

Art & Culture Travel

Thursday 28th May to Monday 1st June 2026
The Gaucin-Jerez-Seville-Granada Course



Patio de las Doncellas, Real Alcazar of Seville

This course in Andalucía includes guided visits to historic Jerez, Seville and Granada. Tutors from Art & Culture Andalucía will provide guidance full of knowledge and enthusiasm. You need make no more decisions than you want to – we know just what to see, where to eat and how best to travel around.

Jerez is famous for its Moorish Alcazar and its sherry bodegas. There we will taste vintage sherries at our favourite bodega, which has its own art gallery. Seville was the medieval capital of both the Almohad Muslims and the resurgent Catholic Kings. We will visit the Giralda bell-tower, formerly the minaret of the Great Mosque, and the spectacular Alcazar palace and gardens, where King Pedro I built his Christian palace in the Moorish style. We will also tour the Museo de Bellas Artes, with its outstanding collection of Spanish paintings.

Finally, we will visit the world-renowned Alhambra fortress-palace in Granada, the last stronghold of the Moors before their defeat by the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabelle, in 1492.

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

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

Pablo Picasso

Thursday 28th May

14.00. Meet at Malaga airport for coach transfer to the villa in Gaucin. This beautiful pueblo blanco (white village) is perched at the southern end of the Serranía de Ronda mountain range, with stunning views down the Genal valley, all the way to Gibraltar, the Straits and the Rif mountains of Morocco. It is home to more than twenty artists' studios – for reasons that will become obvious when you see the scenery and the light.

After time to settle in, there is an introduction to the course and a presentation on 'The Giralda and the Alcazar of Seville'. This is followed by a meal in one of the local restaurants.



Bodegas Tradición Art Gallery

Friday 29th May

After breakfast, the morning is devoted to two presentations designed to prepare you for museum and monument visits later in the week. The first is on 'Spanish Golden Age Paintings'. After a break for mint tea or coffee, the second presentation is on 'The Alhambra of Granada'.

Following lunch al fresco on the terrace, there is some time for relaxation, after which we will explore Art Gaucin, the annual Open Studios of Gaucin. You will have a map and a choice of around 20 different studios to visit at your leisure. We then take evening drinks and tapas on the terrace.

Saturday 30th May

After breakfast we leave by coach for Jerez de la Frontera (coffee break halfway), where we will visit the Alcazar fortress-palace, with its intact family mosque and Moorish baths. Next we enjoy an early-afternoon sherry-tasting with very light tapas at the Bodegas Tradicion, followed by an exploration of their impressive in-house art gallery. We then take a short coach journey to Seville, check into the Hotel Fernando III and freshen up before a visit to Seville Cathedral, the largest Catholic Cathedral in Europe, to see the famous Giralda bell tower, formerly a minaret, and the impressive, decorated bronze doors preserved from the earlier great mosque..

After that you enjoy a free evening to explore the delights of Seville's restaurants.

Sunday 31st May

Breakfast is followed by a visit to the Alcazar palace and gardens. Built over many centuries, this site contains traces of early Almohad palace architecture, Pedro I's spectacular 'mudejar' palace, and later Renaissance and Baroque additions built following the reconquest of Spain by the 'Catholic Monarchs'. The extensive adjoining gardens are amongst the most beautiful you will find anywhere in Spain.

On leaving the Alcazar, we go to the Museo de Bellas Artes, with its outstanding collection of Spanish art from the medieval period to the early 20th century, including a choice selection of works by artists from the so-called Golden Age of Sevillian painting during the 17th century, such as Murillo, Zurbarán, Francisco de Herrera the younger, and Valdés Leal.



The Alhambra, Granada, under a full moon

After lunch we take the coach to Granada, through spectacular Andalusian scenery, with a coffee-break halfway. After checking in to the Melia Granada Hotel you will have a free evening to explore the old town and its many delightful restaurants.

Monday 1st June

After breakfast we visit the breath-taking Alhambra palace-fortress and adjacent Generalife summer-palace and gardens. This will include a guided tour of the Nasrid palace-complex, with its Patio de Los Leones and many other examples of the most exquisite interior architecture you will see anywhere in the world. The elaborate stucco décor and the gravity-defying *muqarnas* ceilings are unforgettable. From there we walk through to the Generalife gardens and summer palace.

We then take the coach across to the Albaicín, the old gypsy quarter, where we enjoy a final leisurely lunch in a spectacular restaurant, just below Plaza San Nicolas, with impressive views back across the valley of the river Darro to the Alhambra and Generalife

Shortly after four o'clock we board the coach for our final journey to Malaga airport, where we will arrive by six o'clock and say our end of course farewells, in good time for you to catch your flights home.



Saints Justa & Rufina, with the Giralda Tower, by Murillo. Museo de Bellas Artes, Seville.

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is a co-founder and director of Art & Culture Travel. Formerly Head of the Department of Art History at Westminster School and Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London, she is now a free-lance lecturer at the V&A and The Royal Academy.

Ian Cockburn is a co-founder and director of Art & Culture Travel and has an MA from the Courtauld Institute in Medieval Spanish Art History.

Ian and Jacqueline are both also accredited as lecturers by The Arts Society

The fee of £1,950 per person (shared room), minimum 10 people, maximum 14 people, includes:

Two nights' double accommodation in a luxury villa in Gaucin, plus individual hotel accommodation in Seville and Granada. All breakfasts, plus one lunch and two evening meals in Gaucin, including wine. A spectacular lunch in Granada. Sherry tasting and tapas lunch in Jerez, and fabulous lunch in Granada. All teaching and guiding by specialist tutors over five days. Private coach travel to Gaucin, Jerez, Seville, Granada and Malaga. All museum and monuments entrance fees.

Not included in the fees: Flights, travel and medical insurance. Lunch in Seville and evening meals in Seville and Granada. Individual 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 and monuments.

Contact: *Jacqueline Cockburn at Art & Culture Andalucía*

07947 462130 or write to jacqueline@artandculturetravel.com



art & culture travel