



THE BEST OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL

6820 • MADRID → MADRID

Meals

Breakfast: 12 Lunch: 0 Dinner: 4

Transport

Touring by private, air-conditioned motorcoach.

Free Wi-Fi (where available)

Accommodation

Rooms with private bath or shower. Includes hotel taxes, tips and service charges

HighLights

Toledo, Spain

Alhambra Complex, Granada

Seville, Spain

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal

Porto, Portugal

Ávila, Spain



DAY 1: ARRIVE IN MADRID, SPAIN.

Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is for you to relax or start exploring Madrid, taking advantage of the CosmosGO app. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and travel companions. (D)

DAY 2: MADRID-TOLEDO-GRANADA.

Drive south to Toledo. Spectacularly situated on a granite hill surrounded by a loop of the Tagus River, the ancient Castilian capital is a treasure-chest of masterpieces. Visit the walled Old Town with a Local Guide and marvel at the 12th-century Church of St. Tomé, known for its large painting by El Greco of The Burial of the Count of Orgaz. Later, cross the Guadalquivir River and head for the olive and orange groves that dot the rolling Andalusian hills. Overnight in history-steeped Granada at the foot of the Sierra Nevada. Today's Distance: 298 mi/ 480 km (B,D)

DAY 3: GRANADA-CORDOBA.

Granada was the Moors' most treasured city, and they still mourn its loss in their prayers. With a Local Guide, visit the Alhambra Complex*, built by Moorish kings. On the way to Cordoba, enjoy more idyllic scenery as we reach an olive farm, to learn about olives and enjoy a local olive oil tasting. Today's Distance: 143 mi/ 230 km (B) *Alhambra complex: Entrance to Nasrid Palace is not guaranteed.

DAY 4: CORDOBA-SEVILLE.

With a Local Guide visit the magnificent Mezquita, famous for its 850 pillars of porphyry, marble, and

jasper. The Mosque-Cathedral (UNESCO World Heritage site since 1984), is arguably the most significant monument in the western Muslim world and an amazing building in its own right. The complete evolution of the Omeyan style in Spain can be seen in different sections, alongside the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles of the Christian part. On to vibrant, festive Seville. Today's Distance: 93 mi/ 150 km (B,D)

DAY 5: SEVILLE.

Get to know Seville on the included city tour. The capital of Andalusia, vibrant Seville has much to offer: the cathedral, the beautiful La Giralda minaret tower, a symbol of Seville; and the Real Alcázar palace, with its extravagant Moorish architecture and opulent gardens. Fun fact: the Palace of the Kingdom of Naboo, from Star Wars, and the Palace of the Kingdom of Dorne, from Game of Thrones, were filmed in Plaza de Espana and the Royal Alcazar of Seville. (B)

DAY 6: SEVILLE-EVORA, PORTUGAL-LISBON.

Enjoy the scenery of the Sierra de Aracena before crossing into Portugal and the fertile plains of the Alentejo. Admire the forest of cork trees and make a stop to visit Evora, a delightfully attractive city. Among the highlights are the architecture of the white houses, the tiles and the balconies. The city, designated UNESCO World Heritage site, inspired the style in which some Brazilian cities, such as Salvador de Bahia, were built. Continue to Lisbon. Today's Distance: 267 mi/ 430 km (B)

DAY 7: LISBON.

Henry the Navigator made Lisbon the 15th-century "Mistress of the Seas." You'll see his monument, the Belem Tower, the Moorish Citadel, the impressive Black Horse Square, and other highlights on the guided sightseeing tour. Spend the afternoon at leisure in the Alfama's tile-decorated streets or take an optional excursion to the scenic Portuguese Riviera. (B)

DAY 8: LISBON-FATIMA-COIMBRA-PORTO.

Stop in Fatima to visit its world-famous Sanctuary, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Continue to Coimbra, known for its university, one of the oldest in Europe, and to Porto on the northern bank of the Douro River. For the perfect way to round out your day, why not join an optional Douro River cruise and dinner? Today's Distance: 224 mi/ 360 km (B)

DAY 9: PORTO.

Discover Porto's highlights on the guided city tour. See its historical cathedral and visit a Port wine cellar along the banks of the Douro River. This afternoon, consider an optional excursion to Guimaraes, called the "cradle" of Portugal and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tonight, enjoy an included dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 10: PORTO-SALAMANCA, SPAIN.

Enjoy the plentiful woodlands and mountains on your return to Spain via the scenic Douro Valley. Reach the ancient and beautiful university town of Salamanca in the early evening, the best time to take a stroll in the Plaza Mayor. Today's Distance: 267 mi/ 430 km (B)

DAY 11: SALAMANCA-AVILA-SEGOVIA-MADRID.

Journey to fortified Avila with its many towers and visit St. Theresa's Convent before continuing to Segovia, a medieval town picturesquely set on a rocky hill. Some say that the beautiful castle inspired Disney's "Cinderella." Spend some time in Segovia before crossing the boundary between new and old Castile to arrive in Madrid. Today's Distance: 168 mi/ 270 km (B)

DAY 12: MADRID.

Built 2180 feet above sea level, Madrid, capital of Spain, is the nearest thing to Heaven, according to Spaniards. Discover the main highlights of this aristocratic city on the included guided tour. (B)

DAY 13: MADRID.

Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)