

Gardens of Spain

An Historic Houses Trust Members Tour
led by Stuart Read

22 April – 15 May 2010



Seville's *Casa de Pilatos*' Patio Grande. Photo Stuart Read



Historic Houses Trust Members. The Mint, 10 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.
Phone 02 8239 2266 Fax 02 8239 2466 Email judy@hht.net.au

Your tour leader

Stuart Read is a landscape historian living in Sydney since 1997. A graduate in science, horticulture and landscape architecture from Lincoln University in New Zealand, he has worked in landscape design, amenity and production horticulture, and in heritage conservation from world to local scales for the Australian and NSW Governments since 1991.

Stuart has long been an active agent in the Australian Garden History Society both at national and state levels, chairing its Sydney & Northern NSW Branch, previously in the ACT, Monaro & Riverina Branch. He has written for its journal *'Australian Garden History'* and other magazines. Stuart regularly gives talks, seminars and leads tours highlighting aspects of urban and landscape planning, conservation and design. He won an overseas fellowship from the Pratt Foundation / International Specialised Skills Institute travelling through Spain in 2005 studying management of change in historic and new parks and gardens, writing the report *'Demi Sec: Spanish Lessons for Australia in managing dry-climate historic parks and gardens'*. He is a co-author of the NSW National Trust 2003 book *'Australian Interwar Gardens – a guide to the history, conservation and management of Australian gardens of 1918-1939'*.

Your tour coordinator

Judy Pittaway has been working with the Historic Houses Trust Members for 20 years. She established the Members events program and in recent years has developed a highly regarded international tours program, including the *China Trade Tour of Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou* in 2007, *Sicily and Malta* in 2008 and *Historic Houses and Gardens Tour of England* in 2009. Judy knows her members well and her careful research and personal attention to detail in tailoring each tour ensures that the needs and expectations of her members are met. Judy is currently General Manager of the Historic Houses Trust Members and NSW Vice President of the Australian Federation of Friends of Museums (AFFM), a division of the World Federation of Friends of Museums (WFFM).

Introduction

Spain is an exciting country – many countries in one – with a long, layered history of invasion, adaption and blending. It retains Europe's oldest surviving gardens from the middle ages and lavish collections of architecture, art, music and cuisines. Above all, its people are fascinating: diverse, proud, varied, enigmatic. This is an exciting time to visit: learn more about Spain at a time it is undergoing rapid change – 'catching up' and surpassing its neighbours. This tour highlights historical treasures but also new moves in design, democracy and engagement, with intriguing parallels, lessons for and links to Australia.

Stuart Read



Crystal Palace inside Madrid's Retiro Park

Parque del Retiro a 130 hectare royal park in Madrid's heart has shady formal walks, a beautiful 1887 glasshouse, the *Palacio de Cristal* built by Ricardo Velázquez Bosco after London's Crystal Palace, and a rose garden from 1912 modelled on Paris' *La Bagatelle* – well worth a sniff or two!

Day 9 30 April

(Madrid – Seville)

Morning transfer to station to board a high speed train to Seville. Transfer to our accommodation. Afternoon tour of the city and visits to the **Fine Arts Museum** in the former convent of the *Merced Calzada* dating from the 17th century, and the city's favourite **Maria Luisa Park** a riverside former Royal estate redesigned in 1912 by Frenchman Jean-Claude Forestier, who also worked on many Barcelonan and Parisian Parks. It sports many pavilions from the Hispano-American Exhibition of 1929.

Accommodation at the charming **Hotel Casas Judería – Patio San Clemente**.

Day 10 1 May

(Seville)



Minaret now Cathedral Belltower from the patio of oranges

Today we take a tour of **Seville's Cathedral**, the largest in Spain and third largest in the world; built over a mosque from 1401 and taking 100 years to finish. And its Moorish **Patio** and Minaret Belltower – **La Giralda**.

Barrio de Santa Cruz; the most picturesque and delightful part of town with winding cobbled streets, whitewashed houses and tempting boutique shops.

Reales Alcázares; Seville's astonishing royal palace boasts elaborate Mudejar patios and halls and perhaps Spain's loveliest gardens. Its buildings and orchards were created by Moslem craftsmen from the mid-11th century onwards for Christian Kings, and reflect every century since.

The Diocesan museum is housed in a former Bishop's palace with grand patios. The **Archaeological Museum** gives detailed insights into daily life in Roman Córdoba.

Afternoon at leisure.

Day 15 **6 May**

(Córdoba)



One of the 13 patios of Palacio Viana

This morning we explore the **Medina Azahara** - a ruined Royal city only partly excavated with 'hanging gardens' and the **Palacio de Viana** a 14 -16th century Baroque urban palace with 12 patios of all sizes and a walled rear garden.

Afternoon at leisure.

Day 16 **7 May**

(Córdoba – Granada)

The morning we travel via our luxury touring coach to Granada, passing many pueblos blancos (white villages) and olive fields, and enjoy a guided tour of the city on arrival.

Hotel Guadalupe in Granada.

Day 17 **8 May**

(Granada)



View of the Alhambra from its water supply uphill

The Alhambra is the best and most famous example of a late-medieval Medina (or fortified city, castle and gardens) in Europe, situated on a plateau across a grand valley from the city and majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The **Generalife Gardens** are a separate part of the Medina, separated by the Cuesta del Rey Chico (a gully) as a Royal retreat. They include one of the oldest private gardens in Europe (13th century) and a water staircase 200 years older than any in Italy.

Gardens of Spain
22 April – 15 May 2010
Booking Form

We require the following information to secure your flight bookings and accommodation.

Full name/s: (as it appears on your passport)

(1) Passport Number.....
Passport Expiry date
Country of Issue

(2)..... Passport Number.....
Passport Expiry date
Country of Issue

Preferred name: (1)..... Date of Birth:

Preferred name: (2)..... Date of Birth:

Address:
..... State: Postcode:

Phone: (day).....(evening)..... (mobile).....

Email address:

I would like to book () place/s on this tour

Please include a deposit of \$1500 per person with your booking.

Travel and accommodation preferences

1. I/we would like a single room twin-share accommodation double room

2. Do you intend to arrive and depart with the group? Yes No

If No,

I am departing Sydney with the group, however I will not be returning to Sydney with the group.
(We are happy to book your return flight for a later date, however note that these changes may incur additional costs). Please advise your preferred return date.

.....
.....

I wish to purchase the LAND ONLY portion of the tour. I will make my own flight bookings and meet the
group at the hotel in Barcelona.

3. I have the following special meal requirements:
.....



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BOOKING CONDITIONS

Tour Price including airfare and taxes : \$14,940.00 per person twin share (\$2,290 single room supplement)

The above price includes airfare & taxes \$2,250. The Land only price per person twin share is **\$12,690.00**

Included:

- Return economy airfare Sydney-Barcelona-Sydney
- Flights from Granada – Mallorca – Barcelona
- Train travel from Barcelona – Seville - Cordoba
- Airport taxes & fees
- Fully escorted
- Private coach and driver as required in the itinerary
- Four/Five Star hotel accommodation.
- Full breakfast daily
- Either Lunch or Dinner each day. On some days both lunch and dinner may be included.
- Entrance fees to museums/houses/gardens

Not Included

- Tips and incidentals

NOTES

Hotels are 4 or 5 star and are centrally located for your convenience.

What happens if HHT is forced to cancel a tour? You will receive a full refund of all monies paid.

Will the itinerary or airline change? Occasionally circumstances beyond our control make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make slight amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

Travel insurance HHT requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance from your preferred insurance company.

Deposits A deposit of \$1500 per person is required at time of booking.

Final payments must be made on or before Friday 12 March 2010

Cancellation fees

- Cancellations received more than 65 days before travel, deposits will be refunded less the amount to cover administration, booking fees imposed by the agent or airlines etc.
- Within 65 days, will incur loss of deposit.
- Within 35 days, 50% of the tour price will be charged.
- Within 7 days, 100% of the tour price will be charged.
- Once the tour has commenced, no refunds will be given, including any unused portion of the tour.

PAYMENT: Please make your payment by **cheque payable to "Historic Houses Trust Members"** or by direct deposit, with your name as the payment reference, to the following account :

Account Name:	Friends of the Historic Houses Trust Inc.
Bank:	Westpac, Martin Place, Sydney
BSB:	032 024 Account Number: 339312