



LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY Best Of Spain And Portugal

INCLUDED WITH EVERY LUXURY TAILOR MADE JOURNEY

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Boutique Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

DAY 1 ○ WELCOME TO MADRID.

Your transfer will depart Madrid airport at 09:00, 11:00, 13:30 or 16:00. Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant and get to know your fellow travellers over a beautiful evening of delicious food and wine.

Barceló Torre de Madrid
Or Similar
Meals:

DAY 2 ○ MADRID OF THE BOURBONS.

Enjoy sightseeing with your Local Expert as they take you along the main historical areas in the Capital of Spain known as Madrid of the Bourbons. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter discovering the origins of the city. A highlight of your trip is a visit to the magnificent Prado Museum with an art historian to admire the paintings of Velázquez, Goya and many others.

Next, we visit the ancient Austrian quarter, and the famous Plaza Mayor, Madrid's grand central square. All of this sightseeing will make us hungry - so we will enjoy a "tapas lunch" near Plaza Mayor.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

MADRID BY NIGHT WITH DINNER

Enjoy an evening out in the nation's stately capital city. Tonight we'll enjoy a wonderful dinner in the town in a carefully chosen venue, accompanied by Spanish wine and great local entertainment and finish up with a spin around some of the wonderful squares and fountains of magical Madrid.

Barceló Torre de Madrid
Or Similar
Meals: Breakfast

YOUR JOURNEY



DAY 3 ○ MADRID-TOLEDO-SALAMANCA

Travel to the unique city Toledo. It is known as the city of 3 cultures due to the influence of Islamic, Hebrew and Christian occupants. We visit the Cathedral, the Church of Santo Tome to see the famous El Greco painting, "El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz". We'll visit the Synagogue, as well as a factory creating Damascenes - intricate inlaid metallic artwork. A perfect souvenir to bring home so get your wallets ready! Spain's capital during the golden era, and where El Greco lived and worked. Walk through the narrow cobbled streets to visit the fine Gothic cathedral and admire the old city views along the Tagus gorge. We'll also visit a specialist workshop where artisans create authentic Damascene ware, an ancient art perfected by the Moors and passed down over the centuries. During your orientation see some of the golden stone buildings the city is famous for, including the handsome arcaded Plaza Mayor, the honey-coloured cathedral and the 16th century university buildings.

NH Collection Salamanca Palacio de Castellanos

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner at the hotel with local wine

DAY 4 ○ SALAMANCA-PORTO, GRANDE DAME ON THE DOURO.

During your orientation see some of the golden stone buildings the city is famous for, including the handsome arcaded Plaza Mayor, the honey-coloured cathedral and the 16th century university buildings and then cross the Portuguese border to reach Porto, situated on the River Douro and celebrated internationally as the capital of Port wine. Join a Local Specialist today for a sightseeing tour in Porto, which takes you past Baroque churches and along the winding cobblestone lanes that tumble down towards the Douro. Visit the Stock Exchange Palace with its splendid Arabian Hall inspired by Granada's Alhambra, then into the centuries-old tradition of local port production at a tasting in a port cellar. Through the historic centre of Porto and visit Livraria Lello, the city's oldest bookstore with its iconic red staircase. Visit one of wine stores of the famous wines and walk along corridors of casks. Get to know your tawnys and vintages during a tasting. Continue your exploration of the city, admire the multi-coloured houses and churches covered in glazed tiles, as well as the iconic bridges (or 'Eiffel Towers on end' according to one Frenchman).

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES**Douro Cruise and Dinner**

Enjoy a relaxing and leisurely cruise along the Douro River. You'll have a chance to see two medieval "world heritage" cities plus six impressive bridges, one of them the famous UNESCO-listed Eiffel bridge. Afterwards, savour a typical meal in the

Medieval Ribeira Quarter

NH Collection Porto Batalha

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 ○ PORTO

Today is leisure day. Our guests can enjoy our optional experience.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES**The Bom Jesus Sanctuary and Guimaraes**

Spend the afternoon with a local specialist travelling through the lush green Minho, Portugal's most northerly province, see Europe's largest and most magnificent sculpted Baroque staircase which ascends the forested hillside to the 'Bom Jesus' sanctuary. We'll arrive using a 19th-Century water-powered funicular. Finally, Guimarães for views of its impressive 10th-century castle and historic city. We take lovely dinner and including with local wine in Guimaraes.

NH Collection Porto Batalha

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 ○ HOLY FÁTIMA, ANCIENT OBIDOS AND LISBON.

Head south for a visit to miraculous Fátima. See the Basilica or visit the Chapel of the Apparitions, which commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to three young shepherds in 1917. Journey to the fortified town of Obidos and walk inside its walls, exploring the narrow, medieval streets with houses covered with flowers. Your travels continue to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES**Portuguese Fado Evening of Music & Song with Dinner**

An evening's entertainment Portuguese style. You'll savour a typical meal with local aperitifs and wines and hear beautiful, traditional Fado music and singing.

Dom Pedro Lisboa

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 ○ LISBON AND THE AGE OF THE GREAT DISCOVERIES.

Sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the spacious avenues of the Lower Town and beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paco, the finest square in the city. Visit the Belém Quarter from where sailing ships once set forth to discover unknown lands. Enjoy a taste of the famous Pastéis de Belém from a traditional patisserie that has managed to hold on to the secret recipe of Portugal's finest pastry

for almost 200 years. View the modern Monument to the Discoveries and the more ancient Belém Tower. This fortress was originally set in the middle of the river, but is now left high and dry on the riverbank. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Jerónimos Monastery with its beautiful Manueline architecture. With the afternoon at your leisure, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Portuguese Riviera? It is often visited by surfers, occasionally royalty, and even James Bond.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

The Golden Triangle: Cabo da Roca , Cascais & The Estoril Coast

After passing through the fashionable resort of Estoril, we'll explore the picturesque fishing village of Cascais, with its beautiful array of mansions and exclusive residences. To complete the Golden Triangle we'll visit Cabo da Roca is the most western point in Portugal and all of Europe, most often referred to as "the edge of the world". It is a rugged coastline adorned with rocky cliffs overlooking the roaring Atlantic Ocean; and one of the best views in Portugal.

Dom Pedro Lisboa

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner at the hotel with local wine

DAY 8 ○ LISBON-SEVILLE AND FLAMENCO.

Leave Lisbon via the modern Tagus Bridge and cross the border to reach Seville. With your Local Expert, visit the immense cathedral to see the Tomb of Christopher Columbus and the slender Giralda Tower, the former minaret of the Great Mosque. Explore the labyrinthine Santa Cruz Quarter and see the Alcazar.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Flamenco

The Best Show in Town With a Three-Course Dinner After a three-course dinner of Andalusian specialties with drinks included, you'll discover the passion, rhythm and magic of flamenco this evening. We've organised tickets to the best show in town, where you'll experience 90 minutes of memorable entertainment.

Ayre Hotel Sevilla

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 ○ FREE TIME IN SEVILLE.

Enjoy a relaxed start and a day to relax, shop or continue exploring this fascinating city at your own pace. Our suggestion is to join an Optional Experience to the ancient city of Córdoba, where you will visit the magnificent Mezquita, see the old Jewish Quarter, and enjoy some free time to shop or explore as you wish. In the evening you are treated to dinner, wine and entertainment featuring a fiery flamenco show.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Cordoba & The Mezquita

Join your local expert for a walking tour of the perfectly preserved Moorish city of Cordoba. The highlight is undoubtedly the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th-century mosque with a Cathedral built inside. Walk with your local expert through the forest of horseshoe shaped arches to the Baroque choir stalls of the Cathedral and the richly ornamented Mihrab prayer niche.

Ayre Hotel Sevilla

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner at the hotel with local wine

DAY 10 ○ SEVILLE-MALAGA-GRANADA

Today we start to our trip from Seville to the capital of the Costa del Sol, Málaga, with its lively harbour and long sandy beaches. The house in which Picasso was born, the old Jewish quarter and the 2,000-year-old Roman Amphitheatre. To round off your trip in the afternoon, we'll take you for a relaxed drink at one of Málaga's oldest and best known taverns. After our drinks, we move to Granada to our hotel.

Vincci Albayzin

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner at the hotel with local wine

DAY 11 ○ DINING WITH LOCALS AND THE ALHAMBRA.

Travel to the oldest olive grove in the region and stop at the rural mill-factory of Almazara to taste a selection of different oils with locally made farmer bread. Continue to Alfamatejo, a quiet town with a population of just 500 people and surrounded by stunning mountainous landscape. Walk the town centre to see the 18th century Iglesia del Santo Cristo de Cabrilla. Continue to Granada to visit the magnificent Alhambra Palace with your Local Expert. Built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13th century, it is a wonder of beautiful gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

The Sacred Mount, Granada's Gypsies Flamenco and Dinner

The cave-studded neighbourhood of Sacromonte ("The Sacred Mount") is spread out over the dusty, cacti-studded countryside high above Granada. This other-worldly barrio is home to many of Granada's Gypsies, as well as artists, intellectuals and misfits from all over the world. Discover the story of this unique area. We will see Gypsies Flamenco in original caves. and continuo with dinner base of seafood and tapas. Local wine is included

Vincci Albayzin

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 ○ GRANADA-GUADIX-VALENCIA.

This morning, we journey via the Mora Pass to Guadix in the northern foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains where you will see the whitewashed troglodyte dwellings lodged into the ochre-coloured cliffs of the surrounding area. We travel to Valencia, where we'll stay overnight to view the Bullring and admire the architecture of its medieval cathedral and the Serrano and Quart Towers. Embrace the city's spirit of innovation and stop to view the City of Arts and Sciences, a large-scale urban recreation centre for culture and science, designed by Santiago Calatrava. Valencia is home to one of the world's greatest dishes, paella.

Barceló Valencia

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 ○ VALENCIA-PENÍSCOLA- BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING

Head north along the coast through the Levant region and stop at Peñíscola, the City in the Sea, to view the ancient castle of the 'Spanish Pope', built by the Knights Templar and used in the film, 'El Cid'. We continue along the Costa Dorada to Barcelona with its whimsical Gaudí architecture. Our first stop the unfinished La Sagrada Família. Then we are joining a Local Specialist to explore the Plaça de Catalunya and pay tribute to Christopher Columbus at the monument that bears his name.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES**Gothic Quarter and Dinner**

Work up an appetite with a walking tour of the old Gothic Quarter, where Barcelona was born. Meander through the beautiful medieval streets and century-old architecture with your Local Specialist. Then we'll take you to the marina of Port Olympic, where you'll enjoy Mediterranean food in one of our favourite local eateries

Meliá Barcelona Sarria

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 ○ FIGUERES-BARCELONA

This morning driving to the Dalí Theatre and Museum where we will gain insights into the fascinating world of Salvador Dalí. See his work in this impressive building. And then we come back to Barcelona for a drive along the Gaudí's unusual creation Parque Güell. See the central nave with its giant, tree-like pillars, spectacular vaulting and the beautiful rainbows flooding in through the intricate stained-glass windows. Dinner in hotel with local wine. Gaudí's unusual creation like Parque Güell. Walk along the leafy Las Ramblas or in the evening, join your Travel Director and newfound friends at a local restaurant. Raise your glass and toast your travels during your delightful Celebration Dinner.

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES**Dali Museum**

This morning, we visit to the fascinating world of Salvador Dali. He is unique in the world.

Meliá Barcelona Sarria

Or Similar

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 ○ DEPART BARCELONA

Your journey ends after breakfast. Departure transfers arrive at Barcelona airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00.

Meals: Breakfast