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*Gibraltar, with the Costa del Sol in the background* (*this and other illustrations free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons*)

# SPAIN'S COSTA DEL SOL

Including visits to Cordoba, Malaga, Marbella, Gibraltar, Ronda, Granada, and Madrid

12 days, from Wednesday, November 23, to Sunday, December 4, 2022

Even in darkest November, blue skies and balmy temperatures can normally be enjoyed on the famous "Coast of the Sun," in Spain's historically and culturally fascinating southern region of Andalusia. At that time, the very mild local "subtropical-Mediterranean" climate features average daytime high temperature in the low twenties centigrade. Our tour also includes visits to the great cities of Madrid, Cordoba, Malaga, Gibraltar, and picturesque towns and villages such as Marbella, Ronda, and Mijas. Accommodation in a first-class/four-star hotel overlooking the beach, with daily buffet breakfast and dinner including wine, and talks on the history of the region and Spain in general by your tour escort, historian Jacques Pauwels, PhD, author of books such as 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places' (London, 2009).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS A "LAND ONLY" ITINERARY, NOT INCLUDING AIR TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM SPAIN. TOUR PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE TO BE BOOKED ON A FLIGHT ARRIVING IN MADRID NO LATER THAN THE EARLY MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23! FOR THOSE WISHING TO FLY FROM (OR VIA) TORONTO, WE OFFER TO BOOK AIR CANADA'S NON-STOP FLIGHT TORONTO-MADRID ON NOVEMBER 22, WITH RETURN ON DECEMBER 4, FOR WHICH A RETURN AIRFARE (INCLUDING ONE SUITCASE) SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT APPROXIMATELY \$1,000.

# (PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL THIS TOUR IS GUARANTEED TO BE OPERATED; ALSO, THE BOOKING DEADLINE FOR THIS TOUR IS MONDAY, AUGUST 15.

# Land Only Tour cost, based on double occupancy, from/to Madrid Airport Toronto: \$3,295.00 – Supplement for single use of a double room: \$595.00

### **ITINERARY:**

<u>Day 1 – Wednesday, November 23</u>: The tour members meet this morning at Madrid's Barajas Airport upon arrival of the Air Canada flight from Toronto around 8. A comfortable private coach will take us along the southbound expressway into Spain's sunny southern region of Andalusia. Our destination is the great city of Cordoba, whose golden age was around the year 1,000 when, as capital of a Muslim caliphate, it was one of the biggest and most beautiful cities in Europe. Dinner and overnight in a first-class hotel.

<u>Day 2 – Thursday, November 24</u>: After breakfast, sightseeing in <u>Cordoba</u>, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with as absolute highlight our visit to the 1,000-year old Mosque, a marvel of Islamic architecture. In the afternoon we motor to Torremolinos, hub of Spain's famous Mediterranean playground, the Costa del Sol. Check into one of the resort's top hotels, the first-class/four-star <u>Melia Costa del Sol</u>, centrally located and overlooking the beach. During our entire stay in this great property, a buffet-style breakfast and dinner will be offered daily; with dinner, beverages will be included as follows, per person: mineral water plus <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> liter of wine or 1 soft drink or 1 beer.



# < Interior of the Mosque in Cordoba

<u>Day 3 – Friday, November 25</u>: Morning leisurely walking tour of <u>Torremolinos</u>, with sights such as La Carihuela fishermen's quarter and beach, the church of San Miguel, the Calle San Miguel main street lined with shops, the extravagant mansion known as Casa de las Navajas, La Bateria city park, and of course the medieval Torre Pimentel, a.k.a. Torre de los Molinos, "tower of the mills," which

gave its name to the town. The afternoon is free for individual exploring or <u>shopping</u>. Or how about a stroll along the Paseo Maritimo, the scenic waterfront trail that stretches all the way from Torremolinos to the neigbouring resort of Benalmadena? (For more information on local sightseeing, shopping and other things to do, see <a href="https://turismotorremolinos.es/en/discover/places-of-interest">https://turismotorremolinos.es/en/discover/places-of-interest</a>)

# *Picturesque Mijas, looking down on the Mediterranean* >

<u>Day 4 – Saturday, November 26</u>: After breakfast, visit to <u>Mijas</u>, a quaint, typically Andalusian white-washed village in the hills overlooking the Costa del Sol. On to <u>Marbella</u>, favourite resort of the international jet set; its past and present residents have included celebrities such as Sean Connery, George Clooney, Novak Djokovic, and Antonio Banderas; Marbella has an impressive yacht harbour, a picturesque old town, chic shopping, and many attractive restaurants to enjoy lunch. Afternoon return to Torremolinos via some more coastal resorts, such as Fuengirola and Benalmadena.

<u>Day 5 – Sunday, November 27</u>: Full-day excursion along the coast to the southern tip of Spain for a thorough visit to <u>Gibraltar</u> (120 km), the legendary rock at the entrance to the homonymous strait between Europe and Africa.



Your tour guide will tell you the fascinating history of the Strait of Gibraltar, known in Antiquity as the "Pillars of Hercules," and its connection with the dollar! In Gibraltar, our sightseeing will include Europa Point, from which the coast of Africa can be seen; the "Upper Rock" with its military installation and nature reserve where the famous monkeys live; St Michael's Cave, an impressive natural grotto inhabited during the neolithic; and of course the busy main street lined with shops, pubs and restaurants. Return to Torremolinos in late afternoon.

<u>Day 6 – Monday, November 28</u>: Full-day excursion to the fascinating, romantic old town of <u>Ronda</u>, spectacularly perched on top of a big rocky hill cut in two by a 120 meter deep gorge; the two parts of the town are connected by an 18th-century stone bridge, the Puente Nuevo, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside, the scenic Serranía de Ronda, reputed to be one of the most beautiful areas of Andalusia. Ronda was settled by Phoenicians, Romans, Visigoths, and Arabs, and was one of the last outposts of Islamic rule in Andalusia. The town is also considered to be the cradle of bullfighting and boasts the oldest bullring in Spain, built in 1785. Our local tour will focus on these sites and monuments as well as the well-preserved medieval Arab baths; the Church of Santa María Mayor, a former mosque; and Mondragón Palace, an architectural pastiche of Islamic, Gothic and Renaissance styles, with a beautiful garden. Time permitting, on the return to Torremolinos in the afternoon, we may briefly visit <u>Setenil de las Bodegas</u>, a village nestled under a huge rock towering over a narrow river gorge.



Spectacular Ronda, with the Puente Nuevo

View of the countryside from the bridge

<u>Day 7 – Tuesday, November 29</u>: Full-day excursion to <u>Malaga</u>, an important Mediterranean seaport since the time of the Phoenicians and one of the major urban centres of Andalusia. The city also boasts beaches, superb architecture, fine museums, and excellent shopping, cuisine, and wine! Our tour includes the foremost historical sites, such as the Roman Theatre; the Cathedral; the two hilltop fortresses dating back to the time when the Moors (i.e. Arabs) ruled this land, the Alcazaba and the Gibralfaro, where one can enjoy a fabulous panoramic view of the city, the harbour, and the blue Mediterranean Sea. Another highlight will be our visit to the museum dedicated to the world-famous Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, who was born here. Free time for lunch and some shopping,



< Malaga's harbour and hilltop forts on an early 19<sup>th</sup>-c. painting by Thomas Staunton. <u>Day 8 – Wednesday, November 30</u>: Full-day excursion to the town of <u>Antequera</u> for a visit to another UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring dolmens and other megalithic monuments, described as "one of the most remarkable architectural works of European prehistory and one of the most important examples of European Megalithism." On to way back to our hotel, we visit the beautiful botanical and historical garden of <u>La</u> <u>Conception</u>.

### La Concepcion Botanical Garden >

<u>Day 9 – Thursday, December 1</u>: Free day to relax and/or explore Torremolinos on your own. Don't miss the Thursday morning open-air market, a favourite of locals and tourists alike! You can also easily return to Malaga for some additional sightseeing or shopping, the transfer by train or bus takes only a half hour! If there is sufficient interest, an optional excursion may be offered to the famous Moroccan seaport of <u>Tangier</u>, involving a ferry crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar or to the <u>Caminito del Rey</u>, a breathtaking walkway stretched along the steep walls of a narrow river gorge!

<u>Day 10 – Friday, December 2</u>: Departure from Torremolinos after breakfast. We head for Granada, another <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u>, where we visit the world-famous Alhambra Palace and Gardens as well as the Cathedral with



its famous Royal Chapel. In the afternoon we continue along the expressway to Madrid. Dinner and overnight in a first-class/four-star hotel.



Panoramic view of Granada's fabulous Alhambra Palace and Gardens

<u>Day 11` - Saturday, December 3</u>: Morning coach tour of the Spanish capital, with all the highlights, including sights such as the bullring, Retiro Park, the monumental Alcala Gate, Cybele Fountain and Square, Bernabeu Stadium (home of the world-famous soccer team, Real Madrid), Columbus Square with the monument to the discovery of the New World, Plaza de Espana with the monument to Cervantes, the Royal Palace, and the historical city centre around Plaza Mayor. Afternoon free to explore on your own, shop, or visit the Prado or another one of the city's fine museums. This evening, final group dinner in a typical restaurant.

<u>Day 12 - Sunday, December 4</u>: The tour ends after an early breakfast and a short transfer to Madrid Airport in time for the departure around 10AM of Air Canada's flight to Toronto.

Land Only Tour cost, based on double occupancy, from/to Madrid Airport Toronto:\$3,295.00 Supplement for single use of a double room: \$595.00

Included in the tour price are:

- Accommodation in four-star/first-class hotels, including the Melia Costa del Sol in Torremolinos, based on double occupancy. The supplement for single use of a double room is \$595.00

- Transfers, sightseeing and excursions as shown in the itinerary by private coach;
- Meals: buffet breakfast and dinner daily, and wine and water are included with dinner as per itinerary;
- Sightseeing and visits as shown in the itinerary, including admissions;

- Gratuities for local guide(s);Hotel taxes and gratuities.

Not included are:

- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Meals other than those shown above;
- Gratuity for the coach driver(s), total of 25 Euros per person;
- Optional Travel Insurance, available on an individual basis; please call our office for rates.

### **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

#### **RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:**

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form.

#### **REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:**

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

#### CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

#### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

#### **RELEASE & AGREEMENT:**

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.

2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.

3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation,

airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.

5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.

6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.

7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.

8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.

9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

# **REGISTRATION FORM**

Enclosed is my/our deposit I wish to book on group flig a copy of your flight details Deposit and insurance prem payment of \$1000.00 and the	of (\$ hts OR land only ). nium, if taken, are due with r balance due 45 days prior to de <b>DUR PASSPORT (INFORMATI</b>	I Sol" tour of November 23- Decem 750 per person, plus insurance pre (If booking land only plea egistration. You will be invoiced for eparture. ON PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTH	mium if taken.) se send the office r an interim
PASSPORT NAME(S): Ple	ase indicate the appropriate t	itle (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)	
Surname	First	Middle(s)	
Surname	First	Middle(s)	
If applicable, give your com	monly used first name as you	u would like it to appear on your na	me tag: (e.g. "Liz"
for "Mary Elizabeth")			
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If traveling alone, is a SINGLE I If sharing, what is your bed pr	ROOM REQUIRED? YES Ne eference: twin (2 beds)	O double (1 bed)	?
please list any dietary request	•	de, the more success we have in filling needs or frequent flyer numbers etc. are will be possible.	
Insurance, please call the offic	e for premiums then record it a	on application and add premium to de	posit.
I /we would like to purchase (	please check and record your ra	ate):	
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All-inclusive Package N	Ion-medical PackageOth	erOR Decline Insurance	
Please note like many other facard payments directly except cash security requirements int pandemic. Pauwels Travel is concredit cards soon, perhaps even	on behalf of our suppliers, i.e., troduced by credit card compar urrently negotiating a new mer en in time for your final paymer conditions attached to the prog	wels Travel is currently unable to acce airlines. This is due to the exponentia nies on travel-related businesses durin chant account and we hope to be able	l increase in g the e to accept
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Please forward this completed	l and signed form, copy of pass	port and payment to:	
	PAUWELS TRAVE	EL BUREAU LTD.	

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