

ANDALUCIA, SPAIN

LONDON - MALAGA - ORGIVA - CORDOBA, APRIL 25 - 29, 2013

Where Is Andalusia... and why? Andalusia is area on the southern coast of Spain and is famous for the white hill towns, food, wine, olive oil, garlic, warm weather, birds, Moorish architecture... and... we had not been there yet.

Andalusia is the most populous and the second largest in area of the autonomous communities in Spain. The Andalusian autonomous community is officially recognized as a nationality of Spain. The territory is divided into eight provinces: Almería, Cádiz, Córdoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaén, Málaga and Seville. Its capital is the city of Seville.

Andalusia is in the south of the Iberian peninsula; east of Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean; and north of the Mediterranean Sea and the Strait of Gibraltar, which separates Spain from Morocco, and the Atlantic Ocean.

The name Andalusia traces back to the Arabic language. As well as Muslim and Romani influences, the region's history and culture have been influenced by the earlier Iberians, Phoenicians, Carthaginians,

Greeks, Romans, Vandals, Visigoths, Byzantines, all of whom preceded the Muslims, as well as the Castilian and other Christian North Iberian nationalities who regained and repopulated the area in the latter phases of the Reconquista. There was also a relatively large Sephardic Jewish presence.



Our route took us via air from Seattle to London Heathrow, then a bus from London Heathrow to London Gatwick here we stopped for the night to catch our breath. The next day flew from London Gatwick to Malaga, Spain. In Malaga we picked up a rental car. I was talked into purchasing "no fault insurance", the agent saying that they wouldn't even check the car for damage when we got back, they would only check that was full of gas. All I had do was dump it back into a parking space at the airport and be on my way. It seemed like a good idea.. and maybe it was... but as I found out, it also means they will give you a car that they don't give a shit about if it gets any more damaged than it already has. When I arrived at the car is was painfully evident that I was not thinking clearly... again... the car reflecting the special 'no fault damage' program it was living the rest of it's rental life in.



Colorful Bike Cases At Gatwick Airport

This map show our overall route highlighted. The ovals show where we stopped for a few days to explore the immediate area.

The photographs in this issue of our Flying Pig Adventures where taken along this first part of our journey.





Typical landscape and hill town near Orgiva, (Pampaneria, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains).

Ham is a big thing... and plentiful... the best said to come from this area.



The latest invasion of Granada...



I had no luck getting these girls to downscale to the sunglasses I was selling....



From Granada to Cordoba the landscape was olives...



I liked the relief sculpture advertising a garage / car park, not so much the graffiti.



The local streets were large enough that I could have brought my Mini Cooper, but the sidewalks were less than pedestrian friendly.



The famous Great Mosque of Córdoba.



Low profile in a church...



All that is left of the Roman presence in Cordoba.



The most predominate and latest of Spanish fashion.