

# Walking Holiday

"New year in The Alpujarra"

All-inclusive week in **Andalucia (Spain)**.

Great guided walks.

**Celebrate** the passing of the old year and welcome the new one with optimism.

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[www.walkAlpujarra.com](http://www.walkAlpujarra.com)

## The Holiday offers...

- 7 nights Accommodation.
- Airport transfers (Málaga)
- 6 guided walks with transport where required.
- New years eve celebration dinner wines included.
- 7 evening meals. (wines included)
- 7 buffet breakfasts.
- 6 midday meals (picnic or bar lunch).

## Dates:

arrive Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December.

depart Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

*Holidays with a personal touch.*

Everything cared for, from touchdown to takeoff

**Location.** La Alpujarra forms the southern slopes of the Sierra Nevada in the province of Granada, Andalucía. Spain. Pictured is the collection of villages in which the hotel is located.



**Your guide** says, "We make the walks relaxed and enjoyable. The aim is to explore the culture, past and present as well as enjoy the hills and valleys. Some sections of the terrain might be a little demanding, but we control the pace and allow plenty of time, so the walks are easily achieved by all but the very un-fit. "Our plan will be to take walks each day with a flexibility to suit the mood of the group. Leaving the hotel at about 10am and returning at about 5pm, we will explore this beautiful patch of country and its fascinating villages, walking up to 15km each day, with a picnic or bar lunch along the way."

On new years day after the special dinner I expect we will be even more relaxed.

"Don't want to walk everyday? Well there are no rules, the hotel provides a pleasant environment to rest and relax and taxis are available if you want to get off to explore on your own."

### Price:

**820 (Euros)/person.** (payment in sterling is possible).

Single supplement –

- None if you indicate to us that you are willing to share. (see under hotel detail for description of the rooms – they are ideal for sharing.)
- 95 (Euros) if you do want a room to yourself.

**Almost-all-inclusive.** The only not included items we can think of are

- Flights
- lunch on arrival and departure days.
- bar expenses.

### Group size:

16. No worries about cancellation – The week will run.

### Options:

- Come early or stay on. If you want to miss Christmas and arrive in Andalucía early,
  - ~ You could add a city break in one of the Andalucian cities at either end of the week. Granada, Cordoba and Seville cry out to be visited and this is a good time of year to do it. We can arrange it and give information to make the visit easier and more productive.
  - ~ Alternatively we could arrange a stay in a slightly different area of the Alpujarra, where you can walk using our information, then move on to join the guided week.
- Ask for a quote.

### The Hotel:

**Hotel Albergue de Mecina (\*\*)**, Mecina Fondales. (Granada) (+34)958766254 [www.hoteldemecina.com.es](http://www.hoteldemecina.com.es)

The hotel is in a lovely position with a good network of footpaths leading in all directions.

Family owned and run, with friendly helpful staff, most of whom speak sufficient English to help with enquiries. The spacious bedrooms are furnished to a much higher than average standard and have tea/coffee making facilities in the rooms.

For friends who would like to share, the rooms are ideal in that many are in fact mini-suites with 2 bedrooms sharing 1 bathroom.

Singles who do not wish to pay a single supplement can take advantage of this room plan by telling us they do not mind sharing with another same sex, group member.



We have chosen the Hotel Mecina for its services and its position. It is a very good choice for the cooler months being situated in a lower warmer area.

Breakfast is included and is offered in the form of an ample buffet with all you could require.

Dinner is included on 7 evenings. There are 3 courses with choices for each. A locally produced Organic wine is included to accompany your meal.

News years eve Dinner There will be about 40 guests enjoying a traditionally indulgent dinner with live music and a dance area set aside in the restaurant. You might wonder why you are given 12 grapes a little before midnight. To ensure your luck for the coming year you need to eat 1 for every 'bong' of midnight. Wine and Cava included tonight.

## Your guide:

The guided walks will be led by Jeremy Rabjohns. A long term resident of the area and experienced since the 1980's in the leading and organising of outdoor activity groups. Jeremy has also written the definitive guidebook to the area and looks forward to sharing his experience with you.



"Our plan will be to take walks every day with a flexibility to suit the mood of the group. Leaving the hotel at about 10am and returning at about 5pm. we will explore this beautiful patch of country and its fascinating villages by taking walks of up to 15km in length, and taking a picnic or bar lunch along the way."

## The walking



Gradients are generally reasonable, being based on old mule routes, but you should be prepared for some short steep sections both uphill and downhill. We will walk on a mixture of forest roads and paths, some of which are rough, stony and difficult underfoot. Some stretches are wet underfoot. All walks will remain below the snow-line.



**It's a lovely area to walk from.** This is the area known as La Taha, Mecina and the hotel in the background.

On some days we will walk to other neighboring valleys and take transport back.

We make the walks relaxed and enjoyable. The aim is to explore the culture, past and present and enjoy the hills and valleys. Some sections might be a little demanding, but we control the pace and allow plenty of time, so the walks are easily achieved by all but the very un-fit.



Leaving the hotel each day at about 10am and returning at about 5pm, we will explore this beautiful patch of country and its fascinating villages, walking up to 15km each day, with lunch along the way.

Whenever feasible lunch will be taken in a local bar giving more opportunity to explore local delicacies and wines.



On new years day after the special dinner I expect we will be even more relaxed.

"Don't want to walk everyday? Well there are no rules, the hotel provides a pleasant environment to rest and relax and taxis are available if you want to get off to explore on your own."



## The weather & what to bring.



Be prepared for the worst

Our overall impression from a mere 15 years of experience is that mid-winter is usually a time of clear air and winter sunshine, but there have been wetter winters like that of 2008. The hotel is situated at 1000m above sea level and our walks will range between 700m and 1800m.

It's always a matter of luck but the odds are on our side. The average number of days per month with measurable rain in Dec/Jan is 6.

The maximum shade temperature likely is 15°C.

The minimum night time temperature could be 0°C

If it does rain then it could snow. You need waterproofs, gloves and hats.

On all walks we will need to be equipped for bad weather. Each member will need a small rucksack, sufficient to carry bad weather clothing, food for the day and 1½ litres of water.

Strong walking boots with ankle support are best in this fairly rough terrain and many people find walking poles a great help. In a mountainous area such as this, you need to be prepared for cold, bad weather whilst with normal luck you will experience bright dry winter weather. It will be cold after sunset and before sunrise.

## The Itinerary

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

Arrive

We provide transfers from Málaga airport. From the Málaga it takes just under 3 hours to drive to the Hotel, a flight arriving by 12.00 is ideal. We will be at the airport from 11.00 to meet all arrivals.

The included transfer will leave the airport at a time to suit all, as soon as all flights have arrived.

Lunch is not included today. As all the group's flights arrive in the late morning, we think it would make a great start to the week if we schedule a stop on the journey from the airport to take lunch at a beach bar/restaurant. Let us know your opinion.

Arrival at the hotel will be at about 17.00, time to settle in, organise and have a stroll before dinner.

### Monday to Saturday

Walking Days

Breakfast. The general plan for each day will be to enjoy the ample buffet breakfast in a leisurely way, before leaving the hotel at about 10am.

Walk. We will explore this beautiful patch of country and its fascinating villages, walking up to 15km each day, with lunch along the way.

lunch. Whenever feasible lunch will be taken in a local bar giving more opportunity to explore local delicacies and wines. On some days a varied picnic will be provided. (sorry, no soggy cheese and tomato sandwiches).

We plan to return to the hotel each day at about 5pm.

Dinner in the hotel. 7 3-course dinners are provided in the hotel. You will have a choice of 2 or 3 dishes for each course with the hotels organic house wine included. Vegetarian options are included, other special diets are not included but may be available.

**New Years Eve.** New years eve Dinner (fixed menu) There will be about 40 guests enjoying a traditionally indulgent "Noche Vieja" dinner with live music and a dance area set aside in the restaurant. In Spanish this "eve" is referred to as "The old night". Wines and Cava are included tonight.

**New Years day.** A walk is planned, but will perhaps start later and be taken very steadily.

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Depart

From the Alpujarra we allow 3 hours to drive to Málaga. A flight departing at 12.30 would be the earliest practicable. This means we leave the hotel after a quick coffee and minimal breakfast at 07.30 or later depending on the earliest flight we have to catch.

For the sake of the common good we hope you will all get flights with PM departure times.

Lunch is not included today but there are all the usual facilities in the airport.