fresco
TOURS

An Andalucian Affair 2018

- an adventure from our backyard –

An Andalucian Affair 2018

10 days & 9 nights

The typical image people have of Spain - the vibrant flamenco dancer in a bright-colored dress, singing in a white washed patio of a tiny village surrounded by a sea of olive fields under a crystal blue sky - no doubt comes from Andalucía. However, there is much, much more to this part of Spain. In addition, we'll explore serene garden palaces at the foot of snow-capped mountains, cool dense shaded pine forests, quiet trout river paths and magical buzzing cities…and yes, all under a crystal blue sky!

Price: 2,900€
Single Supplement: 400€

Day 1: Córdoba and the Magnificent Mezquita

We meet in Córdoba and welcome you to your Fresco Tours Vacation. After a short orientation meeting, we take to the streets to see the one-time cultural capital of the Western World, Córdoba. Here our local guide will lead us through the fascinating Mezquita, started in the 8th-century. Its mesmerizing forest of pillars capped with horseshoe arches and its uniquely integrated 16th century Cathedral create an unforgettable contrast.

Accommodation: Córdoba

Day 2: La Subbética, the Heart of Andalucía

Today, we enter into the hills of the Subbética Natural Park south of Córdoba. Our day begins as we lace up our boots and walk through vast olive tree groves and into the picturesque village of Zuheros de la Sierra. Next, we stop at one of the finest olive oil manufacturers in Spain to learn about the process of extracting this liquid gold. Afterwards, We finish the day by shuttling to Granada, where Ferdinand and Isabella celebrated the completion of the Reconquista in 1492.

Accommodation: Granada / Walking: 12 KMs or 7 miles

Day 3: Magical Granada and the Alhambra

After a delicious breakfast, we begin to explore Granada by investigating the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Alhambra. Our local historian recounts the splendors of this palace city that was built in the 13th and 14th century. Once inside the Patio of Lions, one can understand why this is the second most visited monument in Europe as our imagination takes us to another era. We finish the night with a fine meal in the hilly and winding streets of the Albayzin with unmatched views of the Alhambra!

Accommodation: Granada

Day 4: Strolling the Sierra Nevada

After a day of city walking, we slip back in our boots for some fresh air in the Sierra Nevada, Europe's second highest mountain range after the Alps. As we stick to the foothills of the lower valleys, we will be able to contemplate the magnificent views of this rugged and extensive National Park. As a reward for our hike, we return to Granada for an evening of shopping and delicious tapas!

Accommodation: Granada / Walking: 13 KMs or 8 miles

Day 5: Los Pueblos Blancos and Ronda

Leaving Granada, we make our way through the famous pueblos blancos (White Villages) where we head up to Ronda, a Hemingway favorite, to admire the spectacular Puente Nuevo, which straddles the 100m deep Tajo gorge. We end our day in the Natural Park of the Sierra de Grazalema, declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1977

Accommodation: Grazalema

Day 6: Grazalema National Park

This morning our walk takes us along a trout river with the unique fir tree, el pinsapo, watching over us. Survivor of the last Ice Age, this rare evergreen is only found in remote areas of southern Spain and northern Morocco. After a delicious lunch, we continue to explore to mountains of the White Villages with a stop in at the hilltop fort town of Zahara.

Accommodation: Grazalema / Walking: 6 KMs or 4 miles

Day 7: Costa de la Luz

Hopping in the van, we head to the spectacular Costa de la Luz, lesser known than the Costa del Sol, this area is less commercial and still has the charm of tiny fishing villages. We start the day with a coastal walk that takes us through protected pine forests. Here we may catch the glimpse of a little fishing boat heading out for sardines or anchovies, just as they have been doing for centuries! In the evening, we rest our tired legs with a glass of light white wine!

Accommodation: Jerez / Walking: 10 KMs or 6 miles

Day 8: Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art

An exciting morning, we first visit the Museum of Equestrian Arts to learn about the important role of the Jerez-bred Carthusian horses. Next, we are treated to a spectacular exhibition where we witness these horses dancing. Afterwards, we sample some of Jerez's other famed prize - sherry wine in the old quarter of town!

Accommodation: Jerez

Day 9: Seville, Soul of the South

After breakfast, we say goodbye to Jerez and transfer to Andalucía's soul - Seville! Here the electricity and passion of the South come together and make this city alive with an unmistakable energy. We will have a walk around town, but remember to take a siesta, because after our farewell dinner, the evening continues as we are treated to a powerful, exciting, Gitano-inspired Flamenco show!

Accommodation: Seville

Day 10: Seville

This morning begins with a guided tour by our local expert, who provides us with the insights to Seville's Cathedral, one of the largest in the world, the splendid Alcázar (Moorish fortress) and the charming Old Center. The tour finishes at noon, when we say our hasta pronto (till your next Fresco Tour) and muchas gracias!

** Please note: this itinerary is subject to slight modifications due to hotel availability, weather, festivals & other occurrences*

WHAT TO EXPECT

Expect to have a wonderful time! We've designed each trip to enjoy the stunning beauty of the Spanish landscape, while giving you a true sense of the soul and magic of these exciting people and their culture. We love to share this magnificent country and want you to feel a part of it.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

2 Guides

Our greatest resource! We know Spain, because it is our home. Both of your guides are experienced professionals that are either Spanish or live in Spain year round – no hired out summer help! In Córdoba, Granada, and Seville, we will be joined by local art historians, who will bring the monuments and cities to life!

* Groups of 3 - 6 pax are accompanied by only 1 guide.

Meals

Food speaks volumes about a culture and we love to eat! During our walk days, when possible, we prepare gourmet picnics using the freshest of local ingredients and selecting the tastiest recipes of the region. All breakfast, lunches and dinners are included minus 1 lunch and dinner, where we encourage you to try to local cuisine. We are proud to cater to vegetarians and those with food allergies – milk, egg, wheat, etc… as well!

Accommodation

Fresco Tours selects a combination of 3-4 star hotels, restored country manors and B&B's that offer the best in hospitality, comfort and location. All rooms have their own bathrooms. Tour prices are based on double occupancy.

Limited Group Sizes

Fresco Tours are in small groups to ensure that you receive the individual attention that you deserve. In order to treat each of our clients with a personal touch, we limit our group size to a maximum of 15 participants.

Ground transportation

All ground transportation between the designated starting and finishing point of your Fresco Tour is provided. We will help facilitate information for your travel arrangements prior to and after the tour start and finish.

Luggage transfers

Your luggage will be transported between hotels. You do the walking, we'll do the lifting!

Pre-Tour Assistance

We will help with your travel arrangements prior to and after the tour start and finish of your Fresco Tour, including help with hotel reservations and train tickets.

Special Event Tickets

Wine tastings, garden tours, concerts, etc. as outlined in the itinerary.