

THURSDAY JULY 17 (whole day)

GUIDED TOUR TO *TROPICAL COAST AND CAVES OF NERJA*
(ACCOMPANYING PERSONS)



The iridescent light of the **Tropical Coast** enchants all who contemplate this diverse landscape. The region is unique in its variety, from the arid plateaus of the north where the harsh light of the desert seems to expose every detail, to the lush southern flanks that gush streams and spates through luxuriant vegetation, and to the eastern coastline, one of the most beautiful and unspoilt parts of the whole Mediterranean.

The high peaks of **Sierra Nevada** protect the coast from cold winter winds, while warm breezes from North Africa help create a very special subtropical microclimate so that you can sunbathe and even swim in the sea while half of Europe is shivering through the winter months.

The **Granada Coast** boasts a mild climate with an average temperature of 18 degrees centigrade, thus enabling the farming of custard apples, papaya, advocado and, among others, sugar cane. The city of **Motril** (capital of the Tropical Coast) is an important fishing and commercial port serving the region. Turning in the direction towards Málaga, we come across **Salobreña**, a white town perched on a hill and crowned by an ancient Arab castle from where the panoramic views of the surrounding fertile plain and beautiful beaches can be admired. The city of **Almuñecar** is the tourist heaven along the coast; it was the ancient **city of Sexi** of the Phoenicians, and boasts important monuments: sites in the Park of Majuelo, the castle of San Miguel and a beautiful old quarter where the lunch will be served.

The **Caves of Nerja** (discovered in 1959) are located in the borderline between the provinces of Granada and Málaga and will be visited in the **afternoon (after lunch)**. In the period of Triassic significant quantities of the calcareous mud settled down on the fond of the ancient Mediterranean Sea, later on transforming into the calcareous-dolomite marble, which at present shelter the **Caves of Nerja**. In the period of the alpine orogeny (the end of Cretaceous –

beginning of Miocene), started 65 million years ago and lasting up to 5 million years ago, drifts between tectonic layers of Africa and Europe resulted in the creation of the Beticas mountains (to the north-east of Andalusia), such as “Sierra Tejeda” or “Almijara”. The rain abundance in the last 5 million years (Superior Miocene and – Inferior Pleistocene) infiltrated the fissures of marbles stimulating its further dissolution. In this way, huge cavities in which the underground waters circulated were formed. Later on due to the surge of the ground embossment, resulting from the mountain slides in the region in question, the subterranean waters were forced to look for the lower layers to circulate in. In the consequence the caves commenced to refill with carbonate deposits stalactites and stalagmites. In the last 800,000 years (Medium Pleistocene and Holocene) the impressive stalactites and stalagmites have been formed thanks to the further settling of calcite. The settlement processes have created subterranean scenery of the Caves of Nerja, which can be admired nowadays.

Part of these caves and their extensive grottoes, formed of karstic cavities with archaeological remains, are nowadays a popular venue for concerts.

[Interesting technical data on the Caves of Nerja](#)

- Length of the cavity: 7 219, 28 m. of polygonals.
- Levels spread: 67, 95 metres = 32,99 + 34,96
- Total Surface: 35 484 m²
- Total Volume: 264 379, 33 m³

Only one-third of the halls are open for tourists: low galleries (Entrance Hall, Crèche Hall, Elephant Eye-Tooth Hall, Ballet Hall, Phantoms Hall and Cataclysm Hall), throughout the latest one can pass up to the High halls discovered in 1960 and New galleries, discovered in 1970, both of which are accessible to the reduced groups of visitors dedicated to the speleological tourism.

Details of the visit:

The visit lasts 8 hours approximately. **The bus will pick up** the accompanying persons interested in this tour **at the Conference Center between 8.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.** After the excursion, the bus will take them back to the Conference Center.

Price: 59 Euros per person, **including** bus + accompanying guide in Spanish and/or English + lunch + tickets to the Caves of Nerja.

Note: A minimum of 10 persons is required in order to prepare the tour.