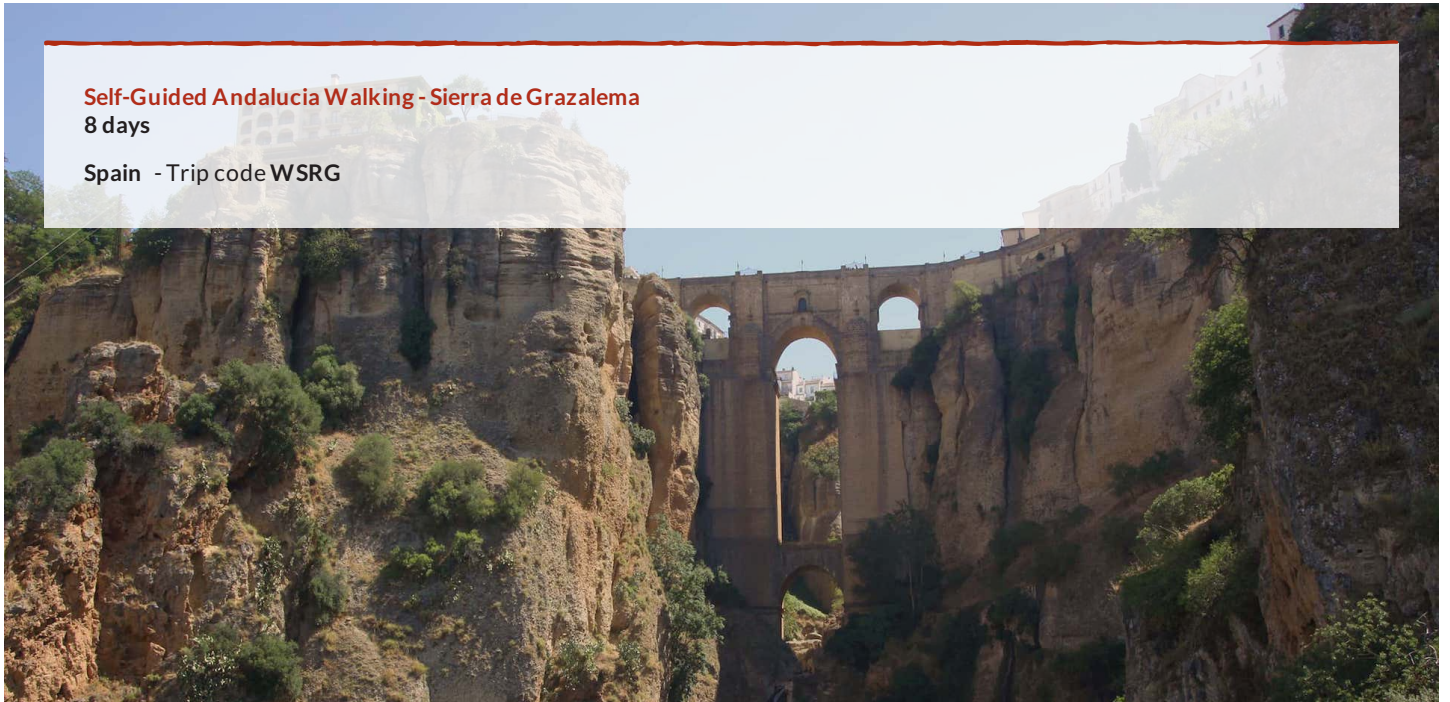


# EXPLORE!

## Self-Guided Andalucia Walking - Sierra de Grazalema

8 days

Spain - Trip code WSRG



## Self-Guided Andalucia Walking - Sierra de Grazalema

On this self-guided walking holiday to Andalucia discover the mountainous area of Sierra de Grazalema. Explore the sculpted limestone hillsides and historic white-washed local villages. Walk through shady olive groves, woods of cork oak trees and Spanish fir forests. Discover the Moorish town of Ronda, built on the sides of a deep gorge. In the evenings relax with some tapas and a glass of local wine.

### Trip highlights

- ★ **Stunning landscapes** - Mountains, limestone sculptures and deep gorges
- ★ **Picturesque white-washed villages** - Stay in the mountain village of Grazalema
- ★ **Ancient trees** - Olive groves, cork oak woods and Spanish fir forests
- ★ **Tapas and wine** - enjoy the local specialities and the relaxed pace of life al fresco

#### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

##### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### WALKING GRADE:

##### Easy To Moderate

This grade is ideal if you want to enjoy both easy and moderate level walks on the same tour. You'll be walking mainly on good paths and at low altitude, with occasional more demanding ascents or descents.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Trip starts in Ronda. Taxi to Grazalema

Meet your taxi at Ronda bus station and drive to the 'Pueblo Blanco' (whitewashed village) of Grazalema. Here, in the foothills of the Sierra del Pinar Mountains, your hospitable and characterful hotel will be your base for the next three nights. Details of how to reach the start point of your holiday can be found on our website in the tour specific dates and prices section by clicking on 'Joining Info' and then the 'Show More' button.



**Accommodation: Hotel Puerta De La Villa** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Walk to the 'Pueblos Blancos' of Benaocaz

Today's walking route takes you through a classic limestone landscape dotted with 'cortijos' - traditional farmhouse complexes found across the countryside. You'll traverse through lovely woods of evergreen oaks and typical Mediterranean vegetation on your way to Benaocaz - an untouched 'Pueblo Blanco' with historic remains dating back to Roman times. The village sits perched on a hill, with sweeping views all around. From here, you will transfer back to your hotel in Grazalema. You can expect today's 12 kilometre walk to take approximately five hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Puerta De La Villa** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

### DAY 3 - Choice of circular walks around Grazalema

Today, you have a choice between two circular routes in the area around Grazalema. Both walks offer lovely views among the striking combination of red earth tones and green vegetation. Because neither walk is particularly lengthy, you may choose to do both. This afternoon, there is time to relax in Grazalema. You may choose to explore the small shops in the village, or enjoy a refreshing drink on an outdoor terrace. You can expect today's 5 and 4 kilometre walks to take approximately three hours and one-and-a-half and, respectively.



**Accommodation: Hotel Puerta De La Villa** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Hike to Benaojan via Montejaque

This morning starts off with a 20-minute taxi transfer to the village of Villaluenga del Rosario - home to a unique 'square bullring' carved right out of the rock. From here, you descend into the bucolic valley of Llanos del Republicano, where the river disappears mysteriously into a limestone sink. Next, your route takes you uphill, along sculpted cliffs in the Sierras de Libar and el Palo, to reach another jewel of a town - lovely Montejaque. After a refreshing drink, you have the option of taking a taxi to your next hotel base in Benaoján, or continuing here on foot. Your hotel for the next three nights is positioned on the edge of the hamlet, with beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. As well as boasting an outdoor swimming pool, it also offers a great restaurant, serving locally-produced food. You can expect today's 18 kilometre walk to take approximately six hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Molino del Santo** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Walk through the Rio Guadiaro Valley from Jimera

Today's route begins with a 10-minute walk to the train station for your 10-minute train journey to Jimera de Libar. From here, your scenic walk takes you through the beautiful Rio Guadiaro Valley, all the way back to your hotel. You can expect today's 9 kilometre walk to take approximately three hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Molino del Santo** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast


## DAY 6 - A circular walk from Benaojan; Visit Cueva de la Pileta

This morning, you will walk to the nearby Cueva de la Pileta - a cave with surprising formations and prehistoric paintings, which we recommend taking time to explore. On your way back, you can either make a detour to have lunch in Montejaque, or return directly to your hotel to enjoy lunch by the pool. Depending on which route you take, you can expect today's 6.5 and 6.4 kilometre walks to take approximately two-and-a-half and three-and-a-half hours, respectively.




**Accommodation: Hotel Molino del Santo** (or similar)

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 Premium Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 7 - Hike to Ronda

Today's rural route sets out along a section of ancient cobbled path. After passing through fields and past characterful family farms, you reach the end point of the trip - Ronda. Widely regarded as one of the prettiest towns in Andalusia, its intriguing mix of Moorish and European monuments is captivating. Established in the 9th century BC, Rhona is also one of Spain's oldest towns and its history is palpable. Tonight's conveniently-located hotel provides an ideal base from which to explore the town. You can expect today's 11.5 kilometre walk to take approximately four-and-a-half hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Polo** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 8 - Trip ends in Ronda

After breakfast, the organised part of your holiday comes to an end.

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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# Walking and Trekking information

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### DAILY DISTANCE

Day 2	11.7km	3.9km
Day 3	4.9km	3.8km
Day 4	17.4km	
Day 5	9.3km	
Day 6	6.4km	2.5/6.4km
Day 7	11.5km	

 Optional Walks

### Walking grade

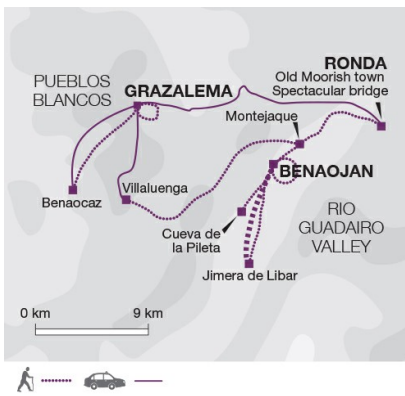
Easy to moderate

### Trek details

On this journey you walk for between 2.5 and 6.5 hours on 6 days, mainly on unsurfaced trails and footpaths. The distance covered is a minimum of 64 km (an average of 10 km per day).

### Max walking altitude (m)

1298



## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 7



### Transport

Taxi  
Train



### Accommodation

4 nights standard hotel  
3 nights premium hotel

## Trip information

### Country information

### Spain Holidays & Tours

#### Climate

Overall, spring, early summer and autumn are ideal times for a Spanish trip - though the weather varies enormously from region to region. The high central plains suffer from fierce extremes, stiflingly hot in summer, bitterly cold and swept by freezing winds in winter. The Atlantic coast, in contrast, has a tendency to damp and mist, and a relatively brief, humid summer. The Mediterranean south is warm virtually all year round. Spain's Islands the Canaries and Balaerics experience very mild winters and warm summers making them ideal year round destinations.

#### Time difference to GMT

+1

#### Plugs

2 Pin Round

#### Religion

Roman Catholic

#### Language

Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque

# Budgeting and packing

## Clothing

Light rainwear may be needed at any time of the year, and a warm fleece/jacket is recommended for cooler evenings and nights early and late in the season.

## Footwear

Well worn, sturdy walking boots with good ankle support are essential for the walks. Sandals and trainers are recommended for relaxing in the evenings.

## Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage during transfers by public transport so don't overload yourself. Luggage transfers between hotels are normally arranged by the hoteliers. Mark your bags clearly and leave them at the place and time arranged with them. When travelling on public transport or on a ferry you should always take your luggage with you.

## Luggage transfer

Included between each hotel.

## Equipment

A water bottle, sunhat and sunscreen are all essential and you may wish to bring a small torch. Walking poles are recommended. Maps - Along with the destination manual and route notes you will be sent a set of maps that have been created specifically for this trip to help you navigate. The route is marked on each map together with a series of numbered waypoints which correspond with instructions in the route notes. Should you wish to purchase a more detailed commercially produced map we recommend the following:- General Maps - Michelin - Costa del Sol 1:200.000 - Mapa Provincial Málaga (MOPT) 1:200.000 - Mapa Provincial Cádiz (MOPT) 1:200.000 Topographical Maps - 1:50.000 Plano Topográfico del Macizo de Grazalema (Penthalon, Servicio Geográfico del Ejército) - 1:50.000 Sierra de Grazalema (MOPU, Inst Geográfico Nacional) - You can also purchase a good local map on arrival (1:40.000)

## Tipping

### Local fees

Train ticket Benaojan to Jimera de Libar 3€ pp one way Optional visit to Cueva la Pileta, Montjaque 8€ pp Optional visit to Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza de Ronda 6.50€ pp Optional visit to Bodegas la Sangre de Ronda 5€ pp

### Country Information

## Spain Holidays & Tours

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

#### Dinner price

£12.00 - 16.00

#### Beer price

£1.50 - 2.50 (depending on the region/area in Spain)

#### Water price

£1.4

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Euros

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

We recommend you take the majority of your spending money in Euros cash.

**Where To Exchange**

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

**ATM Availability**

In cities and most major towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted in larger restaurants and some shops.

**Travellers Cheques**

Not recommended.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Taxi, Train

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

**Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa Information

Spain: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, US, New Zealand, US or Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

**Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Maximum altitude (m)**

1298

## **Spain Holidays & Tours**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

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