



The Wonders of Spain & Portugal

May 14th - 31st, 2024

Day 1- Tuesday, May 14th

D

Welcome to Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia! Make your own way to the hotel from the airport and join the rest of the group at our welcome dinner in the hotel.

Hotel H Urquinaona Plaza- 4 nights

Day 2- Wednesday, May 15th

B



After breakfast we begin our **exploration of Barcelona** with a panoramic tour of the city, followed by a walking tour of the charming historic Gothic Quarter and a guided tour of Gaudi's masterpiece, the incomparable cathedral of **Sagrada Família**. The astonishing architecture of Barcelona will surprise and delight you!

Day 3- Thursday, May 16th

BL

This morning we travel to the seaside town of Lloret de Mar to visit **Santa Clotilde Gardens**. These clifftop gardens offer stunning views of the **Costa Brava** and Mediterranean Sea. Designed in the Italian Renaissance style, the gardens are made up of stacked terraces and feature a collection of neoclassical marble statues. Later, we continue to the charming town of **Girona**. Girona's Old Quarter is one of the most unique and historical centers in Catalonia with its Carolingian Wall (9th c-10th c), an exceptionally well conserved Jewish quarter and the grandeur of the Cathedral's Gothic nave. This historic town offers spectacular views of porticoed squares, brightly colored houses along the river and steep alleyways just begging for in depth exploration! GOT fans might recognize a few of the filming locations.

Day 4- Friday, May 17th

BL

Our first visit for the day is the majestic **Monastery of Montserrat**. Founded in the 11th c, there is currently a community of eighty working monks following the rule of Saint Benedict who are dedicated to deepening their religious experience and giving shelter to pilgrims. The monastery houses the **Moreneta** (Dark Virgin): a Romanesque work of carved wood, polychromed and gilded, from the 12th century. In the afternoon, we journey to the ancient and treasured **Penedes wine region** for some wine tasting. Known for its sparkling wines and bucolic landscapes, this region has been making wine for twenty-seven centuries!



Day 5- Saturday, May 18th

BL

This morning we board a high-speed train to Spain's capital **Madrid** where our local guide will be waiting to take us to lunch and a **walking tour of the city center**. We'll visit the beautiful **Royal Palace**, the largest in western Europe and the official home of the Spanish royal family. There will be some free time over the next few days to explore so keep in mind that Madrid is home to some of the world's best museums including the famous Prado.

Hotel Mayorazgo- 3 nights

Day 6- Sunday, May 19th

B

Today we explore the ancient, Roman town of **Segovia** with its world-famous aqueducts, Royal Alcazar, and beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. Later, we continue to **La Granja de San Ildefonso**. This royal site is one of the best examples of the monarchic splendor of the 18th century. Philip V, the first Bourbon to reign in Spain, built a palace and glorious gardens decorated with sculptures and fountains that reminded him of his childhood at the French court of his grandfather, Louis XIV.

Day 7- Monday, May 20th

B



This morning, we journey to the **walled city of Toledo**, the former capital of Spain. Known as the city of three cultures, we'll explore the maze of streets, marvel at the mixture of architectural styles and learn how Christians, Arabs and Jews lived side by side for centuries. This afternoon, we return to Madrid for some **free time** to further explore or visit one of its famous museums.

Day 8- Tuesday, May 21st

BD

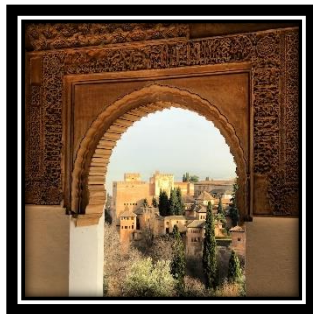
Today we travel South by high-speed train to **Granada**. Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the region of Andalucia, Granada has so much to offer. We will enjoy a walking tour to learn about the history of this city and see its exceedingly beautiful Moorish architecture. This evening we have a very special dinner planned with **flamenco** dancing- ole`!



Hotel Porcel Sabica- 2 nights

Day 9- Wednesday, May 22nd

B



This morning we visit one of the most famous sites in Europe- the **Palace of the Alhambra**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Originally built as a fortress in the 9th c, the Alhambra became the royal residence in the mid-13th c. The sovereigns of Granada later went on to build a summer residence- the **Generalife** surrounding it with magnificent gardens.

Our afternoon is free to explore the narrow streets of this charm-filled town.

Day 10- Thursday, May 23rd

BD

After breakfast, we travel by coach to the town of **Cordoba**. We will join our local guide for a walking tour of the city including the Old Jewish Quarter and its Synagogue and the Mosque-Cathedral with its maze of columns. Cordoba is famous for its beautiful colorful **courtyards**, and we have the opportunity to explore several of them today for some unique garden inspiration!



Hotel Selu- 1 night

Day 11- Friday, May 24th

BD

This morning we board the coach and make our way to **Seville**, the capital of Andalucia and our final Spanish city on the tour. We will see many olive farms en route and will visit an **Olive Oil Mill** to learn how the oil is made. Did you know that Andalucia is the world's largest producer of olive oil?

Hotel Becquer- 2 nights

Day 12- Saturday, May 25th

B



Our day starts with a panoramic city tour of **Seville**. Later we will see the Park of Maria Luisa and the Gardens of Murillo from where we begin the journey on foot through the **Quarter of Santa Cruz**. Formerly the Jewish Quarter during the Middle Ages, this area is sure to charm us with its narrow streets, white houses, flowering patios and small squares with palms and orange trees. At the end of this quarter, we visit the **Royal Alcazar** or Fortress.

Day 13- Sunday, May 26th

BD

Our brief morning flight departs Seville for Lisbon today where our local guide awaits. On arrival, we will enjoy a **panoramic tour** of this colorful city. **Lisbon** is built on seven hillsides, with mosaic sidewalks, cobbled alleys, and intriguing neighborhoods. We visit the Belem quarter where we find the **Monastery of the Jerónimos** and its beautifully preserved cloisters.



Tonight, we have a special **dinner in a local restaurant complete with a fado show**, Portugal's traditional singing.

Hotel Real Palacio- 2 nights

Day 14- Monday, May 27th

B

This morning we venture outside the city to visit the **Palace of Queluz** and its gardens. This palace is one of the finest examples of Portuguese architecture from the late 18th c. The surrounding formal gardens are embellished with fountains, ornamental ponds, and exquisite tile work. After, we travel on to **Sintra**, a beautiful town at the foot of the Sintra mountain range. We will explore the **Quinta de la Regaleira** and its breathtaking gardens- some of the most beautiful and interesting in Portugal.



We continue to the traditional seaside fishing village of **Cascais**. There will be some free time here to stroll through its streets and shop or take in the views at one of the many outdoor cafés.

Day 15- Tuesday, May 28th

BD

This morning, we depart Lisbon and head north towards Porto. En route, our first stop is **Coimbra**, a vibrant university city with a fascinating mix of architectural styles. We'll visit the **University of Coimbra**, one of the oldest in Europe and one of only five in the world listed as a World Heritage Site. Founded in 1290, it's occupied its current building since 1544!

Later, we continue to the **Palace of Buçaco**. Considered the last legacy of the kings of Portugal, the palace is in the **Bussaco National Forest** and is wrapped in beautiful gardens.



Hotel Ipanema Porto- 3 nights

Day 16- Wednesday, May 29th

B

Located on the Douro River, **Porto** is the capital of Port wine and another UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will explore the historic heart of the city followed by an **afternoon at leisure** to browse specialty shops, experience some port tastings or walk along the river front.

Day 17- Thursday, May 30th

BL

Today we experience the historic **Douro River Valley**, one of the oldest and most beautiful wine regions in the world. The river begins in Spain where it is known as "Duero," stretches for over 200 kilometers into Portugal, then exits out into the Atlantic Ocean from the city of Porto. The most beautiful part of the Douro is the Portuguese stretch between Mesão Frio and Pinhão, where the vineyards precariously cling to the steep terraces. In a traditional **Rabelo boat** we will meander along a fantastic stretch of the river and see the terraced vineyards on its increasingly steep banks. Our **farewell lunch** will be served at a family-owned vineyard complete with a local **port tasting**.



Day 18- Friday, May 31st

Breakfast. Transfer to Porto Airport for departure flight back home.

Please note that the gardens and visits included in this itinerary are subject to availability. If a visit is not available, a suitable alternative will be found and will be finalized closer to departure. At each visit, the group will be hosted as specified.

B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Inclusions:

- 17 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- air-conditioned coach with professional driver
- all sightseeing and garden visits' entry fees per itinerary
- local guides with us throughout the day
- all taxes
- one way flight from Seville to Lisbon
- train tickets per itinerary
- tour manager Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times

Land costs:

Tour is priced in Euros (EUR) and final payment will reflect the actual cost.

Price is based on double occupancy with a **minimum of 20** participants:

EUR 5669 per person

USD \$6086 per person based on today's rate of exchange (September 20th, 2023)

Single supplement:

EUR 1790

USD \$1921 ...based on today's ROE (September 20th, 2023)

Airfare:

Please note that airfare is included from Seville to Lisbon.

Airfare is not included for your transatlantic flights. Please contact me if you need assistance.

Payment schedule and cancellation policy: A \$1500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is nonrefundable.

Final payment is due March 1st and is non-refundable. A check is the required method of payment for the deposit. For final payment, a 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make checks payable to **Direct Travel** and send along with your reservation form to the address below:

Ma Petite Tours
9614 180th ST SE
Snohomish, WA. 98296

Insurance: Insurance is highly recommended. Please contact me directly for pricing as it is based on the final itinerary cost (including airfare). Note that with most policies, you must include with your deposit or within 2 weeks of deposit if you would like pre-existing coverage. Insurance can be paid by credit card for no additional fee.

Documentation: You will need a valid US Passport with at least 6 months' validity from the return date to enter Spain and Portugal. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

Please complete the attached reservation form and send your deposit to secure your reservation.

For more information, contact:

Dee Montpetit at 425-208-6515 or

email: dee@mapetitegardens.com

COVID: You must be full vaccinated to travel in our group. Please enclose proof of vaccination with your reservation form and deposit if I do not already have this on file from a previous trip.

The Wonders of Spain & Portugal 2024

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Person and phone #: _____

Passport Information:

Passenger One: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Passenger Two: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Special Requests:

Single requesting share: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical: _____