

## **Journeying Across Time and Culture:**

### **Southern Spain & Morocco**

#### **June 8 – 22, 2025**

Join us on an adventure where we delve into the captivating realms of history, religion, and biology in the vibrant landscapes of Southern Spain and Morocco. Our journey begins in the lively streets of Sevilla, where we'll immerse ourselves in its rich cultural heritage. From there, we'll venture into the ancient city of Cádiz, renowned as the birthplace of Flamenco and steeped in centuries of Spanish tradition. With its pristine beaches and compact size ideal for exploration for high school students, Cádiz promises to be a hidden gem awaiting our discovery.



Our expedition unfolds with an educational journey to Morocco for a day, where we will spend our time immersing ourselves in the vibrant tapestry of Berber, Arab, and Moorish cultures. As we say goodbye to Morocco, our expedition continues to the iconic Alhambra in Granada. This UNESCO World Heritage site stands as a testament to the pinnacle of Moorish architecture and history. With its intricate carvings, graceful arches, and lush gardens, the Alhambra calls us to explore its timeless beauty and uncover the secrets of its storied past. Our journey from Morocco to the Alhambra is not just a transition in location but a seamless continuation of our quest to discover the interconnectedness of cultures and civilizations that have shaped the landscape of the Iberian Peninsula.







NMH students will have a unique experience with our immersive homestay program in Cadiz, where students will not only discover the depths of Spanish culture but also learn essential language skills. Under the guidance of our trusted partners at K2 International School, students will be warmly welcomed into local homes, where they'll form meaningful connections with their Spanish "mamas" who speak solely Spanish. This hands-on approach to language learning will empower students to navigate daily life in a Spanish-speaking environment, fostering confidence and cultural understanding.

In addition to the homestay experience, each morning will be dedicated to exploring the rich history and religious heritage of Cadiz and Sevilla, with visits to landmarks and sites of historical significance. From the majestic Alcázar in Sevilla to the ancient Roman ruins in Bolonia, students will explore into the fascinating narratives that shape these vibrant cities.

### **HOMEBASE**

Homestays in Cadiz offer a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the local lifestyle, forge meaningful connections with residents, and gain a deeper appreciation for Andalusian culture and hospitality. We have been working with these homestays for 20 years! By living and immersing yourself in the daily culture and life we like to think we are training the next generation of travelers – not tourists, but travelers who are able to move comfortably within a culture, make connections, and contribute. We build educational trips to cultivate curiosity, respect, and confidence, yet offer a balance of structure, support, and independence – students cannot simply get off the bus and blend into the crowd on a Gogi trip. In Spain, we are intimately involved in small community environments, joining the local culture, preparing meals with homestays, and celebrating authentic connections. This trip we will be with families for the beginning of the trip and then we will travel to Morocco, Granada and Sevilla where we will stay at hotels.

### **ACTIVITIES IN CADIZ**

GOGI Abroad and K2 Internacional School have crafted a transformative program for NMH summer students, combining language instruction with hands-on exploration for cultural immersion.



During their time at K2 Internacional School, students will participate in three hours of intensive Spanish instruction in the mornings, laying the foundation for effective communication and comprehension. Following this, the focus shifts to immersive, experiential learning, with the afternoons exploring historical sites, churches, and other significant landmarks that showcase the cultural tapestry of the area.

Living with host families in Cádiz provides students with a unique opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the Spanish language and culture. Beyond the classroom, students will have the chance to practice their language skills in real-life situations, interacting with locals, navigating the city streets, and experiencing the vibrant atmosphere of daily life in Cádiz. This immersive living arrangement not only accelerates language proficiency but also fosters personal connections and cultural understanding, enriching the overall learning experience.

### **Flamenco Class**

Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Flamenco music and dance in this region of Spain. From the soulful notes of the flamenco guitar to the lively rhythms of satirical chirigota tunes and drumming, students will have the chance to experience the rich musical traditions. The atmosphere is filled with the distinctive sounds of clicking castanets, snapping fingers, stamping feet, and energetic cheers of 'ole, ole!'—an unforgettable experience that captures the essence of Spanish culture



### **Paella Cooking Class**

We end our time in Cadiz with a delightful cooking class, as Spaniards share their love for preparing and enjoying flavorful dishes. Students will dive into the rich culinary heritage of Spain, from tasty tapas to exquisite seafood. In a hands-on experience, the group will initiate a culinary adventure into the world of Spanish cuisine by shopping for ingredients in Spanish at the local market and come together to master the art of crafting a large paella, creating a memorable fiesta for all.







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### **Surfing Day in Cadiz**

Embrace the thrill of riding the waves while soaking up the sun on Cadiz's stunning beaches. Perfect for adventurous students, this exhilarating activity adds a fun and active twist to your day of exploration. Dive into the surf, learn new skills, and create unforgettable memories against the backdrop of Cadiz's picturesque coastline.



## **SAMPLE ITINERARY**

*\*Itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances and the health of group\**

### **Cadiz, Sevilla, Granda and Morocco**

This itinerary offers a comprehensive exploration of world history, religion, and biology, incorporating guided tours, lectures, workshops, and hands-on experiences in diverse cultural and natural settings.

#### **Day 1 - Depart to Spain**

#### **Day 2 - Arrive in Sevilla**

*Accommodation: Homestays (two to four students with a host family)*

Arrive at the airport and GOGI guides will pick you up and take a bus to Cadiz where welcoming homestays eagerly await your arrival. In the late afternoon, the group will convene to begin exploring the charming streets of Cadiz together.

#### **Day 3 - K2 International School and Immersion in Cadiz**

*Accommodation: Homestays (two to four students with a host family)*

On the first day, the Spanish host families will take the students to K2 International.







**Activity AM: Classes will start at 9:30.**

Students will spend an hour immersed in Spanish language instruction, followed by an exploration of the Roman ruins in Cadiz, delving into history dating back to the Phoenicians. Each morning while in Cadiz will have this schedule:

**9:30-10:30 & 11:00- 13:00** - Spanish Classes

**13:00**—Free time

**14:00-15:00**—(Lunch) Students will go home to have their lunch with the host families. The families will pick up from the school those students who don't feel confident with their way back home yet. Then the students will meet up with the group to do evening activities.

**Activity PM:** Visit to Tavira Tower and guided city tour. Students will have the opportunity to discover the city. Walking through its cobbled and narrow streets, cozy squares and its most important monuments such as "Plaza de Las Flores" (the flowers' square) or the oldest neighborhood: "El Barrio del Pópulo". First, we will go up to the Tavira Tower (an observation tower with a camera obscura system).

Dinner (at home)- Students will return to their host families after activities to have dinner and spend some time together. Dinner in Spain is not as important as lunch. Dinner time is usually between 9:00-10:00 p.m.

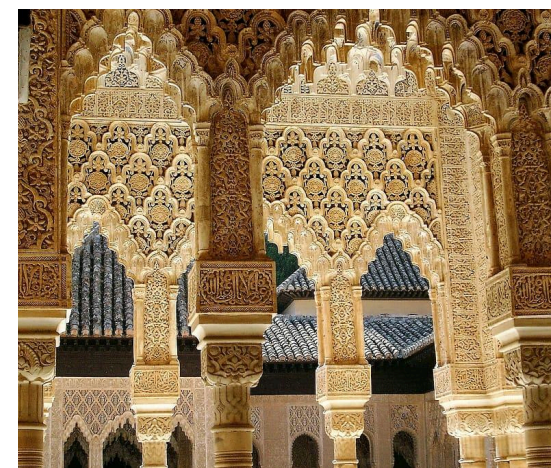
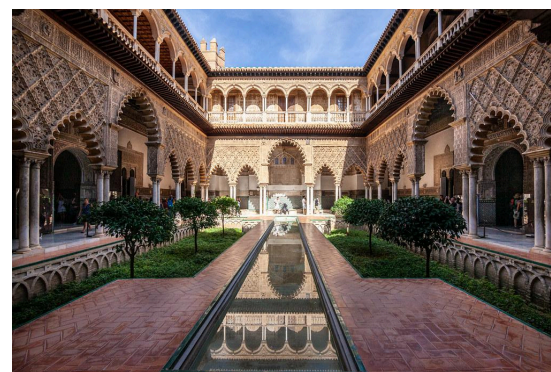


**Day 4 - Spanish and Cultural immersion in Cadiz and a choice of activity in the afternoon.**

*Accommodation: Homestays (two to four students with a host family)*

**Activity AM:** Classes will start at 9:30. Again we will have three hours of language immersion then head to the streets to embark on some fun discoveries! Our day begins with a guided walking tour, where we visit iconic religious sites such as churches, cathedrals, and synagogues. Engage in interactive discussions with local guides and religious leaders, delving into the historical and cultural significance of each location. Through hands-on activities, we'll immerse ourselves in religious practices, creating traditional artwork and learning about festivals and celebrations.

**Activity PM:** Flamenco class, Surf class or Biking (depending on the group)



**Day 5 - Language and Culture Immersion & Sevilla**

*Accommodation: Homestays (two to four students with a host family)*





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**Activity AM:** Students will meet at K2 at 9:30 am to continue learning Spanish and leave at noon to go to Sevilla.

**Activity PM:** Accompanied by our knowledgeable K2 guide, and GOGI guide students will board a comfortable bus bound for Sevilla, a city steeped in history and renowned for its breathtaking beauty. It is situated along the banks of the Guadalquivir River, Sevilla beckons with its enchanting allure, inviting us to uncover the secrets and history.

As we arrive in Sevilla, students will be captivated by the city's timeless charm, reflected in its numerous historical landmarks and architectural marvels. Our cultural day in Sevilla promises to be an immersive journey through time, where students will have the opportunity to explore iconic sites such as the majestic Alcazar and the awe-inspiring Cathedral, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.



At the Alcazar, students will wander through ornate gardens and courtyards, tracing the footsteps of royalty and sultans who once roamed these hallowed grounds. Here, they will learn about the city's Moorish heritage and the profound influence of Islamic culture on Sevilla's architecture and art.

Next, we'll venture into the awe-inspiring Cathedral, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world and a testament to Sevilla's rich religious history. Inside, students will see the towering columns, intricate stained glass windows, and priceless works of art, as they learn about the city's deep-rooted Catholic traditions and the significance of the Cathedral in Sevilla's cultural identity.



### Day 6 -Cadiz Day

**Activity AM:** Classes will start at 9:30 with language classes where students will engage in immersive Spanish instruction to enhance their language skills.

**Activity PM:** An activity such as surf or biking or beach afternoon

### Day 7-Cadiz Day

**Activity AM:** Classes will start at 9:30 with language classes where students will engage in immersive Spanish instruction to enhance their language skills.







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**Activity PM:** We'll finish the day with a self-guided audio tour of the incredible Parque Genoves, offering a 150 year old collection of rare trees from six continents.

### **Day 8- Roman Ruins Adventure in Bolonia**

**Activity AM/PM:** At 10:00 AM, we'll embark on an exciting day trip to the Roman Ruins of Bolonia, situated along the stunning coastline of southern Spain. It is an incredible area of rolling hills and overlooking the sparkling waters of the Mediterranean Sea, Bolonia offers a captivating glimpse into the ancient past of the Roman Empire. You can start to see Morocco in the distance.

As we explore the ruins, students will step back in time to the days of ancient Rome, where Bolonia was known as Baelo Claudia, a thriving Roman city and important center of commerce and trade. Guided by knowledgeable experts, students will wander through the well-preserved remains of ancient streets, temples, and public buildings, marveling at the architectural prowess of the Romans and gaining insight into their daily lives and customs. Throughout the excursion, students will have the opportunity to practice their Spanish language skills in real-world situations, interacting with local guides and fellow travelers. By immersing themselves in the cultural and historical context of Bolonia, students will deepen their understanding of both the Spanish language and the rich heritage of the region. After this educational experience, students can enjoy a fun hike up the sandune and enjoy a picnic lunch packed by their Spanish mamas!

### **Day 9-Cadiz Day!**

**Activity AM:** Classes will start at 9:30 with language classes where students will engage in immersive Spanish instruction to enhance their language skills.

**Activity PM:** An activity such as surf or biking or beach afternoon

### **Day 10 - Culinary Delights and Celebration**

**Activity AM:** Learning to Cook Paella at the Famous Market with K2 school. In the morning, students will venture to the bustling outdoor market, where vibrant stalls brim with fresh produce, aromatic spices, and local delicacies. Students will engage with vendors and order ingredients in Spanish for our evening paella cooking class. This hands-on experience not only reinforces language proficiency but also offers a taste of authentic Spanish culture.

**Activity PM:** In the evening, we'll gather for a memorable closing ceremony at K2 Internacional School. Amidst an atmosphere of pride and accomplishment, students will be awarded their diplomas, recognizing their dedication and progress in mastering the Spanish language and embracing cultural immersion. This ceremony serves as a fitting tribute to the hard work and camaraderie shared throughout our time together.





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## Day 11 - Cross-Cultural Expedition: From Cadiz to Morocco

**Activity AM:** In the morning, we will say goodbye to our homestays and embark on a cross-cultural odyssey. Our journey begins with a scenic ferry ride from Cadiz to Tangier, where the sparkling waters of the Mediterranean Sea beckon us onward. After we disembark in Tangier, we will make our way from Bab Kasbah through the famous Tangier Medina, stopping at the Ibn Batuta Museum and the Kasbah Museum on our way, and enjoying a traditional meal together before returning back to Spain

**Activity PM:** Return back to our homestays in the evening.

## Day 12 - From Cadiz to Granada: A Journey to the Alhambra

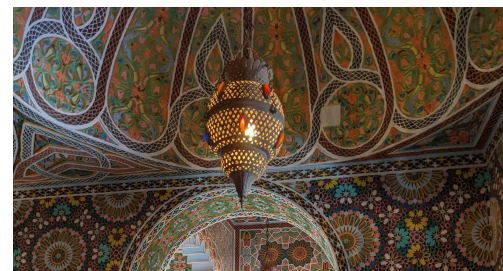
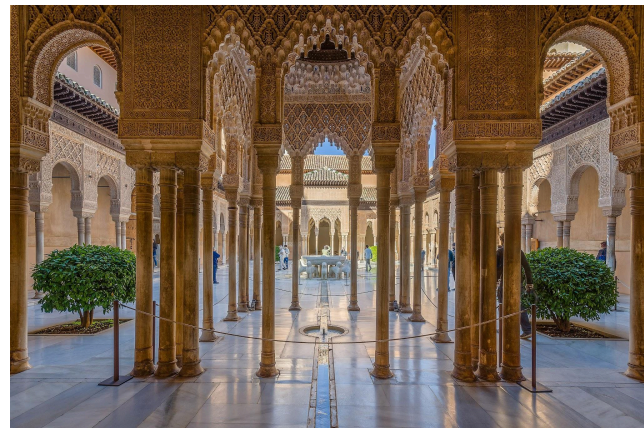
*Accommodation: Eco Hostel or similar*

**Activity AM/PM:** As our adventure in Morocco draws to a close, we bid farewell to its enchanting landscapes and set our sights on the next leg of our journey: Granada.

Situated at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Granada beckons with its rich history, Moorish architecture, and vibrant cultural scene. Our arrival in this storied city marks the culmination of our journey, and there's no better way to conclude our adventure than with a visit to the crown jewel of Granada: the Alhambra. Plus, students will arrive with some knowledge of Spanish and cultural understanding from their homestays!

Perched atop a hill overlooking the city, the Alhambra stands as a testament to the grandeur of Moorish Spain. With its intricate arabesques, tranquil gardens, and breathtaking views, this UNESCO World Heritage site offers a glimpse into the sophistication of the Nasrid dynasty.

Guided by knowledgeable experts, we'll wander through the ornate halls of the Alhambra, marveling at the intricate stucco work, delicate tile mosaics, and serene courtyards that define this architectural masterpiece. As we explore the corridors and hidden chambers, we'll uncover the stories of the sultans, scholars, and artisans who shaped its legacy.





### **Day 13 - Exploring the Enchanting Alhambra: A Day of Wonder and Discovery**

*Accommodation: ECO Hostal*

**Activity AM/PM:** Today marks the culmination of our journey through southern Spain—a visit to the Alhambra! As we step foot into this legendary fortress, palace, and garden complex, we prepare to immerse ourselves in centuries of history, culture!

Our day begins with anticipation and excitement as we make our way to the entrance of the Alhambra. Perched majestically atop a hill overlooking the city of Granada, the Alhambra stands as a testament to the grandeur and sophistication of Moorish Spain. Upon entering the Alhambra, we are immediately transported back in time to the era of the Nasrid dynasty, whose rulers constructed this magnificent complex over centuries. It's hard not to marvel at the intricate arabesques, delicate stucco work, and ornate tile mosaics that adorn the walls and ceilings of the Alhambra, each telling a story of the cultural fusion and artistic brilliance that defined Moorish Spain.

### **Day 14 - Reflecting on Our Journey: Closing Circle in Sevilla**

**AM/PM: Travel to Sevilla.**

*Accommodation: Hotel Patio del las Cruces*

As we prepare to depart from Granada to Sevilla it's an opportune moment to reflect on our trip! Throughout our journey, we've seen how centuries of shared history have shaped both regions, creating a rich tapestry of cultural exchange. In Sevilla, GOGI guides will facilitate our final group discussion and reflections. Additionally, we'll reflect on how this immersive experience has profoundly transformed each of us, and we'll discuss the valuable insights we'll carry forward as we embrace our roles as global citizens of the world!



### **Day 15 - Head back to the USA**

**Tuition: \$5200 USD**

**Trip includes:**

- All transportation and accommodations in Spain including arrival and departure airport transfers in Spain.
- All transportation in Morocco
- Three delicious traditional meals with homestays in Cadiz
- All meals when traveling to Morocco, Granada and Sevilla.
- Spanish language immersion classes at K2 Internacional School for 3 hrs
- Historical and religious hands-on immersion classes in Cadiz with K2.





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- Activities in Cadiz : Cooking class, flamenco or biking or surfing (choose two that fit your group best)
- Guided tours of Roman ruins and an archaeological site in Bolonia, Cádiz
- A cultural day in Seville (Alcazar and Cathedral)
- La Alhambra in Granada entrance tickets and audio guide
- We provide three evenings of ice cream and group snacks when traveling.
- Two NMH Summer and two GOGI Guides: to empower students and staff with guidance, support and organize day to day.

#### **Tuition does not include:**

- Round-trip airfare to Seville (approximately \$800 - \$1,000)
- Mandatory international travel insurance\*
- Spending money for souvenirs (We recommend \$300)
- Extra snacks and soda, bottled water from what beyond our snacks we provide
- Airport snacks, and drinks.
- International Insurance can be purchased for \$75 - \$150 per person through Travel Guard or Nomad Travel.

## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

### **Overview & Concepts:**

- ❖ Biodiversity
  - Endemism & niches
  - Threats to wildlife & conservation
- ❖ Climate change
  - Climactic zones
  - Desertification & sustainable water management
  - Soil conservation
  - Monoculture farming
- ❖ Dendrology
  - Tree diversity & conservation
  - Forest types & community ecology

### **Religion Overview & Concepts:**

- ❖ Pre-Islamic Religion
  - Melqart/Tyrian Heracles
  - Roman myths and figures
- ❖ Islamic Influences
  - Emirate of Granada

### **History Overview & Concepts:**

- ❖ Bronze Age People
  - Traces of earliest human habitation
- ❖ Phoenician & Carthaginian Periods
  - Founding of Cadiz
  - Cadiz as Trading Port
  - Hannibal's Conquest of Iberia
- ❖ Roman Period
  - Roman Architecture & Infrastructure
  - Destruction of Gades by Visigoths
- ❖ Moorish Period
  - Umayyad Caliphate
  - Islamic Architecture
  - Scientific & Medical Advances
  - Al Andalus & Andalusian identity
- ❖ Spanish Period
  - Reconquista
  - Christopher Columbus' voyages
  - Battle of Cadiz
  - Siege of Cadiz





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- Nasrid Rule
- Mudéjar Culture
- Judaism in Al Andalus & the Maghreb
- ❖ Catholic Influences
  - Roman Catholicism and Catholic Architecture
- ❖ Berber culture
  - Maghreb Region
  - Berber Language & Alphabet

## PRE-TRIP RESOURCES:

- ❖ In Search of a Lost Spain, Aatish Taseer (2022)
- ❖ The Long Journey To Recognize Berber language Tamazight in Morocco - articles & discussion
- ❖ *Environmental challenges in the Rif mountains, northern Morocco*, by H.M. Moore, et al. & discussion questions
- ❖ Excerpts from *Tales of the Alhambra*, by Washington Irving, 1832
- ❖ Excerpts from *The Great Plague Scare of 1720*, by Cindy Ermus (2022)
- ❖ Excerpts from *The Arts of Intimacy: Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Making of Castilian Culture* by Jerrilynn D. Dodds, María Rosa Menocal and Abigail Krasner Balbale (2009)
- ❖ Excerpts from *Jewish Morocco: A History from Pre-Islamic to Postcolonial Times* by Emily Gottreich (2020)
- ❖ Photo/Video Essay Assignment
- ❖ Research Essay Assignment
- ❖ Overview and History of Major Sites

## Sample Journal Prompts for Itinerary Sites

- ❖ Tavira Tower
  - From the observation deck, sketch what you see and label your sketch with notes, facts, or thoughts.
  - What most surprised you about the presentation at the camera obscura? What do you want to remember?
  - How does looking at Cadiz from the camera obscura change the way you think about the city?
  - Take some time to read the informational displays in the tower, especially those showing the timeline of the city since its founding- what information is new to you? What questions do you have?
  - Where would you like to put a camera obscura?
- ❖ Parque Genoves
  - Which trees capture your attention? Which would you like to know more about?
  - Why do you think international tree collections like this one are so rare?
  - Look up the trees from North America - what surprises you about the species included in this collection? How is your reaction to familiar trees different from your reaction to more unfamiliar ones?
  - Choose three trees to sketch, label, and annotate based on the audio tour information.



❖ Alcazar

- What influences of Islamic, Roman, and Catholic design and aesthetic do you notice throughout the Alcazar? Do you find it easy or difficult to tell the difference between older and newer sections of the fortress? Why?
- Which rooms or gardens capture your attention most? Which spaces do you find yourself spending the most time in?
- Today, Spain is more than 95% Catholic. What you see of the Alcazar was primarily built after the expulsion of Muslims from Spain. What does it mean that Umayyad-influenced sites like this one are so common, well-visited, and iconic in the country?

❖ Tangier Medina

- What do you notice about the city's construction and layout?
- What are the people you see in the Medina doing?
- Choose a spot and sketch what you see. Label your sketch with notes, facts, or thoughts.
- What was the journey like getting here? How did it compare to other journeys you've taken? What were your expectations for Tangier?
- How would you describe the similarities and differences between Southern Spain and Northern Morocco?
- What aspects of life in Tangier are you curious to learn more about?
- What do you notice about languages used in Tangier? Which languages did you see or hear walking through the Medina?

❖ Granada

- Write about the sensory experiences while exploring? What have you seen, heard, tasted, smelled, felt?
- Choose a spot and sketch what you see. Label your sketch with notes, facts, or thoughts.

**TO APPLY** [CLICK HERE](#) and follow these [Application Directions](#).

**Questions? Email** [summer@nmhschool.org](mailto:summer@nmhschool.org) **or call** 413-498-3290