

Review

## Fly-In Andalusia 2017

from 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017

For our first Spanish or rather Andalusian Fly-In our Motto this time was:

“If you haven't seen Granada, you haven't seen anything!”



The destination airport was Airport Granada - LEGR, where everybody arrived safely on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

The obvious security measures were on the one hand fine by us, but on the other hand a little bit over the top.



A special atmosphere from the start at our dream hotel *La Bobadilla!*

On the way to the Welcome on the *La Finca* terrace, where 42 MMIG46 members were looking forward to seeing each other again.





The varied welcome buffet was presented with much love and in excellent quality.



The cold soups - Andalusian gazpacho and a delicious cold asparagus soup - were among the perfect starters.



While we were still enjoying our Welcome, our barbecue for the evening was being prepared with great attention to detail in *La Bobadilla's Mirador* event building above the pool area.



A barbecue on the first evening was just right for late arrivals too.

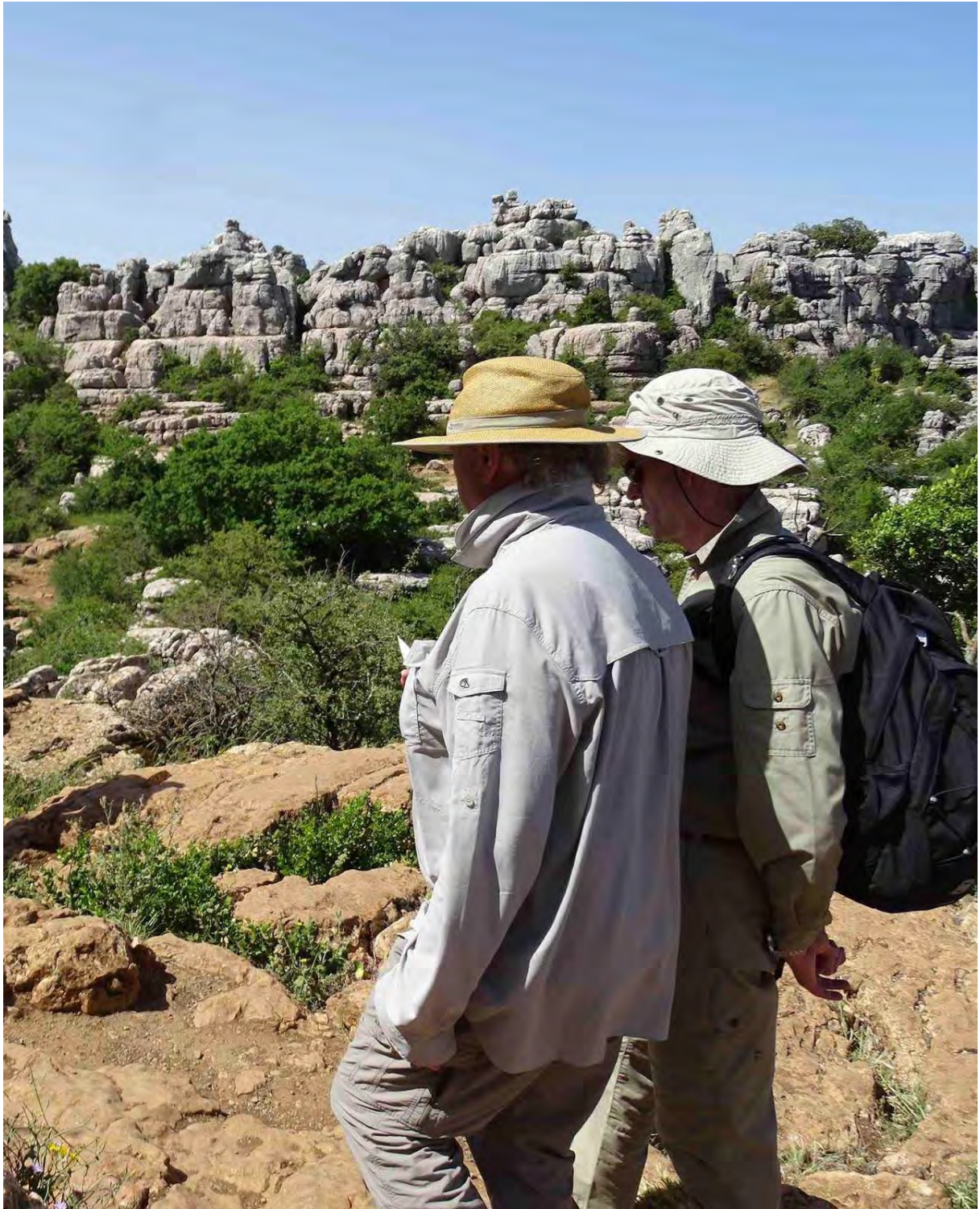


And obviously nobody was ready for bed, so there was lots of news to exchange as always.

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017



A one and a half hour walking tour of the incredible national park *El Torcal*, a geological curiosity of the first order, was planned for today.



The intense sun demanded appropriate clothing, but some people were in the young-dynamic look.



*El Torcal* is a huge calcareous plateau that rises at altitudes between 1,100 and 1,370 meters and has been designated as a nature reserve since 1989. The erosion formed bizarre forms and figures, rock towers, plate layers, collapse dowers and loose stones from the soft limestone there.





*Cortijo La Haza -*

Our discovery, a small but special guest house in total seclusion, was to serve us an excellent lunch. To tell the truth, the Belgian owner, Patriek Defauw, is a gifted chef!

Definitely worth recommending!



The owners, Bernadette van der Heijden and Patriek Delauw, were also supported by friends and neighbours in dealing with the unusually large party.

The most carefully organized return trip by minibus to our hotel, or rather the arrangements that were not kept to, clouded the experience somewhat, but everybody got back in the end.



There was a preference for resting by the pool or in the rooms.



At 8pm – excellent tapas with equally good wines were just the right conclusion to the day in our hotel.

### **Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Today's destination – the *Alhambra* in Granada.

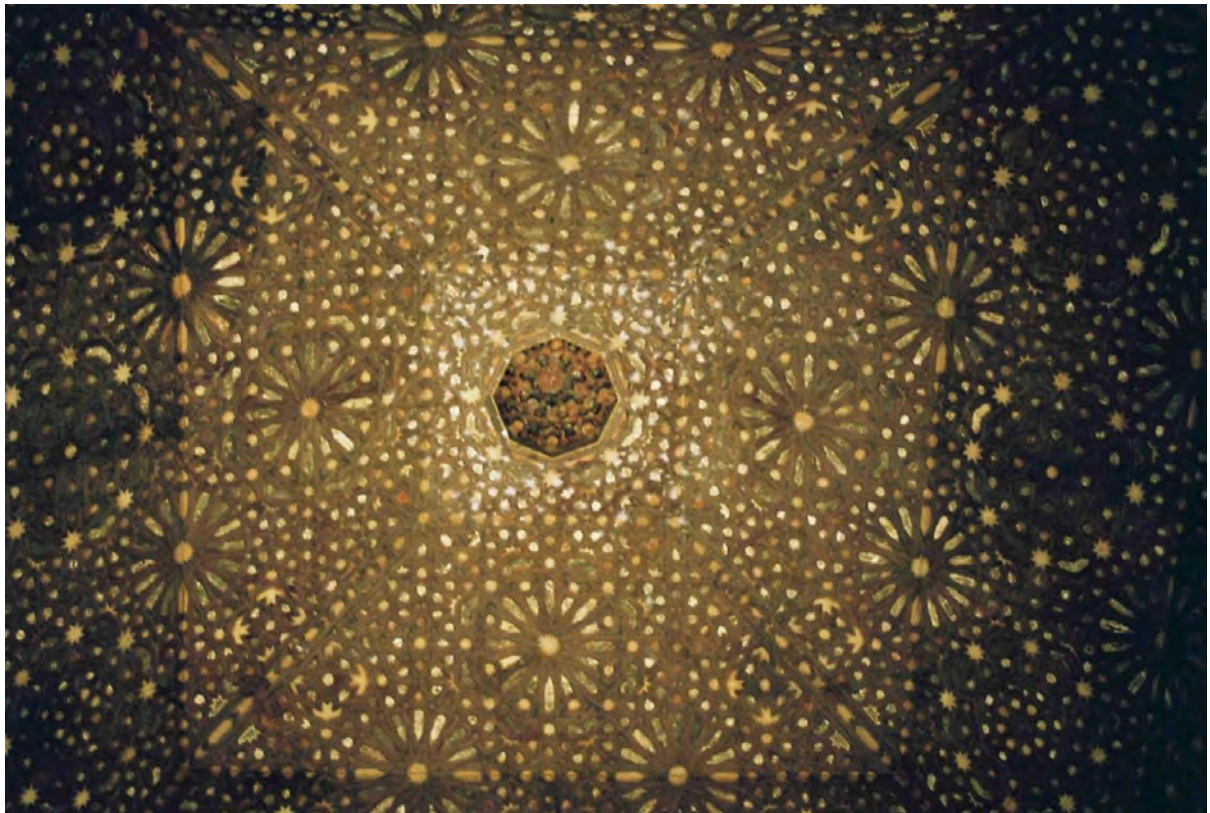
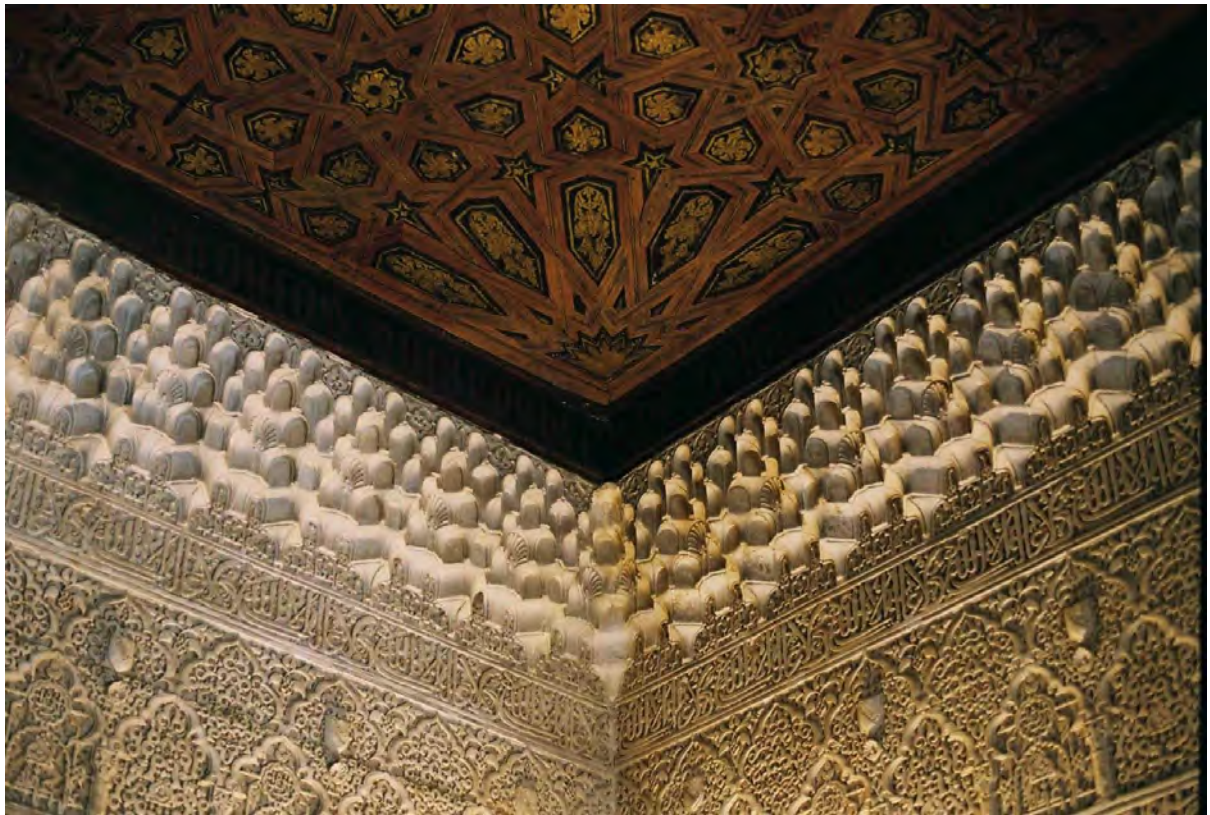
In view of the huge numbers of visitors attracted by this jewel of Islamic architecture, you have to buy your tickets in advance as the number is limited. And you have to be there right on time!



As mentioned in the Fly-In 2017 Announcement, Granada and its surroundings were the last bastion of the Moors.

The "Red Fort" Qual'at al Hamra is one of the most beautiful palaces in the world, the outstanding monument of Andalusian Islam.

The Nasrid people were probably emirs who built the *Alhambra* from 1238 onwards. Since 1984 UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The magnificent grounds of the *Alhambra* hide many cultural treasures. These include, for example, the *Palacios Nazaries*, which forms the heart of the attraction. It is home to precious ceilings made of pieces of cedar wood and a "Lion's Yard".



Equipped with audio guides, we were guided in 2 groups by 2 excellently trained guides.

### *Generalife*

"A paradise, closed to many; gardens, opened to a few"

Soto de Rojas on Granada, quoted by Lorca



Also part of the *Alhambra* is the summer residence *Generalife*, which makes this "most beautiful garden in the world" so attractive with its water features.



This flowering pomegranate tree greeted us just inside the entrance.

Note:



Following the Castilian conquest on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1492, the Kingdom of Granada belonged to the crown of Castile. Its symbol - the pomegranate - was integrated into the coat of arms of the Spanish Monarchy and has its place there until today.





*Generalife* means "garden of the architect" which refers to the Creator Allah.





So many impressions, of course, stimulate the appetite. The obvious thing to do was to take a break at the Parador - located within the *Alhambra*.



“Luckily there was enough desert to go round ...”







2 Andalusian teams were standing ready and were greatly appreciated!





So that's where they are hiding!





Just a few days earlier this area was overgrown, but after the organizers insisted on a very special picnic area, the *Hotel La Bobadilla* came up trumps!



It wasn't just the hotel's special paella with gambas and olives that was a joy! We were treated well all round in the shade of an old cork oak. An unforgettable experience!

Who would want to leave?

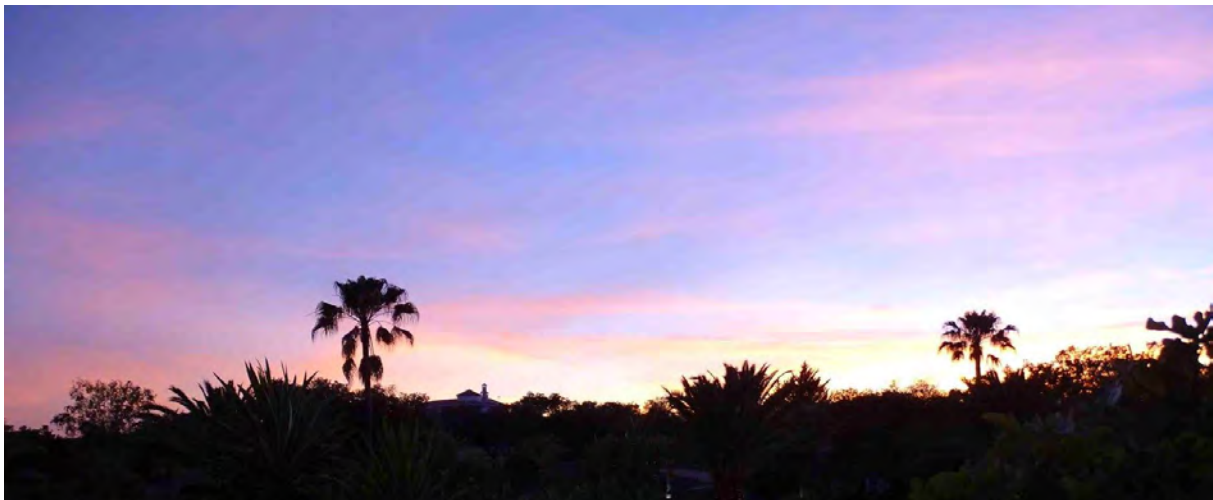


But wait! - At 8pm there would be our Gala Dinner in the Gourmet Restaurant on the *La Finca Terrasse* at the *Hotel La Bobadilla*.





A delightful evening was under way!



And, before you know it, it's **Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

By 9:30 we were on our way to the airport where our beloved aircrafts were waiting for us.



And now we're looking forward to our next meeting in 2018!