

Art and Culture Andalucía
Andalucía and Tangiers Trip
3rd to 7th September, 2025



Tangiers. 1878. Edwin Lord Weeks.

Because of its strategically important location, Tangiers has a fascinating and varied history, beginning with its origins as a Phoenician trading post, through Carthaginian, Roman and Byzantine colonisation; native Berber involvement in the Islamic kingdom of Al-Andalus and its role as the eventual refuge for many of the Moors who were driven out of Spain following the Christian ‘reconquest’.

Portuguese, English and French colonisation followed later, the latter in particular bringing many famous painters to the city; and in the early twentieth century its status as an ‘international zone’ full of spies and writers further added to its exotic and romantic attraction.

A large part of the focus of our visit will be the varied architecture, fascinating galleries and museums and the exotic ‘medina’ – the medieval old town that still survives.

Join us for an uplifting long weekend in late summer, an ideal time to visit Tangiers.

“From the first day and during all the years I spent in Tangier, I liked this white city that lies straddling over its hills, looking through the strait of Gibraltar onto the mountains of Andalusia.”

Paul Bowles

Wednesday 3rd September

We will meet you at Gibraltar Airport at 15.30pm and take you by private coach to the beautiful pueblo blanco (white village) of Gaucin, where you will spend your first two days in a lovely villa. This spectacular mountain village, with its views all the way to distant Gibraltar, and the Rif mountains in Morocco, is home to over twenty artists' studios.



Gaucin, Serrania de Ronda

After time to settle in, there will be a short introductory lecture about the historic relationship between Andalucia and Morocco. Then around 7pm we will meet for drinks on the terrace of Villa Los Buhos, followed by an evening meal at the villa.

Thursday 4th September

The day will begin with a delicious breakfast at 9am.

There will then be two lectures covering both the history and architecture of Tangiers and its attractions as a magnet for some of the greatest European painters of the 19th and 20th century.

After lunch at the villa there will be free time available to visit a couple of local artists' studios, or join a guided walk in the local countryside, or just relax at the villa. In the evening we will take a short stroll into the centre of the village for supper at one of our favourite local restaurants.

Friday 5th September

After an early breakfast the coach will take us to Tarifa. From there we will catch the ferry across the straights of Gibraltar to Tangiers, where we will stay at El Minzah Hotel near the old Madinah. This beautiful building with its Arabesque woodwork, oriental carpets, arched doorways and large Andalusian patio in the heart of the hotel, was built by the 4th Marquis of Bute in the early 20th Century, in a pure Hispano-Moorish style that is true to the architectural heritage of Morocco, whilst embodying all the comfort of an English gentleman's club.

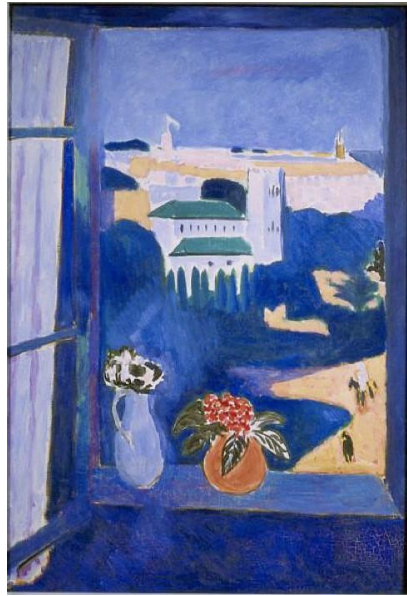


Mosaics in the Madinah, Tangiers

After lunch at the hotel, we will walk to the Moshe Nahon synagogue, one of several situated in the old Madinah, with its highly decorated interior and fascinating history. A little further along the principal street we will find the Musee dar Niaba, a recently-opened and fascinating art gallery, housed in the former French

Consulate. Finally we arrive at the Grand Mosque of Tangiers, a site that has been occupied by a succession of religious buildings since antiquity, the earliest being a Roman temple dedicated to Hercules. Although we will not be able to enter the mosque, the exterior is well worth a look.

In the evening we will visit Matisse's room in the hotel 'Villa de France', from where he painted *Window in Tangiers*. We will then enjoy a supper in the hotel's fine restaurant.



Matisse. Window in Tangiers. 1912.

Saturday 6th September

The day will start with a guided tour, with a local guide, of the lively and colourful Madinah, focussing partly on the locations where Matisse painted, and ending up at St. Andrews church, an Anglican church consecrated in 1905. The interior architecture is a fusion of styles, particularly Moorish. The belltower, shaped like a minaret, overlooks the adjacent cemetery, and the graves of a number of fascinating and colourful characters. Henri Matisse's painting of 1912, *Window in Tangiers*, depicts the church.

We then walk to the American Legation Museum in the Madinah, the only US National Historic Landmark located in a foreign country. Now a cultural centre, museum, and a research library, concentrating on Arabic language studies, it houses many paintings by Marguerite and James McBey, David Roberts and other artists, as well as three rooms devoted to the expatriate writer and composer Paul Bowles.

After lunch in a spectacular rooftop restaurant in the heart of the Madinah, we will walk up to the Kasbah, the old citadel of Tangier built after the city was evacuated by the English in 1684. This fortified district has its own walls and gates, within which is the *Dar al-Makhzen*, a governor's residence, and sometimes Sultan's palace, which now houses the spectacular Museum of the Kasbah, which we will explore at leisure.

Later in the afternoon, after we return to the hotel, you will have some free time. We recommend visiting the Aladdin's cave of a shop that is just across the street from the hotel entrance. You might just find a hidden treasure to take home. We have brought back one or two ourselves!

In the evening we will meet up again for a meal in the Minzah hotel's Moroccan restaurant.

Sunday 3rd September

After breakfast we will take taxis to catch the 10.00am ferry for our return to Tarifa. The coach will meet us in Tarifa to take you back to Gibraltar airport for approximately 2pm, for your return flights.

(Itinerary details subject to change)



Street scene in the Madinah

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn and Ian Cockburn are Managing Directors of Art & Culture Travel. After 20 years of academic teaching including at Birkbeck College, University of London, Jacqueline is a freelance lecturer working at the V&A, the Royal Academy, and a number of other private institutions. Ian has an MA from the Courtauld Institute in medieval Spanish art history. Both are lecturers accredited by The Arts Society.

Fees (minimum 12 people/maximum 14 people): £1,750 per person, shared accommodation.

The fee covers two nights' accommodation in a luxury villa in Gaucin, plus two nights' accommodation at the 5-star El Minzah Hotel in Tangiers, including all breakfasts, lunches and suppers; all teaching and guiding by two specialist tutors over four days, plus all local guides fees; all private coach transport in Andalucía, return ferry journey from Tarifa to Tangiers and all taxi journeys around Tangiers; all museum and other entry fees.

Not included in the fees: Flights, travel and medical insurance. Single room supplement 20%.

Fitness: Please note, a good level of fitness and mobility is required for walking and visiting galleries. This is for your own comfort and to ensure your fellow travellers are not inconvenienced.

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