



## ***EXCURSIONS IN ANDALUCIA***

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### **A day in Vejer de la Frontera**

The name of the village suggests that the legacy of a boundary line one earlier Moorish kingdom, before the kingdom was extended to the entire El Andaluz. It is located along the coastal road between Tarifa and Europe's oldest city of Cadiz. The landscape is undulating and with miles of sandy beaches. The beauty is disturbed, however, by Europe's largest wind farm. If you go in the month of May, the ground is studded with what Swedes would call Midsummer Flowers. That it is very windy in this area is appreciated by all windsurfers who like to keep the area around Tarifa.

Even from afar you can see the white village lying on top of a high cliff and is situated on the river Barbate. The road winds its way up around the cliff. The village is divided by a deep ravine that goes halfway into the village. One half consists of an older part of city wall and on the opposite side is a slightly newer part. We are a little unsure of where we should stay as we park right in the newer part of the village. We start our walk by asking a bunch of old men sitting in the shade of an old olive tree. Oh yes it is possible to go there but it's far. A friendly man retrieves his car and drive ahead of us to show the way. We park on the outside of the old city walls and walk in the narrow streets. Many of the old houses have been renovated. We come to a house designated as Rural, i.e historic accommodation. In the entrance are we greeted by Mary, a typical old Spanish lady in black clothes and white hair. She is 84 years old and does not have many teeth left. She lives in a ground floor room with her only child's family in the floor above. The lady can only Spanish and speaks clear Andalusian dialect. It is curiosity that lured her out so we'll wait for our host to get the keys.

The Castle which was built by the moors must have been impregnable when it falls steeply in all directions. The city wall is well preserved. The white-painted houses are located along narrow alleys. The few ports are open shows a small courtyard full of flowers and an entrance door to the dwelling. There are plenty of small bars and restaurants. The small Spanish homes, where often several generations live, makes you want to meet over a cafe cortado in the neighbourhood bar. Out in the streets restaurants set up their tables. On the menu are many dishes with seafood.



We have ordered donkey riding. The animals are owned by a foundation that has as its task to preserve the custom of riding donkey. There are two alternative loops one down the valley and up on top. We choose the latter to be able to enjoy the mile-long views of the countryside. There are eight finely caparisoned donkeys that we may at our disposal. We've brought carrots to bribe the donkeys. However, they are kind and you sit close to the ground.



Our two donkey keepers help us up and lead us through the community on the surrounding fields to the neighbouring hill. From here you have a magnificent view of the landscape in all directions. Just below us, the three old Spanish windmills which bear small triangular sails when to grind. Reminiscent of the story of Don Quijot. You just stay in the saddle and donkeys have a short rope between each other so that they follow the forward donkey. Straight in your back and go with the donkey's movements and it becomes a pleasant journey.

In the evening, we walk along the city walls. The entire town has been renovated and the narrow streets have buried electricity, water and drainage facilities. It is clean and tidy. As usual, we pass several churches that seem to have been built in the sixteenth century. A statue of a woman with a headscarf wrapped front face arouses our interest. In the strictly Catholic society five hundred years ago women were forced to wear this dress. During the first and second Republic in the thirties was that tradition back again and the statue will remind you of this time. We arrive at the Plaza de España, which is located just outside the city walls. The Plaza dominated by a tile fountain.



Here is El Jardin del Califa situated. A hotel and a restaurant with lot of Moroccan dishes on the menu, such as Tajine, couscous and Pastela. The Jardín del Califa is inspired by the Moorish rule of Vejer over 700 years ago and is set in one of Vejer's most important historic buildings. The principal building dates from 1527 (and includes parts from the 11th Century) and is now a grade 1 listed monument. The stone clad dining rooms and the palm filled courtyard.



Vejer is a town steeped in history, having been used as a fortress town by the Phoenicians, later by the Romans and then underwent five centuries of Moorish rule until it was captured by King Ferdinand of Castille in 1248. Vejer then became a border town against the Moors and hence "de la Frontera" was added to it's name. The king gave control of Vejer to Don Alonso Perez de Guzman, founder of the ducal house of Medina Sidonia. The famous battle of Trafalgar took place just off the coast near the town in 1805.



 Estepona > Vejer de la Frontera via AP-7 A-7 N-340

 Time:

**01h55**

including 00h33 on motorways

No traffic impact for departure at 12h28

 Distance:

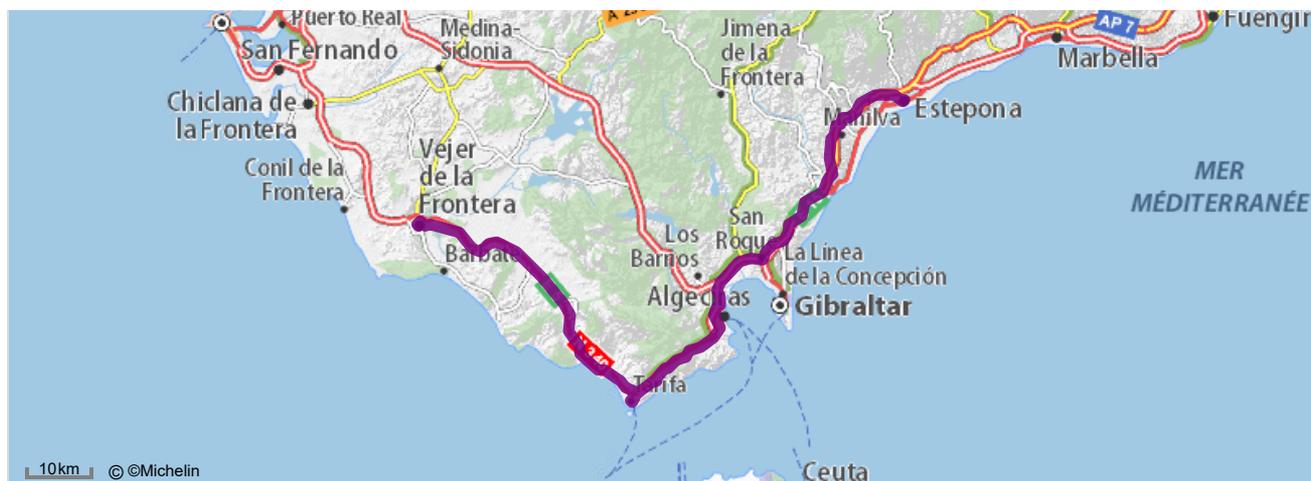
**125 km**

including 51 km on motorways

 Costs:

**€11.90**

including Consumption €11.90



A

**Departure: Estepona, Calle Santa Ana**

**Leave Estepona**

Continue along: **Avenida de España**

0.3 km 00h00

 At the roundabout, take the 1st exit: **Avenida de Juan Carlos I**

0.7 km 00h02

 At the roundabout, Avenida de Juan Carlos I, take the 2nd exit: **Avenida de Juan Carlos I**

1.3 km 00h03

 At the roundabout, Avenida de la Puerta del Mar, take the 2nd exit towards:

**ALGECIRAS  
CÁDIZ**

Exit Estepona

2 km 00h06



At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit: **A-7 / E-15** towards:





**ALGECIRAS  
CÁDIZ**

3 km 00h06



Continue along: **AP-7 / E-15**



24 km 00h19





Continue along: **A-7 / E-15**



72 km 01h02





Close to **Tarifa**, Turn left : **N-340 / E-5**

73 km 01h03



Turn left : **Calle Padre Font** towards:



**TARIFA  
PUERTO**

73 km 01h04

**Pass Tarifa**

73 km 01h04

Continue along: **Barriada de la Virgen del Sol**

74 km 01h04

Continue along: **Calle Amador de los Ríos**

74 km 01h05

Continue along: **Puerta de Jerez**

74 km 01h06

Continue along: **Avenida de Andalucía**

74 km 01h06

 Turn left : **Avenida de la Constitución**

75 km 01h07

 Turn left : **Calle Padre Font**

75 km 01h07

Continue along: **Calle de Sancho IV'el Bravo'**

75 km 01h07

 Continue right : **Calle de Sancho IV'el Bravo'**

75 km 01h07

 Continue left : **Calle de Sancho IV'el Bravo'**

Exit Tarifa

75 km 01h07

B

**Stage A: Tarifa, Calle de Sancho IV'el Bravo'**

- 75 km 01h08  Turn left
- 75 km 01h08  Then immediately , turn right : **Calle del Asedio**
- 75 km 01h09  Turn left
- 75 km 01h09  Turn left
- 75 km 01h09  Turn left
- 75 km 01h09  Then immediately , turn right : **Calle Padre Font**
- 75 km 01h09 Continue along: **Calle de Calzadilla de Téllez**
- 75 km 01h10  Turn right : **Calle Amador de los Ríos**
- 76 km 01h10 Continue along: **Barriada de la Virgen del Sol**
- 76 km 01h11 Continue along: **Calle Padre Font**
- 76 km 01h11**

Continue along: **Calle Padre Font**

**76 km 01h11**

-  Turn left : **N-340 / E-5**
-   Continue left : **N-340 / E-5** towards:  


**E-5 -  
CÁDIZ**

- 82 km 01h16  Continue left : **N-340 / E-5**
- 83 km 01h17  Continue left : **N-340 / E-5**
- 86 km 01h19  Continue left : **N-340 / E-5**
- 124 km 01h53**

Turn left towards:

  
**VEJER  
BARBATE**

- 124 km 01h53  Then immediately , turn left : **A-393**
- 124 km 01h53**

Turn right : **Calle del Retiro**  
Continue along: **Calle del Retiro**

125 km 01h55  
**125 km 01h55**

**Arrive in Vejer de la Frontera**

- 125 km 01h55  Turn right : **Plaza de España**
- 125 km 01h55  Continue right : **Plaza de España**
- 125 km 01h55**

C

**Destination: Vejer de la Frontera, Plaza de España**

Check your tyre pressure at least once a month and particularly before a high-speed journey.