

# Walk Spain

## Andalucia Inn to Inn



Aracena hills - whitewashed villages - ancient pathways - olive groves - chestnut forests - independent but supported - delicious food - small inns - peaceful conditions - transfers included - support on hand

Walk a route exclusive to Pura Aventura through Aracena, a little-known corner of Andalucía.

Follow quiet paths from village to village through forests and hills.

Enjoy well-paced days with maps and walking notes provided.

Relax as your bags are delivered ahead for you each day.

Stay in comfortable village inns and hotels with tasty fresh food.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity rating *medium* and a comfort rating *first*.



Spring flowers in the meadows of Aracena.



**"This holiday is hard to fault! Diverse scenery and wonderful swathes of wild flowers in bloom made this a really memorable walk." Alison G**

### Holiday Itinerary



#### Day 01 | Alajar | **arrive in Aracena**

You are collected from Seville airport or your hotel for the drive of 1½ hours to the peaceful village of Alajar in the heart of the Sierra de Aracena.

This evening sit down with your hosts, Lucy and Angel, for them to help you settle in and answer any questions you have.

They can also give you more specific information about weather forecasts or local events. Enjoy dinner in your hotel. (d)

#### Day 02 | Alajar | **Sierra de Aracena**

Walk a circular route today to get you used to the area and the terrain.

The walk is a beautiful introduction to the Sierra de Aracena through the villages of Santa Ana and Castaño, famous for its air-cured ham.

The picturesque path takes you along streams, past a waterfall, through chestnut forests and has views all the way to Portugal.

Walk 18km, 5hrs, ▲550m, ▼550m

Tonight dinner is at leisure in the village. Despite having a population of less than 800, Alájar has seven restaurants. (b,l)

#### Day 03 | Aracena | **walk through villages**

Pack your bags today and leave them in reception, they will be brought on to your next hotel for you.

Walking with just a daypack and your things for the day, including a picnic lunch, you set off from Alajar towards the small hippy village of El Calabacino.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

[info@pura-aventura.com](mailto:info@pura-aventura.com) | [www.pura-aventura.com](http://www.pura-aventura.com) | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.

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Views of the Aracena and Aroche Hills from the Penas Arias.



This holiday is self-guided but support is always on hand.



We provide you with detailed maps and walking notes for the entire route.

Walk all the way up to one of the highest points of the walk: the Peña Arias from where you can enjoy views across the sierra.

Head back down to the valley and into Linares, one of the most picturesque villages in the area. The streets are beautifully decorated and the village fountain is sometimes still used for washing clothes.

Make your way to Aracena, the capital of the region, and to your small hotel in town.

On arrival you will find your bags waiting for you. Walk 20km, 6hrs, ▲ 530m, ▼ 550m (b,l,d)

### **Day 04 | Aracena | explore Aracena**

Spend the day at leisure visiting the beautiful village of Aracena.

See churches and narrow streets and the castle standing high on a bluff over the town.

You might also visit the 'Gruta de las Maravillas', the famous cave with beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. As usual, they seem to feel obliged to highlight the formations with coloured lights.

Later this afternoon you might like to take advantage of the cooling weather to walk up to the reservoir above town. There are lovely views across the hills from here. (b,l)

Walk 11km, 3hrs, ▲ 50m, ▼ 50m

### **Day 05 | Galaroza | whitewashed villages**

Walk past the village of Fuenteheridos with its famous bell tower.

Enjoy panoramic views as you walk to Galaroza, a charming whitewashed town with a 15th century hermitage high on the hill overlooking the winding cobbled streets.

Have a drink in the bar on the main square for an authentic rural Andaluz experience. (b,l,d)

Walk 19km, 5hrs, ▲ 250m, ▼ 230m

### **Day 06 | Almonaster | rugged highlands**

Today counts as the most adventurous day with some detailed navigation.

Pass through Jabugo, home to the most famous cured ham in Spain. This wealthy industry has changed the village a little bit, mixing important historical buildings with some industrial buildings.

Continue to the lovely village of Almonaster La Real, one of the most interesting villages in Aracena, dominated by its 10th century mosque.

The Arabic culture is strongest here in the south of Spain. Words beginning with 'Al' derive from Arabic (e.g., *almendra* means almond).

There are about 2000 words in the Spanish language today which start with 'al'.

More surprisingly perhaps than the linguistic heritage of the Moors, is the fact that villages in this area still have such obvious physical signs of their Arabic past. The mosque in Almonaster is the clearest example.

Spend the night in a rural hotel just on the edge of the village. (b,l,d)

Walk 21km, 7hrs, ▲ 650m, ▼ 430m

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Walk through chestnuts and cork oaks



Spend each night in a small, traditional village

### **Day 07 | Alajar | *chestnut forests to Alajar***

Walk through a dense Mediterranean forest of cork and Holm oaks on your way back to Alajar and the completion of your circular route around these mountains.

Alajar, Arabic for rock, is named because of the rough terrain of the area dominated by the rocky crag of Peña Arias.

Relax and celebrate tonight as you reach the end of your walk. (b,l)

Walk 20km, 6hrs, ▲400m, ▼620m

### **Day 08 | Travel | *return home***

Return to Seville for your flight home or consider extending your holiday (b)

*Space for your notes and questions for us*

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### Holiday Information

#### Pura Handpicked

This holiday is unique to us but is delivered by our partners on the ground in Aracena.

You are looked after by a team on the ground in Aracena who are always on hand in case you need help during your stay.

#### How active?

The walks are reasonably strenuous over several consecutive days. Daily distances are around 20km (12½ miles).

The Aracena Hills give the impression of being rolling and gentle but in fact there are some steep ascents.

Altitudes are low and conditions underfoot are excellent. The combination of benign weather and regular sorties into small villages is generally conducive to long days of relaxed walking.

There are long distances on some days so you should enjoy walking or at least be 'walking fit' in order to really enjoy this holiday.

One day is planned as a rest day.

#### How comfortable?

Small inns and hotels, twin/double en suite rooms which are comfortable but not fancy.

You should expect your hotels to be comfortable, characterful and friendly.

Your main bags are taken for you from place to place leaving you to walk relatively unencumbered.

#### How independent?

Completely independent but supported.

Our transfer guide meets you when you arrive.

While you are walking you can relax knowing that support and help is a phone call away.

We provide you with all the maps, walking notes and local information you will need.

#### How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits. To help preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Work directly with local businesses and organisations to directly benefit local economies. We use small, locally owned hotels and restaurants.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.

Pura Aventura actively supports the mountain conservation charity [www.quebrantahuesos.org](http://www.quebrantahuesos.org)

#### When should I go?

December and January are the rainiest time of year, July and August are very, very hot so are not advisable unless you are immune to heat!

Apart from this, really any time of year is good.

#### Where do I fly to?

**Seville:** Ryanair has direct flights from London Stansted. Iberia has direct flights from London. 1.5 hour drive to Aracena.

#### Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK. Call us on **+44 1273 676 712** between 9am and 6.30pm GMT weekdays.

#### Not quite right?

If this holiday's not quite right for you, call us to discuss your ideas or consider:

**Andalucia Foodie Walking Holiday** A similar route to above but taken at a more relaxed pace, moving on only every other day. A focus on sustainable lodging and great food.

**Picos Inn To Inn** Walk independently, completely off the beaten track, while your bags catch a cab.

**Rioja Inn to Inn** Walk a beautiful route exclusive to Pura along the southern edge of the region.

#### How do I book?

As a tailor made holiday we need to check availability and prices before taking your booking. If you would like us to prepare you a detailed proposal then simply email [info@pura-aventura.com](mailto:info@pura-aventura.com) or call 01273 676 712 with your preferred dates plus any other changes you would like us to make.

Once you have the proposal and decide you would like to go ahead then please call in with the following:

- Full names
- Address
- Contact telephone numbers & email
- Deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best (the balance of your holiday is due 60 days prior to travel).

We send you a confirmation email detailing all of the services agreed between us. We ask you to check through all of this carefully and sign off on the holiday.

#### Prices & departures

Departs	Year round   <b>£790pp</b>
Price includes	Includes twin/double en suite accommodation; Meals (b,l,d) as per itinerary; Private transfers to/from Seville; Walking notes, detailed maps; local information and guidebook;
Not included	Flights; personal expenses.
Please note	Remove the private transfers to reduce the holiday price to <b>£680pp</b> This option works well if you are staying in Seville before the walk though timings depend on flights and days of travel. There is a bus to Alájar from Seville for around €10pp each way.

Prices per person based on twin share or double accommodation.  
Prices may be subject to change: please confirm at booking. **WSA112**

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