HOSTED COSTA DEL SOL & ALGARVE
LONGSTAYS VACATION

This completely hosted Mediterranean vacation starts with 14 nights in Costa del Sol, in a luxury hotel located on stunning Carihuela beach with breakfast and dinner daily. Then transfer to Portugal for 14 nights at a deluxe resort, a hidden gem in the Balaia area between Albufeira and Vilamoura in the Algarve. Enjoy the expansive beaches, whitewashed villages and stunning seascapes. End your stay with three nights in Lisbon, one of Europe’s most fascinating cities, and taste traditional Portuguese tapas with wine tasting.

INCLUDES:

• **Costa Del Sol:** 14 nights at the Hotel Sol House Aloha Costa del Sol right on the seafront promenade and near Puerto Marina close to restaurants, bars and markets within walking distance, with two meals daily
  
  • fully renovated suites with free wifi, pool area with sunbeds overlooking the sea
  
  • four full-day excursions to Granada, Cordoba, Gibraltar and Nerja with lunch
  
  • two half-day excursions to Malaga w/ tapas dinner and Flamenco show w/dinner

• **Algarve:** 14 nights at the Grand Real Santa Eulalia with two meals daily
  
  • hotel room with balcony, free wifi, free shuttle to Albufeira, outdoor heated pool
  
  • two excursions to Moorish Heritage includes wine tasting and Loule market

• **Lisbon:** three nights at the Hotel Mundial with breakfast and Lisbon walking tour with tapas plus Sintra tour
  
  • all transfers, service fees, and gratuities
  
  • Merit Tour Host

$5,995* p.p.

31 nights
Departs Toronto
Feb 28, 2017

*Prices are in CDN$ per person, double occupancy, Hotel Sol House Aloha Costa del Sol and Grand Santa Eulalia with half board meal plan. Single supplement $1,790. Additional: Tax $650. Add-ons available from various Canadian Gateways please enquire.
Day 1 | Feb 28, 2017 | DEPART FROM TORONTO – MALAGA, SPAIN (VIA PARIS)
Board your overnight Air France flight to Malaga (via Paris). Air France flight 351 departs Toronto at 6:45 p.m. arrives Paris at 8 a.m. the following day March 01. Connecting with Air France flight 5056 departs Paris at 1:20 p.m. arrives in Malaga at 3:50 p.m.

Day 2 | March 01, 2017 | ARRIVAL IN MALAGA (B)
Upon arrival in Malaga, meet your local representative and transfer to the Sol House Aloha in Costa del Sol for check in. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening with your group.


The Sol House Aloha Costa del Sol is situated right on the seafront promenade and near Puerto Marina close to restaurants, bars and markets within walking distance, with breakfast and dinner included daily. Fully renovated one bedroom suites feature a double bed or two twin beds with a modern loft style design.

All rooms have been recently redecorated and include two flat-screen TVs, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, safe, and a full bathroom with rain shower or bathtub. Enjoy the gorgeous pool area with sunbeds overlooking the sea.

Day 2-15 | March 01-14, 2017 | COSTA DEL SOL (B, D)
Enjoy the amenities at your resort, take a stroll on the beach, go shopping or just soak up the atmosphere. You have six cultural tours included in your vacation to really understand the local culture. Your tour host will be available for suggestions on local excursions.

FULL DAY GRANADA TOUR (L) - Please be ready in the hotel lobby for a 9 a.m. departure. Discover the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Alhambra on this fascinating tour. You’ll explore beyond the beautiful Moorish architecture to learn the history of one of the most visited attractions in the world. Your visit begins in the Alhambra, whose construction began in the 11th century on the red hill known as Assabika which overlooks Granada.

The Alcazaba fortress was the first structure to be built, followed by the Royal Palace and Residence of members of the court. You will visit the most important halls and courtyards of the Alhambra, including the Alcazaba fortress, the Serrallo, the Patio of los Arrayanes (Myrtle Courtyard), the Hall of la Barca, the Saloon of the Embajadores (Ambassadors Hall), the Patio de los Leones (Lions Courtyard), the Hall of the Abencerrajes and the Royal Baths. Your tour then continues to the Palace of Charles V and the Generalife Gardens. Found next to the Alhambra, these gardens were a place of leisure and recreation for the Moorish kings of Granada and from here you can enjoy wonderful views across the city. You’ll enjoy lunch at Restaurant H. Carmen and then have some free time to explore Granada on your own before returning back to your hotel.

EXCURSION TO MIJAS WITH DINNER (D) - Please be ready in the hotel lobby for a 4 p.m. departure. This afternoon, you will visit Mijas situated on the edge of the mountains surrounded by pine trees and facing the Mediterranean sea, 8 km from Fuengirola and the Coast and 428m above sea level. Mijas is a village full of history and culture that still conserves the image of a traditional Andalusian village. Mijas is called the “Essence of Andalusia” where all the flavour of the popular architecture combines in its white houses with the barred windows full of flowers and its narrow streets. There are many places to visit by foot: The shrine of the “Virgen de la Peña”, Parish Church, the Bullring, the auditorium and the “Carromato (wagon) de Max”, a museum of miniatures. There are alternatives to walking such as the Mijas Burro Taxis (donkeys) where for an extra cost you can be carried in the traditional method through the narrow streets. After the visit you will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and return back to your hotel.

FULL DAY GILBRALTAR TOUR (L) - Please be ready in the lobby for a 9 a.m. departure. On this tour visit Gibraltar, a British Colony since 1713 is often described as the shopping centre of the Western Mediterranean with a large range of shops offering a vast selection of goods and where you will see the most spectacular sights on the Rock.

ST. MICHAEL’S CAVE. Situated at a height of approximately 300m above sea level, this is one of Europe’s most dramatic natural grottoes, a remarkable example of natural architecture. The cave consists of an upper Hall connected with five passages with drops of between 12m and 45m to a smaller Hall decorated by stalactites and stalagmites.

THE APE’S DEN. The Apes are tail-less monkeys properly known as Barbary Macaques. Roaming freely along the upper rock, these endearing creatures will enchant you with their antics. They are perhaps the best known of Gibraltar’s attractions.

We will stop for lunch at Restaurant le Square café and will have free time to explore before returning back to your hotel.

FULL DAY EXCURSION TO CORDOBA (L) - Please be ready in the hotel lobby for an 8:30 a.m. departure. On this tour you will visit one of the most emblematic buildings of Islamic Art, the Aljama Mosque. It is a fascinating building which offers surprising light and colour effects as well as beautiful doors and nearly a thousand columns. The Cathedral of Gothic, Baroque and Plateresque elements was built inside in the 16th Century. The panoramic tour shows the Roman Bridge displaying the restoration work performed by the Muslims. The “Juderia” (Jewish Quarter), with its Synagogue, situated near “La Aljama” district. After lunch at restaurant Bandolero, you will have free time for shopping the local handicrafts, before returning to Costa del Sol.

HALF DAY EXCURSION TO MALAGA WITH TAPAS DINNER AND FLAMENCO SHOW (D) - Please be ready in the hotel lobby for a 3 p.m. departure. This afternoon, you will tour the city of Malaga, described once by de Nobel Price winner Vicente Alexandre, as the City of Paradise. Starting with the “Alcazaba” (Citadel) and the ancient Roman Theatre located nearby the house where Picasso was born. “The Gibralfaro” an old Arab Fortress offers fantastic views over the city and the Mediterranean and the Cathedral is one of the best examples of Spanish Renaissance architecture. The interior, with its high and wide naves is noteworthy for its chapels, choir-stalls and paintings by Cano, Morales and Coello. Enjoy a tapas dinner at a local restaurant and then you will attend a live performance of a fabulous Flamenco Show at a local Tablao and return back to your hotel in Costa del Sol.

FULL DAY EXCURSION TO NERJA & FRIGILIANA (L) - Please be ready in the hotel lobby for a 9 a.m. departure. In the Eastern Coast of Malaga Province, Frigiliana shines with mosaic paved streets and immaculate white houses. This beautiful village maintains a Morisco-
Mudejar centre which has received numerous awards for its excellent state of conservation. Taste the local sweet wine and enjoy free time for strolling around.

A few kilometres from Frigiliana, you will find Nerja, a village that still retains much of the character of its Moorish past. The historic centre was constructed around 1487 of which the Balcon de Europa (Balcony of Europe) is part. Formerly a XI Century Castle, it is now a viewing point above the sea. To the side of the Balcon is the XIX Century El Salvador Church constructed in Barroque-Mudejar style. You will also visit the magnificent prehistoric Caves known as the “Underground Cathedral” a unique example of natural architecture, with stalactites and stalagmites that were formed over millions of years. A delicious lunch will be served at Restaurant Servillano.

**Day 16-29 | March 15-28, 2017 | MALAGA — ALGARVE, PORTUGAL (B, D)**

Please check out and bring your luggage to the lobby by 8 a.m. Today you will depart after breakfast and transfer to the Algarve via motor coach. Enjoy the scenic route to Portugal (approximately a 5 hour drive) and arrive in the Algarve in the early afternoon. Please meet your group for a welcome dinner at 7 p.m. this evening.

Accommodations: Grand Real Santa Eulalia Hotel. Address: Praia de Santa Eulalia, PO Box 2445, Albufeira 8200-916, Portugal. Tel: +351 28-959-8010.

This luxurious hotel has a stunning location with lush gardens, spacious pool areas and is across from Santa Eulalia beach and just east of the lively resort area of Albufeira.

Your hotel room is relocated in the main building of the resort and comes with a balcony, air conditioning, wireless internet and a free shuttle to Albufeira, plus complimentary use of the gym. Relax in the outdoor heated pool which is also complimentary for guests. Breakfast and dinner is included daily at the resort!

Heated indoor pool, sauna & jacuzzi: There is a charge for the use of this service as it is managed by an external company. The special rates for hotel guests is €15 per person, per day. The nearest supermarket is a 5 minute walk away in the Algarve Resort.

**FULL DAY MOORISH HERITAGE EXCURSION WITH WINE TASTING (L)**

Please meet in the lobby for a 9 a.m. departure by coach towards the town of Silves, a charming town situated on the banks of the Arade River, which was once the capital of the Algarve and referred to as the “Kingdom of the Algarve” in the 19th century. Arriving in Silves, we will have a guided visit through the old town to learn more about the history of this area. The Castle of Silves is the best preserved castle in the Algarve. It was built on the site of late Roman and Visigoth fortifications from the 4th and 5th centuries. The castle was built out of large red sandstone blocks.

The Cathedral is considered the most important gothic monument in the Algarve. The origins of the monument are still unknown. Some documents refer that in 1189, when Silves was taken by the Christian troops to the Moors, the Cathedral was built over the ancient Mosque. Another impressive sight is the ‘Cruz de Portugal’ (the Cross of Portugal), it is a limestone cross dating from the 15th or 16th century.

After visiting Silves we continue to one of the local wineries where several medals have been awarded, certifying the growing quality of the wines.

**HALF DAY LOULE MARKET EXCURSION**: Please meet in the lobby for 9:30 a.m. departure by coach to Loulé, an attractive town in the countryside for a guided tour and to visit the weekly Market that attracts tourists from all over the region. The town’s landmark is the Market building where the local farmers sell fresh products such as fish, fruits and vegetables. Enjoy some time to walk in the narrow streets of Loulé and visit the medieval castle and the city wall.

**Day 30 | March 29, 2017 | ALGARVE — LISBON (B)**

Please check out and be ready in the lobby for 10 a.m. You will depart from your hotel in the morning via motor coach for Lisbon (approx. 3 hours drive).

Upon arrival in Lisbon you will transfer to the Hotel Mundial for a three nights stay. This afternoon enjoy a Lisbon walking tour to explore the hidden gems of this fascinating city. Discover Lisbon’s old city centre followed by a wine tasting. You will have the opportunity to taste some of the most traditional Portuguese Tapas (petiscos) and also some Portuguese iconic wines including the famous Port wine.


Situated in the heart of Lisbon, the Baixa Pombalina, with the historical St. George’s castle in the background and Rossio square just a few steps away, the Hotel Mundial has the best location to explore this beautiful city. The panoramic restaurant “Varanda de Lisboa” offers a stunning view over the old city as well as excellent cuisine. The hotel offers free wi-fi in public areas, 24-hour reception, a free safety box at reception and in your rooms.

**Day 31 | March 30, 2017 | LISBON (B, L)**

After breakfast, depart from your hotel at 9 a.m. by coach to see the city’s highlights. During your tour enjoy an informative commentary during a relaxing drive through the town, stopping to take photographs at famous landmarks and places of interest such as the Monument to the Discoveries, Belém Tower and the Jerónimos Monastery. Continue and drive to the charming town of Sintra, where you can admire many stunning buildings and works of art. The whole town is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Upon arrival you first visit Sintra National Palace, also known as Palácio da Vila, famous for its magnificent painted ceilings. After your visit to the palace enjoy some free time to explore the town. From Sintra continue to Cabo da Roca, the most western point of Europe, where you will have time to photograph the stunning views. Your tour will end with a visit to Cascais, a popular resort with a wonderful bay lined by elegant houses, before returning to your hotel.

**Day 32 | March 31, 2017 | LISBON (B)**

Day is at leisure free for shopping or exploring.

**Day 33 | Apr 01, 2017 | LISBON — TORONTO (VIA PARIS) (B)**

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight home. Please check out and have your luggage ready for a 3:30 a.m. departure (a boxed breakfast will be provided). Air France Flight 1125 departs Lisbon at 6 a.m. arrives Paris at 9:30 a.m. then connect with Air France Flight 356 departs Paris at 1:55 p.m. arrives Toronto at 4:10 p.m.

END OF SERVICES.
RESPECTIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc., doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the travel service suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities, as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

(a) Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
(b) Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
(c) Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations;
(d) Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
(e) Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
(f) Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
(g) Personal injuries or death;
(h) Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraint imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of $750 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Deposit requirements for some tours may vary. You will be advised of such cases at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit’s responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times.

Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited.

There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services.

Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

(A) 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
(B) 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
(C) 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a $50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller’s return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger’s responsibility to obtain them at the passenger’s expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However, we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.