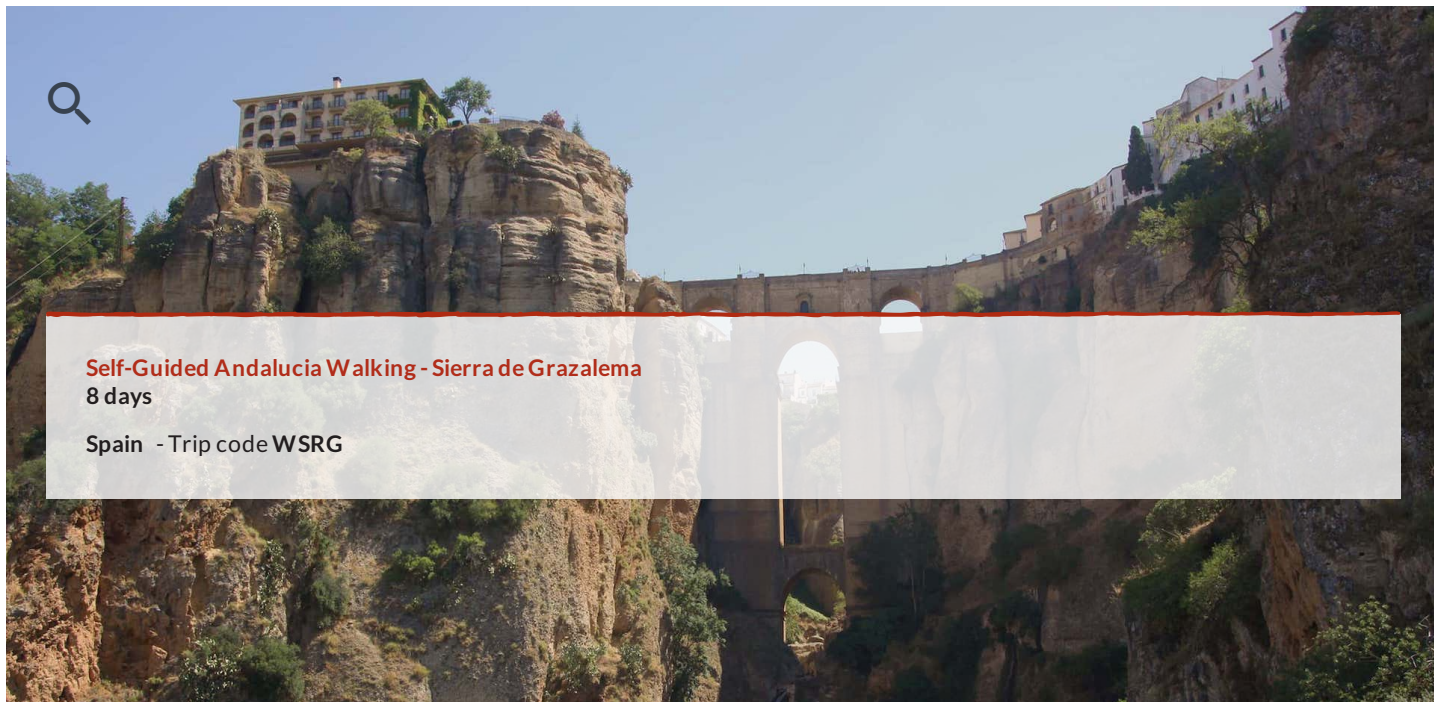


# EXPLORE!



**Self-Guided Andalusia Walking - Sierra de Grazalema**  
8 days

Spain - Trip code WSRG

## Self-Guided Andalusia Walking - Sierra de Grazalema

On this self-guided walking holiday to Andalusia 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 whitewashed 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.



**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

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Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 6 - A circular walk from Benaolan; 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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Single room available

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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.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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# Walking and Trekking information

## DAILY DISTANCE



Optional Walks

### Walking grade

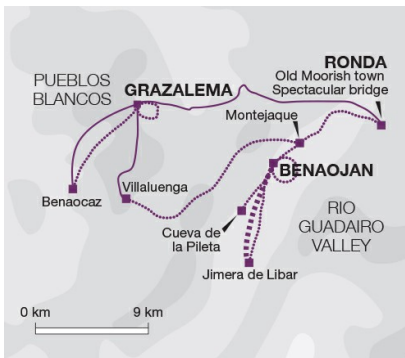
Easy to moderate

### 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

#### 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 Benaolan 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

#### 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.

##### Lunch price

£8.00 - 12.00

##### Dinner price

£16.00 - 20.00

##### 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

## Recommended airport

Malaga or Seville

## Flying to your destination

We'd recommend flying into and out of Malaga or Seville. Malaga is served by budget (including Easyjet and Ryanair), charter (including Thomson Airlines) and scheduled airlines (including British Airways) from many UK airports. Seville is served by fewer airlines, mainly from London airports, but these include Easyjet, Ryanair and Iberia (non-direct).

## Arrival and departure information

At the start of your trip you can fly into Malaga or Seville.

By public transport from Malaga:

From Malaga airport to Malaga city centre - Line 1905. Every 30 min. between 7.00hrs and 0.00hrs. Duration approx. 25 min

From Malaga city centre to Ronda - 12 buses Monday to Friday; 9 on Saturdays and Sundays; the fastest buses (Los Amarillos), take 1.45hrs to reach Ronda. Portillo Bus take 2.45hrs. For further information please see: [www.ctsa-portillo.com](http://www.ctsa-portillo.com) and [www.losamarillos.com](http://www.losamarillos.com)

By public transport from Seville:

From Seville airport to Seville Santa Justa train station (city centre) - Line EA. Every 30 min. between 05.20 and 01.15. Duration approx. 20 minutes. Seville Prado bus station is 5 -10 minutes. Alternatively there are taxis.

From Seville Prado bus station to Ronda - 3 fast direct buses every day. Duration approx. 2hrs. There are also 3 other buses which take 2.45hrs to reach Ronda. For further information please see: [www.losamarillos.com](http://www.losamarillos.com)

On the day, once you know your arrival time, please call the taxi driver to arrange meeting at either the bus or train station in Ronda.  
Taxi Esteban Becerra  
+34 606 986 666

On departure these journeys are reversed.

## 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.

### Price Guarantee

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 and Passport 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.



It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## 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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

