First, visit the imposing cathedral. On the orders of the Catholic Kings, work on the Cathedral began in 1523. The Capilla Real (Royal Chapel) is a treasure house of decorative art, precious jewels and fine paintings. The Archaeological Museum hosts many artefacts from the many different civilizations that settled in Granada, and includes a beautiful Renaissance patio. Its facade dates from 1593.

Friday 4 November: Guadix-Valencia
Transfer by bus to Valencia via Guadix.
The cathedral town of Guadix dates back to Phoenician and Roman times, and played a major role in the Reconquest. But the most interesting feature of the Guadix area is that almost half of the inhabitants of this large town still live underground. Ever since the Moorish times, the Andalusians have chosen to live underground because it is the best way of escaping the summer heat. Most of today’s cave-dwellings are well-appointed and have all modern amenities.

Saturday 5 November: Valencia
Valencia was one of the regions inhabited by a significant Islamic and Moorish community up until the final expulsion of the Moors (descendants of the Moors forcibly converted to Christianity in the early 16th century) in 1614. Valencia’s main landmark the Cathedral with the bell tower, the “Miguelete”, was built in 1262 and was constantly modified over the last centuries so now the three portals have three different styles.
The recently restored Palace of the Marques de Dos Aguas houses a treasure house of decorative art, precious jewels and fine paintings.

Sunday 6 November: New Valencia
The main attraction of the beautiful city of Valencia, the Ciudad de las Artes y Ciencias (CAC) is situated within the city centre and includes the outstanding Oceanographic, the largest oceanographic park in Europe. Valencia, Spain’s third biggest city has extremely reliable sailing conditions, as well as a commitment to hosting the America’s Cup. Port America’s Cup gives an insight into where this exciting sporting event took place.

Monday 7 November: Valencia - Madrid
In the morning, transfer by train from Valencia to Madrid.

Tuesday 8 November
Transfer to airport,
Depart for New Zealand.
While the intention is to follow the outlined itinerary, it is subject to change if necessary. We cannot guarantee that all the sites and museums indicated will be accessible and/or open; your tour leaders have the right to change the itinerary at any time as circumstances dictate.

Enrolment and other information
We are currently taking enrolments for this tour by phone, post or in person. Please fill out the enrolment form enclosed (this can also be found on our website) and either mail it to us or bring it in. You can also enrol by phone by calling 04-463 6658.

Tour Leader
Dr Nicola Gilmour is a Senior Lecturer in Spanish at Victoria University, she has lived and studied in Spain for 8 years and has travelled this area of Spain many times. The ongoing influence of Moorish Spain on Spanish culture and national identity is one of her current research interests. Nicola will provide commentaries on tour. There will also be local guides.

Enrolment/Deposit
A deposit of NZ$1500 per person is required at time of enrolment. This can be paid by cheque, credit card or eftpos. Email reservations will not be accepted. Because of considerable interest in the tour, it is important to enrol as early as possible so as not to miss out. No more than 35 places will be available.

Fee
NZ$11,999 (shared room)
NZ$12,999 (single room)
A deposit of NZ$1500 per person is required at time of enrolment. Payment of the balance of the fee will be required by Friday 12 August 2011.

(*Please note: enrolments taken after 25 May 2011 may be subject to an additional surcharge.)*

These prices are based on tour departure from, and return to, Wellington, New Zealand. If you would like to join the tour or leave it from a different location, please contact us for pricing.

The fee includes:
• pre-tour meeting
• air travel Wellington/Madrid
• land travel (bus/train) within Spain
• air travel Madrid/Wellington
• departure taxes ex New Zealand
• sightseeing and entrance fees as specified (except for the Oceanographic)

The fee does not include:
• lunch and dinner in places other than those specified
• insurance
• passport costs
• additional costs for visas and/or re-entry permits for those travelling on non New Zealand passports
• other items of a personal nature.

The fee is subject to airfare increases, additional airline/airport taxes, and major currency fluctuations.

If you are travelling alone and request to share a room, you will be asked to upgrade and pay for a single room if a room mate is not available.

Pre-tour Meetings
There will be a pre-tour meeting to provide practical advice and information. Date to be advised. This will be informal evening with tea and coffee provided.

Accommodation/Meals
Accommodation will be in 3- 4-star hotels in shared or single rooms with private shower or bath. Breakfast will be provided each day. Lunch and/or dinner will be provided on some days - please see the proposed itinerary.

Passport/Visas
It is essential to have a current passport (valid for at least six months after return to New Zealand). Holders of passports issued by countries other than New Zealand are advised to check visa requirements. New Zealand re-entry permits are required by those travelling on passports other than those issued by New Zealand or Australia.
All inquiries regarding passports and visas should be directed to Keri Davis at APX travel via email keri.davis@apx.co.nz or you can call him on 09 306 0951.

Insurance
Comprehensive travel insurance is essential and is not included in the tour fee.

Health and Fitness
The tour is not particularly strenuous and provision is made for a reasonable amount of free time. However you should be in good health and you should be able to carry your own luggage (if necessary).
To ensure the wellbeing of tour members and overall enjoyment of the tour group, each tour member will be required to complete a medical questionnaire. Victoria University reserves the right to request written medical information or opinions on your physical capability for this study tour from a doctor or physician if necessary.

Cancellation/Withdrawal
Victoria University reserves the right to cancel the tour and to refuse or cancel any enrolment for the tour. In either event all payments made will be refunded in full.
Please note:
If you withdraw from this tour:
• before or on 30 May 2011, your deposit will not be refunded.
• between 31 May and 18 August 2011, we will retain 50% of the total fee paid.
• on or after 19 August 2011, we will retain 100% of the total fee paid.
A withdrawal will only be effective when we receive written confirmation of the withdrawal.
You are strongly advised to take out comprehensive travel insurance to cover unforeseen circumstances.

Fees are subject to change if necessary. We cannot guarantee that all the sites and museums indicated will be accessible and/or open; your tour leaders have the right to change the itinerary at any time as circumstances dictate.

Visit our website for full itinerary, tour information and enrolment forms www.victoria.ac.nz/studytours

Expand your horizons
Moorish Spain
About the Tour
Much of what we consider to be archetypally ‘Spanish’ is part of Spain’s Moorish heritage.

The influence of the Moors on Spain’s language, art, food, agriculture and, especially, architecture was profound. Join this study tour and explore some of the highlights of Moorish Spain.

Itinerary
Tuesday 18 October to Tuesday 8 November 2011
Meals provided where specified by (B) breakfast, (L) lunch and/or (D) dinner.

Tuesday 18 October: Arrival in Madrid
Arrival at Barajas International Airport in Madrid, transfer to the hotel by bus.

Wednesday 19 October: Madrid
Sightseeing in Madrid’s historic ‘Austrias’ Quarter. (B)

Thurday 20 October: Excursion to Toledo
The Imperial city of Toledo, a beautiful, and perfectly preserved medieval city, has been declared a national monument. It is superbly situated, surrounded on three sides by the Tagus River and remains much the same as it was centuries ago, with its narrow, winding streets and little squares.

The buildings and art of Toledo reflect the three cultures of Spain—Jewish, Muslim, and Christian.

Visit the Gothic cathedral - the second largest in Spain and the Saint Tome Church, where El Greco’s masterpiece “The Burial of the Count of Orgaz” is shown. The church is a beautiful Mudejar structure. Visit the Gothic Cathedral - the second largest in Spain, nicknamed “The Lady of the Spanish Cathedrals” because of its silhouette.

The famous Roman Aqueduct is the largest and most complete piece of Roman building left in all Spain. Built by the Romans in the 1st century AD, it was still in use until the late 19th century.

Alcázar
Avila
Avila (or Avila de los Caballeros) lies 1,331 metres above sea level and is the highest provincial capital in Spain. It is built on the flat summit of a rocky hill and has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage City.

Avila is famous for its intact 2km long city wall, considered one of the best preserved in the world, and its 90 towers dating back to the 12th century. It is a remnant of the war fought between Christians and Moors for over 700 years.

Avila was the birthplace of the mystic writer Saint Teresa of Jesus (1515-82) and is an important pilgrimage site. The Gothic cathedral is integrated into the city’s defences. It was built between the 12th and 14th centuries and has the appearance of a fortress. (B, L)

Saturday 22 October: Cordoba
Train from Madrid to Cordoba, approximately 400 kms to the south. Cordoba is the former capital of Al-Andalus (the term the Moors used for the territory of Islamic Spain). As the seat of the throne of the Spanish caliphate from the year 719 AD, Cordoba was the most populated town in Europe during the 10th century. Jews, Christians and Arabs lived together in peace there for long periods of time. There are still many monuments in Cordoba that reflect this prosperous period.

The Mezquita, actually the cathedral of Cordoba, is the second biggest ‘Arab’ mosque in the world after Mecca and is one of the most famous and beautiful landmarks of Islamic architecture. The Alcazar, or the residence of the Royal family, is a magnificent backyard gardens.

The Torre de la Calahorra was built during the late 12th century by the Almohads (one of the Muslim groups who came to Spain) to protect the nearby Roman bridge on the Guadalquivir river. Free afternoon. (B)

Sunday 23 October: Cordoba
Medina Azahara (Madinat al-Zahra in Arabic), known as the Brilliant City to the Muslims, was built by Caliph Abd ar-Rahman III on the outskirts of the Cordovan countryside, northeast of the city. It is one of the most important archaeological complexes in Spain. The magnificent white city, built in steps into the hillside at the base of the Sierra Morena with the Caliph’s palace at the highest point, was designed to be seen by his subjects and foreign ambassadors for kilometres. Today only 10% of it is visible.

Right in the heart of Cordoba is the Juderia, the old Jewish quarter. It is a labyrinth of narrow little streets of whitewashed houses with windows and corners beautifully decorated with flowers. Here you can find the Synagogue, established in about 1315 and built in Mudejar (Islamic) style. (B, L)

Monday 24 October: Seville
Train from Cordoba to Seville. Free time during the day in Seville.

It would be unthinkable to spend an evening in Seville without seeing a real flamenco show since Spain is the homeland - and Seville the birthplace - of this world-famous type of folklore. We will go to Los Gallos where we will watch an outstanding flamenco show. (B)

Tuesday 25 October: Seville
Seville is a magical town and known world wide not only for the setting of three famous operas - Carmen, Don Giovanni and The Barber of Seville, but also for its amazing monuments.

The Cathedral is the largest Gothic building and the third largest Christian church on earth (after Saint Peter’s in Rome and Saint Paul’s in London). The Giralda, Seville’s landmark bell tower, was built by the Arabs in the 12th century as the minaret of the Great Mosque. Beside the Cathedral, is the Royal Fortress of Seville, the Real Alcazar. Europe’s oldest royal residence was originally Moorish, but was subsequently refurbished by Christian rulers, who added the Renaissance structure. Take a stroll through the impressive palace gardens, which are laid out in a Moorish style.

Wander through the barrio Santa Cruz - a world heritage site. It is the old Jewish and Arab quarter of Seville, with a long history, white-washed houses, and narrow arcaded squares and streets. (B)

Wednesday 26 October: Seville
Enjoy a one-hour cruise on the Guadalquivir river with outstanding views of Seville. The boats leave from the Torre del Oro, the Golden Tower, one of the most important monuments left by the Moors. (B)

Thursday 27 October 2011: Jerez de la Frontera and Cadiz
Jerez de la Frontera
Take a one-hour bus ride to Jerez de la Frontera through the hilly countryside of Andalucia. Enjoy a one-hour visit to the region’s famous bodegas (wine cellars) where products have been renowned for centuries is a ‘must’.

The history of sherry and brandy from Jerez started in the year 1730 when Pedro Domecq opened the first “bodega” in town. Afterwards discover the “Alcazar” which is a former Moorish fortress built in the 11th century. The Alcazar has a superb octagonal tower (la Torre Octogonal).

Cadiz
Cadiz, a city with more than 3,000 years of history, was founded by the Phocianins, dominated by the Carthaginians, conquered by the Romans, and later on by the Muslims, and eventually re-conquered by King Alfonso of Spain. Ample evidence of these cultures can be found today in the city’s history museum. See the city’s impressive Cathedral and the old quarter beside the harbour - a lovely area for a stroll. (B, L)

Friday 30 October: Ronda-Malaga
Bus transfer from Seville to Malaga via Ronda.

The region is extremely beautiful, characterised by Berber-style white villages tumbling down the steep slopes and many almond, citrus and fig orchards that are still tended with traditional Moorish irrigation and horticultural techniques. (B, L)

Monday 31 October: Alpujarras-Granada
Bus transfer to Granada via the Alpujarra Mountain region.

The Alpujarras region in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range was the last stronghold and refuge of the Muslims of Spain. It was the site of several bloody uprisings as the Moors were forced to choose between exile in other parts of Spain and forced conversion.

The region is extremely beautiful, characterised by Berber-style white villages tumbling down the steep slopes and many almond, citrus and fig orchards that are still tended with traditional Moorish irrigation and horticultural techniques. (B, L)

Tuesday 1 November: Granada (I)
Granada preserves all the enchantment and mystery of eight centuries of Moorish occupation which lasted until the re-conquest by the Catholic Kings in 1492. Visit the most important example of fine Islamic architecture to be found in Europe, and perhaps in the world: the Alhambra. The Alhambra is an enchanting 14th century building of countless chambers and corridors, painted tiles, tall ceilings, intricate inscriptions, elaborate carvings and quiet pools. It is simply unique and a must for any traveller in Spain. From the highest part of the Alhambra enter the Generalife, the summer residences of the Nasrid kings. There are beautiful fountains playing and pools, all set in a lovely garden full of a variety of flowers. (B)

Wednesday 2 November: Granada
A free day to explore Granada. (B)

Thursday 3 November: Granada
Ronda is Aciñeso. This was a city created for retired soldiers from the Roman legions more than 2000 years ago. The ruins include a Roman theatre still in use today. (B, L)

Saturday 29 October: Malaga
Malaga, the second largest city in Andalucia, is today a thriving port, just as it was in Phoenician times when it was known as ‘Malaka’. It was reconquered by Fernando and Isabel in 1487 as part of their final campaign but only to the Islamic presence in the Iberian Peninsula.

Visit the Cathedral, a national monument and one of the most important Spanish Renaissance buildings in Spain which took 250 years to build! The half-built second tower, abandoned in 1763 when funds ran out, gave the Cathedral the nickname La Manquita (the one-armed one).

The lengthy occupation of the area by Muslims is reflected in many buildings and architectural remains. Just behind the Cathedral is the Alcazaba, the ancient palace of the Arab Kings of Malaga which was built between the 8th, and the 11th centuries. Directly behind the Alcazaba are the ruins of the Gibralfaro Castle, a 14th century Moorish castle. From here enjoy panoramic views over the city and the Mediterranean ocean and the landscape of the Costa del Sol. (B)