

Friday, September 16th: Post-congress trip (Optional)
Treasures of Andalusia:
Renaissance Monumental Ensembles of Úbeda and Baeza

9:00h Departure from the congress venue (Sercotel Gran Hotel Luna de Granada).

The optional trip will include a visit to the Historic Sites of Úbeda and Baeza (UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 2003), located in the heart of the Andalusian province of Jaén.

The urban morphology of Úbeda and Baeza dates back to the Moorish 9th century and to the Reconquista in the 13th century. Both cities are fine examples of all the grandeur of the Renaissance in Andalusia in the 16th and 17th centuries. They are unique examples of the arrival of Renaissance trends in Spain, as you can see from their streets packed with churches, palaces and stately houses. This is an urban model with clear Italian influences, which Spain in turn gave its own characteristics before exporting it to Latin America in the colonial period. Úbeda and Baeza was nicknamed “queen” and “lady” by the brilliant poet Antonio Machado.

If culture is not enough to satisfy you, gastronomy will do the rest. Olive oil is a vital ingredient in popular gastronomy such as “*andrajos*” (stew with dumplings) and “*pipirrana*” (cold tomato dish), typical of Úbeda. Baeza’s speciality is peppers stuffed with partridge and stewed kid with pine nuts. Confectionery includes “*ochios*” (flour and anisette tarts), walnut tarts and preserves. In this sense, the optional trip also includes a visit to a traditional olive oil mill (“*almazara*”), an olive oil tasting, and the lunch in a typical restaurant.

ÚBEDA

The beauty of Úbeda’s townscape is sure to impress you. Green olive groves mark the edge of this historic town, giving way to façades of carved stone amidst whitewashed houses.



Aerial view of Úbeda



St. Lawrence viewpoint, Úbeda

Archaeological findings indicate a pre-Roman settlement at Úbeda. During the Reconquista, in 1233, King Ferdinand III conquered the city to the Kingdom of Castile. During the 14th and the 15th centuries, the differences between the local nobility and population impaired the growth of the town. In 1368, the city was damaged during the Castilian Civil War. This, combined with other circumstances, caused the worsening of the rivalry between several Ubetense families. This political instability was solved when the Catholic Monarchs ruled. During the 16th century, important Castilian aristocratic families from Úbeda reached top positions in the Spanish Monarchy administration. Notably, Francisco de los Cobos and his nephew Juan Vazquez de Molina became Secretary of State for Emperor Charles V and Philip II respectively. Due to the patronage of arts of these families, Úbeda became a Renaissance focus in Spain and from there Renaissance architecture spread to America. In the early 19th century the War of Independence (this war against Napoleon is often called the “Peninsular War” in English) produced huge

economic losses, and the city did not boost until the end of the 19th century, when several technical improvements were applied in agriculture and industry.

The city possesses 48 monuments, and more than a hundred of buildings of interest, almost all of them of Renaissance style. Thus Úbeda is especially noteworthy for the civil character of its buildings.



Going for a walk in Úbeda



Patio in Andalusian style, Úbeda

Vázquez de Molina Square is home to the Úbeda's most representative examples of Renaissance architecture.



Vázquez de Molina Square

Holy Chapel of the Saviour of the World, *Santa María de los Reales Alcázares Church* and *Las Cadenas Palace* (so named for the decorative chains which once hung from the façade) will take you back in time to the most grandiose days of Úbeda's history. A spectacular ensemble, in a perfect state of conservation, where you can admire beautiful Plateresque façades, altarpieces by the great artist Alonso Berruguete and patios with arched galleries on two levels.



Santa María de los Reales Alcázares Church



Vázquez de Molina Palace or Las Cadenas Palace

This lovely environment is made complete with other crowning achievements of the Andalusian Renaissance such as the Hospital of Santiago, considered the Andalusian “*El Escorial*”.

BAEZA

Neighboring Baeza compares with Úbeda in monumentality and artistic wealth, but here religion is the key element.



Aerial view of Baeza



Wandering through Baeza

Under the Romans, the town was known as *Beatia*. Following its conquest by the Visigoths, *Beatia* was the seat of a Bishopric of Baeza. From the beginning of the 7th century it was conquered by several Arab and Berber states during the Al-Andalus period, being named *Bayyasa*. The Christian Diocese was reestablished following the town’s conquest by Alfonso VII of Castile, but it was then still reconquered by the Almohads. After the Battle of *Las Navas de Tolosa*, Ferdinand III of Castile takes the city in 1227 and gives a legislative corpus to facilitate the new Castilian order and institutions. As well as the Diocese of Baeza, a University was founded what shaped the cultural personality of the city in the following centuries to come.



Going for a walk in Baeza



Baeza University, established in 1530s, now a secondary school

The 16th century was the golden era of Baeza. It grew rich from several industries and the noble families were well connected with the Spanish Imperial state. The city importance declined in the 17th century. The university closed for a time before being reopened by the 19th century as a seminary.

Baeza is a charming town with an incredible Renaissance heritage, whose most valuable treasures are gathered around the *Natividad de Nuestra Señora* Cathedral, a markedly Plateresque building. In its diamond-shaped points, flower ornamentation, braids and pinnacles we see an artistic trend unique in all of Europe.



St. Mary Square



Baeza Cathedral

And you will stop before the facades of the Palace of *Jabalquinto* and the Seminary of *San Felipe Neri* because of their beauty.



Jabalquinto Palace



Seminary of San Felipe Neri

The *Pópulo* Square formed by the *Pópulo* House, the Fountain of the Lions (from the Ibero-Roman ruins of *Cástulo / Linares* and possibly representing *Himilce*, wife of the Carthaginian general *Hannibal*), and the *Villalar* Arch (erected for Charles V's 1526 visit) should not be missed, nor the old abattoir.



Pópulo Square



Baeza's old abattoir

Many other palaces and ancestral homes will guide you through this town, birthplace of nobles and aristocrats.

20:00h Arriving in Granada.