WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA & PARTNERS

Duration
8 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
Land
Solo-Friendly

Spain ~ Andalucia in a Parador

November 4-12, 2027

Starting from $4,445/pp

Embrace the romance and rich cultural heritage of southern Spain on this seven-night journey based at a modern parador in scenic Antequera. Venture across Andalucí a to discover some of the region's most celebrated treasures — from the elegant courtyards, fountains and palaces of Granada's Alhambra to Córdoba's extraordinary La Mezquita and Sevilla's magnificent Alcázar. Admire sweeping views over El Tajo Gorge in dramatic Ronda and immerse yourself in local traditions through memorable experiences, including a countryside wine tasting and an evocative flamenco performance.





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Spain | Andalucía in a Parador

Air Program: 9 days/8 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 8 days/7 nights

Breakfasts: 7 | Lunches: 3 | Dinners: 4 | Receptions: 2

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

- This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.
- A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.
- Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, stairs, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches, boats and/or trains.

Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour

Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours

Active: Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Málaga, Spain. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: AGP.

Day 2 | Málaga, Spain | Antequera

Parador de Antequera

R | D

Arrive at Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport. Proceed through immigration and into the baggage claim area to retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to the Parador de Antequera. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Welcome Reception & Dinner. At the parador tonight, get acquainted with your fellow travelers at a festive reception, followed by dinner — a delightful beginning to your Andalucian adventure.

Day 3 | Antequera

Parador de Antequera

B | L

Breakfast will be served each morning at the parador.

Ancient Antequera. Take a short motorcoach ride just outside the city to witness the striking prehistoric architecture of the Antequera Dolmens, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Its three distinct megalithic monuments — the Domen of Menga, the Dolmen of Viera, and the Tholos of El Romeral — are magnificent tombs built from massive stone blocks, believed to have been constructed between 3500 and

3000 B.C. by farmers in the valley. Once inside, reflect on the incredible labor and engineering skill required to build these burial chambers, where large, upright stones support roofs of enormous rock slabs.

Continue up the hill to the Alcazaba of Malaga, a stunning Moorish palace-fortress built between the 11th and 14th centuries. Admire the fortress, then head down to Antequera, taking in expansive views of the city's red-tiled roofs and bell towers, surrounded by fertile farmland, with La Peña de los Enamorados, or Lovers' Rock, in the distance.

Begin a walking tour of the Old Town that reveals its roots as a cultural crossroads. Pass by the Palacio de Nájera, the Convento de Santa Catalina de Siena, the Roman Thermae, Casa Boudere, Plaza San Sebastián and the Iglesia Colegial de San Sebastián. The classic medieval town is full of shops, restaurants and winding lanes that reflect the blend of cultures that have shaped Andalucia. End at the Mirador de las Almenillas viewpoint to soak in spectacular city views, with Pena de los Enamorados as a backdrop. (Moderate)

Conclude your tour with a lunch of traditional Andalucian dishes at a nearby restaurant.

Free Time: Return to the hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure, relaxing or further exploring the city.

Enrichment: Andalucía & the Moorish Influence. For eight centuries, the Moors dominated most of the Iberian Peninsula. In fact, the region's name derives from its Arabic name, Al-Andalus. Delve into the Moorish influence on the Spanish language and culture with a local expert.

Dinner is at your leisure tonight. Your Travel Director can assist with restaurant recommendations.

Day 4 | Granada

Parador de Antequera

B | L

The Palace City of Alhambra. Take a scenic drive to Granada to visit the Alhambra, the stunning Moorish fortress and palace complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Majestically perched over the city and framed by the Sierra Nevada mountains, the Alhambra was built in the 13th and 14th centuries by the kings of the Nasrid dynasty, who sought to create their own paradise on earth. As you walk through the courtyards, fountains and arch-lined walkways, marvel at the beautifully filigreed and patterned carvings, inscribed with poems and quotations from the Koran. In the breathtaking Palacios Nazaríes, see the Court of the Myrtles, the Court of the Lions, the Hall of the Ambassadors and other chambers. Visit Alcazaba, the castle that guarded the palace, and stroll through the landscaped gardens of Generalife, the summer palace. (Moderate)

Within the walls of the Alhambra, savor an atmospheric lunch at the Parador de Granada restaurant, formerly the 15th-century Convento de San Francisco.

Back in Antequera, venture out this evening to dine on regional specialties at a restaurant of your choice.

Day 5 | Sevilla

Parador de Antequera

B | D

Sevilla City Tour. Journey to Sevilla, southern Spain's cultural heart, immortalized by Mozart, Bizet, and Rossini. Gain a broader perspective of this vibrant city along the Guadalquivir River on a panoramic tour. Travel through El Arenal to see the centuries-old Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza and the 13th-century Moorish Torre del Oro, a defensive watchtower overlooking the river. Continue to the magnificent Plaza de España and admire its sweeping semicircular façade and lovely canal, both designed to impress visitors to the 1929 Ibero-American Exhibition. As you cross the elegant bridges, notice colorful ceramic details, including 48 tiled alcoves representing Spain's provinces.

Then stroll through the beautiful Murillo Gardens en route to a guided walk through the charming Barrio de Santa Cruz, Sevilla's old Jewish quarter, where bougainvillea spills over balconies and narrow lanes open onto shady squares and bubbling fountains. Pause for a guided visit to the grand Real Alcázar, originally a 10th-century Moorish palace that became a Spanish royal residence in the 14th century and remains in use today. Afterward, tour the astounding Cathedral of Sevilla, the world's largest Gothic cathedral and a UNESCO World Heritage site. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy some free time in Sevilla and have lunch on your own.

Return to the parador to relax and unwind. This evening, rejoin your fellow travelers for dinner featuring regional cuisine at the hotel.

Day 6 | Ronda

Parador de Antequera

B | L

Ronda Discovery. Spectacularly set on the edge of El Tajo Gorge, high above the open countryside, Ronda is a showstopper and the largest of Andalucía's pueblos blancos, or white villages. An 18th-century bridge spanning the gorge links the town's two sections. Set out on a guided walk to the old town. Visit the Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor, which blends Gothic, Renaissance, Moorish and baroque elements. Cross the Puente Nuevo and pause at the Casa de San Juan Bosco, a modernist palace at the edge of the Tajo Gorge, with sweeping views over El Tajo. Next, delve into the intensely dramatic world of bullfighting at the Plaza de Toros, inaugurated in 1785. Stand in the famed sandstone arena and learn more about this iconic Spanish tradition at the on-site museum. (Moderate)

Free Time: Discover more of enchanting, timeless Ronda on your own.

AHI Connects : Bodega Lunch & Wine Tasting. Stop at a countryside winery for lunch, a wine tasting and a tour of the cellars before returning to the parador. (Mild)

Back in Antequera, unwind and enjoy the evening at your own pace, with dinner on your own.

Day 7 | Córdoba

Parador de Antequera

B | D

Córdoba. Travel to Córdoba to visit the great mosque-cathedral of La Mezquita, an exceptionally beautiful complex housing the finest examples of Moorish architecture in Spain. The original mosque was built in the eighth century by Abd al-Rahman, who established an emirate in Córdoba. Subsequent emirs expanded its grandeur and size, and for a time it was among the most prominent sacred sites in the Islamic world. After Córdoba was recaptured by the Spanish, a cathedral was built within the complex's walls in the 16th century. La Mezquita's most spellbinding feature is the superb hall with 856 columns of marble, granite, jasper and onyx, linked by two layers of red-and-white-striped arches. Afterward, see the imposing Roman bridge spanning the Guadalquivir River, and take a stroll through the Jewish Quarter, an atmospheric neighborhood of winding streets and whitewashed houses. (Moderate)

Free Time: Step into a bar de barrio for a casual lunch, then explore more of Córdoba before returning to the parador in Antequera.

Dinner & Flamenco Performance. This evening, gather at a restaurant in Antequera for dinner featuring traditional regional cuisine. As the evening unfolds, delight in a special flamenco performance that showcases the passion, artistry and rhythmic intensity of Spain's iconic cultural tradition.

Day 8 | Antequera

Parador de Antequera

B | R | D

Enrichment: Contemporary Spain. With insights from a local expert, understand the current events and issues shaping life in Spain.

Free Time: Spend your last day at leisure in Antequera or join one of today's optional activities below. Your Travel Director can offer suggestions on sightseeing, shopping and dining.

Málaga. Take a complimentary shuttle to Málaga to make your own discoveries. Spend the day touring the outstanding Picasso Museum in the artist's birthplace. Or visit historic landmarks such as the 16th-century Málaga Cathedral and Museum, the Immersive Bullfighting Museum or the Mirador Princess Ferris Wheel. Later, return to Antequera by shuttle. (Moderate) No additional charge.

Elective Activity: El Torcal Nature Park & Olive Oil Experience. Depart the hotel for a scenic drive to El Torcal de Antequera Nature Park, a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Antequera Dolmens Site, an otherworldly karst landscape of towering limestone rock formations. Upon arrival, watch a brief introductory video, then take a short walk to explore the surreal karst landscape, including ammonites and El Tornillo, a uniquely eroded rock formation resembling a giant natural screw or a stack of pancakes. Learn about the park's famous flora and fauna, including the Iberian Ibex (Spanish mountain goats), griffon vultures, and over 30 varieties of wild orchids in spring. Return to

the visitor center and take a short stroll to the Mirador de las Ventanillas, where panoramic views of the Andalusian countryside await. Afterward, enjoy free time to visit the exhibition and shop.

Continue to La Samiaja, a family-owned olive mill. Learn about their environmentally friendly olive oil production process, then sit down for a special Andalusian brunch featuring their fresh organic olive oils. (Active. Due to the park's location at 1,200 meters above sea level, cooler temperatures can be expected. Please wear warmer clothing and closed-toe walking shoes, as the terrain is hilly, rocky and uneven.) Available at an additional cost.

Farewell Reception & Dinner. Tonight, gather at the parador for a special reception and dinner to celebrate your memorable journey through the captivating landscapes, cultures and traditions of southern Spain.

Day 9 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Meet the World Affairs Experts

Jess Koloini

Lecturer



Jess Koloini is President and CEO of the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, leading its mission to advance global understanding through dialogue, education, and international engagement. She brings more than 20 years of experience in international affairs, national security, aerospace and defense, and nonprofit leadership. Prior to joining the Council, Jess held senior leadership roles at Lockheed Martin, overseeing international programs and strategic initiatives across the Indo-Pacific and Middle East. She holds a Master of International Affairs from Texas A&M University's Bush School and is proficient in Japanese and Arabic. Jess previously spent more than six years at the Council, rising to Vice President of Programs and leading hundreds of initiatives in international education, fundraising, and community engagement. She and her husband, Travis Kelly, met there as interns and remain committed to the Council's mission, which they now share with their son.





What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 7 nights in Antequera, Spain, at the first-class Parador de Antequera.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 receptions and 4 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

On-site Features

- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Parador de Antequera

Not far from Antequera's historic center, this sleek, modern parador is an urban oasis surrounded by Spain’s southern plain. Venture a short distance to the 14th-century Alcazaba, the megalithic dolmens, or further afield to El Torcal Nature Reserve’s limestone formations. Dine at Marmitia Restaurant, specializing in traditional Andalusian dishes made from local ingredients such as goat cheese, honey, olive oil and seafood. Soak up some sunshine at the tranquil swimming pool and patio bar. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

Pricing

$250 Full Payment Discount expires June 7, 2027
$250 Special Savings expires February 23, 2027

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$4,445**
Special Savings (Expires February 23, 2027)	**-$250**
Full Payment Discount *	**-$250**
Special Price	**$3,945**
You Pay	**$3,945 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


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Sevilla
Andalucía
Antequera
Granada
Ronda
Málaga
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