

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL SAMPLE ITINERARY

Tour Pace - This is a relaxed, leisurely paced tour with three-night stays in the major cities of Lisbon, Seville, Madrid and Barcelona. This allows you to get acquainted with each destination on included city sightseeing tours, which leaves time to revisit any places of interest on your own.

DAY 1- DEPART USA. Board your overnight flight.

DAY 2- LISBON AT LEISURE. Welcome to Portugal! Take time to relax or explore before joining your fellow travelers for a Welcome Drink. **Hotel: Marriott. (D)**

Day 3 – LISBON SIGHTSEEING. A guided tour takes you along the avenues of the lower town and across the tree-shaded squares. Pass beneath hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paco, the finest square in the city. Visit Jeronimos Monastery and its superbly ornate cloister. Nearby, see the modern monument to the discoveries' and ancient Belem Tower. The afternoon is at leisure. Why not consider spending the evening enjoying dinner to the haunting sound of 'Faso' music? **(BB)**

DAY 4- LISBON AT LEISURE. Today is entirely free for you to explore the Portuguese capital at your own pace. Take the funicular up to the steep alleyways of the Old Town, explore the terraces of the Alfama district or perhaps join an optional tour to Fatima and Obidos **(BB)**

DAY 5-LISBON – SEVILLE. Travel over the modern Tagus Bridge and cross the wide Alentejo plateau to the Spanish border. Continue through the green slopes of the Sierra Morena to Seville, the exquisite capital of Andalusia and the setting for the opera Carmen. This evening, enjoy a Highlight Dinner and entertainment featuring a fiery Flamenco Show. Hotel: Melia Lebreros. **(BB,HD)**

DAY 6-SEVILLE SIGHTSEEING. A sightseeing tour introduces the immense 15th century cathedral, burial place of Christopher Columbus, the Alcazar and the slender Giralda Tower. Tour the Santa Cruz Quarter, with its flower-decked wrought iron balconies, before taking time to relax or explore on your own. Consider visiting Maria Luisa Park with its archeological museum. **(BB)**

DAY 7-SEVILLE AT LEISURE. The day is reserved for relaxing, shopping or enjoying an optional day trip to the sandy beaches of Portugal's Algarve region. **(BB)**

DAY 8-SEVILLE – MADRID. Drive along the Guadalquivir valley to the perfectly preserved Moorish city of Cordoba. See the famous 2000-year-old bridge before a guided visit to the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th century mosque with a Christian church built inside it. Cross the Sierra Morena Mountains and the plains of La Mancha to Madrid. Tonight, you and your fellow travelers are offered a choice of restaurants for your dining pleasure. Hotel: NH Alcalá. **(BB)**

DAY 9- MADRID SIGHTSEEING. A guided tour takes you along the leafy avenues of the city, seeing the Plaza España with its Cervantes Monument, the grandiose Cibeles Fountain and Puerta del Sol. See also the Parliament and Royal Palace before a highlight visit to the magnificent Prado museum, one of the great art galleries of Europe. This afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure. **(BB)**

Day 10 – MADRID AT LEISURE Explore the city at your own pace. Maybe browse the shops or if you want to continue sightseeing, there is an optional excursion into the Guadarrama Mountains to visit the austere Escorial Palace and the amazing Valley of the Fallen. **(BB)**

DAY 11-MADRID – BARCELONA. Travel through Castille, where the legendary Don Quixote 'tilted at windmills' to reach the Ebro River at historic Zaragoza. Enter Catalonia, a land that retains its own distinctive language, culture and traditions. Home for the next three nights is the Catalan capital and Mediterranean port of Barcelona. Hotel: Catalonia Barcelona Plaza **(BB)**

DAY 12- BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING. This morning a local guide introduces you to this vibrant city! Start in the Gothic Quarter where, among the narrow streets, you visit the ancient Cathedral. In complete contrast, drive out to the Eixample District to see some of Gaudi's extraordinary architecture, including the unfinished Sagrada Familia Cathedral. In the afternoon, stroll along the leafy Ramblas with its market stalls, buskers, and street performers or take an optional excursion to the ancient Monastery of Montserrat, dedicated to the 'Black Madonna'. **(BB)**

DAY 13-BARCELONA AT LEISURE. Today is set aside for you to explore this amazing city at your leisure: wander down the luxurious Passeig de Gracia, stroll the streets of the Spanish Village or visit the Bullfighters' museum. Catalonia is famous for its cuisine, so, for your final night in Spain, enjoy a Highlight Dinner at a local restaurant. During the evening, enjoy a short informative presentation on the regional wines that compliment your meal. **(BB,HD)**

DAY 14- RETURN TO USA. Sadly, your tour comes to an end today. Departure transfers arrive at Barcelona Airport to enable you to board your onward flights. **(BB)**

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SVL03 ALCAZAR PALACE

We visit the Alcazar Palace, still used by Royalty as a residence. Then to the Bull Ring, which is one of the most popular in Spain, and the Museum which reflects the history of bull-fighting. € 36



SVL08 EXCURSION TO GIBRALTAR

We travel to the Rock of Gibraltar , a British colony since 1704. Wetour the Rock by private minibus , visiting St Michael's Cave and watching the famous Barbary Apes. Later we enjoy free time in the shopping area of Main Street. (Passport requirements) € 46

MADRID

MAD01 TOLEDO EXCURSION

A specialist guide takes us to the unique city of Toledo, Spain's capital during the golden era, and where El Greco lived and worked. We visit the fine Gothic cathedral, admire the old city views along the Tagus gorge and later visit a specialist Damascene workshop. € 41

MAD02 'VALLEY OF THE FALLEN'

A chance to visit the incredible 'Valley of the Fallen', Spain's impressive monument to the civil war. Then we continue to the magnificent Escorial Palace where we have a guided visit of the richly decorated apartments and tombs of many of the Spanish monarchs. € 43



MAD07 MADRID CELEBRATION DINNER

Dinner in a traditional Spanish restaurant with wine and entertainment included. Afterwards there is a chance to see the grand boulevards of the city and the spectacular fountains illuminated. € 49

MAD08 EXCURSION TO SEGOVIA

We drive to Segovia , originally founded by the Romans , where with a local guide we enjoy a walking tour of the medieval streets from the ancient aqueduct to the magnificent Alcazar. Our guided tour of this 14th century palace shows us the splendour of the art and armoury of the Spanish medieval era. Then we take a panoramic drive to admire the stunning views over the Eresma valley, the 28 metre high Roman aqueduct and the many picturesque and ancient buildings of this medieval jewel. € 41

BARCELONA

20 June 2009	Madrid Barcelona	Transfer to Barcelona via motorcoach Welcome Drink
21 June 2009	Barcelona	Buffet Breakfast See the Gothic Quarter, See the Cathedral See the Ramblas, See the Eixample District Leisure
22 June 2009	Barcelona	Buffet Breakfast Montserrat Funicular Ride Montserrat Monastery (entrance) Leisure Highlight Farewell Dinner
23 June 2009	Barcelona	Buffet Breakfast Transfer to the airport for flight home

Additional Area Attractions with their Cost

BCN02 BARCELONA BY NIGHT WITH DINNER

Dinner in a typical Catalan restaurant, followed by an illuminated drive up to the hill of Montjuic for spectacular panoramic views and to see the lights sparkle over the Olympic City and harbour. **€ 47**

BCN04 MONTSERRAT & THE BLACK MADONNA

We drive towards the sacred mountain of Catalonia. Ascending this staggering rock formation, we enjoy the spectacular panoramic views, before arriving at the "Basilica Real" to see the mystical

Black Madonna. **€ 35**

BCN05 SPANISH ARTISTS

Visit both Gaudi's Guell Park and the Picasso Museum. On entering Guell Park, one has the impression of entering an enchanted world where Gaudi designed mushroom-like houses, undulating benches and a mosaic dragon on a flight of stairs. Then view the unique art of Picasso in the Museum. **€ 35**

BCN06 GUELL PARK & EVENING DRIVE

Visit Gaudi's Guell Park with a local guide and see mushroom houses, undulating benches and a mosaic dragon staircase. Then we have free time at the Port Olympic to eat in one of the many restaurants followed by a night drive of the city.

€ 26

