

# AMELIA DALTON<sup>LTD</sup>

## TRAVEL



### SPRING TIME EXOTICS

**COTO de DOÑANA** is a vast wilderness with international importance for **migrating birds**. The waters of **Guadalquivir River** drop in spring **revealing islands** and **sandbanks** rich with life which combined with the **woodlands** and **dunes** provide the perfect habitat for thousands of bird



species. Exploring both on foot and by 4x4s enables us to reach the differing areas and delve deep into the Park ensuring we make the most of the opportunities to see the **teeming birdlife** and **varied species**. The Park is one of the last refuges of the Iberian Lynx, if we are exceptionally lucky we might see one. Across the river from the Reserve lies **Salucar de Barrameda**, the only place where flinty dry Manzanilla Sherry may be produced; we visit privately, as guests at **La Gitana**, with Javier Hidalgo – the 8<sup>th</sup> generation of his family to create this exceptional elegant drink. Javier, who is highly experienced, will be one of our two wildlife guides, both are dedicated bird enthusiasts.

Leaving the coast, we head inland to the **limestone peaks** and **gorges** of the **SIERRA de GRAZALEMA NATIONAL PARK**, a totally different terrain with a sensational variety of **wildlife**, **rare orchids** and **specialized trees**. This striking ecosystem of **streams**, **riverbanks**, **caves** and **grottos** has provided ideal habitat for over 35 different species of **rare orchids**, as well as **cork oak**, **wild olives**, **carob** and the rare **pinsapo** which has survived from the last Ice Age. 'Super' picnics and visits to local restaurants for tapas and seafood will fuel our walks, and we also visit **Grazalema**, a celebrated *peblos blancos* village famous for traditional weaving, leatherwork and cheese.







#### DETAILED ITINERARY

**Sat; 21<sup>st</sup> April:** on arrival transfer to **Hacienda San Rafael**.

**Evening Presentation** by Javier Hidalgo. Based in Sanlucar, Javier is an expert bird guide who has lived all his life amongst the dunes and birds of the **Reserve**. Dinner at the Hacienda

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> April : Marismas de Sanlucar**

After breakfast, we transfer to the nearby marsh area of the delta of the **Guadalquivir river** – the **Marismas de Sanlucar**. With **Javier** to inform and lead us, we spend a long morning walking and driving amongst the lagoons and marshlands before we are guests at his historic **Bodegas La Gitana** immediately across the river in **Sanlucar**. Hungry after an interesting morning, we stay beside the sea for typically Spanish seafood lunch. Dinner at the Hacienda.

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Coto Doñana National Park**

This morning we meet **Jose Antonio** and start our morning in the **Coto Doñana National Park** at **El Rocío**. Again, on foot and in 4x4s, with Jose to guide and inform us, we spend the day in the Park with a picnic lunch to make the most of our time. Being provided by the Hacienda will guarantee a delicious collation of typically Spanish goodies: we return to relax at the Hacienda before dinner.





**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> April: Sierra de Grazalema National Park**

Today will be spent amongst the peaks and crags of the **Sierra de Grazalema**. Javier will guide our walking tour of the **Garganta Verde**, watching out for the rich birdlife and varied orchids before a late lunch at a typical restaurant in the pretty white village of **Grazalema**. Returning to the Hacienda, Javier joins us for our final dinner and in case we have any unidentified species or further questions.

*In the **MARSHES** and at **COTO de DOÑANA** we hope to see white headed duck, red knobbed coot, marbled teal, little bittern, stilts, avocet, spoonbill, flamingo, osprey blue-winged Kite, marsh harriers, purple herons, squacco herons, glossy ibis, red crested pochards, purple swamp hens, short toed eagles, kestrels, graylag geese, cranes, merlin and booted eagles.*

*In the **SIERRA de GRAZALEMA UNESCO BIO RESERVE** birdlife includes Griffon vulture, booted eagle, short toed eagle, Bonelli's eagle, Golden eagle, red billed chough, lesser kestrel, hoopoe, bee-eater, blue rock thrush and some **35 different species of orchids** and the Spanish Pine - abies pinsapo*



**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April:** After a morning to relax we transfer to Gibraltar.

**Please note the walking will be uneven and visits are designed for those who are happy with rough walking.**

**Our Hotel: the HACIENDA de SAN RAFAEL:** set in the peaceful countryside near Seville and between the two Reserves, this traditional Hacienda was once an 18<sup>th</sup> century olive estate. Six acres of gardens surround the hotel. If the weather is warm there are three pools, two bars and an outdoor dining room to enjoy, or roaring log fires in the delightful stylish drawing room and an elegant dining room. Each of the individually designed bedrooms is decorated with beautiful antiques and textiles: or (@extra cost) Casita in the gardens.







**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018**

**COST Eur 1,895.00 per person, based on 2 sharing a room**

**Payments in Sterling based on the Barclays rate at the time of Payment.**

**Single supplement Eur 328 (charged by the Hacienda)**

**Cost includes:**

- accommodation at Hacienda San Rafael (or similar quality) including breakfast daily, taxes and service charges
- meals as mentioned with ½ bottle of wine pp at lunch and dinner
- tasting at the Bodegas, entrance fees and visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- transfers from and to Gibraltar airport connecting only with the flights below
- private vehicle transport & 4 x 4 when necessary
- gratuities to restaurants, guides and drivers
- services of tour leaders and guides

**Cost does NOT include:**

- arrival at and departure from Gibraltar airport (see below re flights)
- items of a personal nature, e.g. excess luggage, phone calls, etc.
- travel insurance.
- meals and transport unless specified in the itinerary
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication on 24 10 17



**FLIGHTS** are NOT included flights, but I am happy to help. Transfers to the HACIENDA will link with the BA flights below in / out of GIBRALTAR. The Hacienda is 1.5 hrs north of Gibraltar.

**OUT:** ETD 10.40 BA492 from LHR / ETA 14.35 GIBRALTAR

**RETURN:** ETD 17.10 BA491 GIBRALTAR / ETA 19.05 LHR  
£88 Economy return pp @ Oct 2017

**For more information please contact AMELIA DALTON TRAVEL, Ltd.**  
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