



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

GARDENS & GRANDEUR: Exploring Southern Spain's Historic Treasures

April 2–10, 2027





The Alhambra
(photo by Jiuguang Wang)

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to extend a warm invitation to join the AHS on a breathtaking journey through Andalusia, one of the most enchanting regions of Spain. From April 2–10, 2027, we will explore the stunning gardens and palaces of Granada, Cordoba, and Seville, each city brimming with history, magnificent architecture, and awe-inspiring landscapes.

This unique AHS itinerary has been designed to immerse you in the beautiful gardens and rich culture of Andalusia. Discover some of Southern Spain's most iconic sites, including the Alhambra, the Generalife Gardens, and the Seville Cathedral, while enjoying rare access to private gardens and hidden gems. Our visits will delve into the region's remarkable heritage, from its Moorish roots to its Renaissance splendor, framed by the lush greenery of Andalusia's most exquisite gardens.

Guiding you through this journey is esteemed expert Panayoti Kelaidis, an AHS Board Member and a distinguished plant explorer. Panayoti has lectured internationally and received numerous honors, including AHS' prestigious Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. With his deep knowledge and enthusiasm, Panayoti will enrich your experience with unique insights and unforgettable stories.

You will also be joined by knowledgeable local guides who will bring each site to life and enjoy the companionship of fellow AHS members while savoring the rich sights, sounds, and flavors of the region. Whether exploring grand palaces, strolling through peaceful courtyards, or experiencing the lively ambiance of life in Andalusia, every day promises new discoveries.

We hope you'll join us for this exceptional opportunity to explore Andalusia's spectacular gardens and culture. Space is limited, so I encourage you to reserve your spot early. For your convenience, a reservation form is included in the brochure.

Warmest Regards,

Suzanne B. Laporte
President & CEO

AHS Host Panayoti Kelaidis



AHS Board Member Panayoti Kelaidis is a distinguished plant explorer, gardener, and Director of Outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens, where he has played a pivotal role since 1980. Known for designing and curating the Rock Alpine Garden, ranked by Garden Design Magazine as North America's best public rock garden, he has introduced countless native and exotic plants, including hardy ice plants, to horticulture worldwide. With extensive fieldwork across continents, from the Andes to the Caucasus, he has discovered new plant species and contributed to the preservation of Western native flora. A passionate educator and advocate for sustainability, Panayoti has lectured internationally and received numerous honors, including the prestigious AHS Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. He believes gardening is a vital way to foster a deeper connection with nature and create a sustainable future.

*This custom trip is part of the AHS Adventures travel program collection.
For more information, visit ahsgardening.org/travel*

ITINERARY

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Arrival in Granada

Arrive in Malaga Airport and join a group transfer to Granada, checking in at the NH Collection Victoria, a refined hotel in the heart of the city. (Those arriving directly in Granada will transfer independently.) In the late afternoon, we'll join our local guide for an introductory walking tour through Granada's historic center, where centuries of Moorish and Spanish heritage meet in lively streets and sun-dappled squares. This evening, we'll gather for a delicious welcome dinner featuring regional Andalusian flavors.

NH Collection Victoria, Granada (Dinner)

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

The Alhambra and Generalife Gardens

Today is dedicated to Granada's most iconic sites. We begin with a guided visit to the Alhambra, a breathtaking Moorish palace complex famed for its elegant courtyards and intricate stucco work. From there, we move to the Generalife, the Nasrid kings' summer retreat, where tiered patios, water channels, and lush greenery create one of the most refined examples of medieval Islamic garden design. After a relaxed lunch, we continue to Carmen de los Mártires, a romantic 19th-century garden blending Moorish and European styles. The evening is at leisure.

NH Collection Victoria, Granada (Breakfast, Lunch)

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

A Private Visit to Jardín del Rosario

This morning we are the invited guests of AHS member José Alba at his award-winning private garden, the *Jardín del Rosario*, home to an extraordinary collection of over 5,200 plant species. Our visit begins with a warm reception at the Alba family home, where José will share the story of this remarkable decades-long project over coffee and cake. We then enjoy a guided walk through the garden, exploring its rare and diverse plant collections. Following the tour, our hosts will join us for a hearty lunch at a traditional Spanish tavern run by friends of the family. We return to Granada in the late afternoon and the remainder of the evening is at leisure.

NH Collection Victoria, Granada (Breakfast, Lunch)

MONDAY, APRIL 5

Discovering Old Town Granada

Our morning begins with a visit to the Granada Cathedral and the adjacent Capilla Real, the final resting place of the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and



Ornamented Moorish Mosaic on Wall, Granada (photo by Elif Topal)



Generalife (photo by Sarah Hall)

Isabella, who united Spain in the late 15th century. We then visit the Archaeological Museum, home to an impressive collection of artifacts that span Granada's diverse history, from its ancient Roman roots to its time under Muslim rule, offering a fascinating glimpse into the city's rich cultural heritage. After lunch, the remainder of the day is free for individual exploration of Granada's vibrant old town, where narrow streets, charming plazas, and hidden gems await.

NH Collection Victoria, Granada (Breakfast, Lunch)

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

From Granada to Sevilla via Cordoba

We depart Granada by private coach and head towards Seville, stopping in the enchanting city of Córdoba. Once the capital of Islamic Spain, Córdoba is a city steeped in history and renowned for its architectural treasures and lush gardens. We begin with a visit to the Palacio de Viana, home to a stunning series of courtyard gardens, each with its own unique design and charm. After a shared lunch, we'll tour the awe-inspiring Mezquita, a stunning mosque-cathedral that exemplifies the blend of Islamic and Christian architectural styles. We then continue our journey to Seville, where we check in at the charming Hotel Bécquer.

Hotel Bécquer, Seville (Breakfast, Lunch)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Seville's Historic Center & Cathedral

This morning, we embark on a walking tour through Seville's vibrant city center, immersing ourselves in the rich history and stunning architecture of the area. We will uncover the secrets of the atmospheric Santa Cruz neighborhood with our expert guide before visiting the Seville Cathedral, the largest Gothic-style cathedral in the world. Explore its awe-inspiring interior, including the tomb of Christopher Columbus and the breathtaking Giralda Tower. After the visit, enjoy the remainder of the day free to explore Seville's charming streets, plazas, and vibrant atmosphere at your own pace. Reconvene this evening for dinner at an excellent restaurant.

Hotel Bécquer, Seville (Breakfast, Dinner)

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

A Private Visit to the Palacio de Portocarrero

Today, we embark on a full-day visit to Palma del Río for an exclusive private tour of the Palacio de Portocarrero, a historic residence with origins dating back to Roman times. This stunning architectural gem, blending Moorish and later influences, underwent meticulous restoration starting in 1989 by Cristina Ybarra and her husband Enrique Moreno de la Cova. We will explore the palace's beautiful Mudejar gardens, framed by 12th-century Almohad walls, before enjoying a delicious private lunch together. We return to Seville in the late afternoon with the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Hotel Bécquer, Seville (Breakfast, Lunch)



Orange Trees in Seville (photo by Jarrod Zenjiro)



Garden at Palacio de Portocarrero (photo by Flixq)

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Grand Gardens and a Fond Farewell

Our final day begins with a visit to the iconic Plaza de España to marvel at its grandiose architecture. Afterward, we'll visit the Reales Alcázares, a royal palace whose stunning gardens beautifully blend Moorish and Christian influences. After a guided tour, the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to explore at your leisure. In the evening, we gather for a farewell dinner to celebrate our Andalusian adventure.

Hotel Bécquer, Seville (Breakfast, Dinner)

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Departures

Our tour comes to an end this morning after breakfast at the hotel. Each participant should arrange independent transfers to the airport for flights home, or to an onward destination.

(Breakfast)



Plaza de España (photo by Alp Cem)

ACCOMMODATIONS

NH Collection Victoria, Granada

Ideally located in the heart of Granada, just steps from the Cathedral and Plaza Bib-Rambla, the NH Collection Victoria is a stylish hotel that blends early 20th-century charm with contemporary comfort. Housed in a handsome period building with curved stone balconies and elegant interiors, the hotel offers bright, well-appointed rooms with hardwood floors, plush bedding, and modern bathrooms. A generous breakfast buffet and attentive service make this a relaxing base for exploring Granada's rich heritage and vibrant street life.



Hotel Bécquer, Seville

Set in Seville's historic quarter, a short walk from the Cathedral and Alcázar, the Hotel Bécquer offers a warm, boutique-style atmosphere with modern amenities. The property has been thoughtfully updated, blending historical charm with contemporary comfort. It features comfortable guest rooms, a cozy bar and lounge, and a rooftop terrace with panoramic views of the old town. Its central location makes it an ideal base for discovering Seville's architecture, gardens, and lively tapas bars.



When you travel with the AHS, you make a difference.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.



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Trip Information

AHS TRAVEL

This custom AHS Travel program has been created uniquely for AHS members and is offered in collaboration with International Seminar Design, Inc.

TOUR COST:

Land Package..... \$7,395
Single Supplement..... \$1,395

Land Package is per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 12 paying participants.

AHS TRAVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL DESCRIPTION: AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk for a minimum of two miles each day.

HEALTH: At AHS Travel, ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority.

All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by ISDI Travel, local staff, and host country laws. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on December 18, 2026, and must be paid by check or wire/ACH transfer to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before December 18, 2026: full refund minus the \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between December 19, 2026 and February 16, 2027: full refund minus \$3,500 per person cancellation fee (includes the registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after February 17, 2027: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or the American Horticultural Society due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

FLIGHTS: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be provided upon receipt of your registration. One travel insurance provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For more information on the plan for AHS travelers, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel. Information is also available at this link regarding optional flight and travel arrangement services.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS:

3 nights at NH Collection Victoria, Granada; 5 nights at Hotel Bécquer, Seville; breakfast daily at the hotels, 5 lunches, 3 dinners (water, soft drinks, coffee, tea included with all meals; 2 glasses of wine or beer included with dinners); ground transportation by private motor coach; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local guides; personal listening devices for duration of the tour; handling of 2 pieces of luggage per person at hotels; gratuities for guides, drivers, and restaurant staff at included group meals; bottled water on motor coach; service charges and taxes.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS: Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portage; airport transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

Please contact travel@ahsgardening.org or 703-768-8801. Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.



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Registration Form

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TO REGISTER BY PHONE, CALL:

International Seminar Design, Inc. at 202-244-1448 ext. 1

or

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

International Seminar Design, Inc., 5614 Connecticut Ave NW, #295, Washington, DC 20015

or by email at info@isditravel.com

Name - Participant 1

Name - Participant 2

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address - Participant 1

E-mail Address - Participant 2

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)

Double Occupancy

I have a roommate who is registering separately. I plan to share a room with _____.

We prefer separate beds.

Single Occupancy (\$1,395 single supplement)

I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found.

DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person):

_____ # of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

Visa MasterCard American Express Check (make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yy)

Name as it appears on card

CVV Security Code

By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined above.

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