

# ¡Jardines y Jardins!

## Gardens of Spain and Portugal

*with Ciscoe Morris*

plus

## Gardens of Madeira (optional extension)

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**A twelve-night tour (15 nights with extension) to Southern Spain and Portugal that includes a great selection of gardens mixed with visits to many cultural, historic, and gastronomic sites.**

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 16, 2011**

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 19, 2011 (with extension)**

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**Highlights include Granada and the Alhambra along with the Generalife gardens, tropical gardens near Malaga, Ronda and the White villages of Andalusia, Seville with its Royal Alcazar Palace, Evora and nearby cork forests, a tour of Lisbon, Sintra (charming neighbor of Lisbon) and, for those extending, the stunning island of Madeira. Ciscoe will be on board for the whole tour including Madeira. Our Spanish guide, Lisa Escolar is an expert in the region of Andalusia while our guide for Sintra and Madeira is Gerald Luckhurst, landscape architect, resident of Sintra and author of [The Gardens of Madeira](#).**

### **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Seattle to Malaga, Spain on Air France connecting via Paris. Depart from Seattle at 1:45 pm, arrival in Malaga October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Our Spanish guide Lisa and motor coach will meet us at the airport for the 2 hour drive to Granada for the first of 3 nights in that city. We will provide lunch (sandwiches and drinks) on board the bus. Welcome drinks will be enjoyed at the hotel followed by a dinner about 7:00 pm. Expected arrival time in Granada is 4:00 pm allowing free time to explore. Overnight Granada (L, D)

### **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

After breakfast we start our tour with a morning visit and guided tour of the Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens. After a short lunch, we will take a tour of the city which will include a visit to the Muslim Quarter, and the Capilla Real (Royal Chapel), one of the "must see" sites in the city. A Tapas dinner is planned for the evening. Overnight Granada (B, D)

### **Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

We'll be traveling east to the little village of Guadix, which is unique in that most of the inhabitants live in troglodyte caves. We'll enjoy lunch and wine tasting as a group on our way back to Granada. We'll be back in the later part of the afternoon so that you can spend more time in the Alhambra. Dinner is on your own this evening. Overnight Granada (B, L)

### **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

We depart just after breakfast to the white town of Ronda. This hilltop town, once home to outlaws and bandits, is divided by a deep ravine, separating the old town from the new. En-route we will visit two gardens on the outskirts of the Malaga. The first garden is la Concepcion, a garden described as both tropical and a Mediterranean Paradise. The garden dates back to the late 1800s, formerly maintained by the British Consul in the area. The second is the lush Paseo del Parque. We'll arrive in Ronda in the late afternoon in time for our guide to give us a walking tour through the old part of town. Overnight Ronda (B, D)

### **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

Today will be spent touring the "White Villages" of Andalucia. We will visit the village of Zahara that enjoys a spectacular setting under a Moorish castle. Since Ronda is one of the most famous and most visited of the white villages, we will allow free time to explore our home base on your own. Overnight Ronda (B, D)

## **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

We are leaving this morning for Seville, arguably the most Spanish of all cities! We are staying in the historic part of town, close to restaurants and nightlife. Upon arrival, we will take an orientation tour of the city before breaking for lunch. In the afternoon we'll visit the gardens of the impressive Maria Luisa Park along with the Plaza de Espana. We'll enjoy dinner and a flamenco show later this evening. Overnight Seville (B, D)

## **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Start the morning with a visit to the Cathedral and Patio de Los Naranjos and La Giralda next door. After a break for lunch, we will meet to visit the gardens at the Royal Alcazar Palace and wrap up the afternoon at Casa de Pilatos, with it's impressive architecture, gardens and patios, all on a much smaller scale than the grand palaces. Overnight Seville (B, D)

## **Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

After breakfast, we travel into Portugal where we will gain an hour upon crossing the border or "frontier". Our drive will be broken up with a lunch stop at the Portuguese coastal town of Tavira with time to explore the village and do some shopping. Our destination this evening is the Unesco World Heritage Center town of Evora. Surrounded by cork and olive groves, this town dates back to Roman times, and reached its heyday in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when it became the seat of Portuguese royalty. Evora is the capital and largest city in the Alentejo. There should be a little time before dinner to walk the town. Overnight Evora (B, D)

## **Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

We'll spend the day exploring the Alentejo with an agro-tourism visit to a cork producer north of Evora. We'll stop for lunch at Arraiolos, a village which has been making fine carpets for centuries. Besides carpets, it is a pretty little town in which to wander. On the way back, we will stop for a tasting of local wines. Note that we are tasting wine *after* we carpet shop. Overnight Evora (B, D)

## **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

We are on our way to Sintra, just to the west of the capital city of Lisbon. We'll stop in the historic center of the Portuguese capital for a tour of the Belem district before journeying on to Sintra, a short drive into the hills surrounding Lisbon. We will be staying at an historic property near the Pena Palace in the older part of town. Expect to arrive at the hotel mid-afternoon with free time until dinner that evening. Overnight Sintra (B, D)

## **Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Garden designer and author Gerald Luckhurst joins us today and will guide us through the gardens of Sintra for our last two days on the Iberian Peninsula. Two major gardens are on the agenda. The first visit is at The Regaleira Gardens. After lunch nearby, we will visit our second garden, Quinta de Monserrate. Overnight Sintra (B)

### **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

Today, we wrap up our garden touring of the mainland starting with the Queluz Palace. Since Gerald Luckhurst lives in Sintra and is an expert on local gardens, we will visit one of his special favorites in the area. This is our "first" farewell dinner for those flying home the next day. Overnight Sintra (B, D)

### **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

Many will be traveling on to the subtropical island of Madeira for more food, drink, and gardens. Others will be flying from Lisbon on British Airways from Lisbon, via London for the flight home with a late arrival that same day. Gerald Luckhurst will be continuing on with us for our extended tour to the island.

Our flight departs for Funchal Madeira late-morning, so we will depart the hotel right after breakfast. The flight is a little under two hours long, which gets us to our hotel in the early afternoon. Your afternoon is free to explore, and we will gather near the hotel for dinner. After dinner, we will journey out for evening entertainment, including a traditional performance of Portuguese Fado. Overnight Funchal (B, D)

### **Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Many wonderful gardens await us. Today, we will visit the Quinta do Palheiro Ferreiro which has been in the same family since 1885. Our second garden visit will be to see the orchids at Quinta da Boa Vista. Overnight Funchal (B, D)

### **Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

We will enjoy an excursion to Monte today including a visit to the Madeira Botanic gardens. We are still deciding on the other garden to visit since there are so many to choose from. We are definitely in good hands with Gerald since he is an excellent plantsman and designed many of the gardens on Madeira. There may even be a chance for an optional tobaggan ride down the hill (not for the faint of heart). Tonight is the second of two farewell dinner events with local wines. (B, D)

### **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

We depart early this morning for home, connecting via Lisbon and London before arriving in Seattle the same evening.

**Hotels: This interesting mix will certainly result in at least one of Ciscoe's famous room tours.**

**Granada      Alhambra Palace**

Inaugurated by His Majesty King Alfonso XIII on the first of January 1910, this graceful hotel sits in the very heart of Alhambra. Preserving its historic atmosphere, the Hotel Alhambra Palace embraces a grand aristocratic air and is replete with magnificent interiors. Every window, terrace and balcony overlooks the extraordinary beauty of the Sierra Nevada range or the green plains of the Vega.

**Ronda      Hotel Don Miguel**

From the narrow street leading to it, this hotel presents a severely dignified white facade very similar to that of its neighbors. From the back, however, some of its rooms look out over the river gorge of a steep ravine. Set a few steps east of the Plaza de España, and composed of several interconnected houses, it offers a vine-strewn patio above the river, a modernized interior accented with exposed brick and varnished pine, and simple but comfortable small rooms.

**Seville      Vincci La Rabida**

Located in an exquisitely restored eighteenth century palace in the heart of old Seville, the hotel is very well connected to all main streets of the city, as well as to all points of interest to the visitor - it is just a stroll away from the famous Cathedral and the Maestranza Bullfighting Arena. At night, the view of the illuminated Cathedral and La Giralda are virtually breathtaking.

**Evora      Pousada dos Loios**

Simply put, the Pousada de Loios is one of the jewels in the crown of the Portuguese State owned Pousada network. Originally a convent going back to the 15th century, over the years it has been put to a wide variety of uses, including a school, an army garrison and offices. Finally, in 1965, it opened its doors to the public as one of the region's pousadas par excellence. It offers fabulous architecture and a supreme location in the heart of Évora by the cathedral and the Temple of Diana.

**Sintra      Tivoli Sintra**

Right in the centre of the town of Sintra, this 4 star hotel gives you the perfect opportunity to enjoy the surrounding scenery, history and leisure facilities. Sintra is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Breakfast in the Monserrate restaurant at Tivoli Sintra allows you to enjoy the quality food at this welcoming and friendly Central Sintra hotel. The view from the panoramic bar reveals its stunning location: between the Serra de Sintra and the Palácio da Vila.

**Funchal, Madeira      Hotel Porto Santa Maria**

Porto Santa Maria is located at the water's edge with direct access to the sea front promenade. Behind the hotel lies the old centre of Funchal. Enjoying a view over the harbor, its picturesque surroundings and the unique flavors of its cuisine result in genuine urban tranquility. The Porto Santa Maria's location is fantastic for both the actively inclined and those who would prefer to relax and listen to the breaking of waves.

**Cost for this 12-night tour of Spain and Portugal, which is limited to 22 participants, is \$5,995 per person, based on double occupancy. The single supplement is \$1,000. A deposit of \$1,200 per person is required to hold your reservation. The balance of payment is due July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are planning to use air miles or purchase airfare independently of the group, the credit is \$1,150 per person. If you opt to pay for this tour by check versus visa or mastercard, you may take a credit of \$150 per person, double occupancy, or \$190 for singles. All participants will receive a copy of *The Gardens of Madeira*, by Gerald Luckhurst.**

The tour cost is pegged at 1.36 Dollars to the Euro. A change of more than 8% one way or the other (at final due date of July 1st) may result in either a tour price increase or decrease. The dollar rate has been fairly steady for the past 4-5 months and is supposed to improve over the long haul.

## **Tour includes:**

**Outbound air flights from Seattle to Malaga, Spain, on Air France via Paris**

**Returning air flights from Lisbon on British Airways via London**

**All air taxes and surcharges**

**Twelve nights' accommodation in Spain and Portugal**

**Guide services throughout (tips not included)**

**Motor coach Transportation throughout the tour itinerary**

**Continental Breakfast each morning**

**Group dinners (10) with vino**

**Two Lunches en-route**

**Admission to gardens and palaces**

**The Madeira 3-night addition is priced at \$1,395 per person based on double occupancy. The single supplement for this tour is \$300. The Madeira extension includes round trip air transportation from Lisbon to Funchal, three nights' accommodation on the island with breakfast, 3 dinners, transportation, touring, local guide services, and admission to gardens.**

**Because space on the tour is limited, priority is assigned based on the date your request is received at NW Travel. Priority will also be given to guests opting to extend to Madeira.**

**To sign up, email Brad Cilley ([brad@nwtravel.com](mailto:brad@nwtravel.com)) or call 425-313-1691.**

Note: Brad is out of town through Saturday, March 5. He will keep track of emails and phone calls in the order received, but may not respond back until after March 5.