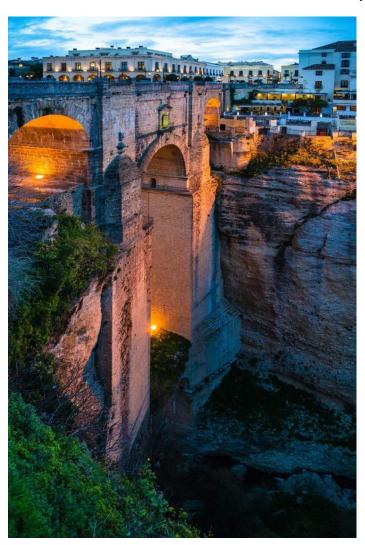
Cycling Safaris

Andalucian White Villages

Self Guided Tour 2025

| 199 km | 8 days / 7 nights



This village to village adventure starts in Ronda , one of the oldest and most beautiful cities of Spain. Situated on an impressive plateau and surrounded by mountains.

Ronda is famous for its spectacular gorge 'El Tajo' the cliffs are spanned by a bridge, a popular place for travellers to admire the breathtaking views. We then move onto Olvera one of Andalucia's most dramatic 'pueblos blancos' which is overlooked by a Moorish castle and stunning church, a perfect location to discover the true delights of rural Spain.

Next you ride along the Via Verde, an old railway line, perfect for cycling, as it rolls through the breathtaking scenery of the Andalucian countryside where we see the historic, cultural and natural delights of the 'real' Andalucia.

Midweek brings us to Zahara de la Sierra, a Moorish town which was fiercely fought over by the Moors and Christians. The prominent Moorish Castle, which can be seen from miles away, towers above this stunning hilltop village which is located at the foot of a beautiful lake. After

Zahara your tour takes you to Grazalema, a pretty mountain village, set in the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park and surrounded on three sides by mountains. Its steep cobbled streets are lined with white whitewashed houses whose window boxes bringing a splash of colour to this lively little village. Finally we end your tour back in Ronda, where you'll have the chance to explore this historic town which has established itself as one of the most popular tourist destinations in Spain and has become reknown for its fine cuisine.

Amongst the many highlights of the trip are; the beautiful Grazalema Natural Park, the beautiful Moorish castle at Zahara, the Peñon Zaframagon, a craggy out crop which is the home to the largest colony of Griffon Vultures in Andalucia and last but by no means least the stunning Gorge, which splits Ronda in two. Where possible we try to keep to quiet country lanes, however, on one or two occassions we do have to use busier roads for a few kilometres to get you into the villages.



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive in Ronda (Malaga Airport)

Fly to Malaga Airport and transfer (option to book private transfer) to Ronda where you will receive your bikes and Tour information pack

Day 2 Benoaján 25km (Total Ascent 550m)

Onto the bikes for your first of many leisurely rides along quiet country lanes we head towards Montejaque via Benoajan. There is a chance to go for a swim at the fresh water lagoon at the Cueva de Gatos before stopping for lunch at, in my opinion, one of the best restaurants in this area.

Day 3 Grazalema & Zahara 37 km (Total Ascent 595m) optional +28km detour

Back on the bikes and you ride through rolling hills passing fields of sunflowers, olive groves and a few local vineyards too visiting Prado del Rey and Puerto Serrano where you will join the Via Verde on your way to Montellano. A chance to dip in the pool and enjoy a beer or Sangria before heading into town for dinner

Day 4 Rolling Hills & Via Verde 53km (Total Ascent 660m)

Back on the bikes and we ride through rolling hills passing fields of sun flowers, olive groves and a few local vineyards too visiting Prado del Rey and Puerto Serrano before getting to your next Hotel a traditional Spanish Hacienda where there will be a chance for a dip in the pool & chill out on the terrace with a glass or two of Sangria and your favourite book before dinner.

Day 5 Via Verde & Olverda 52 km (Total Ascent 1200m)

Following breakfast you ride along the 'Via Verde de la Sierra' which meanders from Puerto Serrano to Olvera. Along the route we pass through a variety of landscapes from farm land to a mountain region. Water is a common element of the landscape as the route follows the path of the two rivers of Guadalete & Guadalporcun, therefore the Mediterranean vegetation is lush. Riding along this old railway track you pass over several viaducts, the most impressive being at Coripe, and through 30 tunnels the longest of which is 990metres. Refreshments stops can be made in Olvera before riding onto Setenil.

Day 6 Ronda La Vieja

32km (Total Ascent 850m)

You'll ride back to Ronda via the Roman Ampitheatre at Ronda La Vieja along the old 'travellers route'. From the Ampitheatre you can enjoy stunning views across towards Grazalema. A short days ride gives you plenty of opportunity to relax and unwind at the end of your trip.

Day 7 Rest Day

A rest day in Ronda to explore the historic old town, the arabic baths, city wall and many mueseums. Or time for some retail therapy and an opportunity to indulge, after your week long white village tour.

If you prefer we can add an additional days riding to another of our favourite restaurants in this area.

This rest day can be taken at the start or end of your trip. The rest day is not a compulsory element of the White Village Tour and can be left out if you wish. Please ensure you opt out of the rest day upon booking this trip if it is not required.

Day 8 End of services.

Tour is finished after breakfast and check out. If booked, we transfer you to the airport (optional)

2025 TOUR PRICES AND DATES

€895 per person sharing €265 single room supplement

Bike rental is not included in the tour price and is an additional:

€130 - Hybrid bike (helmet included)

€265 - Low step trekking e-bike (helmet included)

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Included

- 7 nights accommodation in Farmhouse/Hotel B&B with en-suite bathroom
- Luggage transport
- Buffet breakfast
- Information Pack (Route Guide and maps)
- Service hotline
- GPS files/App

Not included

- Holiday extension
- Airport transfer to/from Malaga (€130 per person / €65 per way).
- Evening meals / lunch
- Bike hire

BACK-UP SERVICE

As this is a self led trip you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation.

If you experience small problems with the bike (e.g., a puncture) you will have a spare tube, pump and tyre lever. You also have access to a 24 hour helpline.

We take price in our cycling route cards, checking and update them regularly.

Our route cards are your guide, providing much more information than the basic directions. Just as a gide would tell you about the places you pass, our route cards include information on historic villages, places of interest and monuments along the way. If its worth making a short detour to a fantastic viewpoint, we point this out, too. We even suggest cafes and restaurants where you can stop for lunch.

We can also provide GPS files for this tour (included).

BIKES



https://www.specialized.com/ie/gb/bikes/fitness/crosstrail/crosstrail-sport-disc/106408

You are provided with hybrid-type tourist bicycles from Specialized with conventional Flat handlebars and with triple chain ring and easy-to-change gear ratios for comfortable and easy cycling. Road bikes may also be available on request.

Bikes are supplied with pump, odometer, pannier rack, pannier bags <u>upon request</u>, drinks bottle, spare inner tube, tyre levers, tool kit and front light. Helmets included.

E-bikes, road bikes and Mountainbikes are also available. Helmets included. Child seat/trailor/tag-a-long also available.

WHAT TO BRING

Specialized cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is the following:

- Helmet (helmet wear is mandatory in Spain; we also supply helmets on request)
- shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ legging
- shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing
- gloves (only when you book a tour in April. It can be chilly in the morning that time of year!)
- good shoes
- sunglasses/ cap/ swimming costume
- extra towel
- soap/ insect repellent
- swimwear

OTHER INFORMATION

Terrain / Gradients

Spain is not flat. Terrain is undulating and at times flat.. Distances are not excessive, and a rest day can be included where the rider decides whether to cycle or not.

Arrival points

Malaga Airport is the closest airport. Seville airport is approx 135km away. Information available on request.

Holiday extensions

Possibility of spending extra nights, details on request.

ACCOMMODATION

Ronda: <u>Hotel Palacio de la Duquesa</u>
Near Montecorto: <u>Hotel Cortijo Las Piletas</u>

Zahara: <u>Hotel Los Tadeos</u>
Montellano: <u>Hotel Andalou</u>
Olvera: <u>Hotel Sierra y Cal</u>