

Wattletree Garden Tours

Spain and Morocco

May 2019



Explore Barcelona, Valencia, Cartagena, Granada, Cordoba and Gibraltar before crossing the Gibraltar Straits to Tangiers, Fez, Casablanca & Marrakech.

Add an extra week for the Chelsea Flower Show & the lovely Cotswolds!



Join Brian Sams
& Wattletree Garden Tours
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Tour highlights

- Full sightseeing
- Local Specialists
- Festival of Patios in Cordoba
- Great Gardens
- Lovely scenery
- Harbour cruise
- Bilingual national guide
- Local quality cuisine
- Private customized tour of around 25 travelers
- UNESCO sites
- All entries and many meals
- 4 –5 Star Hotels in great locations

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in running gardening workshops, consultation, leading garden based tours and presenting weekly gardening news for WIN TV and gardening talkback on Radio MMM. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006. Why? He loves it!

DAY 1 Wednesday 1 May 2019 Arrive Barcelona (3 Nights)

Welcome to Spain! On arrival we will meet our coach and guide to transfer to our hotel. Depending on time of arrival you may decide to relax or explore this lively city before meeting up this afternoon for an orientation drive to take in some of the city's main sights. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. Meal(s): Welcome Dinner

Hotel: Ayre Hotel Gran Via Barcelona or similar

DAY 2 Thursday 2 May 2019 Barcelona Sightseeing

This morning we will have a Local Specialist join us to explore the city and admire the many works of Gaudi including a walk through Park Guell and the inspiring Sagrada Familia. Afterwards, visit Casa Batllo, the imaginative architectural treasure and the nearby Placa de Catalunya. Next stop is the Botanical Gardens before heading to the lively Las Ramblas. Meal(s): BB

DAY 3 Friday 3 May 2019 Costa Brava Excursion

After a leisurely breakfast this morning we take the scenic drive to Pinya de Rosa Garden in the Costa Brava region. This large garden is home to around 7,000 different species including collections of Aloes, Agaves, Yuccas and Opuntias, which are considered some of the best in the world. We will have time for some lunch before visiting Marimurtra Botanical Gardens - one of the most beautiful gardens on the Mediterranean with great views over the coastline. Tonight is free to explore Barcelona. Meal(s): BB

DAY 4 Saturday 4 May 2019 Barcelona - Peniscola - Valencia (3 Nights)

The sweet scent of oranges accompanies us on our journey along the Costa Dorada to fortified Peñíscola. Visit the ancient castle used in the film 'El Cid', before free time for lunch. Continue later to sunny Valencia. Dine tonight at our hotel. Meal(s): BB, D

Hotel: Tryp Oceanic or similar

DAY 5 Sunday 5 May 2019 Valencia Sightseeing

Our full day sightseeing tour of this cultural city with a Local Specialist starts with views of the town hall, Valencia Cathedral and the Towers of Serrano and Quart. Spend some time at leisure to visit the City of Arts and Sciences which is a large-scale urban recreation centre for culture and science (no entrance included). Visit the Taurino Museum where you'll take a tour of the bullring. This afternoon, explore Valencia Old Town, full of small winding souk-like streets and a reminder of its Moorish past. Valencia's silk weaving history is evident in streets that still maintain a silk craft workshop. Meal(s): BB

DAY 6 Monday 6 May 2019 Valencia Sightseeing

This morning, visit the Lladro factory - the home of Porcelain making in Spain. Later visit the Botanical Gardens of Valencia where we will have time to also enjoy lunch. This evening, learn all about the history of Paella with a cooking demonstration followed by dinner. Meal(s): BB, D

DAY 7 Tuesday 7 May 2019 Valencia - Alicante - Torrevieja - Cartagena (2 Nights)

Today we have the lovely coastal drive to Alicante - one of the most popular cities on Spain's Costa Blanca. We will have a Local guide join us to explore the city, seeing landmarks such as the Basilica de Santa Maria & the Concatedral de San Nicolas de Bari. Visit Santa Barbara Castle and enjoy views of Tabarca Island. Continue south to Torrevieja to see two large natural saltwater lagoons, which form the "Salterns of Torrevieja". Continue to Cartagena and dine tonight at a local restaurant. Meal(s): BB, D

Hotel: TBC 4 Star Hotel Cartagena

DAY 8 Wednesday 8 May 2019 Cartagena Sightseeing

A Local specialist will again join us this morning to admire fine views over the Cabo de Palos lighthouse and the marine reserve. Explore Roman history at the Punic wall of Cartagena and Portman Bay, and view iconic landmarks including Cervantes House, the Grand Hotel, La Concepción and the Roman Theatre of Carthago Nova. This afternoon, board a harbour cruise to see the historical sites of Cartagena. The evening is yours to enjoy at your own pace. Meal(s): BB

DAY 9 Thursday 9 May 2019 Cartagena - Guadix - Granada (2 Nights)

Travel across the 'sierras' to view the cave houses at Guadix. Take pictures of the troglodyte dwellings and then cross the jagged Mora Pass to Granada. This afternoon visit 2 beautiful courtyard gardens - Carmen de la Victoria and Carmen del Ajibe del Rey. This evening, sample the hearty flavours of Andalusia during a special Regional Meal at a local restaurant. Meal(s): BB, D

Hotel: Occidental or similar

Join us for an optional extension to London for the Chelsea Flower Show and then some time in



DAY 10 Friday 10 May 2019 Granada Sightseeing and Free Time

Tread in the footsteps of Spain's last emirs with a Local Specialist for a visit to the incredible Alhambra Palace. Soak up the tranquil atmosphere in quiet courtyards, follow its colossal ancient walls and admire the ornate stone carvings. Later, explore 'Generalife', composed of a series of large beautiful and intricate gardens. The rest of the day is yours to explore Granada. Meal(s): BB

DAY 11 Saturday 11 May 2019 Granada - Cordoba (2 Nights)

Today we head to Cordoba where a Local Specialist will join us to visit the amazing Mosque of the Caliphs, a jewel of Hispano-Islamic art featuring striking arches and Byzantine mosaics. Our tour continues in the Jewish neighborhood seeing some of the cities treasures. The rest of the afternoon is free until we meet later in the day to admire Cordoba's courtyards during the 'Festival of Patios'. These private patios are decorated annually in a truly beautiful profusion of colour that we are sure you will love. Tonight we will have a dinner of tapas style specialties. Meal(s): BB, D

Hotel: Ayre Hotel Cordoba or similar

DAY 12 Sunday 12 May 2019 Cordoba Sightseeing

Meet a Local Specialist for a visit to the Alcazar of the Christian Monarchs with time to visit the Gardens of the Alcazar & then the Palacia de Viana, home to some of the most beautiful historical gardens in Spain. Free evening in Cordoba. Meal(s): BB

DAY 13 Monday 13 May 2019 Cordoba - Costa del Sol - Gibraltar (1 night)

Travel to Malaga, a port city in the Costa del Sol, known for its high-rise hotels and resorts. We will have time to view chic boutiques, gastrobars and cool cafés. Enjoy a scenic coastal drive past Marbella to La Linea before crossing the border to Gibraltar, where we will meet our Local Specialist. Explore Europa Point, located at the southernmost point of Gibraltar. The journey to the top of the Rock rewards you with a truly breathtaking view all the way to the African coastline. This is the point where the waters of the Atlantic meet the Mediterranean. We will also have a panoramic view of the city below, the quays, marinas and bays. Next we will visit 'The Moorish Castle', a medieval fortification before some time in the Botanical Gardens. Meal(s): BB

Hotel: TBC 4 Star Hotel Gibraltar

DAY 14 Tuesday 14 May 2019 Gibraltar - Tangier - Volubilis - Fez (2 Nights)

Today we cross into North Africa by ferry. On arrival in Tangier we will have an orientation tour and lunch at a local restaurant. We will travel to visit Volubilis, the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Arrive in Fez later today and spend the rest of the day at leisure, embracing the symbolic heart of Morocco and the unique character of the country's oldest imperial city. Meal(s): BB, L

Hotel: Marriott Jnan or similar

DAY 15 Wednesday 15 May 2019 Fez Sightseeing

On a guided walking tour we will follow the winding streets into the heart of the Fez medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will pass a series of historic mosques, the Nejjarine Fountain, an iconic madrasa, and the colorful tannery, then browse for hand-crafts at a traditional souk. Walking alongside a Local Specialist, we will learn the stories behind the medina's intricate gates, with tips on where to eat, drink, and explore. Witness age-old techniques of pottery making and learn how khobz, the traditional local bread, is made. Our last stop for the day is the refreshing Jnan Sbil gardens and Dar Batha Museum. Tonight we have a special dinner of Moroccan specialties served with wine in a traditional Riad located in the heart of the Medina. Meal(s): BB, D

DAY 16 Thursday 16 May 2019 Fez - Rabat - Casablanca (2 Nights)

Travel west to Rabat and visit the beautiful Andalusian Gardens before arriving in Casablanca where we visit the magnificent Hassan II Mosque. Tonight, dine at a local restaurant. Meal(s): BB, D

Hotel: Grand Mogodor or similar

DAY 17 Friday 17 May 2019 Casablanca at Leisure

Enjoy the sites, sounds and herby aromas of Casablanca today at your own pace. Perhaps take part in an optional tour that will be available or follow your own path. Meal(s): BB

DAY 18 Saturday 18 May 2019 Casablanca - El Jadida - Essaouira - Marrakesh (3 Nights)

This morning journey along the coast of Morocco to the seaside town of El Jadida where we will stop for a walk around the UNESCO-listed 16th-century Cité Portugaise. Continue south to the laid-back shores of Essaouira. Spend some time at leisure in this port town. Journey to the city of Marrakesh – which comprises an old fortified city - the medina – and an adjacent modern city. Marrakesh is home to Morocco's largest traditional market ('souk'). Upon arrival, visit La Mamounia Palace Hotel to explore the gardens and enjoy an evening cocktail, before heading to our hotel for dinner. Meal(s): BB, D

Hotel: Le Meridian N'Fis or similar

DAY 19 Sunday 19 May 2019 Marrakesh Sightseeing

Join a Local Specialist this morning for a walking tour through the charming streets of Marrakesh. Visit the exquisitely detailed Bahia Palace and soak up the spirited atmosphere in the Old Quarter's Djemaa el Fna Square. Continue to the exquisite El Badii Palace before spending some time exploring the Jardin Majorelle. Visit a traditional Moroccan pharmacy for a fascinating Cultural Insight into the blending of creams and cosmetics from regional ingredients. Meal(s): BB

DAY 20 Monday 20 May 2019 Marrakesh to Atlas Mountain Sightseeing

Today we take the scenic drive into the Atlas Mountains to visit a typical home in a primitive Berber village in the Ourika Valley. On our way back to town, visit the Saffron Paradise and medicinal Gardens of Nectarome where you will have time to have some tea or perhaps try a foot bath. Our farewell dinner promises to be memorable. First we take a horse and carriage ride to the magical Jemaa el Fna Square to enjoy the exotic sights and sounds of Marrakesh by night. Then we'll have a local feast in a typical Moroccan restaurant, with music and entertainment. Meal(s): BB, FD

DAY 21 Tuesday 21 May 2019 Depart Marrakesh

Our Spanish and Moroccan journey ends today with a transfer to Marrakesh airport. Meal(s): BB

Quality matters!

- ⇒ Good well located hotels
- ⇒ Experienced tour guide and specialist tour operator (Trafalgar custom tours)
- ⇒ The food will be safe, diverse and interesting to make sure we enjoy the local cuisine.
- ⇒ We will have enough time to experience each region
- ⇒ We always seem to have a wonderful, friendly & fun group to travel with!



Pricing Details - Tour Code Wat 44

Land only price (fully inclusive see below for details) per person twin share	\$7995
International Airfare - price will depend on final airfare price at time of booking and airline chosen. Stopover options will also be available	\$2000 approx.
Full tour price (approx.)	\$9995
Deposit per person for main tour (deductible from tour price)	\$500
Single supplement main tour If you wish to twin share please let us know and we will put you in contact with others who are keen to share.	\$1479

Important dates

1. Deposit – Payable asap to secure a place as seats are limited, please complete booking form.
2. Final payment 1/3/19

The tour prices includes:

- Beautiful hotel accommodation
- Internal exclusive coach travel
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portorage
- Entry to all sightseeing, national parks and gardens as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- English speaking guide and accompanied all the way with Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (but subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers (for whole group only—other arrangements to be made as required)

The tour price excludes:

- All items not stated as included
- Travel insurance—recommended for all travelers. Please discuss if you need help to organize.

Full terms and conditions are on the booking form.



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