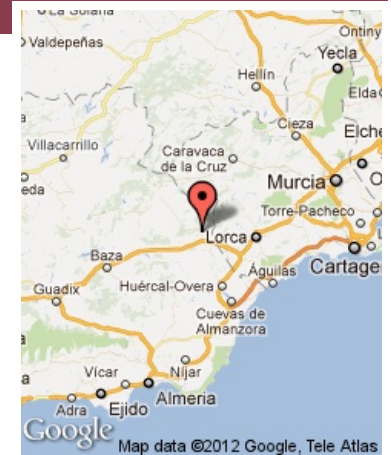


# Creative Courses in Andalucia, Spain



## Highlights

Grab your paintbrush and pencils and explore the Alpine deserts and bristling pine forests of Andalucia. These creative courses, based at the luxurious eco-retreat of Cortijada Los Gasquez, offer you the chance to discover this stunning wilderness while honing your artistic skills.

Cortijada Los Gazquez is a carbon-neutral guesthouse set amidst forested valleys of almond and pine. Heat and light are solar- and wind-generated, cooking is done by wood fire and the farm's flat terracotta roofs double as rainwater harvesting structures. Everything is recycled, even the water (used to irrigate the dry land), and there'll soon be a natural swimming pool too. You'll notice the attention to detail in everything, whether it's the shady comfort of a secluded cushioned courtyard or the rustic charm of the menu: fresh, locally-sourced food with an international flavour.

Off the map and off the grid, the 47-acre farmstead offers a holiday experience like no other. Combining stylish architecture ('eco-chic') and the profound natural beauty of Andalucia's pine-clad mountains, the retreat is the perfect setting for a range of creative activities, among them music, painting, writing, photography and film-making. These creative courses cover a host of themes, including botanical illustration, art forms in nature and ancient and popular architecture. There are also more site-specific options, such as the Altos Caminos (shepherds' paths that weave through meadows of wild flowers and groves of pomegranate, fig and quince) and Las Ramblas (dry fluvial systems carved deep into the lush desert floor). With such stunning subject matter and expert tuition, these multimedia courses present a great opportunity to discover, rediscover or further develop your skills.

One of the other exciting aspects of a stay here, is that at any one time there are professional artists staying, taking advantage of the location and getting a chance to work. This means that you get to rub shoulders with professionals, enjoy conversing about art, life and making a career from art. These resident artists also give a talk about their work one evening of the week, as well as an introduction to their studio to talk about their current projects.

## Is it for me?

We hear only good things of the courses at Cortijada Los Gazquez. If you're the creative type it's difficult to imagine how you could fail to be inspired by this spectacular landscape, the perfect weather and diverse flora and fauna (the Parque Natural Sierra Maria-Los Velez is home to over 100 species of bird, as well as Ibex, boar, oscillated lizards and mongooses).

Art materials aren't included in the course price but can be ordered in by arrangement before hand, or you can bring your own. The courses themselves are very flexible and can be easily tailored to meet the needs of you or your group; if there're more of you than there are spaces at the guesthouse then accommodation can be arranged elsewhere within the National Park. And rest assured, non-participating partners are welcome and will have plenty of distractions!

## Accommodation

Cortijada Los Gazquez is a luxurious retreat with all the amenities that you'd expect. This said, these courses are

Prices from

**272** GBP (2 days) per person

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about getting up close and personal with the environment, so expect the occasional interaction with curious insects or spiky plants! Bear in mind also that the guesthouse is set in semi-wilderness, 1000m about sea level, so if you need something from the shops be prepared for a bit of a hike or a drive (transport is easily arranged). Most essentials can be found on-site, but if you have any specific needs – cigarettes, medicines, etc. – we suggest that you stock up beforehand.

## Details

### Getting there

You can fly to the following airports; Granada

Almeria, Murcia or Alicante - it is then a 2 hours transfer which can be arranged with the owner. Alternatively, you could get the train to Granada.

### Price details

Long Break - 7 nights/6 days tuition - full board including tuition - 850 euros per person

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Short Break - 3 nights/2 days tuition - full board - 314 euros pp based on 2 sharing - single supplement - 366 euros.

### Available

Jan—Dec

### Typical Duration

2 days - 6 days

### Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

### Experience required

Some previous experience is needed