



MARTIN
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The Arts Society Mendip

The Moorish Heritage of Andalucía



Seville

Tuesday 11 - Saturday 15 May 2027

Owing to its size and location, Spain's southernmost and most populous region, Andalucía, boasts a fascinating range of natural beauty and cultural heritage. Encompassing most of southern Spain, stretching to the southernmost tip of mainland Europe and with the shortest crossing to North Africa just 14km, the region amounts to a unique fusion of Western European Christian traditions and North African Muslim stylistics. Even the region's name belies its diverse heritage, thought to have derived from the Arabic *al-Andalus*, which in turn takes its name from the Vandals, a Germanic tribe which settled in Spain in the 5th century BC.

We will explore the resulting blend of styles that the region has to offer, from Seville's vast Gothic Cathedral to the ornate Mezquita, from architectural splendours to museums housing some of Europe's finest artwork.

TUESDAY 11 MAY 2027

Independent travel arrangements to Bristol Airport.

We will depart Bristol on the flight with Ryanair to **Malaga**, departing at 07.55 and arriving at 11.35 local time. *(Please note that flights are not included in the tour price and that the schedule may be subject to change by the airline).*

We will be met by our local coach for the transfer to **Ronda**. The city enjoys a precarious location on a rocky outcrop and is well known for its dramatic escarpments and wonderful views. Because of limited accessibility it was unconquerable for many years and was one of the last Moorish bastions, succumbing to the Christians in 1485. Ronda is famous as the birthplace of modern bullfighting and its bullring is one of the oldest and most important buildings in Spain. **Lunch** will be taken together on arrival, followed by a **walking tour** with a local guide.

We will continue by coach to **Seville** and check into the 4-star **Hotel Las Casas de La Judería** for 3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. After some time to freshen up, **dinner** will be taken together this evening in a nearby local restaurant.

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2027

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide for a full day of visits in **Seville** on foot. We will begin our morning at the nearby **Reales Alcázares**. The Royal Palaces were built by Moorish architects for Spanish kings and combine Mudéjar craftsmanship with landscaped gardens. It was constructed on the orders of Pedro I in 1364 and has been enlarged and added to by later monarchs in the following years.

We will continue with a short **walking tour** of the **Jewish Quarter**, followed by some free time to take lunch in Seville.

We will continue to the Gothic **Seville Cathedral**, built on the site of a former 12th century mosque and one of the largest cathedrals in Europe. Begun in 1401, it took over a century to complete and includes the bell tower, **La Giralda**, so named from the 16th century bronze sculpture portraying "Faith", which sits atop the tower as a weathervane.



Mezquita, Cordoba

We will return to our hotel for an evening at leisure, with independent arrangements for dinner. Members may wish to attend a traditional flamenco performance. *(Not included in the price of the tour. Further details will be available closer to the date of the trip).*

THURSDAY 13 MAY 2027

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide and walk to the **Seville Museum of Fine Arts**. Housed in a restored convent church dating from 1612, the museum is considered one of the finest in Spain. The collection of Spanish art and sculpture spans from the medieval to the modern and focuses on the work of Seville School artists.

The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure for private visits of your choice or to simply enjoy the elegance of Seville. Possible visits include the Hospital de la Caridad, a striking 17th century Baroque church with paintings by Murillo and Juan de Valdés Leal, or the Archivo General de Indias that contains materials documenting the history of the Spanish Empire in the Americas and Asia.

Dinner will be taken together this evening in a nearby local restaurant.

FRIDAY 14 MAY 2027

We will check out of the hotel after a breakfast and travel by coach to **Cordoba**. Cordoba was the capital of Moorish Spain from the 8th century and became one of the largest and richest cities in Europe. Accordingly, a great mosque was required, and the beautiful La Mezquita was the result. We will meet our local guide on arrival, and there will be some free time to take refreshments.

We will visit the **Mezquita**, the vast and ornate mosque built by the Moors between 785 and 787. Over 850 columns of granite, jasper and marble support the roof, many taken from Roman and Visigoth buildings. It has evolved over the centuries blending many architectural styles, and in the 16th century a cathedral was built into the heart of the reconsecrated mosque.

We continue with a **short walking tour** of the nearby **Jewish Quarter**, known as the *Juderia*. **Lunch** will be taken together in Cordoba.

We will continue by coach to **Granada**, where we will check into the 4-star **Hotel Barcelo Carmen Granada** for overnight dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation. **Dinner** will be taken together this evening in the hotel restaurant.

SATURDAY 15 MAY 2027

We will check out of our hotel after breakfast and travel by coach to visit the **Alhambra** (*subject to availability*). The Alhambra is the jewel of Granada, a beautiful palace and garden built when the Nasrid dynasty ruled the city to create their idea of paradise on earth. The complex is a succession of exquisitely tiled pavilions and halls, courtyards, patios, pools and fountains through the Casas Reales, the 13th century Alcazaba and the 16th century Palace of Charles V.

We will continue to central **Granada**, located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Islamic-period influence and Moorish architecture are well represented throughout the buildings and monuments in the city. **Lunch** will be taken together, followed by a **walking tour**.

Late afternoon we will transfer to Almeria Airport for the return flight with EasyJet to Bristol, due to depart at 21.10 and arrive at 22.50 local time. (*Please note that flights are not included in the tour price and that the schedule may be subject to change by the airline*).

Independent onward travel arrangements.

Please note that this tour involves a reasonable amount of walking and standing. There will be steps and the ground is uneven in places. As this tour has been arranged many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary from the above.



Alhambra, Granada



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TOUR PRICE

£1,570 per person sharing a twin/double room (*excluding flights*)

£320 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Seville
Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in Granada
3 dinners and 3 lunches
The services of local guides throughout
All coach travel in Spain as per the itinerary
All entrance charges and booking fees as per the itinerary
Audio headsets throughout
Gratuities

HOTEL DETAILS

Hotel Las Casas de la Juderia (4 star)
Calle Santa María la Blanca 5, 41004, Seville
www.lascasasdelajuderiasevilla.com/en/

Hotel Barcelo Carmen Granada (4 star)
Calle Acera del Darro 62, 18005, Granada
www.barcelo.com/es-es/barcelo-carmen-granada/

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We intend to use the following flights with Ryanair/EasyJet:

11 May - Bristol/Malaga - 07.55 (11.35) **FR 4121**

15 May - Almeria/Bristol - 21.10 (22.50) **EZY 2746**

All flights may be subject to schedule change by the airline.

The tour price shown excludes airfares.

Martin Randall Travel Private Groups can book flights on your behalf and will pass on the cost, plus an administration fee of £10 per person. We anticipate that flights will be offered in the region of £275-£300 per person based on the current airfare (*correct as of writing in August 2026*), however, please note that these prices are subject to fluctuation on a daily basis. Should fares excessively exceed this amount we will contact you before any booking is made. In the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you prefer to make your own travel arrangements. We ask that you please **do not** book your own flights until you have received confirmation that the tour is going ahead.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants.

PASSPORT & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport. The European Travel Information and Authorisation System (**ETIAS**) will be launched for entry to Schengen area countries (most of the EU), if using a UK passport, shortly. We will update all participants closer to the date of travel.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3622. All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk ATOL Certificate

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a requirement of booking that you have adequate holiday insurance cover. The insurance must cover, at minimum, medical treatment, repatriation, loss of property and loss of payments to us in the event that you cancel the tour.

PAYMENT DETAILS

A deposit of **£475 per person** is due as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 30 October 2026**. **An early deposit is required to secure the preferred services for this tour.** As places on the tour are limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. The final balance will be due by **Tuesday 16 February 2027**.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please return your booking form to pgbookings@martinrandall.co.uk
Please see instructions on how to make payment on the booking form.

You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. Final travel details (itinerary, hotel details and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel.

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