

CIRCA



TOURS

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A "White Village" in Andalusia

Photos by Circa Tours

Andalusia in Depth

Andalusia - Costa del Sol - Morocco - Gibraltar
(13 days - 11 nights)

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is an example of a possible itinerary. It can be resized, reorganized and customized to fit your interests, budget and schedule. It can also be combined with other tours.

HIGHLIGHTS (13 days - 11 nights)

DAY	ACTIVITIES	NIGHT
1	Leave U.S.	
2	Arrive in Malaga . Private airport transfer	Malaga
3	Day trip to Ronda	Malaga
4	Day trip to Tangier , Morocco	Malaga
5	Morning walking tour of Malaga. Afternoon at leisure	Malaga
6	Day trip to Gibraltar	Malaga
7	Train to Seville . Afternoon tour to Roman Italica	Seville
8	Day trip to Granada	Seville
9	Morning walking tour. Afternoon at leisure	Seville
10	Day trip to Jerez de la Frontera (equestrian show) and Cadiz	Seville
11	Day at leisure. Flamenco show	Seville
12	Day trip to Cordoba	Seville
13	Private airport transfer. Return to U.S.	

ITINERARY (for more options, see our "Spain Highlights")

Day 1: Leave U.S.

Day 2: Arrive in **Malaga**. Private airport transfer. Enjoy the breeze from the Mediterranean and relax for the rest of the day.

Day 3: On the way to **Ronda** today, enjoy the scenic drive through the rolling hills of southern Spain before reaching this picture-perfect Andalusian "white village" perched on top of a mighty promontory. The visit begins with a walking tour of the bullring, famous in Spain for its "Goyescas" (bullfights where matadors are dressed up in suits worn at the time of Goya, the famous painter, some two centuries ago). This bullring is one of the oldest in Spain. Under the stands, it offers a small but interesting museum on tauromachy (the art of bullfighting). The tour goes on to the New Bridge nearby, a massive masterpiece spanning a 350-foot deep gorge carved into the dramatic landscape. Next, stroll around the old quarter with a visit of the cathedral, which displays a unique combination of Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque and Arabic architecture. The old section offers many beautifully decorated mansions with shaded patios, as well as baths and minarets from the Moorish past. There will be plenty of free time for shopping and lunch.



Day 4: Today, you're off to another continent, Africa. Destination: **Tangier**, Morocco, for a slice of Islamic culture. Enjoy the scenic drive along the Mediterranean coast before reaching the province of Cadiz. Board the ferry boat in Tarifa or Algeciras. After a short crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar (less than an hour), you are in Morocco. The visit of Tangier begins with a walk around the old city. Next is the Medina, with its narrow streets and traditional houses. Then, enjoy some free time to take in the local atmosphere or to do some shopping at the bazaar. Lunch in a typical Moroccan restaurant is included. Typical menu: Harira soup, kebab, couscous with chicken and vegetables, tea and dessert.

Day 5: This morning, discover **Malaga** on a private walking tour of the old city. **The Costa del Sol** is best known for its sandy beaches, lush golf courses and flashy resort towns lining the Mediterranean coast all the way to Gibraltar. But Malaga, in the middle of it, offers several sites of significant cultural interest: a beautiful, ornate cathedral, an ancient



castle (the Alcazaba) and a Roman amphitheater. You can also visit the house of Pablo Picasso, who was born there in 1881. A tour of the Picasso Museum reveals a fine collection of works by the prolific artist.

Day 6: After Africa, today you'll visit the U.K. with a day trip to **Gibraltar, U.K.** Once again, enjoy the scenic drive along the Mediterranean coast on your way to the "Big Rock". All traffic entering Gibraltar has to go through the Gibraltar Airport, which means actually driving across the runway. After entering Gibraltar, you'll take the "rock tour" by minibus. The tour starts at Europe Point, the southernmost point of Europe. On a clear day, you can see Africa on the other side of the strait. On to the Saint Michael caves and the monkey park, followed by approximately 2 hours of free time for duty-free

shopping and leisurely strolling around.

Day 7: Board your morning train to **Seville**. This is not a high-speed train, so you will have plenty of time to enjoy the Andalusian countryside. Afternoon tour of **Italica**, the site of one of Spain's most impressive Roman ruins. This ancient place, a few miles outside Seville, used to be a thriving city of great military importance. Emperors Hadrian and Trajan were born there. Today you can still see a 20,000-spectator amphitheater, mosaic floors, thermal baths and a theater.

Day 8: Explore more of mysterious Andalusia on a day trip to **Granada** and visit the amazing **Alhambra**, an expansive Moorish palace and fortress with unique architecture and beautiful gardens. This complex is a cluster of four different sites perched side by side on top of a hill: the **Nasrid Palace**, an exquisite combination of rooms and courtyards - the famous Courtyard of the Lions is one of them - where the Muslim rulers lived; the beautifully manicured **Generalife Gardens**, planted in the 1930s; the **Palace of Charles V**, Spain's most impressive Renaissance building; and the **Alcazaba**, an empty fortress with panoramic views over Granada. The Alhambra is one of the most visited tourist destinations in Europe. The culture and historical events reflected by this place makes for an incredible touring experience.



Day 9: Your morning walking tour of **Seville** this afternoon will include visits of the Cathedral, the Giralda minaret/bell tower, the Alcazar and the Jewish quarter. Then, spend the rest of the day exploring the great city of Seville at your own pace.

Day 10: Off to **Jerez de la Frontera** this morning. Jerez is the world capital of sherry wine and the home of the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art, a riding school comparable to the world-famous Spanish Riding School in Vienna. Enjoy wine tasting in a local "bodega" and the equestrian show. Then on to **Cadiz**, an ancient port dating back to the Phoenicians and the Romans. In Christopher Columbus' day, it was a major staging point for treasure-hunting adventures to the New World.

Day 11: After a day of exploring on your own, spend the evening watching a Flamenco performance, Andalusia's quintessential cultural expression.

Day 12: Alluring **Cordoba** is next. Enjoy a walking tour of La Mezquita, the Alcazar, the Synagogue and the Jewish quarter. Cordoba is a medium-sized city on the Guadalquivir River. It was founded in Roman times and later became the capital of the Caliphate of Córdoba, which governed almost all of the Iberian peninsula. It has been estimated that in the latter half of the 10th century Cordoba, with up to 500,000 inhabitants, was then the most populated city in Europe and possibly in the world. It was known as an advanced cultural and economic center. In 1236 it was captured from the Moors by King Ferdinand III during the Spanish *Reconquista*.

Day 13: Private airport transfer. Return to U.S.

Hello, my name is **Pierre Mainguéné**. I personally handcrafted this itinerary.



I am the co-founder and president of Circa Tours. I was born and raised in Brittany, France so, as a native European, I love everything about the “old country” especially France, Spain and Portugal, the three countries we specialize in. I love their history (and there is lots of it), their art (same thing), their cuisine (especially in France, Catalonia and the Basque Country), their wine (everywhere), their lifestyle and the endless diversity of the local cultures.

In dozens of trips I have taken to Europe, I have traveled to nearly every corner of those countries, and I continue my journey of discovery every year. I am a Travel-Institute certified France and Spain Specialist, and I am also recognized by the Tourist Office of Portugal as a certified Portugal Specialist.

My goal is to create the best possible trip for you. I am always ready to listen to your wishes (however creative) and feedback, and I will always enjoy sharing my experiences with you.

That’s me, by the way, in front of a Joaquin Sorolla painting in Madrid. And, the following are some comments made by a few of our clients:

- “Our trip was fantastic! We had such a wonderful time! All went well including getting our train tickets to Seville changed the day of the strike. Our guides were nothing less than phenomenal! We can't thank you and your staff enough for putting together a trip that was worthy of our 30th anniversary celebration!” M.B., Massachusetts
- “Pierre. Thank you for your services. I really enjoyed dealing with you. You are so knowledgeable, pleasant and professional. I certainly will recommend you to friends.” J.L., Colorado
- “It was not a good trip - it was a GREAT trip! Truly everything was fabulous, ran smoothly, and worked well. The guides were excellent, the itinerary perfect. We enjoyed Spain very much and will ask you for assistance on our next journey to southern Europe!” J.K., California
- “Circa Tours did a good job. They worked very closely with us in putting the program together. We were very pleased with how efficient everything ran. The information we received from Circa Tours was done up very well, which allowed us to just pull the appropriate paperwork and be on our way. The tours were very well done. The guides we had with the local travel providers did a very good job of explaining the areas we toured. Pierre at Circa Tours made sure we saw a bit of everything.” D.T., Florida
- “We are all home, safe and sound - very tired, but in a hazy daze of love for France. Thank you and Carolyn SO much for arranging such an amazing trip for all of us. Throughout the trip, my sisters, mom and myself could be heard saying such things as, “THANK YOU, PIERRE”...or, “thank goodness for Pierre!!!” Martine was an excellent guide, by the way...very good, nice, thorough and professional. We wouldn't have been able to do HALF of what we did (and certainly not with nearly as much carefree enjoyment) with out her. Thank you and Carolyn for all of you expertise and care in helping us and doing all of the hard work for us! Thank you! Thank you!!!” K.B., Iowa