






Current as of: September 2, 2019 - 12:57

Valid for departures: From January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2021



Authentic Andalusia Trip Notes

 **Ways to Travel:** Guided Group
 **Destinations:** Spain
 **Programmes:** Culture

Trip Code:
ADH



8 Days Flight Inclusive
8 Days Land only
Min age: 16

Trip Overview

Andalusia is one of the greatest ethnic melting pots of the Mediterranean and the westernmost meeting place of past civilisations including the Greeks, the Phoenicians, Carthaginians and Romans. It was the sophisticated Moslem kingdom, 'Al Andalus', however, that gave the region its richest and most lasting cultural heritage and distinctive traditions. From the magic cities of Seville and Granada to the secret gem of Antequera and the timeless white villages of Olvera and Setenil, there is a wealth of culture to indulge in. Taking advantage of a comfortable base, Cortijo Rosario, and a private minibus, the journey combines some great cultural highlights with the peace and tranquillity of the Andalusian countryside.

At a Glance

- 5 nights in a comfortable converted farmhouse and 2 nights in hotels
- Gentle day walks and sightseeing
- Group normally 4 to 15, plus leader. Min age 16 yrs
- Travel by private air-conditioned minibus
- Alhambra ticket included; early booking highly recommended

- Countries visited: Spain

Trip Highlights

- Discover the fascinating Moorish history of white villages
- Experience the rich culture in Seville and Granada

- Visit the famous Alhambra
- Explore authentic rural countryside around our converted farmhouse

Is This Trip for You?

Activity Level: 1 (Leisurely)

The majority of drives are short except for the journeys to Seville and Granada, which may take up to 2 hours. During the week there is some gentle walking involved.

Andalucia is usually very hot during the Summer months, possibly in the high 30s.

Please note all activities are optional and a rest day may be taken at any point should you prefer to relax at the Cortijo.

Alhambra Palace, Granada

The entrance ticket is included in the cost of the trip and will be arranged by Exodus upon booking. However please be aware that from 2019, for reservations made less than 90 days prior departure Exodus may charge a supplement on the ticket price to guarantee entrance as ticket numbers are limited. Our sales department will be able to check this upon booking and confirm the exact amount of the supplement if it applies.

Special Festival Departures

Holy Week

Semana Santa, or Holy Week, is elaborately celebrated each year in Spain. This is the week preceding Easter Sunday. Throughout the week, some 50,000 people put on traditional robes and parade in the various organised processions, while the "costaleros" carry the religious statues on their shoulders. Solemnity isn't the only keynote however - bars and streets are full day and night with entire families celebrating this special event with art, colour and music. If you fancy experiencing the unique vibrant atmosphere of Seville during the Semana Santa, book our special festival departures departing on the 04th April 2020 and 27th March 2021.

Seville Fair

Feria de Abril, or Seville Fair, is arguably the most important and anticipated event in Andalucia. The Seville Fair traditionally starts two weeks after Semana Santa, in a huge area in Los Remedios, to the south-west of the city. This is a week of serious dancing, drinking, eating and socialising. The sheer size of the April Fair's spectacle is extraordinary. From around midday until early evening Sevilla society parades around the fairground in carriages or on horseback, wearing traditional dresses. If you fancy experiencing the festive atmosphere of Seville during this event, book our special festival departures departing on the 25th April 2020 and 17th April 2021.

New Year's Eve departures (28th December 2019 & 26th December 2020)

On these special departures the order of some of the activities on our standard itinerary have been changed in order to spend New Year's Eve in Seville. The special atmosphere throughout the city around this time is incredible, a memory from Seville that you will cherish long after you leave. After a day of sightseeing, we will head to the city centre and enjoy the traditional celebrations and fantastic fireworks display.

Following a review of all our trips we have categorised this trip as not suitable for full wheelchair users, but it may be suitable for other persons of reduced mobility. Please contact customer services to discuss the trip and your personal condition.

Group

An Exodus leader will be on hand throughout the week to help with your orientation, guiding in the villages, on the short walking excursions and will make sure everything runs smoothly. However, due to Spanish legislation, Exodus tour leaders are not allowed to guide groups in cities, museums and churches. You will be free to sightsee at your own pace in Seville and Granada. If you wish to organise a private city tour with a local guide, please request this to your leader on arrival and they should be able to book it for you.

Adult min age: 16

Min group size: 4

Max group size: 15

Itinerary



Land Only Itinerary

Day 1

Start Cortijo Rosario, Algamitas.

Our trip starts at Cortijo Rosario, located in the heart of the authentic Andalusian countryside, approximately 100km from Malaga. Our converted farmhouse is just a short walk from Algamitas, a peaceful and traditional village far from the hustle and bustle of the big towns or cities. Contrary to many other travel companies, we have decided to select a rural base for our trip as we believe this gives the chance to experience the real Spain, whilst still offering easy access to the top tourist attractions and best Andalusian towns such as Olvera, Setenil, Seville and Antequera, which we'll visit during the week.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2

Half-day guided walk through nearby hills and olive groves of Algamitas.

Today we take a half-day guided walk on the trails and paths around the Cortijo. The countryside surrounding Algamitas is picture-perfect, covered with olive trees, beautiful farmland and rolling hills. During the walk, our leader will give us a good overview of the rural lifestyle and traditions of this part of the world, which are largely based around the production of olive oil. The route is very flexible and can be tailored to suit changes in the weather. The afternoon will be spent relaxing by the pool or enjoying a drink in the lovely outdoor terrace at the Cortijo. We then have dinner and overnight at the Cortijo.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3

Marvel at beautiful Moorish and 'Mudejar' architecture and enjoy the gardens of Seville; overnight in Seville.

In the morning, we transfer by private minibus to the magnificent city of Seville. The day is free to sightsee at our own pace. Now the capital of Andalucia, Seville was one of the first conquests of the Moors. After the fall of the Cordoba Caliphate in the 11th Century, under whose direction it previously lay, it became the most powerful city in Al Andalus. Near the city centre is the evocative Giralda, an architectural masterpiece dating back to the 12th Century. Originally built as a minaret for the central Mosque in Seville, this mosque was later destroyed, and it is now the bell-tower for the enormous cathedral. Close by is the magnificent Alcazar, a complex of palaces dating back from Roman times and later used by both Moorish and Christian rulers. It has fine examples of Moorish and Mudejar architecture, rivalling that of Granada's 'Alhambra', and has some lovely gardens. After the Christian re-conquest Seville became the gateway to the 'New World'; Christopher Columbus negotiated here with Queen Isabella to fund his epic voyage to the Americas.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4

To the white Moorish villages of Andalucia; visit Olvera and Setenil; return to the Cortijo.

Leaving Seville in the morning, we travel to Olvera, one of the most scenic of the 'pueblos blancos' or white villages. These villages were built during Moorish times as a border between what was then 'Al Andalus' and Christian Spain. In Olvera we have the opportunity to visit the Arab castle, which dates back to the end of the 12th Century. From here we head to Seteni de las Bodegas. Built under the overhanging ledge of a gorge, Setenil is not only famous for its peculiar architecture but also for its bars, restaurants and food shops which are ranked as the best in the region. The town is also a good place to buy ceramics and local crafts. We return to the Cortijo and the rest of the afternoon is free for a dip in the pool or walks in the surrounding countryside.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5

Free day: explore the countryside around the farmhouse or visit Ronda or Cordoba.

Today we enjoy a free day to explore the tranquil countryside around the farmhouse or take an optional self-guided walk to a nearby village for lunch. Alternatively, it is also possible to visit Ronda or beautiful Cordoba. Train connections to these towns are limited, but your leader can help you to arrange some private return transfers locally (they do not need to be pre-booked before departure).

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6

Full day in Granada. Visit to the Alhambra; free time to explore the city; overnight in Granada.

We leave the Cortijo today and transfer to the beautiful Moorish city of Granada. Here we spend a full day exploring the wonderful heritage of the historic centre. After an optional orientation walk in the morning arranged by our leader, we visit the Alhambra, indisputably the best-known monument and one of the most visited in Spain.

The entrance ticket is included in the cost of the trip and will be arranged by Exodus upon booking. However please be aware that from 2019, for reservations made less than 90 days prior departure Exodus may charge a supplement on the ticket price to guarantee entrance as ticket numbers are limited. Our sales department will be able to check this upon booking and confirm the exact amount of the supplement if it applies.

The remainder of the day is free to sightsee at our own pace: visit the Palacio Nazaríe, the most brilliant Islamic building in Europe, take a panoramic view of the city at sunset from the famous Mirador San Nicolas or simply enjoy some tapas and wine in the cosy town's streets. After immersing ourselves in Granada's history and culture by day, there is a lot to do and see at night including optional flamenco shows.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7

To the white village of Antequera; short walk in El Torcal Natural Reserve; transfer back to the Cortijo.

Leaving Granada, we head to the historical town of Antequera, a little gem known as "the heart of Andalucia" because of its geographical location. The town's history dates back 5,000 years, beginning with the Bronze Age and successively inhabited by many cultures including the native Iberians, Romans and the Moors, all of which have left their mark for us. After exploring the town's highlights and great variety of monuments, we enjoy a delicious lunch in a typical local restaurant. In the afternoon we make our way to the nearby Natural Reserve of El Torcal where we enjoy a short easy walk which offers stunning panoramic views of the landscape below. The karst rock formations found here are unique and among the most important in Europe. Later we make our way back to the Cortijo, where we enjoy a delicious farewell dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8

End Cortijo Rosario, Algamitas.

Our trip ends in the morning of day 8.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotels & Farmhouse

Our main base for the week is Cortijo Rosario, a beautifully converted farmhouse reserved exclusively for Exodus groups. Situated in the heart of the romantic Andalusian countryside, the Cortijo overlooks the small village of Algamitas and is within reach of Seville and the charming town of Ronda.

Together with its neighbouring sister village Villanueva, Algamitas is known as the 'forgotten village': modern development has more or less passed them by and life goes on as it has for generations. Little English is spoken in the villages, as the tourism boom on the coast has not affected the lives of these people, who are welcoming and keen to meet newcomers. The main income of the community is agriculture, with olives the main crop along with cereals, wheat and sunflowers. This rural location really offers a fascinating insight into the 'real' Andalusia.

All rooms have en suite facilities and there is a bar, lounge, outdoor dining area as well as a lovely pool. There are also two friendly dogs owned by the manager of the Cortijo that like to lie on the patio in the sun. Free, unlimited Wi-Fi is available in the bar and sitting room areas.

Cortijo Rosario is renovated to a high standard whilst retaining its traditional heritage. As such, the farmhouse should not be considered a luxury villa or hotel. Towels are changed once during the week and rooms are serviced every other day.

We also spend one night in Granada and one in Seville, where we stay at basic but comfortable hotels with ensuite facilities located close to the historic centre.

Please note that the number of single rooms is very limited and single supplements (on request) may be actual singles or doubles for sole use depending on availability.

Where a single supplement is available, paying for a single only guarantees a room for single use. It does not always mean a twin or double room will be provided for sole occupancy.

Single supplement from \$356.50 USD

Food & Transport

Eating & Drinking

All breakfasts and 5 dinners are included.

Breakfast: Continental buffet-style breakfast with local fruit and yoghurt.

Evening meal: All food is freshly prepared from locally grown seasonal produce, and the meals come with complimentary water and wine as well as tea/coffee. A selection of soft and alcoholic drinks are available at the bar (payable locally).

Vegetarians are generally well catered for at the Cortijo Rosario. Please advise us on booking if you have any special dietary requirements.

Transportation

Private minibus will be used for airport transfers and organised excursions.

Weather & Seasonality

Weather Information

Spring generally has pleasant daytime temperatures, getting a little cooler in the evenings. There is the chance of some rain, which then offers views of beautiful spring flowers. Summer months are hot and dry with temperatures sometimes reaching 34-37 degrees. Autumn brings cooler weather although it is still fairly dry. The possibility of rain is more likely in winter months but temperatures usually stay mild in the daytime, becoming cooler after sunset.

Weather Charts

Andalucia

Joining Instructions

Travelling flight inclusive from London: 8 days

The group flight from London is usually a daytime flight departing on Day 1 of the itinerary.

Flights from London

We normally use the scheduled services of British Airways or Norwegian Airlines (depending on availability).

As flight timings and schedules change regularly we recommend you call one of our specialist sales staff or your agent to confirm up-to-date timings. Please note timings may change at a later date and cannot be confirmed until approximately two weeks before departure.

Travelling land only: 8 days starting and ending in Algamitas

Your trip normally starts at our accommodation in Algamitas in the afternoon of Day 1 of the itinerary. Details of how to reach the start point are provided in the Final Joining Instructions - sent approximately two weeks before departure.

Regional Flights

The Flight Inclusive price is based on a London departure, but we are happy to tailor this to your local or regional airport. **Please ask about flights from local or regional airports. (/regionaldepartures)**

If booking regional flights other than with Exodus, you must allow a minimum connecting time (in addition to the international check-in time) of 1 hour at Gatwick, and 1.5 hours at Heathrow; this is longer than the official minimum, but baggage handling is known to be subject to delays.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Transfers Details

Airport transfers are included for those on the group flights. Please note that transfers are not included for clients arriving on any other flight, even if Exodus has booked it.

If you require airport transfers, you may (by prior arrangement only) be able to join the group transfer. Transfers are arranged to coincide with the arrival time of the group flight - please check the group flight details 2 weeks before departure. If you do not take this transfer, or miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense.

You can pre-book private arrival and departure transfers through Exodus if you wish (payable in advance). Please ensure that you provide us with all relevant information at least 2 weeks before departure.

The cost for a private transfer from Malaga airport to Cortijo Rosario is approximately GBP 150 per vehicle (1-4 clients).

For more than 4 clients please check at time of booking for an up to date price/availability.

Alternatively, the closest train station to the Cortijo Rosario is Almargen and from Malaga you need to take a train to Bobadilla and change here to reach Almargen. You can take any train to Bobadilla however only 3 connect well with the trains to Almargen. Please visit www.renfe.es (<http://www.renfe.es>) for up-to-date train times (you should search for Malaga - Bobadilla and then Bobadilla - Algeciras). From Almargen you will need to take a taxi to the Cortijo Rosario (approx EUR 30) or from Bobadilla (EUR 60). Taxis are sometimes difficult to find. If you are having trouble finding one please ask in the nearest bar or phone the Cortijo Rosario, who may be able to arrange a taxi for you. Upon arrival, please make the owners aware you are part of the Exodus group. If you are planning to make your own way to the Cortijo make sure you contact the accommodation and inform the staff of your estimated arrival time.

If clients wish to make their own way to the Cortijo Rosario with a taxi from the airport it will be approximately EUR 160 with some taxis charging extra per person (normally EUR 10). We would not recommend this option over a private transfer or taking a train/taxi from Almargen or Bobadilla as many standard taxis at the airport do not know the most direct way to the Cortijo Rosario.

Location start: Algamitas

Location end: Algamitas

What to Take

Essential Equipment

- Comfortable walking shoes or boots for sightseeing and walking
- Small daypack
- Refillable water bottle (1-2 litre capacity)
- Some waterproofs (perhaps an umbrella)
- Sun hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Small hand luggage/rucksack for the day and overnight in Seville and Granada (main luggage can be left at the Cortijo).

At the time of writing the standard weight limit for hold baggage on the recommended international carrier for this trip is 20kg. We recommend packing only one piece of checked baggage.

As advice about luggage allowances for both hand and hold luggage is subject to change, we suggest you check the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

Optional Equipment

Swimming suit (for swimming pool)

Practical Information

Passport

Spain

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Certain European nationalities may be able to travel within Europe on their national identity card. Check carefully with the relevant authorities if you intend to do this.

Visa

Spain

No visa required for British passport holders.

For further Brexit travel advice please visit <https://www.abta.com/tips-and-advice/brexit-advice-for-travellers>
(<https://www.abta.com/tips-and-advice/brexit-advice-for-travellers>)

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

There are no specific health risks on this trip.

Vaccination

Spain

There are no specific health risks.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of the UK, North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

For additional information please visit: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries> (<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>)

Insurance - are you adequately covered?

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident in the UK we strongly recommend the [**Exodus travel insurance policy \(/insurance\)**](#), this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

If you are a UK citizen and travelling in Europe you should obtain the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from your Post Office. This gives you medical care at a reduced cost, and some cases for free, in many European countries, but should not be considered a substitute for adequate insurance.

Local Time

Spain's Timezone: Europe/Madrid CEST (GMT +02:00)

Electricity

Spain's Electricity: European plug - 2 round pins. 230 Volts AC.

Money

Spain's Currency

The national currency of Spain is the Euro (EUR), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (October 2017) of approximately 1.1 to the GBP, 0.84 to the USD, 0.67 to the CAD, 0.66 to the AUD and 0.59 to the NZD.

ATM Availability

Cashpoints are available in Algamitas and the major cities visited. Many restaurants and shops in Seville & Granada accept credit cards. Bars in local villages and the Cortijo Rosario only accept EUR cash.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

For lunch in a modest restaurant, you should allow about EUR 10-15. On some days it is possible to eat Tapas lunches together as a group; if you wish to take part in this the leader will arrange a kitty to cover the cost. Entrance fees to monuments and museums are not included (though some are free on the production of an EU passport). We suggest that you allow EUR 25-30 for a dinner in Granada and Seville. You will also need cash to pay your bar bill (drinks) at the Cortijo.

Optional Excursions

Private return transfers to Granada (on the free day): EUR 140-150 per vehicle (4 seater).

Tipping

Although optional, a tip for the leader at the end of the trip is greatly appreciated. As a guideline we recommend to allow approx. €15 - 20 per leader per week. It is also customary to leave a tip for the driver and the local staff at the Cortijo. This can be handed in to your leader at the end of the trip. For the local staff we recommend to budget approx. EUR 20 per person.