Walking in Las Alpujarras

Trip Code: SGLA

Version:

WALK & TREK	SELF-GUIDED	4 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the fascinating Albayzin old quarter of Granada
- Discover the distinctive ancient whitewashed villages of Las Alpujarras in Spain's Sierra Nevada
- Sample the local delicacies in quirky bodegas
- Stay in charming rural accommodation with relaxing swimming pools

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days walking
- 1 day sightseeing
- Daily departures
- Suitable for 2+ travellers
- Join at Granada / End in Pampaneira

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Discover Las Alpujarras, nestled in the foothills of Spain's Sierra Nevada, one of the most stunning National Parks in Europe. Home to Mulhacen (3,479m), Spain's highest peak, this UNESCO biosphere reserve is a hub for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. With hawks, kestrels, and golden eagles flying overhead, remember to pack your binoculars for this holiday. With the unique combination of a Mediterranean climate and higher altitudes, the area hosts an array of flora including fig, cherry, and almond trees. You are bound to fall in love with this lesser-known part of Andalucia.

On this self-guided walking holiday, you will first explore Granada with its explosion of culture and history, before retreating to the hills to explore the rural villages of Trevelez, Busquistar, and the three jewels of the Sierra Nevada - Pampaneira, Bubion, and Capileira. Beginning your holiday in the city of Granada with its magnificent Alhambra Palace, you will discover the area's fascinating history. Arab and Christian rule have both influenced the region's architecture and culture, not only in the city but also in the surrounding Moorish villages that, with their whitewashed houses with flat roofs and distinctive chimneys, are awaiting your discovery. Staying in traditional family run hotels and guesthouses, you will soon get to know the local way of life, where traditional crafts such as handmade ceramic tile production and Jarapa rug making are still going strong.

Is this holiday for you?

This trip is ideal if you love getting away from the crowds, putting on your walking shoes, and experiencing new cultures with your friends or family. If you love a bit of city sightseeing as well as retreating to the countryside to take the path less trodden, this self-guided walking holiday in Las Alpujarras is just what you are looking for. With walks of 4-5 hours long on tranquil well-marked paths and with average ascents of 500-600m, you will have the perfect opportunity to explore rural Spain, having time to explore the villages along your way. Routes are generally rocky under foot and trace the magnificent mountainsides on balcony paths, providing fantastic views into the valleys below for those with a head for heights.

The contrast of beginning your holiday in the busy city of Granada before heading out to the rural traditional-style hotels and guesthouses of Trevelez, Mecina Fondales and Pampaneira allows you to discover different sides of Spain away from the busy coast. An added advantage of being self-guided and spending two nights in each village is that if you would prefer to give your boots a rest and try your hand at one of the local crafts, you can.

For safety considerations on the more remote mountain trails, this trip is suitable for groups of 2 or more travellers.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Luggage transfers
- Private transfer from Granada to Trevelez
- GPX tracks supplied

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Granada
- Travel from Pampaneira
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Other local transfers and lifts
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking or cycling holiday for your family, a centre-based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a day's walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool, or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our Sales Team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Your trip starts at your hotel in Granada. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method that best suits you. The nearest airport is Granada Airport however Malaga Airport, with its many departures from UK regional airports, is often the best option when travelling from the UK.

If you are flying to Malaga Airport you can travel to Granada using public transport. The train takes approximately 2 hours with one change; the bus takes approximately 2-2.5 hours sometimes requiring one change at Malaga Bus Station. It is possible to book your tickets in advance at www.alsa.es.

If you have booked a private transfer with us please make your way to the arrivals hall where you will find your driver holding a sign showing your name.

Your trip ends in Pampaneira. If you are returning to Malaga Airport you can travel via Granada using public transport by taking a bus from the neighbouring village of Bubion to Granada, then retracing the inbound train or bus steps described above.

The public bus that runs from Bubion to Granada is operated by ALSA and usually runs 3 times daily (once in the early morning; twice in the late afternoon). Please see www.omio.co.uk and always check the timetables locally too.

You can take a taxi from your hotel in Pampaneira to Bubion.for approximately €8.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

The climate and altitude of Las Alpujarras make for a culinary experience that is very different from what is deemed typically Spanish. You won't find paella in abundance here – instead you can enjoy many hearty soups and stews, along with dishes such as 'chicken in almond sauce' and other delicacies flavoured with the region's Moorish history. Almonds, chestnuts, olives, peppers, figs and berries - all growing in abundance in the area - feature heavily in the local cuisine. The chocolate shop in Pampaneira is well worth a visit, to sample seasonal produce deliciously coated in sumptuous chocolate.

Breakfasts in the area tend to be continental, often featuring beautiful homemade jams and local honey accompanied by fresh bread and pastries. Lunches can be enjoyed in local cafes, or produce, sandwiches, and snacks can be bought from small grocers and bakeries. A trip to Las Alpujarras is not complete without a visit to one of the bodegas to sample the Serrano ham produced in the area – and why not wash it down with some organic wine from the region. Perfect after a day of walking!

Accommodation

We have selected some lovely small traditional 2-star and 3-star hotels and guesthouses for this trip, to help immerse you in the enriching culture of this mountainous region of Spain. All have been chosen for their fantastic locations and warm hospitality, and all those in the mountains have seasonal swimming pools to help you cool off and relax after a busy day exploring during the warmer summer months.

In Granada, you will stay in a highly rated modern 3-star hotel in the heart of the historic city. Its location, at the meeting point of the Albayzin and Realejo neighbourhoods at the foot of the Alhambra hill and next to the cathedral, makes it easy to explore this amazing city. What's more, with restaurants and tapas bars in abundance, you will be spoilt for choice for dining out!

Please Note: For departures during January and February, we have arranged for you to stay in a traditional, well-equipped apartment in Trevelez, close to the centre of town, while our hoteliers enjoy a welcome break themselves. If, during times of high demand, our preferred accommodation for nights 6 & 7 in Pampaneira is not available, you may be accommodated elsewhere in nearby Capileira, another of the villages on day 7's circular walking route.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out walking. We ask that you please ensure that each piece of your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection in the morning on the day of each hotel change. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you whilst you are walking.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however, getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking 4 to 5 hours for consecutive days and we recommend getting out hill walking, with some ascent and descent, before your holiday to help boost your fitness.

Climate

Las Alpujarras have an unusual combination of a Mediterranean climate with a high altitude, meaning that you'll find an unexpected mix of flora and fauna. The region benefits from warm sunny days almost every day in June through September – also the driest months - with temperatures in July and August reaching up to 30 degrees centigrade. However, the evenings can cool dramatically to a chilly 8 degrees centigrade even in the summer months, so remember your jumper. Winters are much cooler, with snow on the mountain tops and daily temperatures of up to 20 degrees centigrade and evening temperatures down to freezing point. Layers are handy at all times of the year, including waterproofs just in case.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Driving Over Lemons - Chris Stewart

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good-grip soles
- Hiking socks
- Long / short hiking trousers

- Functional base layer top and leggings
- T-shirts
- Fleece / extra warm layer
- Windproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat, gloves, and neck gaiter
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Camera (and batteries / memory card)
- Reusable sealable picnic boxes for picnics
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles

- Headtorch with spare batteries
- Personal wash kit
- Your self-guided route notes
- Rucksack (approx. 20L)

Land Only Information

Please note that our 'from' price listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers - contact our Sales Team for a quote.

When considering your travel dates, you might like to investigate any seasonal opening times of attractions and points of interest.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip - please ask our Sales Team to find out more about this.

Our Sales Team will be happy to provide you with a quote for scheduled flights, or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your accommodation from the nearest airports - please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' section for further details for this trip.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Our walks have been especially selected by our local experts to showcase the best of Las Alpujarras, and we have included a night in the fascinating city of Granada, once one of the richest and most influential cities in Europe.Also included in this trip is a private transfer from Granada to Trevelez and, where possible, we've selected accommodations with a pool to help you relax even more after a day of exploring.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 19/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change