

SPAIN & PORTUGAL TOUR



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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Spain & Portugal Escorted Tour

Duration: 15 days

Stay: 14 nights hotels (typically 4-5 star)

Travel style: Escorted tour

Booking code: EUSPG15M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

15 Days Spain & Portugal Escorted Tour

About the holiday

Bask in the beauty of Spain and Portugal on an unforgettable tour that connects these two epic European countries!

Take to the streets of cities like Madrid, Barcelona and Seville to feel the rhythmic vibe of the Iberian route. Discover UNESCO sites in the Old City of Salamanca and Lisbon. Stroll along cobbled streets of Grenada and Porto. Stop for tastings at tapas bars, seafood tavernas and local port wine cellars. Enchanting olive groves, fairy-tale cities, fortified towns and pilgrimage sights are all part of the experience.

This escorted tour is your chance to follow the sun and discover the colourful Iberian cultures and history!

Why you'll love this tour...

- This comprehensive tour ticks the boxes for included highlights & free time
- Travel with an experienced tour manager to get the best insight and tips
- Delve into history and greet the colourful Iberian culture from one exciting city to another, while frequenting popular hotspots and gems off the beaten track
- Enjoy 2-night stays in Madrid, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Valencia & Barcelona

Travel dates:

Departs select Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays from Madrid

2024 & 2025 - April to November

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for travel at other times of the year.

Special Early Bird options apply to this tour!

Ask us about the latest airfare deals to Europe

Call our office on 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

for current rates & travel deals.



Escorted Tour Includes:

- 14 nights accommodation in 4- or 5-star hotels
 - 2 nights Madrid
 - 1 night Salamanca
 - 2 nights Porto
 - 2 nights Lisbon
 - 2 nights Seville
 - 1 night Granada
 - 2 nights Valencia
 - 2 nights Barcelona
- 21 meals: 14 breakfasts, 7 dinners with wine
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

Package excludes:

Flights to Spain - please contact us for the latest airfare deals

Airport transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

For more info call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

Top Experiences on Tour:

- At the Prado Museum in Madrid, stand before masterpieces by Velazquez, Goya & El Greco
- In historic Segovia, view the 1st century Roman Aqueduct
- Visit Salamanca, one of Spain's most picturesque cities, a UNESCO World Heritage City
- Walking tour of Porto's historic city centre with wine tasting of Portugal's famed Port wine
- An inspiring visit to the Catholic pilgrimage site of Fatima
- Tour Lisbon's Jeronimos Monastery, resting place of explorer Vasco da Gama
- Enjoy the gorgeous scenery on the drive through Andalucia to historic Seville
- Visit the Cathedral of Seville, the largest and most beautiful Gothic cathedral in the world
- Visit the 13th century Alhambra in Granada
- Head through groves of olives, almonds, lemons and oranges to Valencia, the "Garden City"
- View Valencia's Arts & Science City, an extraordinary futuristic architectural marvel
- In the fortified fairy-tale city of Peñíscola, view the Castle, built by the Knights Templar
- Wine tasting in the renowned wine region of Penedes, known for white and rosé Cava

Itinerary:

DAY 1, Friday - Arrive in Madrid

Welcome to Madrid, Spain's capital city. Make your own to your hotel with time to rest and relax. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 7 PM, followed by a light dinner. We recommend that you select flights which arrive no later than 5 PM

Overnight: Madrid

Meals: Dinner

DAY 2, Saturday - Tour of Madrid

The discovery of Madrid begins with a drive along the Gran Via through the Opera District and Plaza de Colon to the Royal Palace, the official residence of the Spanish Royal Family. View the elegant Plaza de Cibeles and Puerta de Alcala Gate.

Then, on to the renowned Prado Museum. Stand before an astonishing collection of masterpieces by Velazquez, Goya, El Greco and more.

The rest of the day is yours to explore this city of great monuments and museums on your own or, join the *optional* afternoon tour to Toledo. Take a walking tour among the most famous monuments, visiting the St. Tome Church with its El Greco masterpiece and Santa Maria la Blanca Synagogue with its beautiful Moorish architecture, the oldest synagogue in Europe still standing

Optional: Half Day Toledo (PM)

Overnight: Madrid

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3, Sunday - Segovia, Avila, Salamanca

Travelling across the rugged Sierra de Guadarrama, you reach historic Segovia. View the preserved 1st-century Roman aqueduct, symbol of the city, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On to the Gothic cathedral that took almost 200 years to complete before walking through the Jewish Quarter. Afterward, continue to Avila, best known for its imposing city walls, one of Spain's best-preserved bastions; its convent pays homage to St. Theresa, founder of the Order of the Carmelites. The drive then takes you to Salamanca. On the way to the hotel, view the beautiful Plaza Mayor, ancient sandstone buildings and the striking old 12th-century cathedral with its mysterious carvings. Savour dinner together in Salamanca

Overnight: Salamanca

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Monday - Portugal's Coastal City of Porto

Crossing the border from Spain into Portugal, stop first in Vila Real where you will view the exterior of Casa de Mateus as you stroll around its gardens. Then, arrive in the coastal city of Porto, dramatically set on the banks of the Douro River, a region famed for its production of port stored in the vast cellars stretching along the river banks. Spend leisure time in the afternoon to wander on your own along the narrow, cobbled streets in the medieval Ribeira district, past merchants' houses and lively cafes. Tonight, join an *optional* Douro River Cruise with dinner, that passes under Ponte Luis I Bridge and offers panoramas of the city from a new perspective. A meal of local specialties and drinks follows at a typical country restaurant

Optional: Douro River Cruise with Dinner (PM)

Overnight: Porto

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, Tuesday - Tour Historic Porto

Begin your exploration of historic Porto with a walking tour of the Ribeira district. Visit the Church of Sao Francisco, known for its gilded carvings and the palatial 19th century Palacio de Bolsa, embellished by a neoclassical façade. At a Port Wine cellar, stop for a tasting of this Portuguese favourite. Wander on your own this afternoon in Porto, or join the *optional* Medieval Portugal tour.

Head inland to the heart of Minho province to visit the former Roman 'Bracara Augusta'. Here, drive to the top of the 1,300-foot high hill of Bom Jesus, from where you can overlook the city of Braga and admire the famous Holy Way staircase. Proceed to the town of Guimaraes for a stroll through the medieval alleys. Have dinner before returning to the hotel

Optional: Medieval Portugal (PM)

Overnight: Porto

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6, Wednesday - Visit Sacred Fatima, Arrive in Lisbon

Today, an inspiring visit to Fatima, a central Portuguese town home to the Sanctuary of Fatima, a Catholic pilgrimage site. Millions of pilgrims visit this sacred sanctuary that attracted the attention of the world when apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary appeared to three shepherd children in 1917. Here, view the great Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary built in neoclassical style, flanked by colonnades linking it with the extensive convent. Afterwards, travel to Lisbon, built on a series of hills with scenic vistas from every angle. Tonight, attend the *optional* Dinner with Fado Music. Travel to one of Lisbon's oldest districts for a traditional dinner of Portuguese favourites with entertainment by soulful Fado singers

Optional: Dinner with Fado Music (PM)

Overnight: Lisbon

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, Thursday - Lisbon City Tour

In Lisbon, the tour begins with a stop at the top of Edward VII's Park to enjoy a magnificent view over the hills of Lisbon and the River Tagus. Next, view the treasured 16th century Belem Tower, a monument to Portugal's Age of Discovery and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to visit the Jeronimos Monastery, an impressive symbol of the country's power and wealth and resting place of explorer Vasco da Gama. Time for lunch on your own before an afternoon at leisure. Perhaps join the *optional* tour to quaint Sintra, the "Glorious Eden" of Lord Byron, and summer retreat of the royal court, highlighted by lavish romantic castles and stunning monuments. Visit Sintra Royal Palace, a 15th-century royal residence, containing one of the largest tile collections in Portugal. Then spend some free time in the Village Historic Centre before returning to Lisbon

Optional: Half Day Sintra Tour (PM)

Overnight: Lisbon

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8, Friday - Drive to Seville

Heading south, cross over the border into Spain and arrive to the great city of Seville with its fascinating history. Leisure time upon arrival before dinner together. Afterwards, attend the *optional* Flamenco Show - Seville is the birthplace of Flamenco!

Optional: Evening Flamenco Show (PM)

Overnight: Seville

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9, Saturday - Seville City Tour

Begin the day at the beautiful Plaza de España and the fragrant gardens of Maria Luisa Park before a walking tour in the quaint Barrio Santa Cruz, the former Jewish Quarter of the city with its winding cobblestone streets. Continue with a visit to the Cathedral of Seville, legendary burial site of Christopher Columbus. The rest of the day is at leisure or, join the fascinating *optional* tour to Cordoba, founded by the Romans. Visit the astonishing Mezquita de Cordoba, transformed into a soaring cathedral in the 16th century. A walking tour of the city reveals the ancient Jewish Quarter with its labyrinth of winding narrow streets, shady flower filled courtyards, picturesque squares, and view of the 14th century Synagogue on Calle de los Judios

Optional: Half Day Cordoba Tour (PM)

Overnight: Seville

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10, Sunday - Moorish Influenced Alhambra

The drive today takes you from Seville to Granada. Here, the highlight of your sightseeing is a visit to the 13th century Alhambra,* one of Spain's most celebrated monuments, dramatically perched atop Assabica Hill overlooking the entire city of Granada. This imposing hilltop fortress, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the finest examples in the world of Moorish art and architecture. During the reign of the Moors, the Alhambra served as the residence of the royal family. Walk along the lanes of the fragrant Generalife Gardens with its beautifully designed courtyards, waterfalls, ponds and views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Tonight, dinner is at a local restaurant

**Alhambra visiting times, which may include evening hours, and which areas of the complex are accessible on the day of your visit, are determined solely at the discretion of the Alhambra. Your itinerary will be arranged by your Tour Manager to accommodate the designated time of entry*

Overnight: Granada

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11, Monday - The "Garden City" of Valencia

Today, head north through fragrant groves of olives, almonds, lemons and oranges to the city of Valencia. Known as the "Garden City" of Spain, it is situated on the Orange Blossom Coast where the Turia River meets the Mediterranean Sea. There are few cities like Valencia that are able to combine remnants of its past, dating back to 138 BC, with innovative and avant-garde buildings from the new millennium. Enjoy dinner in this coastal city

Overnight: Valencia

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12, Tuesday - Valencia City Tour

On today's tour of Valencia, listen to tales about "El Cid," Spain's national hero who fought here against the Moors. Discover this treasure trove of Roman and Arabic architecture before continuing to the gates of the city, City Hall and the Gothic cathedral. Arrive at the dramatic Arts and Science City, an outstanding scientific and cultural complex with futuristic architecture, designed by local architect Santiago Calatrava. The rest of the day is yours to linger at this incredible site, or wander on your own. Later, perhaps participate in the *optional* Paella Cooking Class that includes dinner. Learn how to prepare Paella Valenciana, the popular regional dish in the city where it was created

Optional: Paella Cooking Class with Dinner (PM)

Overnight: Valencia

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13, Wednesday - Fairy-tale Peñíscola, Penedes Wine Tasting, Barcelona

Head along the Mediterranean coast to the fortified fairy-tale city of Peñíscola crowned by the Peñíscola Castle, built by the Knights Templar. The castle stands on the highest point of a rocky headland, featured in the movie "El Cid". View the lighthouse and the lighthouse keeper's cottage with its winding steps leading down to the sea. Then, continue through the Costa Dorada to the renowned wine region of Penedes, where a wide range of wine styles are produced including traditional (sparkling) white and rosé Cava. Visit one of the wine cellars for a tasting of the local wines before proceeding to sensational Barcelona. Upon arrival, perhaps stroll along Las Ramblas, Barcelona's most famous pedestrian walkway with its life-size animators, stalls, and people-watchers. Tonight, enjoy Barcelona's vibrant nightlife and tapas bars

Overnight: Barcelona

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14, Thursday - Barcelona City Tour, Gaudi's Architecture

Start the day in this artistic city with a drive along the Old Harbor to the Plaza Catalunya, the city's bustling main square. Pass the famous works of Antoni Gaudi, the master architect, including the Casa Batllo, seemingly constructed from skulls and bones. Then, continue on to view the iconic symbol of Barcelona, Gaudi's masterpiece, *La Sagrada Familia*, a colossal church that is legendary and still unfinished*. Ascend Montjuic Hill, home to the Olympic Complex, a number of sports facilities built for the 1992 Summer Olympics. The balance of the day is at leisure to explore the many galleries, museums, and sights in this city. Perhaps partake in the *optional* tour to Montserrat that begins with a scenic drive past picturesque villages to Montserrat Mountain. Here, visit the Royal Basilica to see the famous 12th-century Romanesque sculpture of "Virgen Moreneta."

Celebrate your last night in Spain with dinner and bid farewell to your Tour Manager
**Entrance to La Sagrada Familia is not included. Passengers can visit on their own and are advised to book tickets in advance.*

Optional: Half Day Montserrat Tour (PM)

Overnight: Barcelona

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 15, Friday - Depart Spain

It's time to check out of your hotel in the morning, then make your way to the airport if you're flying out today. As this journey ends, the memories begin!

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

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2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

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