

Estepona 2025



A Travel Book By



Graham Smith



A 8-day adventure by Graham


25
footprints


2
countries



8
days


2,129
miles





Gatwick

 April 26, 2025 in England, Crawley

Graham, Fiona and Paddington are off to stay at Fiona's uncle's apartment near Estepona in Spain for a week

Time

9:06 am

Cloudy


 11 °C

Altitude

177 ft



Breakfast

 April 26, 2025 in England, Crawley

Fiona starts as she means to go on 🥳🍷

Graham is the designated driver of the hire car from Malaga down to Estepona, so a croissant and coffee for him.

He will have no trouble catching up later 🍺

Time

9:07 am

Cloudy

 11 °C


Altitude


194 ft





Paddington

 April 26, 2025 in England, Crawley

Paddington is ready for takeoff 
Flight to Malaga

There seems to be a mistake in the seating arrangements; Fiona is assigned 5a and Graham 5c. Thinking about it, it was Fiona who booked the actual seats.

Graham always, always has a window seat, just ask Jenni and Claire, they never got a look in either.

There is a race up the stairs to the plane and Graham is the first to reach row 5

“I’ll just go straight in to 5a so we don’t block the aisle for other passengers while we take our seats”

Job done 

Time

10:09 am

Cloudy

 11 °C


Altitude

180 ft





In Flight

 April 26, 2025, Bay of Biscay

The inflight menu looks good. Unfortunately they only brought three Charcuteries on board (for 32 passengers) and by the time they get to row 5 they have all gone. Oh well, just a cup of tea for Graham then; and a glass of Champagne for Fiona to help get over the disappointment



Ernest Barlow-Kearsley Ouch hope it wasn't 1st class 😞



Graham Smith No, just BA Club

Time

11:42 am

Cloudy

 13 °C

Altitude

Sea level

BREAKFAST

STARTERS

A selection of warm breads and breakfast pastries

Vanilla Greek yoghurt, honey, dried apricots,
berry compote

Fresh seasonal fruit

MAIN COURSE

The Original Full British

scrambled eggs, Saddleback pork sausage, back bacon
rashers, sautéed button mushrooms, baked beans,
cherry tomatoes

or

Cheese omelette

sautéed mushrooms, mini rösti bites, creamed spinach,
Mornay sauce

or

Charcuterie plate

bresaola beef, lemon pepper chicken breast,
chive cream cheese, red grapefruit

DRINKS

A selection of soft drinks and juices

Twinings Tea

choose from a selection of traditional and herbal teas,
made just how you like it.


Union Coffee

Hot chocolate

Gluten free oat milk available on request



Apartment

 April 26, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

The flight itself is bang on time, arriving in Malaga at 1:30pm local time. Hire car is collected and a straightforward drive means a safe arrival at the apartment



Ernest Barlow-Kearsley Excellent seamless travel always a bonus

Time

3:43 pm

Clear day

 26 °C


Altitude

56 ft



Day 1

Sonora

 April 26, 2025 in Spain, Estepona



In no time at all, the bags are unpacked and cold beers served at the Sonora Beach Bar 🍺

Time

4:28 pm

Clear day

 26 °C

Altitude


Sea level





Day 1

Chill

 April 26, 2025 in Spain, Estepona



A quick trip to the mini market and then back to the apartment to chill for the evening on the patio 🕶️

Time

7:09 pm

Clear day

 25 °C


Altitude

62 ft



Day 1

Nightcap

 April 26, 2025 in Spain, Estepona



After a long day there is still time for a nightcap until the sun goes down 🌞



Ernest Barlow-Kearsley Cheers

Time

8:22 pm

Clear day

 23 °C


Altitude

10 ft



Day 1

Goodnight

 April 26, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

A long but enjoyable first day

 Ernest Barlow-Kearsley Looks amazing

Time

10:00 pm

Clear night

 20 °C


Altitude

56 ft



Day 2

Old Town

 April 27, 2025 in Spain, Estepona



Sunday means an Uber into Estepona town where the Sunday market is in full swing out by the harbour and Fee manages to drain the Euros pot quite quickly.

This is followed by a relaxed lunch in a square in the old town

Time

1:48 pm

Clear day

 22 °C

Altitude


43 ft





Day 2

Hangman

 April 27, 2025 in Spain, Estepona



A short stop before we head back to the apartment. Despite Graham's attempt to cheat, Fee still wins a game of Hangman

Time

3:48 pm

Clear day

 22 °C

Altitude


52 ft





Day 2

Playa Bella

 April 27, 2025 in Spain, Estepona



Dinner at Playa Bella restaurant, just up the road, is delicious.

Time

9:00 pm

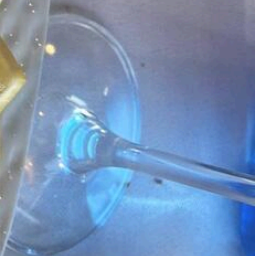
Clear day

 19 °C

Altitude


66 ft







Sausage Rolls ?

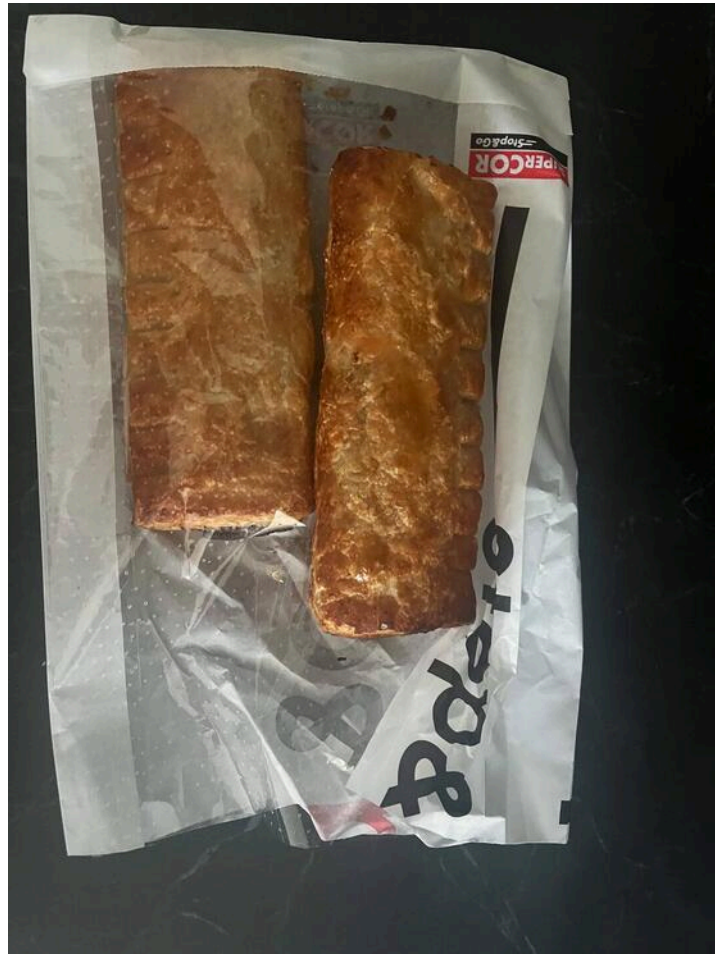
 April 28, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

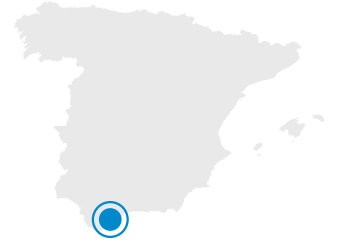
Thought these were sausage rolls but they are pastries filled with chocolate

Time
10:01 am


Clear day
 17 °C

Altitude
56 ft





Power Cut

 April 28, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

After a visit to the mini market we return to the apartment. Five minutes later we hear some banging and calling. It transpires that there has been a power cut and our neighbour just happened to be in the lift at the time coming up from the garage. Fiona walks up to reception and someone comes back and forces the lift open.

That's one way to meet the neighbours.

In fact, the power cut is far reaching, Spain, Portugal, France.

The Great Spanish Power Outage of '25. and we were here

Better drink the beers before they get warm 🍺

Time

12:58 pm

Clear day

 20 °C

Altitude

Sea level



was cut off" at 12:30 local time (11:30 BST).

"Trains stopped" and were "without departures" at all stations, the company says.

 Share13:21 **BREAKING**

Spanish operator confirms power outages

Spain's electricity grid operator Red Electrica has confirmed power outages across the country.

It is working to restore electricity supplies and says it's working to analyse the causes of the blackouts.

"All resources are being dedicated to solving it," it says in a post on X.

 Share13:16 **BREAKING**

Home




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Power Outage

 April 28, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

The power outage continues.

Hopefully the electricity will come back on some time in the night. We can't live off olives and pistachios forever 🤔

Time

5:58 pm

Clear day

 20 °C

Altitude

Sea level




Let's Go!
ACEITUNAS VERDES SIN HUESO
CON LIMÓN Y ALBAHACA
PITTED GREEN OLIVES WITH LEMON AND BASIL
70g e

Pitted green olives



Dinner

 April 28, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

Still no electricity but we do have a citronella candle which we had bought to fend off any mozzies, along with a lighter.

All the shops and restaurants are closed so we make up a cheese and tomato sandwich.

Not the candlelit dinner we had in mind 😂

We also have a couple of eggs left for the morning. After that, we may have to go foraging 🤔



Fiona Smith But it was a lovely evening together xx

Time

8:00 pm

Clear day


 19 °C

Altitude

56 ft



Cards

 April 28, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

Tonights entertainment is Gin Rummy by candlelight without the gin.

The playing cards here are a bit odd, can't quite figure out the suits.



Fiona Smith I was on top form! 🤪

Time

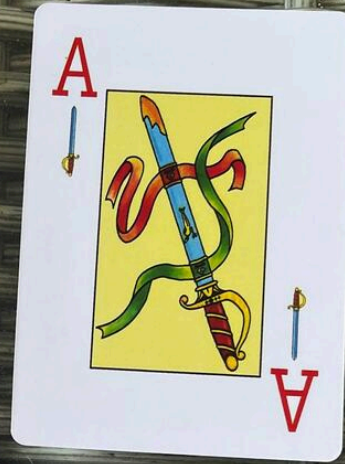
10:00 pm

Clear day

 20 °C


Altitude

56 ft





Let there be light

 April 29, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

4am and power returns. A few lights have come on and the fridge goes into catchup mode.

A good opportunity to recharge the emergency charge pack we brought with us.

We can probably expect panic buying today.

We've learnt a lot about the high level of reliance Spain has on renewable energy and the challenges it brings (latency, intermittency, poor grid infrastructure, curtailment etc)

Time

4:15 am

Partly cloudy

 15 °C


Altitude

56 ft

Day 4



Puerto Banus

 April 29, 2025 in Spain, Marbella

Uber up to Puerto Banus and a refresher in Sinatra's

Time

1:33 pm

Cloudy

 18 °C

Altitude


16 ft





Day 4

Sun again

 April 29, 2025 in Spain, Marbella




And the sun's come out again 

Time

3:02 pm

Partly cloudy

 18 °C

Altitude


16 ft



Day 4



There be Pirates

 April 29, 2025 in Spain, Marbella

Too early for a cab, the sun is still shining so time for Margaritas at the Pirate Bar where the chairs are on wheels - dangerous- the wheels and the Margaritas 🤪

 Jane Barlow-Kearsley LOVE a Marg!!!

Time

4:41 pm

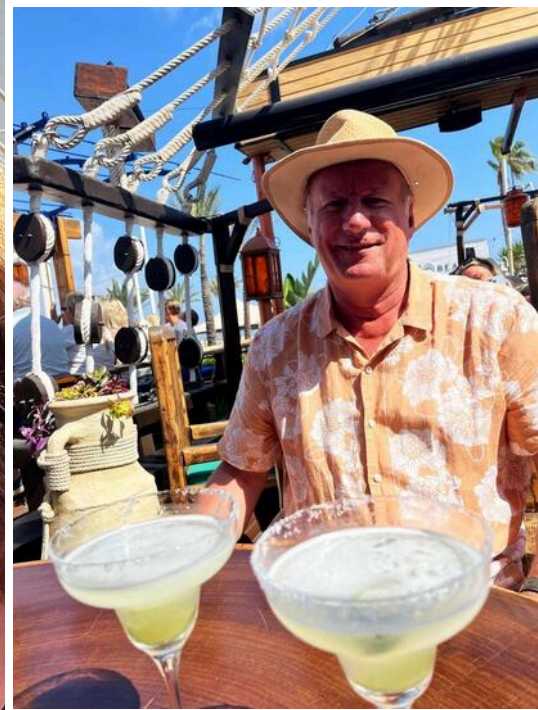
Clear day

 19 °C

Altitude


33 ft







Long Walk


 May 1, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

After a lazy day yesterday accompanied by some inclement weather, we have a 90 minute walk down the coastal path to Estepona.

Time

12:57 pm

Cloudy

 18 °C


Altitude

30 ft





Friday

 May 2, 2025 in Spain, Estepona

Our last full day and the sun is shining. Time to catch the last few rays and enjoy the apartment.

In the meantime, back home, Jenni and Claire have been busy booking restaurants and activities for our visit to Centre Parcs in July.

Time

2:09 pm

Partly cloudy

 19 °C


Altitude

56 ft





Heading home

 May 3, 2025 in Spain, Málaga

Well that made for an interesting drive back to Malaga.

After a delightful meal at La Playa Bella on Friday and a good night's sleep, we pack up ready to drive back to the airport.

We are about 10 miles from the airport, on the motorway, and a message comes up on the dashboard. Graham's grasp of Spanish is limited but it is along the lines of "Out of oil, stop the car immediately"

Graham thinks we should keep going until we can find a safe place to stop. The car decides No, we will stop Now, and grinds to a halt. We manage to glide into the central reservation and put on the hazard lights.

What now ?

Graham turns off the engine and then turns it back on again. Magic ! The message has gone off 👍

We continue for another few miles until the message comes on again. Graham knows what to do and pulls over, turns the engine off and on again.

This repeats another three times with diminishing intervals until we reach the car rental returns at Malaga Airport.

We report the situation and head off to check in.

A bit stressful but we made it OK and have the VIP Lounge to look forward to.



Fiona Smith Quite stressful and one I would prefer not to repeat! Z

Time

10:45 am

Clear day

 19 °C

Altitude

62 ft



Flight Home

 May 3, 2025 in England, East Hampshire

Although we booked via BA, this flight is operated by Titan Airways who seem to provide cover to a number of established airlines when required. To be honest, the service was as good, if not better than BA.

We note that, once again, there are only 3 chicken dinners. We are in row and manage to grab two of them 👍

Our regular taxi meets us at Gatwick and arrive home on good time.

Another great week at Fiona's uncle's place in Spain 🇪🇸



Fiona Smith Great flight Titan were very friendly. Xx

Time

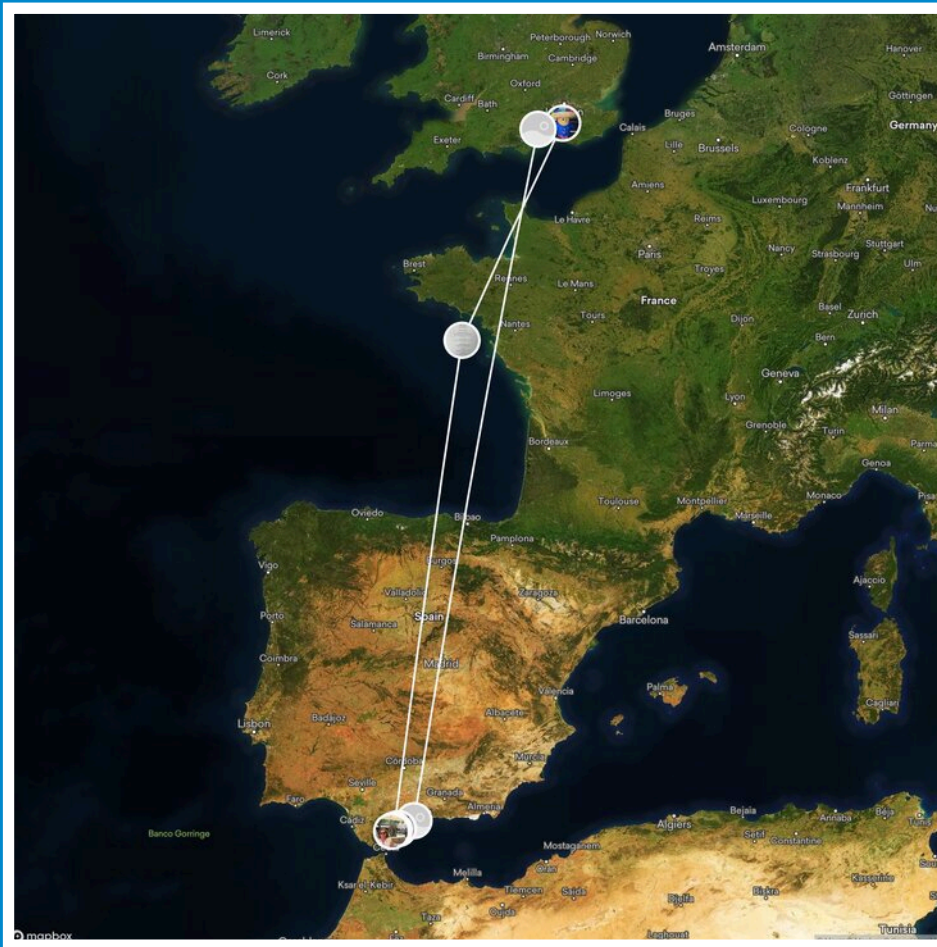
2:15 pm

Clear day

 19 °C

Altitude

233 ft



Your FindPenguins Travels in a book.

