



Itinerary For a Five Day Languages Study Tour to Andalucia. Prepared For The M.F.L. Department.

Dates: To Be Confirmed.



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. You can be fully accompanied by an expert tour guide. The guide is able to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.

ACCOMODATION



The Hotel Ibis**

29007 - Malaga.

Tel: +34954361839.

Our hotel is located in central Malaga. Accommodation is in twin rooms, all with en-suite bathroom facilities, televisions, desks & reading lamps. There is a bar & lounge area in the reception area & we have B&B accommodation at this hotel.

The hotel staff are particularly friendly & helpful & we have found the Hotel Ibis to be very popular with our groups & party leaders.

DAY ONE

07.45	Join coach at School.
08.15	Depart School. Transfer to Local Airport.
09.15	Check in at Local Airport.
12.15	Depart Local Airport on Easyjet Flight 8607.
16.10 <small>(Note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of UK time)</small>	E.T.A. Malaga Airport.
17.00	Coach transfer to Hotel Ibis.
17.45	E.T.A. Hotel Ibis. Check-in & allocate room keys. Students will have time to unpack, shower & relax in rooms after the transfer from the U.K.
19.00	Walk to Clandestino Restaurant.
Our walk to the restaurant will lead us along the grand pedestrianised streets of the Old Quarter & past the ancient Roman amphitheatre.	
19.30	<u>Dinner at Clandestino Restaurant.</u>
21.00	Return walk to Hotel Ibis.
21.30	E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY TWO

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Walk to Picasso Museum, Malaga.

10.00 **Visit to The Picasso Museum, Malaga.**

Located in the heart of the old City, the Picasso Museum is housed within a classic example of 16th century Andalusian architecture, with a combination of Renaissance & Islamic elements.

The Picasso Museum in Malaga was created by the artist's grandson & daughter-in-law in response to his desire for his work to be displayed in the city of his birth. Containing 233 permanent works & 43 temporary works, the museum displays eight decades of the artist's work. The wide range of styles, materials & techniques that Picasso used are well represented from his earliest academic studies through to his interpretation of the classics, Cubism, experiments in ceramics & his later paintings in the 1970's.

11.30 Walk to Malaguetta Beach Area.

12.00 **Lunch & Exploration of Malaguetta Beach.**

13.15 **Visit to The 'Pop Up' Pompidou Centre Malaga.**

Opened in 2015, the 'Pop-Up Pompidou' is housed within a brightly coloured cuboid glass structure overlooking the harbour of Malaga with its expensive yachts & beachfront atmosphere.

The permanent exhibition is divided into seven sections: metamorphoses, the body in pieces, the political body, self-portraits, man without a face, the workshop of Brancusi, and a final section dedicated to the architecture of the first Pompidou Centre, in Paris.

Works in the centre's collection will include 20th century masterpieces such as The frame (self-portrait) by Frida Kahlo, The flowered hat by Picasso, a self-portrait by Francis Bacon, The rape by René Magritte and Women in an interior by Léger, as well as contemporary works by French-Tunisian artist Kader Attia and French conceptual artist Sophie Calle. The Pompidou Malaga will follow the example of the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris, with works from 1905 to the present day, & is the only branch of the museum outside France.

14.15 Walk to The Old Town.

Our walk will lead us along the grand pedestrianised streets of the Old Quarter & past the ancient Roman amphitheatre.

15.30

Exploration of The Old Town.

Students will enjoy exploring the ancient cobblestone streets, narrow whitewashed alleyways, shops, cafes & tapas restaurants of the old town. Locals & tourists have a stroll through the old town after the heat of the afternoon.

17.00

Rest & relaxation time at Hotel Ibis.

Students can have a rest & change of clothes for the evening before dinner.

18.15

Walk to Clandestino Restaurant.

18.45

Dinner at Clandestino Restaurant.

20.15

Walk to Hotel Ibis.

20.45

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY THREE

07.30 Breakfast.

08.30 Transfer to Cordoba.

10.30 **Day's visit to Cordoba.**

Cordoba was the largest city of Roman Spain & for 300 years formed the heart of the western Islamic Empire. We will spend the day exploring the highlights of this charming city.

10.45 **Visit to The Cordoba Tourist Office.**

After the journey from Malaga we will use the bathroom facilities at the Cordoba Tourist Office. Inside there are maps & information for students to take. There is also an original Roman olive oil press & information panels about the Romans in Cordoba. This was an important Roman garrison town which exported its famous olive oil all over the Roman empire, often mixed with *garum* – the famous fish sauce from Malaga that always accompanied the Romans wherever they travelled.

11.15 **Visit to The Alcazar, Cordoba.**

This fort/palace was built in the 13th century & was where the Royals met Christopher Columbus on his return from discovering new faraway lands. We will view two remarkable Roman mosaics that were only discovered in the 1950's. We will then escape the heat in the cool terraced gardens with their flowing water, fishponds, orange trees & flowers.

12.15 **Visit to The Cordoba Synagogue.**

This tiny private synagogue was constructed in 1315 & is decorated with extravagant stuccowork, Hebrew inscriptions & intricate Muslim star & plant patterns.

12.45 **Lunch & Exploration of The Jewish Quarter, Cordoba.**

Cordoba was extremely progressive in that the city respected all three major religions & the inhabitants lived in peaceful co-existence. The 'Juderia' (Jewish Quarter) had a flourishing Jewish population, living directly next door to Europe's most important Islamic site. Ultimately the Spanish Inquisition led to the expulsion of the Cordoba Jews & the destruction of many of Spain's synagogues. The one in Cordoba is now only one of three surviving synagogues in the country.

Today the network of whitewashed narrow streets, tourist shops, cafes & restaurants are a popular tourist destination. Part of the fun of this visit is to wander around exploring the streets without the fear of getting too lost. One always arrives back at one of the major

pedestrianised roads eventually. Students will enjoy exploring through the narrow roads in search of a good restaurant for lunch & a cold bottle of water.

14.30 **Visit to The Mezquita - 'The Great Mosque'.**

Regarded as one of the most accomplished monuments of Moorish architecture, this great building has alternated between Christian & Moorish owners, symbolising the region's atmosphere as the frontier between Christian Europe & Islamic Africa.

The vast project to build a temple to rival the magnificence of those in Baghdad, Jerusalem & Damascus employed thousands of artisans & labourers. Hard stone & marble were quarried from surrounding areas & a whole industry grew in the town to build the splendid mosque. Marvellous mosaics were designed, panels of scented wood were attached using nails of pure gold. The red marble columns were said to have been the work of God himself.

We will explore the interior of this magnificent building with its 856 columns of jasper, onyx, marble & granite.

15.45 **Free Time By The Mezquita.**

After visiting the Mezquita, students will have time for a drink or ice-cream prior to meeting the coach for the return transfer to Malaga.

16.45 Coach transfer to Malaga.

19.00 **Dinner at Clandestino Restaurant.**

20.45 Walk to Hotel Ibis.

21.15 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY FOUR

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Transfer to Granada.

11.00 **Visit to The San Nicolas Viewpoint, Albayzin.**

A listed UNESCO heritage site, The Albayzin is Granada's old Muslim quarter & contains a myriad network of tiny whitewashed cobbled lanes leading up the steep hill to the viewpoint of Placa St Nicolas. This will be the first of two steep ascents of the day, the second being to the Alhambra.

The St Nicolas square at the top of the Albayzin has panoramic views over The Alhambra & the Sierra Nevada mountains behind - the highest peak on mainland Spain.

12.30 **Lunch & exploration time in central Granada.**

Built on the slopes of three hills, Granada is the most beautiful of all Spanish cities & basks in the glory of Europe's most exciting, sensual & romantic monument The Alhambra. This was the palace & fortress of the Nasrid Sultans - rulers of the last Spanish Moorish kingdom.

14.00 Walk to The Alhambra.

Our walk to the Alhambra will take us down the hill of Albayzin & up the steep hill of the Alhambra Fortress.

14.30 **Visit to The Alhambra.**

Meaning 'the red fort', the word Alhambra derives from its Moorish roots. The spectacular Moorish fortress of the Alhambra is divided into the Royal Palace, the ornate gardens & the fortress of the Alcazaba.

We will visit the interior to discover the business & judicial rooms of the Sultans, the formal state rooms & finally the 'Harem' - the personal living quarters of the great rulers.

After visiting the interior, students will enjoy exploring the gardens & summer palaces, with views over the ancient Arab quarter of Albaicin.

17.00 Coach transfer to Malaga.

19.00

Dinner at El Jardin Restaurant ('The Garden Restaurant')

www.eljardinmalaga.com

Located in a traditional house built in 1887, El Jardin Restaurant is located directly behind the city's cathedral. Famous for its Cordoban food selection, the restaurant has a pleasant terrace for enjoying a cool drink on the street, an interior café & an interior dining saloon with traditional paintings, bronze statues, traditional Andalusian furnishings & seating for 90 guests. After dinner the tables are often cleared away so that local flamenco & tango musicians & dancers can celebrate their culture through ancient songs of folklore & history to the tune of furiously strummed guitar & handclaps from the watching diners. If the flamenco musicians are playing on the night of our visit, we can stay after dinner to watch their show.

20.30

Walk to Hotel Ibis.

20.45

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast & hotel check-out.

09.00 Coach transfer to Nerja.

10.15 **Visit to The Caves of Nerja.**

Discovered in 1959 by a group of five local friends who explored a narrow sinkhole only to discover a series of huge caverns stretching for 5km along, the world's largest stalagmite & a cluster of ancient skeletons dating from around 25,000 BC.

The Caves of Nerja boast Neanderthal cave paintings from the Paleolithic era. When not inhabited by humans, the caves provided shelter for local hyenas. Passing one of the ancient skeletons in a presentation case at the entrance, we will visit the network of tunnels to admire the stalagmites & underground caverns formed over thousands of years by underground rivers

11.45 Coach transfer to Nerja beach.

12.00 **Lunch & Exploration of Nerja Beach.**

Participants will enjoy visiting this long sandy beach with excellent cafes & restaurants overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Students can enjoy relaxing on the beach before enjoying lunch on the beach & finally transferring to the airport for the return flight to the U.K.

13.45 Coach transfer to Malaga Airport.

15.00 E.T.A. Malaga Airport. Commence check-in.

17.40 Depart Malaga Airport on Ryanair flight FR2447

19.50 E.T.A. Local Airport.

(Continental time is 1 hour in advance of U.K. time).

20.45 Coach transfer to School.

22.00 E.T.A. School.

Please note that we make hotel & airline bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The airline timings & airports contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of hotel, airport & flight timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.