



**KDavisTravels**

## **Southern Spain**

**May 7- 14, 2010**

The Spain trip will begin and end in Ronda, Spain. You will need to make your own arrangements to fly to Spain. We will meet at the Hotel San Gabriel in Ronda. We will advise you about flights once the trip minimum is reached.

Trip Start: May 7, 2010 - Hotel San Gabriel, Ronda, Spain  
Trip Finish: May 14, 2010 - Hotel San Gabriel, Ronda, Spain  
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights  
Trip Cost: \$2290 per person sharing a room  
\$2590 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, beverages, tips, and all items of a personal nature.)

### **Day by Day Overview**

#### ***Friday, May 7 – Ronda***

We meet at our hotel—Hotel San Gabriel. Located in the heart of historic Ronda, Hotel San Gabriel will be home for our week in southern Spain. Welcoming cocktail at 7pm at our hotel and overview of the week followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Lodging: Hotel San Gabriel----Marques de Moctezuma 19; tel: 011 34 952 190 392 - [www.hotelsangabriel.com](http://www.hotelsangabriel.com)

#### ***Saturday, May 8 – Ronda Tajos***

Today we have a hike in the general area of Ronda. Our route takes us to the Ronda gorge and by the old Arabic defensive walls. We visit the 9th century Mozarabic Church of the Virgen de la Cabeza, hewn into the sandstone cliffs that face Ronda across the Hoya del Tajo (basin of the Tajo). From there we walk on to the Tajo del Abanico (fan shaped cliff), a beautiful site that will interest those who like geology. If time permits we will visit the reconstructed Neolithic settlement at the Algaba center.

Distance today: 7 miles; elevation change of about 500 ft.

#### ***Sunday, May 9 – Llanos de Libar***

Starting from the village of Montejaque where there is a street of curious dwarf size houses, we hike onto the high plain known as the Llanos de Libar (limestone plateau). The natural beauty here is outstanding and fantastic for bird-watching: Rock Buntings, Stonechats, Black-eared Wheatear, Woodchat Shrikes, & Short-toed Eagles. Our route then takes us to the Pileta Cave with its prehistoric paintings and drawings.

Distance today: 8 miles; elevation change of about 1000 ft.

➤ Dinner on your own.

### **Monday, May 10 – Sierra de las Nieves (Snow Mountain range)**

The area of the Sierra de las Nieves was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1995. From Los Quejigales our route takes us into these mountains, passing through forests of the very rare Spanish fir. Ibex and roe deer inhabit this area. We visit the old snow wells—very large limestone sinks-- and woods of dwarf gall oaks.

Spectacular views over Ronda and the Sierras are ours throughout the day.

Distance today: 8 miles; elevation change of about 2000 ft.

### **Tuesday, May 11 – Ronda**

Today we explore the town of Ronda with our city guide. Ronda has a splendid position perched on the top of a deep gorge. For a story referring to this gorge read Hemingway's For Whom the Bell Tolls. We will have a 2hr. tour of Ronda's twisting streets, hidden courtyards and Berber style patios. The famous Ronda bullring (Ronda is the birthplace of bullfighting and has one of the oldest bullrings in Spain), the Santa Rosa Church and the Puente Nuevo bridge are among our stops. The afternoon is free to explore on your own.

➤ Lunch on your own.

### **Wednesday, May 12 – Sierra de Grazalema**

In 1977 this area was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO due to the exceptional variety and wealth of its fauna and flora. We will visit two of the white villages in this area: Zahara and Grazalema. The white villages are so named because all the village buildings are painted white and so stand out against the darker backdrop of the hillside. Zahara and Grazalema are both picturesque villages with cobbled streets and date to Moorish times.

Distance today: 10 miles; elevation change of about 1650 ft. up and 3000 ft. down.

➤ Dinner on your own.

### **Thursday, May 13 – Upper Genal River Valley**

Our hike takes us to the Village of Parauta, a medieval village of about 200 people. It is an area of not only ecological importance but of architectural interest because of the Arabic influence on its streets and houses. We walk through the chestnut woods and across the valley to the opposite village of Cartajima. The unusual white limestone formations above the town are a striking contrast to the chestnut woodland below. Farewell dinner together.

Distance today: 8 miles; elevation change of about 800 ft. up.

### **Friday, May 14 – Departure day**

After breakfast we say our "adios" and depart from Ronda.

**Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.**

### **Flight and Airport Information:**

Getting to Ronda: Flights from the U.S. to Madrid, Seville, Granada, or Malaga will then have train/ bus connections to Ronda. Then taxi to Hotel San Gabriel.

## **Weather:**

Sunny with temperatures in the 70s to 80s.

## **Helpful Websites:**

Spain - [www.travelingspain.com](http://www.travelingspain.com) and <http://gospain.about.com/>

Ronda - <http://www.turismoderonda.es/indexeng.htm>