

SPONSORED BY



University of Illinois Alumni Association June 11-19, 2026



### Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Bask in southern Spain's historic gems and captivating beauty on this seven-night journey to Andalucía! We'll make our home for the week in a first-class, modern parador in Antequera, surrounded by serene countryside scenery. From there, we'll embark on daily excursions that illuminate Andalucía's unique heritage, a fascinating intermingling of cultures and religions.

You'll be filled with awe at the beautiful legacy of the Moors; the courtyards and fountains of the Alhambra in Granada; the iconic red-and-white arches of La Mezquita in Córdoba; and the elegant Alcázar in Sevilla. Other memorable moments await you: a stroll through Sevilla's colorful historic quarter, the breathtaking view over El Tajo Gorge in Ronda and an impassioned flamenco performance!

To help you fully appreciate Andalucía's history and culture during your journey, our travel planners have meticulously selected knowledgeable local guides and included insightful lectures. You'll also enjoy the fellowship of traveling in a small group while still having ample opportunities to strike off on your own. Best of all, your very capable, professional Travel Director will take care of the details so that you can focus on savoring Andalucía's delights. Join us in southern Spain by reserving today!

Sincerely,

David Bambrey President

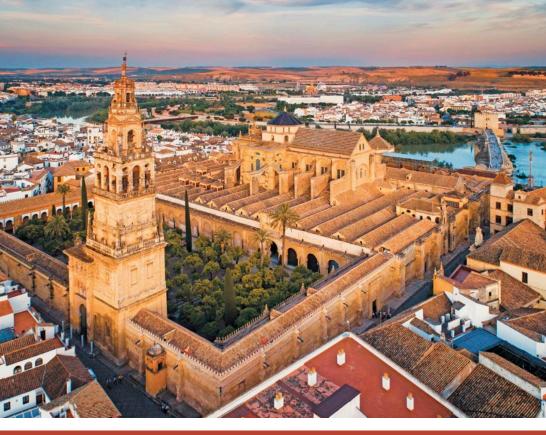
The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

### **UNESCO World Heritage**

- 1. Antequera Dolmens Site
- 2. Alhambra, Generalife, Granada
- 3. Cathedral, Alcázar, Sevilla
- 4. Historic Center of Córdoba







## Discovery begins here



Embrace the romantic spirit of southern Spain! Settle in for the week at a modern parador in lovely Antequera and then embark on engaging excursions throughout the region. Learn how Andalucía's heritage has been shaped by an intriguing mix of cultures and religions as you encounter its spectacular treasures. Take in awe-inspiring palaces, imposing fortresses, remarkable prehistoric tombs and a glorious mosque-cathedral.

Top: The monumental site of La Mezquita, Córdoba Above: Flamenco dancer

Cover: Ronda | Mail panel: Spanish musician | Interior details of Real Alcázar, Sevilla

### Inspiring Moments



- Ponder the influence of the Moors as you explore the enchanting **Alhambra**.
- Clap to the rhythm of a soulful flamenco performance.
- Immerse yourself in the charm of Antequera, nestled in Andalucía's picturesque heartland.
- Marvel at the breathtaking view of El Tajo Gorge in Ronda.
- Delight in the majestic architecture of the cathedral and Alcázar in Sevilla.
- Sample organic wines and enjoy a delicious lunch at a **bodega** set among the sprawling vineyards outside of Ronda.
- Admire the great mosque-cathedral in Córdoba, La Mezquita.
- Experience four UNESCO World Heritage sites.

### ARCHITECTURE | ART | CULTURE | CUISINE | HISTORY | NATURAL BEAUTY



### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Málaga, Spain.

### Day 2 | Málaga, Spain | Antequera

Upon arrival, transfer **3** to Antequera and check in to the Parador de Antequera.

Tonight, get to know your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the parador.

### Day 3 | Antequera

Ancient Antequera. The prehistoric Menga and Viera dolmens were built by farmers in the valley between 3500 and 3000 B.C. On a guided tour of these megalithic monuments, ponder the labor and engineering skill involved in constructing the immense stone burial chambers. Then, embark on a guided walk through Antequera. Start at the Alcazaba, the 14th-century Moorish fortress that once guarded the city, where you'll enjoy sweeping views. Continue into the old town to admire its landmarks and stop for lunch after your walk.

Free Time: The afternoon is yours to plan.

Enrichment: Andalucía & the Moorish

Influence. A local expert examines the lasting impact of eight centuries of Muslim rule.

### Day 4 | Granada

The Palace City of Alhambra. Travel today to the Alhambra, an exquisite Moorish palace complex and fortress located in Granada. This iconic structure was built in the 13th and 14th centuries by the kings of the Nasrid dynasty who sought to create their own paradise on earth. Admire intricately filigreed courtyards and halls in the Palacios Nazaríes, walk through the fortress and stroll in the gardens of Generalife. Relax later over lunch at the Parador de Granada within the Alhambra.

### Day 5 | Sevilla

Sevilla City Tour. Journey to the cultural heart of southern Spain on a panoramic/walking tour. See the centuries-old bullring and the Moorish watchtower near the river. Enjoy a stop at the remarkable Plaza de España to see its canal and tiled alcoves representing the provinces of Spain. Next, tour the grand Real Alcázar, a medieval Moorish palace still in use today as a royal residence, and the stunning Cathedral of Sevilla, the world's largest Gothic church. These structures stand in the heart of Sevilla as proud representation of the Spanish Golden Age.





Finish with a walk through the scenic Barrio de Santa Cruz and savor lunch on your own. Gather for dinner tonight at the parador.

### Day 6 | Ronda

Ronda Discovery. Spectacularly situated on the edge of El Tajo Gorge high above the open countryside, Ronda is a showstopper and the largest of Andalucía's pueblos blancos, or white towns. Begin your guided walk at the bullring, Plaza de Toros, established in 1785. Stand in the arena and delve into the dramatic world of bullfighting at its museum. Later, soak up marvelous views of Ronda from the terrace of Casa de San Juan Bosco. Cap off your Ronda visit with a tour of Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor, a beautiful, artistic basilica.

**©AHI Connects** | *Bodega Lunch & Tasting.*Sample fine wines and enjoy lunch at a local winery. Continue for a tour of their cellars.

La Mezquita, Córdoba



### Day 7 | Córdoba

La Mezquita & Jewish Quarter Tour. Visit La Mezquita, Córdoba's grand mosque-cathedral, and admire the finest examples of Moorish architecture in Spain. While the mosque was built in the eighth century, the cathedral was erected within the complex in the 16th century after Spanish forces recaptured Córdoba in 1236. The mixture of Islamic and Christian decorative elements dazzles the eye, including the prayer hall of striped arches, the golden mihrab, the altar screen and the mahogany choir stalls. After, see the Roman bridge over the Guadalquivir River, and stroll along the atmospheric Jewish Quarter's winding streets past whitewashed houses.

**Free Time:** Select a nice spot for lunch on your own in Córdoba.

Flamenco Performance. This evening, relish dinner at a local restaurant in Antequera while delighting in a special flamenco performance.

Vineyard near Ronda





You'll be awed by the emotion and precision of Spain's famous art form!

### Day 8 | Antequera

**Enrichment:** Contemporary Spain. Gain insights about issues impacting the nation.

Free Time: Spend your last day at leisure in Antequera. Another option is to take the complimentary, round-trip shuttle to vibrant Málaga and make your own plans. You can also choose to join today's Elective Activity.

Experience. Marvel at the otherworldly limestone formations of El Torcal de Antequera Nature Park on a drive. Take a coffee break there and, if you'd like, walk to see the rocks up close. Head next to a family-owned olive oil mill for a tour and a delicious brunch featuring their fresh oils.

Celebrate your time in the south of Spain tonight at a Farewell Reception and Dinner at the parador.

### Day 9 | In Transit

Transfer → to the airport in Málaga for the return flight ↔ to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Flights and Otransfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

### Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

### Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

### Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

 7 nights in Antequera, Spain, at the first-class Parador de Antequera.

### **Extensive Meal Program**

 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Electives and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- -Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- AHI Sustainability Promise:
   We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Jewish Quarter, Córdoba





Cathedral of Sevilla



Plaza de España, Sevilla



Patio of the Lions, Alhambra, Granada



### 2026 | Departure Details

### Program Dates

### Travel dates ★ June 11-19, 2026

★ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\* June 12-19, 2026

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

### Land Program

Special Savings Price*	\$2,995
Special Savings	\$750
Full Price	\$3,745

\*This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined. Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1955A?schoolld=69.

### AHI FlexAir 🛟

### Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure transfers on group dates
- flexibility to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays

### AHI Travel Expertise



**Travel Consultants** assist with the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** and **Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

### **Accommodations**



### Parador de Antequera | Antequera



Our travel experts have carefully selected this first-class, modern parador for its ideal location in the heart of Andalucía. Explore charming Antequera, relax on the terrace overlooking Spain's southern plain or enjoy a dip in the pool. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of this property's services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to fully enjoy your stay.





Tripadvisor



Antequera

Book your journey today!

# ALUMNI

University of Illinois

Alice Campbell Alumni Center 601 S. Lincoln Avenue **EXPLORERS Office** Alumni Association

SPANDA26 77

Urbana, IL 61801







# Revel in southern Spain's cultural treasures!

program information, Please call or refer to our website for the most current

of the world for more than 62 years.

Committed to connecting travelers to the people, places and cultures



discounts and pricing.