

SPAIN: ALPUJARRAS – MOORISH HILLS & SIERRA NEVADA

8-day / 7-night **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walk in southern Spain via Granada

VALUE TOUR



In southern Spain, on the south-western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the area known as “las Alpujarras” is a wild and enchanting destination for a walking holiday. The region reflects its Moorish origins, recalling times when groups of “moros” inhabited these hills resisting attacks by Christians. They lived here in Al-Busherat, the grasslands, right up to the 17th Century and with this fascinating historical context, the Alpujarras’ high elevation makes for an ideal alpine walking and cultural experience. In the Mediterranean climate olive orchards, orange and lemon groves, almond trees, figs and grapes thrive. Walks are rewarded with dramatic views of the typical whitewashed villages and terraced fields with irrigation channels from the Moorish era.

Trip Highlights

- Wonderful, high elevation walks through open mountainous terrain, with beautiful sweeping views
- Charming Moorish villages with white-washed houses clinging to the mountainside along steep, narrow lanes
- Diverse Mediterranean vegetation and the snowy peaks of Sierra Nevada as a backdrop
- Fascinating remains of times gone by: ancient *acequias*, or irrigation channels, and Moorish threshing circles

Departs: Daily on demand from mid-March to late June and August to December

Cost from: **\$1195** per person twin share. Single room supplement from \$495

Includes: 7 nights’ comfortable hotel accommodation (usually in simple, comfortable family-run hotels, some with swimming pools) in rooms with en-suite bathrooms, 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners, luggage transport on days 3, 5 and 7, detailed route descriptions and maps, 24-hour telephone assistance.

Not included: Transport to first and from last accommodation, other meals, drinks, optional transfers and local transport, personal expenses, gratuities. Any arrival / departure transfers (from Granada) are at extra cost.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate walks of 3 to 8 hrs. Walking routes are from 7km to 18km, with daily ascent / descent from 170m to 1200m (except on Day 6 when one choice of route has a total ascent/descent of 1400m). Although some ascents are several kilometres long, they are gradual and technically easy. In summer, warm temperatures can make the routes seem more difficult.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive Capileira

Arrive in Capileira, situated at an elevation of 1436 metres. From Granada there are three daily coach services to Capileira, taking 2½ hours, or ask about private transfer at extra cost. This, the main village of the Alpujarras, still displays its charming history as a former Moorish settlement: white-washed houses clinging to the hillside, tiny squares with fountains, and a network of steep, narrow laneways.

Day 2 Through Río Poqueira Valley

walking @ 7-9km

A circular walk through the Río Poqueira Valley from Capileira via the sleepy village of Bubion to white-washed Pampaneira, passing ancient threshing circles as you walk among fields. Some steep ascents and descents.

Day 3 Capileira to Mecina Fondales

walking @ 8km

Walk from Capileira through picturesque villages and varied landscapes to Mecina Fondales. Much of the route is through woodlands of ancient Mediterranean Holm Oak and pine plantations. Passing irrigated fields, you reach Taha de Pitres, a group of seven tiny villages dating back to Moorish times.

Day 4 Loop walk from Mecina

walking 12km, 6 hours

South of Mecina, the Trevéz River has carved a deep gorge in the landscape. Descend to a medieval bridge spanning the gorge, then climb up to a wooded plateau to the remote settlement La Panjulia. Follow an old footpath (the so-called *escarihuela*) back into the gorge and return to the hotel via the village of Ferreirola.

Day 5 Mecina to Trevéz

walking @ 12-18km

Walk through the Trevéz river valley with fantastic vista points to the highest village in the Alpujarras, claimed to be the highest in Spain. There is an option to take a less strenuous shortcut through the villages of the Taha.

Day 6 Choice of walks from Trevéz

walking @ 14-18km

There are three walks to choose from, including a spectacular longer walk high into the Sierra Nevada, a circular route in the beautiful area around Trevéz and a shorter walk along the Camino de Granada.

Day 7 Ascent to El Portichuelo

walking @ 16km

A pleasant walking route today through a shady wood along narrow footpaths; the last section offers sweeping views. In clear weather, you can see northern Africa from the highest point, El Portichuelo.

Day 8 Tour ends. Optional Acequia walk in Río Grande Valley

walking @ 10km

Tour arrangements end after breakfast in Bérchules. You may choose the circuit walk in the morning through the Río Grande valley north of Bérchules following an *acequia* or irrigation channel, past the ruins of a 13th Century Moorish silk-washing house. There are two daily buses to Granada or arrange a transfer to Granada at extra cost, ask when booking. We highly recommend a night or two in Granada (at extra cost), to visit the Alhambra Palace. Please ask about cost and availability when making your booking.



Other walking holidays available from **Outdoor Travel** – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals – are available in many parts of Europe including Northern Spain, **Catalonia**, or along the **Pyrenees** between France and Spain. In France choose **Provence**, **Burgundy** or the **Dordogne**, the **Vermillion Coast**, **Corsica**, **Burgundy**, the **Loire Valley**, or the **Cevennes**.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations

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