

## Sample 8 day itinerary – moderate to tough

### Day 1 - Arrive Faro and transfer to Castaño del Robledo

- Met at airport by Craig or Sasha and transferred to your guesthouse, Posada del Castaño, in the tiny Andalucian 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.
- Dinner in local restaurant (not included)

### Day 2 – Bus to Fuenteheridos & walk Navahermosa/Valdelarco/Galaroza/ Castaño

Km: 19      Hours: 5½ + stops      Climbs: 140m ascent from Valdelarco + 190m ascent from Galaroza

- Private transfer 5km by road to neighbouring village of Fuenteheridos
- Walk from Fuenteheridos via Villa Onuba and Talenque to Valdelarco
- Continue to village of Galaroza
- Lunch in tapas bar (not included)
- Ascent once again to Castaño via the valley of the Ribera de Jabugo
- 3 course dinner at Posada del Castaño

### Day 3 – Circular walk Castaño/Almonaster/Santa Ana/Castaño

Km: 25      Hours: 7 + stops      Climbs: steady + a steep 100m rise + 400m down + a later 200m ascent

- High level walk to historic village of Almonaster and return via Santa Ana
- Involves ascent of 917m San Cristobal hill (view of 5 distant villages)
- Steady but easy ascents culminating in a steep 100m rise. Thereafter 400m down the other side to Almonaster! - picnic en-route
- Visit Almonaster and 9<sup>th</sup> century mosque
- Continue to Santa Ana via Calabazares and La Corte. Stop for drinks.
- Climb hill back to Castaño (steep 200m)
- 3 course dinner at Posada del Castaño

### Day 4 – Linear walk Castaño/Alájar/Linares/Aracena

Km: 17      Hours: 6 + stops      Climbs: steady 90m up from Los Madroñeros + final 130m up to Aracena

- Descent to the pretty village of Alájar via the historic shrine and spectacular viewpoint of the 'Peña de Arias Montano'.
- Continue via the uninhabited hamlet of Los Madroñeros to the attractive village of Linares
- Tapas lunch in Linares. (not included)
- Continue to the main town and service centre of Aracena
- Free time to visit museum, castle hill with 13<sup>th</sup> century Templar church, shops, cafes, churches & the superb 'Cave of Wonders'. (50 mins, €8 - Craig gives tour in English)
- Return to Castaño (15km) by taxi/minibus (option to dine in Aracena – not included)

### Day 5 – Free day. Optional horseriding, Rio Tinto mines, bike hire or Seville trip

- Relax at Posada or take short local walks
- 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.
- Day trip to Seville –taking early morning bus (€7.70 o/w) allows around 7 hrs in city)
- Up to 7 top quality mountain bikes are now available for hire locally
- Or alternatively we can programme another full day walk for today.

### Day 6 – Walk Castaño/Sta Ana/La Presa/Alájar/Calabacino/Castaño

Km: 20      Hours: 6 + stops      Climbs: steep 200m down + steady 150m up + final 190m up to Castaño

- Walk south and steeply downhill to then climb ridge over to village of Santa Ana
- Continue along broad valley at foot of scarp slope via La Presa to Alájar
- Tapas lunch in Alájar. (not included)
- Ascend via the “Hippy” village of El Calabacino to Castaño (190m ascent)
- 3 course dinner at Posada del Castaño

### 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
- Taxi/minibus transfer back to Castaño
- 3 course dinner at Posada del Castaño

### Day 8 – Transfer out to Faro airport

- Depart after breakfast by minibus for 2½ hr journey to Tavira in eastern Algarve.
- Time to have lunch and explore the historic town before final 45mins to Faro airport.
- Remember we gain an hour when crossing back into Portugal!

#### **Meals**

##### Breakfast –

- Is included throughout at the Posada

##### Lunch –

- Posada del Castaño will provide 2 picnic lunches of two sandwiches, fruit, muesli bar, juice/water and crisps/chocolate.
- Lunch is not provided on the free day.

##### Dinner -

- Posada del Castaño will provide a 3 course dinner with one round of drinks on 4 evenings. (On days 2, 3, 6 & 7)
- The restaurant in Castaño del Robledo is pleasant and reasonable with a range of meat and fish dishes. Vegetarian choices are limited however.
- Day 4 Recommended dining in Arcena (not included) before returning to Castaño.

Included	Not Included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 nights B &amp; B on twin/double share basis</li> <li>• Transfers to and from Faro</li> <li>• Four 3 course dinners</li> <li>• 2 picnic lunches</li> <li>• Relevant transfers to and from trailheads</li> <li>• Private bi-lingual guide on all walks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flights to/from Faro</li> <li>• Lunches except where stated</li> <li>• 3 dinners</li> <li>• Entrance to caves, museums, monuments</li> </ul>

**Prices per person in euros**

Group size	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
€ per person	€485	€450	€470	€450	€430	€415	€400	€390	€380	€375	€370	€365

- 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 (1¾hr, € 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)