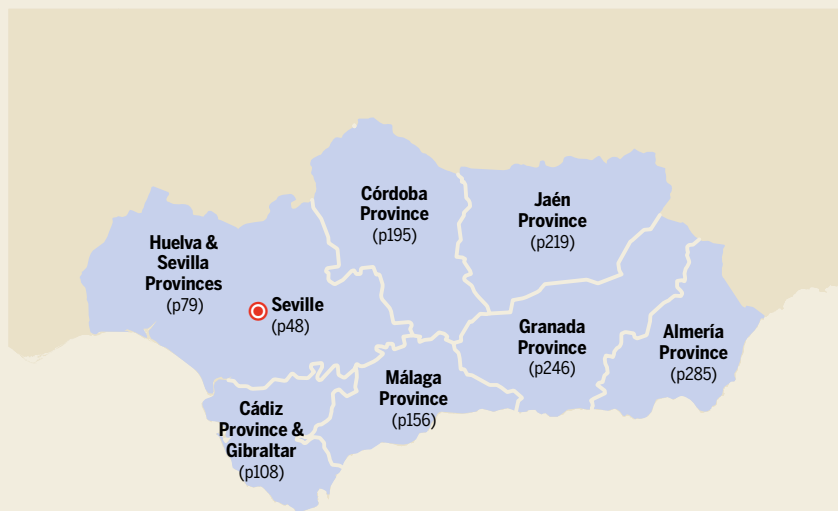




Andalucía

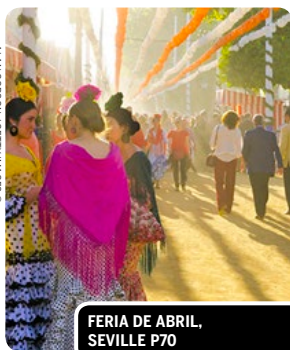


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PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Andalucía	4
Andalucía Map	6
Andalucía's Top 17	8
Need to Know	18
What's New	20
If You Like.....	21
Month by Month.....	23
Itineraries	26
Eat Like a Local	30
Outdoor Activities	36
Travel with Children.....	41
Regions at a Glance....	44



FERIA DE ABRIL,
SEVILLE P70



HORSE RIDING, TARIFA P143

ON THE ROAD

SEVILLE..... 48

HUELVA & SEVILLA PROVINCES..... 79

Huelva	82
Lugares Colombinos ...	84
La Rábida.....	84
Palos de la Frontera.....	84
Moguer.....	85
Huelva's	
Costa de la Luz.....	86
Flecha del Rompido.....	86
Isla Cristina.....	86
Ayamonte	87
East of Huelva.....	87
Matalascañas	87
Parque Nacional	
de Doñana.....	87
El Rocío	90
North of Huelva	92
Minas de Riotinto.....	92
Aracena	93
Sierra de Aracena.....	95
Sevilla Province	98
Santiponce	98
Carmona	99
Osuna.....	102
Écija	103
Parque Natural Sierra	
Norte de Sevilla	105

CÁDIZ PROVINCE & GIBRALTAR 108

Cádiz.....	109
The Sherry Triangle	118
Jerez de la Frontera.....	119
El Puerto	
de Santa María	125
Sanlúcar	
de Barrameda.....	129
The White Towns.....	131
Arcos de la Frontera	131

Grazalema.....	135
Zahara de la Sierra	136
Parque Natural Sierra	
de Grazalema	137
Olvera.....	138
Costa de la Luz	
& the Southeast.....	139
Vejer de la Frontera.....	139
Los Caños de Meca.....	141
Zahara de los Atunes.....	142
Tarifa.....	142
Bolonia.....	148
Parque Natural Los	
Alcornocales.....	148
Gibraltar.....	150

MÁLAGA PROVINCE..... 156

Málaga	157
Costa del Sol.....	170
Torremolinos	
& Benalmádena	170
Fuengirola	172
Marbella.....	173
Estepona	175
Mijas.....	177
The Interior.....	178
Ronda.....	178
Serranía de Ronda.....	184
Ardales & El Chorro.....	185
Antequera	185
Paraje Natural Torcal	
de Antequera	188
Laguna de Fuente	
de Piedra.....	189
East of Málaga	189
La Axarquía.....	189
Nerja.....	191

CÓRDOBA PROVINCE..... 195

Córdoba	198
Southern	
Córdoba Province.....	211

Contents

UNDERSTAND

Baena 211

Parque Natural
Sierras Subbéticas..... 211

**Western
Córdoba Province..... 216**

Almodóvar del Río 216

Parque Natural Sierra
de Hornachuelos 216

JAÉN PROVINCE... 219

Jaén 222

Northwest

Jaén Province 225

Desfiladero de
Despeñaperros
& Santa Elena 225

Parque Natural Sierra
de Andújar 226

**Eastern Jaén
Province..... 227**

Baeza 227

Úbeda..... 231

Cazorla..... 237

Parque Natural Sierras
de Cazorla, Segura
y Las Villas..... 239

**GRANADA
PROVINCE..... 246**

Granada 247

**La Vega
& El Altiplano 271**

Guadix 271

**Sierra Nevada
& Las Alpujarras..... 272**

Sierra Nevada 273

Las Alpujarras..... 275

Costa Tropical..... 282

Salobreña 282

Almuñécar
& La Herradura..... 283

**ALMERÍA
PROVINCE..... 285**

Almería..... 288

North of Almería..... 294

Desierto de Tabernas ... 294

Níjar 295

**Las Alpujarras
de Almería..... 296**

Laujar de Andarax 297

Costa de Almería 298

Parque Natural de
Cabo de Gata-Níjar 298

Mojácar 303

Los Vélez 307

**Andalucía
Today 310**

History 312

**Andalucian
Architecture 325**

Landscape & Wildlife... 332

Flamenco 338

Andalucian Arts 344

Bullfighting 348

Andalucian Kitchen ... 351

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A–Z 358

Transport 367

Language 373

Index..... 383

Map Legend..... 391

SPECIAL FEATURES

**Seville Cathedral
3D Illustration..... 52**

**Flamenco
Colour Feature 62**

**Mezquita
3D Illustration..... 200**

**Teterías & Hammams
Colour Feature 244**

**Alhambra
3D Illustration..... 252**

Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Highlights

You'd need months to poke into every corner of Andalucía, but two weeks can bag you the well-known highlights. This greatest hits itinerary is ideal for first-timers or those with a strict time ration.

The best starting point is unmissable **Seville**, deserving of three days, where the famous cathedral and Alcázar stand side by side in surreal juxtaposition. Head 150km east by train and a few centuries back in time to explore **Córdoba**, site of the ancient Mezquita and guarder of hidden patios. Free tapas, shadowy tea rooms and the incomparable Alhambra beckon in **Granada**, where you could fill at least three days reclining in Moorish bathhouses and deciphering the Lorca paraphernalia. Easily reached by bus, **Málaga** is understated by comparison. Spend a day absorbing the Picasso museum and sample fresh-from-the-Med seafood. **Ronda** is a dramatic contrast, surrounded by mountains and doused in bullfighting and rebel-rousing history. You'll be unlucky to hit **Jerez de la Frontera** and not take in a festival; the city is also famous for its horses, sherry bodegas and flamenco. Forty-five minutes away by train, **Cádiz** has an abundance of free sights, including a fine city museum and an aficionado's flamenco club. You can contemplate your trip's achievements while walking its romantic *malecón* (sea drive).

4
WEEKS

Grand Tour

To understand every nuance of Andalucía, you need to put aside at least a month and undertake a 'grand tour' of all eight provinces. This expansive itinerary is busy and detailed, and will see you staggering home with a virtual PhD in Andalusian culture.

Start in **Seville**, visiting the obvious sights (the cathedral, Alcázar) and the less obvious ones (Casa de Pilatos, Triana). Sorties to the west lead to Huelva province; there's prime hiking country in the province's north, where the gentle pastoral hills around **Aracena** promise legendary walks between sleepy villages. Passing back through Seville, head east, stopping for a day in gentle **Carmona** before a serendipitous escape to the serially overlooked **Parque Natural Sierra Norte de Sevilla**. On week two, head to **Córdoba**, long a historical foil to Seville, where you can map Andalusian history in its whitewashed streets, Roman relics and Islamic architecture. Tracking east to Jaén province delivers you to the land of olive groves and weighty Renaissance architecture. The former can be seen pretty much everywhere you look. The latter is concentrated in the twin towns of **Baeza** and **Úbeda**. Further east, **Cazorla** is the gateway to Andalucía's largest protected area, but one visited only by a small minority, **Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas**.

Granada, at the start of week three, is a more mainstream sight, loaded with exotic majesty. To check out all the provinces you'll now need to circumnavigate the Sierra Nevada to **Almería**, the dry east that once hosted spaghetti western films. Hit the coast at the unadulterated Spanish town of **Almuñécar** and follow it west through ever-growing resorts to **Málaga**, the Costa del Sol city that is actually nothing like the Costa del Sol. Start your last week in white town 'capital', **Ronda**; with its bullfighting museum and plunging gorge, it's been on most itineraries since Hemingway visited. The white towns continue across the border in Cádiz province; pick and choose between **Olvera**, **Grazalema** and **Ubrique**, and enjoy the surrounding natural parks. Attempts to bypass **Arcos de la Frontera** are normally futile – the sight of the spectacular hilltop settlement practically drags you off the bus. Your final week can be spent tying up the threads of Andalucía's culture in **Jerez de la Frontera** and **Cádiz**, two ancient yet quintessential cities that contain all the ingredients that have made this region so great.

1
WEEK

The Cultural Triangle

If you had to pick a smaller region-within-a-region that best sums up Andalucía's essence it would lie in the triangle of territory between Seville, Cádiz and Jerez de la Frontera.

With excellent air, rail and bus connections, **Seville** is the best starting point for this sojourn. Lap up the Moorish-meets-Gothic architecture and seemingly limitless festivals for a day or two. Fast trains now forge south to **Jerez de la Frontera**, first stop on the 'sherry triangle', where you can spend two days mixing bodega tours with horse shows, authentic flamenco and perhaps a *hammam*. Continuing west by bus to **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** gives you the option to compare *fino* with *manzanilla* and bag some of the best seafood tapas in Spain. This is also a good base for forays into the biodiverse **Parque Nacional de Doñana**. Spend the evening in **El Puerto de Santa María**, home of more bodegas, festivals and fish restaurants. Surrounded by sea, **Cádiz** feels like the edge of Europe, and the home of something mystical and old. The beaches here are famously broad and they continue south along the Costa de la Luz. Explore them from a base in **Vejer de la Frontera**, a dramatically perched white town with a refined air.

2
WEEKS

The West in Detail

Already seen the Alhambra and hiked the Sierra Nevada? Then go west to the proverbial cradle of Andalusian culture.

Start in Huelva province's **Parque Nacional de Doñana**, possibly Andalucía's finest natural attraction and a rare European wetland replete with bird life. **Seville** broadcasts a litany of well-known sights, but its provincial hinterland is less heralded. Visit the tranquil towns of **Carmona**, with its Alcázar, and **Osuna**, with its grand palaces. Rugged **Ronda** is well on the tourist map, though if you stay overnight you'll wave goodbye to 80% of them. Recommended stops on the way to Málaga include **El Chorro** gorge and ancient **Antequera**. **Málaga** is a ballsy yet arty city that offers great seafood and a decent August feria. With time to linger you can visit some of Cádiz province's less trodden jewels: **Jimena de la Frontera** demands a detour, as does hiking in the **Parque Natural Los Alcornocales**. **Gibraltar** lures expat Brits missing roast beef and warm beer. Ply the Costa de la Luz next, spending at least one night in the white village of **Vejer de la Frontera**. A final few days can be devoted to the culturally intense city of **Cádiz**, with a detour for sherry and flamenco in **Jerez de la Frontera**.

3
WEEKS

The Coast

The coast looms large in Andalucía, lapping five of its eight provinces. Empires were once built here, although more recently resorts have colonised the littoral. Most coastal towns are linked by bus.

Start in underdeveloped **Cabo de Gata**, a spectacular combination of cliffs and salt flats. Tracking west you'll dock in **Almería**, worth a stop for its Moorish Alcazaba and winding streets. Granada's Costa Tropical is precipitous and authentic; **Almuñécar** is a great base for exploring and **La Herradura** offers good diving. A short bus ride west, **Nerja** has tempered its development better than other resorts, while excellent hiking beckons in **La Axarquía**. **Málaga** deserves three days of this trip; its international reputation has skyrocketed in recent years thanks to its fine art and inventive gastronomy. **Marbella** is possibly the most interesting stop on the busy Costa del Sol, though **Mijas** merits a day trip. Further west, **Gibraltar** guards the jaws of Europe with British pubs and fascinating military history. Starting in windsurfing mecca **Tarifa**, the Costa de la Luz harbours a variety of flavours and different food. While away three days in **Barbate** and **Los Caños de Meca**, then it's a grand two-day finale in **Cádiz**.

2
WEEKS

The East in Detail

The east is Andalucía's less obvious itinerary, filled with more obscure attractions. Spend three days each in the two big-hitter cities and then branch out.

Córdoba is a must-see – a one-time Iberian capital with one of the finest Islamic mosques ever built. **Granada** showcases the later Nasrid era in its Alhambra, Albayzín and Moorish-style bathhouses. You can use both cities as a base for rural forays into nearby mountainous regions. Córdoba province's ample wilderness includes the **Parque Natural Sierras Subbéticas**. Granada has the **Parque Nacional Sierra Nevada** and Las Alpujarras, the valleys that embellish the sierra's southern slopes. Detours from here can include **Guadix**, with its unusual inhabited caves, and coastal **Almuñécar**, a bit of domestic seaside bliss detached from the Costa resorts. **Jaén** is olive-oil heaven and guardian of fine tapas bars, while **Baeza** and **Úbeda** are unique for their Renaissance architecture. Almería province is Andalucía's far east: **Mojácar** promises a sometimes boho, sometimes glitzy taste of the Levant; **Cabo de Gata** is the region's most unspoiled coastal enclave; and **Almería** city is a kind of Granada-on-the-sea, with plenty of mystic Moorish relics.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/S-train/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Isabella Noble

Huelva & Sevilla Provinces, Cádiz Province & Gibraltar English/Australian on paper but Spanish at heart, Isabella grew up in a Málaga mountain village and later lived in Cádiz province. Adventures this edition included exploring Vejer's magic, hiking Grazalema's Garganta Verde, getting lost in Cádiz Carnival and sipping *tintos* on bleach-blond beaches in Tarifa, one of her favourite places in the world. For now, she lives in London and writes on Spain, India and beyond for

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John Noble

Córdoba Province, Jaén Province, Almería Province John, originally from England's Ribbles Valley, has lived in an Andalusian mountain village since 1995. He has explored Andalucía from end to end, playing a part in all eight editions of this guidebook. The highlight of research for this edition was going to the Sierra de Andújar to look for wildlife and quite coincidentally getting mixed up in the enormous once-a-year festivities of the Romería de la Virgen de la Cabeza. John also

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Málaga Province Josephine has lived in a small village just outside Málaga since 1992. As well as continually 'discovering' the Costa capital, Josephine loves strolling along the beachside promenades throughout the coastal resorts. A highlight this trip was discovering a Roman sulphur spring that has escaped being commercialised and enjoying inspirational art during an open studio weekend in the picturesque mountainside village of Gaucín. Josephine also wrote the

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