

# Rail holidays of Spain

*Expressions*



## Rail holiday to Andalusia and Madrid



## Rail holiday to Andalucia and Madrid

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Madrid

Granada

Cordoba

Seville



This tailor-made Spanish rail holiday is the ideal way to travel to and around Andalucia. Begin your rail holiday by flying into Madrid, where you spend your first night. From here, travel by train to the southern region of Andalucia and journey by rail between three of its great cities – Seville, Cordoba and Granada. These cities are home to stunning medieval Islamic architecture, delicious tapas, heart-stopping bullfighting and sensual flamenco. Train travel between the cities is fast and comfortable allowing you to make the most of your time and enjoy the view in the process. We include a number of excursions to help you get the best out of your visit to this exciting region.

**NOTE:** There is currently building work affecting rail services to Granada. Part of this holiday currently includes a bus leg between the stations of Antequera Santa Ana and Granada and first class rail travel is not available to/from Granada. Please contact one of our Spanish specialists for further information.

### PRICES

**From £1,690 per person**

Based on standard class rail travel in low season.

First class rail travel and hotel upgrades can be added for a supplement.

### DATES

This holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

Accommodation in Dreamer rooms on bed and breakfast as below:

- 1 night in Madrid
- 2 nights in Granada
- 2 nights in Cordoba
- 2 nights in Seville

Rail travel from Madrid to Granada, Granada to Cordoba, Cordoba to Seville

British Airways flights from London Gatwick to Madrid, Seville to London Gatwick

Extras:

- Madrid museum pass
- Romantic dinner in Cordoba
- Flamenco show in Granada
- Iberian ham presentation in Seville

Excursions:

- Granada – a shared tour of the Alhambra
- Cordoba – entrance tickets to the mosque
- Seville – a shared walking tour, 2.5 hours

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Optional extra nights at hotels

Transfers between stations and hotels

Meals other than breakfast unless specified  
Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (though we can arrange this on request at additional cost).

## DAY ONE: Arrive in Madrid

Fly from London to Madrid where you have most of the day to explore the city with its many attractive plaza and museums. You spend one night at the Hospes Puerta de Alcalá in the city centre. We include a combined ticket which allows you one entry to the permanent exhibitions of the Museo del Prado, Museo Thyssen and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía.

## DAY TWO: Madrid to Granada

Leaving Madrid at 9am, travel by train arriving to Granada nestled at the edge of the mountains of the Sierra Nevada around 1.30pm. Spend two nights in the Hospes Palacio de los Patos in Granada. Granada is one of Spain's most fascinating cities. The Sierra Nevada and its wooded slopes form a beautiful backdrop, but the Alhambra palace is the key attraction. Originally constructed as a 9th century fortress, it has been changed and added to over successive centuries expanding the complex to include palaces, churches and mosques. It is now a UNESCO world heritage site.

## DAY THREE: Granada

A shared tour of the Alhambra is included with your holiday, this includes visits to the Royal Palaces, Gardens and Carlos V's Palace. You have the rest of the day at leisure to explore Granada, perhaps strolling around its old quarter and trying the selection of tapas that are served free with drinks in Granada. An authentic Andalusian flamenco show is included this evening.

## DAY FOUR: Granada to Cordoba

Leaving Granada at 9am and take the train to Cordoba arriving just over two hours later. Cordoba is set on the Guadalquivir river at the heart of rural Andalucía, and you spend two nights here at the Hospes Palacio del Bailío. The city has beautiful winding lanes, many historical attractions, restaurants and nightlife. From mid April to mid June the city is full of flowers as local residents open their gardens to the public for the Fiesta de los Patios.

## DAY FIVE: Cordoba

Entrance tickets are included to Cordoba's mosque – the largest Islamic structure in Western Europe and a UNESCO protected site. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Cordoba, and in the evening a romantic "Caliphal" dinner is included - served in the intimate ambiance of the Senzone restaurant.



Madrid Plaza Mayor

Starters: an exclusive selection of Tapas. Main Course: a tasting menu of typical Andalusian dishes. Dessert, coffee and mineral water included. Wine and other alcoholic beverages are not included.

## DAY SIX: Cordoba to Seville

Travel by high speed train from Cordoba – leaving mid-morning and arriving into Seville 45 minutes later. You spend two nights here at the Hospes Las Casas del Rey de Baeza. Seville is the capital of Andalucía and Spain's fourth largest city. The centre is formed of a maze of narrow lanes and hidden plazas. Key attractions of Sevilla are its art and architecture which includes Roman, Islamic, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque influences. Flamenco music and dance are at the heart of this city and it is not uncommon to hear people clapping the rhythm as you walk down the street, but even more popular are the sevillanas – the city's own musical heritage.

## DAY SEVEN: Seville

A two and a half hour shared guided tour of Seville is included, which visits the main sights of the Barrio de Santa Cruz. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Seville, during which you can look around the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, climb up the Giralda tower to see a panoramic view of the entire city, and visit Triana – the city's historic gypsy quarter on the other side of the river. An introductory presentation on Iberian ham and ham cutting is also included.

## DAY EIGHT: Return to UK

Fly from Seville back to London (other airports are also possible). Alternatively, it is possible to return to the UK by train – please ask for details.

## OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in Madrid, Granada, Cordoba and Seville. Speak to one of our Personal Travel Specialists for ideas on other additional locations.

# HOTELS

Below is some information regarding each of the hotels featured in this touring itinerary.



## MADRID

### Hospes Puerta de Alcalá 5 star

This boutique hotel of 42 rooms is located right in the centre of Madrid on the north-western corner of the Retiro park next to Puerta de Alcalá. The hotel building is a former royal mansion dating from 1883 whose facilities include a spa with hydrotherapy pool, gym and library. The Independencia Restaurant serves award winning food and tapas and is open to both the public and hotel guests. The hotel also features a charming Chill-Out Patio area, where guests can relax and enjoy a cocktail or glass of their favourite wine.

## GRANADA

### Hospes Palacio de los Patos 5 star

The Palacio de los Patos is a luxurious and elegant property in the centre of Granada, just a 10 minute walk from the spectacular Cathedral complex. The twin buildings of this hotel are a 19th century palace, with classical and industrial architecture, and a strikingly modern wing which offer together some 42 guestrooms, all furnished simply but stylishly. Hotel facilities include a spa with Turkish bath, sauna and a small pool, a DVD library and wifi throughout the hotel.

## CORDOBA

### Hospes Palacio del Bailio 5 star

In the historical heart of Cordoba, the Palacio del Bailio is set inside an old manor which is made up of several buildings which surround its five patios. On the spectacular main patio, the traditional paving has been replaced by a dramatic glass floor which gives a view to the roman ruins that lie below it. Inside the rooms, original frescoes from the 17th Century have been carefully restored to conserve the historical character of this property. The Arbequina restaurant offers delicious gastronomic delights using fresh, local produce to create traditional dishes. There is also a small swimming pool set amongst the orange trees.

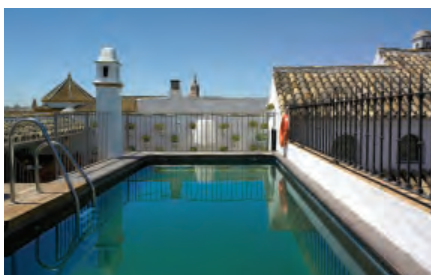


Hospes Palacio del Bailio

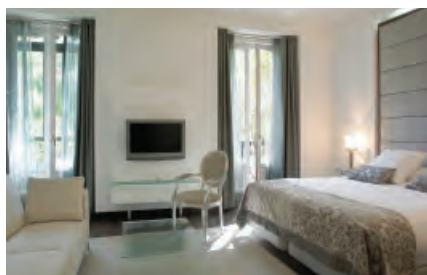
## SEVILLE

### Hospes Las Casas del Rey de Baeza 4 star

This traditional white washed terracotta tiled townhouse is set among the cobbled courtyards of central Seville, has been lovingly restored to preserve features from its 18th Century origins. There are just 41 guestrooms, decorated with columns, ceramics, seagrass and stone as well as traditional works of art and colonial style furniture. The Azahar Restaurant, named after the orange blossom which fills the city with sweet perfume, offers guests the chance to sample the traditional flavours of Andalucia, whilst the swimming pool-solarium on the roof has stunning views of the Giralda tower and the historic centre of Seville.



Hospes Las Casas del Rey de Baeza



Hospes Puerta de Alcalá



Hospes Palacio de los Patos

## MAP OF TOURING HOLIDAY TO ANDALUCIA AND MADRID

The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay at the included destinations or add additional stops. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

### OUR TOURS

**Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.**

### FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

### EUROSTAR

Rail holidays from the UK start with a journey by Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations to either Paris Gare du Nord, Brussels or Lille Europe. In summer months there are direct trains on Saturdays from London St Pancras to Avignon with no change required.

Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel from the centre of London to the centre of Paris on the same train in three hours. Not all trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, but parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London.

Check-in is 30 minutes prior to departure, customs formalities are completed before boarding and there is no limit to the amount of baggage that can be taken on board. The Eurostar trains themselves have 8 coaches which are split into Standard Class, Standard Premier and Business Premier as well as 2 cafeterias. Standard Premier customers are served a light cold meal and enjoy a more spacious environment than Standard Class, while Business Premier customers receive a hot meal and unlimited beverages as well as lounge access.

### TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

### FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Standard Premier for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets. On the Inter-city trains, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

### TRANSFERS

Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi.

## PRICE INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay at the included destinations or add additional stops. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.

### OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

### PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

**Low season:** Jan, Feb, Jul, Aug, Nov, Dec

**From £1,690** per person

**High season:** Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Sept, Oct

**From £1,995** per person

Prices based on two sharing a double or twin room.

#### What's included?

Rail travel from Madrid to Granada, Granada to Cordoba, Cordoba to Seville  
British Airways flights from London Gatwick to Madrid, Seville to London Gatwick  
Standard rooms with private bathroom and breakfast included.  
1 night at the Hospes Puerta de Alcalá in Madrid  
2 nights at the Hospes Palacio de los Patos in Granada  
2 nights at the Hospes Palacio del Bailío in Cordoba  
2 nights bed at the Hospes Las Casas del Rey de Baeza in Seville

#### Extras:

A combined ticket allowing one visit to the permanent exhibitions of the Museo del Prado, the Museo Thyssen and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia.  
1 Caliphal dinner in Cordoba (or on request this can be in Granada or Seville)  
A romantic "Caliphal" dinner for two served in the intimate ambiance of the Senzone restaurant. Starters: an exclusive selection of Tapas; Main Course: a tasting menu of typical Andalusian dishes. Dessert, coffee and mineral water included. Wine and other alcoholic

beverages are not included.

1 Tablao Flamenco show in Granada:

Authentic Andalusian Flamenco show (or on request this can be in Seville or Cordoba).

1 Iberian Ham Cutting presentation in Seville.

An introductory presentation to Iberian Ham and ham cutting.

#### Excursions:

Granada – a shared tour of the Alhambra

Cordoba – entrance tickets to the mosque

Seville – a shared walking tour, 2.5 hours

#### What's not included?

Optional extra nights at hotels

Early check-in or late check-out at any hotels (though we can arrange this on request at additional cost).

Transfers between stations and hotels

Meals other than breakfast

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### BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

### FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays

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## HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

**01392 441276**

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines of the rail tickets involved in your booking.