


# Secrets of Andalusia

Single center  and  guided walking

- Stay in a wonderfully restored 200-year old olive mill with pool
- Superb hosts/ guides; exceptional cuisine, first class walking: choice of levels selected weeks
- Sub-tropical climate: lemon groves, kiwi, mango, avocado
- Stunning white villages; Granada's beautiful Alhambra Palace
- Outstanding value fully inclusive: many dates with no single supplement



Situated in the heart of the southern Andalusian province of Axarquía, and on the edge of the Tejeda National Park, the recently restored  Hotel Finca el Cerrillo is, quite simply, an absolute gem of a place to stay. It's just 30 minutes' drive from the coast, yet feels a million miles away!

There are just twelve individually styled en-suite rooms – all south facing - and each with air conditioning (central heating for the cooler months) and tea/coffee making facilities. The living areas include a wonderfully atmospheric beamed lounge – cool in summer and kept cozy on winter nights with blazing log fire – dining room, small library and “honesty” bar. Outside, the terraced gardens, with 100-year old carob and palm trees, surround both sunny and shaded patios. The pool affords stunning views of the valley below and the pretty Moorish village of Archez with its C13 Moorish tower.

The food here is superb with menus relying on fresh, local produce. On four evenings, you eat at the Finca – either in the dining room or al fresco on warm evenings – and on the remaining nights we take you to our favorite local restaurants. Wine (1/2 bottle per person) is always included throughout as are all breakfasts and picnic/tapas lunches.

Our experienced mountain leader will accompany all walks. Some of our paths will take us off-the-beaten-track in the Tejeda National Park; on other days, we'll be exploring the pretty white villages and olive-planted hillsides that date back to Moorish times.

*“The best hotel we have ever stayed in. Superb. The standard and atmosphere of El Cerrillo was unbelievably good.”*

*Mrs Plumpton*



## SECRETS OF ANDALUCIA | DAY BY DAY

### Day 1 Arrive in Canillas de Albaida

We meet you at Malaga airport and take you to Canillas de Albaida (1 hour).

### Day 2 Three Villages Walk 10km/6mi/4hr

Heading out directly from the hotel, it's down first through olives and almonds to the Moorish village of Archez, famous for its beautifully decorated Mudéjar church tower. It's then a gradual climb along traditionally farmed terraces up to Cómpea: magnificent C16 church, lively village square and some of the finest sweet wines in Spain.

### Day 3 The Silk Route 12km/7mi/6hr

Today's path traverses part of the ancient bandit mule trail used to transport silk from Cómpea to Granada. Walking beneath the majestic peaks of the Sierra Almijara, we can often see right out towards North Africa's Rif Mountains. It's big bird country here too with regular sightings of griffon vultures and other birds of prey. Our final stretch takes us down through wild fennel, rosemary and lavender and back to Canillas in time for a late afternoon swim.

### Day 4 Salares and the Arroyo Valley 11km/7mi/5.5hr

We head first up through olives and citrus groves to the tiny hamlet of Fogarate: this is the "real" Spain where farmers still travel by mule and harvest their terraces by hand. After a gentle descent into the verdant Arroyo valley – stunning views out across the sea towards the distant shores of Morocco on a clear day – it's on to Salares, one of the prettiest villages in the area with flowers spilling from every balcony, patio and window box. There is an interesting church, Santa Ana, still bearing an old Moorish minaret.

### Day 5 Independent exploring in Granada

After breakfast, we take you to the beautiful city of Granada where you have the day to explore at leisure. We have included entrance fees for the world-famous Alhambra Palace – possibly the most exciting and romantic of all Moorish monuments - and tickets will have been pre-booked for you.

### Day 6 Sedella and The Cajula Valley 10km/6mi/4hr

Today we walk through classic Andalusian countryside - almonds, olives and orange groves - of the fertile Cajula valley. We ascend through farmed terraces to the village of Sedella set at the foot of the imposing La Maroma (2069m) the highest peak in the region before a tapas lunch in Salvador. Chance to do some last minute shopping before a lift back to the Finca in time for a couple of hours by the pool or relaxing on the Moorish terrace. Dinner tonight is taken in a traditional Spanish restaurant in Cómpea.

### Day 7 Sierra Almijara 12km/7mi/5hr

After a short minibus transfer (15 mins), we head off through majestic pine woods cradled by the peaks of the Cerro Atalaya (1256m) and Cerro Verde (1326m). Our path is a riot of color – bright red poppies, wild iris, yellow jasmine and pink oleander – and there is a good chance of spotting golden eagles soaring overhead. We picnic at the summit of Cerro Verde - stunning 360o views out over the Sierra Almijara and out across the Mediterranean.

### Day 8 Leave Canillas de Albaida

We take you back to Malaga airport after breakfast.

*\*This itinerary is based on standard 2-boot walks. In addition, on dates marked † (see opposite), a selection of guided 1-boot walks will also be offered.*



*"Hotel was unexpectedly exceptional - Sue and Gordon have created something very special and personal."*

*Mrs Hartshorn*

## Dates and Prices

**Departs selected Saturdays / Thursdays** **Tour Only**

### 2012 departures

Mar 10*†, 24*	\$2,565
Apr 14	\$2,565
Apr 7†, 28	\$2,565
May 12, 19, 26	\$2,565
Nov 10*	\$2,722
Oct 13	\$2,739
Sep 15, Oct 27†	\$2,739
Dec 22	\$2,761

### 2013 departures

Mar 2*	\$2,759
Apr 6	\$2,759
Mar 23, 30	\$2,759
May 4†, 25	\$2,759

**Singles:** No supplement on dates marked \*, other dates add \$96 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

**Child:** This holiday is unsuitable for children under 14.

**Holiday type:** Guided walking, single center, groups of typically 4-16 people on each tour. On dates marked †, a selection of easier 1 boot walks will be offered as an alternative.

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

**Duration:** 8 days (7 nights).

**Meals:** All 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, 1 hour, provided). **Return:** Malaga Airport by 09:30 (transfer provided).

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Malaga airport at 10:35, and back to Malaga airport departing hotel at 08:15.

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## SECRETS OF ANDALUCIA | WALKING DETAILS



Mostly along semi-shaded mule tracks. There's the occasional steep ascent and descent, and as paths can be stony in parts, good protective footwear is essential.



**Average daytime temperature (°C):**

18 20 24 27 24 20 18 11  
MAR APR MAY JUN SEP OCT NOV DEC



**Average monthly rainfall (mm):**

62 59 26 8 19 69 67 74  
MAR APR MAY JUN SEP OCT NOV DEC