

Andalucía, including, Ronda, Córdoba and Málaga

Itinerary for Monday 16th to Friday 20th May, 2022



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 short week at the beginning of summer.

Your tutors will be Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn, formerly Head of Art History at Westminster School, and now managing director of Art & Culture Andalucía, and Ian Cockburn, who is a specialist in medieval Spanish art history.

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

Pablo Picasso.

Monday 16th May

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 Andalucían 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

Monday evening

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 Spanish Fusion Cuisine, al fresco on the terrace, prepared by Maria Terol, who trained with Ferran Adriá, at El Bulli.

Tuesday 17th May

After breakfast there will be a one-hour presentation, 'Perpetuating the Myth; Andalucían Painting', 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 on the terrace, you will then have the choice of a three-hour painting class or visiting artists' studios.

At 7 o'clock 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 at the villa.

Wednesday 18th May

After breakfast at the villa, we will leave for Ronda by coach. On arrival at 10 o'clock, there will be a guided 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 the Balcon de Córdoba boutique hotel. You then have a free evening to explore Córdoba's medieval quarter and its many restaurants.



Ronda: the 'New' Bridge over the River Tajo

Thursday 19th May

Following breakfast we walk two minutes to Córdoba Great Mosque, for a guided tour and 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. At 8pm we will meet on the hotel's rooftop terrace for sunset drinks and the fabulous view over the Great Mosque, before heading off to the nearby Flamenco show and light tapas at the Tablao el Cardenal.

Friday 20th May

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 guided visit to the Thyssen Collection, a wonderful space full of fascinating Spanish art.

After lunch at 3pm we go to our final destination at the Picasso Museum, for a guided visit, finishing at 6pm. We will then meet the coach near the Cathedral and travel to the airport, for check-in by 7pm.



'Julia', by Ramon Casas. Thyssen Collection



Picasso. Still Life with Minotaur and Palette.

TUTORS

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is Managing Director of Art & Culture Travel. She was formerly Head of the Department of Art History at Westminster School, Chief Examiner in Art History at Cambridge International Examinations, and an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Ian Cockburn is a 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 (double room basis. 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 Wednesday evening. Guided visits and entry to all museums and monuments. Visits to studios or painting classes. Flamenco show in Córdoba.

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

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