



PERSONALLY CURATED SMALL GROUP & PRIVATE JOURNEYS

EUROPE 2017|18



Porto, Portugal

BEST OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL

19 Days

Discover southern Europe's diverse Iberian Peninsula and Spain & Portugal's rich culture, warm hospitality and festive spirit. This experience is designed over two separate 9-night journeys that maybe taken separately or back-to-back for a complete journey. Together, you will experience: the vibrancy of Madrid, Lisbon and Seville; 'must see' towns of Toledo, Baeza and Sintra; tastings in Spain's prestigious wine and olive oil regions; Portugal's beautiful coastline; 10 UNESCO World Heritage listed sites; and of course flamenco, paella, Fado and tapas!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

- > Flexibility to focus on Spain or Portugal or combine for a complete experience of Iberia.
- > Visit 'must see' cities of Madrid, Seville, Lisbon and Porto; charming villages in Toledo, Granada, Baeza, Ronda, Sintra and Óbidos; and Portugal's beautiful southern coastline.
- > 18 nights in exquisite 4 and 5 star hotels.
- > 18 breakfasts (B), 2 lunches (L), 2 dinners (D).
- > Guided city tours of Madrid, Toledo, Córdoba, Seville, Lisbon, Porto and Salamanca.
- > Dinner and flamenco performance in Seville.
- > Dinner and Fado show in Lisbon.
- > Lunch and tasting in Spain's prestigious wine province and in Portugal's Douro Valley.
- > Olive oil tasting in Spain's famed olive oil region.
- > Port tasting in Porto.
- > Visit 10 UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites.
- > Entrance and guided tours of Mosque of Cordoba, Palace Alhambra & Generalife, Jerónimos Monastery and Belém Tower.
- > Entrance fees to Alcázar fortress Toledo, Real Maestranza de Caballeria de Ronda, Alcázar Palace Seville, Seville Cathedral and Pena National Palace.
- > Deluxe transport.
- > Airport transfers on first and last day.

DAY 1 Madrid

Beautiful, majestic and relaxed. Welcome to Spain's capital Madrid and the start of this amazing journey to experience the best of Spain and Portugal. On arrival, transfer to your hotel to freshen up before enjoying the rest of the day to explore at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Preciados 4 star or similar

DAY 2 Madrid (B)

Enjoy a guided tour of this amazing city with its historic landmarks, beautiful gardens, bustling squares, thriving nightlife and incredible shopping. Visit Plaza de Oriente, Royal Palace of Madrid, Madrid Cathedral, Plaza de la Villa, Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol, Puerta de Alcalá and the Prado Museum. The afternoon is yours to perhaps enter Prado Museum, the Royal Palace, the exquisite gardens of Retiro Park or just relax.

Overnight: Hotel Preciados or similar

DAY 3 Madrid – Toledo – Madrid (B)

Enjoy a full day excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage town Toledo that hosted Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the Imperial City's old town located on a mountain with a 150-degree view. Visit the imposing Alcázar fortress, Toledo's impressive Cathedral, the Bridge of San Martin and the Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes. Afterward you will have time for an independent lunch and perhaps visit a Damascene steel workshop or enjoy a tasting at a Marzipan store, before returning to Madrid.

Overnight: Hotel Preciados or similar



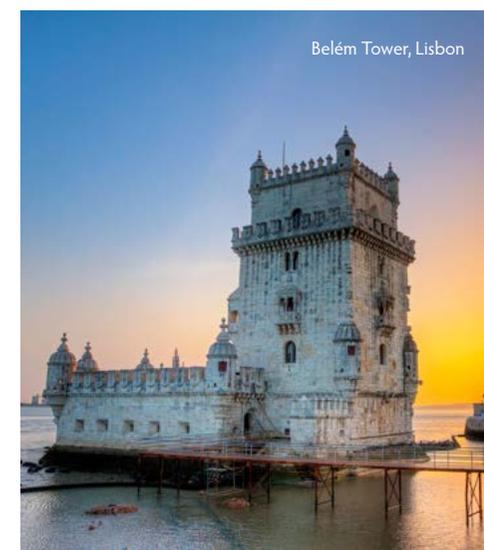
 Tour offered in reverse direction

COMBINE WITH

This tour may be taken separately (Madrid-Seville) or combined (Madrid-Madrid) for a complete experience. It may be combined with a Barcelona City Break or Provence.

PRIVATE JOURNEY

This tour may be taken any time as a private journey.



DAY 4 Madrid – Valdepeñas – Córdoba (B, L)

Today journey through Castilla–La Mancha, a symbol of Spanish culture with its vineyards, sunflowers, mushrooms and olive plantations. Stop in Valdepeñas, the centre of Spain's grape growing district, for lunch and wine tasting at a vineyard, before continuing to Córdoba.

Overnight: Hotel Balcón de Córdoba 4 star or similar

DAY 5 Córdoba (B)

After breakfast, we explore Córdoba, the most populated city in the world during the 10th century when it was the capital of an Islamic Kingdom. Enjoy a guided tour to the UNESCO World Heritage Listed old town including 'Mezquita' or the Great Mosque. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Balcón de Córdoba or similar

DAY 6 Córdoba – Úbeda – Baeza – Granada (B)

Today visit the UNESCO World Heritage Listed towns of Úbeda and Baeza, famed for their outstanding early examples of Italian Renaissance architecture introduced to Spain in the 16th Century. Enjoy time to stroll the towns and be treated to a tasting of olive oil, Andalusia's world famous export. Continue to Granada, where the evening is yours to stroll the streets of this stunning town, located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountain.

Overnight: Hotel Alhambra Palace 4 star or similar

DAY 7 Granada (B)

Enjoy a guided tour of Palace Alhambra, one of the world's most beautiful examples of Islamic architecture with its exquisite rooms and gardens. The afternoon is free to enjoy at your leisure to perhaps explore El Albayzín, the Medieval Moorish district with narrow winding streets and stunning views to Alhambra. Alhambra and Albayzín are UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites.

Overnight: Hotel Alhambra Palace or similar

DAY 8 Granada – Ronda – Seville (B, D)

Depart for the beautiful 'white village' of Ronda, perched atop a deep canyon with its three impressive bridges and Real Maestranza de Caballeria de Ronda, the oldest bullfighting ring in Spain. Enjoy some time to wander the town before continuing to Seville in Andalusia, Spain's 4th largest city and the home of Flamenco. You will have time to relax and freshen up before an organized dinner and flamenco performance.

Overnight: Gran Melia Colón 5 star or similar

DAY 9 Seville (B)

Enjoy a guided walking tour of Seville, an economic centre of the Spanish Empire with Europe's 3rd largest old town. Visit the 14th century Alcázar Palace, the oldest European royal residence still in use. Continue to Seville Cathedral, the World's largest. Both Palace and Cathedral are UNESCO World Heritage listed sites. Finish by exploring 'Barrio de Santa Cruz', the old Jewish quarter. The quarter's labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys were designed to protect locals from the summer sun. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Overnight: Gran Melia Colón or similar

DAY 10 Seville (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your ongoing journey or continue on our back-to-back journey through Portugal before returning to Madrid.

COMPLETE TOUR

DAY 10 Seville – Tavira – Albufeira

Depart for Portugal's renowned Algarve region, Portugal's most popular beach destination. Visit the historic village of Tavira that sets itself from the other seaside resorts due to its deep historic roots and unspoilt architecture featuring whitewashed houses, iconic roofs and period archways. The town is also known for its stunning soft white beaches. Afterward, we continue to Albufeira to check into your amazing beach resort.

Overnight: Pine Cliffs Hotel, a Luxury Collection Resort 5 star or similar

DAY 11 Albufeira (B)

Today enjoy the entire day to relax and explore some of Albufeira's 20 amazing beaches with breathtaking multi-hued cliffs. Alternatively, you may wish to explore further by venturing to nearby towns of Portimão and Lagos.

Overnight: Pine Cliffs Hotel, a Luxury Collection Resort or similar

DAY 12 Albufeira – Lisbon (B)

After breakfast, continue north to Portugal's capital Lisbon – one of the oldest cities in the world that dates to 1200BC. In the afternoon, enjoy a guided city sightseeing tour commencing with the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Jerónimos Monastery and Belém Tower. The monastery, now home to the Maritime and National Archaeology Museum, contains exquisite ornate features and shrine like entrances. The Belém Tower is iconic and played a significant role in Portuguese maritime discoveries. After tasting the famous Pastéis de Belém, continue to Alfama, the oldest part of city, that remains a picturesque labyrinth of narrow streets and small squares.

Overnight: Bairro Alto Hotel 5 star or similar

DAY 13 Lisbon – Sintra – Cascais – Lisbon (B)

Enjoy an excursion to Sintra, home to royal retreats, estates and castles dotted amongst the Sintra Mountains and Natural Park. This landscape is UNESCO World Heritage Listed. Visit Pena National Palace, a national monument and one of Portugal's Seven Wonders. Continue to the former fishing village of Cascais, before returning to Lisbon.

Overnight: Bairro Alto Hotel or similar

DAY 14 Lisbon (B, D)

The day is yours to explore Lisbon at your leisure. Options include visiting the shopping district of Chiado, the bustling Bairro Alto district or the Castelo de Sao Jorge for its spectacular views. In the evening, enjoy tickets to a dinner with a Fado show of traditional Portuguese music.

Overnight: Bairro Alto Hotel or similar

DAY 15 Lisbon – Óbidos – Aveiro – Porto (B)

Visit the quaint hilltop village of Óbidos. Surrounded by medieval walls, the former Roman settlement features a unique city gate decorated with intricate tiles and paintings, cobbled streets and a Moorish Castle. Continue to the charming and picturesque seaside town of Aveiro, complete with canals, small bridges and traditional building façades made of glazed ceramic tiles and painted in a variety of colours and patterns. Afterward continue to Porto, a beautiful city built on the hillside of the Douro River.

Overnight: Carris Porto Ribeira 4 star or similar

DAY 16 Porto (B)

Enjoy a guided walking tour of Porto's UNESCO World Heritage historic centre with its beautiful period buildings and winding narrow streets overlooking the Douro riverfront. The tour includes the Stock Exchange Palace, the Ribeira District and a visit and tasting to one of the town's famous underground Port cellars. The rest of the day is yours to self explore.

Overnight: Carris Porto Ribeira or similar

DAY 17 Porto – Douro Valley – Salamanca (B, L)

Depart Porto for the enchanting UNESCO World Heritage listed Alto Douro region, where landholders have been producing wine for over 2000 years. Visit a winery for a tour, wine tasting and lunch before continuing to Salamanca, the ancient Celtic/Amazonian city in northwestern Spain.

Overnight: NH Salamanca Puerta de la Catedral 4 star or similar

DAY 18 Salamanca (B)

This morning we acquaint you with Spain's most important university city with a guided sightseeing tour that includes the UNESCO World Heritage listed Old City. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore this ancient city. Options include the Art Nouveau and Art Deco museum Casa Lis, strolling the beautiful gardens of Huerto de Calixto y Melibea or visiting The University of Salamanca, Spain's oldest founded in 1134.

Overnight: NH Salamanca Puerta de la Catedral or similar

DAY 19 Salamanca – Madrid (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Madrid for your ongoing journey.



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