



Highlights of Spain & Portugal

12 Nights



Summary

Spain and Portugal are two countries with rich histories and distinct cultures, and on this best of Spain and Portugal tour, you'll see their highlights. In Spain, you'll visit Madrid, Granada, Cordoba, Seville, and Salamanca. In Portugal, you'll discover Lisbon and Porto.

One of the tour highlights is a visit to Toledo, a town that attracts more visitors from around the world than any other Spanish town.

The expert guides will highlight the must-see sights, such as Seville's Cathedral, the world's third largest church; Lisbon's Belem Tower, and Porto's cathedral.

All of this and more—including a visit with wine tasting to a local wine cellar in Montilla—await you on this fabulous Spain and Portugal tour designed for value-minded travelers.

Overview

Interest: couples, family, groups

Level of Comfort: 4/5

Minimum # of passengers: none

Maximum # of passengers: none

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Day 1: Madrid

*Upon arrival at Madrid's international airport, meet greet and transfer to the hotel
The rest of the day is for you to relax or start exploring Madrid
Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers on a dinner*

Day 2: Madrid – Toledo – Granada

*Drive south to Toledo. Spectacularly situated on a granite hill surrounded by a loop of the Tagus River, the ancient Castilian capital attracts more visitors from around the world than any other Spanish town. Visit the walled Old Town with a Local Guide and marvel at the 12th-century Church Of St. Tome, known for its large-format painting by El Greco of The Burial of the Count of Orgaz
Later, cross the Guadalquivir River and head for the olive and orange groves that dot the rolling Andalusian hills*

Day 3: Granada–Loja Montilla–Cordoba

Granada was the Arabs' most treasured city, and they still mourn its loss in their prayers. With a Local Guide, visit the Alhambra Complex, built by Moorish kings. More grand scenery this afternoon as you travel to Loja. Captured and held by the Moors, it was formerly known as Medina Lausa until it was recaptured by the Christians in 1486 during the Reconquista. Explore this "flower among thorns" before reaching Montilla to visit a local Wine Cellar and taste some of its wine. Then, continue to Cordoba on the banks of the Guadalquivir River.

Day 4: Cordoba–Ecija–Seville

Visit Ecija, an ancient town in the Andalusian countryside. Then, drive through the stunningly scenic area of Pueblos Blancos - the "White-Washed Villages of Andalusia." This picturesque region is famous for the deep El Tajo Gorge that literally cuts it in two, and is the birthplace of modern bullfighting. On to vibrant, festive Seville.

Day 5: Seville

Get to know Seville. Capital of Andalusia and the cultural and financial center of southern Spain, colorful Seville has much to offer: the Cathedral of Seville, the third-largest church in the world after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's in London; the beautiful La Giralda minaret tower, a symbol of Seville; the Real Alcázar palace with its extravagant architecture and opulent gardens; Plaza de España, used in the filming of Episodes I and II in the Star Wars trilogy; and so much more.

Day 6: Seville–Evora, Portugal–Lisbon

Enjoy the scenery of the Sierra de Aracena before crossing into Portugal and the fertile plains of the Alentejo. Admire the forest of cork trees and make a stop to visit Evora, a delightfully attractive Moorish city with arches, alleys, flower-decked balconies, brilliant white houses, and the Temple of Diana. Continue to Lisbon.

Day 7: Lisbon

Henry the Navigator made Lisbon the 15th-century "Mistress of the Seas." You'll see his monument, the Belem Tower, the Moorish Citadel, the impressive Black Horse Square, and other highlights on the guided sightseeing tour. Spend the afternoon at leisure in the Alfama's tile-decorated streets, or take an optional excursion along the Estoril Coast to Cascais and Sintra.

Day 8: Lisbon - Fatima - Coimbra - Porto

Stop in Fátima to visit its world-famous Shrine, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Continue to Coimbra, known for its university, one of the oldest in Europe, and to Oporto on the northern bank of the Douro River.

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Day 9: Porto

Today you will discover Porto's highlights. See its historical cathedral, overlooking the Port wine cellars along the banks of the Douro River

Day 10: Porto - Salamanca, Spain

Enjoy the profusion of woodlands and mountains on your return to Spain via the scenic Douro Valley. Reach the ancient and beautiful university town of Salamanca in the early evening and maybe take a stroll in the Plaza Mayor.

Day 11: Salamanca - Avila - Segovia - Madrid

Journey to fortified Avila with its many towers and visit St. Theresa's convent before continuing to Segovia, a medieval town picturesquely set on a rocky hill. Spend some time in Segovia before crossing the boundary between new and old Castile to arrive in Madrid.

Day 12: Madrid

Not only is it the capital of Spain, but because it is situated 2,180 feet above sea level, the Spaniards say Madrid is the nearest thing to Heaven. The day is dedicated to discover Madrid's main highlights on the included guided city tour.

Day 13: Madrid

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of package suggestions our destination specialists can propose. Make an appointment to order to customize it as per your needs and get a detailed quotation.

CODE: ES-2019-HIGHLIGHTS OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL

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