor Hadrian. What remains of those times are broad paved streets and ruins of houses built around patios of beautiful mosaics. Itálica also contains one of the biggest of all Roman amphitheaters (seating 20,000 spectators). The most notable houses are the Casa de Los Pájaros (House of the Birds) and the Casa del Planetario (House of the Planetarium), with a mosaic depicting the gods of the seven days of the week.



## Ronda guided tour and free evening

**15:30** After checking-into your hotel in Ronda, your private historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel and will take you for an introductory walking tour of aprx 2 h which will include the old town, the cliffs, the New bridge and the bullring.

You will have the rest of the **afternoon & the evening** free to enjoy at your leisure.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Old Bridge and Arabian baths
- Jardines del Rey Moro (Moorish king gardens)
- Jardines De Cuenca
- Palacio de Mondragon
- Circular walk around Ronda's Gorge (8 km/5 miles - aprx 3h - directions will be provided)

**Ronda** is a mountaintop city that sits in the heart of the Serrania de Ronda. Set dramatically above a deep gorge and surrounded by lush river valleys, it is a place that is absolutely breathtaking. The gorge, *El Tajo*, separates the city's 15th-century new town from its Moorish old town. Puente Nuevo, a stone bridge spanning the gorge, has a lookout offering stunning views and the new town's Plaza de Toros, a legendary 18th-century bullring, is one of the city's most recognizable landmarks.



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## DAY 8

### White villages of Grazalema NP

**09:30** Your private driver/guide will meet you again this morning at your hotel and will take you on a scenic drive through the spectacular *Grazalema* natural park with sightseeing stops at the charming towns of *Setenil de las Bodegas Grazalema* and *Zahara de la Sierra*.

We highly recommend having snacks or **lunch** (cost not included) at a very nice restaurant overlooking the *Zahara* lake.

**After lunch**, you can stroll the narrow streets of the Moorish old town of Zahara and climb up to its Arab castle before heading to your hotel in Granada (aprx. 2:30 hours).

**Setenil de las Bodegas:** Named after its once flourishing wineries “bodegas”, it is probably unique among the *pueblos blancos* or white villages, of Andalucia. Where most *pueblos blancos* were built on protective cliffs and mountain tops, this town grew out of a network of caves in the cliffs above the *rio Trejo* northwest of Ronda. Its blinding white houses seem to emerge from the rocks, some even have rock roofs and olive groves on their roofs.

**Grazalema**, a pretty town whose immaculately kept cobbled streets are lined with whitewashed houses adorned with wrought-iron *rejas* on their windows and plant pots spilling over with colorful flowers. Grazalema is the most popular base for hikes into the *Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema*. It's also an age-old producer of blankets, honey, cheese, meat-filled stews and an adrenaline-filled bull-running festival, it truly has its own special charm.

**Zahara de la Sierra**, is quite simply a place that takes your breath away. It is, without a doubt, one of the most picturesque of all the Pueblos Blancos (white villages) in the Sierra de Grazalema, if not in the whole of Andalucia. The town enjoys an extraordinary setting, at the foot of the Sierra del Jaral and perched atop a hill surrounded by the turquoise waters of the Zahara-el Gastor reservoir. Standing guard above the village are the remains of a Moorish castle that commands views both over the surrounding countryside and the white-washed village beneath.



## Granada-Free afternoon & evening

Free **afternoon & evening** to get acquainted with Granada at your own leisure.

Here are some of our recommendations:

- Stroll the Darro river promenade and the Albaycin Moorish quarter (Highly recommended: sunset at the Mirador de San Nicolas, the most beautiful views of the Alhambra).
- Avenue Gran Via de Colon
- Cathedral and Royal Chapel
- La Madraza Palace (Moorish library and university from XIIIc)
- Alcaiceria (small souk)
- Plaza Bib-Ramblas



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## DAY 9

### Alhambra guided tour

**10:00** Meet with your art historian guide outside the **Mapa Mural** (Wall map) at the main ticket sales office by the Generalife entrance gate.

You will enjoy a guided tour of aprx. 3 hours during which you will discover the magnificent Moorish architecture of the Alhambra Palace and the beautiful Generalife gardens.

This tour includes the tickets and 'skip the line' access to the different areas of the Alhambra so there is no need to queue.

#### Lunch

As you will be finishing your Alhambra guided tour at about lunchtime (13-14h), we recommend having lunch (cost not included) at the Parador to enjoy their beautiful terrace which overlooks the Generalife gardens. You could also go downtown for a tapas experience around Plaza Nueva (good recommendations will be provided in a separate attached file about Granada)

**The Alhambra** is Granada's – and Europe's – love letter to Moorish culture, a place where fountains trickle, leaves rustle, and ancient spirits seem to mysteriously linger. Part palace, part fort, part World Heritage site, part lesson in medieval architecture, the Alhambra has long enchanted a never-ending line of expectant visitors.



## Granada-Free afternoon & evening

**Afternoon & evening** to further explore Granada at your own leisure.

Here are a few more of our recommendations:

- Plaza del Carmen and the City Hall
- Carmen de Los Martires (beautiful 19th-century house and gardens nearby the Alhambra with fantastic views over the city of Granada)
- Enjoy a nice Arabian bath and relaxing massage at the Hamman Al Andalus (C/ Santa Ana 16)
- Realejo Jewish district



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## DAY 10

After a leisurely morning in Granada, private transfer to the airport to catch your afternoon internal flight to Madrid

### **Flight to: MAD Madrid Barajas International Airport**

Upon arrival in Madrid, private transfer to your hotel in the city center and free evening at your leisure

## DAY 11

Private transfer to the airport.

### **End of your trip**

*Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end... We hope you enjoyed your stay with us here in Spain. Hasta pronto!*

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## QUOTE & INCLUSIONS

### “ Game of Thrones” filming settings

<p><b>ACCOMMODATION</b></p> <p>At Just Explore we understand one of the biggest worries when booking a holiday is the standard of your hotel. That's why we only use pre-viewed character hotels with great locations to help you relax and enjoy your stay with us.</p> <p><b>Your accommodation will be made up of 4/5* hotels All breakfast included.</b></p>	<p><b>TRANSPORT (all included)</b></p> <p>Private transfers from/to airports High speed train Madrid-Cordoba Internal flight Granada-Madrid</p>
<p><b>GUIDED VISITS &amp; TOURS (ALL PRIVATE) (all entrance fees included)</b></p> <p>Madrid - City tour (with Prado Museum) Cordoba – City Tour Montilla olive oil + wine experience Almodovar castle guided tour Sevilla - City tour Italica Roman ruins guided tour Ronda guided tour White villages day trip Alhambra, Granada – guided tour</p>	<p><b>FOOD TOURS</b></p> <p>- Food &amp; wine tour (Sevilla)</p>

As with all our clients, we will also provide you with a list of recommended places to visit, bars and restaurants etc to help you enjoy the authentic Spain whilst you are exploring at your leisure.

**ASSISTANCE DURING YOUR TRIP**

Full support and assistance on hand 24hrs/day

<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b></p> <p>This is an example itinerary and can always be changed/adapted to suit your exact requirements as needed.</p>	<p><b>PRICE:</b></p> <p>Depends on the number of travelers and the travel dates Please enquire for further details</p>
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\*Subject to our standard terms and conditions (full details on separate sheet)

