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## The Best of Southern Spain – 12 Days (10nts)

### Package Inclusions:

- **10 Nights Costa del Sol** at 4-Star beachfront air-conditioned Sol Aloha Puerto or Amaragua Hotel in rooms with private bathroom and terrace with sea view.
- **22 Meals:**
  - 10 Buffet Breakfasts.
  - 7 Dinners with wine at the hotel including a special Farewell Dinner with wine, coffee, special dessert, and champagne.
  - 3 Dine-Around Dinners with wine at selected local restaurants within walking distance from your hotel.
  - 1 Lunch included with the Taste of Village tour.
- **6 Full Day Sightseeing Tours:**
  - Full Day Excursion to Granada visiting the Alhambra.
  - Full Day Excursion to Seville, the capital of Andalucía.
  - Full Day Excursion to enjoy “The Taste of a Village”, including a home-hosted lunch.
  - Full Day Excursion to the ancient mountain town of Ronda.
  - Full Day Excursion to Gibraltar including a visit to the Rock.
  - Full Day Excursion to the Countryside of Marbella & MIjas.
- Round-trip airport transfers in Costa del Sol.
- Hostess service & baggage handling.
- Daily evening entertainment in the hotel lobby
- All hotel taxes and service charges

**Land only from \$1122 net per person double occupancy**

Single suppl. \$231

1 Free sharing a room with every 20

## THE BEST OF SOUTHERN SPAIN



The jewel of historic Spain, Andalusia is the country's largest and most quintessential region. It offers genuine folklore, boundless sightseeing, rich history and culture, and scenic beauty. The region occupies the entire southern Iberian Peninsula, including the provinces of Almeria, Cadiz, Cordoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaen, Malaga, and Seville. Andalusia has become a vacation Mecca for its charming villages, seaside resorts, excellent shopping, local seafood restaurants, olive and citrus groves, and year-round temperate climate

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1: USA- Malaga, Costa del Sol

Board your overnight transatlantic flight to Malaga, Spain. Relax and enjoy dinner, movie, and breakfast on board.

### Day 2: Arrive in Costa del Sol, Spain:



Arrive in Costa del Sol and transfer from Malaga Airport to your hotel. Check into your hotel and then acquaint yourself with the beautiful area or simply take some time to relax and unwind. Dinner with wine and overnight at your 4-star air-conditioned beachfront hotel in Torremolinos.

### Day 3: Full Day Sightseeing Tour of Granada & the Alhambra Palace



Early drive along the Costa del Sol through the mountains of Malaga towards Granada. Stop in the town of Loja and then continue to Granada. As we enter the city you'll be able to see the peaks of the white-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains. A sightseeing city-tour will lead us to the Alhambra Palace. "Alhambra" is an Arabic word that means red, the color of its fortified walls. Built during the 13th and 14th century, it took nearly 100 years to be completed. Visit includes the Court of the Myrtles, the Court of the Lions, the Hall of Secrets, the Hall of the Ambassadors, and the Alcazaba, the castle that guarded the Palace. We will also visit the beautiful gardens of the Generalife with its

green water gardens and the fountains that inspired several famous Spanish composers. Over the centuries the Alhambra gradually fell into ruins but, curiously, it was the American Author Washington Irving who helped prod the city into having the monument restored. Irving lived in the palace early in the 19th century, where he wrote his book "Tales of the Alhambra". Now the Alhambra is completely restored and rebuilt. Dinner and overnight at your 4-star air-conditioned beachfront hotel.

#### **Day 4: Costa del Sol at leisure**

Breakfast at your hotel. Free day at leisure to explore or relax. Take advantage of one of your dine around vouchers (included) and enjoy dinner at a select local restaurant within walking distance from your hotel.

Overnight at your 4-star air-conditioned beachfront hotel.

#### **Day 5: Full Day Sightseeing Tour "A Day in the Life of a Village" including a home-hosted lunch.**

Breakfast at your hotel. Today's tour takes us through the Spanish countryside to feel the spirit and tradition of the ancient peoples of the Andalusian countryside and offers us the opportunity to learn about their lifestyle, customs, and heritage. Passing by centuries-old routes traveled by Spain's legendary kings and their entourage, bandits, and villagers. We will experience the changing terrain and breathtaking landscapes of "La Ruta del Aceite y Los Tajos" (route of the olive oil and the gorges) through the mountains of Malaga. Our first en-route stop is a traditional Andalusian roadside inn for a first glimpse into the history of the area before continuing to the Sierra village of Alfarnate (population 3,500) where we stop to visit an Olive Oil Mill (producers of the best quality oil in the region) then go on to visit the beautiful sixteenth-century Church of Saint Ann. After Alfarnate, we proceed to our final destination, the tiny village of Alfarnatejo (population 400). After a warm welcome by the villagers and a glass of local sweet wine, our "host families" will invite us into their homes for a traditional midday meal (included). This authentic Andalusian day in a rural mountainside village is a life-enriching experience and one that you will probably cherish and remember for years to come. Overnight at your 4-star air-conditioned beachfront hotel.

#### **Day 6: Full Day Sightseeing Tour of Ronda**



Breakfast at your hotel. Depart for a full day Ronda tour. Spanning more than four centuries of Spanish architecture, this quaint town is sure to transport you back in time. One look at the famous "El Tajo" and the impressive sheer drop of the mountain cliffs illustrates its origins as a military stronghold. While in Ronda, marvel at its architectural variety, including the walled Old Town, a residential palace of nobility, the Cathedral, the bullring - the oldest existing in Spain - and the "Bullfight Museum." Free time for lunch on your own and shopping prior to returning to your hotel. Dinner with wine and overnight.

### **Day 7: Full Day Sightseeing Tour of Seville, the capital of Andalucia.**



Breakfast at your hotel and departure for Seville. The beautiful Andalusian countryside will be the setting for a great view of typical towns such as Antequera, Estepa, Osuna and, finally, Seville. The fourth largest in Spain, this is a city humming with life and prosperity, holding magnificent buildings and monuments, and considered the most popular and attractive in the whole country. Our visit will start with the Alcazar, which served both as Palace and Fort, and will continue in the Cathedral, a unique beauty all its own combining old Arabic and Christian architecture. The cathedral was built on top of a former mosque and is now the third largest in the world. Adjoining it, the Giralda tower stands 322 feet high. We continue our visit to the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the old Jewish quarter where we will ramble along the narrow streets with its small bars and restaurants. Not to be missed is the beautiful Maria Luisa Park with its sunken gardens, the decorative fountains, and the lovely "azulejos"(tiles) in the Plaza de España, a semi-circular square with a great building around it. We finish our trip to Seville with a drive over the Isla de la Cartuja area, where the Universal Exposition took place in 1992. Dinner with wine & overnight at your 4-star air-conditioned beachfront hotel.

## **Day 8: Full Day Sightseeing Tour of Gibraltar & The Rock**



A drive along the southern Costa del Sol will take us to La Linea de la Concepción, the border town with Gibraltar. We will cross the border and enter Gibraltar crossing the runway of the airport where people transfer to small vans for a tour around the Rock. This tour takes us to the highest point with fantastic panoramic views of the Bay of Algeiras, the Strait of Gibraltar, and the African coastline. We also visit the Saint Michael's caves with spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. Once taking the road down again, we will see the Barbarian apes that still live in Gibraltar. Free time for tax-free shopping or for a snack at the various English or Spanish-type pubs and restaurants.

## **Day 9: At leisure in Costa del Sol**

Breakfast at your hotel. Day at leisure. Overnight at your 4-star air-conditioned beachfront hotel.

## **Day 10: Costa del Sol- Full Day Sightseeing to the Countryside of Marbella & Mijas.**



Breakfast at your hotel. Today we'll take you on a tour of the countryside including Marbella and Mijas. See the Guadalhorce Valley including Alhaurin de la Torre and

Alhaurin el Grande. A stop is included at Alhaurin el Grande's Wholesale Farmers Market before continuing through the valley and the Sierra Blanca Mountains. This picturesque route leads past the white town of Monda, and then towards the Sierra Alpujata Mountains to the town of Ojen. After a brief stop in Ojen, head toward the coast to Marbella, where sightseeing of the old section of this enchanting town is included. Continue on the coastal road leading to Fuengirola en route to Mijas, located about 1300 ft. above sea level and surrounded by the dramatic Sierra de Mijas Mountains. A sightseeing tour of the town is included as well as free time for shopping and lunch (lunch not included). Tonight, use one of your dine around vouchers (included) and enjoy dinner at a select local restaurant.

**Day 11: At leisure in Costa del Sol - Farewell Dinner**

Breakfast at your hotel. Day at leisure. Tonight we say farewell with a dinner at your hotel including wine, coffee, and a special dessert. Overnight at your 4-star air-conditioned beachfront hotel.

**Day 12: Costa del Sol –USA:**

After a hearty buffet breakfast, you will be picked up and transferred to Malaga airport for your return flight home, arriving later today.

