



THE HIDDEN GEMS TOUR OF SOUTHERN SPAIN

(Small exclusive group tour 6-12 people)

On this exclusive small-group tour, you will uncover the lesser-known treasures of Southern Andalusia, combining history, culture, and gastronomy in a journey that stretches from Mazagón to Cádiz and Vejer. With the expertise of local guides and art historians, you will explore a mix of iconic and off-the-beaten-path sites, from the spiritual charm of El Rocío village to the coastal Roman ruins of Baelo Claudia, the sherry traditions of Jerez, and the picturesque hilltop streets of Vejer de la Frontera.

Andalusia's richness lies in its layers of history and culture, shaped by centuries of influence from Romans, Moors, and Andalusian traditions. Alongside fascinating historical sites, you'll experience the region through its food: savour the world-famous Iberian ham in the Sierra de Arcena, taste distinctive sherry of Jerez, and enjoy fresh coastal flavours overlooking the Atlantic.

This journey also extends beyond Spain's borders with a day trip to Tangiers, offering a glimpse into Morocco's vibrant culture and architecture, before returning to Andalusia for a farewell dinner in Vejer. Whether exploring the marshlands of Doñana National Park, wandering the whitewashed streets of hilltop towns, or enjoying a tapas dinner under Andalusian skies, this tour blends cultural immersion with authentic local

SUMMARY (8 days)

Start & End Point: Sevilla

2 N in Mazagón

3 N in Cádiz

2 N in Vejer

What's Included?

- All private transfers
- 3 & 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)
- Get off the beaten path to **uncover under-the-radar treasures and insider secrets** with the knowledge of our expert local guides.
- Explore the **unique charm of Andalusia's whitewashed hilltop towns**, coastal villages, and scenic natural reserves.
- Discover historical gems like the **El Rocío pilgrimage village**, the **Roman ruins of Baelo Claudia**, and the **sherry bodegas of Jerez**.
- Enjoy **spectacular settings** and **brehtaking views**, from marshlands and rolling hills to cliff-top panoramas and medieval streets.
- Sample and savor the local gastronomy, including **Iberian ham, sherry, fresh seafood**, and **traditional tapas**, while learning about wine production at **family-run wineries**.
- Stay in characterful boutique hotels in historic buildings for an immersive Andalusian atmosphere.



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ITINERARY

DAY 1: Sevilla Arrival & El Rocío Experience

Early Afternoon: Arrival in Sevilla, meet & greet at the train station with transfer to Mazagón via El Rocío

Arrival in to Sevilla to meet up with your tour leader with whom you will spend the next 7 days exploring this lesser-known part of Spain along with the rest of your group. Your driver will then transfer you all to your hotel in Mazagón, stopping off on the way at the unique and charming village of El Rocío, a one-of-a-kind town set on the edge of Doñana National Park (2.5h visit).

During this guided visit, you'll wander through the village's most iconic spots, including the Hermitage of El Rocío, an important pilgrimage site that attracts over a million devotees each year. Your guide will share the traditions, stories, and cultural significance behind this remarkable place, giving you a deeper understanding of its famous pilgrimage, "La Romería."

You'll also enjoy views over the beautiful marshlands of Doñana, often filled with wild birds and flamingos, adding a peaceful natural touch to the experience.

This short but immersive tour is a wonderful way to appreciate the soul of rural Andalusia—authentic, spiritual, and unforgettable.

Evening

You will then head to your hotel where you will check-in and have time to freshen up and settle in before enjoying your Welcome Dinner.

*Known for its sandy streets, whitewashed houses, and Andalusian spirit, **El Rocío** feels like stepping into a Western film—where horses replace cars and locals ride through town in traditional attire. The village centers around its iconic hermitage, surrounded by wide marshlands, vibrant birdlife, and a quiet, timeless atmosphere that's truly unique in Spain.*

Meals included: Welcome Dinner

DAY 2: Iberian Ham Experience

Morning: Sierra de Aracena & Black Iberian Pigs

On this scenic morning tour, you will drive along one of Spain's most picturesque routes, with stunning views over the Aracena mountains and the charming towns of Linares, Alájar, and Santa Ana. You will stroll through the dehesa forest, where free-range black Iberian pigs roam beneath holm oaks, and learn about the breed that produces the world's finest ham.

You'll also visit Cinco Jotas, one of Spain's most prestigious ham producers. Explore the 130-year-old cellar, watch artisans at work, and enjoy a tasting of Iberian ham paired with sherry.

You can even try your hand at carving a slice under expert guidance, before finishing with a **traditional lunch** in a local restaurant featuring a variety of pork dishes.

Afternoon: Transfer Back to Mazagón and free evening

The Sierra de Aracena Natural Park is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, home to free-range black Iberian pigs that roam freely from November through March. Its rolling hills and forests provide the perfect environment for this prized breed.

Cinco Jotas is located in the heart of Jabugo, a town renowned worldwide for its Iberian ham. The historic cellars, set 660 meters above sea level, provide ideal conditions for curing ham, and the artisanal process has been perfected over generations.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



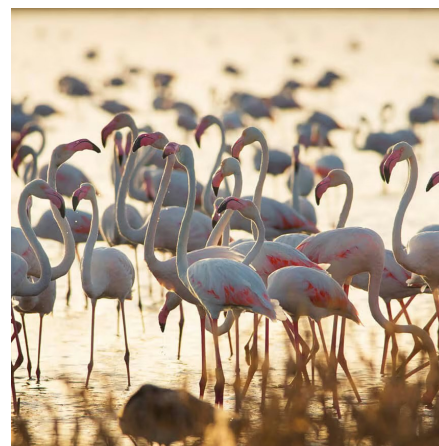
DAY 3: Marshes, Wildlife & Wine in Doñana National Park

Morning: Doñana National Park Tour

Today brings a beautiful blend of nature, tradition, and gastronomy as you make your way from Mazagon to Cádiz.

Your day begins with a 4x4 tour of Doñana National Park, one of Europe's most important protected ecosystems and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This vast landscape—often described as one of Spain's last true wilderness areas—combines dunes, forests, and marshes that support an extraordinary variety of wildlife. As you travel through pine woods, cork oak groves, and sweeping sand tracks, you might spot red deer, wild boar, migratory birds, and even flamingos! With a bit of luck, you may also glimpse some of the park's rarer species, including imperial eagles.

Your route ends at Doñana's famous Marshlands, where the Guadalquivir River meets the Atlantic. These wetlands are the heart of the park and a sanctuary for countless bird species—an unforgettable place for nature lovers. From here, you'll cross the river by boat to reach Sanlúcar de Barrameda, the historic seaside town known for its sherry-producing heritage.



Winery Visit, Tasting & Pairing Lunch

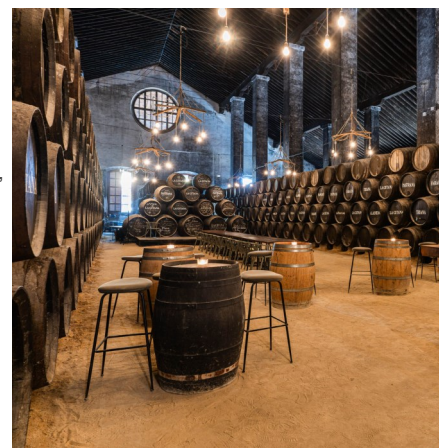
Your next stop is the esteemed Hidalgo La Gitana winery, world-renowned for its Manzanilla sherry. You'll enjoy an insightful tour of the winery followed by a wine tasting and a relaxed pairing lunch, featuring fresh, seasonal Andalusian dishes that highlight the region's maritime and agricultural traditions.

Afternoon & evening free time

After lunch, a short 35-minute transfer takes you to Cádiz, where you'll check into your hotel. The rest of the evening is free to explore at your own pace—stroll the old town, admire the Atlantic views, or simply unwind with a glass of local wine.

Doñana National Park and the surrounding region of Sanlúcar are a rare blend of natural beauty and cultural richness. From its wild marshes to its historic towns and vineyards, this corner of Andalusia offers an authentic glimpse into the region's traditions, landscapes, and flavors—a perfect combination of nature, culture, and gastronomy for a memorable day.

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 4: Explore Cádiz, the oldest city in Europe

Morning: Guided Tour of Cádiz

Start your morning with a tour of Cádiz, Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities, with over 3,000 years of history. Its strategic location on a narrow peninsula made it a key port for the Phoenicians, Romans, and later the Spanish Crown, giving the city a unique blend of ancient, medieval, and baroque architecture.

You'll wander through the historic neighbourhoods of La Viña, El Pópulo, and Santa María, the latter famed as the birthplace of Flamenco. Highlights include a guided visit to the New Cathedral, where you can also climb the bell towers for breathtaking panoramic views of the city and the Atlantic Ocean. You'll also explore the city's charming squares, each reflecting Cádiz's centuries-old traditions and vibrant culture.

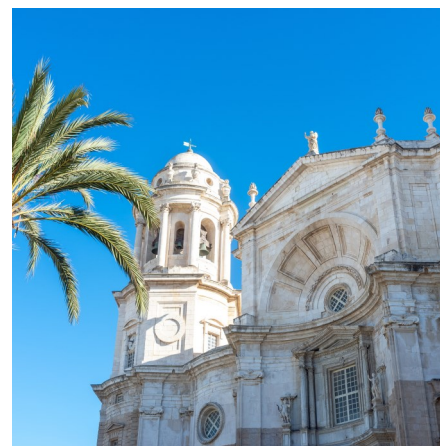
Lunch at local market

Your tour concludes at the Mercado Central, a lively hub of local flavours and aromas. Here, you'll enjoy a delicious lunch, sampling fresh Andalusian specialties amid the bustling market atmosphere.

The afternoon and evening are yours to continue exploring at your own pace.

Cádiz is a city where history and daily life blend seamlessly. Founded over 3,000 years ago by the Phoenicians, it is one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities, shaped by Romans, Moors, and the Spanish Crown. From medieval streets and baroque squares to its lively market and scenic waterfront, Cádiz offers a perfect mix of culture, flavour and maritime charm—a city that invites exploration and leaves a lasting impression.

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch



DAY 5: Sherry, Art, and Gastronomy: The perfect match

Morning: Day Trip to Jerez with Bodegas Tradición

Today, immerse yourself in the traditions, history, and flavours of Jerez de la Frontera, the heart of Andalusia's sherry country. Your private driver will transfer you from Cádiz to Jerez, where an art historian guide will introduce you to the city's rich multicultural heritage. Discover the legacy of Moorish rule at the 11th-century Alcázar, explore the splendour of 17th-century Spain in the Gothic cathedral, and stroll through Jerez's charming streets and plazas while learning about its art, culture, and history.

Next, visit Bodegas Tradición, an elegant and historic winery where you'll uncover the art of sherry production. Walk through its impressive halls, patios, and cellars, as your guide explains the centuries-old solera and criadera system, the aging process, and the story behind these prestigious wines. The experience culminates in a tasting of the bodega's finest sherries, accompanied by the beauty of its private art collection, creating a perfect blend of flavour and culture.

Pairing lunch at former wine cellar

Following the tasting, enjoy a delicious pairing lunch at La Carbona, one of Jerez's renowned restaurants, featuring traditional Andalusian dishes crafted from fresh, local ingredients. Relax, savour the flavours, and soak in the city's atmosphere before your return transfer to Cádiz.

The afternoon and evening are free for you to explore at your own pace.

Jerez is a city where history and tradition meet. Founded over 3,000 years ago, it has been shaped by Phoenicians, Romans, Moors, and the Spanish Crown. Key sites include the 11th-century Alcázar, a striking Moorish fortress, and the Gothic cathedral, reflecting 17th-century grandeur, while its medieval streets and lively squares showcase the city's rich cultural heritage.

*Jerez is also renowned for sherry, and at **Bodegas Tradición**, you'll explore its historic cellars and patios, learn about the centuries-old solera system, and enjoy a tasting of its finest wines amid a remarkable private art collection, blending flavour, history, and tradition..*

Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch



DAY 6: From Seaside Roman Ruins to Vejer's Hilltop Views

Morning: Baelo Claudia Roman Ruins

Today promises a wonderful mix of history, coastal scenery, and Andalusian charm. Your adventure begins with a private transfer from Cádiz to Bolonia Beach (approx. 1 hour).

Upon arrival at Baelo Claudia Roman Ruins, you'll enjoy a tour of one of Spain's best-preserved Roman cities. Wander through the basilica, forum, theatre, and fish-salting factories while taking in the stunning coastal backdrop.

After your visit, enjoy a light seaside lunch (payment on site), relaxing with the fresh sea air and views of the sand dunes.

Afternoon: Scenic coastal drive to Vejer

Following lunch, continue your journey to Vejer de la Frontera (approx. 40 minutes). Along the way, you will be making stops to enjoy the breathtaking views and take some pictures. Once in Vejer, you'll check in at your hotel and enjoy a free afternoon to relax.

Evening: Moorish History, Hilltop Charms & Delicious Tapas

In the early evening, enjoy a guided stroll through Vejer's most charming corners and picturesque hilltop streets. Before finishing the day with a relaxed tapas dinner in one of the town's cozy local restaurants.

Baelo Claudia and Vejer de la Frontera offer a wonderful contrast of landscapes and history. Baelo Claudia, set beside the sea, is one of Spain's best-preserved Roman cities, offering a real sense of ancient life along the coast.

Vejer, perched high above the surrounding countryside, captures the essence of whitewashed Andalusia with its narrow Moorish streets, historic walls, and atmospheric plazas—a perfect blend of culture, scenery, and gastronomy for a memorable day.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner



DAY 7: A Taste of Morocco & Farewell

Morning: Day Trip to Tangiers

Today offers a captivating taste of Morocco paired with a charming Andalusian evening.

Your adventure begins with a private transfer from Vejer to the port of Tarifa (approx. 1 hour), where you'll board the ferry to Tangiers (approx. 1h 15min). Enjoy the refreshing sea air and watch the coastlines of Spain and Morocco glide by as you approach this legendary city.

Tangiers has long been a crossroads of civilizations—Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, and Europeans have all left their mark on its vibrant culture and architecture, making it a city full of stories and contrasts. Upon arrival, your local guide together with your driver will meet you to begin a full day of exploration.

Start with a panoramic drive through the hills surrounding Tangier, passing lush landscapes, elegant villas, and scenic viewpoints. Visit the Caves of Hercules, steeped in myth and legend, the iconic lighthouse, and stunning coastal beaches, each offering breathtaking views and a glimpse into Tangier's layered history.

Lunch with views

Savour a flavourful Moroccan lunch in a local restaurant, sampling the region's rich cuisine while taking in spectacular vistas.

Afternoon: Explore the Medina

In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the vibrant Medina, Tangier's historic heart. Wander its colourful streets, explore the Kasbah, and admire the architecture of Saint Andrews Church. Discover the bustling Sidi Bouabid Berber market, where artisans sell leather goods, jewelry, carpets, spices, and other traditional crafts, and enjoy some free time to shop or soak up the lively atmosphere. Your guide will then escort you back to the port for the ferry crossing to Tarifa, followed by a private transfer back to Vejer.

Evening: Farewell Dinner in Vejer

The day concludes with a farewell dinner in this picturesque hilltop town, where you can relax, reminisce about your adventures, and enjoy the charming streets, panoramic views, and warm Andalusian hospitality.

Tangiers is where continents, cultures, and centuries collide—a place where Europe meets Africa and history feels alive at every turn. For over 3,000 years, its strategic perch above the Strait of Gibraltar has drawn traders, diplomats, artists, and free-spirited adventurers. In the 19th and 20th centuries, it flourished as a legendary “international zone,” a magnet for creativity, intrigue, and cosmopolitan life. Today, Tangiers still hums with that energy. Its winding medinas, storied kasbahs, and sweeping sea views reveal a city shaped by many worlds, offering visitors an unforgettable blend of mystery, beauty, and timeless allure...

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 8: Transfer to Sevilla and End of your trip

Morning: Check out and private transfer to Sevilla

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 few days before the Hidden Gems tour begins to settle in, adjust to the time zone, and start enjoying Spain or Portugal at a relaxed pace.

You have some fantastic options for a **pre-tour extension**:

- **Arrive in Seville:** Immerse yourself in the charm of this vibrant city before the tour starts. Wander through its lively plazas, marvel at the stunning Alcázar and Cathedral, savour authentic tapas, and experience the soulful rhythm of flamenco. We can arrange guided tours or curated experiences to help you dive deeper into Seville's history, culture, and gastronomy.
- **Arrive in Portugal:** Begin your journey in Portugal and explore its captivating towns, scenic coastline, and rich culture. From wandering the colourful streets of Lisbon or Porto to enjoying the sun-drenched beaches of the Algarve and sampling world-class wines, a pre-trip extension in Portugal is a perfect way to ease into your adventure.

Post-tour: Instead of returning to Vejer, consider staying in Tangiers and extending your stay here. From there, you can explore **the magic of Morocco**—stroll the blue streets of **Chefchaouen**, get lost in **Marrakesh's** vibrant souks, marvel at historic palaces, and indulge in the country's **flavourful cuisine**. This creates an unforgettable post-tour adventure, full of colour, culture, and discovery.

We'd be delighted to help design a customized pre- or post-tour itinerary tailored to your interests and travel dates, making your trip seamless and truly memorable...

PRICE & INCLUSIONS

The Hidden Gems Tour of 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)

El Rocío – Village tour & Hermitage visit

Sierra de Aracena – Iberian ham experience, cellar visit & tasting

Doñana National Park – 4x4 safari & wildlife spotting

Jerez – Winery visit, tasting

Cádiz – Tour of historic old town & Cathedral bell tower

Baelo Claudia – Roman ruins tour

Vejer de la Frontera – City tour

Tangiers, Morocco – Day trip

MEALS & SHOWS

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

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:

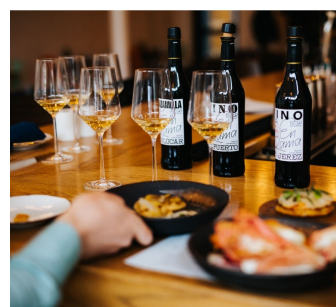
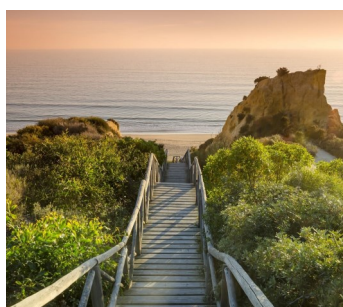
The above itinerary may change at any time due to circumstances beyond our control. We will duly advise of any such changes as soon as possible.

PRICE* (Per person)

4,300 Euros

Single supplement + 20%

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



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