

Sample 8 day itinerary – easy walking

Day 1 - Arrive Faro and transfer to Castaño del Robledo

- Met at Faro airport by Craig or Sasha and transfer to your guesthouse, in the tiny Andalusian village of Castaño del Robledo, the highest in the Sierra de Aracena.
- The transfer is by 16 or 19 seater minibus and the journey takes 2¾ hr + stop in Tavira
- After ¾ hr stop in pretty coastal town of Tavira for lunch and a short orientation walk around old town and (optional - €3.50 p/p) visit to the Camera Obscura.
- Time permitting there will be a short orientation walk around the village on arrival.
- Dinner in local village restaurant (not included)

Day 2 – Circular walk Castaño/Galaroza

Km: 10 Hours: 3½ + stops Climbs: Descent and re-ascent of 200m

- Descent through chestnut groves to the large village of Galaroza with views to distant villages of Jabugo and Cortegana.
- Re-ascent to Castaño via the Jabugo river valley.
- Lunch in tapas bar (not included).
- Dinner in local village restaurant (not included)

Day 3 - Circular walk Castaño/Peña de Arias Montano/Alájar/Castaño

Km: 12 Hours: 4 + stops Climbs: Descent and re-ascent of 250m

- Descent to the pretty village of Alájar via the historic shrine and spectacular viewpoint of the 'Peña de Arias Montano'
- Re-ascent to Castaño via the 'Hippie' hamlet of El Calabacino.
- Lunch in tapas bar (not included).
- Dinner in local village restaurant (not included)

Day 4 - Walk Castaño/Almonaster. Return by private bus to Castaño.

Km: 15 Hours: 4½ + stops Climbs: easy ascents culminating in a steep 100m rise then 400m down

- High level walk to historic village of Almonaster
- Involves ascent of 917m San Cristobal hill (view of 5 distant villages)
- Picnic included.
- Visit Almonaster and 9th century mosque
- Return to Castaño (**16km**) by taxi/minibus
- Dinner in local village restaurant (not included)

Day 5 – Free day.

- Relax at Posada or take short local walks (alternatively another full day walk for all?)
- Historic Rio Tinto mines, museum, train trip, very large mine site, British neighbourhood, etc.
- Horse-rides of varying length can be taken from the highly professional local stables. The trails of the sierra lend themselves especially well for riding.
- Mountain bikes are available for hire. We can provide maps and advice detailing best routes.
- Day trip to Seville –taking early morning bus (07.10, €7.50 o/w) allows around 7 hrs in city)

Day 6 - Circular walk Navahermosa/Valdelarco/Galaroza. Bus to Aracena.

Km: 9 Hours: 3 + stops Climbs: 140m ascent from Valdelarco

- Taxi/minibus transfer to hamlet of Navahermosa (10km)
- Walk pretty Talenque valley to the village of Valdelarco (cafe stop)
- Continue to village of Galaroza
- Tapas lunch (not included)
- Public bus at 16.15 Galaroza/Aracena (15mins)
- Free time to visit castle hill with 13th century Templar church, shops, cafes, churches & the superb 'Cave of Wonders'. (50 mins, €8.50 - Craig gives tour in English)
- Option to dine in Aracena (not included)
- Return to Castaño (15km) by taxi/minibus.

Day 7 - Walk Fuenteheridos/Cortelazor plus circular walk in vicinity.

Km: 13 Hours: 4 + stops Climbs: short steep climb in a.m. plus a steady 180m climb after lunch

- Taxi/minibus transfer to Fuenteheridos (5km)
- Walk through pastoral Valdelama then over hills to the village of Cortelazor.
- 7km on even dirt track to Cortelazor with one very steep climb on a concrete road.
- Circular walk from Cortelazor across gorge on cobbled trail down to river. Steady climb back to Cortelazor from riverside picnic site
- Picnic en-route provided at picnic site.
- Minibus transfer back to Castaño
- Dinner in local village restaurant (not included)

Day 8 – Transfer out to Faro airport

- Breakfast followed by departure by minibus to Faro airport for return flight to UK.

Meals

Breakfast –

- Is included throughout at the Posada

Lunch –

- Posada del Castaño will provide 2 picnic lunches.
- Lunch is not provided on the free day or on days of arrival or departure.

Dinner -

- The restaurant in Castaño del Robledo is pleasant and reasonable with a range of meat and fish dishes. Vegetarian choices are limited however.
- Day 3 can be entirely up to yourselves. Fuenteheridos is a short taxi ride away (5km) and has a few good tapas bars and restaurants.
- Day 6 We recommend you dine in Aracena before returning to Castaño.

Included

- 7 nights B & B on twin/double share basis
- Transfers to and from Faro
- 2 picnic lunches
- Relevant transfers to and from trailheads
- Private bi-lingual guide (Craig) on all walks

Not Included

- Flights to/from Faro
- Lunches except where stated
- 7 dinners
- Entrance to caves, camera obscura, museums, monuments

Prices per person in euros

Group size	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
€ per person	€430	€400	€410	€395	€375	€355	€345	€335	€325	€315	€305	€295

- Horse-riding option, €25 for 1hr, €35 for 2hr, €50 full day (4½hr in saddle)
- Rio Tinto mines are not accessible by public bus so transport costs depend on the number of participants. For transport and entrance to museum, mine tour and train ride calculate on roughly €20 to €40 pp.
- Public bus to Seville (1¼hr, € 7.70 pp) arrives 09.05 and last departs 16.00. Private taxi or minibus transfers also available.
- Bike hire €19 per day (back & front suspension, aluminium frame, disc brakes, 24 speed mountain bike with helmet)