

Est. 1988

Adventureline

WALKING HOLIDAYS

Andalucía

14 days exploring Axarquía and the Serranía de Ronda

Bespoke walking tours with the renowned naturalist Martin Hunt
Melding *Nature, History and Story Telling* into an art

To view our 2025 Andalucía tour dates, please go to the '[Holiday Availability](#)' page on our website to see the latest availability.
Space is limited, early booking is recommended.





"Dime con quién andas y te diré quién eres"
(Tell me who you walk with, and I will tell you who you are)

Andalucían proverb

14 days exploring Andalucía

Walking Tour in the Andalucían regions Axarquía (eastern Málaga province) and the Serranía de Ronda (western Málaga province). October 8th – 22nd, 2025 With Martin Hunt of Adventureline International, assisted by his son Pete and his good friend and expert local mountain guide, Javier Sanchez.

This two week walking holiday has been designed specifically for your walking group, and for you to stay in two distinct but very interesting walking locations, since we believe that each location on its own has sufficient quality to justify dividing our time in this way. Moreover, we feel that, collectively, the locations complement each other superbly, with one of the locations particularly esteemed for its walking and natural awe, and the other especially regarded for its socio-cultural and traditional characteristics and historical aspects. Thus, by dividing our time between these two locations in this way, you will gain a somewhat fuller appreciation of what Andalucía has to offer and acquire a more integrated and compelling experience, that together these two regions can bring.

The first location on the itinerary is The Axarquía region which lies just to the east of the city of Málaga and is about 1000 km² (400 miles²) in area. Here we will stay in El Cañuelo, a very quaint hamlet of scant permanent inhabitants on an olive estate in the rural outskirts about 4 km away from the nearest neighbouring village of Periana. El Cañuelo, like our neighbouring town of Periana, is in a region dominated by a traditional agrarian landscape of olives, almonds and wheat, and is set amidst a beautiful and recurring panoramic backdrop of majestically sweeping valleys cloaked in olive trees infrequently interrupted by imposing limestone outcrops and mountain ranges. Periana, the village, is not an exceptional town in itself by any measure, but it is Periana's geographical location and the position of El Cañuelo within this setting which makes it such a superb spot, not to mention the excellence and ambiance of the hamlet and its accommodation, and the hospitality and charm of our

hosts. Moreover, our location puts us in a very good position from which to explore other places of interest further afield, something that would be much more laborious, impractical and time consuming to do from Ronda. For Periana is relatively well-connected to major motorways – a very big advantage indeed.

As a consequence of this beneficial logistical position, we will have the opportunity to visit two UNESCO World Heritage Sites of outstanding historical importance in the neighbouring provinces of Granada and Córdoba. By the very nature and design of this walking holiday, you will experience a unique and diverse itinerary that also contemplates social, cultural and rural experiences and perspectives of Andalusian country and mountain life.

The second part of the tour will be in the historic and sophisticated provincial inland Andalucían town

of Ronda, an exciting position from which to explore the wider regional panorama of stunning natural beauty found in the west of Málaga province. Ronda numbers among Spain and Europe's most fascinating towns: it's for good reason that it has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in Spain both for walkers and non-walkers. Ronda itself is in a very physically dramatic location, nestled atop a tremendous limestone outcrop split in two by a sheer gorge, a unique vantage point from which to appreciate its immediate surroundings of picturesque rolling countryside and farmland interspersed with hillocks, bluffs and other enchanting rural features in the distance. But in a wider geographical context, the quality that sets Ronda apart as a truly exceptional walking destination is that of being surrounded by four distinct areas of outstanding natural beauty and being perfectly positioned to all four of them to make exploring them feasible and practical.



Javier and Martin in Andalucía



Martin in Andalucía!



Your guide

Martin Hunt

Over 37 years ago, Martin spearheaded his unique discovery walking holidays in Cornwall and founded what became the very first walking tour operator in Cornwall in 1988 - Adventureline, now often mimicked, but never equalled. Back in the mid to late 90's, Martin began to broaden his horizons and has since run tours in many countries for the past 25 years or so. Consequently, he has become popular with nature lovers and adventurers of all ages, nationalities - and of many different backgrounds.

Keeping his groups fairly small, he manages to maintain an intimacy and cohesion (with humour!), which is warmly appreciated by all. Martin is always interested in others, so you will be appreciated and enjoyed too, for whoever you are and wherever you come from. Martin's groups often turn out to be an eclectic International mix too.

Martin and Pete (Martin's son) are passionate about enabling their guests to have fun learning about wherever they might happen to be, by stopping for an informal lecture/talk, taking a closer look at the natural flora and fauna geology and history, enjoying an exploratory scramble, taking a swim - or perhaps (in Andalucía) exploring some of the awesome limestone escarpments that frequent these regions. Not to mention exploring some of the region's delectable regional dishes and wines!

Martin has travelled extensively around the world and occasionally lectures on natural history in the UK, Europe and sometimes North America, sharing his knowledge and love of nature, history and culture with great enthusiasm. Martin and Pete also lead walking tours to other destinations in Great Britain and abroad - see their website: <https://adventureline.co.uk/> for further information on any of these tours.



Our local guide Javier Sanchez

Itinerary

This comprehensive tour covers large parts of Andalucía, stretching from Granada in the east to Cadiz Tarifa and Ronda/Grazalema in the far west. Over these two weeks, you will come to appreciate the amazing historical importance of the region and what makes it tick. Hiking, cultural visits, vineyards, olive oil mills, fine dining and wines, coasts, mountains, castles and palaces - this tour has it all.

Day 1

Arrival in Málaga

Málaga Airport collection at noon and transfer to El Cañuelo near Periana – about 1 hr 30 mins. Relax at accommodation (with pool) and take local walks. Evening meal.

Day 2

Periana mountains and countryside

The first walk is intended as an introduction to the area and to showcase the diversity of the terrain in which you are now staying. One of the most impressive natural features worth seeing that is located literally behind our accommodation is the huge cleft in the mountain and the spectacular ridge adjoining it. We may see Spanish Ibex today. Once we have explored the

ridge, we will embark on the second part of our walk which follows the course of an abandoned railway line through some of the prettiest and most spectacular landscapes this side of the Moon. The combination of these



Wild flowers in Andalusian countryside

two walks makes for a satisfyingly exhilarating introduction with impressive 360 degree views of hugely contrasting terrains.

12.2km, 3hr 40min, circular, medium, ascent/descent 540m, picnic lunch.

Day 3

Granada – visit to The Alhambra Palace and Granada city's historic quarter

We visit a historical city and one of Spain's most famous and recognised monumental treasures: The Alhambra Palace complex. Your visit to the Alhambra Palace complex includes visits to the Alcazaba fortress, the Generalife Gardens, and the most beautiful and iconic of all the buildings therein: the Nasrid Palaces. Once your visit of the Alhambra Palace



The Alhambra

complex is concluded, and if time and circumstances allow, you will have time to explore the historical quarter of Granada city on your own, a fascinating mishmash of narrow cobbled streets and historic buildings.

Lunch in Granada. Free time included.

Day 4

Los Tajos de Alhama (The Cliffs of Alhama) - The Alhama Gorge + an official guided tour of the town

The Alhama Gorge walk will provide a refreshingly distinctive change from our previous itineraries. The gorge is formed of a series of canyons and sandstone gorges, the consequence of the erosion by the Alhama river and rockfalls during several past earthquakes. Our proposed itinerary takes us along the Camino de Los Angeles (Path of the Angels), a medieval path that runs through the gorge and takes us past the many ruins of old flour mills and irrigation channels demonstrative of earlier economies, among other interesting features. We will often walk in the shade of poplar groves and encounter the shrine devoted to the La Virgen de Los Angeles (The Virgin of the Angels) where traditionally the muleteers used to stop to ask the Virgin for protection on their journeys. Once we traverse the gorge, we will come out of the gorge to embark on a guided tour of this historic town's buildings, its history and its ambiance, before commencing our return to our starting point via a path atop the gorge where we will have lunch.

8 km, 3.5hr, circular, easy, ascent/descent 150m, lunch at a local restaurant.

Day 5

Casabermeja - themed rural tour (visit to a local goat farm) + optional guided walk along an historic trading route

We bear witness to one of the most valued mainstays of the local diet and one of the most important drivers of

the rural economy, not to mention the crucial agrarian and environmental role this animal has in maintaining, protecting and promoting, not only the rural environment, but also wooded areas, forests and mountain landscapes. Our visit to a nearby goat farm will open your eyes to the amazing qualities of this humble yet versatile animal, and the benefits that it brings. Uniquely adapted and suited to the harshness of the Mediterranean climate, the goat is a very special creature in many more unique ways than one.

Visit to farm + walk: 5.5hr. Visit to farm only (including lunch): 4hr. Walk: 7km, 1.5hr, easy, linear. Lunch: picnic style lunch on the estate out in a field under an oak tree. What better way to spend the afternoon?

DAY 6

Epic mountain hike: La Maroma

We have certainly saved the best hike for last. Mount Maroma the highest peak in the province of Málaga standing at 2,068m (6,785 ft.). We will attack this mountain from the northern side (El Robledal route) which, as it turns out, and not to lessen the sense of achievement, is the easiest route of the five possible options for getting to the top. The advantages of choosing this option are many: the trees and vegetation are varied, thus it is at its prettiest in autumn when the leaves are turning and the golden autumnal afternoon light is at its finest; there is more shade during the first half of the walk on those hot, sunny days; and the incline of the ascent is easier on the legs, among others. However, easier is always a relative term, as you will inevitably come to find out. If luck is on your side, this walk will provide you with undoubtedly the best opportunity to see the iconic Iberian Ibex, among other fascinating mountain species, including the red billed Chough, Griffon vulture, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, among others

16km, 6 -7hr, semi-circular, difficult, ascent/descent 1200m, picnic lunch.

Day 7

Córdoba – The Córdoba Cathedral-Mosque

We visit the historical city of Córdoba to see one of the most important monuments of Spanish historical patrimony: the Córdoba Cathedral-Mosque, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If circumstances and time permit, we will also visit 'Los Patios', a random collection of award-winning and beautifully curated patios-cum-gardens popularly admired for their aesthetic beauty, not to mention being officially recognised for their contribution to the historical and cultural landscape of the city. Free time on your own to explore the old city centre might also be possible, time permitting, of course.

Lunch in Córdoba. Free time included.

Day 8

Depart El Cañuelo and transfer to



The Alhama Gorge walk

Tarifa, in the far southwest corner of Spain, about 3 hrs

While Martin takes the luggage to our next hotel in the town of Tarifa, you will take a spectacular hike with Javier and Pete through the hills and along the southern coast, with fine views over the Straights of Gibraltar, to Morocco. Evening in old Tarifa and dinner.

continued overleaf



The Alhambra in Granada

Day 9

Transfer to Ronda area, via Cádiz, with some free time to explore this, the oldest city in Europe. Stunning drive through coastal and then dramatic mountainous scenery

Arrive Ronda and after checking into our hotel in this ancient town, we will explore the dramatic location, with its famous gorge, that is Ronda - before dinner.

Day 10

Grazalema Park: Montejaque circuit

This superb full-day walk leads you into the heart of the Grazalema Park and to an area of stunning natural beauty. The walk initially leads you through a series of broad and flat valleys before arriving to an area of the most beautiful karst limestone formations in the park. A mixture of tracks and narrow footpaths brings you back through oak forest and olive groves to Montejaque. Allow a full day to get the most out of the stunning scenery that this exceptional walk has to offer.

16.3km, 5hr, circular, medium – difficult, ascent/descent 710m, picnic lunch.

Day 11

Grazalema Park: Northern circuit

This walk – a proper half-day outing – provides a great taste of the beautiful valley of the Gaidovar stream that lies just to the north of Grazalema. On this itinerary we will infrequently walk along medieval cobbled footpaths as we explore scenic open countryside, farmland and various valleys. There is one challenging section of walking involved, but from this vantage point there are soaring vistas of the surrounding landscape and of a village of Roman origin.

12.2km, 3hr 40min, circular, medium, ascent/descent 540m, picnic lunch

Day 12

Sierra de Las Nieves: El Burgo circuit via Puerto de La Mujer

This walk provides a fine introduction to the varied terrain of the northern reaches of the Sierra de Las Nieves and begins close to the pretty village of El Burgo. We will follow broad forestry tracks and paths through the mountains including a stunning ridge-top path where views open out to the northwest and southeast. The road journey from Ronda to El Burgo, and the walks starting point is an adventure in its own right, leading you through on of Andalucía's wildest expanses of mountain terrain.

14km, 3hr 45min, circular, medium, ascent/descent 375m, picnic lunch.

Day 13

Guadiaro River Valley: From Jimera to Arroyo de los Judios via The Dehesa

One of the most beautiful and yet generally unknown places in the Guadiaro River Valley, and even in the Serranía de Ronda, is the 'Dehesa de Jimera' or the Jimera Meadow. Its prize feature is a magnificent cork oak forest where pigs, goats and sheep graze in a duo-ecosystem where the needs of extensive agriculture are integrated with the conservation of the forest and the biome. As we begin the walk we will see poplars, willow, oleander and the many thick strands of reeds that inhabit the riverbanks. As we venture into the meadow proper, the cork oak forest comes alive in all of its splendour, while giving way hesitantly to a dispersed presence of Holm oaks in whose undergrowth we will see Rock Rose, sage, broom and lavender, among other plants typical of this rustic environment. The impressive mountain backdrops are never out of sight for one second.

8.25km, 3hr, circular, easy, ascent/descent 200m, lunch in the village.

Day 14

Guadiaro River Valley: From Jimera to Arroyo de los Judios via The Dehesa

This moderately challenging circuit passes through three of the Genal valley's prettiest villages. This walk mostly follows farm tracks and paths that cut through the ancient chestnut groves of the upper Genal valley's landscape – and as you can imagine, walking here in autumn would make for a memorable experience. Along the walk, there are fine views north towards the jagged crest of Los Riscos, one of Andalucía's most striking karst limestone formations.

15.5km, 4hr 20min, circular, medium-difficult, ascent/descent 750m, lunch in a local restaurant



Javier Sanchez

Day 15

Airport drop-offs, either Seville or Málaga



Hiking in Axarquía

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in the Axarquía region

The village of Periana in the Axarquía region: Rural accommodation at El Cañuelo - a secluded and charming mountain hamlet with modern facilities and conveniences.

As far as your accommodation in El Cañuelo goes, just picture this: you will be staying in a charming little Axarquían hamlet perched on a cascading mountainside in a secluded rural setting, surrounded by olive groves and a wonderful view. The hamlet also has its very own bar and restaurant run by a local husband and wife team that prepares exquisite traditional Axarquían dishes, all served on a huge terrace overlooking the pool with magnificent views of the lake in the valley below and the Mediterranean beyond in the distance. The locals are encouraged to treat the hamlet as their own, with the occasional hot stepper infrequently gathering to strum guitars, dance, sing, and enjoy Manolo's amazing fish soup. Andalusian folk fusion aside, there are no modern luxuries or high-flying events here – just pure, rustic countryside charm infused into everything: the renovated stone and adobe-walled bungalows with their authentic Andalusian architectural appeal; the hamlet's on-site rural bar and restaurant; the charming detail of reclaimed antique doors, windows, furniture and fittings; Moorish fixtures and old agrarian artefacts; the hamlet's resident goatherd; the grapevine and bougainvillea-covered terraces; and the enjoyment you will get from the seclusion, ambiance and charm that you would expect only from a place of this sort of natural appeal and character.

Accommodation in the Ronda region

We have a provisional reservation at the historical and luxurious Ronda Paradores: <https://paradores.es/en/parador-de-ronda>. However, this reservation will depend on the group being at least 12 persons preferably 14. If we can't stay here, we will stay at another nice hotel in Ronda. We will occupy twin rooms mostly and have all our meals in the hotel, which will be very fine. Single occupancy rooms will be available, but will incur a supplement.



Canyon in the Ronda Pic: Randy Duran

Serranía de Ronda

The Ronda Mountain Range is an area of significant natural beauty characterised by a typical inland Mediterranean rural landscape of gently rolling hills and valleys, farmland, wheat and sunflower fields, and a sprawling countryside criss-crossed with small rivers and numerous streams. In fact, the Serranía de Ronda, quite confusingly, incorporates into its broad geographic extension little bits of each of the surrounding natural parks detailed below, thus demonstrating how closely geographically connected each of the individual areas in this proposal are, and how unique this region is in terms of the diversity of its climate, landscapes and flora. Therefore, with the town of Ronda and its Serranía right in the middle of this wild and incredible territory, you could not be better positioned to experience what the region has to offer.

Grazalema Natural Park

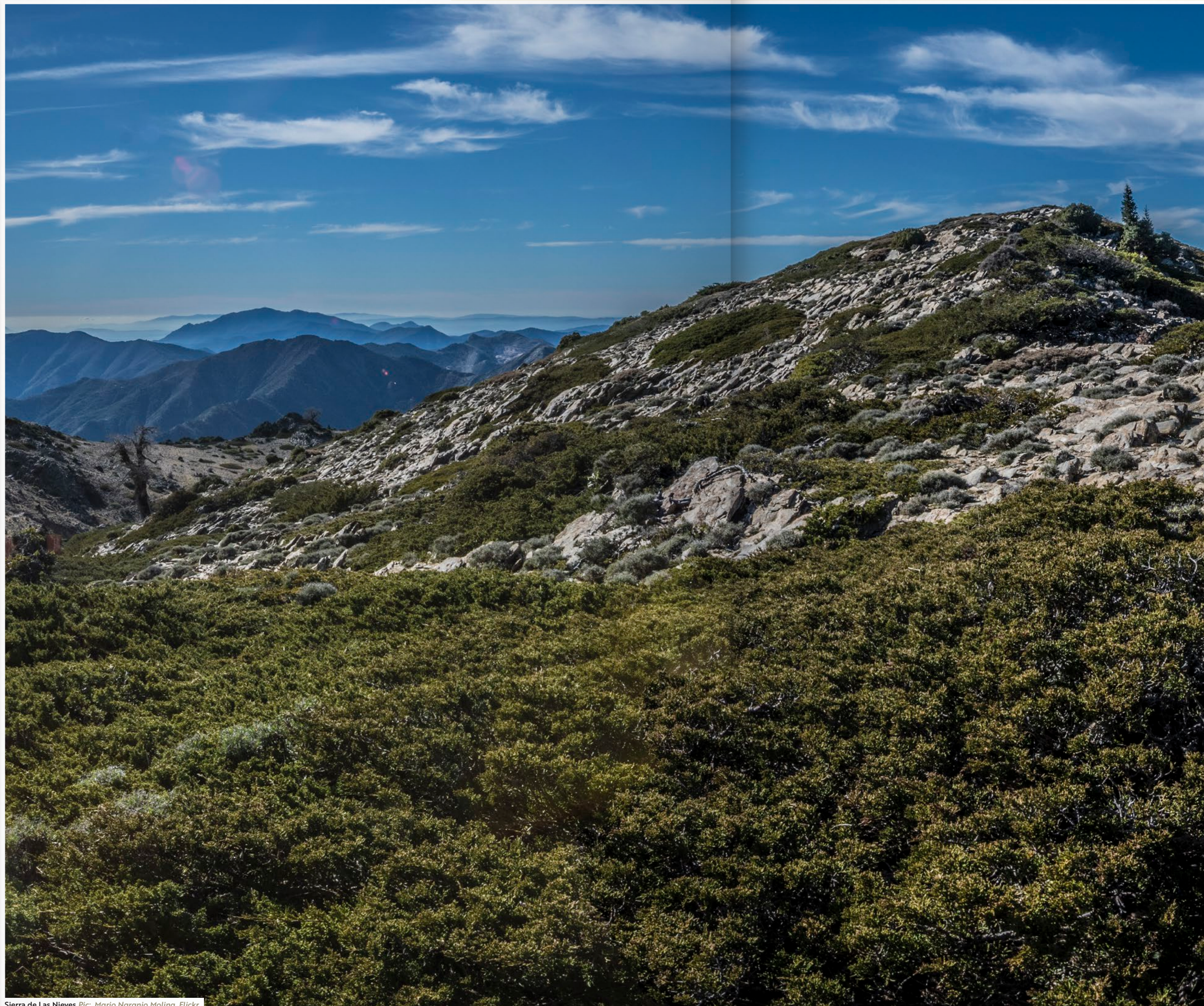
Immediately adjacent to Ronda to the west is the equally beautiful but hugely distinct Grazalema Natural Park.

This rugged massif, predominantly composed of limestone and dolomite, rises steeply from the low-lying farmlands around Jerez de la Frontera and Medina Sidonia in the province of Cádiz in the west, to a height of around 1700 metres.

The terrain is extraordinarily varied with jagged formations of karst limestone that give way to thickly forested and verdant mountain slopes of pine, cork oaks and evergreen oaks in the upper valleys which eventually blend into an alternating landscape of poplars, almond and olive groves, and fields of wheat and barley in the lower valleys. The Park was recently declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve thanks in part to the diversity of its plants and wildlife – the result of the unusual combination of Continental, Mediterranean and Atlantic climatic influences. Moreover, the extremely high level of precipitation means that the area is remarkably green by Andalusian standards, and as such is officially recognised as the wettest part of Spain.



Grazalema Natural Park Pic: Mario Naranjo Molina, Flickr



Sierra de Las Nieves Pic: Mario Naranjo Molina. Flickr

Sierra de Las Nieves National Park

Immediately to Ronda's east is the iconic and beautiful massif of the Sierra de Las Nieves National Park, one of only three National Parks in Andalucía and a State Heritage Site. This iconic mountain region is renowned for its prodigious array of fauna and flora. It is the wildest and least visited of the four walking areas described in this proposal, and for that very reason you will almost certainly encounter very few hikers on your walks here, or quite possibly have the trail all to yourselves. The botanical jewel of this National Park is unquestionably the Pinsapo, or the Spanish fir (*Abies Pinsapo*), and the world's largest stand of this Ice Age relic fills a valley on one of the proposed walks.

The park is also home to some of the most extensive stands of arbutus, *Arbutus Unedo* (*Madroño* or *Strawberry tree*) and yew (*Taxus Baccata*) in southern Spain.

Valle de Guadiaro and Valle del Genal

And to Ronda's south, extending all the way down to the coast, there is the 'Valle de Guadiaro' and 'Valle del Genal' or Guadiaro and Genal River Valleys, a long and intricately folded forested landscape containing many nooks and crannies worthy of exploration through its vast stands of chestnuts, cork oaks, gall oaks and pines.

The plant and animal life of the Guadiaro and Genal valleys are very similar to those found in the Grazalema mountains. During the winter months, the valley is spectacular when its many almond trees come into blossom.



This is the supposedly the oldest and largest olive tree in Spain - it is actually one tree with 3 main trunks!



One of the famous 'Pueblo Blanco' villages - Competa



Looking down over the Mediterranean!



Cordoba Roman bridge



Countryside above El Canuelo



The Alhambra in Granada

Our Philosophy...

...is to enrich our guests lives and enjoy our work on a daily basis, providing impeccable customer service and promoting long-term sustainability of ecology, economy and community.

See what our many satisfied clients say about us - you'll be surprised!
<https://adventureline.co.uk/testimonials/>

Read more reviews: [Trip Advisor](#) | [Google Reviews](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AdventurelineUK>



Hiking trail near Grazalema



Booking

Tour cost £3,100
Based on 14 persons

or £3,200
Based on 12 persons.

Single room supplement £335.

Our great package includes:

- All transfers in Andalucía
- Martin and Pete's dedicated services
- Javier, our English speaking local guide's services
- All accommodations and all meals + local wines

Adventureline's unique formula for a relaxing yet stimulating holiday (in good company) is well rounded and is good value for money too. Early booking is recommended as we have limited capacity per trip.

Not included:

- Any additional alcoholic drinks other than local wines
- Personal expenses

Booking and cost:

1. All prices are as stated in the booking request.
2. We will hold any provisional reservation for you, provided you confirm your travel arrangements with us within a month.
3. We will require a £250 non refundable deposit.
 Final balances are due 3 months before tour commences.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or email for further information, or for details of any of our other holidays around the world, our terms and conditions, or to make a reservation. Phone: +44 (0)1209 820847 | adventureline@btinternet.com

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to have the pleasure of your company in Spain in 2025.

Martin Hunt

Martin Hunt



Phone: +44 (0)1209 820847 • <http://adventureline.co.uk> • adventureline@btinternet.com

All pictures: Martin Hunt unless otherwise credited

Brochure design: www.peteisaac.co.uk

© Adventureline International 2025

See you soon!