



## 10-Day Andalusia, Spain – Fixed Base Tour Re-Scheduled to June 16-25, 2021

**Total Cost: \$2,150** (see what is **excluded** below)

**Deposit:** \$1500 (paid at time of registration)

**Final Payment:** \$TBD due by 1/1/21

**Single Supplement:** \$500 (paid at time of registration)

**Rider Limit:** 20 – **Only 3 Single Supplements**

**Tour Leaders:** Ralph Nussbaum & Francien van der Lee

**Tour Rating:** Intermediate

**Special International Cancellation Policy:**

**Before 1/1/21:** Refund all but \$100 (New registrants only)

**Between 1/2-3/1/21:** \$1,500 cancellation fee unless tour is full and your spot is filled, then \$100

**After 3/1/21:** Loss of total fee unless tour is full and your spot is filled, then \$100 cancellation fee.

### BRIEF OVERVIEW:

This incredible tour will take us to the southeast corner of Spain along the Mediterranean to the region called Andalusia. Al-Andalus means Land of the Light. With its mild climate and amazing scenery, it's the perfect cycling destination. Unique in this beautiful region are the remains of the Moorish influences and as well as its famous White Villages. Andalusian capitals like Seville, Cordoba, Malaga and Granada boast spectacular remains of their monuments, the most unforgettable of which is the [Alhambra](#) palace. Our fixed base tour will spend the first 7 days in Ronda. We will take one day off to take a bus ride to Granada to see the Alhambra. Ronda lies in a basin of the mountains of the Sierra de las Nieves National Park at 2375' and was first settled by Celts in 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC. Then came the Phoenicians, Romans and Moors. All have left their imprint. The Guadalquivir River runs through the city, dividing it in two and carving out the steep, 100 plus meters deep El Tajo canyon upon which the city perches.

American writers Ernest Hemingway and Orson Welles spent many summers in Ronda as part-time residents of Ronda's old town quarter. Both wrote about Ronda's beauty and famous bull-fighting traditions. Their collective accounts have contributed to Ronda's popularity over time. (e.g. Hemingway's novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*).

In Ronda you have everything at your disposal: sports, leisure, art, history, culture, shopping and authentic Spanish food at tapas bars or local restaurants. It also has a train station (connection with Granada) and a bus station (connection with Seville). More info at <http://www.turismoderonda.es/en>. The tour ends with a day and a half at a 4-star hotel on the beach in Malaga.

### What's Included in the tour cost:

1. 8 nights 3\* hotel in Ronda in twin/double room
2. 1 nights 4\* hotel in Malaga in twin/double room
3. All breakfasts (from day 2 to day 10)
4. 5 dinners (day 1, day 2 (tapas), days 5, 7, and 9)
5. Bike fitting by local agent
6. GPS tracks and route map (copy)
7. Map of Ronda
8. Bike garage / safe place for bike overnight
9. One-hour flamenco show in Ronda
10. Visit Alhambra in Granada
11. Transfer Ronda-Granada & Ronda-Malaga by coach
12. Tour guide – Francien who speaks Spanish

## What's Not Included in the tour cost:

1. Roundtrip flight USA – Spain
2. Transfer airport Málaga – Ronda
3. Lunches – great places to eat along route
4. Drinks at dinner
5. 4 dinners in Ronda
6. Rental bike: road bike or hybrid, w/ helmet
7. Storage of bike boxes during tour
8. Travel insurance
9. Other excursions and entrance fees
10. **There will be no support (sag) van on this tour. Both Ralph and Francien will be riding. There will therefore be no snacks or other support en route**

## ITINERARY (subject to modification):

Francien has designed this tour with the idea that folks will have a choice of a short easier ride and a longer more challenging one. We have found that cue sheets don't work well with all the twists and turns of very small roads so everyone will be expected to use some kind of electronic device to navigate by whether that be a Garmin, Wahoo, Lezyne, or smartphone. Generally speaking, Francien will lead the "snails" on the shorter routes while Ralph will lead the "rabbits" on the longer ones.

### Day 1 - Wednesday, June 16: Ronda

The closest airport to Ronda is Malaga. Although there are no direct flights from the US, there are connections via several European International Airports, e.g. Madrid, Paris, Amsterdam, London, etc. There are several buses per day from the Malaga Airport to Ronda. There is also a train connection.

There will be a group Happy Hour welcome in the late afternoon followed by a group dinner in town.

### Day 2 - Thursday, June 17: Acinipo-Setenil– 47/86 km – 865 m

Today we head north to the archeological site of Acinipo which is located on top one big limestone hill at about 3,300'. This rise at the depression of Ronda gave it an important strategic value. It was probably the site of human settlement in pre roman times and became a Roman outpost. From here we will ride mostly downhill to the village of Setenil, a very pretty whitewashed village with many of the houses built into the cliffs. The village is unique in this part of the world in that it was not built on a defensive hilltop location. Tapas group dinner in town.



### Day 3 – Friday, June 18: Faraján-Cartajima– 48/90 km - 1071 m



Today, we head south of Ronda. After passing by the mountain Jarestepar (4200') you will reach seven villages in a lush green valley. Part of this area has forests with chestnut trees. Faraján is an old Moorish town a "refuge for peace and rest" (*reposo y descanso*). After passing the village of Cartajima, one of the highest communities in the province of Malaga at 2790'. the landscape becomes rough and empty. We will go through the village of Juzcar which was painted blue in its entirety in 2011 for the promotion of the movie about the Smurfs. We will end the day with a (one hour) flamenco show with guitar players, singers and dancers. Afterwards dinner is on your own.

### Day 4 - Saturday, June 19: Puerto del Viento and El Burgo – 54/107 km – 1002 m

Now it's time to cycle east of Ronda. We start with the climb of Puerto del Viento (Pass of the Wind – 1190m), which is not too difficult from this side. You'll reach the white village of El Burgo, a mountainous town dominated by the limestone outcrops of the surrounding mountains of the Serrania de Ronda. The bizarre rock formations of El Torrecilla (1900m) and its surrounding 'parque natural' overlook the town and provide the source for the Río Turón that runs through it. Dinner is on your own.



## Day 5 Sunday, June 20: Rest Day - Granada

Today we take a well earned rest from the bicycle, as we take an air-conditioned coach to Granada at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains (the Spanish ones) at the confluence of four rivers. Visiting the Alhambra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Arab citadel and palace, is our primary goal. It is the most renowned building of the Andalusian Islamic historical legacy.



Christians, and Jews who lived in separate quarters in relative peace. During this Nasrid period there were 137 Muslim mosques in Medina (city) of Granada.

The Almohad influence on architecture is also preserved in the Granada neighborhood called the Albaicín with its fine examples of Moorish and Morisco architecture. During the Moorish rule, Granada was a city with adherents to many religions and ethnicities including Arabs, Berbers,

## Day 6 – Monday, June 21: Benaolán-Atajate – 52/78 km – 1027m



Back on our trusty bikes once more, we will head south of Ronda to find the green valley of the river Rio Guadiaro. On both sides of the river is a road. We will first follow the west bank of the river in a southerly direction. We cross the valley to the road on the east side of the river via Jimena de Libar. Although the roads are parallel to the river, this route is far from flat.

In the late afternoon we will take an excursion to local winery by bus. After visiting the wine cellars, we will be tasting 3 wines on the terrace, enjoying the beautiful scenery over the vineyards. We will have our third group dinner in the hotel in Ronda.

## Day 7 – Tuesday, June 22: Setenil-Cuevas del Becerro – 51/74 km – 897 m

Today's routes head northeast with 3 climbs. We will likely have lunch in Arriate a sleepy rural village with a high street of sophisticated and chic shops and eateries. This ride is not too difficult, leaving you time in the afternoon to enjoy Ronda. Make sure to visit a local museum or the bullring (now also a museum). Ronda is the birthplace of modern bullfighting. And of course, there's the opportunity to take a hike in the canyon of the river Tago. Dinner is again on your own.



## Day 8 – Wednesday, June 23: Zahara-Palomaspas-Grazalema – 65/97 km – 1200m



Probably the Queen Stage of the tour and the last day on our bikes, we head northwest. We will ride through the white village Zahara de la Sierra which is located on a hill by a beautiful manmade lake. We will then climb over the highest mountain pass in the region 'Puerto de las Palomas' (Pass of the Doves – 4500') to the nature reserve, Sierra de Grazalema, with its unique flora and fauna. Vultures will undoubtedly soar above us as we ride our bikes. After returning our bikes to the rental shop, we will have our last group dinner in Ronda.

### **Day 9 – Thursday, June 24: Malaga**

We start the day with a short bus ride to relax in the sun at the beach (Costa del Sol) or visit the city of Malaga which includes a Picasso Museum. You can also explore the old castle of Malaga. You can easily reach the city center by bus or take a 30/45-minute walk on the beach. We will end the day with a farewell dinner.



### **Day 10 – Friday, June 25: Malaga**

After enjoying our final breakfast at our hotel, it will be time to head our separate ways! Perhaps you want to take the opportunity to spend a couple of extra days to explore the wonders of Andalusia.