

SPAIN & PORTUGAL

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 9, 2018



DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN LISBON

Welcome to Lisbon! The rest of the day is free so you can start exploring the magnificent city center on your own, dine in one of the local restaurants or take a good rest in your comfortable room.

In the evening you are invited for a welcome cocktail and dinner meeting to start off your South European experience.

DAY 2: LISBON OLD TOWN TOUR & VISIT OF THE BELEM QUARTER

After breakfast you meet your guide and driver, and go on a 4-hour sightseeing tour of Lisbon.

During the tour you visit both the old and new towns with its most famous attractions, including Rossio Square, Restauradores Square with the Obelisk commemorating the Restoration of Portugal's independence from Spain in 1640, the charming neighborhood of Chiado abundant in old cafes, shops and theaters, and the Lisbon's Se Cathedral - the city's oldest church.

Then you proceed to Commerce Square where you learn how the city was destroyed in 1755 by a massive earthquake, and then totally rebuilt to become the city of today. You finish the tour with a walk at the Belem Quarter, where you see the Monument to the Discoveries and the ancient Belem Tower. You then return to your hotel and have the rest of the day free. In the evening you are invited to enjoy a delicious local dinner with a traditional Fado show elements.

DAY 3: CASTLES OF SINTRA, CABO DA ROCA & CASCAIS

Following breakfast you meet your guide and driver who take you on an exciting day-trip to one of Portugal's most beautiful destinations - Sintra, that is famous for its fairy-tale castles and beautiful scenery.

Upon arrival you enjoy a guided walking tour of the historical center of Sintra and have some free time to buy some traditional souvenirs or visit the National Palace of Sintra on your own (tickets not included).

Then you proceed to the Moorish Castle - the historical 9th-century fortress built by Moors, where you spend some time walking to the castle walls to be awarded with breathtaking views of Sintra. After that you visit the fairytale National Palace of Pena to see its most interesting halls and rooms, including the Arab Room and the Queen's Throne room.

You then continue your journey through the beautiful landscapes of Sintra-Cascais Natural Park to Cabo da Roca - the westernmost point in Europe, "where the land ends and sea begins". You make a stop there to enjoy the views and take advantage of the excellent photo opportunities.

Passing by the Boca do Inferno cliff you finally arrive at Cascais - the charming 12th-century coastal town, where you have free time to wander around its historical center or take a relaxing walk at the beach.

After the tour you are transferred back to your hotel in Lisbon. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

DAY 4: PENICHE OR NAZARE, FATIMA & TOMAR CASTLE

In the morning following breakfast you check-out from your hotel in Lisbon, your driver meets you at your hotel and takes you to a beautiful coastal city of Nazare or Peniche. Peniche - one of the largest traditional fishing ports in Portugal and a major Atlantic hub for maritime-tourist activities. Nazare beach with its natural beauty, as well has one of the most ancient traditions connected to fishing in Portugal.

After lunch break you proceed to Fatima - famous for its Sanctuary of Fatima that is the largest place of worship in Portugal. The day is crowned with a visit to Convent of Christ (Tomar castle) - former Roman Catholic convent/monastery, that was originally a 12th century stronghold, just a 20-minute ride away from Fatima. After the sightseeing day, evening is at your own leisure.

DAY 5: SEVILLE VIA ALGARVE

In the morning your private driver meets you at your hotel and you embark on a day-trip to Spain towards your next destination - Seville. Enjoy the scenic ride along the beautiful beaches area of Portugal and famous Algarve region.

First stop of the day - visit to the town of Azeitao and the local "Old Jose Maria da Fonseca" vineyard for the local wine cultura experience. You then continue along the way with few more brief sightseeing stops to enjoy Albufeira or Faro.

Albufeira - one of the last Moorish towns in Southern Portugal to fall into the hands of Christians in the 13th century. Enjoy its picturesque Old Town quarter and the Avenida Francisco Sá Carneiro area known as "The Strip." Faro has an attractive marina, well-maintained parks

and plazas, and a historic old town full of pedestrian lanes and outdoor cafes. You will enjoy a brief tour around marvelously preserved medieval quarters harbour.

Last stop before reaching Spain - Olhão - full of character with Moorish-style houses, an influence from the commercial links with Africa. In the evening you reach your last destination of the day. Welcome to the fiery Spanish city - Seville!

DAY 6: SEVILLE CATHEDRAL & ALCAZAR

After breakfast you meet with your guide in hotel lobby and have a panoramic city tour of Seville. Experience authentic Andalusian spirit in one of its most important cities. Your sightseeing program features top sights including the symbol of the city - Columbus Tomb, the Giralda Tower, and visit to the Seville Cathedral and the Real Alcazar of Seville - the oldest European royal residence composed of a group of buildings from different time periods (entrances included).

You will explore the Old Santa Cruz Quarter, the university and Maria Luisa Park. Your tour finishes at a scenic Plaza de Espana - a dazzling palace complex dating back to the epoch of Renaissance and considered to be among the most beautiful complexes of its kind in the world.

After the tour you return to your hotel and have the rest of the day free. In the evening you are invited to enjoy traditional local Flamenco show along with local Spanish dinner. One of the highlights - carriage ride transfer to and back from the dinner with show.

DAY 7: VISIT TO CORDOBA & GRANADA

Following breakfast you check out from your hotel and go to the rail station (transfer not included) for your 1-hour train ride to Cordoba (second class tickets are included).

Upon arrival you are transferred to your downtown hotel to leave your luggage. You then enjoy a 3-hour guided tour around the most outstanding sights of Cordoba that used to be the largest city of Roman Spain.

While exploring the city with your guide you see the beautiful Roman Bridge, the famous 14th-century Royal Castle - Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos, the Great Mosque of Cordoba that is the oldest mosque in Europe, and also have lunch in a local restaurant. After touring, transfer to Granada.

DAY 8: ALHAMBRA PALACE WITH GRANADA TOUR & VALENCIA WITH PAELLA CLASS

After breakfast, you will enjoy a wonderful 3-hour sightseeing tour of Granada, known as the last stronghold of the Moors in Western Europe full of numerous historical sights and medieval architecture. You will explore the Arabian Baths as well as the Palacio Nazareth the Generalife waterfalls and gardens.

The second part of the program is dedicated to one of the main treasures of Granada and one of Spain's most visited attractions - the Alhambra Fortress that used to be the residence of the Muslim rulers and their court. Get awe-inspired by its numerous arabesques, porticos, pools and Islamic ornamental masterpieces of its hallways during your 3-hour tour.

The day is crowned with a private Paella cooking class with local chef. Paella is one of the most famous dishes representing authentic Spanish cuisine. The best part of this delicious and nutritious dish with rice is that its ingredients can be accustomed to every taste. Locals include their favorites: seafood, fresh vegetables, best spices and a dash of lemon. You will discover the secrets of Spain's traditional culinary delight and learn to cook it together with a professional chef during an entertaining cooking class.

DAY 9: VALENCIA TOUR & WINE RESORT

In the morning, head to Valencia.. Upon arrival, enjoy a guided tour of the famous City of Arts and Science. One of the most impressive futuristic complexes in the world!

This scientific and cultural leisure complex covering around two kilometers of the former riverbed of the River Turia has been included on the list of 12 Treasures of Spain along other highlights you visit on your tour. Your next visit - Lladro City of Porcelain. Enjoy a cultural journey around about the history of porcelain and the steps of Lladró manufacture process, from the origins of the family and the first figurines, the creative process, inspiration, the creation of the piece and the modelling. During the complete journey around the factory, it is showed to the visitor, all the steps of the elaboration process of the porcelain figurines. Your sightseeing tour is crowned with a relaxing and scenic boat ride along the canals of Valencia.

After lunch, head to the Wine resort located in the prestigious Penedès vineyard. Upon arrival, you check-in at your hotel and enjoy delicious local dinner with a local wine tasting session.

DAY 10: BARCELONA CITY TOUR & DINNER

After breakfast, continue to Barcelona, the Catalanian capital. Upon arrival enjoy a sightseeing tour around Barcelona Old Town. During the tour you walk through the Gothic Quarter, go inside the Barcelona Cathedral, pass through the former Jewish District, St. Jaume Square and Square of the King, see the Generalitat Palace, the City Hall and the former Royal Palace (from the outside), and explore the Ribera Shore District where you see the Santa María del Mar Church.

You will also see the famous Batillo House as well as Columbus Monument located at the lower end of La Rambla. Then you will have free time to enjoy the Montjuïc Park. This little world of history, gardens, museums, cultural centres and Olympic facilities makes it unique.

After the break you continue with a visit to the colorful Park Guell, where you spend some time strolling through its mosaic paths and enjoying the great city views. The day is crowned with a visit to the astonishing Sagrada Familia Basilica - the most brilliant masterpiece of Gaudi that is rightfully considered the most recognizable symbol of Barcelona.

In the evening, together with your group and the tour leader enjoy a farewell dinner (included) at the local Spanish restaurant in Barcelona.

DAY 11: DEPARTURE FROM BARCELONA

What's included

Top choice of centrally located hotels in each city: Lisbon, Seville, Granada, Valencia and Barcelona;
Buffet breakfast daily at your hotels;
Private tour leader for the whole trip;
Private coach vehicle for transportation along the itinerary;
All museum and landmarks entrances fees with no-line admission;
Fado Show with dinner;
Welcome cocktail and dinner evening;
Flamenco Dance show with dinner in Seville and Granada;
All tourist fees & taxes;
Emergency support for the assistance during the trip.

Not included: international airfares, insurance, personal expenses and tips/gratuities.

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