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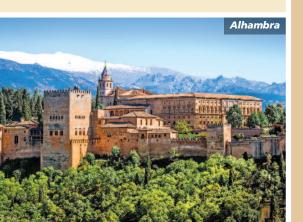
Traveling Aggies

**JUNE 14-22, 2016** 



iscover Ronda and sunkissed Andalucía. This region of Spain is inextricably linked with the Moors,

who occupied most of the Iberian peninsula from 711 to 1492. Their legacy remains in the architecture, the language and the food. Even the name of this wondrous region, Andalucía, comes from the Arabic name, Al-Andalus. Explore the great cities of Seville, Málaga and Granada, and marvel at great monuments, such as the Alhambra. Sample the sherry of Jerez, and enjoy meals of authentic regional cuisine in spectacular settings at several paradors, Spain's boutique hotels.



#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- ► Call **Ronda,** one of the most charming towns in Andalucía, your home during your exploration of southern Spain.
- Explore the **Alhambra**, Granada's great fortress, and enjoy lunch at its parador.
- ➤ Visit **Seville,** the cultural heart of Andalucía.
- ► Witness a dramatic **flamenco show.**
- ► Marvel at the work of **Pablo Picasso** in Málaga.
- See a performance at the world-famous Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art.
- Single supplement waived for solo travelers (limited availability).



The unique, value-added features of Alumni Campus Abroad® programs deliver an outstanding educational travel experience.

- A carefully selected hotel with comfortable accommodations is perfect for exploring the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures while providing the opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyle.
- Groups are limited to 36 travelers to maximize your travel experience.
- An extensive meal plan is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- Meet the People opportunities allow you to interact with local residents and gain personal insight into their everyday lives.
- **Knowledgeable guides** lead your excursions and **local experts** present insightful educational lectures.
- An experienced Campus Director ensures attentive service for the duration of your stay.
- All gratuities for excursion guides and drivers are included.

# Howdy, Ags!

Join us on an exciting journey to Ronda in the heart of Andalucía. Many of the things that are quintessentially Spanish — flamenco and sherry, for example — hail from this area. Stand in awe of architectural masterpieces, such as the Alhambra in Granada and the Royal Alcázar of Seville. Marvel at talented equestrians and their steeds at the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art. We'll see the best of sunny southern Spain.

Travel experts have meticulously planned this exciting program. Enjoy preferred access to popular attractions and an exclusive educational program that will deepen your appreciation of the people and the culture. Our educational program features expert local speakers and is the hallmark of our Alumni Campus Abroad programs.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. You will enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group, and during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries.

Space is limited on this amazing journey. Be sure to make your reservations today.

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D. Director, Travel Programs The Association of Former Students "Thank you for providing an excellent experience with wonderful new friends. We learned, laughed, and enjoyed as we were in awe of our surroundings!"

-Chris '73 and Karen Claunch

"The more trips we take with the Traveling Aggies, the more we want to take! We have NEVER been disappointed. We always love having people we trust along with us when we venture into unknown countries and settings. We always come home counting our new 'best friends!"

-Tim '74 and Judy '78 Turner

"We will tour again and again with the Aggies!"

-Martha Bellens Martin '85

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# RONDA TRADITIONS OF ANDALUCÍA



#### DAY ONE

Depart for Málaga, Spain.

*★Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.* 

#### **DAY TWO**

D

Arrive in Málaga and transfer to Ronda.★ Check in to the Parador de Ronda. Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception

and Dinner.

DAY THREE

B|L

#### **RONDA**

# **Educational Focus:** *The Moors in Spain.*

For more than eight centuries, the Moors occupied most of the Iberian Peninsula, and their influence was especially great in southern Spain.

**Excursion:** *Ronda.* One of Spain's oldest and most breathtaking towns, Ronda sits atop a massive cliff. Its twisting streets reveal architecture influenced by centuries of Moorish domination, birdcage balconies and more. Step into the Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor, a church commissioned by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1485. The church, which was built on the site of a mosque, wasn't completed until the 17th century, so the architecture combines Gothic, Renaissance and baroque elements as well as vestiges of its Moorish beginnings. Visit the Plaza de Toros, one of Spain's finest bullfighting rings.

**Local Flavor:** Visit a winery for a wine tasting and lunch.

DAY FOUR

 $B \mid D$ 

#### RONDA

**Excursion:** *Seville.* Seville, the cultural heart of southern Spain, is a showcase of some of



#### UNESCO

Two UNESCO World Heritage sites, the **Alhambra** in Granada and the **Cathedral and Alcázar** in Seville, are featured in this program, as well as **flamenco**, which is inscribed on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Spain's greatest architecture. The Moors conquered Seville in 712 and built the Alcázar in the 10th century. It became a royal residence after the Spanish recaptured the city three centuries later. The city's magnificent cathedral is the world's largest Gothic building, and the Barrio de Santa Cruz is a picturesque warren of medieval lanes, bougainvillea and fountains.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a tapas dinner tonight.

DAY FIVE

B|L|D

#### **MÁLAGA**

**Excursion:** *Málaga.* Take a scenic drive to the lively city of Málaga. See the city's beautiful cathedral and visit the Picasso Museum, an excellent showcase of the works of Málaga's most famous native. The museum is in the Palacio de los Condes de Buenavista, itself a national monument.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a delicious Spanish lunch.

**Educational Focus:** *Meet the People and Flamenco.* Watch a mesmerizing flamenco performance. This passionate art form, which has been performed for centuries, features the music of a guitar, singing and dance.





**Local Flavor:** Enjoy regional specialties at the parador restaurant.

DAY SIX

#### **GRANADA**

**Educational Focus:** *Contemporary Spain.* Learn about current issues and events in Spain today.

**Educational Focus:** *Andalucía and its Bullfighting Traditions.* Bullfighting is part of Spanish culture, especially in southern Spain. Ronda is known for a particular style of bullfighting. Delve into the history of this national pastime.

DAY SEVEN

B|L|D

В

#### **RONDA**

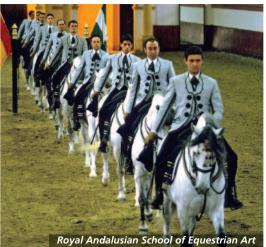
**Excursion:** *Granada.* Take a scenic drive to Granada to see the Alhambra, the city's renowned Moorish fortress and palace complex. The Alhambra, which was built in the 13th and 14th centuries, overlooks the city. Admire the fountains, pools, courtyards and arch-lined walkways. The interiors feature exquisite carvings and tiles.

# FLAMENCO THE DANCE OF SOUTHERN SPAIN

The emotionally charged, dramatic dance known as flamenco features the oral, music and dance traditions of Indian, Arabic and Roma cultures. Though you may see it performed in other parts of Spain, it belongs to Andalucía. Flamenco's graceful hand movements and complex rhythms descend from Indian dance and music. introduced to Spain by the Roma. The Roma, who generally are associated with flamenco, arrived in Spain during the last centuries of Moorish rule. The singing, dancing and guitar music that developed into flamenco is a blend of all these cultures, plus influences from the rich culture of Spain's Sephardic Jewish community. These elements complement each other and work together to interpret the passion of the performers. Flamenco once was an underground dance, but it became popular to perform it in public in the mid-19th century. Since then, the popularity of this powerful dance has skyrocketed. It is performed throughout Spain and on stages around the world, but at its heart, it is at home in Andalucía.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at the restaurant of the historic Parador de Granada, a former 15th-century convent located within the Alhambra.





**Local Flavor:** Enjoy dinner at the Parador de Ronda's restaurant.

DAY FIGHT

B|L|D

# JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

Educational Focus: Jerez de la Frontera. Jerez de la Frontera is known for sherry and horses. Begin your visit to a winery to learn about sherry production. Learn about the history and characteristics of sherry during a tasting. Jerez also is the home of the Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre, the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art. Watch an elegant performance by these specially trained,

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Jerez.

majestic animals and their riders.

Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Dinner.

DAY NINE

E

Transfer to the Málaga airport for the return flight to your gateway city. ♣

flight to your gateway city.★

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some events on this

Included meals indicated each day as  $B \mid L \mid D = Breakfast \mid Lunch \mid Dinner$ .

program involve an element of walking.

## **INCLUDED FEATURES**

#### **Accommodations**

• **Seven nights** in Ronda, Spain, at the first-class **Parador de Ronda**.

#### Meals

- Enjoy an extensive meal program, featuring seven breakfasts, four lunches and five dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony followed by a Farewell Dinner.

## **Transportation**

 All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

# **Your Exciting Travel Program**

(For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs,** presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- Personal VOX listening devices allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.

#### All excursions:

- Explore the historic town of Ronda.
- Visit Seville, the cultural heart of Spain.
- Discover Málaga, birthplace of Pablo Picasso.
- Watch a flamenco performance.
- Stroll through the Alhambra in Granada.
- Explore Jerez de la Frontera.

# Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated
   Passenger Service Representative prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director**.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

# **ACCOMMODATIONS**







#### PARADOR DE RONDA RONDA

Located near the town center, the Parador de Ronda has breathtaking views of the city's 400-foot gorge, the Punto Nuevo bridge and the valley beyond. It occupies Ronda's former town hall, which was built in 1761. The parador's restaurant specializes in the cuisine of Andalucía. The hotel has gardens and an outdoor pool. After a day of sightseeing, return to the comfort of a well-appointed guest room. Enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi.







## Reserve your trip to Spain, today!

#### Trip #:10-22562W



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Full Price Special Savings Special Price\*
\$3,245 \$250 \$2,995\*

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel. VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single supplement waived for solo travelers!

This offer is limited, capacity controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

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# AHI FLEXAIR June 14-22, 2016

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