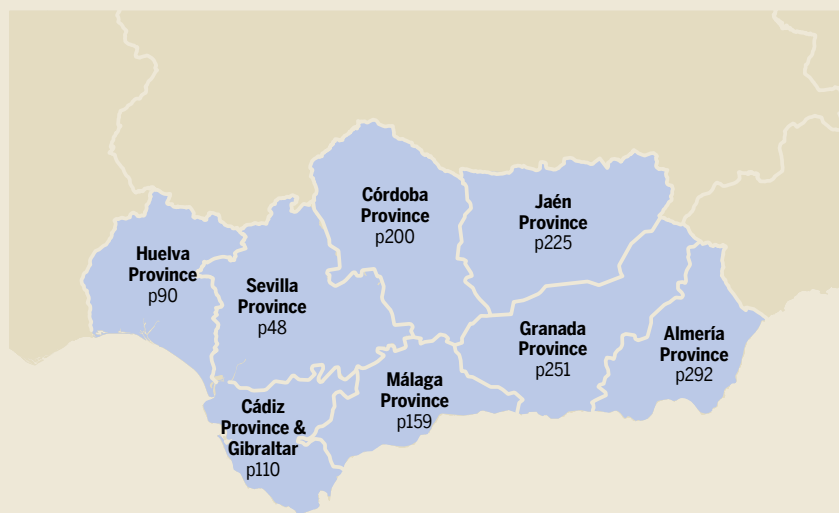




Andalucía



Isabella Noble,
Gregor Clark, Duncan Garwood, John Noble, Brendan Sainsbury

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Itineraries

**2
WEEKS**

Andalucía Highlights

You'd need months to poke into every corner of Andalucía, but two weeks will pack in the highlights. This greatest-hits itinerary is ideal for first-timers or those with a limited time ration.

The best starting point is exceptional **Seville**, deserving of three days, where the Gothic cathedral and Mudéjar Alcázar stand side by side in surreal juxtaposition. Travel 150km northeast by train and several centuries back in time to **Córdoba**, site of flower-filled patios and the resplendent Mezquita. Free tapas, shadowy tea rooms and the incomparable Alhambra beckon southeast in **Granada**, where you could fill at least three days reclining in Moorish-style bathhouses, wandering the Albayzín and deciphering the Lorca legend. Easily reached by bus, **Málaga** is understated by comparison; spend a couple of days enjoying the galleries, museums and fresh seafood. To the west (by bus or car), mountain-ringed **Ronda** is a dramatic contrast, doused in rebel-rousing history. West again, **Jerez de la Frontera** is famous for its flamenco, festivals, horses and sherry bodegas. A 45-minute train trip southwest, **Cádiz** has an abundance of free sights, including a fine city museum and a romantic *malecón* (sea drive), plus a majestic cathedral, buzzy beaches and an aficionados' flamenco club.

5
WEEKS

Grand Tour

To understand every nuance of Andalucía, take a four- to five-week 'grand tour' of all eight provinces. This busy, expansive itinerary will see you staggering home with a virtual PhD in Andalusian culture but also gives you freedom to pick and choose.

Start in **Seville**, visiting the famous (the cathedral, the Alcázar) and less obvious (Casa de Pilatos, Triana) sights. Westward sorties lead into Huelva province; there's prime hiking in the province's north, between the sleepy villages and gentle hills of the **Sierra de Aracena**. Passing back through Seville, head east, stopping in history-rich **Carmona** before escaping north into the **Parque Natural Sierra Norte de Sevilla**. For week two, head to **Córdoba**, marvelling at its labyrinthine streets, hidden patios, Roman relics and splendid Islamic architecture. Tracking east into Jaén province takes you through a land of olive groves and weighty Renaissance architecture. The latter is concentrated in the twin towns of **Baeza** and **Úbeda**. Further east, **Cazorla** is the gateway to Andalucía's largest protected area, the **Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas**.

Granada, at the start of week three, has a classic allure, loaded with exotic majesty and guarded by the marvellous Alhambra. To visit all eight provinces, consider circumnavigating the Sierra Nevada to reach **Almería** (with its impressive Alcazaba) and the protected **Cabo de Gata**. Hit the coast at the unadulterated Spanish town of **Almuñécar** and follow it west, dropping in at delightful **Nerja**, to **Málaga**, a provincial capital with a booming art, museum and food scene. Start week four in white-town 'capital' **Ronda**; with its plunging gorge, it's been on most itineraries since Hemingway visited. The white towns continue west across the border in Cádiz province; choose between **Olvera**, **Grazalema** and **Zahara de la Sierra** (or visit them all!), and hike through the surrounding **Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema**. Tracking west, **Arcos de la Frontera** reels visitors in with its spectacular cliff-top setting, whitewashed alleys and down-to-earth tapas bars.

Spend your final week delving into Andalusian culture in **Jerez de la Frontera** and **Cádiz**, two ancient cities packed with history, flamenco, sherry and a stash of worthwhile sights. Finally, hop across the Río Guadalquivir from **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** to explore the wilds of the ethereal **Parque Nacional de Doñana**.



10 DAYS

The Cultural Triangle

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

Seville is your best starting point. Lap up the Moorish-meets-Gothic architecture and seemingly limitless festivals for a day or two. Fast trains 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, *tabanco* tapas, authentic flamenco and a *hammam* session. Continuing west (easily by bus) to **Sanlúcar de Barrameda** allows you to compare *fino* with *manzanilla* and savour some of Spain's finest seafood tapas. This is also a good base for forays into Huelva's biodiverse **Parque Nacional de Doñana**. Buses link Sanlúcar with **El Puerto de Santa María**, home of more bodegas, festivals and fish restaurants. A catamaran ride across the bay, ancient, sea-surrounded **Cádiz** feels like the edge of Europe. The blonde beaches here are famously broad and beautiful, continuing southeast along the Costa de la Luz. Explore them from **Vejer de la Frontera**, a dramatically perched white town with a fashionable feel.



2 WEEKS

The West in Detail

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

Start in Huelva province's **Parque Nacional de Doñana**, arguably Andalucía's finest natural attraction. **Seville** has a wealth of well-known sights, while its hinterland is less heralded. Visit **Carmona**, with its Alcázar, and **Osuna**, with its grand palaces. South, rugged **Ronda** is on the tourist map, though most visitors don't stay overnight; if time allows, sidestep west to white towns **Zahara de la Sierra** and/or **Grazalema**. Exciting stops en route east from Ronda could be **El Chorro** gorge (home to the Caminito del Rey) or ancient **Antequera**. Lively **Málaga** has great seafood and excellent galleries and museums. With time, you can head southwest to Cádiz province's less-trodden spots, including **Jimena de la Frontera**, a good base for hiking in the **Parque Natural Los Alcornocales**. To the south, **Gibraltar** lures Brits missing roast beef. Track southwest and stay in cool **Tarifa**, before checking out the Costa de la Luz and overnighting in **Vejer de la Frontera**. Save time for culturally intense **Cádiz**, with a detour to **Jerez de la Frontera**.

3
WEEKS

The Coast

Lapping five of its eight provinces, the Andalusian coastline is one of the region's delights. Empires were built here, though more recently resorts have colonised the shore. Most coastal towns are linked by bus.

Start with Almería's protected **Cabo de Gata**, a spectacular combination of cliffs, salt flats and sandy beaches. Tracking west, **Almería** is worth a stop for its Moorish Alcazaba. Granada's Costa Tropical is precipitous and authentic: **Almuñécar** makes a great base and low-key **La Herradura** offers water sports. Further west, Málaga province's **Nerja** has tempered its development, and excellent inland hiking beckons in **La Axarquía**. **Málaga** deserves three days; its international reputation has skyrocketed thanks to its fine gastronomy and growing art and museum scene. **Marbella** is the most interesting stop on the tourist Costa del Sol, though **Mijas** merits a day trip. Southwest, British-owned **Gibraltar** guards the jaws of Europe. Extending northwest from kitesurfing capital **Tarifa**, Cádiz' Costa de la Luz offers water sports, coastal hikes, Roman ruins, beaches and great cuisine. Stay in **Vejer de la Frontera**, visiting **Zahara de los Atunes** and **Los Caños de Meca**, before a grand two-day finale in **Cádiz**.

2
WEEKS

The East in Detail

Spend three days in each of the two big-hitter cities, then branch out (you're best off with your own wheels).

Córdoba is an unmissable city graced by one of the finest mosques ever built. To the southeast, **Granada** has the dazzling Alhambra, Albayzín and Moorish-style bathhouses. Beyond the cities, Córdoba province's wilderness includes the **Parque Natural Sierras Subbéticas**, while Granada offers the **Parque Nacional Sierra Nevada** and **Las Alpujarras**, the village-dotted valleys on the Sierra's southern slopes. Granada-province detours might include **Guadix**, with its inhabited caves, and coastal **Almuñécar**, a slice of domestic seaside bliss North from Granada, **Jaén** provides fine tapas bars, while **Baeza** and **Úbeda** are unique for their Renaissance architecture. Continue east to the **Parque Natural Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas** for rugged mountain scenery, hilltop castles and abundant wildlife.

In Almería province, beachy **Mojácar** promises a both boho and glitzy vibe; **Cabo de Gata** is the region's most unspoiled coastal stretch; and **Almería**, with its formidable Moorish Alcazaba (fortress), is a kind of Granada-on-the-sea.

Behind the Scenes

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guidebook was produced by the following:

Destination Editor

Tom Stainer

Product Editors

Kate James, Kathryn Rowan

Senior Cartographer

Anthony Phelan

Assisting Cartographer

James Leversha

Book Designer

Mazzy Du Plessis

Assisting Editors

Sarah

Bailey, Andrew Bain, Michelle Coxall, Samantha Forge, Emma Gibbs, Carly Hall, Trent Holden, Gabby Innes, Anita Isalska, Ali Lerner, Jodie Martire, Rosie Nicholson, Chris Pitts, Sarah Reid, Gabrielle Stefanos, Sam Wheeler

Cover Researcher

Naomi Parker

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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
- Hut/Shelter

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/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, Dublin, 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

Cádiz Province, Gibraltar English-Australian on paper but Spanish at heart, Isabella has been wandering the globe since her first round-the-world trip as a one-year-old. Having grown up in a whitewashed Andalusian village, she is a Spain specialist travel journalist, but also writes extensively about India, Thailand, the UK and beyond for Lonely Planet, the *Daily Telegraph* and others. Find Isabella on Twitter and Instagram (@isabellamnoble). Isabella also wrote the Plan section.



Gregor Clark

Huelva Province Gregor Clark is a US-based writer whose love of foreign languages and curiosity about what's around the next bend have taken him to dozens of countries on five continents. Since 2000, Gregor has regularly contributed to Lonely Planet guides, with a focus on Europe and the Americas. He lived in California, France, Spain and Italy prior to settling with his wife and two daughters in his current home state of Vermont.



Duncan Garwood

Sevilla Province, Granada Province, Almería Province From facing fast bowlers in Barbados to sidestepping hungry pigs in Goa, Duncan's travels have thrown up many unique experiences. These days he largely dedicates himself to Spain and Italy, his adopted homeland, where he's lived since 1997. He's worked on more than 30 Lonely Planet titles, including guidebooks to Rome, Sardinia, Sicily, Bilbao and San Sebastián. He's also written on Italy for newspapers, websites and magazines.



John Noble

Jaén Province, Córdoba Province John has been travelling for Lonely Planet since the 1980s. The number of LP titles he's written is well into three figures, on numerous countries scattered across the globe. He's still as excited as ever about heading out to unfamiliar destinations, especially off-the-beaten-track ones. Above all, he loves mountains, from the Pyrenees to the Himalaya. See his pics on Instagram: @johnnoble11. John also wrote the Understand section.



Brendan Sainsbury

Málaga Province Born and raised in the UK, Brendan spent the holidays of his youth caravanning in the English Lake District and didn't leave Blighty until he was 19. Making up for lost time, he's since squeezed 70 countries into a sometimes precarious existence as a writer and professional vagabond. In the last 11 years, he has written more than 40 books for Lonely Planet from Castro's Cuba to the canyons of Peru. Brendan also wrote the Survival Guide section.

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