

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 *handmade* 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 1 | 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 a Pura Aventura guide comes to your hotel 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 2 | 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. (b,l,d)

Walk 18km, 5hrs, ▲550m, ▼550m

Day 3 | 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.

We provide you with detailed 1:25,000 maps and walking notes for the entire route.

To book or for more information call us on **0845 22 55 058**

info@pura-aventura.com | 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.



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 hotel just outside the village.

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

Day 4 | 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,d)

Walk 11km, 3hrs, \uparrow 50m, \downarrow 50m

Day 5 | Galaroza | walk through olive groves

Walk past the village of Fuenteheredos 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.

Galaroza is really about as far off the beaten track as you can get. Have a drink in the bar on the main square for an authentic rural Andaluz experience.

Swim in your hotel pool this evening to cool off. (b,l,d)

Walk 19km, 5hrs, \uparrow 250m, \downarrow 230m

Day 6 | Almonaster | cross 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, \uparrow 650m, \downarrow 430m

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Walk through chestnuts and cork oaks



Spend each night in a small, traditional village

Day 7 | 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,d)

Walk 20km, 6hrs, ▲400m, ▼620m

Day 8 | Travel | return home

Return to Seville for your flight home or consider extending your holiday for a day or two in this lovely city.

Another possibility is to head towards the beaches of Cadiz for a complete change of pace and scenery. Please call Pura Aventura to discuss options. (b)

Space for your notes and questions for us

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Holiday Information

Pura Handmade

This holiday is unique to us.

We have designed and deliver this holiday using our own people and carefully selected local suppliers to create a *Pura Handmade* holiday.

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 long?

8 days, usually Saturday – Saturday but in quieter months we can be more flexible.

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 luxurious by any means.

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

Why the Aracena Hills?

The Aracena hills are a genuinely untouched corner of Andalucia. It's an area so little known that you see a way of life long forgotten elsewhere.

Total peace and quiet in small rural villages.

The Aracena and Picos de Aroche Natural Park is one of the best preserved mountain areas in Andalucia. It is well off the tourist circuit.

Not only does the area contain some of the best examples of Mediterranean and chestnut forests, but also many small white villages that still have a very rural life.

Farming is strong in the area thanks to the traditional use of the forest. The evergreen oaks of the lower areas have traditionally been cleared to use the land for cattle (fighting bulls or the famous "pata negra" pigs), but leaving a low density forest that provides the food for the animals. The area is famous for its cured ham made from free-range pigs fed only on acorns.

When should I go?

December and January are the rainiest time of year, July and August are very hot.

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 676712** between 9am and 7pm weekdays.

Not quite right?

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

Andalucia Self-Drive Enjoy the freedom and flexibility of a fly-drive without the guesswork.

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.

Prices & departures

2010/11	Year round £895pp
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	Whilst we keep this itinerary as up to date as possible, the definitive list of our departure dates & prices can be found at www.pura-aventura.com/departures

Prices per person based on twin share or double accommodation.
Prices may be subject to change: please confirm at booking. **WSAI11**

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