



Spain - Andalusia Smugglers Paths & Pirate Coast – Guided Tour 2010



Moderate 7 nights

This holiday is designed for those wishing to experience the best of Andalusia's rural inland features such as the mountain parks and white villages with the inspiring and relaxed Costa del Luz seaside. The tour's theme is to blend all characteristics of what is the true essence of Andalusian culture – rural mountain living and the sea. Our focus is on local history, flora/fauna, cultural and artistic contributions and culinary delights. Five daily walks of 4-5 hours with plenty of breaks, interpretive moments and spontaneous explorations depending on the season! All walks are guided and have delicious picnics with wine in lovely natural areas with fine views. The walks are balanced for both new walkers and the experienced. Tour leader lives locally, speaks Spanish and has excellent knowledge of the region and its people. A free day based seaside in Tarifa offers plenty of options for site seeing and further exploration. Tour leader will assist with any arrangements necessary. Highlights of this tour include 5 diverse walks of changing scenery and locations. Special visits to artistic villages, galleries, ruins and an interpretive museum. An exploration of the Spanish seaside, the pine forests and dunes and the lively adventure town of Tarifa are also favorite events.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1: (Sunday)

Your Adventurebug greeting at Malaga Airport and private shuttle to Casares village – set high on a cliff face overlooking Africa and the Sea. We guide the group on an interpretive tour of the village before settling into a tavern for our trip orientation and a local vino tinto or blanco (red or white wine).

DAY 2: (Monday) - Total Distance 10-12 km / Level moderate

Our first walk takes us into the lush valley of Casares with rocky crags, ancient ruins and immense griffon vultures soaring overhead. Highlights include Ancient Ruins in an overgrown, undisturbed

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setting; traditional farmsteads; stunning views to Africa and meeting local shepherds on the trail. Our second night is spent in Casares with an opportunity to sample local wines and sherries!

DAY 3: (Tuesday) - Total Distance 11 km / Level moderate with some steep hill sections

This morning, a short transfer then takes us to the very Moorish hamlet of Benarabba for a stay in the charming *Hotel Banurabba*. Our walk today follows ancient Smuggler's routes through forests of cork, cherries and chestnuts. Arriving at Genalguacil village we have an Adventurebug Tapas picnic with wine before touring the charming lanes and observing the over 75 pieces of art on permanent exhibition. We return to Benarabba on foot via the lush river Genil.

DAY 4: (Wednesday) - Total Distance 10-14 km / Level moderate (can be extended)

Today we shuttle (25 min) to the famous Grazalema National Park for a days walk in this stunning mountain park – a UNESCO protected biosphere. Particularly attractive today are the mountain landscapes and history of Bandits and adventure seekers in the Cortes de la Frontera region. After a post walk drink and tour of the old quarter of Cortes, we shuttle back to Benarabba for the night.

DAY 5: (Thursday) - Total Distance 10-12 km / Level easy to moderate

After breakfast a short, scenic transfer brings us into the Guadiaro Valley and the lovely town of Jimena de la Frontera. From our hotel your leader will take you on an adventure through the village lanes, up to the Moorish Fortress then through lovely landscapes of the Alcornocales Nature Reserve and to the ruins of a 16th century ammunitions mill. A very different day from the rest and a great opportunity to focus on flora and fauna – particularly bird life and flowers.

DAY 6: (Friday) – Travel to the Atlantic Seaside (1 hour) / Relaxation Day

This morning we transfer to the breathtaking Costa del Luz coast and our base at Tarifa (from Paul Cohelo's 'The Alchemist'), and Europe's most southerly point. Nearly opposite to the cultural and environmental exploitation of the Costa del Sol, this stretch of seaside has white sands, pine forested dunes, Roman ruins on the beach and more. Our RELAXATION DAY today and a chance to do one of several options. A guided day trip to Morocco is very popular as are day trips to Ronda, Seville, Jerez, Gibraltar and more using reliable local transport. Others may wish to simply relax on the beaches of Tarifa or take a whale and dolphin watch excursion out at sea or visit the bird sanctuaries. All options are available right from our base in the center of Tarifa!

DAY 7: (Saturday) - Total Distance 12 km / Level easy / flat-coastal

Our final walking day and for some the most memorable. Today we kick our boots off and stroll the white sands of Tarifa's beaches towards towering dunes, pine forests and isolated capes with no one in sight. Our destination is the dunes of Punta Paloma or possibly event Bolonia - where there is a well-preserved Roman ruin on the shores of this tiny fishing village. Small thatched beach bars from time to time quench our thirst and dips in the sea are not uncommon on this day!

DAY 8: (Sunday)

Private group transfer to Malaga Airport after breakfast and final farewell to your Adventurebug Leader.

2010 TOUR DATES AND PRICE

What does the tour price €885.00 per person sharing include?

- 7 nights quality accommodation in double rooms
- All breakfasts, 4 dinners and 5 Tapas Picnics with wine

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- Return transfer from Malaga airport to holiday base
- Local shuttles and baggage transfers
- 5 guided countryside walks from mountain to sea
- Knowledgeable local based Spanish and Speaking Guide

Single supplement: €20.00

2010 Tours Dates (all Sundays):

- April 25
- June 13
- October 3
- October 31

WHAT TO BRING

What should I bring with me?

This depends on what time of the year it is. But normally, you will need to bring the following items:

- Sturdy yet comfortable hiking boots
- A layer of warm weather hiking clothes (shorts/ shirts/ bathing suit)
- A layer of cool weather hiking clothes (trousers/ long sleeve shirt/ vest/ jumper)
- Gloves and warmer hat if between December and early March
- A set of light waterproof clothing (just in case but useful for any high mountain activities)
- A hat, sun cream and sunglasses
- A day pack for walking and your camera
- water bottle (and opt. holder)
- walking stick (optional)
- personal clothes for your relaxation time and day off

Footwear: The importance of good footwear cannot be over stressed. You should not walk in sports training/running shoes; investing in waterproof boots will make you more comfortable. Good strong ankle high walking boots will support the ankle and provide invaluable protection on uneven ground. It is not a good idea to wear new boots on a walking holiday, as blisters are often a problem if boots are not worn in.

During the holiday blisters can be a problem. This can be avoided by wearing well worn-in boots with good fitting woolen socks. However, if you feel a tender spot coming on whilst walking, stop immediately and examine it. If it looks like a developing blister, protect it with a small piece of moleskin or elastoplasts. - It will be too late if left to the end of the day.

Walking stick or retractable ski pole: These have become increasingly popular as a walking aid for walkers of all ages and abilities. They do help enormously when crossing rough ground; they also assist progress when going up and down hills.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation

Night 1 & 2 – Casares - Hotel Rural Casares: Charmingly decorated and very Andaluz with stunning views across the village rooftops and down to the Med and Africa. All rooms ensuite with all mod cons.

Night 3 & 4 – Benarabba - Hotel Banu-Rabba : One of rural Spain’s finest hotels with exceptional views across untouched mountain landscapes. Large pool, gardens and brilliant bar/restaurant with terrace. All rooms have either private garden or mountain views.

Night 5 – Jimena de la Frontera – Hotel Anon: Truly unique! The Anon receives plenty of press reviews for its Moroccan feel and deservedly so. This is no ordinary hotel. Rooms are original “casas” that have been refurbished in traditional style. Courtyards of banana trees, spring wells and Andaluz tiles decorate the gardens. A roof top pool and vine terraced bar only ice the cake!

Night 6 & 7 – Tarifa – Hotel Alameda: Located centrally in Tarifa’s old town, minutes from the white sand beaches, the Fortress – Castillo de Guzman el Bueno and in the center of many fine cafes surrounding a pretty open plaza. Tarifa boasts a vivid day and night atmosphere with a frontier like feel being within such short range of Africa.

We do reserve the right to change the accommodation around during, but we will always endeavor to provide a high standard.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Money

The unit of currency is the Euro (€), 100 cent = €1.

Travel Insurance

It is essential to take out holiday insurance to cover cancellation, personal accident, illness, or loss of possessions. This can be obtained from travel agents, airlines; we can also offer you a week long package for €35.00

Travel

The tour begins and ends at Malaga Airport. Once in Malaga, we transport you by mini-bus to our holiday base – normally 1 ¼ hours drive along the scenic, mountainous coast of southern Spain and then inland – away from the busy resorts! When your holiday is complete, you will be transported back to Malaga Airport in time for your next transportation link. Shuttle from Tarifa to Malaga takes 2 hours.

The meeting time at Malaga Airport on the first day of your holiday is normally 16:00 hrs (Terminal II arrivals hall, near Airport Info booth). If you arrive early, we can suggest a few pleasant site seeing options in Malaga city or on the coast and places to relax only minutes from the airport while you wait for the shuttle bus. For example you may hop on the airport shuttle train for the 15 minute journey either to the nearby shops and beaches or into the historic city of Malaga – where the new Picasso museum had recently opened – both destinations are great ways to warm-up to the local culture!

Drop off time at the end of your holidays is normally around 10 am or dependent on the group’s travel times. Please bear these times in mind when arranging your travel to and from Malaga. For flights leaving Malaga at 11am, the minibus shuttle will have to leave Tarifa at 07:30! Please try to arrange your flight home to be later than 11am...