



CÓRDOBA

Location:

Cordoba, Spain

Duration: 1 day

Dates: TBA

What to bring?

- Camera
- Money
- Comfortable Shoes

ANDALUSIA, SPAIN

About an hour outside of Seville, a visit to Cordoba makes for a lovely one-day excursion. It was founded by the Romans, but eventually became the capital of all Islamic Spain. Claudius Marcellus established the city in 196 BC, which grew to be the capital of the Roman province of *Hispania Ulterior Baetica*. It continued to be a very important city of the Byzantine Empire and during the Visigoth period. Muslim invaders took the city in 711 AD, and in 929 AD it became independent from Baghdad and formed its own kingdom.

Cordoba is now a modern city, but the ancient architecture and monuments still intact today serve as a window into its remarkable past. A magnificent Roman bridge still stands on its original foundations, not far

from an old Arab mill.

Once the largest city in the world, with about 500,000 occupants, Cordoba was known as a political, social and cultural mecca. The most famous monument is the Mezquita (mosque), which has columns dating back to Roman and Visigothic periods. The interior of the Mezquita is filled with large red and white arches that date back to when construction first began in 784. In 1236, Cordoba was reconquered by King Ferdinand III and the city was turned Christian. The mosque was transformed into a cathedral that is still used today. It is one of the largest and most famous mosque-cathedrals in the world.

Cordoba is also home to a Jewish neighborhood with an

old synagogue, one of the three that remain in Spain today. This neighborhood is the equivalent to Seville's *barrio Santa Cruz*. The city has one of the broadest heritages in the world and on December 17, 1984 it was named a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

Like other cities in Spain, Cordoba has a unique personality. The small streets are aligned with flowers and the scent of jasmine, orange blossom, and the aroma of traditional Spanish cooking fills the air. Cordoba is particularly known for its patios, full of colorful flowers, stone mosaics and ceramics. The City Hall hosts annual Patio Contests in May. The unique character of the traditional Andalusian town can be found along every corner.



CORDOBA EXCURSION ITINERARY



Leave: Bus leaves at 9:00am from Puerta de Jerez. The trip is approximately one hour.

Arrive: 10:30am

Judería, Puente Romano: We will walk along the small streets of Cordoba which eventually lead to the old Jewish and ancient Roman sections of the city.

Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos: We'll then stroll through the magnificent gardens and patios of this incredible site, noting the classic *mudéjar* architecture.

Lunch: Approx 2:00pm. We'll eat at a local restaurant and sample typical *Cor-dobés* cuisine

Mezquita: 3:30pm. Students will spend a few hours admiring one of the biggest mosque-cathedrals in the world. (Be sure to bring your camera!)

Return to Seville: The bus will leave Córdoba between 17:00 and 18:00. The group will arrive back in Seville in early evening.

