



SPAIN
Andalusia:
Seville-Cordoba-Granada

September 15-26, 2023
12 Days / 10 Nights



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF GREATER HOUSTON
Global Perspectives, Local Conversations



Spain

Seville-Cordoba-Granada

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ITINERARY

DAY 1	Leave USA for Seville, Spain
DAY 2	Arrival in Seville / Seville
DAY 3	Seville sightseeing / Seville
DAY 4	Seville sightseeing / Seville
DAY 5	Italica - Cordoba - Medina - Azahara / Cordoba
DAY 6	Cordoba sightseeing / Cordoba
DAY 7	Castulo - Baeza - Ubeda / Granada
DAY 8	Granada sightseeing / Granada
DAY 9	Osuna - Ronda / Ronda
DAY 10	Claudia Bale - Cadiz / Cadiz
DAY 11	Jerez De La Frontera / Seville
DAY 12	Departure



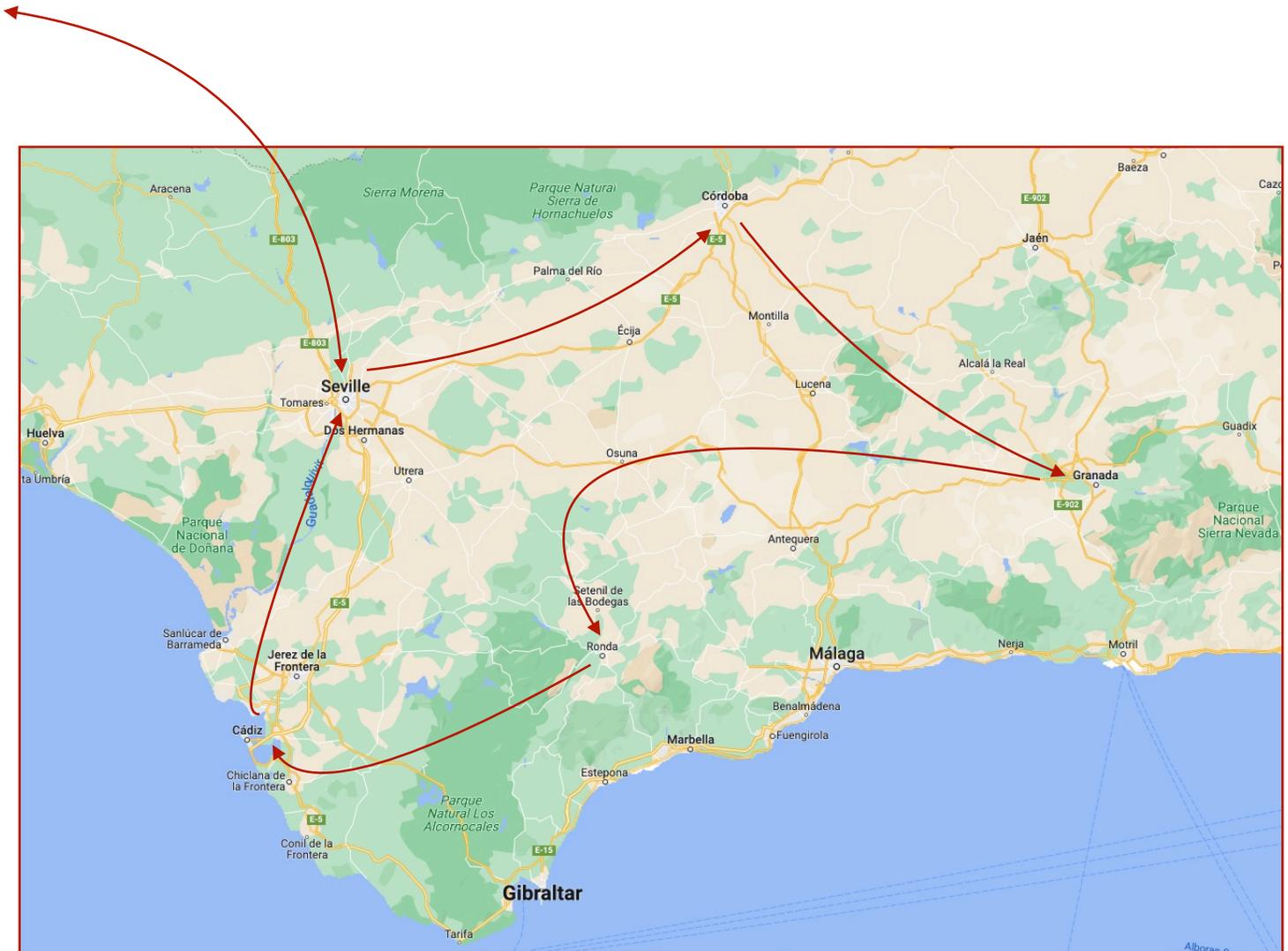
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MAP TRAJECTORY





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HIGHLIGHTS

Cathedral of Seville.

Archives of the Indies.

Las Setas, the biggest wooden structure in the world.

Royal Alcazar in Seville.

Flamenco show in Seville.

Medina Azahara, capital of Caliphate of Cordoba.

Roman settlement of Italica.

Mezquita in Cordoba, the greatest mosque-cathedral.

Jewish quarter of Cordoba.

Alcazar de los Reyes Cristiano, the primary residence of Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon.

Renaissance towns of Baeza & Ubeda.

The Alhambra of Granada.

The Generalize, summer palace of Nasrid rulers in Granada.

Ronda of "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Historic market of Cadiz.

Wine tastings in Ronda and Jerez.

Local food and more...



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INCLUDED

10 Nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast.

Lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary.

English speaking professional tour guide and local guides where necessary.

Private transportation with AC vehicles.

Two small bottles of water per person on the bus on touring days.

Arrival and departure transfers for suggested flights.

All entry fees to places mentioned in the itinerary.

Flamenco show.

Two winery visits with wine tasting.

Tips for meals and accommodations.

Gratuities for guide & driver.

Visa fees.

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare.

Drinks with included meals, except tea or coffee for breakfast.

Personal expenditures like phone calls, laundry, medical expenses.

Travel insurance.



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SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

Suggested flights are on Lufthansa:

15 Sep Houston to Frankfurt
LH 441 dep: 3:45 pm / arr: 8:20 am on 16 Sep

16 Sep Frankfurt to Seville
LH 1140 dep: 9:25 am / arr: 12:15 pm

26 Sep Seville to Frankfurt
LH 1141 dep: 1:05 pm / arr: 3:55 pm

Overnight in Frankfurt at traveler's expense.

27 Sep Frankfurt to Houston
LH 440 dep: 10:00 am / arr: 1:45 pm

Economy class: \$1702
Premium Economy class: \$2822
Business class: \$4512

Fares are per person, including taxes, surcharges and fees as of November 28, 2022. Fares can change based on availability.



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PROGRAM DETAILS

DAY 1	Fri, Sep 15 - Leave USA
	We will leave USA for Seville, Spain.

DAY 2	Sat, Sep 16 - Seville		
	We will be welcomed at Seville Airport and transferred to our hotel for overnight.		
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Overnight in Seville</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">Meals: D</td> </tr> </table>	Overnight in Seville	Meals: D
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Originally founded as a Roman city and now home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, **Seville** is bursting with antique charm. Built on both sides of the Guadalquivir River, it's also the capital and largest city of Andalusia.

The city is situated on the banks of the smooth, slow Guadalquivir River, which divides the city into two halves: Sevilla and Triana. The Guadalquivir (known as Baetis by the Romans and as Betik / al-Wādī al-Kabīr by the Arabs) has had a major impact in the history of the city. The location of Seville is roughly coincident with the point where the Guadalquivir stops being useful for navigation. It is at this point that the cereal producing region of the Guadalquivir Valley starts, and Seville has acted as a sea-port for commerce of agricultural goods produced farther west. Intense trade existed in the area from Roman times, continued under Muslim rule, and exploded as Seville monopolized the new trade with the Americas. As the monopoly was broken and Cádiz largely took Seville's place, the city entered a period of relative decline.

DAY 3**Sun, Sep 17 - Seville**

Today we'll drive to the heart of Seville, Barrio Santa Cruz, and at the Plaza de Triunfo (Victory Square) we will see important monuments of Seville: The Cathedral of Seville, Giralda (the bell tower) and the Church of the Divine Savior at the Plaza del Salvador.

Also known as the Cathedral of St. Mary of the See, the Cathedral of Seville is the largest Gothic cathedral and the third Christian temple in the world. It's one of the UNESCO Heritage Sites of Seville and also houses the tomb of Christopher Columbus.

We'll also visit another UNESCO Heritage Site in Seville, the Archives of the Indies, housed in the ancient merchants' exchange of Seville, the Casa Lonja de Mercaderes. The Archives is the repository of extremely valuable archival documents illustrating the history of the Spanish Empire in the Americas and Asia.

We'll continue our sightseeing with Las Setas (the mushrooms), the biggest wooden structure of the world and Casa de Pilotos, an example of an Italian Renaissance building with Mudéjar elements and decorations. Today we'll also see the famous Triana neighborhood and the bridge together with the Gaudalquivir River.

Overnight in Seville**Meals: B-L-D**

Mudéjar refers to the group of Muslims who remained in Iberia in the late medieval period despite the Christian reconquest. It is also a term for Mudéjar art, which was much influenced by Islamic art, but produced typically by Christian craftsmen for Christian patrons.



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DAY 4

Mon, Sep 18 - Seville

After breakfast we'll start our sightseeing with the Museum of Arts and Popular Costumes, an important ethnographical museum. We'll see the Parque Maria Luisa, Plaza de Espana and then visit our highlight of the day, another UNESCO Heritage Site of Seville, the Royal Alcazar in Barrio Santa Cruz.

Built on the site of an Abbasid Muslim alcazar (residential fortress) by Castilian Christians for the Christian king, Peter of Castile, it's historically known as al-Qasr al-Muriq. Alcazar has beautiful gardens; some date to Moorish times, some more proper English gardens date from the 19th century. Many of the plants are from South America, thanks to explorers bringing back seeds from their conquests.

We'll continue with Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija, one of the most beautiful palaces of Seville from 16th century decorated with a collection of Roman mosaics, as well as archaeological pieces from different eras and cultures.

Tonight before dinner, we'll go to a flamenco show.

Overnight in Seville

Meals: B-L-D

Flamenco, in its strictest sense, is an art form based on the various folkloric music traditions of southern Spain, developed within the gitano subculture of the region of Andalusia. Flamenco is closely associated to the gitanos of the Romani ethnicity who have contributed significantly to its origination and professionalization. However, its style is uniquely Andalusian and flamenco artists have historically included Spaniards of both gitano and non-gitano heritage.



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DAY 5

Tue, Sep 19 - Italica - Medina Azahara - Cordoba

After breakfast, we'll drive to Italica, which was founded in 206 BC by Roman general Scipio as a settlement for his Italic veterans and named after them. Then we'll continue to Cordoba for lunch. We'll enter the city through the the Roman Bridge and Puerta del Puente and see the Calahorra Tower on our way.

After lunch, we'll drive to Medina Azahara, a UNESCO Heritage site of a fortified 10th century palace-city on the western outskirts of Cordoba. It served as the capital of the Caliphate of Córdoba and its center of government. Then we'll drive to our hotel to check in.

Overnight in Cordoba

Meals: B-L-D

The Caliphate of Córdoba was an Islamic state ruled by the Umayyad dynasty from 929 to 1031. Its territory comprised Iberia and parts of North Africa, with its capital in Córdoba. It succeeded the Emirate of Córdoba upon the self-proclamation of Umayyad emir Abd ar-Rahman III as caliph in January 929. The period was characterized by an expansion of trade and culture, and saw the construction of masterpieces of al-Andalus architecture.

The caliphate disintegrated in the early 11th century during a civil war.



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DAY 6

Wed, Sep 20 - Cordoba

Our full day in Cordoba. We'll visit the Mezquita, the greatest mosque-cathedral in the world with its bell tower. We'll admire the beauty of Córdoba's great mosque, another UNESCO Heritage Site, with its remarkably serene and spacious interior. One of the world's greatest works of Islamic architecture, the Mezquita is the perfect symbol of a refined age when Muslims, Jews and Christians lived side by side and enriched their city with a balanced interaction of diverse and vibrant cultures.

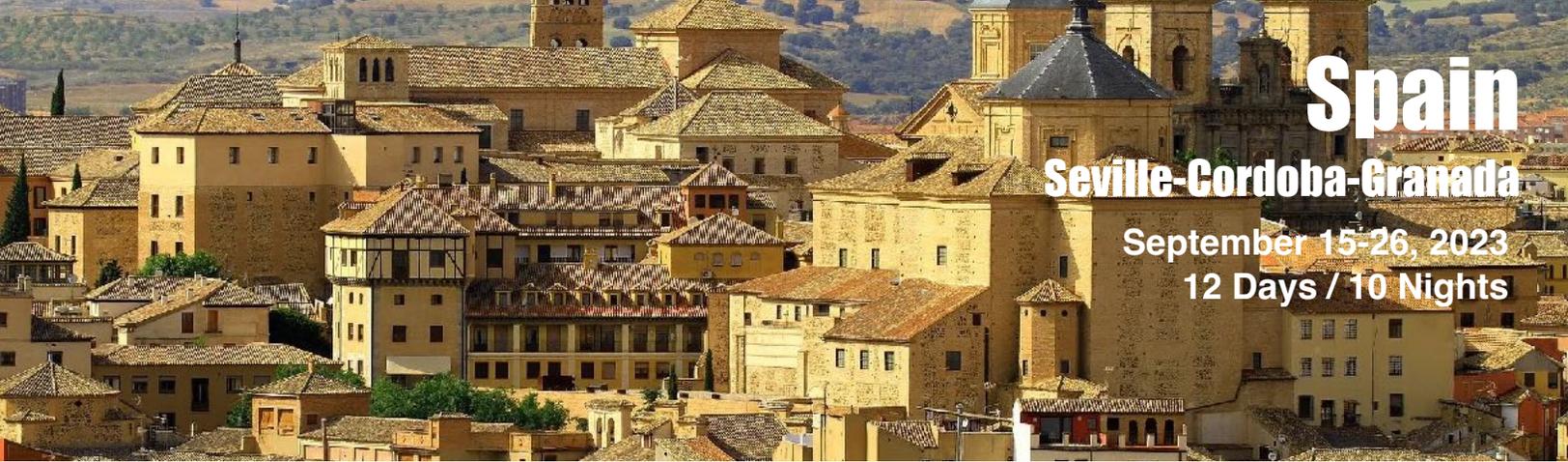
We'll visit the Jewish Quarter where the Jewish population lived between 10th and 15th centuries. The 14th century small synagogue, a magnificent example of Mudejar architecture highly influenced by Arab culture constitutes the only testimony of Hebrew religious architecture preserved in the city.

Another important building we'll see is the 14th century Alcazar de los Reyes Cristiano's (the Castle of the Christian Monarchs) which served as one of the primary residences of Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon.

Overnight in Cordoba

Meals: B-L

Once a Roman settlement, **Cordoba** was taken over by the Visigoths, followed by the Muslim conquests in the 8th century and later became the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba. During these Muslim periods, Córdoba was transformed into a world leading center of education and learning, producing figures such as Maimonides, Averroes, Ibn Hazm, and Al-Zahrawi. Córdoba is home to notable examples of Moorish architecture such as the Mezquita-Catedral.



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DAY 7

Thu, Sep 21 -Castulo - Baeza - Ubeda - Granada

This morning we will leave Cordoba for Granada and for the Roman city of Castulo in Jaen province, which is well-known for its olive oil production. A new discovery, marvelous Roman mosaic of Castulo awaits us in the ruins of the Roman villa of Castulo. We will also see the Roman baths, Iberian defence walls, Roman and Iberian tombs.

Later we'll continue on to Baeza and then Ubeda, two Renaissance towns which are also UNESCO world heritage sites. First, on our walking tour in Baeza, we will see the town square and the Baeza Cathedral. In Ubeda, during our walking tour here, we will see the historical Jewish quarter with its Synagogue of the Water.

Late in the afternoon, we'll drive on to Granada and check in our hotel there.

Overnight in Granada

Meals: B-L-D

Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, at the confluence of four rivers, **Granada** was settled since ancient times by Iberians, Romans, and Visigoths. The current settlement became a major city of Al-Andalus in the 11th century during the Zirid Taifa of Granada. In the 13th century it became the capital of the Emirate of Granada under Nasrid rule, the last Muslim-ruled state in the Iberian Peninsula. Granada was conquered in 1492 by the Catholic Monarchs and progressively transformed into a Christian city over the course of the 16th century.

DAY 8

Fri, Sep 22 - Granada

We will spend our day in Granada.

The Alhambra, a medieval Nasrid citadel and palace, is one of the most famous monuments of Spain. Islamic-period influence and Moorish architecture are also preserved in the Albaycin neighborhood and other medieval monuments in the city. We'll continue with the The Generalife, a summer palace and country estate of the Nasrid rulers. The residential district of the Albaycín is a rich repository of Moorish vernacular architecture, into which the traditional Andalusian architecture blends harmoniously. All three of them, the Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin are UNESCO Heritage Sites.

Our program also includes a visit to the Cathedral of Granada which was built in the 15th century on top of the main mosque in the old medina.

Overnight in Granada

Meals: B-L





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DAY 9

Sat, Sep 23 - Osuna - Ronda

After breakfast, on our way to Ronda, we'll visit stop at Osuna and visit the Roman necropolis and Coto de las Canteras, the quarry which was used to build many of the town's magnificent baroque buildings in the 16th century.

A mountaintop city in Malaga province perched on a deep gorge, Ronda has become famous with Hemingway's masterpiece; "For Whom the Bell Tolls". The book tells us the dark days of Ronda during Spanish Civil War. However, since the 18th century, this place has been one of the main treasures for travelers because of its natural beauty which reminds us Italian Toscana. The gorge (El Tajo) separates the city's circa-15th-century "new" town from its old town, dating to Moorish rule. The city of Ronda is also home to the Real Maestranza de Caballería, the oldest and most noble order of horsemanship in Spain since 1485.

In Ronda, we'll visit the Ronda viewpoint, the Puento Nuevo, Mondragón Palace (the Civic Museum), Duchess of Parcent Square, Puerta de Almocabar and the Arab Walls, Arab Baths, Plaza del Socorro and the Plaza de Toros de Ronda (the bullring). Today we'll also have an opportunity to taste local wines of the region.

Overnight in Ronda

Meals: B-L-D



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DAY 10

Sun, Sep 24 - Claudia Baelo - Cadiz

After breakfast, we'll drive to Cadiz. On the way, we'll visit the Roman city of Claudia Baela near Tarifa. Situated on the northern shore of the Strait of Gibraltar, the city was founded at the end of the 2nd century BC and prospered due to its strategic point for trade routes between Europe and North Africa. The remains of the impressive temple, forum, basilica, baths, aqueduct, and large fish-salting factory in particular, can all be seen today, giving an insight into the former glory of the city.

We'll continue to Cadiz and first go to the Mercato, the central market, inaugurated in 1838 at the Plaza de la Libertad. In October 2009, reopened its doors after three years of extensive renovation, the historic market has preserved the original design of the complex, and houses stalls of 57 fruit and vegetable, 54 fish, crustaceans and molluscs, 44 meat, 7 frozen, 4 bread and pastries, 1 olive, 1 for bags and paper, 1 for fishing articles and a cafeteria on the first floor. We'll enjoy lunch here. After lunch, we'll visit Cadiz Museum and enjoy a walking tour of the old town with its plazas.

Farewell dinner by the beach.

Overnight in Cadiz

Meals: B-L-D



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DAY 11

Mon, Sep 25 - Jerez De La Frontera - Seville

After breakfast, we'll drive to Jerez, one of the most beautiful places in southern Spain. We will stroll through its narrow streets of the old town, Plaza de la Ascuncion and Plaza de la Yerba.

Then we will visit a cellar where we will have try typical traditional wines of the region. We'll continue to Seville for overnight.

Overnight in Seville

Meals: B-L

DAY 12

Tue, Sep 26 - Departure

This is our departure day. Our group will be transferred to the airport to return home.

Contact Us

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