



Extras at the bullring in Osuna during filming of Game of Thrones. Photo: Cristina Quicler / AFP

Location tours start for 'Game of Thrones' fans

Published: 09 Apr 2015 13:34 GMT+02:00

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As the fifth season of the hit TV show is just about to start, fans of the epic can follow in the footsteps of Khaleesi with a visit to those locations that were filmed in Spain.

Anticipation is building as the start of Game of Thrones Series 5 is fast approaching. The new series begins on Sunday, April 12th and for those who are acquainted with Seville and nearby Osuna, some of the settings of George RR Martin's fantasy world may appear quite familiar.

One travel company has even launched its very own Game of Thrones luxury tours for the die-hard fan.

US based luxury travel website Zicasso is offering a tour of Season five filming locations in Spain:

"We have chosen to focus exclusively on Spain as the centerpiece filming location for Season 5. Here, guests will enter the world of Dorne, visiting the filming locations where viewers will be introduced to the

powerful Martell family, while exploring three registered UNESCO World Heritage Sites," Zicasso told The Local in a statement.

The tour will also soak up the culture of Madrid, Seville, Osuna and Granada.

Series 5 will be broadcast at the same time in Spain as in the US, meaning keen Spanish viewers **will have to set their alarms** - the first episode is set to air at 3am on the night between Sunday April 12th and Monday April 13th.

The latest series of the popular Home Box Office (HBO) series filmed in locations such as the Real Alcazar palace in Seville, a classic example of Islamic architecture that includes tranquil courtyards surrounded by columns and elaborately tiled hallways.

The tour also takes in Osuna, a town in Seville province, whose bullring is the scene for an epic battle during the series.

"We've seen great interest from fans of TV series or movies to not only visit the filming locations, but to really immerse themselves in the history and culture of those destinations," said Steve Yu, Director of Marketing and Business Development at Zicasso.

"For the first time, fans of Game of Thrones will get to experience the filming locations in Spain—a country that is so rich in its history of epic battles and dueling kingdoms. Fantasy truly meets reality on this unique Spanish journey!"

But the tour is certainly not cheap. It will set you back €1,768 (\$1,899) per person, including accommodation, transport and entrance fees. International flights are, however, not included in the package, so you will have to find your own way to Spain.



Gallery: Top stops on Game of Thrones Spain tour

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Top stops on Game of Thrones Spain tour

Luxury travel website Zicasso has created a tailor-made tour for fans of Game of Thrones. It is an opportunity to visit the places in Spain that were used as locations in Season Five of the epic.

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Madrid: The journey begins with two days spent in Spain's capital city Madrid, home to the country's national art museum (the Prado) and an impressive array of Baroque architecture representative of Spain's Golden Age: the Royal Theater, the Plaza Mayor, Basilica de San Miguel, Monasterio de la Encarnación and the Royal Palace.

Photo:





Seville: On the third day, travelers will head south by train to the rugged and romantic region of Andalusia, where Moorish conquerors ruled southern Spain for centuries and left indelible marks on art, architecture and cultural traditions. In the city of Seville, visitors will marvel at the majesty of the world's largest Gothic cathedral, before heading to another awe-inspiring UNESCO World Heritage Site... (see next slide!)

Photo:



The Alcazar in Seville is the setting for the Water Palace at Sunspear, the retreat for the Princes of Dorne.

Alcazar palace, Seville: Formerly a Muslim fort transformed into the oldest royal palace still in service in Europe, the Alcazar's lavish courtyards and lush gardens provide a perfectly sumptuous setting for the Water Palace of Sunspear in Dorne, where newly-introduced power-player Prince Doran Martell will spend the fifth season of *Game of Thrones* trying to save his land and his people.

Photo: Shutterstock





Osuna bullring: From Seville, travelers will enjoy a private round-trip transfer and day trip to Osuna, where the Humanist spirit of the Renaissance is still prevalent in the city's iconic University and local artwork. The trip will not be complete without a visit to Osuna's bullring, the site of an upcoming epic battle in Season 5 of Game of Thrones (no spoilers)!

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Granada: On the sixth day, visitors will travel to the breathtaking city of Granada. After an evening enjoying an authentic flamenco show, a quintessential Andalusian dance, guests will spend their final full day in Granada visiting the Alhambra, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most treasured cultural icons in all of Spain. Truly a palace fit for a Queen...or a khaleesi.

Photo: Shutterstock

