

**Athens – Nauplion - Monemvasia – Pilos - Syracuse – Gozo
- Valetta – Cagliari – Mahon – Palma – Ibiza – Cartagena –
Motril –Malaga**

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tour is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace.

Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

Some excursions are only available on certain dates and/or are dependent on the ship's arrival and departure times.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkeling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.



NAUPLION, GREECE

Epidaurus

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3hours

Euros 49

Epidaurus was the site of a shrine devoted to Aesculapius, the Greek God of Medicine. Patients would flock to the sanctuary seeking a cure for their ailments and Aesculapius would either effect a cure during their sleep or appear in a dream to the priests who would then treat the patient according to his instructions.

Apart from praying to be restored to health, Patients could indulge in thermal baths and hydrotherapy as well as “taking in a show”! Indeed, as soon as you arrive at the site you will walk through a beautiful grove to discover the famous theatre, one of the best-preserved monuments of the ancient world. The theatre can seat 14.000 spectators and is famous for its acoustics. It is still in use today and modern visitors enjoy musical productions and performances of Greek drama there. You will have some time to wander around, so you can test the wonderful acoustics for yourself.

The nearby museum houses fragments from the Asklepieion sanctuary.

Return to Nauplion port.

The drive to Epidaurus takes 30 minutes each way

You will spend 2hours on site before returning to the ship

There is no uphill walking involved in this tour.

Walking is on flat ground, about 300m from the parking to the site.

MONEMVASIA, GREECE

The island of Monemvasia was separated from the mainland by an earthquake in 375 AD and is sometimes called the Gibraltar of the East. The city was fortified during the 13th century under Byzantine rule, and was established as a successful trading port. The Pope ruled the city for a brief period from 1460-1464 before the Venetians took over, building a 535 ft long fortified bridge to protect them from their enemies. During Venetian rule the city flourished, the population reached 30.000 and many houses and churches were built. Later the city fell to the Turks who ruled for nearly 300 years from the mid sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries, with the exception of a short-lived takeover by the Venetians.

The Walled lower town extends along the slopes of a 985ft crag that projects into the sea on the east side of the Peloponnese. The population of this impressive stronghold was gradually depleted as more and more of the inhabitants moved to the mainland. However, a restoration programme aimed at preserving Monemvasia’s heritage has given the Lower Town a new lease of life, and people from the mainland have started to return to this attractive tourist centre.

The Upper Town is located on top of the Rock of Monemvasia. It is reached via a zigzagging path. Once an impregnable bastion, it is now completely uninhabited. Visitors can explore the remains of the ancient citadel-castle and have a look inside the church of Hagia Sofia. There are also fantastic views to be had of the surrounding area.



PILOS, GREECE

Nestor's Palace and Methoni Fortress

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

Euros 62

The drive from the Port of Pylos to Ano Eglianos and the ruins of Nestor's palace takes 20 minutes.

King Nestor was one of the legendary rulers who took part in the Trojan wars to wrest Helen away from Paris. The site dates from the Mycenaean era and the buildings were once richly decorated with frescoes and consisted of private apartments, baths, storage space, workshops, vast courtyards and a sophisticated drainage system. The Palace was burnt down in the 12th century BC.

The site was discovered in 1939 by the American archaeologist C.W Blegen and the Greek archaeologist K. Kourouniotis. During the excavations they unearthed hundreds of clay tablets bearing inscriptions, and this discovery contributed greatly to the understanding of the Mycenaean language, an early form of Greek.

The excursion continues with a visit to the Fortress of Methoni, 11 km distance from Pylos. The Castle of Methoni lies at the southernmost end of the west Peloponnesian Coast. The site was fortified as early as the 7th century BC and in the period between 395 A.D and 1204 A.D was used as a Byzantine fortress. In 1209 the Venetians became rulers of the area. During this period the magnificent castle was erected with its massive fortification walls and the town flourished, becoming known as a financial centre and busy commercial port. However, in 1500 Methoni was captured by the Turk Bayazit Pasha and entered into a long period of decline before once again coming under Venetian occupation from 1685 until 1715. Thereafter the Ottomans held sway, and their domination remained unchallenged until the Greek war of independence in the early 19th century. It was liberated by the French General Nicolas Maison in 1829, along with other Peloponnese towns.

The drive to the ruins of Nestor's palace takes 30 minutes

The drive to Methoni fortress takes 45 minutes

The return drive to the port takes 25 minutes

There is some uphill walking during the visits, so guests are advised to wear comfortable, non-slip shoes

This is an archaeological site with some remains



SYRACUSA, SICILY

Highlights of Syracuse

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

Euros 52

Departing the port, begin your tour with a 15 minute drive to the archaeological park. During a 1 ½ hour walking tour, your guide will acquaint you with the site's major highlights: Paradise Quarry with the "Ear of Dionysius," an ear-shaped cavern with unusual acoustics. Legend has it that Dionysius used to listen in on prisoners' conversations to learn about any planned conspiracies. The Greek Theater: this is the largest and most complete theater remaining from antiquity. The Roman Amphitheater: the ruins of this fine Roman Theater give an idea of the enormous arena.

Following your visit of the Archaeological Park, you will drive back to the old town of Ortygia. As buses are not allowed inside the historic part, you will leave the coach in the mandatory parking lot and continue on foot. Follow your guide during the walk of the historic town center. Starting with the Arethusa Fountain, you will proceed with a brief visit to the cathedral, and view other attractions such as the ruins of the Apollo Temple, Archimedes' Square with the Fountain of Diana, and Corso Matteotti, the main and most elegant shopping area of Ortygia. At the end of your visit, return to the parking area and rejoin your coach for the short drive back to the pier.

NOTO, the Baroque pearl of Sicily

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4hours

Brunch included

Euros 89

After a 45 minute drive in air-conditioned comfort you will arrive at Noto, a town of 20.000 inhabitants known as the Baroque Jewel in the Sicilian crown.

The ancient medieval town was destroyed by an earthquake in 1693 but was extensively rebuilt in the 18th century. The remaining ruins of Noto antica are located in an archaeological site 10km from the town. It comes as no surprise to learn that Noto has earned a place on the UNESCO world heritage list; the magnificent architecture of its churches and noble buildings deserve no less and UNESCO also provides financial support for the reconstruction of monuments damaged by the latest earthquake in 1990.

On arrival you will leave the coach and set off to explore this charming town on foot. The main street is accessed via an imposing gateway, the Porta Nazionale, which leads the way to some of Noto's most important monuments. You will pass by the 18th century cathedral whose dome collapsed in 1996 as a result of structural damage caused by the 1990 earthquake. Other fine buildings include the city hall, the archbishop's palace, the church of Santissimo Salvatore and the Villadorata palace, all superb examples of Sicilian Baroque architecture from the early 18th century.

Noto is as indomitable as a phoenix rising from the flames; whatever challenges nature throws its way, it stands proud as the Baroque Capital of Sicily.

Before driving back to Syracuse you will be treated to brunch accompanied by four different wines at the Palazzo Modica a beautiful Baroque building in the city centre

Inside visits include the cathedral and the Palazzo Modica

Outside visits to the main street Corso Vittorio Emanuele, Palazzo Nicolaci and Palazzo Villadorata

The drive to Noto takes 45 minutes



GOZO, MALTA**Highlights of Gozo**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

Euros 44

The Ggantija Temples are two prehistoric temples on Gozo, the second largest island in Malta. One of them is considered to be the oldest stone structure in the world, predating the Giant Pyramids and Stonehenge by several hundred years. The temples are dedicated to the Great Earth Mother, and the round curved architecture symbolizes the body of a powerful full-figured Mother goddess. Local legend recounts that a female giant built the temple walls in one day and a night, while nursing a baby at the same time, and indeed the name Ggantija is Maltese for Giant's grotto. The temples were a place of pilgrimage and sacrifice for the ancient peoples of Malta. Take a walk around this fascinating site before heading off to Victoria the capital of Gozo. Victoria (so named in honour of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee celebrations in 1887) nestles beneath a powerful old citadel. The walled castle dominates the town and its fortifications afford superb panoramic views of the whole island. Inside the citadel you can admire the fine baroque cathedral, built on the site of a Roman temple dedicated to Juno.

After leaving Victoria, you will drive to the Basillica of Ta Pinu, which became a centre of pilgrimage in 1883 after a local woman heard the voice of Our Lady while praying in the small chapel which once occupied the site. The monumental shrine which stands there now was built between 1920 and 1931. You can explore the church and enjoy the sweeping coastal views.

Your next stop will be at Dwejra for a photo stop of Fungus Rock, before continuing across the east coast to capture the coastal views of Ramla l-Hamra (the Red Beach). On the drive back to the pier there will be a photo stop to take pictures of the wonderful view across to Comino Island, also a location used for the movies "Troy" and the "Count of Montecristo".

VALETTA, MALTA**Malta's Capitals: Mdina & Valetta**

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Ends at the airport

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

Euros 52

Take the scenic route to Malta's old capital, Mdina - one of the world's finest examples of a living medieval city. Stroll through the city's streets and let your guide give you an introduction to the history and orientation. Enjoy the sweeping views from the bastions, over the valley and the surrounding areas. After your walking tour, you will be given free time during which you can either visit the cathedral or choose to relax at one of the pavement cafes or do a souvenir shopping. Ride by coach to Valletta - the present-day capital. You'll walk to St John's Cathedral, complete with elaborate in-laid marble tombstones and monumental artwork. View the Grand Master's Palace from the outside - it now houses the Parliament and the President's Office. Your last stop will be at the Barracca Gardens on the highest point of the 16th-century bastion walls that the Knights of St John built to protect their city. Take in the splendid view of the Three Cities and Fort Ricasoli.

St John's cathedral is closed on Saturday afternoon, Sundays and Public holidays



CAGLIARI, SARDINIA, ITALY

Nora

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30/3h45

Euros 60

Your local guide will accompany you on board the motor coach for a scenic orientation tour of Cagliari punctuated by photo stops in front of the Bonaria Basilica and Monte Urpino, which offers fabulous panoramic views. You will then travel along the south western coast taking the same route from Cagliari to Nora as the annual religious procession in honour of St Efsio. St Efsio was a roman soldier and christian martyr who, just before being executed for his faith, promised to protect Cagliari and its inhabitants. Thus, when Cagliari was ravaged by the plague in 1652 the city fathers sought the aid of St Efsio and vowed to take the statue of the saint from Cagliari (where he was once imprisoned) to the beach of Nora where he suffered martyrdom. The Saint apparently heard their plea and the plague came to an abrupt end. Since then thousands of devout pilgrims take the same route every spring, some on foot, some on horseback and some riding the traditional ox cart « traccia » decorated with fruit and flowers. The coach will pass Santa Gilla lagoon and salt pans before reaching the ancient city of Nora. The town was founded by the Phoenicians and enjoys a scenic location on the sea front ; it stands between two hills and is dominated by a Spanish tower .

The city had two harbours, one afforded shelter from the westerly winds and the other from the Mistral. After the Phoenicians , came the Carthaginians and finally the Romans, it was during this period in the first and second centuries AD that the town really flourished. Later the town declined and much of it disappeared when an earthquake caused it to sink beneath the sea.

Nowadays the most easily visible remains of this Ghost town are a Carthaginian warehouse and Roman ruins including beautiful mosaics, a temple, patrician villas, baths and an almost completely intact theatre dating from the time of the Empire.

After a guided visit, you will return to the ship by coach.

45-minute drive to the archaeological site

5-minute walk from the parking to the entrance of the site (1h30 guided visit)

The visit includes a lot of walking on uneven surfaces



MINORCA, BALEARIC ISLANDS, PORT MAHON

Magic of Minorca

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3 hours

Euros 48

The first stop on the tour is Monte Toro; at 357m above sea level it is the highest point of the island and the views are absolutely breathtaking, on a clear day you can even see Mallorca to the south-east. The site is considered to be the spiritual centre of Minorca and has been a place of pilgrimage since the 13th century. The remains of an old Augustinian monastery are still visible and there is a little church with a carved wooden image of the Virgen del Toro, patron saint of Minorca. Legend has it that Monte Toro, takes its name from a bull (el toro) which led a group of monks to a statue of the Virgin Mary carved in the rock face.

The excursion continues to Taula de Torralba, a prehistoric talaiotic settlement dating from 2000 – 1000 BC. The Taula consists of two slabs of rock, one placed on the other to form a “T”. The monument is more sophisticated than many other prehistoric constructions, and is generally considered to have been used as a sanctuary. The Taula is exclusive to Minorca and despite their shared Talayotic heritage, there is nothing comparable in Mallorca.

Thereafter the tour bus returns to Mahon and participants will leave the coach and walk through the 18th century town (mostly downhill) before returning to the ship. After exploring the city centre you can choose to either walk back (this involves steps) or return by coach.

Mountain bike tour

Transfer by van, then by bike

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 15

Duration 3h30

Euros 75

Cycling and mountain bike riding have long been enjoyed on Minorca and are now becoming popular with visitors of all ages and abilities. The island’s quiet roads, rolling hills and many kilometres of unpaved trails are ideally suited to the activity and our mountain bike tour is a great way to explore the hidden nooks and crannies of this unspoiled island.

New well signposted cycle routes have been created along some of the oldest trails on the island, dating back to the first human settlement. These ancient paths, bordered by dry stone walls, run past meadows and pastures which are covered by a carpet of wild flowers in the springtime and early summer. The newly opened “Cami de Cavalls” is a bridle path which rings the entire island and is the perfect way for experienced mountain bikers to explore the coastal areas.

The tour involves a lot of physical activity and requires stamina; participants should be in good condition

The total distance covered by the tour is approximately 12 km

Participants may at times have to pick up their bikes and walk for short distances

Please remember to wear suitable shoes and take sun screen

During July and August, the tour will be scheduled for the late afternoon



Hiking in S'Albufera Nature park

Transfer by van, then on foot

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18

Duration 3h30

Euros 54

A short 15-minute drive will take you to a typical Menorcan fishing village, Es Grau, located within the boundaries of the S'Albufera Nature reserve. The park covers the wetlands, a marshy coastal area consisting of a 2km lagoon, enclosed by a system of dunes, and a river which flows into the sea.

You will be taken on an itinerary designed to showcase the flora and fauna of the wetlands. The park is home to a wide variety of bird life; waterfowl such as ducks, common coots, herons and European shags live alongside birds of prey including osprey's, kites and booted eagles, while the torrents and ponds of the wetlands are populated by Iberian green frogs and toads. The vegetation consists mainly of wild olive trees, holm oak, lentisk shrubs, jasmine box and tree spurge.

The hike will take you on the "Cami de Cavalls", a bridle path which goes right round the island, through woodland, and then along the water reserve which leads to Es Grau beach. From here you will proceed along a winding path up to the headland overlooking Isla Colom off the north coast. You will continue down to Cala Tamarells before heading back along the beach to Es Grau village.

This excursion is a must for all nature lovers, the wild life is abundant in this protected area and the coastal views are simply stunning.

The tour involves a fair amount of walking over uneven ground (5km)

Please wear good walking shoes and take a bottle of water and some sun screen with you

During the months of July and August this excursion will be scheduled in the late afternoon.



PALMA, MALLORCA, BALEARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN**Palma by bike**

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 16

Duration 3h30/4h

Euros 69

Indulge your senses with the fresh air, great outdoors and scenic beauty of Palma during this memorable bicycle tour through the historic Old Town.

Once ashore, meet your guide, receive your safety briefing, bicycle and helmet, then follow the dedicated bicycle lane along the bay and into the city. Your route proceeds for approximately 100 yards (about 91 metres) on top of the old city wall before entering the small and shady alleyways of the Old Town.

En route, discover churches, small monasteries and old aristocrat's mansions featuring cozy patios and enchanting small plazas. Along the way, your guide offers interesting commentary about your surroundings, and points out interesting sights. Halfway through the ride, a refreshment stop is made at a local tavern before continuing on your bicycle tour, which concludes back at the pier.

The total route travelled is six-eight miles (10-12 kilometres) over mostly flat surfaces.

This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility

All equipment is provided.

Chill out Sunday in Palma

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30

Euros 44

The air-conditioned motor coach will pick you up at the port and drive you to Bellver Castle, passing along the famous seafront road, the Paseo Maritimo, bordered by upmarket hotels on one side and luxurious yachts on the other. Bellver Castle is a magnificent medieval fortress from the 14th century built on the orders of King Jaime II as a royal residence and as a monument to celebrate Christianity's supremacy over the Muslim faith. Since then it has been used as a military fort, refuge in times of plague and, for almost six centuries (until 1915), as a prison. The name Bellver means beautiful view in Catalan and thanks to its commanding hill top position it offers spectacular panoramic views of the city and the Bay of Palma.

On your way to the Cathedral, you will enjoy a scenic drive showcasing some of Palma's highlights: Avenida Jaime III, Palma's most elegant avenue with its exclusive boutiques, Plaza Joan Carles I and Es born Promenade. After an outside view of the cathedral (inside viewing is not allowed on Sundays) you will visit the the Almudaina Palace located just opposite. The palace was originally an Arab fortress but became the official Majorcan residence of the Spanish Royal family at the start of the 14th century. You will see the exquisite Royal Chapel of Santa Ana, the Great Hall or Tinell (modified in the 16th century to accommodate larger assemblies) and the Palau del Rei. There are 80 steps up to the palace and rest rooms are available.

After visiting this beautiful building, you will have some time at leisure to continue exploring, stop for refreshments or just do some shopping.

The drive back to the pier will take you past the fishing harbour, the city walls, La Lonja, the old maritime trade exchange, and the Consulado del Mar, a Balearic Government building.



IBIZA, BALEARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN

Jeep tour with driver

No guide on board

Minimum 12 participants, maximum 40

Duration 4h30

Euros 96

Discover Ibiza on our « off the beaten track » 4x4 adventure – a fantastic opportunity to discover unusual places, inaccessible by coach.

The excursion starts directly from the pier where you will climb aboard your jeep and be driven inland “off the beaten track” to explore areas of the island untouched by the growing tourist industry, places which have remained unchanged for hundreds of years. The scenic itinerary has been specially designed to showcase all of Ibiza’s original beauty, passing through small country settlements, green valleys and mountain tracks to enable you to see the island from a new perspective, not as a clubber’s paradise, but as a perfectly preserved environment where Nature holds sway.

At the end of the tour there will be a one hour stop at Benirras beach. Here you can either take a swim in the crystal-clear waters or discover the old pirate tower used to protect Ibiza in bygone days. The tower was manned by two watchmen who would raise the alarm with fire or smoke signals as soon as they saw any pirate ships or other hostile vessel approaching the shore.



CARTAGENA, SPAIN

Cartagena by Segway

Duration 1h30

Minimum 8 Participants, maximum 12

Euros 99

Discover Cartagena by Segway, a fun and effortless way to explore this fascinating city.

Your guide will be waiting to greet you on the pier and teach you how to use your Segway safely. When everybody is comfortable riding their Segway the tour can begin. The group will leave the port area and follow a route designed to showcase the charms of Cartagena, historical monuments, shopping areas, and all the most interesting sights. The Segway tour is the best way to get a feel for the city in a relatively short period of time. You will enjoy the unique gliding sensation of the Segway as you discover a dynamic modern city with an incredibly rich artistic and historical heritage. Cartagena: the perfect blend of past and present.

After the tour your guide will accompany you back to the pier.

Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes

We advise you to wear a hat and sun glasses and to use UV sunscreen

Participants are welcome to stay behind at the end of the tour, just let the guide know

Minimum weight to ride the Segway 40kg, maximum 120kg. Minimum height 1m40, maximum 2m

Roman Cartagena

Walking tour

Minimum 15 participants Maximum 25

Duration: 3 hours

Euros 39

The Port of Cartagena is a natural harbour, ideally situated in a deep bay protected by the surrounding mountains.

This strategic location has been a magnet for settlers throughout the ages and has contributed enormously to the city's development and importance. In the late 3rd century BC the Carthaginians established a trading post here. Fast-forward to the 18th century when the Bourbon King Carlos III picked Cartagena to be one of Spain's main naval bases, a status it still enjoys today.

On this guided tour you are literally walking in the footsteps of history. The archaeological site, open to the public since 2012, offers a fascinating insight into everyday life in Roman times. You will see the remains of a thermal spa, and an atrium building used to host ritual banquets in honour of the gods. Fortuna House in particular gives a very clear idea of domestic arrangements in the first century AD. The size and rich decoration of this family home indicate that it belonged to a very wealthy merchant. At this point in history Cartagena was a hive of activity and a real commercial hub exporting lead, silver, fish paste, salt and grain to Rome.

The house has a series of reception rooms including an intimate salon where the master of the house would conduct business and receive those petitioning favours, a magnificent dining room where couches would be pulled up around a central table, and bedrooms. The wall paintings are still bright and vibrant with colour. The Romans were very fond of bright colours and wall paintings and mosaics were status symbols. At Fortuna house traces of the original mosaic floors are still visible; they must have been very expensive and show that clearly no expense was spared to display the owner's wealth.

The last stop on this excursion is the Roman theatre, one of the city's "not to be missed" landmarks. It was built between the fifth and first century BC when Rome was at the height of its power. The theatre could accommodate 6000 spectators, with the best seats being reserved for the local elite, judges and priests.

Home to many different cultures, Cartagena has been a city of major importance for the past 3000 years.



MOTRIL, SPAIN

Granada and the Alhambra

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, limited The Alhambra limits the number of daily visitors

Duration 5 hours

Euros 98

The number of visitors per day is strictly limited at the Alhambra ; as tickets and visiting hours are granted by the authorities up to four months in advance, access to this site may not always be possible

Departure from the port of Motril to the city of Granada, lying at approx. 2.100 feet above sea level, in the shadow of the mighty Sierra Nevada, must conjure up in mind the best of Moorish Andalusia. The Moors stormed across the Strait of Gibraltar in the 8th century, and they were not driven out of Granada until 1492. During the intervening centuries they brought civilization back to the south of Spain; Granada, and particularly the Alhambra, represents the zenith of Moorish culture in this country. This tour goes along the new road out of Motril, north, driving through a picturesque countryside. After a total journey time of about 1 hour, the historic city will be reached.

Visit is made to the Generalife, the small summer palace of which the gardens remain the most attractive part. The approach is along an avenue of stately cypress trees, and for the delight of the eyes there are trim flower beds and box hedges, myrtle bushes and, above all, fountains. The view is splendid over to the Sierra Nevada, down to the Darro Valley, across to the old quarter of Albaicin and the gypsy haunts of Sacromonte, and last but not least to the Alhambra itself, the Palace of the Sultans and one of the finest examples of Islamic art.

The Alhambra has been much damaged and restored over the centuries, but it is not difficult to picture the place as it was in all its glory 600 years ago. The decorations have to be seen to be believed; from floor to ceiling, every inch seems to be covered with some kind of pattern; geometric, floral or Arabic script. The ceilings drip with stalactites in stucco, and each room seems more richly decorated than the previous one. Perhaps the gems of this oriental jewel box are the Hall of the Ambassadors and the Court of the Lions.

The time schedule of this tour could be altered depending on the requirements on the spot.

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, for which flat and comfortable footwear is recommended.

If the Alhambra cannot be visited an alternative itinerary will be offered including: a visit to the Albaycin quarter, which is also a Unesco heritage site, the Palace of Dar al-Horra which is a mini Alhambra, the Cartuja Monastery with spectacular decorations and a walk to the San Nicolas square.



Granada and Albaicin Palace (world heritage site)

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration 5h

Euros 98

Departure is from the port of Motril. The city of Granada, lying at approx. 2.100 feet above sea level in the shadow of the mighty Sierra Nevada, represents the very best of Moorish Andalucía. The Moors stormed across the Straits of Gibraltar in the 8th century, and they were not driven out of Granada until 1492. During the intervening centuries they stamped their civilization and culture on Southern Spain and Granada represents the zenith of Moorish art and architecture. The coach will take the new road out of Motril heading north, driving through picturesque countryside. After one hour's drive you will reach your destination.

The Albayzin area is one of the oldest districts in the city and contains the Alhambra, the Realejo Jewish quarter and the part of the city formerly enclosed by the city wall. We will visit the opposite side of the Alhambra, perched on a hill offering amazing views. The Albayzin was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO, and there are many places of interest, some of which will be visited during the excursion. The district is a maze of small cobblestoned streets, humble dwellings and noble houses with amazing gardens.

First stop is the Cartuja Monastery. While the outside view of the monastery is not particularly impressive, the elaborately decorated interior is quite spectacular. The most striking features include the tabernacle, the church and the famous sacristy. The charterhouse also boasts an extensive collection of paintings.

There will be another short bus drive to San Cristobal belvedere for a fine view of the city. From here we will set off to explore the Albayzin quarter. Next, we will visit Dar al-Horra Palace, the home of Sultanaka, mother of Sultan Boabdil who was defeated by Queen Isabel in 1492. The palace is built around a central courtyard. On one side there is a lookout tower. The beautiful plasterwork on the upper floor with inscriptions from the Nasrid period is in a fine state of conservation, and it is easy to see why local people call it the "little Alhambra". We will walk past Santa Isabel Monastery before getting to San Nicolas square, famous for its view of the Alhambra. We will visit the mosque gardens before walking back to the port.

Entrance to monastery and Dar al-Horra Palace –

This excursion involves walking over cobblestone and steps, which can be slippery when wet. Sturdy shoes are recommended

Guests must be able to walk approximately 2 miles (approximately 2 hours)

Secrets of Granada

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration 5h

Euros 96

After the Christian conquest, Granada became the hub of a new dynamic age in all the arts, the focal point of the latest fashions and innovations, all of which resulted in the creation of the richest and most complete group of monuments ever conceived during the period from the Renaissance to the Baroque. The Alhambra alone assures Granada a place among the most beautiful cities in the world, but its rich artistic heritage includes many other treasures, often neglected by visitors to the city.

After a panoramic drive of less than 1 hour along the new Sierra Nevada highway, we will arrive in Granada to discover some of the city's architectural gems. We will see the Royal Chapel, (Burial Place of the famous Catholic Monarchs, Isabel and Fernando), the Cathedral of the Incarnation (a wonder of the Spanish Renaissance), and the Madraza (medieval koranic school). We will walk through the Alcaicería, (the old Arab silk market), and see the Corral del Carbon, (the XIV century caravanserai; a medieval hotel for merchants and their precious wares). The tour continues with a visit to the old Arab district, Albaicin, enclosing within its medieval walls churches, convents, cisterns, palaces... and last but not least the St Nicholas balcony with its famous views of the Alhambra and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Albaicin has been recently designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

This is a strenuous excursion as there is a lot of walking involved.

The excursion includes an inside visit of the cathedral and of the Royal Chapel.

The drive to Granada takes about one hour



MALAGA, SPAIN**Mijas & wine museum**

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Duration 4h30

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Euros 55

This tour ends at the airport.

We will leave the town of Malaga behind us and head west along the coast road to Fuengirola, before driving inland to reach the village of Mijas. Mijas, perched 1500 ft. above sea level is a hill top village with a maze of little white washed streets. It is beautifully clean and very well organized for tourists. Explore the narrow-cobbled streets away from the crowds and enjoy fine views of the surrounding countryside.

Before leaving Mijas we will visit the wine museum and sample a glass of Spanish wine.

You will return to Malaga airport by a different route

The drive to Mijas takes about 1 hour

After a one hour guided tour you will have some time at leisure to explore the village before the transfer to the airport.

