

Highlights of Spain & Portugal – 9 Days

Start point: Madrid

End point: Madrid

DAY 1: Madrid

Welcome to the start of your 9 day tour of Spain and Portugal! On arrival in Madrid, make your way to the hotel to meet up with your tour leader and the other travellers in the tour group. Depending on your arrival time, you may have time to explore Madrid, or alternatively relax in the comforts of the hotel. This evening, you will get your first taste of Spain with dinner included, giving you a great opportunity to meet the other travellers in the group.

Experiences

Join the tour in Madrid and, if you arrive early, explore the Spanish capital before meeting up with the tour in the evening for dinner.

Accommodation

Elba Madrid Alcala
Travelodge Madrid Torrelaguna

Other Foods to try

Enjoy a traditional Spanish meal tonight, where you will sample local food like croquettes, fried shrimp and paella.

DAY 2: Toledo – Granada



This morning, we leave Madrid and head to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Toledo. You are sure to fall in love with this charming medieval town, with its Gothic architecture and its impressive Cathedral. The tour continues south to the Moorish city of Granada. This afternoon, your tour leader will take you on an orientation tour to give you a great insight into this beautiful region of Spain.

Experiences

Toledo comfort stop to see the Gothic architecture up close

Granada orientation tour - witness the Moorish influence in southern Spain

Accommodation

Hotel Juan Miguel

Other Foods to try

The Arabic influence has left its traces in everything in Granada, and the food is no exception. The use of vegetables such as beans, artichokes, and aubergines is very important. Classic dishes include 'La tortilla del Sacromonte' - a type of omelette made with sweetbreads and ham, gazpacho - cold tomato soup and 'las habas con jamón' - broad beans with ham.

DAY 3: Ronda – Seville



Sit back and relax, as we take you on a journey through Andalusia. This area is famous for Flamenco, tapas, matadors and bullfighting. Our first stop is Ronda, which is famous for its 'Puente Nuevo' (New Bridge) that divides the city and offers dramatic views of the surrounding countryside. Once you have explored Ronda, we head to Seville for a two night stay in a comfortable hotel. You will have time to freshen up before heading out to see the old town and many other sights on an included walking tour of the city with a local guide. Seville is known as the home of tapas, and this evening we will enjoy an included dinner of delicious tapas dishes.

Experiences

Ronda comfort stop - see the 'Puente Nuevo' (New Bridge).

Enjoy a walking tour of Seville and witness its many historical buildings.

Accommodation

Hotel Sevilla Macarena

Other Foods to try

Tapas are small plates of hot and cold dishes, and Seville is known to have more than 3,000 tapas bars. At the included dinner this evening you'll be able to try some of these famous dishes, including ham croquette, fried cuttlefish, shrimp omelette, ratatouille and goat cheese with pepper jam.

DAY 4: Seville – Free day

Legend has it that Seville was founded by Hercules, and it has certainly had a colourful history it was named Hispalis by the Romans and Isbiliya by the Moors. With a full free day, you will have all the time in the world to explore this beautiful and pleasingly compact city. Seville is famous for its flamenco, tapas bars and orange bars. The cobbled streets of the old town make for a pleasing morning stroll, while in the afternoon you may wish to visit the Metropol Parasol for amazing views, the palaces of Alcázar Casa de Pilatos or the Museum of Flamenco.

Optional Excursions

Flamenco Dinner Show	€60
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* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 5: Algarve – Lisbon



Today we travel to Lisbon, Portugal! Watch the countryside glide past from the comfort of the Expat Explore coach. Upon arrival in Lisbon we take you on an orientation tour of the capital, from the imposing Sao Jorge Castle to the pastel colours of the old town, Lisbon has it all.

Experiences

Lisbon orientation tour

Optional Excursions

Algarve Beach Lunch

€20

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

Accommodation

Hotel Roma, Lisboa

Other Foods to try

Lisbon is culinary heaven, and its two most famous dishes are salt cod and custard tarts. Saltfish is codfish that has been covered in vast quantities of salt and dried under the hot sun, which means it can be kept for prolonged periods of time. It is then shredded into one of numerous dishes or served as sliced stakes. Pasteis de Nata – soft, sweet, custard tarts, are worth a trip to Portugal in themselves!

DAY 6: Lisbon – Free day

Today is your free day to explore Lisbon on your own. See Lisbon's landmarks, including the Monument to the Discoveries and the Belém Tower or discover the hill top district of Bairro Alto, with dozens of restaurants and bars lining the narrow streets and lots to see and do. Fado music is unique to Portugal, and is arguably the oldest urban folk music in the world – you are sure to discover bars in this area playing this type of music.

Optional Excursions

Sintra Half-Day Trip	€50
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* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 7: Obidos – Porto



On our way to Porto this morning we'll stop off in Obidos, a classic fortified town with narrow cobbled streets, picturesque houses and an imposing hilltop castle. We continue our tour of Portugal and enter into Porto – the second largest city and one of the oldest European centres. Your tour leader will take you on a driving tour of Porto, where you will see Ponte de Luis – a stunning bridge which crosses the River Douro, the Clerigos Tower and many other famous landmarks. One of Portugal's famous exports is port wine, which is named after Porto, and you will have the opportunity to taste it this afternoon at the included Port tasting.

ARCADIA TRAVEL

Experiences

Obidos - enjoy some free time to explore the picturesque medieval streets of this charming town. The main gate into Obidos, Porta de Vila, contains a beautiful tiled chapel depicting the passion of Christ, and the walls of the town can be walked in around one hour.

Porto driving tour - experience Porto and its World Heritage Site historical centre.

Port tasting experience - sample the famous Portuguese fortified wine. It is typically a sweet, red wine, often served as a dessert wine. It is available in dry, semi-dry, and white varieties.

Optional Excursions

Douro River Cruise	€12
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* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

Accommodation

HF Ipanema Porto
HF Ipanema PARK

Other Foods to try

Petiscos is the Portuguese version of Spanish tapas - classic dishes include thin pork sandwiches and snails in a herbal broth. From its colonial past spices are used abundantly in Portuguese cooking, especially piri-iri, made from African bird's eye chili peppers.

DAY 8: Guarda – Salamanca



It is time to depart Portugal and travel back to Spain, as our journey today takes us through the countryside. This morning we make one more stop in Portugal before we arrive back in Spain. Guarda was founded in the 12th Century by King Sancho I, and much of the fortified towers and defensive walls he built survive to this day. Once we arrive into Salamanca, you will have time to freshen up at the hotel and enjoy some free time. We recommend you visit the old town and go up the Cathedral Bell Tower, which offers amazing panoramic views of the town and its surroundings. To cap off the evening we'll enjoy an included farewell dinner, offering three courses of delicious food from around the province of Salamanca.

ARCADIA TRAVEL

Experiences

Enjoy free time to explore Guarda, the highest city in Portugal. At its heart is a Cathedral built in a mix of Gothic and Manueline styles. Other highlights include the Guarda Museum, Jewish Quarters and the Corgas da Matança Dolmen, a portal tomb that provides a window into the lives of the people who lived across the Iberian Peninsula during the Neolithic Period.

Have free time to explore Salamanca, before enjoying traditional food from the province at the included dinner this evening.

Accommodation

Gran Hotel Corona Sol

Other Foods to try

At the included dinner tonight you will have the chance to try typical dishes from the Salamanca region, such as Iberian Ham of Salamanca, Castellana Soup and Spanish omelette.

DAY 9: Avila – Madrid



Today is the last day of your Spanish & Portuguese tour. This morning we depart Salamanca and travel to Avila, where we take a comfort stop. Avila is notable for its many Romanesque and Gothic churches, and the famous and incredibly well preserved medieval walls. We then continue onto the capital Madrid, where the tour will conclude in the afternoon.

Experiences

On our way back to Madrid, we take a comfort stop in the beautiful Medieval walled town of Avila.

For enquiries or reservations, please write us [here](#) or call us on +230 213 9310.