

INTRODUCING ANDALUCÍA

ANDALUCÍA IS THE HEART
AND SOUL OF SPAIN, ITS
WILD BEAUTY, ITS EPIC
ARCHITECTURAL STORY AND
ITS GRAND PASSIONS WRIT
LARGE.



Monument-strewn cities filled with life. A spectacular coastline that spans two oceans. Mountain wilderness areas of rare beauty. A culinary scene that encompasses the best of Spanish cooking, old and new. Welcome to Andalucía, Spain's deep south and its most intoxicating region.

Seville, Granada and Córdoba: visit any of these cities and you'll quickly fall in love with Andalucía's astonishing architectural heritage from a glorious past and its wonderful tapas culture. Elsewhere, there's Úbeda, a little-known centre of Renaissance splendour, and Cádiz, the infectiously cheerful oldest city in Europe.

Andalucía's villages, whitewashed and set against mountain backdrops, are at their best in Las Alpujarras. But such landscapes do more than frame Andalucía's evocative human landmarks. Their diversity is summed up in a simple statistic: mainland Spain's highest peak, Mulhacén (3479m) in the Sierra Nevada, lies less than 100km from the country's most dramatic coastline, the Parque Natural de Cabo de Gata-Níjar.

TOP The Palacios Nazaríes at the Alhambra, Granada

BOTTOM LEFT The minaret soars above the Mezquita in Córdoba **BOTTOM RIGHT** The whitewashed village of Válór in Las Alpujarras, Granada province

JOHN ELKIE



GRANADA



CÓRDOBA

JOHN BARNES



DAVID TOMLINSON





RONDA



CABO DE GATA



WAYNE MALTON



CÁDIZ



SEVILLE

TOP LEFT The town of Ronda perches above El Tajo gorge **TOP RIGHT** Take in the simple beauty of the rooftops of Cádiz **BOTTOM LEFT** Hike to the coastal coves of Cabo de Gata **BOTTOM CENTRE** Head up the Giralda for a bird's-eye view over Seville **BOTTOM RIGHT** Explore the architectural gems of Úbeda, Jaén province

BOBACI ESTEFANIA



ÚBEDA

JOHN ELKRI

GETTING STARTED

ANDALUCÍA

WHAT'S NEW?

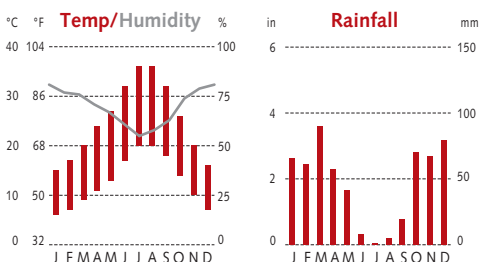
- ★ Seville's Museo del Baile Flamenco with flamenco performances (p50)
- ★ Swish new tram service around Seville (p62)
- ★ La Moraga, Daní García's innovative Málaga tapas bar (p170)
- ★ Sabores (p132) and Hotel Chancilleria (p386) in Jerez de la Frontera
- ★ Hotel V, a stunning boutique conversion in Vejer de la Frontera (p387)



PATRICK SYRER

CLIMATE: SEVILLE

Average
Max/Min



PRICE GUIDE

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	TOP END
SLEEPING	< €65	€65-120	> €120
MEALS	< €10	€10-25	> €25
PARKING	€10/day	€10-20/day	€20/day



RICHARD ROSS



KARL BLACKWELL

TOP Whitewashed walls and terracotta rooftops in Cádiz province **BOTTOM LEFT** Semana Santa celebrations, Seville **BOTTOM RIGHT** Vino dulce in Ronda **FAR RIGHT** Take to the waves in Tarifa

ACCOMMODATION

One of the highlights of visiting Andalucía is its architecture, and many of the region's hotels are architectural gems in their own right. Centuries-old mansions and palaces have been converted into stunning places to stay, sometimes re-creating old-world decor or the aesthetics of Islamic Al-Andalus, but just as often revelling in ultramodern yet affordable luxury. A touch more modest perhaps, but the cool, whitewashed walls of Andalusian towns and villages conceal hotels of more rustic charm, often with high levels of comfort. For more on Andalucía's accommodation, turn to p378.

MAIN POINTS OF ENTRY

MÁLAGA AIRPORT (AGP; ☎ 952 04 88 38; www.aena.es) Andalucía's busiest airport attracts both international and domestic flights by more than 60 regular and charter airlines.

SEVILLE AIRPORT (SVQ; ☎ 954 44 90 00; www.aena.es) International and domestic departures, but few charter airlines.

GRANADA AIRPORT (GRX; ☎ 958 24 52 07; www.aena.es) Fewer flights.

THINGS TO TAKE

- ★ Michelin's No 578 *Andalucía* map (see p406)
- ★ Warning triangles and a reflective jacket if you're going by car (see p420)
- ★ Lonely Planet's *Spanish Phrasebook*
- ★ A compact pair of binoculars for wildlife-watching
- ★ Clothes to cope with cold snaps between October and May



DIEGO IZAM

WEBLINKS

ANDALUCÍA TE QUIERE (www.andalucia.org) Encyclopedic official tourism site

OK SPAIN (www.okspain.org) Another useful official site

ANDALUCIA.COM (www.andalucia.com) Excellent privately run site

LONELY PLANET (www.lonelyplanet.com/spain/andalucia) Build your own itinerary

IBERIA NATURE (www.iberianature.com) Devoted to Spain's natural world

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

ANDALUCÍA



BRUCE B

FEBRUARY/MARCH

CARNAVAL

CÁDIZ

Cádiz celebrates Carnaval with riotous abandon as costumed street performers party for 10 days before the Tuesday 47 days before Easter Sunday. (www.carnavaldecadiz.com)

FESTIVAL DE JEREZ

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

Jerez's two-week festival has flamenco as the centrepiece of a music-and-dance-dominated program, drawing many of the biggest stars. (www.festivaldejerez.es)

FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE TANGO

GRANADA

International tango performances and dancing in the streets from 21 to 26 March makes this one of Andalucía's best music festivals. (www.eltango.com)

APRIL

SEMANA SANTA (HOLY WEEK)

Semana Santa is dominated by daily processions of hooded *nazarenos* (penitents).

Seville's celebrations are the most intense, followed by Granada, Córdoba, Arcos de la Frontera, Baeza and Úbeda. Sometimes held in March.

FERIA DE ABRIL

SEVILLE

Seville's April Fair in the second half of April (sometimes into May) is the doyen of Andalucía's *ferias* (fairs) with bullfighting, horse parades and general merriment.

MAY/JUNE

FERIA DEL CABALLO

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

Jerez's weeklong horse fair, held in early May, is one of Andalucía's biggest festivals, combining the usual Andalusian merrymaking with bullfights and horse competitions.

ROMERÍA DEL ROCÍO

EL ROCÍO

This stirring pilgrimage, which takes place seven weeks after Easter, draws hundreds of thousands who arrive dressed in their Andalusian finest and on horseback or in festively decorated covered wagons.

TOP *Hermandad* (brotherhood) penitent with candle in hand as part of Semana Santa proceedings in Seville

RIGHT Riding a horse as part of the family-friendly celebrations at the Feria de Abril

HOGUERAS DE SAN JUAN

Bonfires and fireworks, especially on beaches, are the heart of this midsummer celebration held 23 June; many thousands of people camp overnight along Andalucía's beaches.

FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE LA GUITARRA

CÓRDOBA

Flamenco is the focus of this two-week guitar festival in late June or early July, but you'll also hear live classical, rock and blues performances. (www.guitarracordoba.com)

AUGUST

FERIA DE MÁLAGA

MÁLAGA

The pick of Andalucía's summer *ferias*, Málaga's nine-day version has it all: fireworks, rock and flamenco concerts, and round-the-clock music and dancing.

SEPTEMBER

BIENAL DE FLAMENCO

SEVILLE

Spain's flamenco stars enliven this major flamenco festival in September of even-numbered years. The Alcázar provides the wonderful backdrop for many of the performances.

FERIA DE PEDRO ROMERO

RONDA

Ronda comes alive during the first two weeks of September with the flamenco Festival de Cante Grande and the Corridas Goyescas (bullfights in antique finery).

FIESTAS DE OTOÑO

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

Jerez's autumn fiestas coincide with the grape harvest for two weeks in September, with flamenco, horse events and the traditional treading of the first grapes.



CULTURE

ANDALUCÍA

BOOKS

THE ORNAMENT OF THE WORLD (Maria Rosa Menocal) A fascinating look at the tolerance and sophistication of the region during Andalucía's Islamic centuries.

SOUTH FROM GRANADA (Gerald Brenan) An acutely perceptive account of village life in Las Alpujarras during the 1920s.

DRIVING OVER LEMONS (Chris Stewart) The entertaining, anecdotal, bestselling tale of life on a small Andalusian farm in Las Alpujarras.

TALES OF THE ALHAMBRA (Washington Irving) Enchanting stories from inside Granada's abandoned Alhambra in the 1820s.

GETTING TO MAÑANA (Miranda Innes) One of the best books about starting a new life in an Andalusian farmhouse.



BRUCE B

FLAMENCO

Flamenco is the sound of Andalucía. Sometimes melancholy, sometimes joyful, but always soulful, flamenco has become a byword for the passions of Andalusian life. You'll hear it across the region, from beautifully tiled Seville patios to renovated Arab-era water cisterns in Almería. But its true home is around Seville, Jerez de la Frontera and Cádiz: it's in their working-class barrios – Jerez's Barrio de Santiago or Cádiz's Barrio de Santa María – where flamenco stays true to its roots. That's not to say that flamenco is stuck in the past. The flamenco stars of the 1980s pioneered some wonderful flamenco fusion and *nuevo flamenco* that continue to breathe new life into the flamenco world. But it's in the smoky *peñas* – as much meeting places for flamenco aficionados as for live performances – that you'll most likely catch its spirit. See p354 for more.



PAUL BERNARDOT

TOP Semana Santa procession, Seville **BOTTOM** An evening of flamenco in Cádiz **RIGHT** The bullring at Ronda is considered the region's finest **FAR RIGHT** The grandeur of typical bullfighting posters

TOP ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS

ALHAMBRA, GRANADA Andalucía's high point of Islamic architecture with gardens, palaces and exquisite decorative detail (p254).

MEZQUITA, CÓRDOBA One of the world's most beautiful mosques (p201).

ALCÁZAR, SEVILLE The tranquil splendour of Islamic Al-Andalus (p44).

CAPILLA REAL, GRANADA A flight of Isabelline Gothic fancy and Christian Andalucía's most beautiful landmark (p258).

LAS ALPUJARRAS Whitewashed villages set against a mountain backdrop (p275).



KARL B. AGNEWELL



WITOLD SKRZYPCZAK

DON'T MISS EXPERIENCES

- ★ Horses in Jerez – The supreme elegance of world-famous Andalusian horses (p130)
- ★ Flamenco in Seville – Uplifting flamenco song, guitar and dance (p60)
- ★ Semana Santa in Seville – Weird and wonderful Easter processions (p55)
- ★ Music festivals – Andalucía's year-round flamenco, classical and other musical events (see the boxed text, p359)
- ★ Carnaval in Cádiz – Andalucía's most riotous festival fun (p111)
- ★ Corridos Goyescas – Spain's most picturesque and theatrical bullfights in the magnificent bullring in Ronda (see the boxed text, p178)

FINE ARTS

MUSEO PICASSO More than 200 works by Málaga's favourite son, on show in a restored 16th-century palace (p164).

MUSEO ANTONIO MANUEL CAMPOY

Picasso and Miró on show in a castle (p309).

MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES

Check out works from Spain's Siglo de Oro on display in Seville (p50).

CENTRO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO

Málaga's temple to modern art (p167).

CULTURE

ANDALUCÍA

FILMS

THE WAY OF THE ENGLISH (2006) Directed by Antonio Banderas.

CAMARÓN (2005) A biopic of flamenco's greatest legend.

TUNA AND CHOCOLATE (2004) Black comedy set on Cádiz's coast.

SOUTH FROM GRANADA (2003) Andalusian life in the 1920s.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY (1966) Spaghetti Western starring Clint Eastwood and shot on location in Almería province.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAMY

FLAMENCO PLAYLIST

Any flamenco journey has to begin with the biggest names.

EL CAMARÓN DE LA ISLA Flamenco's late, all-time singing legend.

PACO DE LUCÍA (www.pacodelucia.org) The most celebrated flamenco guitarist.

TOMATITO (www.tomatito.com) Another guitar legend forever associated with El Camarón.

ENRIQUE MORENTE (www.enriquemorente.com) Pleases both purists and *nuevo flamenco* fans.

CARMEN LINARES (www.carmenlinares.org) Flamenco's most enduring voice.

JOAQUÍN CORTÉS (www.joaquincortes.eu) Dance star fusing flamenco with jazz and ballet.

BULLFIGHTING

Love it or loathe it, bullfighting runs deep through Andalusian culture. Like flamenco – that other internationally renowned Spanish pastime – bullfighting was born in Andalucía with its heartland around Ronda, which is still home to Spain's most striking *plaza de toros* (bullring). As cruel as it may seem to outsiders, bullfighting continues to be embraced by many Andalusians who see it as an important cultural patrimony, a form of art and theatre and an important industry that spans bull breeders to the restaurants serving *rabo de toro* (bull's tail stew). *Corridos* (bullfights) run from Easter to October. For more, see p363.

TOP The interior of a cave dwelling in Guadix, Granada province **RIGHT** Riders on parade at the Feria del Caballo in Jerez de la Frontera

THE RENAISSANCE IN ANDALUCÍA

The magnificent Al-Andalus landmarks may have cast into shadow everything that came after, but Andalucía also has some of Spain's finest Renaissance architecture. Much of it was the work of Andrés de Vandelvira, who transformed the town of Úbeda into a Renaissance gem. With colonnaded patios adorning the lavish private residences of the region's nobility, Vandelvira's legacy is unusual in the annals of Andalusian architecture: he left his most enduring mark on private urban spaces rather than grand public monuments. His clean-lined approach nonetheless provided inspiration for architects who would bring a Renaissance aesthetic to public buildings in Granada, Seville, Málaga and Guadix. For more on Andalucía's Renaissance architecture, see p340.

RURAL CASTLES

- ★ Almodóvar del Río – Eight-towered castle, just west of Córdoba (p217)
- ★ Castillo de los Guzmán – Falcons nest in this 15th-century fortress (p83)
- ★ Castillo de Miramonte – Islamic-era ruin with sweeping views over northern Córdoba province (p219)
- ★ Castillo de La Calahorra – Formidable yet with a graceful courtyard (p271)
- ★ Antequera's Alcazaba – A favourite of Granada's rulers and still splendid (p185)
- ★ Castillo de Vélez Blanco – Sixteenth-century castle clinging to the summit (p309)



DAVID TOMLINSON

FOOD & DRINK

ANDALUCÍA

CULINARY STAPLES

JAMÓN Some of Spain's most sought-after cured ham comes from the acorn-fed pigs of Jabugo in Huelva province (p370).

OLIVE OIL Andalucía's extra virgin olive oil, especially from prolific Jaén province, sets the standard as the elite of world olive oils (p371).

GAZPACHO A cold tomato-based soup, whether *gazpacho andaluz* or *salmorejo cordobés*, that is the taste of the Andalusian summer (p371).

PESCAITO FRITO Lightly fried fish and seafood sum up Andalucía's passion for seafood, especially in Cádiz province (p369).

SHERRY The world's most famous sherries come from the aptly named Sherry Triangle in the eastern part of Cádiz province (p373).



MAPAL ESTRELLANA

TAPAS

Legend has it that tapas were invented by a small beachside bar in Cádiz province. Whether true or not, tapas have become an Andalusian culinary institution and it's one that's perfectly suited to the local way of life – casual eating and a means of sampling the region's diverse tastes in just one meal. Andalusian tapas can be incredibly varied, but the region's purveyors of tapas pride themselves on taking the finest and freshest local ingredients and interfering with them as little as possible, allowing the unadulterated flavours of *jamón*, seafood or any other Andalusian produce to shine through. Wash it down with a glass of sherry from El Puerto de Santa María or Jerez de la Frontera, or a manzanilla from Sanlúcar de Barrameda, and you're halfway towards becoming an honorary Andalusian. For more on tapas, see p367.



KATE BLACKWELL

TOP Freshly caught sardines **BOTTOM** Andalucía's prized *jamón* (ham) **RIGHT** Breakfast Andalusia-style **FAR RIGHT** Gazpacho, a local soup served cold, is the perfect antidote to the hot weather

TOP RESTAURANTS

CAFÉ DE PARÍS Michelin-starred chef José Carlos García creates breathtaking nouvelle cuisine (p169).

RESTAURANTE TRAGABUCHES Daniel García not only has a Michelin star, but a weird-and-wonderful way with food (p181).

LA CASA DEL ÁNGEL Astonishing fusion of Andalusian and Arab flavours (p170).

LOS COLONIALES Seville's best tapas bar, bar none (p58).

SABORES Local staples with creative twists and standing ovations for the chef (p132).



DON'T MISS EXPERIENCES

- ★ Bodega tours – History, production processes and subtle tastes (p120 and p130)
- ★ Tapas crawl – Bars clustered close, each with its own specialities (p367)
- ★ Fried fish – The local art of eating seafood (p116 and p123)
- ★ Taking hours over lunch – Food as the day's main event (p367)
- ★ Arab-inspired flavours – Dishes steeped in the history of Al-Andalus (see the boxed text, p267)
- ★ Olive oil – Visit Andalucía's standout working olive-oil mill (p213)
- ★ Pedro Ximénez – Learn the secrets of one of Andalucía's most unusual and best-loved wines (see the boxed text, p218)

TAPAS CITIES

GRANADA Some of Andalucía's best tapas for free (p265).

SEVILLE Andalucía's tapas obsession, heart-and-soul (p55).

ALMERÍA Delicious free tapas to enjoy with your drinks (p294).

CÓRDOBA Numerous bars to choose from all across the city centre (p210).

MÁLAGA A wide selection served up with a sea breeze (p172).

FOOD & DRINK

ANDALUCÍA



DANA MAYER/ELD

TOP BOOKS

THE FLAVOUR OF ANDALUSIA (Pepita Aris)
Recipes and anecdotes.

A LATE DINNER
(Paul Richardson) A fascinating Spanish culinary journey.

MORO: THE COOKBOOK
(Samuel & Samantha Clark)
Andalusian and North African cuisine.

DINING SECRETS OF ANDALUCÍA (Jon Clarke)
A Santana Books guide.

WORLD FOOD SPAIN
(Richard Sterling) Definitive guide to Spanish food.

COOKING COURSES

Learn how to cook and appreciate food Andalusian-style.

ALL WAYS SPAIN (www.allwaysspain.com) Cookery and food-appreciation courses near Granada.

FINCA BUEN VINO (www.fincabuenvino.com) Cookery classes in Huelva province.

ON THE MENU (www.holidayonthemenu.com) Week-long or weekend courses.

L'ATELIER (www.ivu.org/atelier) Vegetarian cooking courses in Las Alpujarras.

COOKING HOLIDAY SPAIN (www.cookingholidayspain.com) Fun, weeklong, Ronda-based cooking classes.

JAMÓN

It's often said that in Andalucía they eat every part of the pig except the walk. But special devotion is reserved for *jamón* (cured ham) from the Jabugo region (Huelva province). A bar where the ceiling is obscured by dozens, even hundreds of hanging hams is one of the most recognisable images of Andalucía, although not all hams are created equal. At a minimum go for a *jamón ibérico*, and at least once order the *jamón ibérico de bellota*, the king of Iberian hams, to see just what all the fuss is about. For more on *jamón*, see p370.

TOP Barrels of sherry await sampling at the bodegas of Jerez de la Frontera **RIGHT** Groves of olives surround the pretty *pueblo blanco* (white village) of La Iruela in the Sierra de Cazorla

SHERRY

One of Spain's most celebrated gastronomic exports, sherry is a way of life in the three towns in Cádiz province – El Puerto de Santa María, Sanlúcar de Barrameda and Jerez de la Frontera – which make up the Sherry Triangle. Even Jerez's name is intricately tied to the drop: The Muslims originally called the town 'Scheris', from which the words 'Jerez' and 'sherry' are both derived. Today, many families in the three towns are descendants of British wine traders who intermarried with locals after the wineries began producing their iconic brands – Tio Pepe, Sandeman, Osborne, Terry and Harveys, to name a select few – in the 1830s. The secrets lie in the region's chalky soils and a complicated maturing process. To learn more about sherry, see p373.

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

Andalucía's culinary culture is Spain's most casual, but there are a few tricks to ensuring that you fully experience the local gastronomic scene.

- ★ Eat to a new rhythm: lunch rarely begins before 1.30pm, dinner seldom before 9pm
- ★ Have your main meal at lunchtime and graze on tapas in the evening
- ★ Be prepared to elbow your way to the bar and shout your order
- ★ Always ask for the house speciality
- ★ Don't discard your tapas toothpicks – they're often used to calculate your bill



DAVID TOMLINSON

OUTDOORS

ANDALUCÍA

PROTECTED AREAS

PARQUE NACIONAL DE DOÑANA Stirring wildlife and a range of habitats, from wetlands to coastal dunes (p84).

PARQUE NACIONAL SIERRA NEVADA The roof of Andalucía with ibexes, high-altitude vistas and great hiking (p272).

PARQUE NATURAL SIERRA DE GRAZALEMA Heavily wooded hillsides, *pueblos blancos* and terrific hiking (p139).

PARQUE NATURAL DE CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR Deserts and volcanic cliffs, flamingos and sandy beaches (p301).

PARQUE NATURAL SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES Glorious mountain panoramas, fir forests and ibexes (p183).

PARQUE NATURAL SIERRAS DE CAZORLA, SEGURA Y LAS VILLAS Spain's largest park with diverse wildlife and plenty of activities (p241).



ROBIN GRIFFIN

WILDLIFE

Nowhere else in Spain matches Andalucía for the diversity of its wildlife. Endangered species – Iberian lynx, wolf, black vulture and Spanish imperial eagle – have retreated here to the southernmost tip of Europe, drawn by the most extensive wilderness stretches in the country. But Andalucía is more than a haven for mammals and birds that long ago disappeared elsewhere in Europe. More common (and more easily observed) species abound from the high-altitude ibex to the great marine mammals of the deep in the waters off Tarifa, such as dolphins (striped, bottlenose and common) and long-finned pilot whales, orcas (killer whales), sperm whales and fin whales. And then there are Europe's only wild primates, the Barbary apes that occupy the heights of Gibraltar, looking out across the water towards their ancestral home of North Africa. For more on Andalucía's wildlife, see p345.



ALBERTO PAREDES / ALAMY

TOP The wide expanse of the Costa de la Luz **BOTTOM** Cooling off at the beach in Cabo de Gata **RIGHT** Scaling the heights at El Chorro gorge **FAR RIGHT** The endangered Iberian lynx, Parque Nacional de Doñana

TOP SECRET WALKS

- ★ Río Borosa, Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas (p243)
- ★ Round the headland of Cabo de Gata in three days (p303)
- ★ Climb El Lucero in La Axarquía region for cross-continent views (p190)
- ★ The villages of the Sierra de Aracena (p101)
- ★ Pinsapar trail from Grazalema to Benamahoma, Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema (p139)



ANDRÉS ILIOMONIST



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DON'T MISS EXPERIENCES

- ★ Whale-watching – Giants of the deep in the Strait of Gibraltar (p143)
- ★ Flamingos – Epic colonies up to 40,000-strong (p346)
- ★ Horse riding – In the high country of Sierra Nevada (p275)
- ★ Windsurfing – Tarifa is Spain's windsurfing capital (p145)
- ★ Sierra de Aracena – Lose yourself in stone villages time forgot (p101)
- ★ Sierra Norte – Wildflowers in spring bring colour to the rolling hills (p72)
- ★ Parque Nacional de Doñana – Explore some of Andalucía's most interesting coastal scenery and great wildlife country (p84)

DRIVES

- ★ Sierra de Grazalema – White villages, Arcos to Vejer (p137)
- ★ North of Córdoba – Wild landscapes and castles (p219)
- ★ Sierra de Cazorla – Quiet backroads through the wilderness (p242)
- ★ Road to Ohanes – A short, dramatic climb (p300)
- ★ Carretera del Suspiro del Moro – Granada to the coast (p283)

OUTDOORS

ANDALUCÍA



KARL BLACKWELL

TOP BEACHES

EL PALMAR Almost 5km of white sand (p142).

ZAHARA DE LOS ATUNES
A 12km-long beach unspoiled by tourism (p142).

ISLA CRISTINA
Huelva's finest beach and a Spanish crowd (p83).

PARQUE NATURAL DE CABO DE GATA-NÍJAR
Deserted, sandy inlets (p301).

PLAYA DE LOS LANCES, TARIFA A 10km stretch of sand and one of Europe's windsurfing hot spots (p145).

WEBLINKS

Before heading outdoors, get online to learn about the Andalusian wilds.

IBERIANATURE (www.iberianature.com) The premier website for information about Andalusian flora and fauna.

BLUE FLAG (www.blueflag.org) Beaches with a clean bill of health.

ECOLOGISTAS EN ACCIÓN (www.ecologistasenaccion.org, in Spanish) Beaches awarded black flags.

EX-SITU (www.lynxexsitu.es, in Spanish) Best website on the Iberian lynx.

SPANISH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (www.seo.org, in Spanish) Birdwatchers' best Andalusian friend.

BIRDWATCHING

Andalucía lies along the main route for migrating bird species between Europe and Africa and hundreds of thousands of species, including 80% of Europe's wild ducks, pass the winter in the region's wetlands. Andalucía also has its share of endemic species and is particularly known for its raptors: the black vulture (Europe's largest bird), golden eagle, griffon vulture, Egyptian vulture and the Spanish imperial eagle, while the bearded vulture or lammergeier is making a human-assisted comeback. Storks and flamingos are easier to find, but they nonetheless rank among birdwatching's most rewarding sights. For more on Andalucía's birds, see p346.

TOP Take advantage of the perfect kitesurfing conditions at Tarifa, Cádiz province **RIGHT** The iconic limestone form of the Rock of Gibraltar looms large over visitors to the Bay of Algeciras

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Andalucía leads the way when it comes to environmental protection in Spain – almost one-fifth of its territory is protected in some way. But Andalucía's regional government has favoured a pragmatic approach to wilderness areas, with a sliding scale of public access. Only two areas – Parque Nacional de Doñana and Parque Nacional Sierra Nevada – have full-on national park status with strictly controlled access, while most protected areas are *parques naturales* (natural parks): there are 24 of these and there are often villages and public walking trails within their boundaries. Permits are sometimes required to visit the natural parks, but the emphasis is on recognising that wilderness areas are to be enjoyed as much as protected. For more information, see p345.

LANDFORMS

Andalucía's rugged coastline and equally rugged, mountain-spined interior contain some extraordinary natural landforms that invite either awe or up-close exploring.

- ★ Rock of Gibraltar: one of the soaring Pillars of Hercules (p150)
- ★ Mulhacén: at 3479m, mainland Spain's highest peak (p275)
- ★ Cabo de Gata: wild and semi-desert coast unspoiled by the human hand (p301)
- ★ Paraje Natural Torcal de Antequera: weird, wonderful limestone formations (p187)
- ★ Garganta del Chorro: sheer rock walls and a gorge half-a-kilometre deep (p182)



FAMILY TRAVEL

ANDALUCÍA



NOJUNG NG

TOP RESOURCES

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN

(Brigitte Barta et al) Lonely Planet's comprehensive low-down on travelling with kids.

TRAVEL FOR KIDS (www.travelforkids.com) The Spain section of this website offers a child-friendly perspective on Andalucía's signature sights.

COLOURS OF SPAIN (www.coloursofspan.com) The Andalucía page has a helpful list of theme parks, water parks, zoos and other ideas.

SANDI TOKSVIG'S TRAVEL GUIDE TO SPAIN Beginner's guide to Spain with games and a travel journal.

DON'T MISS EXPERIENCES

Many of the most enjoyable Andalusian experiences are fun (and accessible) for all the family.

- ★ Royal Equestrian School – Watch horses dance (p130)
- ★ Western film sets – Explore the Wild West (p297)
- ★ Cave Hotels – Sleep in a cave in Guadix (p396)
- ★ Horse riding – Ride off into the Andalusian sunset (p349)
- ★ Whale camp – Whale- and dolphin-watching, snorkelling and games (p143)
- ★ Windsurfing – Catch the wind on a kid-sized board (p145)
- ★ Gibraltar – Apes, caves and a cable-car ride (p150)

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN

Andalucía is as much a playground for kids as for adults, not least because locals too love to do things in family groups. Eating out is a pleasure – most kids love the local staples and are welcomed in tapas bars and restaurants. Many activities are similarly child-friendly – the possible exception is hiking. Local tourist offices can also point you in the direction of the nearest pool or child-centred activity; the Costa del Sol (p174) and Seville (p62) in particular have a host of child-friendly attractions. Car-hire companies and hotels are used to accommodating family needs, while children get free or discounted admission into most sights. For more on travelling with children, see p400.

TOP See how the west was won, Almería-style, at one of Andalucía's movie sets

THE AUTHORS



ANTHONY HAM

Coordinating Author, Cádiz & Gibraltar

Anthony lives in Madrid but spends almost two months of every year in and around El Puerto de Santa María. Whenever he can, he heads across the water to Cádiz, one of his favourite cities in Spain, and can be found frequenting the wonderful seafood restaurants of El Puerto.



STUART BUTLER

Seville, Huelva

Stuart's first taste of Andalucía was many years ago during a school trip to Parque Nacional de Doñana, which he decided was the very definition of the word 'exotic'. The only change now is that he applies this definition to the whole region and he considers Seville his favourite European city. Despite this, home for Stuart is the Basque Country on the opposite side of the peninsula, though he returns to Andalucía as much as possible.

LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

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VESNA MARIC

Málaga, Córdoba, Jaén

Vesna's love for Andalucía grows with every visit. She travels to the region at least four times a year, continuing to discover new places, recipes and beaches, and family and close friends in Málaga, Cádiz, Granada and Seville make sure that Andalucía now feels like a second home.



ZORA O'NEILL

Granada, Almería

Zora studied 11th-century Andalusian Arabic poetry in graduate school, but finds the cultural mix of modern-day southern Spain much more intriguing – mostly because it involves eating. Usually a city mouse, she developed a fresh appreciation for the outdoors – and for the nourishing power of ham – while hiking in the Alpujarras for this guide. Zora has written guidebooks since 2003; this is her third title for Lonely Planet. She lives in Queens, New York City.

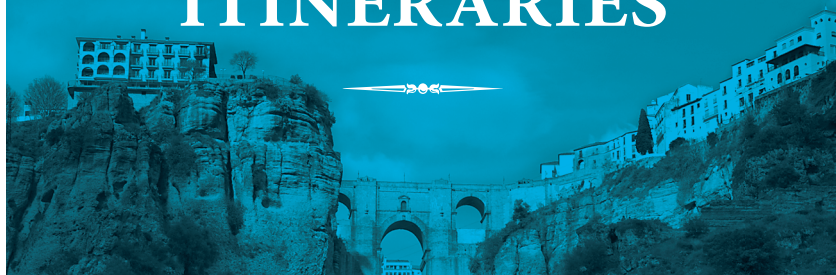


JOHN NOBLE

History

John, originally from England's Ribble Valley, has lived in the provinces of Málaga and Cádiz since the mid-1990s and explored Andalucía from end to end but still finds its nooks and crannies endlessly intriguing to investigate. Every little village and valley reveals more about Andalucía's story, which becomes more fascinating the more one delves into it. John and his wife Susan Forsyth, who died in 2008, wrote the first two editions of this guide together, and were authors on all subsequent editions.

ITINERARIES



AL-ANDALUS HEARTLAND

10 DAYS // SEVILLE, CÓRDOBA & GRANADA // 300KM

Seven centuries of Islamic rule in Andalucía bequeathed to the region some of Europe's most exotic architecture. Begin in **Seville** (p34), with jewels such as the **Alcázar** (p44),

and the monumental Gothic **cathedral** and **Giralda** (p40), the city's great mosque and minaret in Islamic times. Northeast of Seville, Córdoba's **Mezquita** (p201) is one of the world's most beautiful mosques. The nearby **Judería** (p207) and the caliphs' palace **Medina Azahara** (p209), to the west just outside the city, are also significant landmarks to Al-Andalus. **Granada** (p247), southeast of Córdoba, is watched over by the peerless magnificence of the **Alhambra** (p254) and its exquisite Generalife gardens. Just across the valley, the **Albayzín** (p260) is Andalucía's best-preserved old Islamic quarter.



EASTERN DELIGHTS

TWO WEEKS // EASTERN ANDALUCÍA // 580KM

Málaga (p157) spans Islamic Al-Andalus and the Reconquista (Christian reconquest) period and is the perfect place to start your eastern exploration. The monumental **Castillo de Gibralfaro** (p164), gorgeous **Alcazaba palace** (p166), massive **cathedral** (p163) and **Museo Picasso** (p164) are Málaga's signature sights. Head north to the historic gem of **Antequera** (p184), home to 30 churches and **prehistoric dolmens** (p186). Northeast of Antequera, past **Jaén** (p221) and its **Castillo de Santa Catalina** (p228), are the exquisite Renaissance towns of **Baeza** (p230) and **Úbeda** (p234). On your way south, pause in **Granada** (p247) en route to **Almería** (p290) and see the city's **Alcazaba** (p291), one of Andalucía's finest fortresses. End your tour of the east on the beaches of the dramatic **Cabo de Gata** (p301) coastline.



BEST OF THE WEST

10 DAYS // WESTERN ANDALUCÍA // 250KM

Cádiz (p110), the oldest city in Europe, pulses with vibrant street life. Away to the northwest, in **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** (p124), some of Andalucía's best seafood is to be found at **Casa Balbino** (p126) and **Casa Bigote** (p125). Heading east, **Jerez de la Frontera** (p126) has sherry bodegas, as well as thriving flamenco and dancing horses. Further east, **Arcos de la Frontera** (p133) is a classic hilltop Andalusian town, as is the boutique town of **Vejer de la Frontera** (p140), away to the south. Continue down the coast to lovely **Tarifa** (p142), mainland Spain's southernmost point and ideal for whale-watching, wind-surfing, horse riding and excursions to the Roman ruins of **Baelo Claudia** (p147).



STIRRING LANDSCAPES & WILDLIFE

TWO WEEKS // NATURAL SPACES // AROUND 850KM

From **Seville** (p34), journey northwest into the little-trumpeted **Sierra de Aracena** (p101), with evergreen oak forests and timeless villages. While in Huelva province, detour down to the coastal wetlands of **Parque Nacional de Doñana** (p84) for beautiful coastal scenery and the chance to see flamingos and countless migratory bird species. A long drive away to the northeast, via the exotic village of **El Rocío** (p88), the wonderful **Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas** (p241) has majestic topography and plenty of visible large mammals – deer, boar, mouflon and ibex. The summit, though, is the **Sierra Nevada** (p272), an awesome high-altitude wilderness with a 5000-strong ibex population.



PUEBLOS BLANCOS

10 DAYS // WHITE VILLAGES // 450KM

The *pueblos blancos* (white villages) are among Andalucía's most distinctive high-lights. Begin in **Granada** (p247), whose whitewashed **Albayzín** (p260) is one of the city's many charms. Southeast of Granada, the Sierra Nevada's southern flank harbours the ancient white villages of **Las Alpujarras** (p275) set among green hillside orchards, thick woodlands and cascading streams. Dropping down to the coast, drive west to **Málaga** (p157) then northwest to the stunning cliff-top town of **Ronda** (p175). Further west, the **Sierra de Grazalema** (p139) is magnificent country dotted with pretty white villages, beyond which lies **Arcos de la Frontera** (p133). Your journey ends away to the south in **Vejer de la Frontera** (p140), one of the most beautiful white villages of all.



BEST OF THE BEACHES

ONE TO TWO WEEKS // ALONG THE COAST // 675KM

Huelva's coast is one 100km-long sandy beach. Check out the superb beaches to be found around **Isla Cristina** (p83). If you like the comforts and clamour of city life,



Cádiz (p116) has some of the best town beaches in Andalucía. The **Costa de la Luz** (p140), southeast of Cádiz, has seemingly endless expanses of white sand and very little development. The pick of a very fine crop are **El Palmar** (p142), **Los Caños de Meca** (p142), **Zahara de los Atunes** (p142) and Tarifa's **Playa de los Lances** (p145). Fronting the Mediterranean, there are perfect beaches in charming little coves at Cala del Barranco, Cala Grande and Cala Chica in the **Parque Natural de Cabo de Gata-Níjar** (p301).

A GASTRONOMIC TOUR

TWO WEEKS // FOODIE HEAVEN // 1000KM

This culinary trail begins with **seafood** (p125) and **manzanilla** (p126) in **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** (p124). East of here, the seafood



obsession dominates **Romerijo** (p123) in **El Puerto de Santa María** (p119), while the **sherry bodegas** (p130) of Jerez de la Frontera are something special. **Seville's tapas bars** (p55) are legendary, especially **Los Coloniales** (p58). You can't help but eat well in **Córdoba** (p210), and don't miss the **Bodegas Alvear** (p217) in Montilla, or Andalucía's best **olive-oil mill** (p213) in Baena; **Úbeda** (p237) has terrific food. **Arab-inspired flavours** (p267) are a speciality of Granada, and the villages of **Las Alpujarras** (p279) have a cuisine all their own. Down on the coast, **Almería** (p294) has free tapas, and **Málaga** (p169) has some of Andalucía's most innovative restaurants.

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