

Mijas & Gibraltar

8 days **from £709** November 2020, February & March 2021



There is quite a contrast in Spain's deep south between the bodegas and bullrings in the villages and towns of Andalucia, and the more familiar high-street scene of M&S and Morrisons in the British corner – Gibraltar. From your base in white-painted Mijas in the hills above the Costa del Sol you will see some of Andalucia's typical landscapes, visit Picasso's home city of Malaga, and have a full-day visit to the Rock of Gibraltar. All these remarkable sights are bathed in the year-round warmth of the Andalusian sunshine!

• 7 nights hb in Mijas • Excursion to Gibraltar* • Circular Andalusian tour
• Visit to Malaga with orientation drive and walking tour through the historic centre

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Direct flight to Malaga, transfer (approx. 30 minutes) to your hotel in Mijas for seven nights half-board accommodation. Although only a few kilometres from the hustle and bustle of the seaside towns of the Costa del Sol, Mijas Pueblo has managed to retain a good deal of its Andalusian character. From the slopes of its Sierra, pretty white-painted Mijas looks down imperiously over the resorts of Fuengirola and Benalmadena and, up in the hills, on a clear day you can see as far as Gibraltar and Africa! The old village plazas are difficult to resist – whether it's a drink with some tapas, browsing artists' studios and craft shops or visiting one of the museums. The Local History Museum is well worth a visit, as is the Contemporary Arts Centre which has works by Picasso, Dali and Miro.

DAYS TWO TO SEVEN: In Mijas with a short, guided orientation walk and three included excursions.

Gibraltar*: Travel by coach to Gibraltar (68 miles), where on arrival you will have a tour of the rock by local mini-coach. You travel first to Europa point, and also the highest point of the Rock of Gibraltar, called O'Hara's battery, where a 9.2

inch gun can be seen dominating the summit of the Rock. After a photo stop here, you continue to St Michael's cave (entrance included), situated some 350 metres above sea level, with its impressive display of stalagmites and stalactites. You then drive along the Nature Reserve to meet some of the colony's most famous residents, the Barbary Apes! After a photo stop at the Apes' den you head towards Grand Casemates Square (the entrance to the Main Street) where the tour will end. You then have free time in the town centre before returning to Mijas.

*NB If the border is closed for any reason, or there is severe disruption at the crossing, this excursion will be replaced by a full-day visit to Cordoba.

Malaga: In recent years Picasso's birthplace of Malaga has undergone a major facelift. You travel up the coast to this fine city with scenic sea views, before reaching the city centre. There you have a walking tour of the centre, with included entrance to the house on Plaza de la Merced where, on 25th October 1881, the city's most famous son, Pablo Picasso, was born. The city now has a score of museums including the Museo Carmen Thyssen, the Picasso Museum, and the

Pompidou Centre (yes, there is one here as well as in Paris!). In the old centre you will find the city's impressive cathedral, pleasant pedestrian shopping streets and lots of tapas bars offering reasonably-priced lunches. Shoppers may make for the El Corte Ingles department store, or the new Muelle Uno (Pier One) complex in the revitalised port area. You will have free time for lunch, and to take in the attractions of your choice before you return to Mijas. 50 miles today.

Circular Andalusian Tour: Your third included excursion is a circular trip through the landscapes of the Andalusian countryside. You start by heading south, passing close to Marbella before stopping in Ojen which is famed for its aniseed liqueur. Its church is built on a mosque and the belfry used to be a minaret. From Ojen you continue to Monda. There was a Roman settlement here, and the locals claim that in 45BC Caesar won a final battle nearby. The town fell to the Christians in 1485, and the old hilltop fortress was destroyed in an Arab uprising in the 16th century. The third stop is the white village of Alhaurin el Grande. 50 miles today.

DAY EIGHT: Transfer to the airport for your return flight.



YOUR HOTEL

HOTEL TRH ★★★★★,
Mijas (seven nights)

The hotel enjoys an excellent location close to town (an uphill 5-minute walk away), but set amid palms and pines in the rolling landscapes of the Sierra as well. Built in Andalusian style, the hotel has a bar, buffet restaurant, outdoor pool (not heated) and spacious gardens and terraces. Rooms have bath/shower, wc, satelliteTV, direct dial phone, safety deposit box (charge applies), internet connection and hairdryer. Superior rooms are available at a supplement. (www.trhhoteles.com)

A WALKING HOLIDAY is also available from this hotel. Please ask for a copy of our Walking Holidays brochure or visit preferredts.com.