



15 days / 14 nights

IBERIAN TOUR



1st day – Madrid

Reception at the airport and transfer to the hotel.

Free time for first impressions of the beautiful Spanish capital Madrid.

Dinner at the hotel.

2nd day – Madrid

Breakfast at the hotel, and leave for sightseeing tour of Madrid, visiting its main neighbourhoods and monuments:

Plaza de Espanha with the monument to Cervantes; the *Gran Vía*; *Plaza de Cibeles*; *Paseo del Prado*, with its famous museum; the old *Atocha* railway station, today adorned with a beautiful tropical garden; the *El Retiro Park*; the *Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas*, the most beautiful in Spain; the *Paseo de la Castellana*; th *Plaza de la Puerta del Sol*; and the *Plaza de Oriente*, with the *Royal Palace*, the *Royal Theater* and the statue of Philip IV. In the afternoon, you will visit the surroundings of Madrid, the *Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial* and the *Valle de Los Caídos*. Dinner and overnight.



3rd day – Madrid / Toledo / Aranjuez / Madrid

Breakfast at the hotel, and leave fo half day tour to the fortified city of Toledo, ancient capital of Spain, that reached

its apogee in the 14th and 15th centuries, and is now a museum city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lunch in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, visit to Aranjuez, the romantic site where the Royal Palace of Carlos III was built. Return to Madrid.

In the evening, we suggest a dinner with a show of classic flamenco ballet. (Optional, not included.)

Overnight.

4th day – Madrid / Zaragoza / Barcelona

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and leave in a high speed train and stop in Zaragoza.

Free time for a visit to the famous *Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar*, built on the same spot where Our Lady appeared twice to the Apostle Santiago, and where he ordered the construction of the first church which was later transformed into an impressive cathedral whose ceiling is decorated with Goya's frescoes. Lunch in a local restaurant.

Continuation to Barcelona by high speed train. Arrival in Barcelona. Dinner and overnight.

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5th day – Barcelona

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, sightseeing tour of the Catalan capital: the famous *Barrio Gótico*, the oldest in the city, called so because of the large number of Gothic buildings there; *Las Ramblas*, the lively central boulevard of the city; *Plaça de Catalunya*; *Passeig de Gràcia*; the *Casas Milà (La Pedrera)* and *Batló*, both masterpieces by Gaudi; the *Sagrada Família*, a beautiful example of Gaudi's modernist architecture; the *Parc de Montjuic*; and the Olympic Stadium.

Rest of the day at leisure to keep on exploring the beauties of Barcelona. We suggest an optional excursion to the Picasso Museum and the Parc Guell, beautiful park located in the northern part of Barcelona, decorated by Gaudi and which was his most colorful work, today also a World Heritage Site.

This evening you can attend a gastronomic dinner in a Catalan restaurant, with a brief evening stroll. Overnight.



6th day – Barcelona / Terragona / Castellón de la Plana / Valencia

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and departure to Valencia, known as the City of Arts and Sciences. We will pass through Terragona, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with great historical and cultural traditions. We will take a quick tour, passing through *Castellón De La Plana*. Continuation of the trip to Valencia, where we will take a short tour.

Dinner and overnight.

7th day – Valencia / Murcia / Granada

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and departure for Granada, with a stop in Murcia for lunch. Arrival and visit to the Alhambra Palace, UNESCO World Heritage Site and jewel of Islamic civil architecture. This palace was one of the nominees for the Seven New Wonders of the World. We recommend a visit to the Cathedral and the Royal Chapel where the remains of the Catholic Kings are.

Dinner and overnight.



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8th day – Granada / Cordoba / Seville

Breakfast at the hotel and check out. Drive to Cordoba, where we will take a sightseeing tour of the city and to the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, the most important mosque outside the Islamic World at one time, and now a World Heritage Site. Lunch at a local restaurant.

Continuation to Seville, the beautiful Andalusian capital, located on the shores of the Guadalquivir River and once one of the richest cities in Europe, due to Spain's monopoly of commercial trades with the New World.

In the evening, possibility to attend a typical flamenco show. (Optional, not included)

Dinner at the hotel and overnight.



9th day – Seville

After breakfast, a city tour: María Luisa Park, where several buildings were constructed for the Ibero-American Exposition of 1929, including the *Plaza de España*, considered the most spectacular; the Cathedral of Santa Maria de Sede, the largest gothic building in the world, where the tomb of Christopher Columbus is located (entrance); the Giralda, a ancient

mosque minaret later converted into the bell tower of the Cathedral; the Alcazar, former residence of the sultans of Seville; and the fascinating Jewish neighborhood of Santa Cruz. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight.

10th day – Seville / Algarve

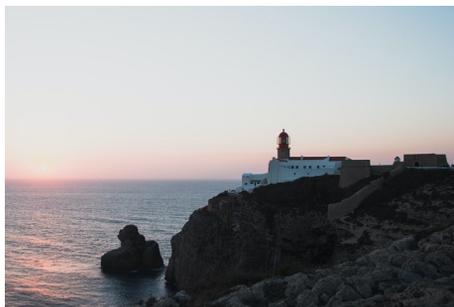
Breakfast at the hotel and check out and departure towards Portugal, crossing the bridge of the Guadiana River and the border of the two countries.

We will start by visiting Tavira and Olhão, city known as the "Cubist City" (in the historical part of the city, the houses have a cubic shape with traditional roofs and worked chimneys). We will embark for a walk through the Ria Formosa, one of the ecological treasures of the Algarve, passing by the islands and ending in Faro.

Free lunch and time to visit the historical part of the city.

After the visit, continuation to Albufeira, passing through Vilamoura, famous for its Marina and Casino.

Dinner at the hotel and overnight.



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11th day – Albufeira / Sagres / Lagos / Portimão / Silves / Albufeira

Breakfast at the hotel and departure towards Cape Saint Vincent, a place of obligatory passage for maritime traffic from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean.

Stop in Sagres to visit Escola Superior Náutica Infante D. Henrique, founded by Infante D. Henrique and that started the Portuguese Discoveries.

Stop in Lagos, city that was an important commercial port until the XVI century. Continue to Portimão and free time for lunch.

Continue to Silves, the last Islamic kingdom to be conquered in Portugal, and visits to the Castle with the Cistern and the Cathedral.

After the visit, we will visit a winery, to learn about and taste the wines that are produced in this region.

Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

12th day – Albufeira / Évora / Monsaraz

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and departure towards Alentejo.

Arrival in Évora, city considered World Heritage by UNESCO, and walking tour of the historic part, passing through the Temple of Diana, Cathedral, Giraldo Square and São

Francisco Church, where you can visit the Chapel of Bones. Free time for lunch.

In the afternoon we will visit the village of Monsaraz, ending the visit in one of the cellars of the region to taste the famous wines that are produced there. After the visit, return to Évora.

Dinner at the hotel and overnight.

13th day – Évora / Tomar / Fátima / Óbidos / Lisboa

Breakfast at the hotel, check out and departure heading to Tomar.

Arrive in this city that was once the headquarters of the religious orders of the Templars and Christ. Visit to the Convent of Christ, built between the 12th and 18th centuries, where the Manueline Window of the Chapter Room and the Charola stand out. After the visit, continuation to Fátima. Free time for lunch. Visit to one of the most important Marian Shrines in the world.

At a time to be determined, you will continue to Óbidos and visit this medieval town, where you can stroll through its streets, visit the Church of Santa Maria, with the fresco of Josefa de Óbidos, and taste the famous ginjinha. After the visit we will continue to Lisboa.

Dinner at the hotel and overnight.



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14th day– Lisboa / Cabo da Roca / Cascais / Estoril / Lisboa

Breakfast at the hotel and leave for a private sightseeing tour of the most important points of interest in the city: Belém Tower, Jerónimos Monastery, etc.... Free time to lunch.

In the afternoon, tour to the beautiful village of Sintra and its beautiful mountains; to the famous Cabo da Roca, the westernmost point of the European Continent; to the beautiful village of Cascais and the cosmopolitan town of Estoril, where you can find the Estoril Casino, one of the biggest in Europe. Return to Lisbon. At night, dinner at a fado house. Return to the hotel and overnight.



15th day– Lisboa

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

At a time to be determined locally, transfer to the airport.



Included

- 14 nights in 4* hotels in double room
- Meals (13 breakfasts + 14 lunches + 14 dinners)
- Modern transportation with driver during the whole itinerary
- Tour leader during the whole itinerary
- Entrance fees: Cathedral (Barcelona); Alhambra (Granada); Cathedral, Alcazar (Seville); Escola Superior Náutica Infante D. Henrique (Sagres)

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