

ANDALUSIA: LAND OF AGRICULTURE AND CATTLE RAISING

SUGGESTED PROGRAM

Day 1 MÁLAGA / ANTEQUERA / GRANADA

- Arrival at Málaga airport with flight...
- Greeting and departure to Antequera.
- Visit of cooperative HOJIBLANCA GROUP.



Hojiblanca Group is a cooperative organisation serving farms devoted to the production of olives and virgin olive oil. It consists of 24 associated oil mills located in the heart of Andalusia — north of Málaga and south of Córdoba — in an area covering more than twenty municipalities.

- Continuation to Granada.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 2 GRANADA / TREVELEZ / GRANADA

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Departure to Trevelez, in Las Alpujarras (Natural Park of Sierra Nevada).



This mythical region, the last Moorish refuge, located between Sierra Nevada mountain range and the Mediterranean, is well known for its white villages perched on the sides of the mountains with their typical terraced architecture and its delicious gastronomy.

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- Visit of ham drying shed Juan José González.

In 1862 a product contest took place in Spain and Queen Isabel II granted to the village of Trevélez the privilege of stamping the royal seal on the cured hams manufactured in this region. Since then, craft knowledge and procedures for selection, salting and curing of hams have been kept and transmitted. Pigs were bred in this very region to be slaughtered and then their hind legs were cured. After a long drying process, the hams were ready to be traded wearing the seal of the royal house, zealously kept and held in the city-hall. Nowadays the Consejo Regulador del Jamón de Trevélez — a supervisory council — has undertaken the task of keeping the same quality and awards a red tab to the hams that meet the standards.



- Return to Granada.
- In the afternoon, guided tour: Alhambra and Generalife.

The Alhambra is one of the most beautiful monuments in the history of Islamic art. From its position on top of a hill called Assabica (red), it dominates the whole of the city. The visit to this complex of halls and "patios" (courtyards) of indescribable beauty evokes the splendour of the Arabic past of the city. In the Generalife, leisure place for the Nazarid kings, we will enjoy the fresh and relaxing atmosphere of this enchanting place and let our senses get impregnated with the perfume and colour of its flowers and the murmuring of its fountains.

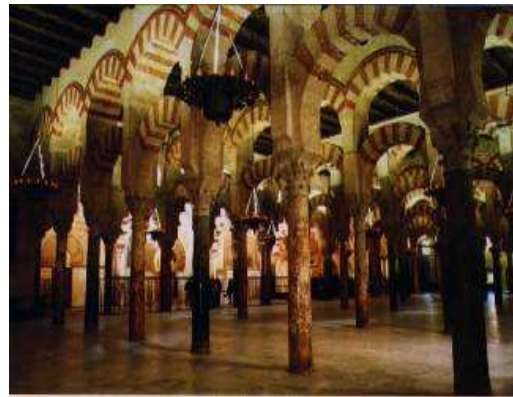


- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 3 GRANADA / CÓRDOBA / SEVILLE

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Departure to Baena.
- Visit of an old traditional oil mill, typical breakfast and continuation to Córdoba.
- In the morning, guided tour: Mosque and Jewish Quarter.

The Great Mosque of Córdoba, one of the finest buildings created by Islamic art, was considered a wonder of the medieval world. Its construction was initiated by Abderramán I in the 8th century. The system of columns supporting double arcades of piers and arches with alternating red and white voussoirs manages to create a stunningly original visual composition. Walk in the Jewish District, complex of fresh narrow streets and Andalusian "patios" where we can find the only Synagogue preserved in Andalusia.



- Continuation to Seville.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Optional: Flamenco show at tablao El Palacio Andaluz.

From the roots of flamenco, El Palacio Andaluz offers a genuine flamenco show in a luxurious and elegant venue.

This enchanting show, full of colour, passion, intensity and drama, involves the collaboration of a great number of prestigious artists, many of them awarded with national and international prizes.

Bulerias, soleás, alegrías, fandango, sevillanas, as well as other flamenco styles and some classical Spanish ballet, will make the evening at El Palacio Andaluz a memorable experience.



Day 4 SEVILLE / JEREZ

- Breakfast.
- In the morning, guided tour: Panoramic, Cathedral and Santa Cruz.

Our visit will start with a panoramic tour of the some of the highlights in the city: the Cartuja Island, where Expo '92 was held, Guadalquivir river, Tower of Gold, Bullring, old Tobacco Factory (now University), Park of María Luisa with the pavilions built for the Exhibition held in 1929, and the impressive squares Plaza de España and Plaza de América. Visit of the Gothic Cathedral, the largest in Spain, with the Giralda tower — striking minaret of the former mosque. Then a walk by Santa Cruz Quarter, a maze of small alleys with colourful names stepped in legend and small squares where the peacefulness of a tiny garden is an invitation to rest.



- In the afternoon, departure to Jerez.
- Visit of the farm Finca Fuente Rey.

This is a property of the famous "rejoneador" (bullfighter on horseback) Fermín Bohórquez and it is mainly dedicated to the breeding of brave bulls and horses. The farm also gives over part of its land to cultivate wheat, beet and sunflowers.



- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 5 JEREZ

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Visit of Domecq vineyard and afterwards, visit of Domecq wine cellar in Jerez, including wine tasting.



This is one of the oldest wine cellars in Jerez, established in 1730 in an old 16th century mill. Domecq family came from France and ruled the company until 1994, when it was sold to the British multinational Allied Lyons — now Beam Global Spirits & Wine Inc. Since 1822 this has been one of the

leading wine companies in Jerez, expanding to South America and Philippines and producing the first brandy in Spain, called Fundador, in 1874. In the course of the visit we will see the most ancient cellar, where the first wineskin of brandy Fundador, signed by the king Alfonso XIII during his first visit to Domecq in 1904, is kept. This visit will allow us to learn about the production process of Sherry and try some of the excellent Domecq wines.

- Horse dressing show at the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art (*only Thursdays the whole year and Tuesdays from April to October*).

The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art Foundation in Jerez de la Frontera is known all over the world for its show entitled "How the Andalusian Horses Dance", a unique exhibition of horsemanship which both exhibits and summarises the work that the institution has carried out since its establishment.



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- Visit of a dairy farm in the surroundings of Jerez, followed by a speech by an agricultural engineer, who will provide some technical information about agriculture and cattle-raising present and future in the area of Andalusia.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 6	JEREZ / RONDA / TORREMOLINOS
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- Breakfast at hotel.
- Departure to Ronda.
- In the morning, guided tour: Santa María, Don Bosco and Bullring.

Ronda or the 'Dreamed City', as poet Rainer Maria Rilke called it, is one of the oldest cities in Spain and retains much of its historic charm. Centre of the mountain range which bears its name, it is divided in two by an impressive sheer cleft over 300 ft deep called El Tajo. Walking tour of the old town, rich in places of interest like noble mansions and convents. We will visit the Church of Santa María, formerly the Mosque, with Gothic and Renaissance architecture and Hispano-Moslem tower. Our tour will end with a visit to the 18th century bullring, totally of stone, where Pedro Romero, the famous bullfighter, set up the rules of bullfighting on foot still respected nowadays.



- Visit of farm El Juncal and its wine cellar, located in a 19th century country house, producing wine with grapes from their own vineyards. At the end of the visit, professional wine tasting of 5 different red wines.
- Continuation to Torremolinos.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 7 TORREMOLINOS / VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA / ALMUÑECAR / MÁLAGA

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Departure to Vélez-Málaga.
- Visit of TROPS (export cooperative of fruits, citrus and vegetables).
- Continuation to Almuñecar.
- Visit of Finca El Zahorí (subtropical cultivation).



In 1984, the Town Hall of Almuñecar took the initiative of founding the Municipal Subtropical Fruit Board, a non-profit organisation intended to provide local farmers with advice and assistance regarding modern techniques and specialized methods.

The Town Hall acquired agricultural land, transformed it to create terraces and planted the first avocados, chirimoyos (custard apples) and mangos in 1986, to which other varieties were later added. Thus, the “El Zahorí” experimental farm came into being. At present it receives a grant from the Andalusian Regional Government for a project to study the environmental impact and the rational use of water, fertilizers and chemical products in the production of subtropical crops. Another project, financed by the E.U. and still under preparation, is aimed at the study of the risks of soil degradation, its prevention and measures for recovery.



- Transfer to Málaga airport.
- Departure with flight...