Discovering the White Villages and RONDA (1 Day)

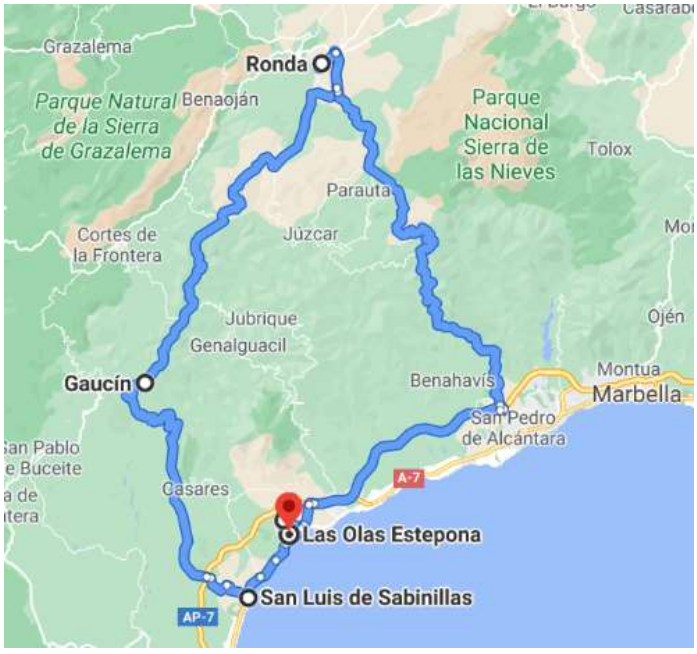
I propose you a route to discover the white villages of Andalusia and the mountains of the hinterland.

The loop route is done over a total distance of 142Km over a little more than 2H30, as this route takes us through the mountains up to an altitude of 1065m, the mountain roads, although in excellent condition are very winding and tiring in the long run; that is why I suggest that this route be done in one day from LAS OLAS.

From 'LAS OLAS', you have to take the road to MANILVA about 5km on the national road and at the height of San Luis de SABILLINAS, you have to take the direction of CASARES which is about fifteen km from the junction.

CASARES: First little white village you meet on your right. Built on a steep mountain section, this village shows all its charm in its organization. It reveals itself a bit like a white nest in a tree.

Take the road to the village, many parking spaces along the road allow you to park in peace (Do not forget to put the handbrake.). As soon as you can, take a staircase that will take you, it is not clear how, to the center of the village; center that can be guessed by the presence of a small inn, a statue arranged in the center and benches on which, some old villagers seem to remake the world.



Have a walk through the alleys and you can even walk to the abandoned fortress that culminates the village.

To find back your car, it's not difficult, **it's on the road at the top of village...** we don't know how and where exactly it is, but it is at the top... so go up until you reach the main road. The car will be left or right, it's up to you.

You continue your car journey by re-entering your steps and you are now heading to a second small white village: **GAUCIN**. Although built on the mountain hillside, this village is much less steep and much more structured. The road passes through this village in which small craftsmen's workshops and art

workshops are offered to discover. In particular, a ceramics workshop, Calle CONVENTO, a small workshop run by a Belgian woman, Catherine, who creates superb colorful ceramic works that are brimming with poetry. Her husband runs an equally charming small hotel 'LA FRUCTUOSA' adjoining the ceramics workshop.

After the discovery of **GAUCIN**, there are about 30 km left to arrive at your next stage: **RONDA**.

The road is getting more and more winding, and it is necessary to maintain constant attention. The landscapes change and become more and more natural with, on the course, many 'MIRADORS' viewpoints that allow you to rest and admire the beautiful landscapes that are available to you.

Among these MIRADORS, there is one that really deserves to linger **'MIRADOR DEL GENAL'** arranged with a parking area and from which a mound leads you to an extraordinary viewpoint allowing you to see many white villages. This watchtower is located just before the entrance to the village of **ALGATOCIN**.



At the bottom of the MIRADOR a few wooden benches and tables, arranged in the shade of the trees allow you to rest a little from the landscape and if the heart tells you, to take advantage of this area to picnic.

You will probably have noticed that as you progress on the road, the vegetation is totally different and adapted to the altitude conditions.

Your route continues to **RONDA**, which is an administrative center of the region and is a relatively important city. Heading towards the historic center of **RONDA**, you will inevitably be directed to the famous **PUENTE NUEVO,** the bridge that you will probably cross by car, and you head towards the Arenas of RONDA.

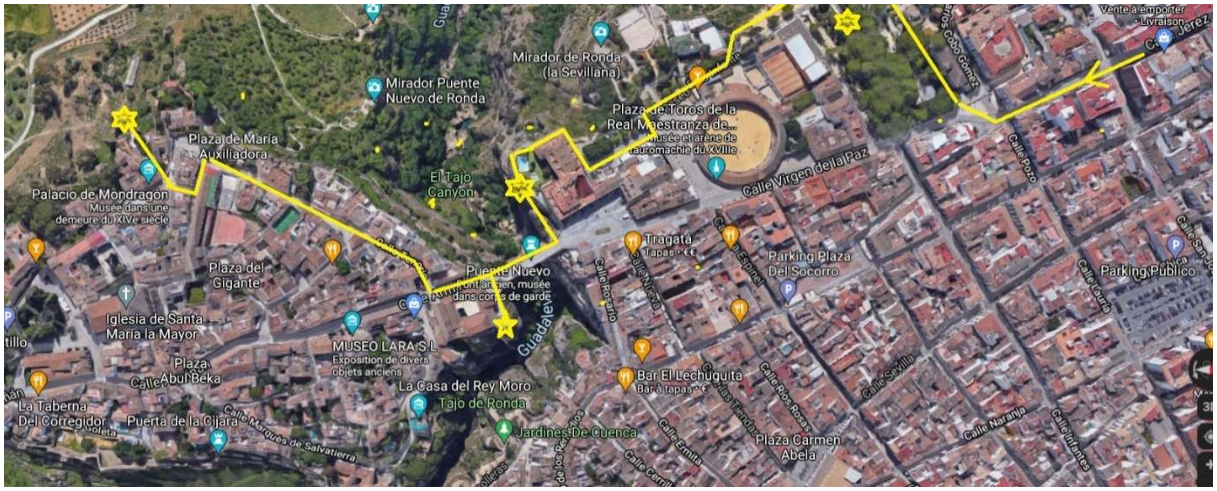
After the arenas, try to find a rare parking space... or continue to find aerial or basement parking.

You still have to discover the streets of the city with breathtaking parks and panoramic views.

Do not miss: The public park **'ALAMEDA DE TOJO'**, at the end of the park, to take the path that runs along the cliff and that will bring you to the '**PUENTE NUEVO'**.

Crossing the bridge by stopping in the middle to admire the valley, and the end of the bridge, next to the Palacio de Congresos, a platform **'MIRADOR DE ALDEHUELA'** is undoubtedly one of the best views of the bridge.

Then continue your way to **'Calle TENORIO'** from which you can access many restaurants or cafes, often with terraces giving views of the bridge and the RONDA valley.



Then continue your progress to **'PLAZA DE MARIA AUXILIADORA'** at the end of which, if the heart and courage tells you, a pedestrian path will take you down…down... (Remember that then you will have to retrace your steps…).

At the end of this **'PLAZA DE MARIA AUXILIADORA'** continue to **'PLAZA DUQUESA DE PARCENT'** which is a remarkable place for its architecture.



By going back on your steps, do not hesitate to let yourself be guided by your steps and your curiosity, to stroll through the small alleys of houses with characters of RONDA, to take paths.

At the height of the Arenas, streets perpendicular to the main street **'VIRGEN DE LA PAZ'** are streets with a commercial vocation mainly touristic.

Back to your car, take the road back to **ESTEPONA**, but this time taking the direction of **SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTARA**. The road is shorter and faster than that of the go and although the landscapes that pass by are pleasant, this road is extremely winding and you have to be careful to respect the speeds and stop at a point of view to cut the monotony of the journey.

Once in the heights of **SAN PEDRO DE ALCANTRA - MARBELLA**, you will discover again the resplendent Mediterranean Sea with in the distance to the west the rock of **GIBRALTAR** – Park on a protected area and take some remarkable pictures.

As you get closer to the coast, you will see very rich and superb private villas that are nestled on the mountainside. The region of **MARBELLA** is very famous for the strong competition that the very wealthy people put to testify to their success. (It is not uncommon for the value of the villas to exceed 15M€).

Arrived at the level of the coast, take the **A7** expressway towards **ESTEPONA** located 23km to the West.

You will undoubtedly have spent an unforgettable day but no doubt, you will also be tired at the end of this long day.

It is now time to go refresh yourself before the evening meal and a good night.