

Art & Culture Andalucia

The Jerez-Seville-Granada Course – Itinerary



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 sheries 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-autumn week in beautiful Andalucia.

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

Pablo Picasso

Day 1 - Gaucin

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 'Spanish Paintings in the Bodegas Tradicion'. This is followed by a seated meal al fresco on the terrace – Spanish fusion cuisine.



Bodegas Tradición Art Gallery

Day 2 - Gaucin

The day starts with Yoga in the garden (optional), before breakfast. The morning is then devoted to two presentations designed to prepare you for museum and monument visits later in the week. The first is on 'The Giralda and the Alcazar of Seville'. After a break for mint tea or coffee, the second presentation is on 'Spanish Golden Age Paintings'.

Following lunch al fresco on the terrace, there is some time for relaxation, followed by a late afternoon presentation on 'The Alhambra of Granada'. The early evening is devoted to visits to selected artists' studios, or a short nature walk along the 'Smugglers' Route'. We then take evening drinks and tapas in Gaucin village.

Day 3 – Jerez and Seville

After breakfast we leave by coach for Jerez de la Frontera (coffee break halfway), where we will visit the Alcazar fortress-palace. Then we enjoy an early-afternoon sherry-tasting with 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 our hotel and freshen up before a visit to Seville's Museo de Bellas Artes

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

Day 4 – Seville and Granada

Breakfast is followed by a guided visit to the Cathedral, the largest Catholic Cathedral in Europe, with its famous Giralda bell tower, formerly a minaret, and the impressive decorated bronze doors preserved from the earlier great mosque. We then visit 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.



The Alhambra, Granada, under a full moon

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

Day 5 - Granada

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

The fee of £1,750 per person (minimum 10 people, maximum 12 people) includes:

Two nights' accommodation in a luxury villa in Gaucin, plus hotel accommodation in Seville and Granada. All breakfasts, plus one lunch and two evening meals in Gaucin, including wine. Sherry tasting and tapas lunch in Jerez. 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. Lunches and evening meals in Seville and Granada.

Contact: Jacqueline Cockburn at Art & Culture Andalucía

07947 462130 or write to jacqueline@artandculturetravel.com

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