



SPAIN

PORTUGAL, ANDALUSIA & THE MEDITERRANEAN CAPITALS

(TOUR CODE: 11697)

STARTS AND ENDS

Madrid to
Barcelona

TRAVEL PERIODS

12 Feb 23 - 17 Mar 24

EXPERIENCE

Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Private Escorted Tours

With this 15 days private tour, you will be learning the traditions, customs and history of the main Portuguese and Spanish cities.

Highlights

- Travel in the comfort of a **Private Luxury Mini Van** equipped with air conditioning, panoramic windows and reclining seats. Throughout guided by an experienced driver-guide with safety and comfort in mind!
- Visit Seville Cathedral, the **largest Gothic Cathedral in Europe!**
- Take a **boat ride** along the river **Douro**
- Unveil **Lisbon**, a city full of authenticity where old traditions and history intermix with cultural entertainment and hi-tech innovation.
- A visit to the **City of Arts and Sciences** is a "Must" while discovering the city of **Valencia!**

Depart from Madrid, Spain and stop by the medieval city of Salamanca before crossing the Portuguese border to reach Porto. Travel to **Coimbra**, a medieval old town famed for its historic university, and explore the city at your own pace before continuing to **Fátima**. The city's Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima is a renowned pilgrimage site where apparitions of the Virgin Mary appeared a long time ago. Continue your journey to the remarkable Monastery of Batalha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and then move on to Nazare and Alcobaca for more historical wonders. Reach **Lisbon**, the capital of Portugal, and join a day tour around the ancient Olisipo.

Discover the beautiful southern region of **Andalusia** by exploring the Unesco Heritage City of Cordoba, the capital of the region Seville with its Gothic Cathedral, Granada with its stunning Alhambra complex. Travel east towards the modernist Valencia, also well known as birthplace of the popular "Paella". Complete your journey by visiting **Barcelona**, homeland of the famous architect Gaudí symbol of the Catalan modernism.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Madrid at Riu Plaza Hotel - 4*
- 2 nights in Porto at Bessahotel Boavista - 4*
- 1 night in Fatima at Hotel Estrela - 4*
- 2 nights in Lisbon at Vile Gale Opera - 4*
- 1 night in Cordoba at Hesperia Cordoba - 4*
- 2 nights in Seville at Hesperia Seville - 4*
- 1 night in Granada at Sabica Hotel - 4*
- 1 night in Valencia at NH Valencia Las Artes - 4*
- 2 nights in Barcelona at Catalonia Barcelona Plaza - 4*
- Private transfer from Madrid Airport to Madrid
- Departure private transfer from Barcelona to Airport
- Air conditioned deluxe motor-coach
- Daily Breakfast
- Guided visits in Madrid, Porto, Lisbon, Cordoba, Seville, Valencia & Barcelona.
- Guided visit of the Alhambra & Generalife Gardens in Granada
- Driver-guide throughout the itinerary

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Madrid Airport Madrid

Meet and greet at the airport. Take a transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight stay in Madrid at **Princesa Plaza Hotel**.



Day **2**

Madrid

Morning **guided city tour of Madrid**; discover the medieval origins of the city, like the Arabic fortress, at the Barrio de la Morería, famous for its historical buildings. Drive through the courtesan district of the Hapsburgs characterised by Phillip II and its Renaissance and Baroque style buildings, **Puerta del Sol**, **Plaza Mayor** and Plaza de la Villa; the Madrid of the Bourbons and the complex town planning schemes of Charles III, the Royal Palace, Cibeles and Neptuno Fountains and the Puerta de Alcalá. Admire the XIX C. works such as **Prado Museum**. The contemporary Madrid with areas such as Gran Vía, Castellana, the district of Salamanca, Plaza Castilla and Parque del Oeste, as well as commercial and financial areas of Modern Madrid, the emblematic Las Ventas Bullring and the **Santiago Bernabéu Football Stadium**.

Free time for Lunch.

Overnight stay in Madrid at **Princesa Plaza Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **3**

Madrid Salamanca Porto

After breakfast, depart from our established hotels in Madrid and drive to Salamanca. You will have some free time to explore **Salamanca**, a University City World Heritage of great architectural and artistic wealth. In the afternoon, departure to the Portuguese border and reach the opulent city of Porto.

Overnight stay in Porto at **Vila Gale Porto**.

Breakfast



Day 4

Porto

Breakfast at the hotel, then take part in a panoramic sightseeing tour of Porto, considered a World Heritage city. We admire the Cathedral, Stock Exchange building and Santa Clara church. Afterwards, enjoy a different perspective of the city along the river Douro aboard the BlueBoats Cruise and discover the historic heritage visiting one wellknown Port Wine Cellars with a wine tasting included. Rest of day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Porto at **Vila Gale Porto**.

Breakfast



Porto Coimbra Fatima

Breakfast at the hotel.

Travel to Coimbra. City seat of one of the oldest universities in Europe and the birthplace of Fado. Free time for lunch and, then, proceed to Fatima. Centre of the Christian Faith and World Pilgrimage Sanctuary with its impressive Basilica and the Cova da Iria place where the Virgin Mary appeared. The Chapel of the Apparitions, heart of the sanctuary, with the tombs of the three shepherds, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. At night you may have the chance to attend the procession of the candles.

Overnight stay in Fatima at **Hotel Santa-Maria**.

Breakfast



Fatima Batalha Nazare Alcobaca Lisbon

Breakfast at the hotel.

Travel to the **Batalha Monastery**, a masterpiece of Gothic and Manueline style considered a World Heritage place by UNESCO. Continue to the picturesque fishing town of Nazaré. Free time to relax and continue to Alcobaca (World Heritage) with its Gothic church and Cistercian monastery, whose origins date back to the XII C. Last stop for the day is **Lisbon** where you will stay for the next 2 nights.

Overnight stay in Lisbon at **Lutecia Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day 7

Lisbon

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning sightseeing tour of the ancient **Olissipo**, drive through its main squares and avenues, Belem Tower, Jeronimos Monastery, Coach Museum, Monument to the Discoverers, Marquis of Pombal Square, Liberty Avenue. Afternoon at leisure for you to catch the nostalgic corners of Alfama Quarter, the old city gathered next to its Castle, with old buildings nested in narrow twisting "Ruas" full of color housing the genuine "tabernas" where Fado sounds.

Overnight stay in Lisbon at **Lutecia Hotel**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 8

Lisbon Caceres Cordoba

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure at 07:30 to Caceres considered as World Heritage place because of the city's blend of Roman, Islamic, Northern Gothic and Italian Renaissance architecture. Walk through its Plaza Mayor and the Old Town with its famous Medieval Quarter. Afterwards, continue on towards Cordoba, once the capital of the Caliphate.

Overnight stay in Cordoba at **Hesperia Cordoba**.

Breakfast



Day **9** Cordoba Seville

Breakfast at the hotel. Impressive tour of its **Mosque** and other sites that will ease our mind and spirit strolling through its narrow winding streets of the Jewish Quarter. In the afternoon, after a short two hours ride reach Seville.

Overnight stay in Seville at **Hesperia Seville**.

Breakfast



Day **10** Seville

After breakfast, you will join a panoramic city tour of the stunning Seville, where you will visit the **Gothic Cathedral** with the largest area in the world; declared World Heritage by UNESCO is 1987. Its construction dates back to 1401 on the site

where the old Aljama Mosque was located, of which the “La Giralda” Minaret symbol of Seville is preserved, with the possibility of climbing its 104-metre bell tower and contemplating the best views of the city. You will also visit the Patio de los Naranjos and the Tomb on the pedestal of Christopher Columbus. Then, continue to Santa Cruz quarter, Maria Luisa Park and **Plaza de España**.

Overnight stay in Seville at **Hesperia Seville**.

Breakfast



Day 11 Seville Granada

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive east through the Caliphate road to the heart of Andalusia observing an endless number of olive trees on the way to Granada and its incredible and amazing monumental environment, last stronghold of the Moorish Kingdoms up to 1492. Visit the world famous **Alhambra complex and Generalife** Gardens that have inspired several authors with its sound and sights, such as the “Tales of the Alhambra” by W. Irving.

Overnight stay in Granada at **Sabica Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **12** Granada Valencia

After breakfast, start driving looking for the Mediterranean coast. Via Murcia, capital of the fertile garden of the Segura River, continue north via Alicante, the second largest city within the region of Valencia. Reach **Valencia** one of the main capitals of the Mediterranean coast with its modern Arts and Sciences Architectural Complex integrated by six elements: Hemispheric, Umbracle, Science Museum, Oceanographic, Palau de les Arts and Àgora. Valencia is also the home of the internationally well renowned and delicious "Paella".

Overnight stay in Valencia at **NH Valencia Las Artes**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **13** Valencia Barcelona

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning city tour of this bright city including a drive through the old city showing the most prominent buildings, we will then be driven past the old riverbed of the Turia to the most avant-garde complex "**Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias**" to see the emblematic exteriors of the six buildings.

Early afternoon departure northward all along the Mediterranean coast to Catalunya, via Tarragona, the Roman Tarraco. Reach Barcelona principal Mediterranean city homeland of the famous architect Gaudí symbol of the Catalanian modernism.

Overnight stay in Barcelona at **Catalonia Barcelona Plaza**.

Breakfast



Day **14** Barcelona

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning city tour of Barcelona well known worldwide for the Olympic Games during 1992, drive along the main avenues with impressive modernist buildings by Gaudí such as **La Pedrera (Casa Milá)**, – declared World Heritage building. – **The Montjuïc Park** with spectacular views of the city, Olympic Ring, monument to Columbus and the Olympic Port. Afternoon is for you to keep on discovering this city full attractive offers as well as exquisite and varied gastronomy.

Overnight stay in Barcelona at **Catalonia Barcelona Plaza**.

Breakfast



Day **15** Barcelona Barcelona Airport

After breakfast, transfer to the airport. End of the service.

Breakfast

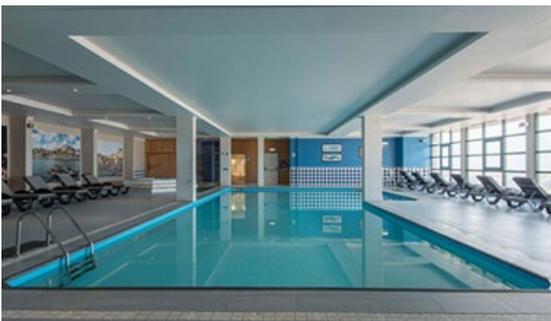


ACCOMMODATION

Vila Galé Porto hotel

Porto

Vila Galé Porto hotel is right in the center of **Porto**, a ten-minute walk from the famous and commercial Rua de Santa Catarina. It was built in 1999 and renovated in 2015. The metro station *Campo 24 de Agosto* is 100 meters from this hotel and allows easy and quick access to any point in the city and the airport. Vila Galé Porto hotel has a restaurant, two bars and multipurpose rooms for events and meetings. On the top floor, you will find the **Satsanga Spa**, where you can go for a swim in the indoor pool, relax in the hydromassage pool or work out in the gym, enjoying what is considered one of the best views over the city.



Hotel Sainte-Marie

Fatima

With a prime location, just 2 minutes walk from the Sanctuary of Fatima, Hotel Santa Maria follows the most modern concepts of architecture and contemporary design, providing the guests peace and tranquility. The Hotel Santa Maria has 173 rooms spread over 120 Santa Maria Jardim rooms, of which 91 have twin beds, 12 double rooms - double bed, 9 single rooms and 8 suites; 53 Santa Maria Plus rooms, of which 49 are twin rooms - two beds, 3 double rooms - double bed and 1 Suite Plus. All rooms are equipped with air conditioning, free wifi, safe box, TV, minibar, telephone, electronic door locks, full bathroom, hairdryer and amenities. Surrounded by a garden, the restaurant of Hotel Santa Maria offers a modern and cosy atmosphere where you will be able to taste delicious Portuguese and International cuisine prepared by chef Cristina Figueira, who will invite you to enjoy the wonderful regional cooking. Come and discover good wines or just have a light snack. The bar offers a pleasant atmosphere where you can enjoy a drink or a light meal.



Lutecia Smart Design Hotel

Lisbon

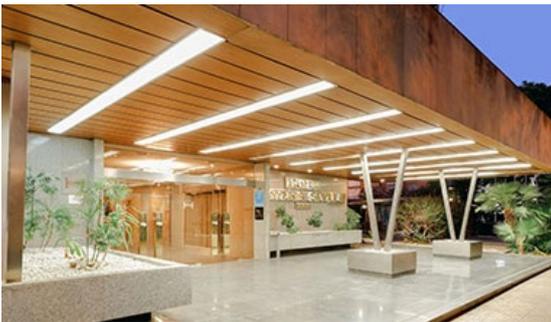
The **Lutecia Smart Design Hotel** is a modern 4-star hotel in the heart of Lisbon. Belonging to a Portuguese family that believes that the essence of Hospitality is a continuous recognition of its customers, the hotel offers a wide range of bright and spacious rooms with all comforts, as well as a sophisticated restaurant and a Drinks & Friends bar area.



Hesperia Seville

Seville

A hotel with charm in Seville cannot allow itself to pass the duende and influence of the city in each of its rooms. At the Hesperia Sevilla hotel you will find it summarized in the two styles that define the Andalusian capital: a style as traditional and welcoming as the streets of the Santa Cruz neighborhood, or a modern and comfortable style like the Nervión neighborhood. Whatever style you choose, the luxury of its location and the services that characterize every Hesperia hotel will never be lacking.



Hotel Hesperia

Cordoba

Hesperia Cordoba is located on the banks of the Guadalquivir River and it offers stunning views of the Mosque-Cathedral. This charming hotel in Córdoba does not hesitate to offer it to you in a unique environment, full of services and facilities tailored to everything you could ask for in this enchanting city.



Hotel NH Valencia Las Artes

Valencia

The NH Valencia Las Artes hotel couldn't be in a better spot. It's just a couple of minutes' walk from a science museum, aquarium and IMAX cinema. Buses outside the hotel take you into the old town, and you can be on the beach in 15 minutes. A 2-minute walk to the famous City of Arts and Sciences, which houses a science museum and Europe's largest aquarium, opposite El Saler shopping centre and 15 minutes' drive to Malvarrosa Beach. The hotel has 174 rooms in a choice of Standard or Superior as well as two Junior suite. Muted grey, green and brown lends a soothing ambience, and several rooms have garden views.



Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza

Barcelona

The Catalonia Barcelona Plaza hotel is located in Barcelona next to Plaza España and the facilities of the Fira de Barcelona and Montjuïc. With 347 rooms, an ideal place to stay on a business trip or a few days off. The panoramic terrace has a swimming pool and a large chill-out area with bar service and offers incomparable views of Plaza España and the Magic Fountains of Montjuïc, as well as most of the rooms. The Catalonia Barcelona Plaza hotel has 3 restaurants, an aesthetic and beauty center with treatments and massages, 13 meeting rooms equipped with the latest technology, free Wi-Fi, parking in the same building and excellent connections with all public transport.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Spanish

LOCAL CURRENCY

Euro

- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package