

## **Bill and Cathy McArthur in Spain: 12**

**We had another fabulous day of exploring. We started with a great breakfast at our Parador Hotel in Ronda. Then we drove the back roads through the mountains to the Costa del Sol. We passed by and through several of the “Pueblos Blancos” as we wound our way through some awesome Andelusian mountain scenery. Tom did another great job of navigating with GPS and maps.**

**We followed Rick Steve’s advice on parking outside of Gibraltar and walking in. Katie and Tom had a strong desire to tour Gibraltar totally on foot. An aggressive cab driver told us we’d never be able to walk to the top. We walked up to St. Michael’s caves and ate a reasonable good lunch with a good view at the associated restaurant. Then we walked up to the summit: O’Hara’s Battery. A couple of the old nine inch guns are still up there. From the summit, we found another trail along a ridge. Katie was acting as a scout for us and checking out the trail up ahead. She was carrying a plastic bag with some water and granola bars. An ape ran up behind her and snatched the bag away. The ape and his group tore into the contents immediately. That encounter made us decide to descend from the rock. We walked back down and though the shopping area where we stopped for a snack. We got back to the car at about 5:30 PM. Our foot tour of Gibraltar took about 6.5 hours. We walked about 8 miles, some of it uphill.**

**We drove to Estepona and checked-in to our hotel, the Estepona Princess. The hotel is a resort complex and very posh, but also regimented similar to a cruise ship. It was very new and clean and had good food, but we were all glad that it was a one night stand.**

**Bill and Cathy**