

Southern Spain to Morocco

FROM CORDOBA TO FES



TRIP DATES

2024

May 6-17, 2024

October 7-18, 2024

2025

May 5-16, 2025

October 6-17, 2025



Wilderness Travel

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Southern Spain to Morocco

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The vibrant cultures of southern Spain and Morocco share a common history, yet retain their own exotic character. Our adventure combining the magic of Spain with the mystery of Morocco features great Moorish architecture, dazzling historical sites, sumptuous cuisine, and wonderful hikes in a ravishingly beautiful countryside. From Còrdoba, Andalusia's most northerly province, we journey to passionate Sevilla, then to the striking pueblos blancos ("white villages") of Ronda and Grazalema. Ferrying across the Straits of Gibraltar to the ancient Moroccan port of Tangier, we head up to the craggy Rif Mountains to meet the Berber people at the dramatic "blue" village of Chefchaouen, dating from the 13th century. Our grand finale finds us in amazing Fes, which writer Paul Bowles called an "enchanted labyrinth sheltered from time."



Wilderness Travel

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Itinerary

DAY 1

CÓRDOBA, SPAIN

Arrive in Córdoba, a handsome old city of patios and fountains set along the Guadalquivir River. Transfer on your own to our hotel, the Palacio del Bailio, a wonderful example of Cordoban architecture with its many patios adorned with orange trees, exquisite rooms of Mudejar style, and wonderful hammam spa. We meet for a trip briefing at 6:30 pm in the hotel lobby, then savor a delicious Welcome Dinner featuring Andalucian classics in the hotel's restaurant...D

DAY 2

CÓRDOBA / SEVILLA

Córdoba became the capital of Moorish Spain in 756 AD. Accompanied by an expert local guide, we begin our introduction to the Moorish world with a walking tour that includes the 1,200-year-old Mezquita, the Grand Mosque, a 9th century masterpiece of Moorish architecture that was the Mecca of the West when the Moors ruled Spain. When Córdoba was recaptured by King Ferdinand III of Castile in 1236, the Mezquita was Christianized and a grand cathedral was constructed within it. Surrounding the Mezquita is the Judería, the old Jewish quarter, a village of whitewashed houses on narrow lanes. We walk across the Roman Bridge of Córdoba, which spans the width of the Guadalquivir River. Originally, built in the 1st century BC, the bridge has expansive views on either side that lead into the heart of the city. In 1984, the historic center of Córdoba was made a World Heritage Site. The ancient houses of old Córdoba have some of the loveliest open-air courtyards in all of Andalusia, full of fountains and flower-festooned balconies, and we will visit many along our way. After lunch at the hotel, a drive of about 2 hours through rolling hills and fields of sunflowers brings us to Sevilla, Spain's passionate city of flamenco and bullfighting. Our hotel is in the historic city center...BLD
Walking Details: 3 hours
Driving Time: 2 hours

DAY 3

SEVILLA

This elegant Andalusian capital is a city of artists and poets, of jasmine-scented gardens, and of Moorish monuments. For our morning explorations, we are accompanied by a local expert as we visit Sevilla's most compelling sights, including the extraordinary Alcazar Palace, built for King Pedro the Cruel in the 1300s. It is the best remaining example of decorative Mudejar architecture, the unique style created by Moors working under Christian rule. Originally an Almohad citadel, the palace was the favorite residence of the Spanish kings for four centuries after the reconquest. Later we explore the Cathedral of Saint Mary and the romantic Barrio Santa Cruz district, an atmospheric white village of bubbling fountains, twisting alleyways, whitewashed mansions, flower-bedecked windows, and fragrant jasmine and orange trees in perfect keeping with the city's romantic atmosphere. After lunch on your own, the remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration. We suggest a climb up the interior staircase that leads to the top of La Giralda, Spain's highest tower and



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	12 days
Arrive:	Cordoba, Spain
Depart:	Fes, Morocco
Lodging:	11 nights in hotels and inns
Meals:	All meals included except 2 lunches and 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Cultural Adventures, Walking
Trip Level:	1 2+ 3 4 5 6 Cultural touring, easy hikes, 2-4 hours on a few days

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore ancient Córdoba and exquisite Sevilla, Andalusia's most beautiful cities
- Day hikes from the renowned hilltowns of Ronda and Grazalema
- Discover the picturesque mountain village of Chefchaouen, also known as the "blue city"
- Medieval Fes, a World Heritage Site with a spectacular medina
- Overnights in elegant hotels, including a renovated 16th century palace

Itinerary (cont'd)

the symbol of Sevilla, peeking over the rooftops and visible throughout the city, or a visit to the Museo de Bellas Artes or Archivo General de Indias ("General Archive of the Indies"), with its rare documents including original maps of the New World. Or you can just relax around the rooftop pool at our hotel! This

evening, we enjoy an authentic flamenco show in the Barrio Santa Cruz. Flamenco was born in Andalucia, and there's no better place in the world than Sevilla to experience it. You can grab a bite to eat before or after the show. Overnight in Sevilla...B

Walking Details: 4 hours

Flamenco: The roots of this uniquely Andalucian art go back to the gypsies of southern Spain, and to the consequences of the 15th century decree by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella that everyone living under their domain convert to Catholicism. Various ethnic groups—gypsies, Muslims, and Jews—came together to help each other during this period of persecution, and with the melding of these cultures,

flamenco was born. Flamenco follows a basic structure but

at its heart it is an improvised form like jazz. The singing is at the center, with the dancer interpreting the words and emotion of the singer through his or her movements.

DAY 4

JEREZ / ZAHARA / GRAZALEMA

Jerez de la Frontera is famed for its sherry wine (the word "sherry" comes from Xerez, the Moorish name for the city). In Jerez, we head to the oldest traditional bodega in town to enjoy a private tasting of three of the best sherry wines in Spain, accompanied by delicious tapas laid out in an elegant setting. Sherry wines are among the best in Spain, and the very best come from Jerez de la Frontera. From Jerez, we continue to Zahara de la Sierra, one of Andalucia's most beautiful pueblos blancos (white villages), set on a rocky outcrop with its red-tiled houses grouped around a church and a castle. After strolling through the cobbled streets and visiting the 18th century Baroque church, we drive to the whitewashed town of Grazalema for dinner and overnight at Hotel Cortijo de Salinas...BLD

Walking Details: 1 hour

Driving Time: 1 hour 15 minutes from Sevilla to Jerez; 1 hour 20 minutes from Jerez to Grazalema

The Sierra de Grazalema: This mountain region is actually several small sierra graced with a variety of beautiful landscapes, from pastoral valleys to dense Mediterranean woodlands and perpendicular limestone cliffs. Craggy 5,000-foot summits top the park, cloaked with dense holm oak, pine, and chestnut woodlands interspersed with olive and fig groves. This is one of the greenest parts of Andalucia, with its warm Mediterranean sun, and the Sierra



"It was a cultural delight with a Trip Leader who shared her enthusiasm and took everyone's concerns into consideration. We explored history, culture, food, and wine."

Barbara L., Riverdale NY

de Grazalema is known for its magnificent and rare forests of Spanish fir and endemic flora, including two native species of poppy and an exceptional species of thyme. Declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1977, the reserve shelters wildlife including ibex, fox, genet, and mongoose.

DAY 5

GRAZALEMA / RONDA

Grazalema is a beautiful hill town with red-tiled roofs, whitewashed buildings, and an ancient town square. It is also headquarters for Sierra de Grazalema National Park, a spectacular nature reserve of majestic cork oak and ancient fir trees that shelters about a dozen of Spain's traditional villages. We set out on a beautiful hike on a trail linking the Puerto de Boyar, the highest pass of the area at 3,618 feet, to Grazalema (2,664'). Our walk delivers a fantastic panorama as the views extend all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, we can see a plethora of wildflowers (in spring), unique fir trees, and majestic griffon vultures soaring in the air. After lunch at a café in Grazalema, and a chance to refresh with a delicious meal of Iberian ham, payoyo goat cheese, and cold beer, we drive to the beautiful fortified town of Ronda. We approach Ronda on foot, with a half-hour hike up to town from the bottom of the escarpment with the sun behind us illuminating the old bridge spanning the Tajo gorge—a fantastic way to appreciate the magic of Ronda's setting. Our accommodation in Ronda tonight and tomorrow is the luxurious El Parador de Ronda, with a spectacular location overlooking the town's famous river gorge and arched bridge. This parador is a wonderful combination of old and new, built as an extension to Ronda's historic Town Hall. The views are exceptional! We enjoy dinner in our parador tonight...BLD

Hiking Details: 2.5 miles, 1 hour, 1,000 feet descent

Driving Time: 45 minutes in the morning, 40 inutes in the afternoon

Ronda: One of the most dramatic town sites imaginable, Ronda is set on a towering plateau with a plunging river gorge dividing the medieval part of town from the 18th century section. The gorge is spanned by an arched stone bridge with breathtaking views. The Moors kept the soldiers of the kingdom of Castile at bay in this mountain redoubt until 1485, a few years before the reconquest of Granada. Ronda's Moorish architecture is a striking reminder of the multilayered history of southern Spain. It was in the town's historic bullring, built in 1785, that the costumes and culture of the sport of bullfighting were developed.

DAY 6

RONDA

In a wonderful morning walk accompanied by



El Parador de Ronda, our accommodation for two nights.

Itinerary (cont'd)



our expert local guide from Ronda, our explorations include the former Moorish district with all the bridges, and the famous 18th century plaza de toros, Spain's very first bullring, with its arched colonnades. In the afternoon, we stop by a ganaderia (bull ranch) owned by a professional matador, Rafael Tejada. On a special tour, we'll see bulls, cows, calves, and horses on the property, learn how to handle a cape from a professional bullfighter, visit the practice ring for a demonstration with the Andalucian horse, and enjoy a glass of wine (tinto de Ronda) and local tapas. Our visit is the perfect way to gain a better understanding of the bullfighting traditions of Andalusia. Overnight at El Parador de Ronda...B
Walking Details: 3 hours

DAY 7

TARIFA / FERRY TO TANGIER, MOROCCO

After a two-hour drive on a beautiful road with views of the approaching Mediterranean (and the famous Rock of Gibraltar), we arrive at Tarifa, a historic whitewashed village hidden within impressive Moorish walls. It was here on this little peninsula that Moorish forces landed in 711 AD. We board the ferry for a 45-minute ride to Tangier, crossing the Strait of Gibraltar to Morocco. Our local guide awaits us in the Tangier harbor, and we walk directly to our hotel set in a peaceful and photogenic site and a wonderful introduction to the wonders of Morocco. Overnight at El Minzah Hotel, wonderfully located near the medina...BLD

Walking Details: 1 hour

Transportation Details: 4 hours driving, 45 minutes ferry



DAY 8

TANGIER / CHEFCHAOUEN / RIF MOUNTAINS

Tangier is an exotic mix of African and European cultures and its unique atmosphere has long made it a haven for artists and writers, including Matisse, Delacroix, and the novelist Paul Bowles, who settled here in 1945. We visit the casbah at the top of the city, where the sultans once lived, and roam the tumbling streets of the old medina, a teeming open-air market full of vendors including women from the Rif Mountains in traditional dress. Lunch is in an authentic family-run restaurant on the edge of the market. Here we can watch our meal prepared for us with ingredients fresh from the market and served at long communal tables. After lunch, we depart for a two-hour drive along the Mediterranean Coast and up into the Rif Mountains to Chefchaouen (pronounced shef-SHA-wen). Overnight is at a charming inn set on a quiet street off the main square in Chefchaouen's tiny medina. This little gem is a restored Moroccan dar, or traditional guesthouse. It is friendly, cozy, small, and authentic...BLD

Walking Details: 2 hours

Driving Time: 2 hours

DAY 9

TANEFELT / CHEFCHAOUEN

We drive a scenic country road and up a path through a forest of Aleppo pines, granting us panoramic views of Bouhachem National Park in the heart of the Rif Mountains. The mountains are dotted with small Amazigh villages (Amazigh berbers are the original inhabitants of Morocco) and as we hike, we enjoy a pastoral landscape of cultivated terraces lined with olive trees and lavender that are verdant in the spring. The path continues up to the village of Tanefelt, where villagers welcome us with tea and freshly baked bread. From Tanafelt, we continue to a small farm where we enjoy a tagine lunch in a farmhouse and later return to Chefchaouen. Known as the “blue village” for the blue-tinted limewash of its buildings, Chefchaouen is strikingly Andalusian in flavor—a vision of what Spain’s Andalusian villages must have looked like centuries ago. The village has steep, narrow streets, red-tiled roofs, ornate fountains, and houses with elaborately decorated doors. The late afternoon is free to explore Chefchaouen’s friendly souks. Those who want to can enjoy the inn’s hammam (bathhouse) for a relaxing Moroccan steambath and scrub. Before dinner, we will enjoy a private concert of Andalusian music. This type music is not performed in Andalusia anymore, but still lives on in Morocco...
BLD

Hiking Details: 6 miles, 4 hours, 1,400 feet ascent, 800 feet descent

Driving Time: approximately 1 hour

“This was the best trip I’ve ever taken. An amazing itinerary, beautiful hikes, fantastic WT guides and local guides, and delicious cuisine.”

Judith Kirklin, South Portland, ME

DAY 10

MOULAY IDRIS / VOLUBILIS / FES

Traveling inland, we discover valleys of gently rolling terrain dotted with wheat fields, vineyards, and olive groves. Our destination is Moulay Idriss, a





“Of the trips I've taken with WT, Southern Spain and Morocco was definitely near the top. That's quite a compliment because it was competing with the Serengeti, Indochine, and the Turquoise Coast among others.”

Carol F., Palo Alto, CA

striking hill town named for Morocco's most famous saint, great grandson of the Prophet Mohammed. He is buried here, and thus the town is a revered cultural pilgrimage site year round. After lunch in town, we stroll the hilly lanes and walk through the town's small souk. At nearby Volubilis, the evocative ruin of a Roman city, we set out for a walking tour of what was once Rome's provincial capital in Morocco. Volubilis has structures dating to the second and third centuries AD as well as an impressive array of stunning mosaics. Moulay Idriss, heir to the Caliphate in Damascus, fled to Morocco around 787 and was welcomed at Volubilis as a spiritual leader. We walk among the towering columns and fine mosaics of Volubilis, enjoying views back to the whitewashed buildings of Moulay Idriss as they glow in the late afternoon sun. From Volubilis, a pretty country drive through olive groves and wheat fields bring us to Fes and to our hotel, the Riad Fes...BLD

Walking Details: 1 hour

Driving Time: 4.5 hours

DAY 11

FES

The most atmospheric of Morocco's imperial capitals, ancient Fes is nestled in a high valley and resplendent with minarets and domes. Its renowned medina is one of the most perfectly preserved medieval cities in the world, hauntingly beautiful and full of infinite visual delights. With a full-day guided visit to the city, we enter the dazzling 12th century medina through one of its four medieval gates and discover a mile-long network of souks, open-air cafes, courtyards, hammams (traditional steam baths), and gardens. Our explorations take us on foot through a honeycomb of twisting alleys of Arabic-Moorish architecture of blue-tiled facades. We savor the scent of spices, orange blossoms, sizzling lamb kabobs, and sweet honey cakes, and watch scenes unchanged in centuries, from donkeys laden with leathers bound for tanneries to children carrying boards of bread dough to communal ovens. Some of the finest Berber carpets in Morocco are found in this medina. Along the narrow lanes of the Fes medina, we peer into the ancient medieval foundouks (old caravanserai inns) built around open courtyards. Most are worn with age, but one 18th century foundouk has been beautifully restored and is now the Nejjarine Museum of Wood and Carpentry. We also visit Fes's famous tannery, where men process leather in an open-air courtyard lined with knee-deep vats of dye, and the Qaraouiyine Mosque, formerly one of the oldest universities in the world, predating Oxford and Cambridge. We gather for our festive Farewell Dinner tonight in one of Fes' best restaurants and enjoy the Moroccan "art de vivre." Overnight at Riad Fes...BLD

Walking Details: 4 hours

Medinas, Souks, and Casbahs: The word medina means town in Arabic. It refers to Morocco's old pre-20th century cities, many of them enclosed within defensive walls. A typical medina has several monumental gates through which it can be entered and a mosque at its heart. Medinas are separated into quarters

according to social and commercial hierarchies. Each quarter usually has its own communal oven, hammam (bath), and grocery shop within its network of streets and alleys. Craftsmen work in the area of the medina known as the souk (market), often with separate souks for separate crafts. A casbah is a fortress-style building with crenellated towers. In rural Morocco, representatives of the ruler lived in and governed from casbahs.

DAY 12

DEPART

Transfer to the Fes airport for morning departure. Fes has direct flights to European cities including Madrid and Paris...B



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$6895 (11-14 members)

\$7395 (5-10 members)

Single supplement: \$1245

2025 Trip Cost: Please call for details

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Europe by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Euro. In the late spring of 2022, when we set the rates for our 2023 program, the US Dollar equaled 0.93 Euros. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Euros, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Euro were to rise in value, the land price would rise less than might be expected, and if the Euro were to fall, the drop in trip cost would also be less than might be expected.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations as noted
- All meals included except 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- Entrance fees for museums and sites listed in the itinerary
- All land transportation, transfers as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, transfers for independent arrival or departure, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors; pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Essaouira & Marrakesh Extension

Discover tiny Essaouira, an 18th century gem set on the Atlantic coast, and Marrakesh, an ancient city of immense charm and beauty, with the High Atlas providing a beautiful backdrop.

DAY 1

MARRAKESH

Meet your private driver for a scenic 8-hour drive from Fes to Marrakesh. Overnight at the Hotel Es Saadi, a 15-minute walk from the bustling medina...meals on your own

DAY 2

ESSAOUIRA

Meet your guide for a three-hour morning drive to Essaouira (pronounced essa-weera). Enjoy a typical seafood lunch at the fishermens' market hall. After lunch, enjoy a guided tour (approximately 2.5 hours) that includes the waterfront, where wooden fishing boats are still built the traditional way, and the 16th century Portuguese fort, with its battlements. Much of the town you see today was laid out in the 17th century by a French architect at the request of Sultan Sidi Mohammed ben Abdallah. Overnight at a traditional riad...BL

DAY 3

MARRAKESH

Morning transfer to Marrakesh, with a half-day tour of the city this afternoon. Known as the "red city" for its rose- tinted buildings, the city has Berber rather than Arab

origins and for centuries has been the central marketplace for Berber tribes. At its heart is an 11th century medina and the compelling Djemaa el Fna, the central square, replete with snake charmers, fire eaters, and fortune tellers. Your explorations may include the magnificent Saadian Tombs, Bahia Palace, or the Dar Si Said, a beautiful 19th century house that now serves as an arts and crafts museum. Overnight at the Hotel Es Saadi...BLD

DAY 4

DEPART

Transfer to the Marrakesh airport and depart on homeward-bound flights...B

2024 EXTENSION PRICES

\$1,295 (3-6 members)

\$1,595 (2 members)

\$2,195 (1 member)

Single supplement: \$125

Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Extension Cost Includes:

Accommodations, meals except 1 lunch and 2 dinners, tours as noted, private transfers Fes-Marrakesh-Essaouira.

Extension Cost Does Not Include:

Meals as noted, drinks, any activities described as optional, optional gratuities.



Accommodations



HOSPES PALACIO DEL BAILIO

Cordoba, Spain

Day 1 (1 night)

There's a peaceful vibe about this hotel, a renovated 16th century palace in the heart of Cordoba, just a 10-minute walk to the main sights. Declared a Cultural Heritage Monument in 1982, its guest rooms happily integrate the past and present, with original wall painting side by side with modern decor. Relax in the main courtyard patio with its swimming pool and sunny terrace, and don't forget to check out the dining room, built over the remains of excavated Roman ruins that can be viewed through a glass floor.

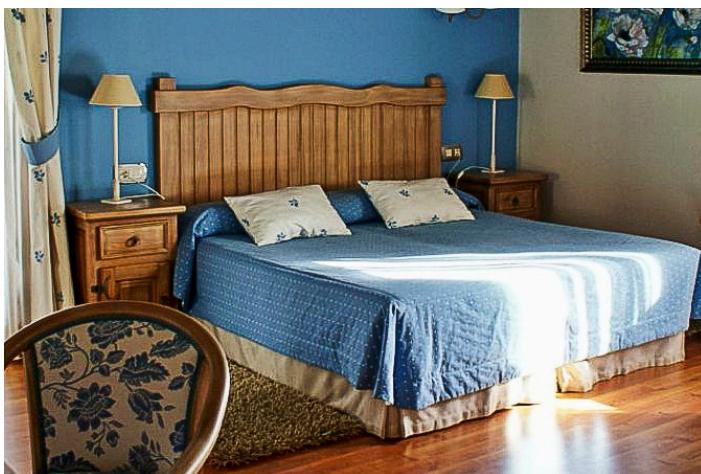


HOSPES LAS CASAS DEL REY DE BAEZA

Sevilla, Spain

Days 2 to 3 (2 nights)

This lovely colonial-style hotel, dating back to the 18th century, is right in the heart of Sevilla's historic center. Its 41 rooms are set around an inviting courtyard, and the spacioius guest rooms are elegantly furnished—a delightful blend of modern amenities with Old World charm. You'll find a pool on the rooftop terrace, and there is also a spa offering massage and beauty treatments.



HOTEL CORTIJO SALINAS

Ronda, Spain

Day 4 (1 night)

Located in the heart of Sierra de Grazalema, surrounded by majestic mountains and set above the lake, stands the beautifully preserved Hotel Cortijo Salinas. The hotel has 28 guest rooms, each uniquely decorated to combine traditional Andalusian style with modern amenities. Relax on the lovely terrace with great views overlooking the lake or in the lounge with its large fireplace, perfect for unwinding after a day exploring the region's cities and trails.

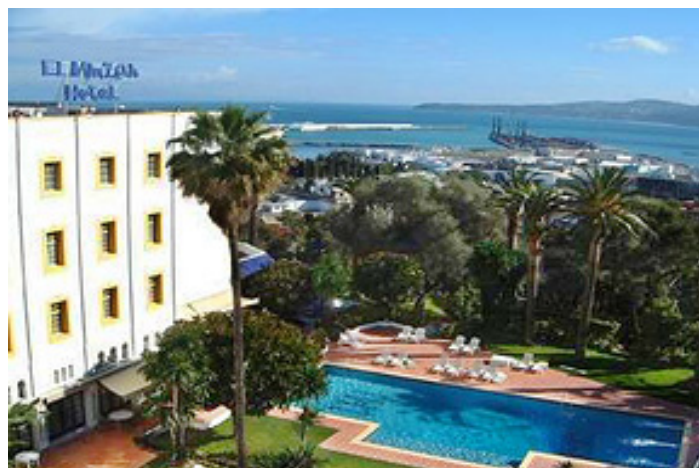


PARADOR DE RONDA

Ronda, Spain

Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)

This is the place to stay in Ronda, right at the bridge that separates the ancient Moorish part of town from the new town. The hotel is a perfect mix of old and new, built as an extension to Ronda's historic Town Hall, founded in 1761. All the rooms have wonderful views, and the service is old school, wonderful, and consistent—a real treat! There is a great restaurant and a swimming pool.



EL MINZAH HOTEL

Tangier, Morocco

Day 7 (1 night)

Set on the Strait of Gibraltar in the heart of the Tangier medina, this is the Grand Dame of Tangier's hotels, built in 1930 by a British aristocrat in lavish Hispano-Moorish style. Just steps from the medina, it is a peaceful oasis with comfortable rooms and excellent service. The bar conjures up visions of the film Casablanca and the patios and terraces are wonderful, with views stretching from the Bay of Tangiers to the Strait of Gibraltar and the Rif Mountains.



LINA RYAD

Chefchaouen, Morocco

Days 8 to 9 (2 nights)

The Lina is beautifully appointed with both modern and traditional décor and has a small indoor pool and spa services, including a traditional hammam. It is well located within easy walking distance of all the sights of town. Breakfasts, served in your room or in the lobby, are fresh and delicious, and dinner can be enjoyed on the roof terrace with spectacular views over the town and surrounding mountains. Note: guest rooms are accessed by walking up several flights of stairs.

Accommodations (cont'd)



RIAD FES

Fes, Morocco

Days 10 to 11 (2 nights)

A member of the Relais & Chateaux hotel group, the 26-room Riad Fes is tucked away behind the medina and close to one of its main gates. The common areas are comfortable and inviting and feature traditional Moroccan tile work, carved wooden screens, and intricate plasterwork. Like most riads, it has its own hammam where you can get a relaxing massage.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Southern Spain to Morocco* webpage and click on “Accommodations.”

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Córdoba, Spain

Suggested Airport: Madrid Airport (MAD)

Suggested Date & Time: Anytime prior to Day 1

Meeting Place: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of Palacio Bailio in Córdoba at 6:30 pm on Day 1.

Trip members are responsible for transferring from the airport to the hotel in Córdoba. The most convenient means of transport to Córdoba is by train. The small Córdoba Airport does not serve scheduled flights and is mainly for private planes. Córdoba is well serviced by railway; the AVE (Alta Velocidad Española) high-speed train network links Córdoba with Madrid and Sevilla (departs out of Madrid's Puerta de Atocha station). Please consult Rail Europe (www.raileurope.com) for reservations and ticketing, or the Spanish National Railway website: www.renfe.com/EN/viajeros. Renfe currently does not accept foreign credit cards for online purchases, but you can purchase online tickets using PayPal. You can use any credit card to purchase tickets while in Spain.

If your plane arrives in Madrid in the morning, you may want to go directly to Córdoba by train from the airport and spend an extra night in Córdoba at the Palacio del Bailio. The best way to transfer between the Madrid airport to the train station is by cab. The cost should be around €40 and the transfer should last around 20 minutes. Once in Córdoba, just take a cab from the train station to the hotel. It should cost around €6. Córdoba is usually a visitor's favorite town; it is also an easier place than Madrid to recuperate after a long trip. For those arriving in Córdoba early, you can book extra nights at the Palacio del Bailio directly on their website at <https://www.hospes.com/en/palacio-bailio/>.

DEPARTURE

Fes, Morocco

Suggested Airport: Fes Saiss Airport (FEZ)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 12, anytime

On Day 12, a complimentary airport transfer from the hotel to the Fes Saiss Airport will be provided for all trip members. The Fes Airport does not offer direct flights to the United States, so trip members headed back to the US should expect to route through a European hub. Many people find it best to book roundtrip tickets to/from Madrid, and book a separate one-way flight from Fes back to Madrid.

A private land transfer to the Casablanca Airport can be arranged at the end of the trip, upon request, for an additional cost of \$310 per vehicle.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Spain.

There are many online consolidator websites for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward us a copy of your email confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/spain-morocco-andalucia-walking-tour/



ANNIE HAWKINS

Annie Hawkins, born and raised in a small village in Burgundy, is a passionate world traveler and one of our most enchanting Trip Leaders. After studying art history in Provence, Annie moved to California, where she led adventure tours in the American Southwest and realized that leading adventure trips was her vocation—nothing would keep her inside an office again! She has led exclusively for Wilderness Travel since 1995 and has led journeys for us in France, Spain, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Niger, Oman, and more! “As a Trip Leader, I see myself as the personal ambassador to a place. In France, I love introducing the products of the ‘terroir’ such as wine or cheese, or in southern Spain, taking the group to my home to share a paella with them. And in the Sahara, I have a passion for the wind-created landscape I call ‘the yellow circle’ and the ingenuity of the people who live in this place of extremes. I’m also fascinated by the friendships that people forge while traveling together day after day. I remember how six guests become lifetime friends after our trip in Niger—this warms my heart!” While scouting our trip in southern Spain in 1999, Annie bought a 300-year-old house in a village clinging on the flanks of the highest mountains in Spain. It took her three years to transform it into the home she calls La Casa del Milagro. She divides her time between Europe and San Francisco, where she lives with her husband.



VICKY SOTRIFFER

As an adventure-seeking traveler and Trip Leader, Vicky Sotriffer thrives in new places. She has led trips on nearly every continent for more than 10 years, including sea kayaking trips. Originally from South Tyrol, Italy, Vicky now resides in Ibiza, Spain, and is fluent in a handful of languages. She spends parts of her year in Oman, where she follows her passion for hiking in the country’s striking desert environment and diving in the warm waters off the coast (and trying to improve her Arabic along the way). In her free time, she enjoys tennis, rock climbing, horseback riding, and in the winter, she heads to the Dolomites to ski.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 2+ (Easy to Moderate) according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 7 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 5 hours a day. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

TERRAIN

The majority of our walks through towns and cities will be flat, but there will be some areas with older cobblestone streets and hills. Our two hiking days will be on dirt paths with a moderate level of difficulty, including some rocky sections with uneven footing. There are easier options available on both of these hiking days.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercise. Stair climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in.

WEATHER

The weather in southern Spain and northern Morocco is notoriously unpredictable. In the early spring and late fall, daytime temperatures usually range between the mid-60°Fs and the mid-70°Fs, but there can be spikes up into the high 80°Fs. The mountain mornings can be crisp, but the days are pleasant. This is generally not a rainy region, but cool breezes and showers can occur at any time.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Overnights are in elegant hotels, including a renovated 16th century palace and luxurious riads in Chefchaouen and Fez. The hotels have both comfortable amenities and historical significance, but please note that the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

CUISINE

The majority of our meals are eaten at local restaurants and at our hotels. We've chosen these restaurants to give you a flavor of the variety of delicious cuisine that both countries offer. Please note that in Spain, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 8:00 pm.

TRANSPORTATION

Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike or activities and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle. On most days, a support vehicle will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack. Please note that we will take a 45 minute ferry ride from Spain to Morocco.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sevilla	55/41	57/43	59/35	63/48	68/54	75/61	81/66	81/66	77/63	70/55	61/46	57/43
Fes	61/43	64/45	66/46	70/48	77/54	84/59	93/64	93/66	88/63	77/55	68/48	63/43
Rainfall - Inches												
Sevilla	1.5	1.3	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.7	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	2.3	2.0
Fes	2.4	2.8	2.7	1.4	1.5	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.5	1.7	2.6	2.6

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at europe@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

April 22, 2024 2:10 PM