Magical Spain-Andalucia
(Malaga, Gibraltar, Ronda, Sevilla, Cordoba, Granada, Nerja)

Tour starts in Malaga and ends in Nerja - Arrival and departure airport is Málaga Airport, Pablo Ruiz Picasso International Airport (AGP)
Oh Spain... how you dazzle us with architectural feats and artistic treats, enrich us with historic treasures and nourish us with sangria and tapas! From charismatic cities full of lively bars and hip galleries, to sleepy villages dotted with white washed houses and olive groves, Spain never fails to open up travellers’ eyes, minds and hearts.

Spain offers some of the richest cultural heritage to be found anywhere in Europe. And, the Andalusia region is an excellent example with its unique blend of Roman, Arab and Catholic inspired influences. A journey along the country roads is one of the best ways to discover the well-known icons as well as the charming lesser-known gems.

Spain conjures images of flamenco dancers, café-lined plazas, white hillside villages, and soaring cathedrals. Beyond these traditional associations, this modern country offers top-notch art museums, inventive cuisine, and exciting nightlife. From the Pyrenees to the coast, its landscapes and varied cultures are worth exploring. Especially enticing is the national insistence on enjoying everyday pleasures. The Spanish live life to its fullest whether they are strolling in the park, pausing for a siesta, lingering over lunch, or dancing until dawn.

Passionate, sophisticated and devoted to living the good life, Spain is at once a stereotype come to life and a country more diverse than you ever imagined.

Mention Spain and images of bullfighters, colourful flamenco dancers and Don Quixote spring to mind, but take a Travels with Audrey tour of Spain and you will discover so much more. This vacation reveals a strong impact of Moorish as well as Jewish and Christian influences on the history and culture of Spain. Discover the country’s rich cultural heritage, culinary delights in Gibraltar, Ronda, Sevilla, Cordoba, Granada, Costa del Sol along with some little known gems and a diamond of a capital Malaga. The drive to Gibraltar travels along a landscape that constantly shifts and changes, from orchards of subtropical fruit trees to shimmering white urbanisations, a culture loving metropolis to the cobbled backstreets of a former fishing village. The golden triangle captures all of Andalucía’s big hitter sights in one succinct triangle, including a gothic cathedral, a Moorish mosque, an illustrious Alhambra, and plenty of opportunities to sample tapas and flamenco. The three cities of Seville, Cordoba and Granada have taken it in turns to direct cultural and political life in Andalucía over the last 1000 years and between them guard a truly golden legacy. This drive also enables you to see snippets of small town beauty and quiet rural life in between. Discover a world of blanched beauty, hilltop history, crag top castles, and mysterious maze-like streets on this mountain flavoured drive that weaves together Andalucía’s classic white towns. Old fortifications atop lofty crags soar above whitewashed homes tucked into green cloaked country, a visual spectacle that threads right through this tour of Andalucía’s prettiest Pueblos Blancos.
Andalucía and the Mediterranean, this 10 day tour enables you to see the best of Andalucía including magnificent cities and hilltop villages, as well as get a taste of the Spanish Mediterranean.

A parched region fertile with culture, a conquered land that went on to conquer, a fiercely traditional place that has accepted rapid modernization: western Andalucía has multiple faces. Here in the cradle of quintessential Spain, the questions are often as intriguing as the answers. Who first started flamenco? How did tapas become a national obsession? Are those really Christopher Columbus bones inside the Seville cathedral? Putting together the missing pieces of the puzzle is what makes travel in the region the glorious adventure that it is. Seville is western Andalucía’s Holy Grail, Cordoba is its former roman and Moorish capital, while the white towns will lure you into quieter rural areas.

**Something for everyone!** Whether you’re a “first-timer” to Spain or have visited many times, we invite you to join us for this exciting tour program. For one set price, you’ll be staying in historic hearts of each city and have the experience of local, English-speaking tour guides. You'll have a chance to visit all the major, "must-see" sites, plus enough free time on your own to visit the places that really matter to you...or, you can simply enjoy that time relaxing.

You will discover the heart and soul of Spain with Travels with Audrey
• Stay in charming hotels in the historical heart of the cities (Granada, Cordoba, Sevilla)
• Discover slow travel: a perfect balance of sightseeing and time at leisure
• Savor the views from the rock of Gibraltar known in antiquity as the Northern Pillar of Hercules
• Visit the picturesque white villages perched on dramatic cliff tops (Ronda, Arcos de la Frontera, Frijiliana)
• Visit the enchanting city of Cordoba, whose historic centre is a Unesco world heritage site with a visit to the Mosque of the Caliphs in Cordoba
• Stroll through the architectural splendours of Seville
• Be immersed in Moorish-style opulence at Alhambra Palace, a Unesco World heritage site
• Enjoy the serious cultural capital Malaga
• Explore the heart of Andalusia, where palaces, cathedrals and quaint villages all have a story to tell
• Soak in the sun on a Costa del Sol beach in Nerja (best not in the peak summer months)
• Visit the famous troglodyte quarter of Guadix – A Truly Unique Spanish Experience
• Hand-picked exclusive experiences and unique venues including a paella cooking lesson, taste local wines and sherries in traditional bodegas, discover how olive oil is made and taste some yourself at an Olive oil mill, watch a soul stirring-Flamenco show with dinner night, a unique visit to an Andalusian stud farm in Jerez de la Frontera and/or bull farm
• DISCOVERING SPAIN’S CUISINE: Our itinerary includes wonderful experiences with local cuisine as you enjoy a variety of included dinners at authentic Spanish restaurants.
A unique small group tour of 12 days/11 nights, limited to 16 guests or less. For more information, contact: travelswithaudrey@gmail.com

Come experience Spain like never before!

- Private transportation while on tour (air conditioned vans or luxury mini buses)
- Transfers from the airport on arrival to your hotel and transfer back to the airport from Nerja
- **12 nights in hand-picked** 3, 4 or 5 star accommodations including daily Breakfast (2 nights Malaga, 1 night Ronda, 1 night Jerez, 2 nights Sevilla, 1 night Cordoba, 2 nights Granada, 2 nights Nerja) standard rooms, suites available at an extra cost.
- **Hand-picked Insider Experiences** including a paella cooking lesson, taste local wines and sherries in traditional bodegas, discover how olive oil is made and taste some yourself at an Olive oil mill, watch a Flamenco show with dinner night, a unique visit to an Andalusian stud farm and/or bull farm
- **Entrance Fees:** Malaga’s Alcazar, Mezquita in Cordoba, Cathedral and Alcazar in Sevilla and the Alhambra in Granada with Generalife, Nerja Caves, Guadix caves
- **Meals:** all breakfasts, 1 lunch (cooking class), 5 dinners (1 in Malaga, 1 in Sevilla, 2 in Granada, 1 in Nerja) included meals are shown on the itinerary as **B-L-D**. Beverages include water, coffee and with some dinners 2-3 glasses of wine per person (choice of red or white). Tour Manager will invite you to join them to unique restaurants each night, regardless of whether the dinner is included or not.
- Free time for you to choose your own optional experiences (options are available at an added cost)
- An expert Tour Manager (driver/guide)
- Private walking tours by Local expert English speaking tour guides in Malaga, Sevilla, Cordoba, Granada, Guadix
- Orientations in Ronda, Nerja, Frijiliana
- Gratuities for drivers and restaurant staff at included meals
- **Customer Loyalty Reward:** receive a $200.00 credit towards any future vacations you take with Travels with Audrey
What is Not Included

Not included: airfare, personal travel insurance, gratuities for guides and any other personal travel expenses not associated with tour package and anything not specified to be included.

Remember, airfare is a completely separate arrangement from your land tour. It is your responsibility to arrive at the point of tour start (Malaga) on time.

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Travels with Audrey RECOMMENDS YOU BOOK EARLY

Hotel availability may occasionally be an issue on Audrey’s personalized escorted tours. This is due to popularity and/or high season. A supplement may be applied if our normal set of hotels in each city is not available. Your hotels will be finalized about 90 days prior to the tour and will be available in your pre-tour documents mailed to you within 60 days prior to your tour start.

Book early!

TO REGISTER, please download the Guest Registration Form in downloadable PDF format, Terms and Conditions and the Liability Waiver and Release form. Both the Guest Registration form and the Liability Waiver and Release form must be completed, signed and returned. A 30% of the overall tour price per person deposit is required to be officially registered for this tour (personal check, electronic transfer, within the United States only, and credit cards (3.5 % merchant fee) are accepted. Upon receipt of the completed Guest Registration Form we will send you the payment details. After your deposit has been accredited we will send you an invoice with the due date for the balance of payment.

For more information, contact: travelswithaudrey@gmail.com or call us at 720 339 2364
DAY 1: MALAGA (D)

Welcome to Spain!

Your included transfer will take you to your hotel upon your arrival in Malaga.

Your Travels with Audrey tour starts at 3:00PM in the hotel lobby for a walk around the hotel area: Our hotel lobby is where the tour begins and where we all meet for an included Orientation walk around the hotel area.

INCLUDED WELCOME DINNER TONIGHT: This evening enjoy of a Welcome Dinner

Your Unique Small Group Tour Vacation of Spain is underway!
DAY 2: EXPLORING MALAGA (B)

After breakfast, your expert local tour guide will take you on a private walking tour of Malaga, exploring the old historic center and harbor, walking through the centuries, visiting Phoenician walls, the 1st century BC Roman theater and 11th century Alcazaba, a Moorish military citadel and royal residence with a visit of the cathedral.

Málaga was founded by Phoenicians around 770 BC and subsequently ruled by Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths, Moors and, since 1487, Spanish Christians. Birthplace of Picasso, the city has a sophisticated foodie scene and has also emerged as a serious cultural capital with some impressive art galleries and museums.

A special stop on your walking tour for a sweet wine tasting at one of our favorite places.

Afternoon is at your leisure to explore more of the city, spend time shopping. You may choose to visit the Museo Picasso and/or Museo Carmen Thyssen.

OPTIONAL DINNER: Enjoy dinner at your leisure tonight

You may opt to join your Tour Manager tonight for dinner or explore on your own
DAY 3: GIBRALTAR/RONDA (B)

After breakfast our drive will take you to Gibraltar for a panoramic tour of the rock/cable car. When you first see the Rock of Gibraltar, whether it is from the air, from the sea or from either the Costa del Sol or the western end of the Bay, it is its impressive stature, towering isolated above the surrounding countryside, that causes the greatest impact. It has had this effect on people for many thousands of years. Gibraltar is a beacon which signals the position of the Strait of Gibraltar, the narrow neck which separates Europe from Africa and provides the only link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

Our final destination today is Ronda, a beautiful town perched on the edge of a dramatic limestone escarpment that is sliced in two by the El Tajo Gorge where the Guadalevin River flows 393 feet below. Ronda, acclaimed for 2000 years by everyone from Pliny the Elder to Hemingway, is an incredible sight.

OPTIONAL DINNER TONIGHT: Enjoy dinner at your leisure this evening
DAY 4: RONDA/WHITE VILLAGES/JEREZ (B)

After breakfast, on your private walking tour you will begin with an exploration of the old town and the best viewpoint for admiring all three bridges. We'll cross over Puente Nuevo into the new town to Plaza de Toros, Spain's oldest bullring and home to one of the most famous bullfighters in Spanish history, Pedro Romero.

After lunch, journey to the Pueblos Blancos, the quintessential white villages of southern Spain! We stop along the way for wine tasting at a local Finca and perhaps for a café con leche in Arcos de la Frontera, queen of the white villages. Arcos de la Frontera is one of the signature images of sultry southern Spain and is the Pueblo Blanco by excellence. The mountains between Ronda and Arcos de la Frontera were contested by Arab and Christian armies for 700 years leaving "de la Frontera" (on the border) as an appendage to the names of many towns.

"Ruta de los Pueblos Blancos": the beauty of the Sierra de Grazalema region is unmatched in Spain. Its combination of dramatic mountain scenery and splendid whitewashed villages makes you half expect to see medieval Berber farmers and Christian knights.

Andalucía contains scores more white towns, all similar in their outward appearance, but each, on closer inspection, hiding distinctly different cultures and personalities.

In Jerez de la Frontera, the hub of sherry wine production, we discover the secrets of how it is produced with a guided tour of the oldest family wineries in town. A tasting is followed by exclusive access to the bodega's private art collection.

Sherish, the Arabic term for sherry, follows just behind Flamenco and bullfighting in popularity for southern Spaniards. Made from the Palomino grape, there are two basic styles, oxidized and non-oxidized. The key difference is the layer of yeast known as flor that prevents oxidation when present in a barrel.

**OPTIONAL DINNER TONIGHT:** Enjoy dinner at your leisure tonight
DAY 5: SEVILLA (B-D) Saturday

This morning we are in for a treat: a visit to an Andalusian stud farm, one of the world’s most important reserves of prestige thoroughbred Andalusian horses. Learn the history of the Andalusian horses and their Carthusian lineage in different stages of their lives. Enjoy a guided tour of the farm to see free running colts, mares and stallions.

The compact, muscular breed known locally as the “Pura raza Espanola” was bred by Carthusian monks in the late middle ages and became the darling of the sherry aristocracy in and around Jerez de la Frontera in the 19th century.

Then we make our way to the city of Seville, the capital of Andalusia situated on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, the most cosmopolitan of its neighbors, a storied city that has been Andalucía’s seat of power and glory for nearly 1000 years.

This afternoon explore the vibrant city of Seville with your expert local guide on your private walking tour. Highlights include a stroll through the Jewish quarter, the impressive cathedral of Saint Mary, burial site of Christopher Columbus and 3rd largest in the world built on top of the Almohad Mosque. Two parts of the mosque were preserved in the cathedral: the Moorish entrance court Patio de los Naranjos; and the Giralda, a minaret converted into a bell tower; the Alcazar de Sevilla, the oldest royal palace in Europe that is still in use.

The original nucleus of the Alcázar, that you will visit today, was constructed by the Moors in the 10th century as a fortified governor’s palace and is still in use today as a residence for the Spanish royal family. It is a spectacular complex of palaces, courtyards and gardens from various periods and in complementing architectural styles, all in all a dazzling trip back in time.

With a flair for drama, its own traditional dance and flamboyant modern architecture, Seville displays Spain’s most noticeable local pride. Nowhere is as quintessentially Spanish as Seville, a city of capricious moods and soulful secrets which has played a pivotal role in the evolution of flamenco, bullfighting, baroque art and Mudejar architecture.

Known as Hispalis in Roman times, Seville was taken by the Moors in 712 and remained a Muslim capital until the 13th century. Between 1503 and 1718 Seville had a monopoly as the only trading port between Spain and the Americas, becoming extravagantly wealthy and spawning a Golden Age of arts and literature.

INCLUDED DINNER: Tonight we enjoy a wonderful tapas dinner together
DAY 5: SEVILLA (B-D) Saturday

This morning we are in for a treat: a visit to an Andalusian stud farm, one of the world’s most important reserves of prestige thoroughbred Andalusian horses. Learn the history of the Andalusian horses and their Carthusian lineage in different stages of their lives. Enjoy a guided tour of the farm to see free running colts, mares and stallions.

The compact, muscular breed known locally as the “Pura raza Espanola” was bred by Carthusian monks in the late middle ages and became the darling of the sherry aristocracy in and around Jerez de la Frontera in the 19th century.

Then we make our way to the city of Seville, the capital of Andalusia situated on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, the most cosmopolitan of its neighbors, a storied city that has been Andalucía’s seat of power and glory for nearly 1000 years.

This afternoon explore the vibrant city of Seville with your expert local guide on your private walking tour. Highlights include a stroll through the Jewish quarter; the impressive cathedral of Saint Mary, burial site of Christopher Columbus and 3rd largest in the world built on top of the Almohad Mosque. Two parts of the mosque were preserved in the cathedral: the Moorish entrance court Patio de los Naranjos; and the Giralda, a minaret converted into a bell tower; the Alcazar de Sevilla, the oldest royal palace in Europe that is still in use.

The original nucleus of the Alcázar, that you will visit today, was constructed by the Moors in the 10th century as a fortified governor’s palace and is still in use today as a residence for the Spanish royal family. It is a spectacular complex of palaces, courtyards and gardens from various periods and in complementing architectural styles – all in all a dazzling trip back in time.

With a flair for drama, its own traditional dance and flamboyant modern architecture, Seville displays Spain’s most noticeable local pride. Nowhere is as quintessentially Spanish as Seville, a city of capricious moods and soulful secrets which has played a pivotal role in the evolution of flamenco, bullfighting, baroque art and Mudejar architecture.

Known as Hispalis in Roman times, Seville was taken by the Moors in 712 and remained a Muslim capital until the 13th century. Between 1503 and 1718 Seville had a monopoly as the only trading port between Spain and the Americas, becoming extravagantly wealthy and spawning a Golden Age of arts and literature.

INCLUDED DINNER

-Tonight we enjoy a wonderful tapas dinner together

Overnight at Hotel Hesperia (or similar)

DAY 6: SEVILLA (B)

In the morning enjoy a market visit with paella cooking class followed with lunch on the delicious meal you have prepared, including drinks. If you wish not to partake, you are free to explore the city at your own leisure. (Please check with us as to the cooking class information and options—you can also choose to have the paella cooking class on a bull farm, really something unique and truly special!)

Afternoon at leisure: So much to see! We do recommend a visit to Plaza España, set amidst the wonderful gardens of Maria Luisa Park. Built in 1929 for the Ibero-American Exhibition (World’s Fair it is an impressive example of Renaissance Revival style architecture.

OPTIONAL DINNER TONIGHT: Discover your own special place with local specialties
DAY 7: CORDOBA (B)

La Mezquita, the flower of Al-Andalus

In Cordoba we begin our guided walk back in time to the Al-Andalus, from over a thousand years ago, with a walking tour and visit of the Mezquita, a Unesco world heritage site, and the old Jewish quarter. Córdoba’s grandest monument, the Mezquita, or Great Mosque, is one of the most impressive Moorish structures. Noted for its red and white columns, taken from Roman temples that previously occupied the site, the Mezquita was a church that became a mosque before reverting back to a church charting the evolution of Western and Islamic architecture over a 1000 year period.

Córdoba served as provincial capital for the Roman Empire and was the capital of Al-Andalus during Moorish times. In the 10th century it was the most cultured city in 10th century Europe, the most populated city of the world with public libraries, public baths, medical schools and universities. The Moors brought an educational system to the Dark Ages of Europe and made tremendous advances in mathematics, astronomy and medicine. They were well known for their religious tolerance.

The rest of the afternoon explore the old town’s narrow streets and private patios at your leisure or perhaps pamper yourself this evening with a visit to an Arabic bathhouse.

OPTIONAL DINNER: Tonight dinner is at your leisure
DAY 8: BAENA/GUADIX/GRANADA (B-D)

We continue East today to the unforgettable city of Granada, which was the last strong hold of the Moorish empire in southern Spain until it finally fell to the catholic kings in 1492. Granada (Gáranata) was once the grandest city in Spain! Set at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountain range it is the most visited of all Andalusian cities.

When Isabel I, the queen of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon, married in 1469, the pair united the peninsula's two most powerful kingdoms and began a period of economic growth and religious zeal never before seen. They were the driving force behind the brutal Spanish inquisition, beginning the forceful conversion, expulsion and persecution of all non-Christian believers in what was formerly a religiously tolerant Hispania. Granada was the last city of Al-Andalus to fall to the Christian Reconquista in 1492.

On the way, we will stop in the small market town of Baena which produces olive oil of such high quality it has gained its own Denominacion de Origen (DO) a designation that indicates the product's unique geographic origins, production process and quality.

Spain is the largest producer of Olive Oil in the world and 80% of Spanish total production is in Andalusia. The production of olive oil in Spain dates back to almost 6,000 years ago with the settlement of Phoenician and Greeks. Ever since then, olive oil has continued to be an integral base of most Spanish cuisine, similarly to wine. Spanish wine has been elevated to the status of one of the best wines in the world for its wide variety of grapes and exquisite taste.
Enjoy a visit, tour and tasting at one of the many local producers, an olive mill, and buy excellent olive oil straight from the press. The town's periphery is dotted with huge storage tanks. The handsome town of Baena boasts many fine monuments and an 18th century arcaded almacén (warehouse) on the Plaza de la Constitución, which houses a magnificent mansion converted into a tapas bar, the Mesón Casa del Monte.

Our next stop before arriving at our hotel in Granada is the cathedral town of Gaudíx for a private tour, well off the beaten path. Its history dates back to Phoenician and Roman times, and it played a major role in the Reconquest.

The most interesting feature of the Guadíx area is that many of the inhabitants of this large town live underground, in the southern part of the town, in what are known as cave houses. The jagged ochre terrain and the dazzling whitewashed chimneys and doors of the caves contrast dramatically with the snow-covered peaks of the Sierra Nevada, which loom above. The cave district is signposted on the main street of the town as the "Barrio Troglodyte".

The "troglodytes", very friendly people, are very house-proud, or "cave-proud", as you wish. Ever since the Moorish times, the Andalusians have been fond of living underground because it is the best way of escaping the summer heat waves, and don't be surprised if you are invited in to have a look around. Most of today's cave-dwellings are well-appointed, like any other Spanish home, and some are even quite luxurious, with marble floors, fitted kitchens, faxes and INTERNET connections.

INCLUDED DINNER: Tonight we dine together and you are in for a special treat
DAY 9: GRANADA (B-D)

In 711 an army of North Africans and Berbers crossed the Strait of Gibraltar, united under their faith in Islam, to begin what would become almost 800 years of Moorish reign in the Iberian Peninsula. Named Al-Andalus, land of the Goths, by the Muslim conquerors, Andalucia is as rich in history and culture as the landscape is diverse. Consisting of eight provinces, the region varies from sandy beaches to olive groves to the steep hill top towns of the Sierra Mountains.

Moorish influence is prevalent throughout most every facet of life whether it be the adobo and cumin spices of traditional dishes, the repetition of geometric tile patterns in architecture, the lopped off towers of former mosques where churches and cathedrals now stand or the recurrent calligraphy of Islamic Art.

This morning is dedicated to the magnificent Alhambra, Unesco World Heritage site, a breathtaking Moorish palace and fortress perched on top of a steep hill adjacent to the city center. A true tribute to the beauty of the North African architecture in Andalusia, the Alhambra contains a huge network of beautiful rooms, patios and gardens. The palace is close to architectural perfection, perhaps also the most refined example of Islamic art anywhere in the world and not to mention the most enduring symbol of 800 years of Moorish rule known as Al-Andalus. From afar, the Alhambra’s red fortress’s towers dominate the Granada skyline set against a backdrop of the Sierra Nevada’s snow-capped peaks.

The rest of today is free for you to explore Granada at your own pace. A visit to the stunning cathedral and Capilla Real, the Gothic mausoleum and burial site of Ferdinand and Isabel, are highly recommended. The chapel has important collections of art from Spanish and Italian painters including Botticelli and Perugino.

Great for shopping would be the Alcaiceria, the great bazaar of Granada, dating back to the 15th century when it was a huge market place for Arabic silks and spices.

INCLUDED DINNER: This evening will feature a flamenco and dinner show!
DAY 10: NERJA (B)

Following a dramatic mountain descent we arrive in Nerja where we will spend the last few nights of our tour. After relaxing in your hotel, your tour manager will take you on an orientation walk in the late afternoon.

Nerja is on the seashore some 50 kilometers (31 miles from Málaga and marks the eastern tip of Málaga's Costa del Sol.

Once a sleepy fishing village, Nerja boasts 16 kilometers (10 miles) of beaches with sparkling clear water. All major water sports are available here, including water skiing, scuba diving and sailing. Flanked by a dramatic mountain range, Sierra Almijara, to the East, the town has fortunately managed to avoid being blighted by the concrete high-rise scenario which has been the inevitable result of the tourist boom in some of the coastal resorts.

The old quarter of the town is still virtually unchanged with narrow winding streets, whitewashed houses with wrought iron terraces overflowing with geraniums. However, the heart of Nerja is its spectacular Balcón de Europa, the "Balcony of Europe", a magnificent promenade along the edge of a towering cliff, once the site of the great Moorish castle, with sweeping panoramic views of the Mediterranean and the small coves and beaches below, against an awesome backdrop of mountains.

**OPTIONAL DINNER TONIGHT:** Enjoy dinner at your leisure this evening

You may opt to join your Tour Manager tonight for dinner or opt to explore on your own
DAY 11: NERJA/FRIJILIANA (B-D)

Today we visit Nerja and Frijiliana, as well as the famous caves!

Voted the 'prettiest village in Andalucia', Frijiliana is also important from an historical viewpoint. El Fuerte, the hill that climbs above the village, which was the scene of the final bloody defeat of the Moors of La Axarquía in their 1569 rebellion. The hill is topped by scanty remains of a ruined fort from which some of the Moors reputedly threw themselves rather than be killed or captured by the Spanish. It is said that bones and rusted weapons dating from this encounter still lie among the scrub on El Fuerte.

The Axarquia region East of Malaga has a rugged beauty that many tourists to Spain have not yet experienced.

The area is renowned for its outstanding walks and fauna and flora and is a haven for nature lovers who will be enthralled by the spectacular landscape.

The village is a tangle of delightful narrow cobbled streets lined by whitewashed houses, their wrought-iron balconies filled with planters of brilliant red geraniums. Small plazas provide shady seating while the village bars are popular with visitors who come here to taste the locally produced wine. There are also several excellent shops selling pottery and ceramics, including decorative plates with their distinctive Arab design.

Nerja’s most spectacular attraction is undoubtedly its fascinating caves which are included in your visit today, located just outside of town. They include archaeological treasures such as paintings over 20,000 years old and other pre-historic remains. One of the enormous natural caverns has been transformed into a concert hall, where many performances are staged during the summer.

FAREWELL DINNER: tonight have your final dinner on tour together, sharing memories of the wonderful vacation over delicious local specialities.
DAY 12: DEPARTURE DAY (B)

Yes, it is that time to leave this beautiful land with many wonderful memories and in the hopes of traveling with you again.

Transfer to Malaga airport or, if you wish to extend your holiday, this is a perfect location to continue on to Morocco or stay a few days in Spain traveling up to Madrid, Toledo, Segovia and Barcelona. Contact us for details.

Note: Travels with Audrey has hand-picked an extensive list of quality properties across Spain and to ensure the very best experience on each of Audrey's tours hotels may vary to those listed in this itinerary.

The earlier a tour is reserved the better the chances of having the ones listed.

Audrey specializes in personalized escorted tours, providing guests with delights that excite the senses and that are genuine, intimate and unique experiences of Spain and beyond. With a balance of culture, food, wine and stunning natural and man-made sites, this tour captures everything that a guest would be looking for in a Spanish experience. Audrey warmly invites you to come along and experience beautiful Spain.

“I look forward to meeting you and traveling with you”

Mobility: All Travels with Audrey’s tours involve lots of walking, standing for longer periods of time and require guests to board and disembark vans/mini coaches several times a day making this tour not suitable for those with reduced mobility. We walk a lot, but it's unhurried and there are ample opportunities to sit and relax. But you must be physically capable of walking and experiencing the many stairs of Spain.