Spain – Morocco Discovery Tour  
Bridging Europe and Africa

Trip #2017  
March 21 – April 1, 2020

Join us and our outfitter, Adventurebug, on a unique hiking tour that combines 2 countries and 2 continents in the same journey - Bridging Europe with Africa!

Tour highlights include Southern Spain’s Andalusian region and further explorations across the Straits of Gibraltar to the Kingdom of Morocco. It includes a wide range of attractive hikes; comfortable hotels; tasty authentic dishes; superb wines; short transfers in air-conditioned vehicles and a high level of personal attention by your guiding team.

Tour with us through Southern Spain’s finest countryside as we visit historic city monuments, National Parks, charming pueblos and stunning coastal and beachside locations. From Bandit hide-a-ways to Pirate coves and the impressive inland rural areas such as Ronda and the Grazalema UNESCO Bio Reserve – we introduce you to the finest features of the south. First time to Spain? This is very much a local guide’s choice tour... The daily pace is balanced with inspiring hikes through beautiful countryside. We utilize our private coach for visits as well as daily hikes with your guide in towns, some countryside areas and of course the coastline.

The Moroccan portion allows us to explore North Africa’s stunning nature and urban landscapes alike – offering glimpses of rural life and how the Berber tribes’ people go about their daily lives – where little has changed for half a century. Chefchouen village, considered one of Morocco’s most sought after destinations is just divine. Our comfortable lodgings next to the old quarter (medina), guarantee comfort and relaxation. Our daily hikes are diverse and beautiful and the interactions with local people make this tour authentic in so many ways.

You will feel safe and welcome travelling in Morocco. It’s a diverse and open society with engaging people who have been hosting visitors from all nationalities, especially Americans for over 50 years.

TOUR ITINERARY

MARCH 21  Departure from USA
You can organize your flight for departure today – perhaps arriving to Spain the following morning.

MARCH 22  Arrival to Malaga, Andalucia, Spain
Bienvenido to Malaga, the home of Pablo Picasso and a rich Moorish influence that is displayed in wonderful street life and architecture. Today you are free to acclimate and self explore Malaga’s city center and beach areas before meeting the rest of the group. Group transfer from the Malaga Airport (AGP) to hotel is not provided but many options are available as the journey is only 15 minutes by car. Orientation dinner this
evening with your guiding team. 1 night in Malaga’s Historic Quarter. Hotel Don Curro 3 stars.
http://www.hoteldoncurro.com/
Welcome dinner.

MARCH 23  Malaga to Estepona
This morning we have a guided walking visit of Malaga’s historic quarter that includes Picasso’s birthplace, the Roman Amphitheatre, Cathedral and insights to the Malagense lifestyle and it’s rich Moorish history. Afternoon transfer to Estepona (1 hr 20 min). Estepona is considered the green lung of the Spanish southern coast. The streets are adorned with colorful potted plants and enormous building art that leaves one awe inspired. Time permitting we’ll walk around the Estepona to view it’s wonderful street building art – including a visit to the Orchidarium (Orchid House: http://www.orchidariumestepona.com/) 3 nights - Beachside hotel H10 Estepona Palace Spa (4 stars) www.h10hotels.com/es/hoteles-costadel-sol/h10-estepona-palace. Group Breakfast and Dinner.

MARCH 24  Hiking Casares (traditional white village)
Today we’ll hike a pretty hilltop village of Malaga’s interior where little has changed since the middle ages. Our private coach will escort us through charming countryside witnessing the landscape of Moorish roots from centuries ago – including glimpses of Roman ruins from the period of Julius Caesar. Hiking today will be 5-6 miles in total spread over rural countryside, cork forests and some village explorations. Same hotel in Estepona. Group Breakfast and picnic lunch.

MARCH 25  Ronda & Grazalema National Park
Today we hike the wonderful mountain region of Ronda and with it’s famous bridges and charming architecture in a beautiful natural setting in the UNESCO biosphere of Grazalema. Our hike will capture what inspired both Hemingway and Orson Wells – the dramatic natural scenery of Ronda’s gorge and the wonderful nature surrounding it – including vineyards, olive groves and ranches. Same hotel in Estepona. Group Breakfast and picnic lunch.
MARCH 26  Tarifa – The Costa del Luz (the coast of light)
Today we transfer to Tarifa (1 hr 20 min), the most southerly tip of continental Europe where we’ll visit the Roman ruins of Bolonia and enjoy a coastal hike to the dunes of Punta Paloma where the Mediterranean meets the Atlantic - only miles across from Africa’s imposing Rif Mountains. Night in Tarifa’s historic quarter – Hostal Alameda  http://www.hostalalameda.com/en/
Group Breakfast, Picnic Lunch and Dinner.

MARCH 27  Asilah, Morocco – Tangier and Cape Spartel
This morning we take a 45 minute ferry to Africa – walking through Tangier’s colourful medina followed by a scenic bus journey to Cape Spartel – Africa’s most north westerly point. Following this we travel an hour more to finish our journey in Asilah – a bustling seaside medina where we have an orientation hike and tour of the village. Hotel Al Khaima.
Group Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

MARCH 28  Chefchouen, Morocco – Medina Tour & Hiking
This morning we transfer to the Rif Mountains and Chefchouen city. Our local guide introduces us to ‘Chouen’ and we have time to hike around the medina and up to the Spanish Mosque and surrounding countryside where families still grind wheat by hand and dry figs and tomatoes on the roofs of their simple homes. This afternoon you may try out a local Haman (Turkish Bath) or enjoy shopping in the lively ‘souks’ or markets. Hotel Casa Hassan
http://www.casahassan.com/en/
Group Breakfast & Lunch.
MARCH 29 Chefchouen, Morocco – Talessemtane National Park Visit
This morning we travel to Akchour and Talessemtane National Park (45 min) for a glimpse of the remote Rif Berber villages and stunning natural scenery. We may even spot Barbary Apes and birds of prey in pristine natural surroundings. The region is famous for hiking and the access to the swimming ponds and waterfalls of the canyon are part of our hiking program today (5 miles). *Group Breakfast & Lunch.*

MARCH 30 Hiking the Merchkala Village Circuit
Today our hike brings us to the wonderful Rif Mountains less explored by tourists – offering an opportunity to visit some non-profit foundation projects and volunteer work done in this part of North Africa. We’ll have a chance to meet some of the community and children while at the same time, hike along some unexplored countryside tracks away from the tourist areas. Night in same hotel Chefchouen. *Group Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.*

MARCH 31 Benalmadena (Malaga) (Final Night)
This morning after breakfast we return to the port of Tangier for our return boat journey to Spain and then to Benalmadena (1 hr 30 min drive), for a final night on the coast near Malaga airport. Our late afternoon arrival may allow last minute souvenir hunting before we take in a Flamenco performance (pending availability) and a farewell dinner whilst sipping ‘Malaga Dulce’, the classic apertif of our region! Night in 4 star seaside hotel (15 min transfer time to airport). Hotel Melia Costa Del Sol [https://www.melia.com/es/hoteles/espana/torremolinos/melia-costa-del-sol/index.html](https://www.melia.com/es/hoteles/espana/torremolinos/melia-costa-del-sol/index.html). *Group Breakfast, Travel Lunch & Farewell Dinner.*

APRIL 1 Departure
Depart Malaga for home or onward travel in the region. From the hotel there are a number of efficient transport services to connect the 15 minutes to Malaga International Airport (AGP) and the highspeed AVE Train station of Malaga that connects to all major hubs in Spain (and Europe for that matter). Group transfer from hotel to the Malaga Airport (AGP) is not provided on this day but we can assist you with your booking arrangements. *Group Breakfast.*
PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND EXPECTATIONS

You should have a keen interest in adventure, natural and cultural explorations, and enjoy easy to moderate hiking. We remind you that the success of AMC Adventure Travel trips depends on a spirit of cooperation and camaraderie. Our trips are most successful when all participants take a participatory role in the activities being presented. Because we will have a local touring specialist with us, we may be able to accommodate special needs and requests. However, the AMC leaders and our tour operator will be responsible for all decisions involving activities.

While the itinerary in this prospectus is what the leaders have planned at the time of writing, various factors may require changes for reasons of safety, transportation or lodging availability, and unforeseeable circumstances (such as weather considerations, natural disasters in areas to be visited, recommendations of governmental agencies, or unscheduled transportation workers’ strikes). The leaders reserve the right to make such changes as necessary, both before and during the trip.

It may happen on any trip that a trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. Leaders in their sole judgment have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it be of the group or of the individual. Illness, injury or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity are examples of some conditions that might result in a participant’s being unable to perform one or more activities. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.

SAFETY AND RISKS

Participant safety is a high priority for all AMC-sponsored events. Participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including, but not limited to, adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips, and transportation in vehicles or on foot. Aside from any personal medical problems, participants should be aware of the possibilities of bug bites, dehydration, sunburn and other heat- or cold-related problems. You should regularly use sun screen, take care to be adequately hydrated and bring water on all day trips. Please carefully read and sign the AMC Participant Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement.

WHAT TO EXPECT & HIGHLIGHTS

Our adventurous and well-paced itinerary is suitable for couples and singles.

Lodgings

We provide 10 tour nights’ in high quality hotels located in specially selected regions. The trip cost is based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available for an extra fee. All hotels have WiFi connections and some have swimming pool and are beachside.

Single Applicants: The price of the trip is based on double occupancy of the rooms. We will accept reservations from single applicants and the leaders will help find a same gender roommate for you. The leaders reserve the right to change roommates.

Meals

10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches and 6 Dinners are included. Meals are generally taken within your hotel (and sometimes in the villages). Group dinners (6) normally include a choice of starters, main courses and a dessert. Wine or beer (in Spain) and mineral water are always provided. Please note, for Morocco we must bring our own wine or buy it locally. On occasions we provide your lunch (sometimes a packed lunch for carrying on the trail and/or ferry). Breakfasts are traditionally buffet style with a variety of options. There are 4 dinners and 1 lunch where you will have the option to explore local cafés or restaurants on your own (please refer to the above-mentioned itinerary.
when group meals are not included). We feel you'll benefit from getting out and discovering the local cuisine. When a meal is not arranged as a group meal at hotel, our local guide will offer tips on where to get the best meal, or you might decide to dine out as small groups and experience the fun together. Depending on what your order, you can expect to pay about US$40 for a dinner and US$17 for a lunch.

**Transport**
During the tour days, we have a private mini bus for our use. In Morocco, we’ll also have an air-conditioned mini bus for all transfers. We will also be crossing the Straits of Gibraltar on a 45-minute high speed ferry that is modern, safe and comfortable. The ferry has cafe services and bathrooms. One may also stand in the outdoor area of the ferry to watch for whales and dolphins during the crossings! Please note, airport transfers are not included.

**Guiding Services & Entrance Fees**
Our regional guide is Matt Butler, the director of Adventurebug Tours. He has vast experience leading trips worldwide and in particular Spain (where he resides with his family), and Morocco. In 2008, Matt co-founded a charity called RIFCOM (www.rifcom.org). He will be sharing some of his Rifcom experiences with you on the Morocco portion of this tour. All entrances for museums and historic sites on this itinerary are included.

**Personal Money**
Outside of the meals not included in your tour price, you may wish to have some Euros for other purposes. This could include visits to taverns for tapas and beverages or extra drinks during/after dinner, local souvenirs, and the options on the rest day and any sites you may visit.

Exchanging money between your currency and the Euro and Moroccan Dirham is easy. Some options are:

- **To buy or bring Euros from your bank at home**
- **Use your bankcard here in Spanish or Moroccan bank machines (good rates of exchange and low fees – pending your bank card arrangements from home)**
- **Buy Euros from banks and moneychangers in Spain or Morocco**
- **Pay with your credit card (used everywhere in Spain but limited in Morocco)**

(Important note – traveller’s cheques are practically obsolete in Spain or Morocco)

**Telephone and Internet Services in Spain and Morocco**
Credit Cards may be used for International calls or a Spanish Phone Card can be purchased for a certain value. Additionally, you can access an International Operator by dialling 025 from any phone. Internet WIFI is available in all of our hotels - including cafes throughout the region. Please note, hotel WIFI connection always in the common areas but not always guaranteed in rooms.

**Tipping**
Tipping for meals and transport services (buses, etc) is included. Tips for local guides and any porter services (except on/off ferry if required), not associated with the tour are not included.

**Popular Phrases in Spanish**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Hola or Buenas...</td>
<td>My name</td>
<td>Me llamo (name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Como esta? Que tel?</td>
<td>Help</td>
<td>Ayuda me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good morning</td>
<td>Buenas dias</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Movil o Telefono</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good afternoon</td>
<td>Buenas tardes</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Agua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>Por favor</td>
<td>Wine / Beer</td>
<td>Vino / Cerveza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>Gracias</td>
<td>I am from</td>
<td>Soy de (country)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's the price?</td>
<td>Cuanto o Cuanto cuesta?</td>
<td>Are you married?!</td>
<td>Estas Casado/a?</td>
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**Additional Information about Moroccan Travel**

Morocco has few annoyances or serious health problems. Society is non-violent and the Arab Spring of 2011 was little more than public demonstration in a few large cities. The King of Morocco has had his recent constitutional change accepted by the people via a national referendum – June 2011. Harassment to buy items in the market place is minimal these days – especially with guides present. Like everywhere, common sense with money, personal handbags, cell phones, cameras, etc. is advised. For up to date health information about North Morocco, consult the WHO website and / or speak to a medical specialist that deals with travel to this region. Malaria nor any serious tropical diseases are not a problem in this region. No other specialist vaccines are required for our journeys in Northern Morocco but it’s always good to check in with your local health services.

- **Visas are not required for US, Canadian, Commonwealth, British or European nationals.** It is normal to receive a 3-month tourist visa upon entry with a passport containing a minimum of 6 months validity.

- **Transport on this tour will be in the form of a private mini bus.** Our driving pace is careful so that we can enjoy the views and not feel anxious on the roads.

- **Refrain from drinking local water and use bottled water as it is widely sold.** They cost about 75 cents to 1 dollar max per 1.5 litre bottle.

- **Restaurant prepared food in our experience is tasty, clean and well cooked.** Diarrhea is never a problem if precautions are taken.

- **Please respect dress code of locals - shorts / t-shirts (for ladies) are fine in the mountains and on beaches but not usually around mosques or holy centers / town centers and urban market places.**

- **You can feel safe walking the streets day or night in Morocco – particularly in the town of Chefchouen. They are accustomed to many foreign visitors and in fact, many live and own property in the village itself.**

- **Our hotel is very clean, modern and designed for international cliental.** It is a gated property and has a pool, garden areas and tastefully decorated rooms and social areas.
COST, REGISTRATION AND CANCELLATION

Cost
The trip price is $3,400 per person which includes: lodging, all group ground transportation and ferry rides, most meals, planned tour/guide fees., and AMC basic Emergency medical and evacuation insurance. Please refer to the above-mentioned Tour Itinerary when group transportation and group meals are included/provided). All other expenses such as Airfare to/from Malaga Airport (AGP), transfers to and from Malaga airport to hotels in Malaga are not included. Some of the leaders’ expenses for the trip and administrative costs to support the trip are included in the trip costs to be shared by the participants. The trip price also includes an AMC overhead fee to cover the administrative expenses of offering Adventure Travel excursions. The trip fee includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage, which is required by the AMC. It does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, or for baggage loss. If these possibilities concern you, individual travel insurance is recommended. This is a non-profit excursion conducted by the leaders on a volunteer basis. Any unforeseen increases in costs will be shared by all participants. Any funds remaining after all expenses are paid will be divided among the participants in accordance with AMC Adventure Travel rules.

Payment Schedule
A registration deposit of $1,400 is due with the application.
The final payment of $2,000 is due September 1, 2019.

Application Process
If you decide that you would like to sign up for this trip, let us know by email. If you prefer to discuss on the phone, let us know your phone number in your email and we will call you at a time convenient to you. We will email you an Application, Mandatory Confidential Health Questionnaire, optional Confidential Supplemental Medical Questionnaire, and an Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release and Indemnity Agreement. A reservation deposit of $1,400 per person is due with your application. Please make your check payable to the Appalachian Mountain Club and mail with the completed forms to the leaders at the address shown on the application. After we receive your application, we will talk to you about your experience to ascertain your ability to participate successfully in this trip. Providing information to us about a medical issue or injury will not necessarily disqualify you from participation, but we may need to ask you some follow-up questions. We want to be sure that we can adequately provide for your needs in our locations.

Cancellation Policy
Cancellations prior to confirmation that the trip will run as scheduled will be entitled to a refund on money deposited with the AMC less a minimum administration charge of $200.00. Cancellations after the trip is confirmed will be subject to a $500.00 cancellation charge, and refunds will only be made to the extent that the cost of the trip for other participants is not affected. Trip cancellation insurance is advised and information about it will be supplied to all participants. Late cancellations are likely to result in no refund.

Our cancellation policy is based on the precept that your cancellation shall not raise the cost to any other participants or leaders. Therefore, if you cancel, we will refund any money you have paid, less any expenses already incurred, future expenses that will be incurred that have been the result of your registration and that cannot be avoided, and the cancellation charge. However, if you cancel and the trip still realizes full participation, then any and all fees you have paid will be refunded to you, in full, minus the cancellation fee described above. If you cancel after the airline tickets have been purchased, you still own the ticket and will be subject to their cancellation policy.
LEADERS

Leader, Cliff Chambers

Cliff leads three season hikes for the Hiking / Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. Cliff has co-led several hiking/trekking-oriented Adventure Travel trips to such destinations as the Grand Tetons, Glacier National Park, New Zealand, and Patagonia and has traveled to Norway, Poland, and Tasmania in Australia. Cliff has led trips to Greek Islands and Alaska with Joan in 2018. Cliff has Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification.

Leader, Joan Chambers

Joan leads four season hikes for the Hiking / Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. This will be her second Morocco trip leading for AMC Adventure Travel, with prior trips to many national parks in Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, and abroad in Greece, the Alps in France, Switzerland and Italy, Patagonia in Argentina and Chile, Machu Picchu in Peru, and many Great Walks in New Zealand and Australia. Joan is Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR Certified. She can’t wait to explore Spain and Morocco with fellow hikers.
WHAT’S NEXT

After reading this prospectus carefully if you are still interested to apply for this trip, please fill out this Online Registration Form (https://goo.gl/forms/z7T3AFGDSfKoeXPN2) and submit it online.

Please send this Reference link, https://goo.gl/forms/giUJNRzIL378dTS2, to three references who can vouch for your hiking activity, abilities, and experience with group travel. If you are an active outdoors person with limited hiking references, please feel free to contact Cliff Chambers at (617) 680-3735 to discuss trip details.

In addition to completing the Online Registration Form, please also download, print, fill out, sign and date the following documents from the links below. We will need both the online copy of your application as well as a hard copy with your official signature. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. AMC AT Trip #2017 Spain-Morocco Application Form: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1H1OErqc-VYm1j_KCMZ7vJQB6AzAdBNTu
2. AMC AT Assumption of Risk Participant Release Form: https://drive.google.com/open?id=12l7z2qJfTZUZzJU7QpUeU_F-3k15Wk
3. AMC AT Medical Form: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tHjqv3RAkVJxvniJv_no8YcaiajIUzR
4. AMC AT Supplemental Medical Form (Optional): https://drive.google.com/open?id=1771uOmd1G29fBaXlASid6o_SUzb2_hP

Mail the above four (4) ink-signed forms along with a deposit check for $1,400 payable to the Appalachian Mountain Club and mail to: Joan Chambers, PO Box 2532, Woburn, MA 01888

Your check will not be deposited unless we offer you a place. If you are accepted from a waiting list, we will not deposit your check unless you confirm that you are still interested.

We expect this trip to fill quickly so the sooner you can get everything in the better and the sooner we can start the screening process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact L. Joan Chambers, wu.chambers@gmail.com and L. Cliff Chambers, wu.chambers@gmail.com, 617-680-3735.

Please remember that all AMC Adventure Travel events are led by volunteers. As such, they may be unable to respond to your inquiry immediately. However, they are very dedicated and will contact you as soon as possible.

Please read and understand the cancellation policy in the trip prospectus before sending any money.