

Great Explorations



Trip dates

2012

Mar 18-24

Apr 12-18

April 29- May 5

2013

Mar 17-23

Apr 11-17

April 28- May 4

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

Trip Size:

8-16 participants

Total Days:

7 days/ 6 nights

Arrive/Depart:

Cordoba/Seville

Activity Level:

Moderate

20-40+ miles daily
van supported

Terrain:

Varied with some hills

Andalucia, Biking Cordoba to Seville

Moorish architecture and legend, hilltop white villages covered with orange blossoms, restaurants featuring *paella*, *gazpacho* & *tapas*, endless sunshine and of course, *flamenco*. Spring in southern Spain is a time of celebration and cycling between the white villages of andalucia, staying in 4-star luxury is sublime.

Itinerary



Getting there:

Cordoba: You can reach Cordoba by rail (2 Hours – trains are leaving every hour during the day).

DAY 1:

Cordoba - We meet in the charming city of Cordoba with its Moorish architecture and monuments. On this trip, your hotel is included on arrival day and there is no planned cycling on this day; we stay at the 3-star Hotel Maimonides, situated in the heart of the historic

district. We suggest arriving anytime after 12:00 noon; we'll offer a walking tour with a guided visit to the Great Mosque late afternoon followed by bike-fit and then dinner at our favorite restaurant, in Cordoba, the *Almatea*, where the owners prepare fusion Spanish/ European cuisine that is sublime.

DAYS 2+3:

Palma del Rio - We'll begin cycling from the historical center of Cordoba, following the Guadalquivir River to Almodovar del Rio where we'll visit the castle and enjoy lunch; from here we'll continue on to Palma del Rio, and the Hospederia de San Francisco, a beautiful converted monastery, now a fabulous hotel. On our second day, we'll ride into the Sierra Morena, along quiet roads to a splendid lake, where a picnic makes for an ideal way to spend mid-day. Palma del Rio is the home to several flamenco players and we may visit a tapas bar that often hosts performances.

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$2250
Includes 6B/2L/5D

Single Supplement:

US \$400

Bike Rental:

US \$140

DAYS 4+5:

Carmona - We'll ride past rolling wheat fields and bull farms en route to Carmona, a picturesque walled village famous for Roman ruins, art and architecture; we'll visit these on a walking tour with local historian before dinner. Next day, choose between an easy ride through plains to Marchena or a more challenging ride into the Parque natural de la Sierra de Hornachuelos. We stay in a four star hotel in the historical district of Carmona.



DAY 6:

Seville - From Carmona, we'll continue west, crossing the Guadalquivir River at Villaverde making our way to Santiponce, just outside of Seville. Santiponce is the site of extraordinary Roman ruins and we'll have time to visit these before continuing into Seville. We'll stay at the fabulous Hotel Sacristia Santa Ana located in the historical center of town, and we finish our trip with dinner at one of Seville's acclaimed restaurants.



DAY 7: Depart at your leisure for onward travel.

What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 6 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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Accommodations



Hotel Maimonides, Cordoba

Located in the historical district, directly facing the mosque, this hotel has an interior Mujdedar-style courtyard, and plush furnishings. Rooms are modern and comfortable.



Hospederia San Francisco, Palma del Rio

A wonderful, luxurious hotel, this former a 15th century monastery exudes peace and tranquility. Surrounded by cloistered patios and elegant gardens, and offering an exquisite pool, excellent cuisine and fine wines, this exquisite hotel is truly unique.



Alcazar de la Reina, Carmona

Nestled in quiet, breathtaking surroundings in Carmona's historical center, this hotel is both elegant and enchanting with the expected amenities of a hotel in this class. Its interior reflects the beautiful style and atmosphere of the "mudejar" and the 68 rooms are elegantly decorated and fully equipped. Note that no two rooms are exactly the same!



Hotel Sacristia Santa Ana, Seville

The NY Times Travel review says, 'Overlooking La Plaza de la Alameda, the hotel, which was a convent in the 18th century, is a crisp, 25 room country-chic modern establishment popular with the bohemian set.' We like the location, close enough to the historical center with lots of great cafes and restaurants nearby and the standard of service in the hotel.