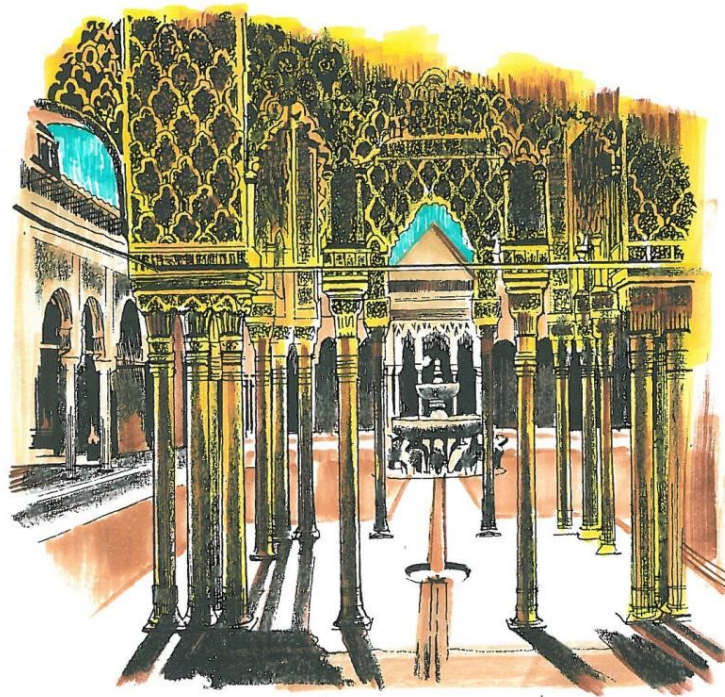


The Moorish Heritage of Andalucía



Monday 09 - Saturday 14 September 2024

Owing to its size and location, Spain's southernmost and most populous region, Andalucía, boasts a fascinating range of natural beauty and cultural heritage. Encompassing most of southern Spain, stretching to the southernmost tip of mainland Europe and with the shortest crossing to North Africa just 14km, the region amounts to a unique fusion of Western European Christian traditions and North African Muslim stylistics. Even the region's name belies its diverse heritage, thought to have derived from the Arabic *al-Andalus*, which in turn takes its name from the Vandals, a Germanic tribe which settled in Spain in the 5th century BC.

Moving between the Andalucían capital of Seville and Antequera, we will explore the resulting blend of styles that the region has to offer, from Seville's vast Gothic Cathedral to the ornate Mezquita, from architectural splendours to museums housing some of Europe's finest artwork.

MONDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2024

We will travel by coach from our local pick-up points to London Gatwick for our flight with EasyJet to **Malaga**, due to depart at 12.15 and arrive at 16.10 local time.

(Please note that flights are not included in the tour price).

On arrival we will be met by our local coach and guide for the transfer to **Seville**, where we will check into the 4 star **Hotel Vincci La Rabida** for 4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. After some time to freshen up a **welcome dinner** will be served this evening in the hotel restaurant.

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide for a day of visits in Seville on foot. We will begin our morning at the nearby **Reales Alcazares**. The Royal Palaces were built by Moorish architects for Spanish kings and combine Mudéjar craftsmanship with landscaped gardens. It was constructed on the orders of Pedro I in 1364 and has been enlarged and added to by later monarchs in the following years.

We will continue with a **short guided walking tour** of the **Jewish Quarter** with our local guide, followed by free time to take lunch in Seville.

After lunch we will continue to the Gothic **Seville Cathedral**, built on the site of a former 12th century mosque and one of the largest cathedrals in Europe. Begun in 1401, it took over a century to complete and includes the bell tower, **La Giralda**, so named from the 16th century bronze sculpture portraying "Faith", which sits atop the tower as a weathervane. We will return to the hotel and the remainder of the afternoon and evening will be at leisure. Independent arrangements for dinner.

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2024

After breakfast at the hotel we will travel by coach to **Cordoba**. Cordoba was the capital of Moorish Spain from the 8th century and became one of the largest and richest cities in Europe. Accordingly, a great mosque was



Mezquita, Cordoba

required, and the beautiful La Mezquita was the result. On arrival we will meet our local guide, and there will be some free time to take refreshments.

We will visit the **Mezquita**, the vast and ornate mosque built by the Moors between 785 and 787. Over 850 columns of granite, jasper and marble support the roof, many taken from Roman and Visigoth buildings. It has evolved over the centuries blending many architectural styles, and in the 16th century a cathedral was built into the heart of the reconsecrated mosque.

We continue with a **short walking tour** of the nearby **Jewish Quarter**, known as the *Juderia*. There will be free time to take lunch and explore Cordoba.

This afternoon we will return to our hotel by coach. **Dinner** this evening will be served in a nearby local restaurant in Seville.

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2024

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide for a morning visit to the **Museum of Fine Arts**. Housed in a restored convent church dating from 1612, the museum is considered one of the finest in Spain. The collection of Spanish art and sculpture spans from the medieval to the modern and focuses on the work of Seville School artists. The afternoon and evening will be at leisure, with independent arrangements for dinner.

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2024

We will check out of the hotel after an early breakfast and meet our local transfer guide. We will travel by coach (with **refreshments** taken en route) to the city of

Granada, located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Islamic-period influence and Moorish architecture are well represented throughout the buildings and monuments in the city. We will meet our local guide and embark on a **short walking tour** of Granada. Our tour will include a visit to the Gothic **Granada Cathedral**, built in 1523 to plans by Enrique de Egas. There will be free time to take lunch.

This afternoon we will visit the **Alhambra** (*subject to availability*). The Alhambra is the jewel of Granada, a beautiful palace and garden built when the Nasrid dynasty ruled the city to create their idea of paradise on earth. The complex is a succession of exquisitely tiled pavilions and halls, courtyards, patios, pools and fountains through the Casas Reales, the 13th century Alcazaba and the 16th century Palace of Charles V.

We will continue by coach to the city of **Antequera**, where we will check into the 4 star **Parador de Antequera** for overnight dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation. The hotel is a modern Parador with

views over the Antequera plain and rocky formations known as the Peña de los Enamorados. A **farewell dinner** will be served in the hotel restaurant.

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2024

We will check out of the hotel after breakfast and meet our local guide. We will travel by coach to the **Dólmenes of Antequera**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to visit the **Dólmenes of Menga and Viera**. The prehistoric burial chambers and the Dólmenes of Antequera represent some of the largest and most complete megalithic structures in Europe.

Following the visit we will travel by coach to Antequera, where there will be free time to take lunch.

This afternoon we will transfer to Malaga Airport for our return flight with EasyJet to London Gatwick, due to depart at 17.15 and arrive at 19.05. (*Please note that flights are not included in the tour price*). We will be met by our local coach and continue the homeward journey to our original pick-up points.

Please note that as this tour has been arranged many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary from the above.



Alhambra, Granada

Heritage
GROUP TRAVEL

Charlotte House, 12 Charlotte Street

Bath, BA1 2NE

Tel: 01225 466620

www.grouptravel.co.uk



TOUR PRICE

£1,700 per person sharing a twin/double room (*excluding flights*)
£420 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

Return UK airport coach transfers to/from Gatwick
4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Seville
Overnight dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation
in Antequera
Dinner in the hotel restaurant in Seville on the first evening
Dinner in a local restaurant in Seville
Refreshments en route from Seville to Granada
All guiding as per the itinerary
All local coach transfers in Spain as per itinerary
All booking and entrance fees as per the itinerary
VOX audio headsets

HOTEL DETAILS

Hotel Vincci La Rabida (4 star)

Calle de Castelar, 24, 41001, Seville

www.vinccilarabida.com

Parador de Antequera (4 star)

Paseo Garcia del Olmo 2, 29200, Antequera

www.paradores.es/es/parador-de-antequera

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of
25 paying participants.

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We hope to use the following EasyJet flights:

09/09/24 - Gatwick/Malaga - 12.15 (16.10) EZY 8071

14/09/24 - Malaga/Gatwick - 17.15 (19.05) EZY 8074

All flights are subject to schedule change by the airline.

The tour price shown **excludes** airfares as these can vary on a daily basis. Heritage Group Travel can book flights on your behalf and will pass on the airfare at cost price plus an administration fee of £10 per person. We anticipate flights to be in the region of £350 per person but should fares excessively exceed this amount we will contact you. In the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you would prefer to make your own travel arrangements. We ask you **not** to book your flights until you have received written confirmation that your booking has been accepted and that the tour will be going ahead.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote. *Please ensure that any policy has adequate cover for COVID-19 related issues.*

YOUR FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3707. All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport: visas are not required for travel to Spain. Other Nationals should contact the Spanish Embassy to confirm current visa requirements.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit of **£550 per person**, to **Heritage Group Travel**, as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 09 February 2023**. Please note that as places on the tour are very limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details, flight ticket and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by **Monday 17 June 2024**.

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