

# SPAIN & PORTUGAL

## Detailed Itinerary

### DAY 1, Monday - Depart for Portugal

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### DAY 2, Tuesday - Arrive in Lisbon

Arrive in captivating Lisbon, one of the oldest cities in Europe with its Moorish and Roman ruins; transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Drink and orientation with your Tour Manager and fellow travelers, followed by dinner at the hotel

**Overnight:** Lisbon

**Meals:** Dinner

### DAY 3, Wednesday - Lisbon City Tour

Today's tour of Lisbon highlights the variety of heritage and styles that make it one of Europe's most beautiful cities. You begin with a view of the treasured 16th century Belem Tower and the Jeronimos Monastery, the city's most prominent monument, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterward, visit the Cathedral of Lisbon and enjoy the elegant Liberdade Avenue. Take a walk along the winding cobblestone streets to Alfama, the old Fisherman's Quarter, nestled between the Grand Castle and the River Tagus. The afternoon is at leisure or, join the *optional* tour to quaint Sintra, the "Glorious Eden" of Lord Byron, and ancient summer retreat of the royal court, highlighted by lavish romantic castles and stunning monuments. Visit the Sintra Royal Palace, a 15th-century royal residence, containing one of the largest tile collections in Portugal. Then enjoy some free time in the Village Historical Center before returning to Lisbon

**Optional:** Half Day Sintra Tour (PM)

**Overnight:** Lisbon

**Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 4, Thursday - Travel to Seville

Depart Lisbon this morning heading South. Cross the region of Alentejo, with its rolling hills, vineyards and cork oak trees. Reach the Spanish border and enter the region of Andalucia. Continue your drive through picturesque Andalucia to Seville. After dinner, opportunity to attend an *optional* Flamenco Show in Seville, known as the birthplace of Flamenco

**Optional:** Evening Flamenco Show (PM)

**Overnight:** Seville

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 5, Friday - Seville City Tour

This morning, drive to the Plaza de España, passing Maria Luisa Park, and explore the narrow streets and many plazas of the Santa Cruz Quarter. Continue with a visit to the Cathedral of Seville, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world and home to the burial site of Christopher Columbus. Built on the site of the former great Mosque, its original minaret, the Giralda Bell Tower, still stands. The afternoon is at leisure or, join the *optional* tour to Cordoba. Founded by the Romans, it is one of the most cultured and refined cities of medieval Europe. Visit the Mezquita, a former Moorish Mosque that today is Cordoba's main Cathedral. Continue with a walking tour of the city and visit the Jewish Quarter and the medieval synagogue

**Optional:** Half Day Cordoba Tour (PM)

**Overnight:** Seville

**Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 6, Saturday - Ronda Sightseeing En Route to Costa Del Sol

This morning, head south to the dramatic cliffside city of Ronda, considered the birthplace of modern bullfighting. Start with a tour of Ronda, home to Spain's oldest bullring, the Plaza de Toros. Here, you can see the historic stables and museum along with displays of famous Matadors. Stop at lively Puerto Banus, a luxurious and bustling marina, before proceeding to the Costa del Sol

**Overnight:** Costa del Sol

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 7, Sunday - Full Day in Costa del Sol**

Enjoy a full day at leisure in Costa del Sol to enjoy all of the delights of this resort area or, join the *optional* morning tour to Malaga, the birthplace of Pablo Picasso. Visit the Picasso Museum with over 285 works donated by members of Picasso's family. View the Paseo de la Alameda, Paseo del Parque & the Barrio de la Malagueta. A walking tour through this historical town is accented by views of the Malaga Cathedral, the second highest in southern Spain. Head over to Cathedral Square before returning to Torremolinos

**Optional:** Half Day Malaga Tour (AM)

**Overnight:** Costa del Sol

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 8, Monday - Excursion to Gibraltar**

Journey to the impressive Rock of Gibraltar\*, a British Colony for over 300 years standing guard over the Strait of Gibraltar, where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean and Europe meets Africa. Enjoy a tour of the area with mini buses climbing up to see St. Michael's Cave and the famous Barbary Apes with dramatic views of both the Spanish and Moroccan coastline. Enjoy some time in the main street of town with its colonial buildings and duty-free shops. Return to the Costa del Sol for overnight

*\*Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory independent from Spain and therefore has different entry requirements. Non-US passport holders are responsible to check if a visa is required for Gibraltar in addition to all other countries on their itinerary.*

**Overnight:** Costa del Sol

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 9, Tuesday - Alhambra Palace Tour**

Depart the southern coast and journey to Moorish Granada. Your visit is highlighted by a tour of the magnificent 13th century Alhambra Palace, one of Spain's most celebrated monuments, dramatically perched atop Assabica Hill overlooking the entire city. This imposing hilltop fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the world's finest examples of Moorish art and architecture. During the reign of the Moors, the Alhambra served as the summer residence of the royal family. Walk along the lanes of the serene Generalife Gardens with its beautifully designed courtyards, waterfalls and ponds and views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.\* Tonight, dinner together at a local restaurant

**Overnight:** Granada

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 10, Wednesday - Toledo Sightseeing En Route to Madrid**

Travel via the region of La Mancha, legendary home of Don Quixote, featuring panoramic views of its famous windmills. Continue to Toledo, the former capital city of Spain that still retains its medieval atmosphere and charm. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, Toledo is known for its extensive monumental heritage and historical coexistence of Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures. A walking tour will include a visit to the Church of Santo Tomé with the masterpiece painting by El Greco and the Synagogue of Santa Maria La Blanca, the oldest synagogue in Europe still standing. Continue to Madrid and enjoy the evening at leisure

**Overnight:** Madrid

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 11, Thursday - Madrid City Tour**

This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour of Madrid. Drive along the Gran Via through the Opera District, Plaza de Colon and view the Royal Palace. Pass through Puerta del Sol Plaza and Plaza de España with its monument to the author Cervantes. The tour will end at the world renowned Prado Museum, where you will be able to view works of art by famous artists such as El Greco, Velázquez, and Ribera. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure or, join the *optional* tour to Escorial. Enjoy a visit to what has often been described as the "eighth wonder of the world". El Escorial is, perhaps, Philip II's most enduring legacy to Spain. This combination monastery-palace-mausoleum is situated approximately one hour outside of Madrid in the foothills of the Guadarrama Mountains

**Optional:** Half Day Escorial Tour (PM)

**Overnight:** Madrid

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 12, Friday - Depart Spain**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast