



# GRAND TOUR OF SPAIN



*Educational  
Tours*

→ Discover the Global Classroom

17 or 20 DAYS

# Grand Tour of Spain

Spain • Extension to Portugal



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Some compare the art of flamenco dance to the artistry of *toreros*, Spanish bullfighters, who engage in a sort of dance with the bull.

## Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 15 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (17 with extension); plus 1 night couchette accommodations with extension
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 6 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Madrid • Burgos • San Sebastián • Barcelona Granada • Seville
- 2 sightseeing tours led by your tour director: Pamplona • Valencia
- 1 walking tour: Seville
- 1 orientation tour: Madrid
- 13 visits to special attractions: Prado • Royal Palace • Santo Domingo de Silos Burgos Cathedral • Guggenheim Museum Monte Igueldo • Parque Guell • Valencia aquarium Alhambra • Seville Alcázar • Seville Cathedral Real Maestranza bullring • Mezquita

## OPTIONAL:

- Figueras
- Morocco
- Seville Flamenco Evening
- El Escorial and Segovia

## EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Lisbon
- 1 walking tour: Lisbon
- 3 visits to special attractions: Castelo de São Jorge • Mosteiro dos Jerónimos. Palácio Nacional de Sintra

## Day 1 Flight

**Overnight flight to Spain** • Relax as you fly through the night across the Atlantic.

## Day 2 Madrid

**Arrival in Madrid** • Touch down in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

**Madrid orientation tour** • Your tour director shows you Madrid. Travel back in time to Spain's Golden Age, when painters such as Goya and Velázquez ruled and the Royal Court reigned. Get acquainted with the center of Iberia and its biggest draw—the friendly *madriñeños* who inhabit the cafés, *tascas* and flea markets that pack the city. And discover what makes Pedro Almodóvar want to immortalize the Madrid scene in his films.

**Visit to the Prado** • Visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with works collected by the Spanish monarchy. One of its most famous paintings is *Las Meninas* by Velázquez. You'll also find Goya's paired canvases *The Clothed Maja* and *The Naked Maja*, along with works by Bosch, El Greco and many others.

## Day 3 Madrid

**Guided sightseeing of Madrid** • Your sightseeing adventure begins with a panoramic tour of Spain's capital city. At the Puerta del Sol, the center of Madrid, pass through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This grand square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to royal weddings to public

executions. Continue to the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Next, you will explore this magnificent palace, built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 rooms, including one with extravagant ceramic walls. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible variety of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

## Day 4 Madrid • Burgos

**Transfer via Santo Domingo de Silos** • Journey through the rolling hills of the peaceful Castilian countryside to Santo Domingo de Silos, a Benedictine monastery whose role in Spanish history began when one of its monks was the first person to write in Spanish (before that, only Latin was used as Spain's written language). At the heart of the monastery, you'll see a stunning Romanesque cloister adorned with a parade of sculpted forest creatures. Listen for the strains of Santo Domingo de Silos' world-famous monks' choir as you stroll amidst the grounds.

**Arrival in Burgos** • Continue on to Burgos, a town renowned for its connections with El Cid (whose name means "the lord" in Arabic). This legendary leader, who spent most of his life in Burgos (and was ultimately buried here), freed Valencia from the Moors in the 11th century.

**Guided sightseeing of Burgos** • As you pass by the town's medieval architecture, try to imagine the pilgrims who traversed Burgos

on their way to Santiago during the Middle Ages. The Arco de Santa María, Burgos's last surviving medieval gate, once ushered visitors through the city's walls. Today, it is adorned with a statue of El Cid as well as a statue of Emperador Karl V. Ferdinand and Isabella welcomed Columbus back to Spain—after his second journey to the New World—at the 15th-century Casa del Cordón.

**Visit to the cathedral of Burgos** • Enjoy a visit to the cathedral of Burgos, the town's premier landmark. This Gothic structure with its stone spires dates back to the 13th century. The cathedral houses the tomb of El Cid as well as a painting of Mary Magdalene by Leonardo da Vinci.

#### Day 5 Burgos • Bilbao

**Transfer to Bilbao** • Journey to the heart of Basque Country (or Euskadi, as the natives call it) to Bilbao, a city nestled at the foot of the Pyrenees. Tonight, savor a traditional pintxos dinner, the Basque region's form of tapas, small appetizer-like plates featuring a wide array of meat, vegetables, bread and cheese.

**Visit the Guggenheim Museum** • Visit Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum of modern and contemporary art. Designed by Frank Gehry, the building is an internationally renowned architectural masterpiece. Its fanciful walls of titanium, limestone and glass surround a vast collection of 20th-century art, including works by Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock.

#### Day 6 San Sebastián

**Guided excursion to San Sebastián** • From the top of Monte Igueldo, take in the beautiful scenery of San Sebastián, a town sandwiched between the mountains and the sea. Stroll down Playa de la Concha and through the town's old quarter, where Isabel II spent her vacations. Napoleon III and Bismarck both spent time in San Sebastián as well. While in the Old Town, look for numbers on the balconies above—these used to be ringside seats for bullfights. (Please note: Depending on weather conditions, groups may visit Monte Urgull instead of Monte Igueldo for views of San Sebastián.)

#### Day 7 Bilbao • Barcelona

**Tour director-led sightseeing of Pamplona** • Travel through Pamplona, a town best known for its annual Fiesta de San Fermín, and for the running of the bulls. This dangerous but exciting tradition is said to have started in the 13th century as a way to move the animals through the town to be sold at the market. Ernest Hemingway set his novel *The Sun Also Rises* amid the bullfights of Pamplona.

**Arrival in Barcelona** • Arrive in Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of Cataluña. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Barcelona played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain's monarchy in 1931 and was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939.

#### Day 8 Barcelona

**Guided sightseeing of Barcelona** • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still-unfinished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family), where you will make a photo stop. This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You will also see some of Gaudí's other works during our panoramic bus tour of Paseo de Gracia, one of Spain's most cosmopolitan streets. Check out Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España, a bustling six-street intersection that boasts the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, a fountain that puts on a fabulous show of water, lights and music on the weekends. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place. Here, you will see the former stadium and the Olympic Rings. Continue to the Plaza de Colon, a square built in honor of Christopher Columbus ("Columbus" is *Colon* in Spanish). Finish your tour in the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city and home to the stunning Barcelona Cathedral, built in the Mediterranean Gothic style.

**Visit to Parque Guell** • You'll also visit the Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. The beautifully landscaped park is decorated with playful Modernist mosaics. Visit the Room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu, where Gaudí lived from 1906 to 1926.

**Optional excursion to Figueras** • Join an exciting full-day optional excursion to Figueras, a fascinating Catalan city on the exquisite Costa Brava. You'll visit a one-of-a-kind theater museum dedicated to the surrealist world of renowned Spanish painter Salvador Dalí. The Museu Dalí is the most visited museum in Spain after the Prado and a true delight for everyone who appreciates absurdity, fantasy and participation. Converted from an old theater in 1974, Salvador Dalí created the museum as a repository for some of his most famous works, including *Soft Self-Portrait with Fried Bacon*, *Port Alger* and *The Girl from*

*Figueras*. Don't miss the living room designed as "The Face of Mae West," with the famous red sofa as her lips.

#### Day 9 Barcelona • Valencia

**Visit to the aquarium** • Housed in the City of Arts and Sciences—a large educational complex, complete with an Imax theater, planetarium, arboretum and center for performing arts—Valencia's aquarium is the largest aquarium in Europe, home to more than 500 species of animals. You can watch a dolphin show or leisurely explore the premises by walking through the underwater tubes, which connect the different habitats. With so many animals on display, you're sure to see marine life that you have never seen before.

#### Day 10 Valencia • Granada

**Transfer to Granada** • Arrive in Granada. Located at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, it was the last bastion of Moorish rule in Spain.

#### Day 11 Granada • Costa del Sol

**Guided sightseeing of Granada** • Tour Spain's most celebrated building: Granada's 14th-century Alhambra. See the exotic mosaics and richly ornamented courtyards of the country's last Moorish stronghold. Here, Christopher Columbus discussed with the king his plans for sailing to India. Then walk in the footsteps of sultans as you tour the Generalife—a 14th-century palace surrounded by magnificent rose gardens—where they often spent their summers. (Please note: Because of the Alhambra's extreme popularity, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons.)

**Transfer to the Costa del Sol** • Travel to the Costa del Sol.

#### Day 12 Morocco • Costa del Sol

**Optional excursion to Morocco** • Join our full-day optional excursion to Morocco. Ferry

La Sagrada Familia is an icon of Barcelona.



across the Strait of Gibraltar and enter a world of mosques, camels, snake charmers and bustling markets. You'll travel to Tetouan, a serene North African town whose culture and architecture reflect the area's Moorish past. See the Andalusian and Islamic-influenced architecture as a local guide leads you through the medina. You'll also hear presentations at a carpet bazaar and a local spice shop before enjoying an included lunch of traditional Moroccan cuisine.

#### Day 13 Costa del Sol • Seville

**Transfer to Seville** • Arrive in Seville—capital of Andalusia, birthplace of Velázquez and host of the 1992 World's Fair. If you arrive in spring, Seville will greet you with the sweet fragrance of orange blossoms.

**Optional Flamenco Evening** • To better understand the soul of Spain, opt to attend a flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco is a passionate display of intricate heelwork and clapping, accompanied by songs and guitar.

#### Day 14 Seville

**Guided sightseeing of Seville** • Hispalis, as Seville was called in Roman times, is situated on the banks of the Río Guadalquivir and is Spain's only river port. See the Old Tobacco Factory, setting of Bizet's opera *Carmen*, and pass the Plaza de Toros, one of Spain's preeminent bullrings. Then visit Maria Louisa Park to view the beautiful mosaics of Plaza de España, built for the 1929 Ibero-American Fair. Next, walk through the twisting alleys of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, Seville's old Jewish Quarter. The whitewashed houses with sand-colored trim are typical of Sevillian-style architecture, and many are still among Seville's most desirable homes. Top off your tour with a guided visit to the Moorish Alcázar. Built for Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century, it is one of the purest examples of *mudéjar* architecture in the world. On Mondays, when the Moorish Alcázar is closed, groups will visit the Casa de Pilatos, an early Andalusian palace with lovely gardens.

**Guided visit to Seville's Cathedral** • Columbus landed in Seville upon returning from his first voyage in 1493. Pay tribute at his grave inside the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral, the third largest in the world. Then climb the cathedral's Giralda Tower for a spec-

tacular view of the city below.

**Walking tour of Seville** • Our walking tour begins at the base of the Giralda Tower, Seville's best-known symbol. Make your way toward the 12th-century Torre del Oro, built to defend the river entrance to Seville. Then head for the Plaza de Toros.

#### Day 15 Seville • Madrid

**Visit to the Mezquita in Córdoba** • On your way back to Madrid, stop in Córdoba and visit the 8th-century Mezquita, formerly the largest mosque west of Mecca. Córdoba was once a sacred Muslim city and one of the world's great centers of learning. At its height, it was home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths and 70 libraries.

**Transfer via Puerto Lápice** • Travel through La Mancha, the region in which Cervantes' Don Quixote chased windmills. Stop in picturesque Puerto Lápice, where travelers in centuries past found sustenance as they fed and watered their horses.

**Arrival in Madrid** • Return to Madrid.

#### Day 16 Madrid

**Optional El Escorial and Segovia** • Opt to participate in a full-day journey into the Castilian countryside. First stop is the beautiful medieval city of Segovia, where Isabella was declared queen in 1474. Tour the 14th-century Alcázar fortress, where Christopher Columbus made out his will. Later, step inside the town's golden cathedral and Roman aqueduct; dating from the first century, it was used until 1983. Then proceed to El Escorial, known to Spaniards as "the eighth wonder of the world." In this royal city created by Philip II, see the king's deathbed and the tombs of the majority of past kings and queens of Spain. This enormous Renaissance palace boasts 16 courtyards, 2,673 windows, 1,250 doors, 86 staircases and 88 fountains. Return to Madrid in the late afternoon.

**Free time in Madrid** • Alternatively, you'll have free time to become better acquainted with Madrid on your own. You might wish to visit museums, view the city's many monuments and churches, walk through outdoor plazas or sample tapas at a café.

#### Day 17 Home

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check

in for your return flight home.

#### EXTENSION

##### Day 17 Madrid • Lisbon

**Free Time in Madrid** • Alternatively, extend your stay and enjoy free time in Madrid.

**Transfer to Lisbon** • Tonight, board an over-night train to the Portuguese capital.

##### Day 18 Lisbon

**Arrival in Lisbon** • Disembark in Lisbon, and transfer to your hotel.

**Guided sightseeing of Lisbon** • Recall the Age of Discovery at Padrão dos Descobrimentos and the Torre de Belém, where many navigators, including Bartolomeu Dias, set sail around the world. Visit the Castelo de São Jorge, Lisbon's oldest monument. The early kings of Portugal once resided here, enjoying views of the city and the Tagus River below.

**Visit to the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos** • Further relive the days when Portugal was a great trading empire as you visit the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, built by King Manoel to honor the country's great voyagers. Here the king lies buried, along with Vasco da Gama, who sailed from Portugal in 1497 and discovered a sea route to India.

**Walking tour of Lisbon** • Experience Old World atmosphere as you stroll through the labyrinth of winding streets in Lisbon's age-old Moorish Alfama district. Discover the hidden balconies, archways, terraces and courtyards of this hillside medieval quarter as you explore Lisbon's former center of Moorish aristocracy.

##### Day 19 Lisbon

**Guided excursion to Sintra and Cascais** • Enjoy a guided excursion to hillside Sintra. Here, you'll visit the Palácio Nacional de Sintra, whose two conical chimneys reign as the town's most recognizable landmarks. Head to the beaches of Cascais on the Costa de Lisboa. You'll also take a walk along the coastal road to the so-called Boca do Inferno (Mouth of Hell), where waves thunder into gigantic caves carved into the rock.

##### Day 20 Home

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the **Booking Conditions**.



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Itinerary subject to change.

## Discover the Global Classroom



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