

Preliminary Itinerary

Presented by Journeys International, Inc.

Travel to Southwestern Spain

With

Dr. Donna Pierce and Rosa Ramírez Carlson



Discover remote areas of southwestern Andalusia; explore the famous “white villages” perched high in the dramatic mountainous landscape of rural Spain; visit medieval castles, Renaissance palaces, and Roman ruins; stay in the award-winning new parador at the tip of the narrow peninsula separating the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Cádiz where merchants watched for their ships returning from the New World laden with exotic trade goods from Asia and the Americas; see forts built to protect Spanish towns from English pirates; visit Mudéjar (Christian/Muslim) palaces, Arab baths, and a Jewish synagogue in the magical towns of Jerez de la Frontera, Seville, and Córdoba; see an equestrian show performed by the famous Arabian horses of Andalusia and tour a sherry winery. Enjoy lectures on the history, art and culture of the region. Tertulias (social hour chats) in Spanish will be offered, if there is interest.

Day One, Tues April 25 – Leave US to fly to Spain

Day Two, Wed April 26 – Arrive **Madrid** and check into Lope de Vega Hotel. Donna will lead a brief orientation walking tour followed by a group lunch. Afternoon free to rest up or visit the world-famous **Prado Museum** on your own since it is just across the street from our hotel and is open until 8:00 pm. Also nearby and open late are the **Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum** (medieval-18th c.) and the **Reina Sofia Museum** (modern and contemporary). Dinner on your own.

L

Hotel Lope de Vega, Madrid

Day Three, Thu April 27 – Head back to airport for short flight to Seville and drive to **Ronda**, one of the most spectacular of the *pueblos blancos* (white towns) of this region built on the edge of a huge cliff over the Tajo Gorge with the Guadalevin River far below. En route we will pass and make brief stops at some of the other “white villages” including **Grazalema** where we will have lunch at Restaurant Cádiz el Chico, specializing in traditional dishes of the region. Check into Parador at Ronda in the historic 18th-century former town hall on the edge of the cliff (upper left in photo above). Free afternoon activities each day in Ronda might include hiking in the canyon, birdwatching, visiting the spa at the nearby Catalonia Reina Victoria Hotel, or just enjoying Ronda. Possible *tertulia* and/or early evening lectures. Group dinner at the parador.

B, L, D

Parador at Ronda

Day Four, Fri April 28 – Early morning guided walking tour of the old town of **Ronda** (before crowds from cruise ships arrive), originally built by Muslims then occupied by Christians after the reconquest. We will visit the **Palacio Mondragón**, a Renaissance Christian palace built in the Mudéjar (Muslim style), now housing a museum of the region; the church **Santa María la Mayor**, originally a mosque; and the façade of the Casa del Marqués de Salvatierra with American influence in the carvings; the **Arab baths**; as well as other Muslim and Christian sites, ending at the famous **Bull Ring**, the second oldest in Spain and now home to an equestrian school. Those who wish may stay to watch the horses before lunch on your own at one of the many excellent restaurants near the bull ring. Free afternoon. Possible *tertulia* and early evening lectures followed by a group dinner at the parador.

B, D

Parador at Ronda

Day Five, Sat April 29 – Morning bus trip for a guided visit to the archeological site of the ancient **Roman town** of **Acipino** with its intact Roman theater. Drive past several other white towns to visit the town of **Olvera** with its statue of the original **Virgin of Remedios**, much copied in art of the colonial Americas. After a group lunch in Olvera we will return to Ronda for a free afternoon. Possible *tertulia* and/or late afternoon lectures. Dinner on your own.

B, L

Parador at Ronda

Day Six, Sun April 30 – Check out of parador. Bus to **Arcos de la Frontera**, the westernmost of the white villages. Upon arrival, we will have a guided walking tour up to the medieval Muslim town with its later Renaissance palaces and visit the very interesting churches of **San Pedro** and **Santa María de la Asunción** with altar screens similar to those in colonial Mexico. Group lunch at the parador in a former Renaissance palace. After lunch walk back down the hill and board our coach for the drive to **Cádiz**, one of the oldest towns in Spain founded by Phoenicians around 1100 BCE. We will check into the fabulous, new award-winning parador at the tip of the peninsula separating the Atlantic Ocean from the Bay of Cádiz. Dinner on your own at the outdoor snack bar next to the four swimming pools on a deck overlooking the Atlantic, at one of the indoor restaurants with windows on the ocean, on your private hotel room balcony overlooking the Atlantic, or at a nearby café.

B, L

Parador Atlántico in Cádiz

Day Seven, Mon May 1 – Free day to enjoy the pools and parador spa facilities. For those who wish, Donna will lead a short walk to visit the historic fort of **Santa Catalina**, constructed in 1598 after Sir Francis Drake attacked the Bay in 1587, and the Earl of Essex along with Sir Walter Raleigh sacked the town in 1596. Afterwards, those who wish may stay to swim and sun at the famous **Beach of La Caleta** (next to the fort), formerly the main port of Cádiz. If there is enough interest, we will organize an **optional trip** to take a **ferry ride** across the Bay of Cádiz to the small town of Puerto de Santa María where both Columbus and Washington Irving each lived briefly. Lunch and dinner on your own. Possible *tertulia* and early evening mini-lectures.

B

Parador Atlántico in Cádiz

Day Eight, Tues May 2 - Morning guided walking tour of historic old Cádiz passing by the **Torre Tavira**, the only surviving one of over 100 towers built in Cádiz by wealthy merchants to watch for their ships returning from the New World laden with exotic trade goods from Asia and the Americas. We will visit the elegant white marble **cathedral** and its **museum** which houses the famous monstrance bedazzled with so many emeralds from the Americas that it is popularly known as La Cogolla (The Lettuce). Lunch at the elegant Café Royalty. Free afternoon with possible *tertulia* and early evening mini-lectures. Dinner on your own.

B, L

Parador Atlántico in Cádiz

Day Nine, Wed May 3 - Early bus trip to **Jérez de la Frontera**. Guided walking tour of Jérez beginning with a visit to the **Santo Domingo** church to see the original statue of the **Virgin of Consolation** (depicted in the Mexican colonial painting at the Denver Art Museum). We will visit the **Alcázar** (Moorish castle) with its mosque (later converted to a church), Arab baths, lovely gardens, and the Spanish Baroque Palacio Villavicencio. We will stop at the **Cathedral** with its famous painting by Zurbarán of the Virgin Mary as a young child that is related to ones painted in colonial Peru. After a group lunch we will return to Cádiz. Free afternoon and possible *tertulia* and/or early evening mini-lectures. Dinner on your own.

B, L

Parador Atlántico in Cádiz

Day Ten, Thu May 4 – Check out of parador and leave to attend an **equestrian show** performed by the famous Arabian horses of Andalusia, tour a **sherry winery**, and have a group lunch. Afterwards we will drive past Sevilla to the nearby town of Carmona where we will stay in the parador in the medieval castle on top of the hill. There should be time for a relaxing swim in the beautiful parador pool before early evening lectures and our group dinner in the parador's spectacular restaurant.

B, L, D

Parador de Carmona

Day Eleven, Fri May 5 – Leave early to spend the day in Seville. The famous annual Feria will be in full swing, so the city will be replete with people dressed in the traditional flamenco- and Spanish horseman-style costumes. Upon entering town we will drive past the former **Tobacco Factory**, setting for Bizet's opera *Carmen*, where tobacco from the Americas was processed during the colonial era; it

now serves as the **University of Seville**. We will also drive by the **Plaza de España** and through the **Maria Luisa Park**. We will have a guided walking tour of Seville to visit the **Cathedral of Sevilla**, the largest in the world, begun in 1401 in the Flamboyant Gothic style on the site of the former mosque. The main altar screen is covered with gold from the Americas. We will also visit the **Alcázar**, the fabulous Muslim castle/palace rebuilt under the Spanish king Pedro the Cruel by Muslim craftsmen in the 1300s. It is a classic example of the *mudéjar* style -- art executed in the Islamic style for Christian patrons -- that later influenced art in the Americas in the early colonial period. We will pass by the former Renaissance Exchange building that now houses the **Archive of the Indies**, containing some 4 million documents related to the Americas. After a brief walk through the famous **Barrio de Santa Cruz**, formerly the Jewish quarter of Seville, we will have a group lunch. After lunch we will have free time to shop, wander the charming streets on your own, or go with Donna for an optional boat ride on the **Guadalquivir River**, a great way to see the city and experience the route followed by ships returning from the Americas. Return to Carmona for dinner in the parador.

B, L, D

Parador de Carmona

Day Twelve, Sat May 6 – **Free day** to return to Seville or enjoy the parador and town of Carmona. For those who wish, we can organize an optional guided walking tour of the historic town of Carmona or an optional return trip to Seville to visit museums of your choice including the Fine Arts Museum of Seville with works by Murillo and Zurbarán; and/or the Archeology Museum (with Iberian, Greek and Roman art); and/or the Popular Arts Museum housing a vast collection of decorative and traditional arts, including ceramics (both of the latter in the Maria Luisa Park). Some of you might wish to visit the famous Casa de Pilatos, a 16th-century aristocratic home, designed in a fantasy imitation of the House of Pilate in Jerusalem; or take a taxi out to visit the ruins of the Roman city of Itálica; and/or make a final shopping adventure to the ceramics neighborhood of La Triana. Lunch on your own. Possible *tertulia* and early evening lectures. Dinner in the parador.

B, D

Parador de Carmona

Day Thirteen, Sun May 7 -- Short morning bus ride to the town of **Córdoba** for a guided visit to the famous **Mosque of Córdoba**, one of only a few still extant in the world from the 10th-11th centuries. Its dramatic forest of columns is topped by double tiers of red and white striped arches. It is so large that a Gothic church was built in the middle of it! Its open plan was later imitated in the open chapels of the mission churches in the New World. We will also walk with our guide through the narrow streets of the Jewish Quarter to visit the **synagogue**, one of only a handful surviving in Spain. Built in 1315, the Muslim-style stucco tracery with Hebrew inscriptions survives, as does the women's gallery and the arch for the sacred scrolls of law. We will continue to the **Alcázar**, the fortress-palace built by Christian kings in the *mudéjar*, or Muslim-Christian style. After a farewell group lunch we will reboard the bus for the trip to Madrid where we will check into the Melia Barajas Hotel near the airport. Free evening to pack and rest up for flights the next day. Dinner on your own in one of the hotel restaurants or cafes in the neighborhood.

B, L

Hotel Méliá Barajas, Madrid

Day Fourteen, Mon May 8 - Return to US or to your other destinations.

*B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner

NOTES:

** It is possible that changes to the above itinerary may be necessary. If so, whatever is altered will be replaced by its equivalent.

Total Cost of the Tour based on double occupancy	\$6,945.00
Total Cost of the Tour for single room	\$8,620.00

*Price is subject to change due to currency exchange fluctuations or fuel surcharges.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

INCLUDED:

- International airfare from Denver or Dallas/Ft Worth
- All accommodations
- Breakfast daily, nine lunches, five dinners, and one winery visit
- Transportation throughout by chartered bus, as indicated in the itinerary
- Water on board the coach on traveling days
- Entrance fees to all sites indicated in the itinerary
- English-speaking local guides
- Lectures by experts
- Tips to porters or maids

NOT INCLUDED:

- Items of personal nature
- Tips to driver and guides

To get on the trip list, please contact Donna Pierce immediately. See contact info below.

A deposit of \$500.00 per person will be required at the time of booking, but no later than November 1st, 2016. Please enclose the booking form with a photocopy of your passport.

Final payment is due on December 15th, 2016.

Please make checks (no credit cards) payable to "Journeys International, Inc" and mail to 49 Verano Loop, Santa Fe NM 87508.

In Case of Cancellations, the following penalties will be applicable:

After deposit \$150.00 administrative fee

After December 16th, 2016 100% of the total tour price

Important: Purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. If you have any pre-existing conditions for which you would like coverage, most companies require that you must purchase the insurance within 14 days of your FIRST payment for the tour. Please let Rosa Carlson know if are intending to purchase insurance. You can purchase coverage just for the amount of your deposit and later increase your coverage when the final payment is made. In addition, many health insurers, including Medicare, do not provide coverage for insured persons traveling abroad. Affordable health insurance for overseas travelers is readily available with companies such as Medex, Travel Guard, Allianz Travel Insurance and similar companies.

Rosa Ramírez Carlson of Journeys International, Inc. is handling all air and land arrangements. For any questions about airfare or if you wish to go early or extend your trip, please contact Rosa Ramirez Carlson at the following email address: carlsonrosa@hotmail.com or phone: 505 310-1863.

For other details and questions contact Donna Pierce at donnaleeprc@aol.com or 720 352-7559.

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49 Verano Loop

Santa Fe NM 87508