

GRAND TOUR of SPAIN

TOUR 6850—15 days from Madrid to Madrid

Priced From  1,879^{US}



VALENCIA

YOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

Individual headsets 

SIGHTSEEING: Visits to Royal Palace in Aranjuez, Cuenca, Peniscola Castle, Saragossa Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Pillar, Pamplona, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Segovia, Ávila, Salamanca Plaza Mayor, Caceres, Ronda, Montilla wine tasting, Cordoba Mezquita

■ Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description including admission charges where applicable.

GUIDES: Local Guides for city sightseeing in Valencia, Barcelona, Seville, Granada-Alhambra complex, Madrid; professional Tour Director while touring

SCENIC HIGHLIGHTS: Basque Country, La Mancha, Rioja region

TRANSPORTATION: Touring by private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach

HOTELS: Listed below or equivalent. Rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, portage, tips and service charges

MADRID Praga (ST), **VALENCIA** NH Las Artes (F), **BARCELONA** Catalonia Sagrada Familia (ST) or Porta Fira (F) or Ibis Styles City Bogatell (ST).

PAMPLONA Maisonnave (ST), **BURGOS** Almirante Bonifaz (F), **SALAMANCA** Ibis (ST), **SEVILLE** Don Paco (ST), **GRANADA** Don Juan (ST) or Abba (F), **CORDOBA** Selu (ST)

MEALS: Buffet breakfasts (B) daily; 7 dinners (D), including dinner at a local restaurant in Valencia

MyACCOUNT: Personalise your tour ahead of time with additional excursions. Visit our website for details and conditions.

Day 1, Sat. ARRIVE IN MADRID, SPAIN.

Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to start exploring lively Madrid. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers. (D)

Day 2, Sun. MADRID-ARANJUEZ-CUENCA-

VALENCIA. Drive to nearby Aranjuez in the Castilian Plain and discover the ROYAL PALACE, originally built in the 14th century. Although burned down both in 1727 and 1728, it was splendidly rebuilt and became a favourite residence of Spanish royalty. Continue travelling to magnificent Cuenca, perched high above the canyons of the Jucar and Huecar Rivers. It is famous for its "hanging houses" that are suspended over the Huecar ravine. On to Valencia to enjoy a typical dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Day 3, Mon. VALENCIA. Valencia is known mainly for its wonderful climate and the quality of its light. See the wide avenues lined with fig and palm trees and get to know the Old Town with its fine

gothic houses and typical patios on the included guided tour. Time to do some shopping or more personal sightseeing to discover further. (B)

Day 4, Tue. VALENCIA-PENISCOLA-

BARCELONA. Travel to nearby Castellon for a visit of PENISCOLA CASTLE, built by the Knights Templar in the 14th century. The promontory on which the castle and town are located is a fine reminder of medieval times. Continue your journey through orange groves and seaside resorts past Tarragona to Catalonia's lively and beautiful capital, Barcelona. (B)

Day 5, Wed. BARCELONA. This morning's sightseeing with a Local Guide includes a drive around Montjuïc to see the Olympic Stadium and a great panoramic view of the port and city. The drive continues to the city centre to Plaza Catalunya and Paseo de Gracia to admire the greatness and eccentricity of Gaudi's architectural masterpieces. (B,D)



SALAMANCA



SAGRADA FAMILIA, BARCELONA



Day 6, Thu. BARCELONA-SARAGOSSA-PAMPLONA. See more of Catalonia as you drive to Saragossa on the banks of the Ebro River. Here, you'll have time to see the SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR. Continue through fertile valleys and the Rioja wine-growing region to Basque Country and on to the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Navarra, Pamplona. (B)

Day 7, Fri. PAMPLONA-SAN SEBASTIAN-BILBAO-BURGOS. Drive farther into Basque Country and visit San Sebastian (called *Donostia* in Basque), the seaside resort on the southern coast of the Bay of Biscay. Journey to the port town of Bilbao, where you'll enjoy free time for leisure activities—maybe an independent visit to the Guggenheim Museum. The building, by Frank Gehry, is considered one of the 20th century's great architectural masterpieces. Continue to Burgos. (B,D)

Day 8, Sat. BURGOS-SEGOVIA-ÁVILA-SALAMANCA. Head southwest into Castile. Enjoy some grand scenery as you travel to the edge of the Sierra de Guadarrama, a green oasis in the Castilian desert. Stop in Segovia, magnificently perched on a rock formation at an altitude of 3,280 feet. The cathedral, the Alcazar, and the Roman aqueduct are some of its highlights you'll get to see. Next stop is Ávila for a short visit before continuing to Salamanca to enjoy the extraordinary beauty of its *Plaza Mayor*. (B)

Day 9, Sun. SALAMANCA-CACERES-SEVILLE. Cross the mighty Tagus River and the Guadarrama. Stop in Cáceres, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for its blend of Roman, Islamic, northern gothic, and Italian Renaissance styles. Enjoy more Spanish landscapes before reaching Seville, one of Spain's most colourful cities. (B)

Day 10, Mon. SEVILLE. Enjoy an included sightseeing tour of the city's main highlights, such as the cathedral, Alcázar, and the *Plaza d'España*. Afternoon at leisure. Tonight, why not join an optional *Flamenco* show to round out your evening. (B,D)

Day 11, Tue. SEVILLE-RONDA-GRANADA. A day to see the best of Andalusia. Head south by way of the typical white-painted villages to the town of Ronda, famous for the ravine that literally cuts it in two, and its bullfighting connections. Overnight in Granada in the shadow of the mighty Sierra Nevada. (B,D)

Day 12, Wed. GRANADA-MONTILLA-CORDOBA. Granada was the Arabs' most treasured city and they still mourn its loss in their prayers. Visit the ALHAMBRA COMPLEX, built by Moorish kings. More grand scenery as you travel to Montilla for a visit to a local WINE CELLAR for a tasting. Then, continue to Cordoba on the banks of the Guadalquivir River. (B,D)

Day 13, Thu. CORDOBA-MADRID. Cordoba is perhaps Spain's most Moorish city with its great mosque, the MEZQUITA, one of Islam's most important pieces of architecture outside the Arab world. You'll also enjoy the small, white-washed houses, the winding streets, and the colourful squares. Later, journey into the very heart of *Don Quixote's* La Mancha, famed for its castles and windmills. Reach Madrid in time to enjoy a relaxed evening. (B)

Day 14, Fri. MADRID. Enjoy some free time in Madrid or join the rewarding optional trip to Toledo. The splendid setting of this old walled city above the Tagus was made famous in El Greco's painting, and even now it's like a great open-air museum of Spanish history and art. Later, join the included Madrid city sightseeing. Not only because it's the capital of Spain but also because it is situated 2,180 feet above sea level, the Spaniards say it's the nearest thing to Heaven. (B)

Day 15, Sat. MADRID. Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

TOUR 6850 DATES & PRICES

										US\$		
Departure Number	Start Madrid	End Madrid	Land Only	Departure Number	Start Madrid	End Madrid	Land Only	Departure Number	Start Madrid	End Madrid	Land Only	
0310	Sat 10 Mar	Sat 24 Mar	1879	0609	Sat 09 Jun	Sat 23 Jun	2089	0908	Sat 08 Sep	Sat 22 Sep	2089	
0324	Sat 24 Mar	Sat 07 Apr	1949	0616	Sat 16 Jun	Sat 30 Jun	2089	0915	Sat 15 Sep	Sat 29 Sep	2089	
0407	Sat 07 Apr	Sat 21 Apr	2089	0623	Sat 23 Jun	Sat 07 Jul	2089	0922	Sat 22 Sep	Sat 06 Oct	2089	
0428	Sat 28 Apr	Sat 12 May	2089	0714	Sat 14 Jul	Sat 28 Jul	1979	1006	Sat 06 Oct	Sat 20 Oct	2039	
0505	Sat 05 May	Sat 19 May	2089	0721	Sat 21 Jul	Sat 04 Aug	1979	1020	Sat 20 Oct	Sat 03 Nov	1969	
0512	Sat 12 May	Sat 26 May	2089	0811	Sat 11 Aug	Sat 25 Aug	1979	2019				
0519	Sat 19 May	Sat 02 Jun	2089	0825	Sat 25 Aug	Sat 08 Sep	1979	0309	Sat 09 Mar	Sat 23 Mar	1879	
0602	Sat 02 Jun	Sat 16 Jun	2089	0901	Sat 01 Sep	Sat 15 Sep	2089	0323	Sat 23 Mar	Sat 06 Apr	1949	

Prices are per person, based on double room occupancy. Single room supplement: \$700; guaranteed shares: see page 5; no triple room reduction.
Extra nights per person in Madrid:
 in single room \$106-\$115, in twin / in triple \$57-\$63

Departure 0324 Easter departure
 Departure 0407 Feria in Seville
2019 departures are subject to itinerary and price modification. Details will be available in September 2018.