

Art & Culture Andalucía

Andalucía, including Ronda, Córdoba and Málaga



Cordoba Great Mosque – interior

This is a wonderful opportunity to see Andalucía, including Ronda, Córdoba and Málaga, on and off the beaten track. 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 where to eat and how best to travel around. Join us for an uplifting short week at the beginning of summer.

Your tutors will be Jacqueline Cockburn, managing director of Art & Culture Travel, and Ian Cockburn, who is a specialist in medieval Spanish art history, both of whom are accredited by The Arts Society.

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

Pablo Picasso

Day 1

14.00. Meet at Málaga airport for coach transfer to the beautiful mountain village of Gaucin.

In the pueblo blanco (white village) of Gaucin, in the Serrania de Ronda mountain range, we provide luxury villa accommodation for the first three nights of your exploration of Andalusian culture. The village is home to more than twenty international artists' studios – for reasons that will become obvious when you see the scenery and the light. The village and the villas offer stunning views down the Genal valley, all the way to Gibraltar, the Straits and the Rif mountains of Morocco. The climate in June is perfect, warm and sunny, but not yet the full heat of summer.



Luxury villa in Gaucin, pueblo blanco

Evening

After settling in at the villa, there will be an introductory talk, followed by a one-hour presentation entitled 'Moorish History and Architecture'. Then, after aperitifs at 8 o'clock, the evening meal will be Spanish Fusion Cuisine (al fresco on the terrace), prepared by the lovely Hattie, a Prue Leith trained chef.

Day 2

After breakfast there will be a one-hour presentation on 'The Artist and the Studio', followed by coffee or mint tea. Next will be a one-hour presentation on 'The Great Mosque of Cordoba: History and Influences'. Following a leisurely lunch al fresco on the terrace, you will then have a choice of a three-hour painting class or creative-writing class, or a (shorter) walk in the Gaucin countryside. At 5 we will convene for private visits of the some of the many artist's studios in the village. At 9 o'clock we will have aperitifs on the terrace, followed by a paella.

Day 3 - Ronda

After breakfast at the villa, we leave by coach for Ronda. 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.

We then visit the Descalzos Viejos bodega, housed in an old monastery, to taste some delicious local wines, with tapas, in this stunning location. After the wine-tasting you will have some free time for a walk and/or shopping in Ronda, before the coach leaves for Gaucin at 5 o'clock.

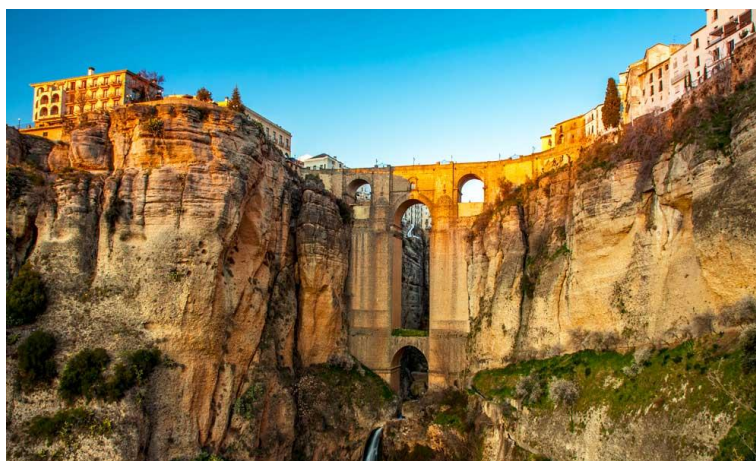
Back at the villa, at half-past six there will be a one-hour presentation entitled 'Perpetuating the Myth: Andalucian Painting', on the Thyssen Collection in Malaga.

This will be followed by the customary aperitifs on the terrace before we enjoy another of Hattie's fabulous suppers.

Day 4 - Córdoba

Breakfast will be at eight, and then we leave for Córdoba, a three-hour coach ride through stunning scenery, with a coffee break en-route. On arrival we check into the Balcón de Córdoba boutique hotel and then go for a walk around the Alcazar Palace and Gardens, before lunch at two-thirty. Following lunch we walk five 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. You then have two hours or so of free time to wander and/or shop in the old medieval centre of Córdoba, or to visit to Julio Romero de Torres museum.

At eight o'clock we meet on the spectacular roof terrace at the Balcn de Córdoba for aperitifs and the view, before heading off to the Flamenco show and light tapas at the 'Tablao el Cardenal'.



Ronda: the 'New Bridge' over the River Tajo

Day 5 - Malaga

On Thursday morning we leave for Malaga at 9 o'clock, after breakfast. The journey takes approximately two hours, and 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.

Lunch at 3 o'clock will be al fresco in Malaga New Port. A short walk from the restaurant will take us to our final destination at the Centre Pompidou, for a guided visit, finishing at 6 o'clock.

We will then meet the coach, to collect your luggage, say our end of course farewells, and take taxis to the airport.



Centre Pompidou, Malaga

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn, Managing Director of Art & Culture Travel. 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, Director of Art & Culture Travel and a specialist in medieval Spanish art history.

The fee of £1,750 per person (double or twin accommodation) includes:

Collection at Malaga airport and private coach transport to Gaucin. Transport to Ronda, Córdoba and Málaga. Three nights' accommodation in a luxury villa in Gaucin, plus one night in the Balcón de Córdoba, one of the best four-star hotels in Spain. All meals, wine and refreshments. All teaching, plus guided visits and entry to all museums and monuments, painting class or creative-writing class, or guided walk in the Gaucin countryside, studio visits, wine tasting and Flamenco show in Córdoba.

Not included in the fees: Flights, travel and medical insurance, taxis to Malaga airport. Single occupancy room supplement 15%.

Contact: *Jacqueline Cockburn at Art & Culture Andalucía*

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