

Travel Group Holiday to Western Andalucía.

Our holiday started on the 14th October 2025 on arrival at Stansted airport for our flight to Faro in Portugal.. It turned out that Faro was only 1½ hrs from our Destination in Isa Canela, Western Andalucía.

Our hotel Vila Gale was very big and almost empty of holiday makers. We were joined by a walking group also from Involved Travel. The rooms were very big and comfortable. My room looked over the wetlands in front of the hotel and was greeted by the sight of Flamingos every morning once the sky lightened.

Our first visit was to Rio Tinto and the Tinto Mines. This proved to be spectacular. I have never seen such a patchwork of colours in an open cast mine . The river Tito was blood red from all the minerals running into it. The trip into the mine in our hard hats was an experience as was the very bumpy train ride around the site.



Seville was our next trip, with a guide who did go on a bit, as most of us wanted to explore. Seville is a spectacular place to visit. Some of us had been before and were disappointed we didn't have the time see more. During our stay we did visit a market which they called a gypsy market which sold mostly cheap tops and clothing.

Next we visited the monastery that Christopher Columbus stayed with the monks before leaving going off to discover the Americas. We also saw replicates of the three ships which sailed with him The Pinta, The Nina and the Santa Maria.



After this visit we went to El Rocio which was apparently a major pilgrimage site which now is now no more than just a tourist visiting place, which is a shame.

Our last visit of the holiday was a 2½hr trip along the Guadiana river to Alcoutim a small village on the Portuguese side. Thank fully we came back by coach as the weather had turned a little chilly and any more time on the boat may not have been welcome . All in all it was a good holiday which I believe we enjoyed very much.