

# Discover Andalucia

**Destination:** Spain

**Trip code:** AXLEL



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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As Spain's stunning southern region, Andalucía not only raises the bar for golden beaches, fiestas, and flamenco, but also for history, nature, and culture-packed places. Starting in Málaga, this guided holiday is loaded with big-name attractions, including Las Alpujarras, Granada's UNESCO-listed Alhambra Palace, and the Great Mosque of Cordoba. You'll also spend time exploring the former Moorish capital, Seville, and Cádiz - believed to be the oldest inhabited city in Europe.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Return flights from London Gatwick, including baggage and transfers
- Guided sightseeing with local leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 2 nights in Malaga, 2 nights in Granada & 3 nights in Seville
- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 2 dinners
- All in-destination transport & entrance fees (as per itinerary)

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- A guided tour of Granada's UNESCO-listed Alhambra Palace

- Spending a full day in Seville
- Visiting the whitewashed villages of the Alpujarras
- Touring the historic centre of Cadiz
- Marvelling at the Great Mosque of Cordoba

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This is a discovery tour, in each place we visit there is a guided walk in the city or village.

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Fly to Málaga, Spain. Transfer to the hotel and spend some free time in the city before a welcome dinner with local wine included.

Dinner included. Overnight in Málaga

### Day 2: Malaga

Our first day in Andalucía begins with morning tour of Málaga alongside a local guide. We'll visit the magnificent hilltop castle of Gibralfaro (entrance included), walk along the promenade by the Roman Theatre and the bullring, before winding up at the city's famous cathedral with its unfinished right tower.

Málaga is the birthplace of Pablo Picasso and a free afternoon in the city is a great opportunity to visit the museum dedicated to the artist's life and work. Alternatively, stroll through the mural-sketched streets of Soho – an edgy creative quarter where hip cafés brush alongside craft beer bars and street art exhibitions.

Breakfast included. Overnight in Málaga.

### Day 3: Las Alpujarras

This morning we'll depart Málaga and transfer to Granada. On the way, we'll head into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains to visit Las Alpujarras. This stunning valley is lined with whitewashed villages that cascade down the hillsides, contrasting against the green landscape they cling to.

We'll visit three of these picturesque villages where life feels like it did many years ago. There'll be time to explore, and we'll enjoy lunch in a local restaurant with wine included.

Breakfast and lunch included. Overnight in Granada.

### Day 4: Granada

Today we'll enjoy a guided tour of Granada which includes entrance to its two biggest attractions – the Alhambra Palace and the Generalife Gardens.

Sitting at the foot of the spectacular Sierra Nevada mountain range, the Alhambra Palace is a feast for the senses. As the oldest and best-preserved Islamic fortress in the world, it's one of Spain's most treasured UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and we'll spend our morning touring this 11th century marvel with an audio headset guide.

We'll walk under honeycombed arches, beneath ornate ceilings, through oasis-like courtyards complete with ornamental ponds and trickling fountains, and along sky-high ramparts that command 360-degree views. We'll feel the intricately carved reliefs of Islamic calligraphy, run our fingers over the colourfully tiled walls, and visit the well-preened Generalife gardens where medieval Moorish emirs once spent their summers.

After the tour, there's free time to explore Granada. Stroll the streets around the cathedral, explore the maze-like alleys of Albaicín, or grab a bite to eat in one of the pretty plazas where great views over the Alhambra come as standard.

Breakfast included. Overnight in Granada.

## Day 5: Seville Via Cordoba

Leaving Granada behind, we'll make our way to Andalucía's regional capital, Seville. But first, we'll pay a visit to the riverside city of Córdoba. Located on the banks of the Guadalquivir, it's home to some of Spain's most remarkable Moorish architecture and the city's showpiece is undoubtedly the Great Mosque of Córdoba (entrance included). As one of the oldest Moorish buildings still standing in Andalucía, it offers a fascinating insight into the area's history.

After the end of Islamic rule on the Iberian Peninsula, the mosque was converted into the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, but you'll still see traces of its heritage as we walk amongst double arches and red brick structures. Climb the belltower for great views of Córdoba's rooftops stretching out beneath you before we take a tour of the city's historic Jewish quarter, home to the Synagogue (entrance included).

Breakfast and lunch with local wine in Córdoba included. Overnight in Seville.

## Day 6: Seville

We'll enjoy a full day sightseeing in Seville today, but the undeniable highlight is the city's UNESCO-listed cathedral (entrance included). Not only is it the largest Gothic building in western Europe but it's also the resting place of Christopher Columbus.

Admire the incredible architecture as we wander beneath the illuminated stained-glass windows before climbing the Giralda belltower. This sky-scraping spire is the former minaret of the mosque the cathedral was built on and standing in the belfry high above Seville is an exhilarating experience.

There'll also be a visit to the labyrinth-like alleys and lively palm tree-lined squares of the city's ancient Jewish neighbourhood of Santa Cruz and entrance to the Real Alcazar followed by free time to explore the city at leisure.

Breakfast and dinner with local wine included. Overnight in Seville.

## Day 7: Cádiz

The final day of our trip takes us to history-rich Cádiz. Believed to one of the oldest inhabited cities in Europe, it rewards with fascinating architecture that's stood the test of time. Unlike other cities, its ancient core is surrounded by water, with the cathedral's yellow-hued dome an eye-catching beacon amongst the mix of lower-level buildings around it.

We'll tour the city's old quarter and visit the impressive Torre Tavira (entrance included), the highest point in the city. Our sightseeing sojourn around Cádiz also comes with the bonus of a sherry tasting experience.

World-famous sherry is produced just north of the city in Jerez, the town that gave the famous fortified wine its name. So it's fitting that we'll head to Puerto de Santa Maria across the bay and stop by a local bodega to sample a selection of Spain's finest sherries before a tasty lunch. It's then time to head back to Seville.

Breakfast and lunch included. Overnight in Seville.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Transfer to Málaga Airport.

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## ACCOMMODATION

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### Hotel Soho Boutique Las Vegas, Malaga (Only 23 April 2025 Departure)

Set on Malagueta Beach, the 3-star Soho Boutique Las Vegas combines seaside relaxation with city exploration. Malaga's artsy Soho district, historic quarter, and big-name sights such as Castle Gibralfaro are less than a 30-minute walk away or can be reached via taxi in under 10 minutes. The hotel's rooms are designed for comfort and feature all mod cons you need to relax after a day of exploration. Guests can unwind by the outdoor pool or make use of facilities including a bar, well-equipped gym, and a buffet restaurant for breakfast.

### Hotel Alameda Centro, Malaga (Only 3 March 2025 Departure)

The 4-star Hotel Alameda Centro is located just a short 15-minute walk from the city's historic centre and sits opposite Jardines Picasso - the beautiful gardens dedicated to Malaga born artist, Pablo Picasso. There are 140 comfortable rooms complete with views of the city and mod cons including TV, safety deposit box, complimentary toiletries, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, minibar, plus tea and coffee making facilities and hairdryer. And if you would like to do some shopping, the first floor of the hotel provides direct access to the Larios shopping mall.

### Hotel Porcel Alixares, Granada

The 4-star Hotel Porcel Alixares is perfectly located with views of the Alhambra and is just a 30-minute walk from Granada's historic centre. Guests can relax by the hotel's pool (open Easter to mid-October) or take advantage of the regular bus service into town. The hotel offers 95 comfortable rooms, each equipped with a TV, safety deposit box, hairdryer, complimentary toiletries, fridge, free Wi-Fi and air conditioning. The hotel has a good restaurant, but we highly recommend exploring nearby bars and restaurants given that Granada is one of the few places in Spain where you can still enjoy free tapas with each drink.

### Hotel Becquer, Seville

It's not every day you get to stay in the former palace of a 16th century nobleman - but the Hotel Bécquer allows you to do just that. The grand former home of the Marquises de las Torres, this stylish 4-star hotel offers guests an unforgettable stay in the historic centre of Seville, just a 10-minute walk from the city's famous cathedral. Guests can make use of the outdoor swimming pool (open March to October), hit the rooftop terrace and bar for views over the Seville skyline, or unwind in the hotel's coffee corner where there are a range of complimentary beverages and canapés. After a day of exploring, retire to your comfortable classic room equipped with all mod cons including TV, hairdryer, complimentary toiletries, minibar, free Wi-Fi and air conditioning.

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports\* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk)

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

### Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

### Shared group transfer

You can still purchase a seat on our group airport transfer, but you must arrive in destination prior to the main group. It is your responsibility to book flights which allow enough time to meet our shared transfer.

Please note, all flight times are subject to change. If your arrival and/or departure time changes and no longer fits our group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur, we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the accommodation or we can book a private taxi transfer (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

### Private taxi transfer

Depending on your destination, we may be able to arrange a private taxi transfer for you. Please call us up to 5 weeks in advance to enquire about availability and costs for this option on 0203-974-8865.

\*Subject to availability

## Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

### Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

### Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

### Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box

- Gaiters
- GPS device

## Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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.

## Vaccinations & Health

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](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk) or [www.traveldoctor.co.uk](http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk)

## Useful Information

### Travel Insurance

Travel 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 work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote: <https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

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.

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

## Luggage

### 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.

## Local Currency

The local currency is the Euro (€)

## Local Time

GMT/UTC +1, Central European Time

## Electricity

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

## ATM Availability

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.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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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.

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