

Andalucia Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: European multi-centre holidays

Destination: Spain

Trip code: AXLCL

Trip Walking Grade: 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Uncover the beautiful landscapes and delicious food of Andalucía on our new multi-centre holiday. Enjoy guided walks in natural parks and historic cities, sample the region's renowned gastronomy and learn more about its fascinating heritage and wildlife. Andalucía is, to many, the very essence of Spain and this holiday uncovers the region's many rural and urban charms as we explore on foot.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A full programme of guided walks and sightseeing with experienced local guides including transport and entrance fees
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- Half Board en-suite accommodation - 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 evening meals

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Seville and Córdoba with expert local guides
- Taste wines in a restored 16th century convent

- Walk the Guardiaro Valley and travel by train to Ronda

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 activity. 5-8 miles on good paths with some rocky sections. Up to 1,500 feet of ascent in a day.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

On arrival, meet your local leader and transfer from Málaga airport to Grazales and our hotel. The rest of the day is then at leisure, giving you a chance to relax before our welcome dinner this evening.

Day 2: Natural Park Of Sierra De Grazales & A Taste Of Andalucía

We travel by coach to the nearby village of Benamahoma. From here we begin our first walk of the day along the Río Majaceite and through a landscape of waterfalls and typical riverside vegetation to the town of El Bosque.

Here, we'll visit two local food producers: a flour mill which makes bread in the traditional manner, and a producer of artisanal cheeses, for which the Grazales region is well known. We'll enjoy lunch here, sampling these local delights. Distance: 3 miles (5 km) with negligible ascent.

This afternoon, we continue walking and follow a more challenging circular loop trail through the valley, called Llanos del Endrinal. There is then some time to enjoy a stroll around the pretty town of Grazales before we return to the hotel. Distance: 1½ miles (2½km) with 750 feet (230m) of ascent.

Day 3: Seville

Today we'll enjoy a full day excursion to Seville. Enroute, there'll be a stop in the mountain town of Zahara de la Sierra.

Our guided walk in Seville will trace the connections between Spain and its former colonies in the Americas via the 1929 Iberoamerican Expo, and the legacy of its singular architecture. We'll conclude our morning exploration at the Hotel Alfonso XIII, where you can buy a drink if you wish, before enjoying free time for lunch.

In the afternoon, we'll experience Seville from upon high. We'll walk through the commercial centre of the city with a local guide, who'll then show us the city as seen from atop two of its landmark buildings: the Giralda spire of the 14th century cathedral and the walkways of the avant-garde 21st century Metropol Parasol building, known locally as 'Las Setas' ('the mushrooms').

We'll round off our visit to this stunning city with a tapas dinner before we return by coach to our hotel.

Day 4: Ronda

We depart for Ronda and the Guadiaro River valley. Our first walk traces a section of the long-distance path GR-249 between the stations of Benaoján and Jimera de Líbar, from where we'll take the train to Ronda along one of Spain's most scenic railway lines. Distance: 5 miles (8km) with negligible ascent.

We'll explore the enchanting town of Ronda, passing its most distinctive monuments, such as the 18th century bull ring and 'New Bridge'. Enjoy free time to explore further and have lunch before we reconvene for our afternoon walk.

Descending from the Old Town, we walk to the Guadalevín River valley and on through farmlands and vineyards to the winery, Bodegas Descalzos Viejos, set in a beautiful restored 16th century Trinitarian convent.

Here we'll learn the fascinating story behind the business from the owner and taste a selection of the wines. We return from here to the hotel, where any remaining time today is at leisure before dinner. Distance: 2 miles (3km) with 320 feet (100m) of descent.

Day 5: To Priego De Córdoba

As we travel from Grazalema to Priego de Córdoba, we'll stop at a unique and special place: the salt lagoon of Fuente de Piedra.

Here, guided by a botanist, we'll learn more about the large breeding colony of flamingos – a species of bird more commonly associated with Africa than mainland Europe. In this lovely landscape, there'll be time for you to enjoy your picnic lunch.

We continue our journey to our second hotel. This evening, we'll take a gentle guided stroll through the attractive and historic quarter of nearby Priego de Córdoba, 'La Villa', before we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 6: Natural Park Sierra Subbética.

We travel to the town of Cabra, where we'll enjoy a short stroll through its streets and see the sword used by 'El Cid' in the battle of Cabra in 1079 between the Islamic states of Granada and Seville. We continue to the Natural Park of Sierra Subbética: here we'll walk from below a hermitage, which sits on a knoll overlooking the surrounding countryside, through varying landscapes to the captivating white village of Zuheros, stopping along the way to enjoy our picnic lunch. This walk is of medium difficulty, although our route is mostly a gradual descent. Distance: 7½ miles (12km) with negligible ascent.

There's some time in Zuheros to enjoy a drink before we return to the hotel, where you'll have time to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities before dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 7: Córdoba

Today we'll discover the history and character of the city of Córdoba on a walk through the historic centre with a local guide. From the palace of the Viana noble family to the San Basilio district, admire the floral patios

– an essential element of city life, and the focus of an annual Festival of Patios – as we explore the charm of this ancient city.

After time for lunch, our exploration of the city continues with an insight into the rich history of the Muslims and Jews who lived here in the medieval period, with guided visits to the Great Mosque and a small, intimate Synagogue – both monuments which evoke the city's fascinating and varied heritage.

We conclude our day with an insight into the region's 'liquid gold': extra virgin olive oil. In the world's largest area of olive production, we'll learn more from a resident of Zuheros, Antonio Zafra, on his one-hectare small holding, where he grows 12 different olive varieties. The activity is rounded off by a home-produced dinner in the village which makes use of the oil and olives from Antonio's trees, and is a wonderful and fun way to bring our Andalusian experience to a close.

Day 8: Departure Day

After breakfast we'll transfer by coach to Málaga International Airport for our return flight.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Fuerte Grazalema, Andalucía

Our first four nights are spent at the 4-star Hotel Fuerte Grazalema, located a short drive from the village of Grazalema. Nestled in the heart of the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park, enjoy the stunning views from the pleasant outside areas and pool. Traditional, local cuisine is served in the on-site restaurant. There are 77 spacious en-suite rooms featuring private balconies, air-conditioning, satellite TV and Wi-Fi.

Hotel Huerta De Las Palomas, Andalucía

The final three nights of our time in Andalucía are spent at the 4-star Hotel de las Palomas. With 34 rooms set around a central courtyard and all enjoying views over the beautiful surroundings, you'll be sure to enjoy a pleasant stay in this rural environment, a few kilometres outside the delightful town of Priego de Córdoba. Rooms feature a full bathroom, air-conditioning, TV and Wi-Fi. At the end of your day, relax in the outdoor pool or Jacuzzi.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions

On arrival, please proceed to the arrivals hall once you have passed through passport control, customs and baggage reclaim. Your HF Holidays leader or local leader will assemble the group in the arrivals hall - look out for the HF Holidays' sign.

If you are arriving ahead of the group, and are meeting them at the first hotel, please leave a message at the hotel reception for the HF Holidays' leader or local leader, detailing your room number, and a mobile telephone number if possible. The leader will contact you once the group arrives.

If you are arriving after the group, a message will be left for you at the hotel reception, welcoming you and giving details of the time and place to meet the group.

If your flight arrives before the group flight and you would like to join the transfer to the first hotel (at additional cost), please contact our Abroad Administration team on (0)208 732 1220 to enquire about availability and make arrangements.

Essential Information

Passport Requirements

You may need to renew your British passport if you're travelling from 1 January 2021.

On the day you travel, you'll need your passport to both:

- have at least 6 months left
- be less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left)

Use the [government website](#) to see if your passport is valid for this holiday

EHIC Cards

The UK government has officially launched the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), which will replace the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). UK residents can now apply for one of the GHIC cards, which will gradually replace the EHIC cards as they reach their expiry dates. Every family member travelling requires a GHIC. You can make an application for yourself and on behalf of your partner and any dependent children under the age of 16. Both cards will offer equivalent protection for emergency and medically necessary healthcare needs when in the EU on a temporary stay, which includes holiday, study and business travel. Necessary healthcare includes things like

- emergency treatment and visits to A&E
- treatment for long-term or pre-existing medical conditions
- routine medical care for pre-existing conditions that need monitoring
- oxygen and kidney dialysis

The public only need to apply for their free GHIC cards when their current EHIC expires. The process is likely to take two weeks. For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>.

The GHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. We advise all holidaymakers to also invest in travel insurance that covers healthcare, so they are covered for other issues that may arise, as well as cancellations and lost luggage.

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents.
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares).
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended.
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers.
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner.
- Thermos flask for hot drink.
- Water bottle (at least 2 litre).
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch.
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Sun cream.

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents.
- Insect repellent.
- Camera.
- Gaiters.

Trip Information

Passports

Passports must be valid for the duration of your stay; generally, you are recommended to have at least 6 months validity beyond the end date of your holiday on your passport.

Visas

Visas are not currently required for UK travellers; however, this may change depending on the outcome of negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU. For current travel advice we recommend checking the Spain pages on the [FCO website](#).

Insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We have negotiated special holiday insurance and full details of this cover can be found in our brochure or at www.hfholidays.co.uk.

If you would like to purchase insurance from us, please call us on 020 8732 1220 or email holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: www.dh.gov.uk/travellers.

If you are arranging your own travel insurance, please ensure it is adequate for your specific itinerary. Generally, this should include cover for walking at altitudes over 2,000m, which will cover you for a wide range of our holidays.

Vaccinations & Health Information

This information is subject to change. In all cases, we **highly recommend** you consult your GP both for up to date details and for more information on what is appropriate to your situation.

As a rule, travellers should be up to date with their routine vaccinations and boosters as recommended in the UK - including, for example, the MMR and diphtheria, tetanus, polio vaccines.

Requirements can change, and we recommend you check in good time ahead of your holiday.

Please note: the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is banned in some countries.

If you will be carrying medication, please check with the country's embassy/consulate prior to travel. As an extra precaution, it is recommended to:

- Keep medication in its original packet
- Take a copy of your prescription
- If possible, ask your chemist to write the name of your medication in the language of the country you're visiting

For further information on country specific advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements; we will do our best to accommodate you.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

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Useful Information

Baggage Allowance

1 piece of checked-in luggage (max 23kg). Please check details of your airline's baggage allowance, as shown on your e-ticket. Remember to also check any connecting flights you may have booked.

Lost/Damaged Luggage

If your bag or its contents are damaged or lost while in the airline's care, this should be reported to the baggage service agents at the airport on arrival. They will assess the damage; in some cases, the airline may decide to settle your claim immediately.

You will be given a reference to quote to your insurance company if an immediate settlement is not possible - in many cases, baggage claims can only be accepted in writing. A baggage claim form must be obtained from the airport.

Once you have made your booking, you will receive a pre-holiday questionnaire where we ask for details of next of kin and insurance details. **You must complete and return this to us - we need to have this from you at least 10 weeks before travel.**

Please also inform us of any medical situation which may affect your enjoyment of the holiday. This is important because our leaders must consider both group and individual safety at all times.

Whilst out with the group, we respectfully request that you:

- Please listen to any safety instructions from the leader
- Keep group members in view, especially if weather or visibility is poor

- Please stay where you are if you become separated from the group. The leader will retrace their steps to find you.

Each leader carries a first aid kit but is not allowed to supply any medication including aspirin, paracetamol, antihistamines and antiseptic cream. You may wish to bring these items with you in your own kit (see Suggested Kit List).

In the unlikely event that your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call emergency services on 112. Please then call our emergency number and let us know there is a problem

The local currency is the Euro (€).

Card payments are widely but not universally accepted in Spain and ATMs are widely available. Some cash is useful for small purchases, particularly outside cities and major towns.

Spanish – specifically Castilian – is the main and official language and is spoken throughout Andalucía.

220V, round European two-pin sockets. We recommend you take a universal plug adaptor for UK appliances.

GMT/UTC +1, Central European Time

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the

top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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