# PORTUGAL & SPAIN TOUR



www.mytravelxp.com hello@mytravelxp.com 1300 168 910





# Classic Spain & Portugal Escorted Tour

**Duration:** 11 days

Stay: 10 nights first class hotels

Travel style: Escorted tour

**Booking code:** CSPG11M

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

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

# 11 Days Classic Spain & Portugal Tour

# About the holiday

Experience the wonders of Portugal and Spain on an unforgettable tour that connects these two colourful European countries!

Discover UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Lisbon and Granada. Take to the streets of cities like Seville and Madrid to feel the rhythmic vibe of the Iberian route. Explore the dramatic cliffside city of Ronda and take time out on Costa del Sol.

Astonishing Spanish masterpieces, local tastings at tapas bars and magnificent places of worship are all part of the experience.

This escorted tour is your chance to discover the vibrant 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
- It's an ideal with pace with 2 nights in Lisbon, Seville & Madrid, plus 3 nights to relax in Costa del Sol

# Travel dates:

Departs Lisbon on select Thursdays & Sundays\*

2024 & 2025 - March to October

\*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Prices vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for available dates or travel at other times of the year.

For current prices & travel deals

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



#### **Escorted Tour Includes:**

- 10 nights accommodation in 4-star hotels
  - o 2 nights Lisbon
  - o 2 nights Seville
  - 3 nights Costa del Sol
  - o 1 night Granada
  - 2 nights Madrid
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel porterage
- 16 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners with wine
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides in all major cities
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- · Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

# Package excludes:

Flights to Lisbon/from Madrid - contact us for the latest airfare deals Airport transfers - can be pre-booked on request Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi access 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.

To add flights from Australia, please call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

# Tour special features:

- Explore Lisbon's Jeronimos Monastery, resting place of explorer Vasco da Gama\*
- Tour the city of Seville with its many historic sites
- · Travel to cliffside Ronda, birthplace of modern bullfighting
- Visit the 13th century Alhambra in Granada
- Enter the Church of Santo Tomé with its El Greco masterpiece in Toledo
- Visit the Prado Museum in Madrid and view an astonishing collection of Spanish masterpieces

\*Sunday departures do not include the Jeronimos Monastery but instead will visit the Maritime Museum.

# **Itinerary:**

## DAY 1, Thursday - Arrive in Lisbon

Arrive in captivating Lisbon, and make your own way to the hotel (transfers can be pre-booked on request). Most flights arrive in the early morning and your room may not be ready for you. In this case, leave your luggage with the concierge and your Tour Manager will provide suggestions for you to begin to explore the city on your own. 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: Lisbon Meals: Dinner

# DAY 2, Friday - 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 visit the Jeronimos Monastery, resting place of explorer Vasco da Gama, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afternoon is at leisure or, join the *optional* tour to quaint Sintra, the "Glorious Eden" of Lord Byron, and ancient summer retreat of the royal court, highlighted by lavish romantic castles and stunning monuments. Visit the 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

\*Jeronimos Monastery is closed on Mondays, therefore it will be replaced with the Maritime Museum.

Optional: Half Day Sintra Tour (PM)

Overnight: Lisbon Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 3, Saturday - Travel to Seville

Depart Lisbon this morning heading south. Cross the region of Alentejo, with its rolling hills, vineyards and cork oak trees. Reach the Spanish border and enter the region of Andalucia. Continue your drive through picturesque Andalucia to Seville. After dinner, opportunity to attend an *optional* Flamenco Show in Seville, known as the birthplace of Flamenco

Optional: Evening Flamenco Show (PM)

Overnight: Seville

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 4, Sunday - Seville City Tour

Begin the day at the beautiful Plaza de España and the fragrant gardens of Maria Luisa Park before taking 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 Royal Alcázar of Seville and marvel at the many examples of Mudejar architecture in this beautiful palace, built for the Christian king Peter of Castile. 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, one of the largest mosques in the world, 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 5, Monday - Ronda Sightseeing en route to Costa del Sol

This morning, head south to the dramatic cliffside city of Ronda. Start with a tour of Ronda, home to Spain's oldest bullring, the Plaza de Toros. Here, you can see the historic stables and museum, along with displays of famous Matadors before proceeding to Costa del Sol

Overnight: Costa del Sol Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

# DAY 6, Tuesday - Full Day in Costa del Sol

Spend a full day at leisure in Costa del Sol to enjoy all of the delights of this resort area or, join the *optional* morning tour to Malaga, the birthplace of Pablo Picasso. Visit the Picasso Museum with over 285 works donated by members of Picasso's family. View the Paseo de la Alameda, Paseo del Parque & the Barrio de la Malagueta. A walking tour through this historic town is accented by views of the Malaga Cathedral, the second highest in southern Spain. Proceed to Cathedral Square before heading back. Dinner tonight is at the hotel

Optional: Half Day Malaga Tour (AM)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 7, Wednesday - Excursion to Gibraltar

Journey to the impressive Rock of Gibraltar,\* a British colony for over 300 years standing guard over the Strait of Gibraltar, where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean and Europe meets Africa. Take a tour of the area with mini busses climbing up to see St. Michael's Cave and the famous Barbary apes with dramatic views of both the Spanish and Moroccan coastline. Spend some time in the main street of town with its colonial buildings and duty-free shops. Return to Costa del Sol for overnight

\*Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory independent from Spain and therefore has different entry requirements. Non-US passport holders are responsible to check if a visa is required for Gibraltar in addition to all other countries on their itinerary.

Overnight: Costa del Sol

Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 8, Thursday - Moorish Influenced Alhambra

Depart the southern coast and journey to Moorish Granada. Your visit is highlighted by a tour of the 13th century Alhambra,\* one of Spain's most celebrated monuments, dramatically perched atop Assabica Hill overlooking the entire city. This imposing hilltop fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the world's finest examples 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 serene Generalife Gardens with its beautifully designed courtyards, waterfalls and 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 9, Friday - Toledo Sightseeing en route to Madrid

Travel via the region of La Mancha, legendary home of Don Quixote, featuring panoramic views of its famous windmills. Continue to Toledo, the former capital city of Spain that still retains its medieval atmosphere and charm. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, Toledo is known for its extensive monumental heritage and historical coexistence of Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures. A walking tour will include a visit to the Church of Santo Tomé with the masterpiece painting by El Greco and the Synagogue of Santa Maria La Blanca, the oldest synagogue in Europe still standing. Continue to Madrid and spend the evening at leisure

Overnight: Madrid Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 10, Saturday - Madrid City Tour

This morning take a sightseeing tour of Madrid. Drive along the Gran Via through the Opera District, Plaza de Colon and view the Royal Palace. Pass by the elegant Plaza de Cibeles and Puerta de Alcala Gate. The tour will end at the world-renowned Prado Museum, where you will be able to view works of art by famous artists such as El Greco, Velázquez, and Ribera. Spend the afternoon at leisure or, join the *optional* tour to Escorial. This combination monastery-palace-mausoleum is situated approximately one hour outside of Madrid in the foothills of the Guadarrama Mountains. Bid adios to your Tour Manager during dinner at a local restaurant

Optional: Half Day Escorial Tour (PM)

Overnight: Madrid

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 11, Sunday - Depart Madrid, Spain

Check out of your hotel this morning and if you're flying out today, make your way to the airport in time for your departure flight

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.

# **Optional tours**

Pre-book the optional tours and in addition to enhancing your travel experience, you can save by paying in advance with Australian dollars.

Space on the tours is limited, so make sure you contact your My Travel Experience consultant at least 7 days before departure to guarantee your place. Please note that the prices (per person) are only a guide and will be confirmed at time of booking.

# Half Day Sintra Tour

Enjoy an afternoon tour that includes a scenic drive along the Estoril coast with a short stop in Cascais. Then continue to Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On arrival, visit the Sintra Royal Palace, a 15th-century royal residence, containing one of the largest tile collections in Portugal. Then enjoy some free time in the Village Historical Center.

Approximate tour duration is 6 hours.

Please note, this tour will require a good amount of walking. The pace is moderate, however, you may encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and slopes.

01 May 2024 - 30 Nov 2025

\$125

#### **Evening Flamenco Show**

This evening, enjoy a drink and traditional Flamenco show. As performed by some of Seville's leading Flamenco artists, enjoy routines based on the cante jondo or "deep song," which describes the performer's profound emotions in ancient poetic phrases. Although the development of Flamenco has centred principally in the region of Andalucia, it has come to embrace many of the folk traditions of the northern provinces. As a result, it has become, along with the bullfight, a popular symbol of Spain.

Approximate tour duration is 2 hours.

01 May 2024 - 15 Nov 2025

\$94

#### Half Day Cordoba Tour

Enjoy a half day tour of Cordoba, founded by the Romans, and one of the most cultured and refined cities of medieval Europe. Visit the Mezquita, a former Moorish Mosque that today is Cordoba's main Cathedral. Continue with a walking tour of the city and visit the Jewish Quarter with a view of the medieval synagogue. Approximate tour duration is 6 hours.

01 May 2024 - 15 Nov 2024

\$94

#### Half Day Malaga Tour

Today, enjoy a half day tour of Malaga, the birthplace of Pablo Picasso. Visit the Picasso Museum and view the Paseo de la Alameda, Paseo del Parque & the Barrio de la Malagueta. Take a walk through the historical town and continue to view the Malaga Cathedral, the second-highest Cathedral in southern Spain. Then take some time on your own to wander, or perhaps visit a local market. Head over to Cathedral Square before returning to Torremolinos.

Approximate tour duration is 5 hours.

01 May 2024 - 15 Nov 2024

\$125

# Half Day Escorial Tour

Enjoy a visit to what has often been described as the "eighth wonder of the world." El Escorial is, perhaps, Philip II's most enduring legacy to Spain. This combination monastery-palace-mausoleum is situated approximately one hour outside of Madrid in the foothills of the Guadarrama Mountains. This austere monastery, erected by King Philip II in 1584, was intended to be a memorial to his father, King Charles V, and to commemorate Spain's victory at Saint Quentin in 1557. It has since become the burial place of subsequent Spanish kings and queens.

Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Da	y #10	01 Apr 2024 - 15 Nov 2025	\$157
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# **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be <u>viewed and downloaded on our website</u>, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

#### This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
  - 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 pay the balance 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 electronically via email.
- My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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