



CULTURAL TOUR IN SOUTHERN SPAIN

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF ANDALUCIA

(Small exclusive group tour 6-12 people)

On this tour, you will embark on a carefully curated magical journey around Moorish Andalusia which will allow you to discover some of Spain's main World Heritage Sites. Accompanied by a local tour leader & guided by expert historian guides, you will explore and learn about the history of exceptional places in the region such as Granada's legendary Alhambra Palace, Cordoba's distinctive Mosque, and the Sevilla's majestic Cathedral.

Andalusia is truly a melting pot of culture where history meets and blends with myth. The cultural influences that have washed over Andalusia since the first paintings were etched on cave walls are many: Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Visigoths, and Vandals. But the most influential of all was unarguably that of the Moors, who named the region "Al-Andalus" and who's eighth-century rule left an indelible imprint on the region's culture and its customs.

This is the legacy that we will explore together on this Classic Cultural Tour.

SUMMARY (8 days)

Start & End Point: Malaga

2 N Granada

2 N Cordoba

2 N Sevilla

1 N Malaga

What's Included?

- All private transfers
- 4-star Boutique Hotels
- Breakfasts & all meals mentioned in the itinerary
- Fluent English speaking Tour Leader
- Fluent English speaking art historian guides
- Skip the line access
- Tips & Gratuities

What's not Included?

- International Air Flights
- Medical/Travel Insurance
- Meals & Drinks, other than those mentioned in the itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Small exclusive group tour (6-12 people maximum)
- Explore the **unique architectural treasures of Andalusia** with skip-the-line access and guided tours of Córdoba's Mezquita, Granada's Alhambra Palace and Sevilla's Gothic Cathedral.
- Learn about traditional **olive oil production and Andalusian wines** by visiting handpicked family farms & boutique wineries in Montilla.
- Enjoy the soul and duende of the purest **flamenco in Seville** and the vibrant atmosphere of Andalusian cities by night.
- Discover the **exquisite, fortified palace-city of Medina Azahara** and savour lunch in **picturesque Carmona** while drinking in valley views.
- Experience **Ronda's timeless charm**, from its quaint old town to the breathtaking views over the Tejo Gorge.
- Explore **Málaga's rich and varied heritage** from its Roman theatre and Moorish fortress to the modern Picasso Museum.
- Savour **Andalusia's rich culinary heritage** and taste its Moorish influences from tasty tapas to vineyard lunches.
- Stay in **characterful historic buildings converted into charming and cosy accommodation** for a real feel of Andalusian architecture.
- Be seduced by an era of extraordinary harmony, **where Christians, Jews and Muslims coexisted to create one of history's greatest civilisations**.
- Get off the beaten path to **uncover under-the-radar treasures and insider secrets** with the knowledge of our expert local guides.



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ITINERARY

DAY 1: A first taste of Granada

Early afternoon: Arrive in Malaga, meet & greet at the train station & transfer to Granada

Upon arrival in Malaga, meet with your tour leader with whom you will spend the next 7 days exploring Southern Spain and the rest of your group. Your private driver will then transfer you all to your hotel in Granada's historic centre (approx. 1.5h drive along the scenic coastal road).

Evening: Orientation walk & tapas experience

After checking in, you'll have some free time to freshen up and relax before meeting the group again to begin exploring Granada. Begin your journey of discovery with a 1.5-hour orientation walk led by your tour leader, exploring Granada's lively city centre. Stroll through its charming streets and historic squares to get your bearings, then enjoy dinner at one of Rosa's favourite local tapas spots. After savouring traditional dishes and soaking up the authentic Granadino atmosphere, end the evening with a pleasant walk to your hotel.

Meals included: Evening tapas tour



DAY 2: The wonders of the Alhambra

Free Morning

Enjoy free time to explore Granada at your leisure. Wander the historic Albaycin with its narrow streets and whitewashed houses, and catch sunset views of the Alhambra from Mirador de San Nicolás. Stroll Gran Vía de Colon, visit Granada Cathedral and the Royal Chapel, or explore La Madraza and the charming Alcaicería market. Relax at Hammam Al Andalus, soak in the gardens of Carmen de los Martires, or discover the vibrant Realejo and Sacromonte neighborhoods.

Afternoon: Alhambra guided tour

Enjoy a 3h tour of the Alhambra Palace & the beautiful Generalife gardens with your local fluent English-Speaking art historian guide. This tour includes entrance tickets and 'skip the line' access.

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.

This evening, you will enjoy a lovely dinner in the Albaycin overlooking the Alhambra.

Granada was first settled by native tribes in the prehistoric period and was known as Ilbyr. When the Romans colonized southern Spain, they built their own city here and called it Illibris. The Arabs, invading the peninsula in the 8th century, gave it its current name of Granada. It was the last Muslim city to fall to the Christians in 1492, at the hands of Queen Isabel of Castile and her husband Ferdinand of Aragon.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner



DAY 3: A taste of the countryside

Morning: Montilla olive oil & wine region

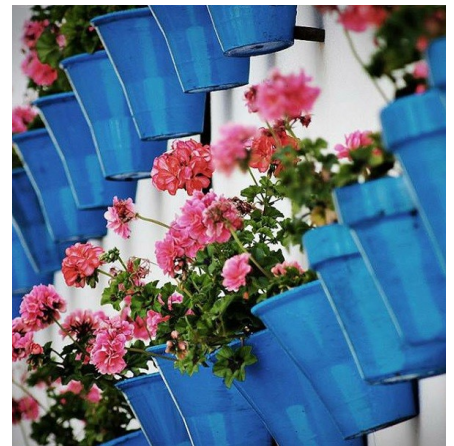
On this exciting tour, we will venture out into the countryside to explore the beautiful hills of Montilla. Here you will visit two family-run boutique establishments: an olive oil mill and a winery. You will learn about the production process and will enjoy tastings of their award winning products along with a delicious traditional tapas lunch showcasing this region's products.

Home of the famed "Gran Capitan", Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba, a Spanish general who fought in the Conquest of Granada and the Italian wars. Montilla is also the centre of the Designation of Origin wine zone known as Montilla-Moriles.

Afternoon: Transfer to Cordoba & orientation walk

Get acquainted with this beautiful and historical city with a 2h to get acquainted with this beautiful and historic city. This gentle introduction focuses on Córdoba's charming city center and its scenic riverside, where the Guadalquivir River has shaped the city's character for centuries.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 4: The ancient city of Córdoba

Morning: Cordoba guided tour

Walking tour with historian guide of approx. 3h to discover the main sites of this UNESCO listed city. Includes: the Mosque and Cathedral, the Jewish quarter and the famed patios of San Basilio.

Lunch will be at the famous "Bodegas Campos", a traditional Córdoba house with stunning courtyards and a private wine cellar.

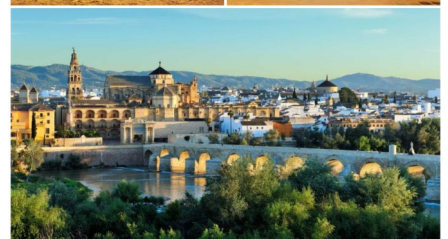
Córdoba was an important Roman city and a major Islamic centre in the Middle Ages. It's best known for La Mezquita, an immense mosque dating from 784 A.D., featuring a columned prayer hall and older Byzantine mosaics. After it became a Catholic church in 1236, a Renaissance-style nave was added in the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

Free Afternoon to relax or explore the city on your own.

Evening Equestrian Show (optional extra 35 euros per person)

Marvellous equestrian exhibition in which pure bred Spanish horses are the main protagonists. The stage; an emblematic and magical historical building, once the birthplace of the Andalusian Horse and now an unparalleled setting for this enchanting equestrian show.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 5: Medina Azahara & Sevilla

Morning: Guided tour of Medina Azahara

After having breakfast and checking out, your driver and art historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel to take you to explore the archaeological site of Medina Azahara (aprx. 20 min North of Cordoba). Here you will have a guided tour of 3 hrs including: a presentation video, a tour of the archaeological museum and a visit to the site itself.

The medieval palace city of Medina Azahara, once the seat of the Caliphate of Cordoba that existed in the 10th and 11th centuries, has been added to the UNESCO heritage list in June 2018. It is the 47th World Heritage List site to be inscribed in Spain, which already has forty cultural, four natural, and two mixed sites listed.



Lunch: Transfer to the picturesque town of Carmona (approx. 1h 15min, on the way to Sevilla) where you will enjoy a delicious lunch at the Parador Hotel. The restaurant here offers the most **spectacular views** over the Guadalquivir valley and crops.

Carmona, known as the “shining star of Andalusia” is a hidden gem sited on a low hill overlooking a fertile plain planted with fields of barley, wheat, and sunflowers. Carmona is a small picturesque town that has burst beyond its ancient walls. Founded by the Carthaginians in III-century BC probably on the site of a Turditani Iberian settlement.

After lunch, it's off to Sevilla, which is at only a 30 min drive on the motorway.

Evening Orientation walk of Sevilla: Approx. 1.5hrs to get acquainted with this charming city.

Highlights: Murillo gardens, Plaza de Espana, Maria Luisa Park & the Torre del Oro.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 6: Sevilla, the beauty

Morning: Guided tour of Sevilla

Walking tour of approx. 3h with your art historian guide to discover the main historic sites of Sevilla.

Includes: The Cathedral, Royal Alcazar /Palace & the Santa Cruz Jewish quarter. This tour includes “skip-the-line” access to all the main sites.



Some cities blast you away, others slowly win you over. Sevilla disarms and seduces you. Its historic centre lorded over by a colossal Gothic cathedral, is an intoxicating mix of resplendent Mudejar palaces, baroque churches and winding medieval lanes. Flamenco clubs keep the intimacy and intensity of this centuries-old tradition alive whilst aristocratic mansions recall the city's past as a showcase Moorish capital and, later, a 16th-century metropolis rich on the back of New World trade.

You'll have the **afternoon free** to continue exploring Seville, unwind, or enjoy some shopping at your own pace!

Evening Flamenco Show & Dinner

An evening of art & emotion at one of the most emblematic 'tablaos' in Sevilla. Witness the excitement and 'duende' of Flamenco first hand, and enjoy a delectable à la carte dinner with dishes of high Andalusian cuisine.



Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 7: Picturesque Ronda

A Journey Through Andalusia's Scenic Countryside & the Timeless Charm of Ronda

Today promises to be one of the highlights of your trip—a day spent soaking in the natural beauty of southern Spain as you wind your way through the spectacular Andalusian countryside and mountains. The best, however, is saved for last: the stunning clifftop town of Ronda. After checking out, you'll enjoy a scenic private transfer to Ronda (approx. 2 hours), taking in rolling hills, olive groves, and whitewashed villages along the way.

Upon arrival, meet your local guide for a 2.5-hour walking tour through Ronda's most iconic sights. You'll wander the cobbled streets of the historic old town, admire the dramatic cliffs that drop into the El Tajo gorge, and cross the awe-inspiring Puente Nuevo—an 18th-century stone bridge that connects the city's old and new quarters and offers sweeping views of the landscape below. The tour also includes a visit to Plaza de Toros, one of the oldest and most significant bullrings in Spain.

After the tour, enjoy a leisurely **lunch** at the Reina Victoria Hotel, a charming property perched at the edge of the gorge. From the terrace, you'll enjoy panoramic views of Ronda's breathtaking cliffs—a perfect moment to relax and take it all in before continuing your journey.

In the afternoon, your driver will take you to Málaga (approx. 1.5 hours), where you'll check into your centrally located hotel. The evening is yours to explore at your own pace. Whether you're in the mood for a sunset stroll along the port, a tapas crawl through the old town, or simply a relaxed evening with a glass of wine, we've got you covered. You'll receive personalized recommendations for local bars, restaurants, and places worth discovering.

Ronda is a mountaintop city like no other, perched dramatically above a plunging gorge in the heart of the Serranía de Ronda, a rugged and unspoiled region of Andalusia. Surrounded by rolling hills, olive groves, and lush river valleys, Ronda feels like a place suspended in time. Its most striking natural feature is El Tajo Gorge, a breathtaking chasm carved by the Guadalevín River, which divides the city into two distinct halves: the Moorish old town with its narrow, winding streets, and the more modern 15th-century quarter. Bridging the gorge is the awe-inspiring Puente Nuevo, an architectural masterpiece completed in the 18th century after decades of construction. From its elevated viewpoint, visitors are treated to sweeping vistas of the canyon below and the surrounding countryside—scenes that have inspired writers and artists for centuries.

Equally iconic is Ronda's Plaza de Toros, one of the oldest and most revered bullrings in Spain. Built in 1785, this grand arena is steeped in history and tradition, and has played a central role in shaping the modern form of Spanish bullfighting. Together, Ronda's dramatic landscape and deep cultural heritage make it a destination that captures the heart and imagination of all who visit.



Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 8: Malaga, window to the Mediterranean

Morning: Malaga Old town & Picasso museum

Your private art historian guide will meet you at your hotel for a 2.5-hour walking tour of Málaga. You'll start with an orientation stroll through the historic old town, getting a sense of the city's layout, character, and rich history. The tour includes a guided visit to the Picasso Museum, where you'll learn about the artist's deep connection to his hometown.

Along the way, your guide will share insights into key landmarks like the Renaissance Cathedral, the Roman Theatre, the Alcazaba, and central squares such as Plaza de la Merced and Plaza de la Constitución. You'll also explore lesser-known corners of the city to experience the authentic spirit of Málaga.

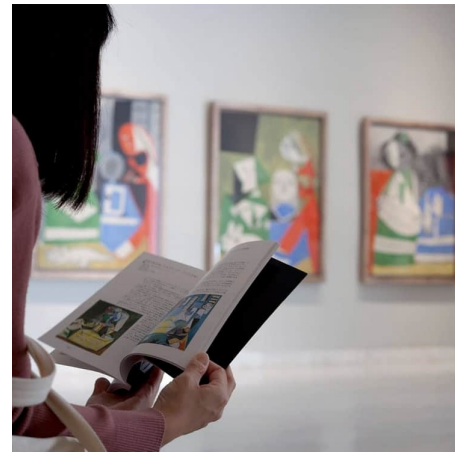
This tour will be completed with a **farewell lunch** at one of the most authentic restaurants in Malaga.

Should you need a transfer to your next destination, it will be our pleasure to make the arrangements for you (additional costs may apply).

*Beyond its port and seafront, **Malaga** city can pleasantly surprise you. The archaeological remains, as well as its monuments from the Phoenician, Roman, Arabic, and Christian eras, make the historic centre of the city an open-air museum, displaying its rich 3,000-year history.*

Overlooking the town and port, the wonderfully preserved fourteenth-century citadels of the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro bear remarkable witness to the city's Moorish past, while the Roman Theatre below predates them by over a millennium. The city also has a trio of outstanding art galleries, including the spectacular Museo Picasso, housing a major collection of work by this Malaga-born artist.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



End of your trip :(

Unfortunately all good things must come to and end.... We hope you enjoyed this small group tour with us.

PRO TIP

We recommend arriving a couple of days before our Cultural Tour in Southern Spain begins to settle in, adjust to the time zone, and start enjoying Spain at a relaxed pace before the official itinerary starts.

If you would also like to **extend your journey beyond the group tour**, we would be delighted to create a customised itinerary to help you explore more of Andalucía or other regions of Spain at your own pace.

Let us know your interests and travel dates, and we'll be happy to assist with any pre- or post-tour arrangements.



PRICE & INCLUSIONS

Cultural Tour in Southern Spain



ACCOMMODATION

At Just Explore we understand one of the biggest worries when booking a holiday is the standard for 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.

Your accommodation will be made up of:

4-star Boutique hotels with double or twin rooms sharing

Breakfasts included - All centrally located

Air conditioning - En-suite bathrooms

TRANSPORT (all included)

Luxury AC vehicle with driver and tour leader for the duration of the tour

Luggage:

We advise packing light and recommend bringing the following luggage so we can ensure that all bags fit in our vehicle (minivan or minibus):

1 medium size suitcase (43x28x66 cm / 17'x11'x26')

1 carry on bag and/or backpack

If you are traveling longer and need to bring more than this please advise our office in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements (if needed)

GUIDED VISITS & TOURS (all entrance fees included)

Granada - Orientation walk + Alhambra Palace

Montilla - Olive oil & wine experience

Cordoba - Orientation walk + City tour

Madinat Azahara Archeological site - Guided tour

Carmona - Panoramic visit

Sevilla - Orientation walk + City tour

Ronda - City tour

Malaga - City tour & Picasso Museum

MEALS & SHOWS

5 lunches and 3 dinners (generous and delicious including all beverages)

Olive oil & Wine tasting in Montilla

Flamenco performance in Sevilla

OPTIONAL: (additional cost)

Cordoba Equestrian show: 35 Euros

Assistance During Your Trip

Full support & assistance on hand 24/7.

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

Insurance

We recommend that all travelers take out their own private medical & travel insurance whilst traveling to avoid any unforeseen expenses...

Tips

Basic tips* (driver, restaurants, hotels and local guides) are included.

**Additional gratuities can be given at the sole discretion of each individual traveler.*

Please Note:

The above itinerary may change at any time due to circumstances beyond our control. We will duly advise of any such changes as soon as possible.

PRICE* (Per person)

4,900 Euros

Single supplement + 20%

** Subject to our standard terms & conditions (full details on separate sheet)*



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