

Adventure Travel  
4x4 Expeditions  
Consultancy  
Training



OneLife Adventure

[www.onelifeadventure.co.uk](http://www.onelifeadventure.co.uk)

# IBERIAN EXPLORER

9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012

This trip is to recce a route from 10<sup>th</sup> century Northern Christian Spain to the Moorish south, initially following in the footsteps of the great Christian liberator, El Cid. Starting near Zaragoza we head south towards the coast and El Cid's capital at Valencia. The track then heads deeper through the Sierra Martes into Moorish Spain and Murcia. We then travel across the plains to the vineyards of Valdepenas before entering the Muslim heartlands of Al-Andulus, modern day Andalucia. We'll explore the great southern mountains of Sierra de Segura before heading back to the Mediterranean near Almeria and the snow capped Sierra Nevada. We'll then enter the great Moorish capital of Granada to visit its great "Red Palace", the Alhambra. Built in the 14 century, this remains Spain's best example of Moorish architecture, its Muslim builders attempting show a glimpse of paradise on earth. Leaving this little bit of paradise behind we head back into the Andalusian mountains to its great olive producing area around Jaen and onwards to Cordoba, a mixture of Moorish and Roman influences, and a capital that at times ruled the whole of the Iberian peninsular. In the 10th century, Córdoba was the most populous city in the world, and the intellectual center of Europe. The Great Mosque of Córdoba dates back to this time; Caliph Al-Hakam II built 3,000 mosques, splendid palaces and 300 public baths and, what was then, the largest library in the world housing between 400,000 and 1,000,000 volumes.

We then drive further west to Seville and its Alcazar. Originally a Moorish fort, evolving into a Royal palace after the Reconquest of Moorish Al Andalus by Christians it is our end point and fittingly the last resting place of another great explorer, Christopher Columbus, in its cathedral.

This recce trip will take you exploring through some of the best of Spain's wild countryside as we see the lasting Muslim Moorish influence on this vibrant exciting country. We have recce parts of the route before but this will be the first time we have tried to connect it all together in what will be a new European Explorer.





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## Summary

<b>Start point</b>	Zaragoza
<b>Finish point</b>	Seville
<b>Number of days</b>	12 days, 12 nights – meet evening of 8 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Approx. distance</b>	1200 kilometres
<b>Road conditions</b>	Mixture of gravel, rock tracks and local roads.
<b>No' of vehicles</b>	Maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adult guests plus our support vehicle.
<b>Accommodation used</b>	Accommodation will be in a mix of good standard campsites with toilet/shower facilities and wild camps in the wonderful Spanish countryside.
<b>Specialist equipment - vehicle</b>	A well maintained and serviced 4x4 vehicle fitted with underbody protection. A CB radio must be fitted. Tyres of All Terrain or Mud Terrain tread patterns are most suitable. Front and rear recovery points and a full set of recovery equipment (strops and shackles) is essential, along with a spade. A winch is not essential and additional fuel cans are not needed. A vehicle fridge/coolbox is useful for cold drinks and keeping food fresh.
<b>Specialist equipment - camping</b>	Either roof or ground tents are suitable. You will need good quality sleeping mats if using ground tents, along with sleeping bags. You should bring your own chairs, table, stove, pans, cutlery and utensils. Clothing can be light as the days will be hot especially in the south, however you should bring some warm and windproof outer wear as there will still be snow on the peaks in the Sierra Nevada. Protection from the sun and UV is needed.
<b>Passport</b>	Required.
<b>Visa</b>	Not needed for citizens of the EEU.
<b>Health</b>	No special requirements beyond small first aid kit and EHIC – European Health Entitlement Certificate (available from UK Post Offices).
<b>Cost of living</b>	Comparable or slightly less than the UK. You will be able to withdraw Euros from ATM's and credit cards are widely accepted.



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## Weather

Warm and sheltered inland but it can be cool up on the mountains with possible thunderstorms in the evenings.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Average daily temp</b>												
Max °C	15	16	18	19	22	25	27	28	26	22	17	15
Min °C	8	9	10	11	13	16	17	18	17	15	11	9
<b>Rainfall mm</b>	110	111	69	64	39	21	5	6	26	80	114	108

## Food and Shopping

One of the highlights of Spain is its varied food and there will be plenty of opportunities to eat traditional dishes in country restaurants. Food is readily available even in small villages on a daily basis. Meals can be cooked individually or communally, the choice is yours and we will co-ordinate and assist you with food purchasing while in country.

## Schedule and Pace

The route and timings are not fixed, we will be free to break journey, stop and explore, as you desire. We aim to be in the campsite by 17.00 on most days to allow us to relax and enjoy the experiences of the day. The daily distances driven vary due to the terrain and ground conditions but a typical day of 140 km will be 2-3 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 2-3 hours driving. There will be two rest / non driving days during the trip when you'll be free to explore or rest as you choose, additionally there will be time to visit major sites and attractions on our route.

## Outbound shipping

The crossing from Dover to Calais is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. You are free to specify your own preferred dates and times and this route will give you the option of enjoying France and Spain on the way down. We can also offer an option to take a Brittany Ferries crossing from Portsmouth/Pymouth to Santander/Bilbao at additional cost, please contact us for a quote. This is a cost effective option, saving the diesel cost, tolls and a long drive down, the dates of the trip are timed to co-incide with Brittany Ferry sailings.

**Note** – While this section of the expedition is unsupported by OneLife Adventure, we are happy for you to join us as we drive down to the starting point of the trip – perfect while you get used to driving “on the wrong side”! Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

## Inbound Shipping

The return crossing from Calais to Dover is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. Again you are free to break the return journey and specify the ferry dates and times allowing you to extend your holiday as you choose.

**Note** – As for the outbound journey, this section of the expedition is also unsupported by OneLife Adventure but again you are welcome to join us for the return. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.



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## Cost

- £925 per person for the first 2 adults (based on 2 sharing) **inclusive of Dover Calais ferry crossings**. Ask us for a quote for Brittany Ferries, we credit you the Channel crossing, you simply pay the difference.

The expedition price includes **flexible return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais, all campsite/accommodation costs, full backup and guiding from the support team.**

- *If one adult and one under 16 only then the price is for 2 adults.*
- *Under 16's - £170 each.*
- *Adult single supplement, add £299.*
- *For each additional adult up to a maximum of 4 per vehicle, add £225*
- *Your fuel, food, snacks, drinks and personal spending are not included.*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THIS  
EXPEDITION  
PLEASE CONTACT US**

**NUMBERS ARE LIMITED – maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adults!**

## OneLife Adventure Expedition Rating System

### IBERIAN EXPLORER



Easy, short driving days, suitable for families and drivers with basic off road driving skills.



Easy camping with occasional wild sites interspersed by sites with facilities, no technical needs, suitable for families and young children.



**Higher off road content, moderate driving days, suitable for families and medium off road driving skills.**



**50% wild camping, some technical needs, suitable for families and young children used to camping.**



Longer days occasionally and high content of off road driving, recoveries likely and moderate levels of off road skills needed.



80% wild camping +, weather or environment requires some technical clothing/equipment, suitable for experienced families with older children.



Long days and long distances are the norm, likely to encounter severe hazards and will require teamwork to succeed, experienced drivers.



Extreme weather (hot, wet or cold), will require extensive technical equipment, irregular meals and physical discomfort will be the norm! Success is achieving the destination – Camel Trophy style.

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