

# ANDALUSIA: A POST-CONGRESS CULTURAL TOUR

## SEVILLE & CORDOBA

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2016 ~

*Andalusia is noted for its UNESCO sites, protected areas, historic trade,  
and crossroads of the world's great religions.*

### Schedule

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2016

#### DEPARTURE FOR SEVILLE FROM BARCELONA & SEVILLE TOUR ~

Seville's CATEDRAL DE SANTA MARÍA DE LA SEDE is one of the largest Christian churches in the world. The impressive building sits on the site of a 12th-century mosque whose minaret, the GIRALDA, still stands alongside the cathedral, and today acts as its bell tower. Although the former mosque was largely destroyed in 1401 when the site was reconstructed, legacies of the Islamic mosque persist throughout the architecture of the building. The cathedral was designed to demonstrate the city's wealth, influencing its lavish design and extensive gilding. The site also houses the tomb of Christopher Columbus, famous explorer.

ALCÁZAR OF SEVILLE is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the oldest European royal palace still in use. It was originally founded in 913 AD, and was primarily constructed in the 1300s. Throughout its history, the palace was commissioned and used by both Muslim and Christian rulers as control of Seville changed over time. Both Islamic- and Christian-inspired architecture and design are apparent, and coexist in the building walls. Alcázar's intricate architecture is breathtaking. The palace also includes gardens, orchards, and ponds to visit.



#### Photographs – top to bottom

Panorama view of Alhambra that highlights its mountainous location, with Andalucía's Sierra Nevada mountain range in its background.

PHOTOGRAPHER: KONSTANTIN KALISHKO

Seville Cathedral or the Cathedral of Saint Mary, Spain. It is a Roman Catholic cathedral and is the largest Gothic cathedral and the third largest church in the world. Opened in 1528.

PHOTOGRAPHER: IYEVGENII FESENKO

Alcázar Seville's Patio de las Doncellas, also known as The Courtyard of the Maidens, features a reflecting pool with sunken gardens and iconic arches.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WATCHARAKORN CHOTIGO

Duck Pond in the Maria Luisa Park. The Maria Luisa Park stretches along the Guadalquivir River in Seville, Spain. It is Seville's main green area.

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOSER PIZARRO



PARQUE DE MARÍA LUISA pairs cultural sites with a tranquil urban green space. The park includes tree-lined trails, fountains, small canals and duck ponds that can be explored by foot, rowboat, or bicycle. Among Parque de María Luisa's beautiful gardens are several cultural sites to visits. The MUSEO ARQUEOLÓGICO highlights local archeology, including through Roman sculptures and mosaics. The MUSEO DE ARTES Y COSTUMBRES POPULARES is an ethnographic museum nestled in the park that seeks to highlight the traditions of Seville through various forms of art and ethnographic film.

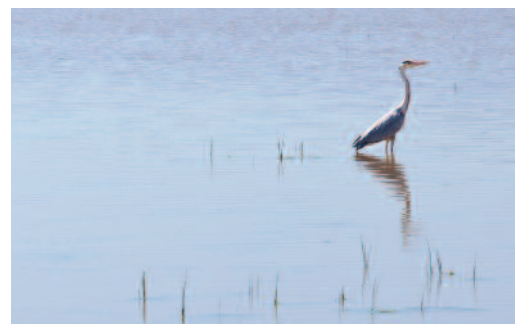
**FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2016**

## **SEVILLE'S DOÑANA NATURAL PARK ~**

PARQUE NATURAL DE DOÑANA and the bordering Doñada National Park are classified as a single natural landscape. Together, the parks are home to 360 bird species – including five endangered species – and about three-dozen mammal species including the endangered Iberian lynx. Approximately a half-million migrating birds rely on the parks' habitat. Its salt marshes are of particular note as important breeding grounds for migratory birds moving between Europe and Africa. The Doñana parks are known for their marshes, streams and river delta where the Guadalquivir River joins the Atlantic Ocean. The protected area includes several kilometers of Atlantic coastline along which visitors can walk and cycle.

Doñana is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which faces many challenges and opportunities familiar to several ecotourism sites worldwide. Marsh and river water from Doñana are used to irrigate nearby agricultural lands, leading to the threat of draining the marshes. Mining activity upstream and increased local tourism activity provide additional threats to the important ecosystem. The World Wildlife Fund partners with regional and national authorities to assist in preserving the protected area.

Post-Congress participants will have the opportunity to explore the park's rivers and streams through a private river cruise tour of Doñana.



### **Photographs – top to bottom**

Traditional flamenco dresses hang on a balcony in Andalusia. Flamenco originates in Andalusia, influenced by the area's historic blend of cultures. PHOTOGRAPHER: JORISVO

Although Doñana is traditionally known for its wetlands, it also boasts beautiful and characteristic Stone Pine forests. PHOTOGRAPHER: JUAN ALUNION

Grey heron in its natural habitat, the wetlands of Doñana National Park, Spain. PHOTOGRAPHER: JUAN ALUNION

Flamingos in the Bonanza marshes of Doñana National Park. This area lies on the bank of the Guadalquivir River and its marshes are the only ones in Doñana that are flooded by tides, not by streams and rain. As a result, the Bonanza marshes are home to flamingos. PHOTOGRAPHER: JUAN ALUNION







SATURDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2016

## SITE VISITS IN CÓRDOBA ~

Flamenco show after dinner in Seville ~

Córdoba is perhaps most notable for its great mosque, the MEZQUITA, and the ROMAN BRIDGE apparent just beyond it. The impressive mosque was constructed beginning in the 8th-century. It also features a 16th-century cathedral built in its centre. The site was originally a church, which was later divided into Muslim and Christian halves, before the Christian half was purchased and the whole site was demolished in order to build the present-day Mezquita. The site hosts a beautiful courtyard, a bell tower that influenced Seville's Giralda minaret, and interior architecture that was far ahead of its time with large, open interior spaces. The site is considered an exceptional example of Moorish architecture. The Mezquita features columns made of jasper and marble, double arched high ceilings, mosaics, and wood panels.

The ALHAMBRA is a palace and fortress complex that lies in Granada, a neighbouring city near Córdoba. The site first housed a palace, built by a Jewish grand vizier in the 11th-century. It was later turned into a fortress and mosque, then a church replaced the mosque, and later the site was used as a barracks. The site is now known for its fountains, courtyards, and spectacular architecture. The Alhambra is surrounded by a mountain range, and features a park known for its dense cover of English elm trees. The Alhambra is notable for being an example of Muslim art relatively unchanged by the Roman styles that came later and influenced many neighbouring sites, such as the MEZQUITA. The Alhambra is quadrangular, with all buildings opening onto a central courtyard. The building is open and includes reflecting pools and columns. Painted tiles and geometric patterns characterize its decoration.

Photographs – top to bottom

La Mezquita in the background, the Roman Bridge of Cordoba on the Guadalquivir River, a night scene. Cordoba has one of the most unique combinations of architecture in any city worldwide, including Roman and Islamic history. PHOTOGRAPHER: SEAN PAVONE

Calleja de las Flores is a favorite street for tourists to visit in Cordoba. It is a narrow alley, lined with flowers, that boasts views of the Mezquita in the background. PHOTOGRAPHER: ALINA PAVLOVA





Córdoba is home to its own Alcázar, the **ALCÁZAR DE LOS REYES CRISTIANOS**. This medieval fortress is located nearby the famous Mezquita, along the Guadalquivir River. Construction on the present-day structure first began in 1328, retaining only small portions of the Moorish ruins that lay on the site previously. The fortress was an important part of the civil war in the mid-1400s, which necessitated that the structure be altered to accommodate fighting with gunpowder-based weaponry. The building is known for its **PATIO MORISCO** courtyard, collection of Roman mosaics and sarcophagus, and two towers.

On the outskirts of Córdoba lies **MADINAT AL-ZAHRA**, the ruins of a fortified Arab Muslim palace-city built in the 10th century. The city served as the capital of Muslim Spain, also known as al-Andalus. The city included reception halls, mosques, administrative offices, gardens, barracks, and residences. Today, palace ruins remain; the residential area of the city has not yet been excavated. The site overlooks former gardens and fields, and a modern museum just below it illuminates the history of the city.

Andalusia is also the home of **FLAMENCO**. The origins of Flamenco are still somewhat disputed, but it is thought that it was borne in part out of Andalusia's unique blend of cultures at the time of its origin, which included cultural Andalusians, Moors, Castilians, Romanis and Jews. UNESCO recently considered flamenco a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Post-Congress tour participants will end their tour with a Flamenco show after dinner in Seville.

**SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2016**

**Departure for Madrid or Barcelona for return flight ~**



*\* The Post-Congress Cultural Tour is optional and is not included in the Congress Registration Fee. For more information contact Elizabeth Alling at [ecalling@QLF.org](mailto:ecalling@QLF.org).*



**Photographs – top to bottom**

Ruins of the entrance to the central nave of the Reception Hall of Abd ar-Rahman III in Madinat al-Zahra. PHOTOGRAPHER: ARENAPHOTOUK

View of the ruins of Madinat al-Zahra, a fortified palace-city built in the 10th century, which once served as the capital of al-Andalus.

PHOTOGRAPHER: ARENAPHOTOUK

Gardens of Alcazar de los Reyes Catolicos, Cordoba, Spain. Alcazar of the Christian Monarchs features a 1300s castle with gardens, Roman mosaics and Gothic towers. PHOTOGRAPHER: FRANCISCO JAVIER GIL OREJA

View of Alhambra as the sun sets. The Alhambra is arguably the most major tourist attraction in Andalusia, known in part for its spectacular architecture. PHOTOGRAPHER: SBORISOV.