

## SPANISH EXPERIENCE 9 Days 1 Country 8 Cities

TAKE IN THE BEST OF SPAIN ON THIS TRIP, VISITING MADRID, TOLEDO, SEVILLE, GRANADA, VALENCIA AND BARCELONA.



### THE ITINERARY

#### **Day 1** Arrive Madrid (2 Nights)

It won't take long for Madrid to get under your skin - this graceful capital was spruced up several centuries ago thanks to King Charles III and it remains an elegant city to this day. Once you've checked in to your hotel, you'll have some time to relax before meeting your Travel Director and fellow travellers who'll be joining you on this adventure. When the sun sets, head out onto the streets to watch this football-mad metropolis come to life. You could join your group for an optional walking tour of the city with a chance to indulge in the tapas at a local restaurant. You'll soon discover why the city's vibrant nightlife keeps its hot-blooded residents up all hours of the night.

- ★ Hotel - Occidental Castellana Norte

#### **Day 2** Madrid Sightseeing and Free Time

Gear up for a busy morning of sightseeing. Your Local Specialist will share all the secrets behind some of the city's most iconic sights. Head up the Gran Vía, slicing through the heart of Madrid, and see the Cibeles Fountain, Paseo de la Castellana and the Royal Palace. History buffs will adore an optional visit this afternoon to the UNESCO-listed city of Segovia, with its famous Roman aqueduct and fairy-tale Alcázar, reminiscent of Disney's Sleeping Beauty Castle. Returning to Madrid, there's a second chance to discover the city's vibrant nightlife, which spills out into open-air cafés and thronging plazas.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### **Day 3** Madrid – Toledo – Puerto Lápice – Seville (2 Nights)

History comes to life when you visit Toledo this morning. Its hilltop vantage point, ancient city walls and legacy of traditional sword making will leave you in no doubt it was a city worth fighting for. Join your Local Specialist for a guided stroll - every corner revealing yet another spectacular sight with views of the cathedral, synagogue and grand plazas. Visit a steel workshop and learn about the tradition of sword making which dates back to Roman times, then head south to Puerto Lápice where the Cervantes' fictional Don Quixote was dubbed a knight by a local innkeeper. The plains of La Mancha give way to the hills of Andalucía with sleepy white-washed villages that march to their own time. Sizzling Seville awaits and we continue to our base for the next two nights.

- ★ Hotel - MA Congressos
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner



#### Day 4 Seville Sightseeing and Free Time

The southern city of Seville oozes with the Spanish zest for life you'll come to treasure. A place of grand monuments, beautiful weather and the home of the flamenco, it's no wonder it has been the royal family's favourite retreat for centuries. Your Local Specialist will reveal some of the city's most iconic sites, including Maria Luisa Park, constructed for the Ibero-American Exposition in 1929. Spend some time getting lost in the narrow lanes of the city's Old Quarter or join a tour in the elegant 14th-century Moorish Alcazar. A free evening in Seville would not be complete without a fiery flamenco performance and our Optional Experience will take you to the best show in town.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### Day 5 Seville – Granada (1 Night)

From kings to emirs, our journey from Seville to Granada takes us back to a time when the Moors ruled the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, their last stronghold before being banished to North Africa. Their Arab influences remain to this day in the Moorish architecture and tetería tea houses you'll encounter as you explore its narrow, cobbled streets on your own. Consider an Optional Experience visit to the Albaicín Quarter, the city's oldest neighbourhood and the Arab Quarter. On the hilltop overlooking the city is the fortified citadel of the Alhambra-its opulent palaces and gardens are the former seat of Granada's Nasrid emirs. Tonight a fiery gypsy performance could be the perfect way to end the day.

- ★ Hotel - Macia Condor
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### Day 6 Granada – Guadix – Valencia (1 Night)

Throw your guidebook out the window and switch off your phone. This is the perfect time to indulge in a relaxing siesta, as Italian families have done for centuries. Kick back on the shores of Lake Garda and reflect on the stunning natural beauty that surrounds you, watch the world go by or let your mind contemplate your next journey. If you're feeling energetic, you could make the most of your time by joining a full-day Optional Experience to Bolzano, capital of southern Tyrol. Shop in the arcaded streets and soak up the mountain views.

- ★ Hotel - Sercotel Acteón
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner

#### Day 7 Valencia – Peñíscola – Barcelona Sightseeing (2 Nights)

Our journey continues north through the Levant region to Peñíscola, "The City in the Sea" whose towering Templar castle, used as a palace by the Spanish Pope, was immortalised in the Hollywood classic, El Cid. We wind our way along the glorious Costa Daurada to the sun-kissed shores of Barcelona. Your Local Specialist will reveal some of the city's key highlights this afternoon including Gaudí's ornate La Sagrada Família and the Plaça de Catalunya. See street performers, artists and shoppers and soak up the most inspiring panoramas of the city from the top of Montjuïc. For dinner this evening, consider an Optional Experience to a Catalan-style restaurant to sample some of the local specialities.

- ★ Hotel - Hesperia Sant Just
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### Day 8 Barcelona Free Day

Your heart full and probably a few pounds heavier, it's time to close the curtain on an enchanting encounter with the Italian Lakes. For now, it's arrivederci but not goodbye forever as you say farewell to your travel companions and Travel Director before catching your return transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast, Dinner



## Day 9 Depart Barcelona

So long Spain! Our grand adventure through imperial cities and golden and green landscapes may have come to an end, but we'll keep its fiery passion burning long after our departure. It's time to bid our compañeros a fond farewell and take a transfer to Barcelona airport. Conditions apply.

- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

## ABOUT THIS TRIP

### What's included

- **8 NIGHTS** Accommodation
- **11 MEALS** 8 breakfast, 3 Three course dinners.
- **ON-TRIP TRANSPORT** All Transport shown.

### Sightseeing highlights

- **BARCELONA** Sightseeing with your Local Specialist includes views of Gaudi's La Sagrada Familia, La Rambla and views from Montjuïc
- **GUADIX** View the cave homes in "Barrio Troglodyte"
- **PEÑISCOLA** See the ancient castle overlooking the Mediterranean Sea
- **SEVILLE** Sightseeing with your Local Specialist includes views of the Cathedral, Plaza de Espana and Giralda Tower
- **VALENCIA** See the town hall, Cathedral, Towers of Serrano and Quart and the City of Arts and Sciences
- **GRANADA** Enjoy a scenic drive to this Moorish city
- **MADRID** Sightseeing with your Local Specialist includes views of the Royal Palace, Retiro Park and the Cibeles Fountain
- **PUERTO LÁPICE** Visit the inn where Don Quixote is said to have been dubbed a knight
- **TOLEDO** Sightseeing with your Local Specialist includes views of the Synagogue and Cathedral. Visit a steel workshop

### On every trip

Unique or exclusive to Cost saver, here's a sample of what's included in your trip.

- ✓ Audio Headsets Provided throughout your holiday to enhance your included sightseeing experiences
- ✓ Cherry-picked hotels, all tried and trusted
- ✓ City orientation tours
- ✓ All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling fees and local taxes
- ✓ Luxury air-conditioned coach
- ✓ Variety of Optional Experiences
- ✓ An expert Travel Director and professional Driver
- ✓ Airport transfers are provided on the first and last travel day. Conditions apply

