

Hidden Valleys of Córdoba

Single center   independent walking

- The essence of “real” Spain: tiny white villages, forgotten farming hamlets, traditional, family-run hotel
- Fantastic walking country: spectacular gorges, craggy peaks, cascading waterfalls, wonderful valley views
- Golden eagles, griffon vultures, red peonies, vibrant wild orchids
- Great value - fully inclusive, even wine with dinner
- Chance to explore Córdoba and Granada



Midway between Córdoba and Granada in the heart of Andalucía, the tiny white village of Zuheros sits high on the northern flank of the Sierra Subbética – a beautiful range of hills and National Park. The area is a dramatic limestone massif, weathered over millennia into a series of valleys and peaks, making it fantastic walking country. The walks are all in or around the National Park on farm tracks, country paths, through open country and along the Via Verde - a panoramic disused railway line that was once used to transport the olive harvest. River valleys, tumbling waterfalls, fabulous views over olive groves, mountain sierras and hillsides sprinkled with red peonies and orchids form the backdrop to the walks. They take you to the tiny villages of Zagrilla Alta and Luque with their quince orchards and castle, and the stunning cave above Zuheros where Roman and Bronze age remains have been discovered.

Staying in such a small village guarantees genuine Spanish hospitality. The whitewashed ★★ Hotel Zuhayra, with its popular bar and patio restaurant, is a stone's throw from the Moorish castle and town square. Your host, English-speaking Antonio, will be on hand to meet you when you arrive, and will advise on how to organise your week. He will help with arranging taxi transfers where necessary from some of the walks (included), and tell you all about Zuheros' museums and other villages in the area. And for “days off” or extra nights, the classic cities of Córdoba and Granada, are less than an hour away by taxi.



HIDDEN VALLEYS OF CÓRDOBA | DAY BY DAY

Day 1 Arrive in Zuheros

We arrange a private taxi from Malaga airport to Zuheros (90 mins).

Day 2 Cerro de Bramadero 13km/8mi/4hr

A path climbs gently through almonds above Zuheros before descending into the spectacular gorge of the Rio Bailon, then with golden eagles soaring above, you reach Cerro de Bramadero hilltop where you can relax under holm oaks enjoying wonderful valley views. You return past walnut trees and ancient wells on the way to the verdant river gorge that leads back into Zuheros.

Day 3 Virgen de la Sierra 19km/12mi/5.5hr or 21km/13mi/6hr

We take you to the 14C whitewashed hilltop chapel of Virgen de la Sierra (at 1216m it deserves its nickname - "The Balcony of Andalucia!"). You descend to valleys sprinkled with white narcissi, yellow daffodils and red peonies. Then after lunch by a sparkling waterfall hidden in the valley side, the trail returns under limestone cliffs and past huge holm oaks to Zuheros in time for a cold drink in the village square.

Day 4 Free day

You could take an easy - and panoramic - walk along the Via Verde to the El Salobral lagoon - a wildlife refuge and haven for flamingos in season. Or perhaps take a taxi to Córdoba (Antonio will happily arrange) and spend the day exploring the fabulous cathedrals, palaces and Mezquita sparkling like jewels in the Moorish crown.

Day 5 Monte Abrevia 16km/10mi/5.5hr

You may meet olivereros (olive farmers), with their mules this morning, diligently tending their olive trees on the hills above Zuheros, as you make the gradual ascent to Monte Abrevia (1129m), for lunch. Here you'll enjoy the best views of the week. A thyme scented descent affords perfect views of Zuheros as you approach the village along the Via Verde.

Day 6 Zagrilla Alta 16km/10mi/5.5hr

Look out for protected griffon vultures soaring high above you today as you pass through remote Spanish *cortijos* (farms) in beech and oak shrouded valleys and enjoy stunning views east towards Sierra de la Pandera - the next range of hills. Before long the olive orchards of Zagrilla Alta are visible below, and when you arrive you can enjoy a cold drink by the natural spring in the village before we meet you and take you back to Zuheros.

Day 7 Luque 16km/10mi/5hr or 18km/13mi/5.5hr

This morning sees you striding out east along the Via Verde passing whitewashed farms and olive groves. A short climb brings you to Luque with its imposing castle and elegant square - a good lunch stop. Then up into the National Park - stunning views - before winding down through wild herbs as you descend towards Zuheros.

Day 8 Leave Zuheros

After breakfast, a private taxi takes you to Malaga airport.



Dates and Prices

Departs selected Saturdays

Departs selected Saturdays	Tour Only
2012 departures	
Mar 10, 17, 24	\$2,293
Apr 7, 14	\$2,293
Apr 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26	\$2,293
Mar 31	\$2,365
Oct 6, 13, 20, 27	\$2,453
Sep 8, 15, 22, 29	\$2,453
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,937

2013 departures

Mar 9, 16	\$2,453
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27	\$2,453
Mar 30, May 4, 11, 18, 25	\$2,453
Mar 23	\$2,543
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,937

Singles: Add \$43 per night except Mar 31 2012 and Mar 23 2013 when \$57 per night. Rooms are sole occupancy of a double room. Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Holiday type: Independent walking, single center, no minimum group size, however airport transfers are subject to at least 2 people (in total) booked on each departure.

Departs: Selected Saturdays from 10 Mar 2012 to 25 May 2013.

Duration: 8 days (7 nights).

Meals: Buffet breakfast, 6 picnics and all evening meals (including wine).

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Malaga Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Malaga Airport at 10:35, (transfer to hotel, 90 mins, provided). **Return:** Malaga Airport by 09:30.

Tour only: Transfers included from Malaga airport at 10:35, and back to Malaga airport departing hotel at 07:45.

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HIDDEN VALLEYS OF CÓRDOBA | WALKING DETAILS



This holiday has walking on farm tracks, narrow paths and over green countryside. There are great views but no dizzy heights. Walking boots are essential.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

19 20 21 25 26 21 20
FEB MAR APR MAY SEP OCT NOV



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

61 90 57 41 19 70 67
FEB MAR APR MAY SEP OCT NOV