

Secret Valleys of Ronda

Single center   independent walking

- Superb off the beaten track walks through timeless Andalucia; gorgeous white villages, hidden courtyards, tiny fountains
- Fabulous boutique hotel which exudes warmth, style and an eclectic fusion of Andaluz-Moroccan cuisine
- Moorish castles, Roman ruins, stunning National Parks
- Spectacular bird life: eagles, buzzards, hoopoes, griffon vultures
- Excellent value - even wine with dinner included - as well as complimentary rental car for all passengers



This independent, single center walking holiday explores Andalucia's lovely Alto Genal, one of the best kept secrets in Spain and a magnificent landscape of dramatic limestone mountains, high cliffs and mysterious cork-shrouded valleys. Scattered throughout these valleys are scarcely trodden rural tracks and walking paths linking seven timeless white Moorish villages that cling limpet-like to the verdant hillsides, their churches and alleyways rich with history and charm.

Your base for the week is gorgeous Cartajima, the highest village in the valley, where life continues as it has for centuries. Here you stay as guests of world traveller, yachtswoman and anthropologist, Di Beach and her partner, John, at their  6-room boutique Hotel Los Castaños in the center of the village. This villa-hotel has been exquisitely designed in keeping with North African influences with al fresco terraces, plant-filled roof gardens and hidden courtyards with brightly colored cushions and tiny fountains. Most spacious, beautifully appointed double bedrooms have individual balconies (you're even provided with sketch pads and pencils!) and there is a panoramic roof terrace, with plunge pool, where you can relax with an early evening cocktail before a fine candlelit dinner.

Some of the walks start from the hotel, however, in order that you can fully explore the neighbouring National Parks – the Sierra de las Nieves to the east and the spectacular Sierra de Grazelema to the west – we have included a rental car. This also allows you to explore the famous bullfighting town of Ronda, just 20mins drive away.

Note: Our Easter departures coincide with huge local celebrations. Great atmosphere, but if you prefer things quiet, perhaps choose a different date.



Book now on 1-800-567-6286 or visit www.breakaway-adventures.com for more information

SECRET VALLEYS OF RONDA | DAY BY DAY

Saturday Arrive in Cartajima

Pick up your rental car in Malaga and drive (90mins) to your hotel in Cartajima.

Sunday Igualeja Circuit 16km/10mi/5hr

From Cartajima, a descent from the hotel past blood red cork oaks leads through meadows of Bermuda buttercups and ascends into Parauta – a pretty village with several tiny art galleries to explore. Lunch on the square - look out for farmers riding donkeys to work - along the trail to Igualeja, where a C14 Moorish minaret survives on the church of Santa Rosa. Relax with a cold drink on the rooftop terrace spotting flycatcher flitting past.

Monday Sierra de las Nieves Circuit 8km/5mi/3hr or 12km/7mi/4hr

A short drive (20 mins) brings you into the moody mountains of the Sierra de las Nieves. A steady climb through scented pine trees leads to a spectacular level traverse high above the coast. Enjoy lunch amid wild rosemary with views of North Africa, before a rocky track leads up to a panoramic Spanish Civil War gun emplacement below Las Cascajeras (1415m) from where you can even see Gibraltar! Back at the hotel, cool off in the splash pool before aperitifs and dinner.

Tuesday Pujerra Circuit 14km/9mi/5hr

Descend through chestnut trees to the sparkling Genal River and ascend to the Arabic tiled roofs of Pujerra - a white village famous for music and local dances. Picnic at the village *mirador* or enjoy lunch in a local tapas bar before starting the steady climb up to the steep streets of Juzcar - look out for short toed eagles and griffon vultures wheeling past you as you climb! This evening why not sample one of the lively village bars - Baltasar's is our particular favourite!

Wednesday Ronda Circuit 11km/7mi/3hr

Ronda is a strikingly beautiful town, perched precariously on a crimson cliff top and bisected by a giant gorge. Your route leads along a high parallel escarpment, then through patchwork fields of golden wheat as bee-eaters chatter overhead. On ascending into Ronda, enjoy a restaurant lunch, visit the famous bull ring, the Roman ruins, and explore the warren of cobbled back streets crammed with classic Andaluz architecture. After dinner relax with a board game in the lounge with the honesty bar for company!

Thursday Sierra de Grazalema Circuit 15km/9mi/5hr

With a lakeside location and hilltop castle, Zahara village is an amazingly pretty place – from here a narrow valley fragrant with wild rock rose and white narcissus leads deep into the Sierra de Grazalema and emerges at a high saddle. You have dramatic views of the Garganta Verde, home to the largest griffon vulture colony in Europe! Cool your feet in the Bocaleone River before ascending through olive groves to Zahara. After dinner on the Andaluz patio, star-gaze on the terrace with the in-house telescope!

Friday Atajate to Cartajima 16km/10mi/5.5hr or 18km/11mi/6hr

This walk takes you from the tiny village of Atajate through olive groves and up to the base of the Riscos Mountains. There are wonderful views from the shattered limestone peaks - you may even be able to see Gibraltar and out to Africa on clear days. For the longer option you go into Alpandeire village where there is a small restaurant. Otherwise take a picnic - there are some fabulous lunch stops around the threshing circles on the Riscos track and all along the high route where you're rewarded with the most panoramic of views.

Saturday Leave Cartajima



"The holiday was exactly as expected, made more special by the stay at Los Castaños. The many extra touches made the holiday."

Mrs G White

Dates and Prices

Departs selected Fridays/Saturdays	Tour Only
2012 departures	
Mar 10, 17, 24	\$2,526
Apr 14, 21, 28, May 12	\$2,564
Mar 31, Apr 7, May 5	\$2,638
Oct 5, 19, 26	\$2,685
May 19, 26, Jun 2, 9	\$2,638
Sep 7, 21	\$2,759
2013 departures	
Mar 15, Apr 5	\$2,722
Apr 19, May 10	\$2,759
Mar 22, May 3	\$2,779
May 17, 24, 31, Jun 7	\$2,795

Singles: Add \$115 per night for a mountain view, \$94 per night for a standard room.

Child: This holiday is unsuitable for children under 12.

Standard rooms: Standard rooms have no balcony - reduction of \$17 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, single center, no minimum group size, however car rental is subject to a minimum of 2 people per booking.

Departs: Selected Fridays/Saturdays from 10 Mar 2012 to 7 Jun 2013.

Duration: 8 days (7 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and evening meals including wine.

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

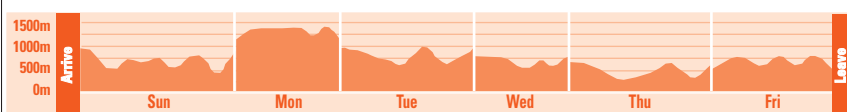
Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Malaga Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, prices on request. **The above prices include car rental:** Pick up rental car from Malaga Airport (Europcar Group B air-conditioned hire car). Drive to hotel 1hr 30mins. **Return:** Rental car to Malaga Airport.

Tour only: The above tour-only prices exclude flights but includes a Europcar Group B air-conditioned rental car which you collect from/return to Malaga airport.

SECRET VALLEYS OF RONDA | WALKING DETAILS



Walks on this holiday are on rural paths and tracks. There are some short, loose rocky sections on Tuesday and a couple of steepish climbs. Walking boots are essential.



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