

Art & Culture Andalucía

Thursday 15th to Monday 19th June, 2023

Andalucía, including, Ronda, Córdoba and Málaga



Córdoba Great Mosque interior

This is a wonderful opportunity to see Andalucía, including a typical 'white village' with the most outstanding mountain views and over twenty international artists studios; spectacular Ronda, with its medieval quarter and famous bullring, stunning Córdoba, the medieval capital of Al-Andalus under the Umayyad emirs and caliphs; and the beautiful old town of Málaga, with its Roman and Islamic heritage, its restaurants and its remarkable variety of galleries and museums. Tutors from Art & Culture Andalucía will provide guidance full of knowledge and enthusiasm, as well as knowing where to eat and where to stay.

Join us for an uplifting early summer break in beautiful Andalucía.

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."

Pablo Picasso.

Thursday 15th June

Meet at Málaga airport at 2pm, for transfer to the beautiful mountain village of Gaucín

In the pueblo blanco (white village) of Gaucín, in the Serranía de Ronda, we provide luxury villa accommodation for the first two nights of your exploration of Andalusian culture. The village is home to more than twenty international artists' studios. The views of distant Gibraltar and the Straits, and of the Rif mountains in Morocco are spectacular. The climate in May is perfect, warm and sunny, but not yet the full heat of summer. After two nights at the villa, the last three days are spent in Ronda, Córdoba and Málaga.



Gaucín Village, Serranía de Ronda

After settling in at the villas, there will be an introductory talk followed by a one-hour presentation entitled 'Moorish Architecture: the Legacy of a Vanished Kingdom'. Then, after aperitifs at 8 o'clock, the evening meal will be al fresco on the terrace if it's warm enough.

Friday 16th

After breakfast there will be a one-hour presentation, 'Gypsies, Smugglers and Festivals; Painting Andalucía', followed by coffee or mint tea. Next will be a one-hour presentation entitled 'Experiencing and Understanding the Great Mosque of Córdoba'. Following a leisurely lunch in the garden, you will then have the choice of a three-hour painting class or visiting artists' studios.

At 7.00pm, if we have time, there will be a final lecture on 'Picasso, the Boy from Málaga', after which we will have aperitives on the terrace, followed by a Paella evening.

Saturday 17th

After an early breakfast at the villa, we will leave for Ronda by coach at 9am. On arrival at 10am, there will be a visit to Ronda Cathedral and Old Quarter, with a coffee break. Next is a guided visit to Ronda Bullring, the oldest stone-built bullring in Spain. Following that there is a guided visit to the Medieval Moorish Baths, the best preserved on the entire peninsula.

Following lunch in Ronda, we will take the coach to Córdoba, where we will check in to Las Casas de la Judería boutique hotel.

At 7pm we will meet for sunset drinks before heading off to the nearby Flamenco show and light tapas at the Tablao el Cardenal, after which, if you're still hungry, there are many delightful restaurants and tapas bars to explore in the old town.



Ronda: the 'New' Bridge over the River Tajo

Sunday 18th

Following breakfast we walk a few minutes to Córdoba Great Mosque, for a tour with detailed notes and an exploration of this World Heritage Site, considered by many to be the most beautiful mosque in the world. After visiting the mosque, we will go for a walk around the nearby Alcazar Palace and Gardens, before lunch at two-thirty.

After lunch we visit the museum dedicated to Julio Romero de Torres, a painter who was a native of Córdoba. You then have a free evening to explore Córdoba's medieval quarter and its many restaurants.

Monday 19th

On Friday morning, after breakfast, we leave for Málaga at 9 o'clock. On arrival we stop for coffee, before a guided tour of the Alcazaba Moorish fortress. This will be followed by a locally-guided visit to the Picasso Museum.

After lunch in the new port, we go to our final destination at the Pompidou Centre, for a guided visit, finishing at 6pm.

We will then meet the coach and travel to the airport, for check-in by 7pm.



Picasso. Still Life with Minotaur and Palette.



Centre Pompidou, Malaga

TUTORS

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is co-founder and director of Art & Culture Travel. She is a course director at the V&A, and also lectures for The Royal Academy and The Art Fund.

Ian Cockburn is co-founder and director of Art & Culture Travel and has an MA from the Courtauld Institute in medieval Spanish art history.

Both are lecturers accredited by The Arts Society.

The fee of £ 1,650 per person (shared room), minimum 10 people, maximum 12, includes:

Collection at Málaga airport and transport by private coach to Gaucín. Transport by private coach to Ronda, Córdoba and Málaga. Four lectures by expert art historians. All (en-suite) accommodation in Gaucín and Córdoba. All meals, wine and refreshments, except Saturday and Sunday evening. Guided visits and entry to all museums and monuments. Visits to studios or painting classes. Flamenco show and tapas in Córdoba.

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

Note: Itinerary subject to change, if necessary

Fitness: Please note, a suitable level of fitness and mobility is required for walking and for visiting galleries.

Contact: Jacqueline Cockburn at Art & Culture Andalucía

07947 462130 or write to jacqueline@artandculturetravel.com

www.artandcultureandalucia.com



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