

Spanish Fiesta!

Madrid, Seville & Granada

with excursions to Toledo, El Escorial, Segovia, Cordoba & Ronda

Day 1: Fly out from USA

Begin your Spanish adventure, starting with an overnight flight from the USA.

Day 2: Bienvenidos a España!

We arrive this morning into Madrid airport & dive straight into our sightseeing. Just an hour south of Madrid, Toledo is one of Spain's highlights, so its the perfect destination for our first day in the country.

A wonderfully atmospheric medieval city, Toledo was the home of the artist El Greco & many of his works are still located here. The city also once enjoyed a reputation as Europe's leading center for sword-making. On our guided tour we will find evidence of all this & more.

After we returning to Madrid this afternoon there will be time to check-in for our four-night stay & freshen-up before we enjoy our welcome dinner.

(NB: The first 2 days order of sightseeing may alter depending on your flight arrival time, however all listed sightseeing will be included.)

Day 3: Madrid in Depth

Discover the Spanish capital this morning, as our local guide leads us on a tour of Madrid. Afterwards we'll visit the renowned Prado Museum, home to Spain's greatest art, including works by El Greco, Velaquez & Goya..

Later in the day enjoy a taste of the Madrilenos' relaxed pace of life on our leisurely walking tour of the city's squares & open spaces, including trying some of the city's best hot chocolate & churros!

Day 4: The Capital Region - El Escorial & Segovia

Today we venture outside Madrid once more, to explore some of the highlights of Castille. Our first stop will be El Escorial, the huge palace-monastery complex that was once home to the twin Spanish powers of royalty & religion.

Before lunch we continue to the nearby city of Segovia, a UNESCO World Heritage city, where we will spend our afternoon. Segovia is home to an amazing array of buildings from different eras, including a fantastically-well preserved Roman aqueduct.

Our day ends back in Madrid in time for dinner.

Day 5: Madrid at Leisure

Now that you know Madrid, today has been left totally free for you to enjoy the city at your leisure - maybe to visit more of its great museums, to shop, or to relax in a park. However your tour leader will be at hand to help you plan your day & even to accompany you as you explore.

This evening the group will rendezvous at our hotel in time for a fun dinner experience at the San Miguel market, where you can try all kinds of tasty Spanish treats from tapas to paella.

Day 6: La Mancha - the Road to the South

We depart Madrid this morning & travel south to the Andalucia region, traveling through the La Mancha region - made famous in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*..

En-route we stop in Cordoba to visit the Mezquita, the former mosque of a city that was the cultural & intellectual capital of Europe 1,000 years ago!

In the afternoon we journey on towards Seville, a city of orange blossoms & flamenco music, where we'll check-in for a two-night stay before enjoying an introductory stroll to dinner.

Day 7: Seville, City of Flamenco & Oranges

This morning we discover the treasures & delights of Seville on our guided walking tour. A visit to the Cathedral (burial place of Christopher Columbus) & its famous Giralda tower, is included, as well as exploring the narrow streets & alleys of the Barrio Santa Cruz, Seville's once thriving Jewish Quarter.

The afternoon today is totally free for you to enjoy Seville at your own pace before we rendezvous for dinner & an evening flamenco performance.

Day 8: Ronda & the Mountains of Andalucia

We board our bus this morning for the journey to Granada, taking us through the *Serrania de Ronda* mountains. The highlight of our day will be an extended visit to Ronda, the most famous of the region's 'white cities', an incredible town perched precariously above a deep gorge.

Later we continue to Granada where, after checking-in for a two-night stay, we'll get familiar with the city on a short introductory walk before dinner in an authentic local restaurant.

Day 9: Granada & the Alhambra

Today is devoted to Granada & the nearby Alhambra Palace, a reminder of the centuries of Moorish rule in southern Spain & perhaps the most exotic building in Europe.

Our guided sightseeing tour will explore the city center & the fantastic palace, & introduce you to the history of Muslim Spain.

After our tour enjoy free time to wander & explore colorful Granada, or simply to relax.

Day 10: Adiós España!

Sadly it's time to depart this morning for your flight from Malaga to the USA, arriving home later the same day.