

SUTHERLAND FAMILY TRIP TO SPAIN & PORTUGAL OCTOBER 2022

Start: Thursday October 13, 2022 End: Friday October 28, 2022



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ITINERARY & QUOTE: YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE!!

Thank you for choosing Just Explore to help you customise your dream trip to Spain.

PLEASE NOTE:

- This is an example itinerary that can always be changed and/or adapted to suit your exact requirements and final travel dates as needed.
- Our private walking tours are very pleasant and not strenuous at all. They are lead by local expert guides who'll be adapted to your needs, pace and walking conditions in case you need to take a break.
- The quote & inclusions section is on the final page of this document.

If you'd like to keep up to date with our social network, please follow us on Instagram & Facebook and dont forget to tag us with **@justexplorespain** & using our hashtag **#justexplorespain**

15 Nights 3 People

2 N Bilbao
3 N Madrid
2 N Porto
2 N Lisbon
3 N Sevilla
3 N Barcelona

THU Arrival and first day at your leisure

OCT
13

Welcome to Spain! Passionate, historical and mysterious, Spain is a land of contrasts. It is both a stereotype come to life and a country more diverse than you ever imagined. From amazing architectural sights to fascinating cultural experiences and *off the beaten track* adventures, you will discover a country full of legacies and emotions.

Upon arrival in Bilbao, we will arrange for a private transfer to your hotel in the city center.

First **afternoon & evening** free to get acquainted with this cosmopolitan city and the vibrant atmosphere that it will offer over your stay.

We will provide you with good recommendations for places to eat, drink and tips for city walks or any entertainment/events happening during your travel dates.

** For early arrivals at the airport, please note that hotels do not guarantee an early check-in but if your room is not ready by the time you arrive, as the usual check-in time is 2 pm, the reception staff will do the check-in for you and will keep your luggage in their safe room. In the meantime, you could use the hotel facilities (bar area, spa, library...)*

FRI Bilbao (Old Town + Guggenheim) & surroundings

OCT Half day guided tour of Bilbao (aprx 5h)

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10:00 AM Your private driver/guide will pick you up from your hotel in Bilbao to take you on a 2.5 hrs introductory **walking tour of the historic old town** so you could understand the foundations and history of Bilbao. You will walk through the narrow streets of the Casco Viejo (Old Town), exploring the highlights such as **Plaza Nueva, Catedral de Santiago*, La Ribera Market and San Anton Church***.

****You will not be entering these churches, you will only pass by them. Your guide will be informed to not spend time on them.***

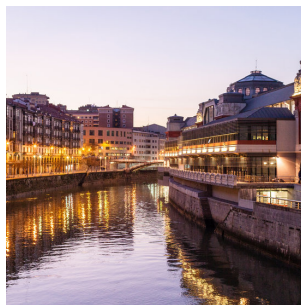
After this orientation walk around the historic center, it's off to explore the surroundings of Bilbao and the **picturesque old fishing port of Algorta**, driving through Getxo, an affluent area about 12 km north of Bilbao.

In Algorta, you could enjoy a traditional **lunch** at one of the restaurants near the port (lunch cost is not included but we highly recommend trying the local seafood family-owned restaurants).

15:00 After lunch, you will be driven back to Bilbao where you will spend a couple of hours in the **afternoon** visiting the Guggenheim museum at your own pace (tickets with audioguides in English will be prebooked to avoid waiting lines)

In the **evening** we highly recommend experiencing the vibrant night atmosphere and doing your own "Pintxos Tour" following the useful recommendations that we will provide you so you can sample the most authentic and local bars of Bilbao old town.

Bilbao is a northern Spanish city aprx 16 km south of the Bay of Biscay, where the Bilbao estuary forms. Bilbao's main urban core is surrounded by two small mountain ranges (with an average elevation of 400 m). After its foundation in the early 14th century by Diego López V de Haro, head of the powerful Haro family, Bilbao was a commercial hub of the Basque Country and enjoyed significant importance in the region, thanks to its significant port activity centered on the export of iron extracted from the Biscayan quarries. Throughout the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, Bilbao experienced heavy industrialization, making it the center of the second-most industrialized region of Spain, behind Barcelona. The building of Frank Gehry's **Guggenheim Museum** in 1997 not only changed the way architects and people think about museums and their relationship with the art they house but also boosted Bilbao's economy with its astounding success. In fact, the phenomenon of a city's transformation following the construction of a significant piece of architecture is now referred to as the "Bilbao Effect."



Bilbao - Free evening

Free evening to get acquainted with the city. Attached you will find tips and recommendations for good places to eat pintxos and to drink



SAT
OCT
15

Flight*: from Bilbao to Madrid

07:30 AM Private transfer to Bilbao's airport.

09:20 AM Flight to Madrid (1h 10mins duration)

10:25 AM Upon arrival at Madrid's airport, private transfer to your accommodation.

**There is a train available but it is 5-hours long.*

Madrid guided tour

Walking tour with private guide (Length: aprx. 4h)

03:00 PM Your art historian guide will meet you in the lobby of your hotel for an introductory walking tour* of aprx. 4 hours to discover the highlights of Madrid.

On this 4-hour private tour, you will explore both **Hapsburg and Bourbon dynasties'** legacies, spanning the 16th to the 19th centuries. In the Madrid of the Habsburgs, you will learn about the development of the area around the Plaza Mayor, the Casa de la Villa square, and the Puerta del Sol, which marked the eastern gate of the city under their reign. The Bourbons expanded the boundary of the city beyond the Puerta del Sol to the Prado Museum and Retiro Park. The Bourbon dynasty was inspired by the court of Versailles and you can see the French influence in the buildings they commissioned, including the Royal Palace, with its elegant Plaza del Oriente and Royal Theater, the Bank of Spain building, the beautiful Cibeles and Neptune fountains, and the world-renowned Prado Museum.

This tour includes "skip the line" tickets** and a guided visit to the magnificent Royal Palace***

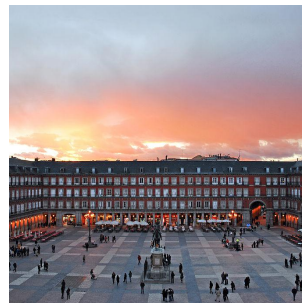
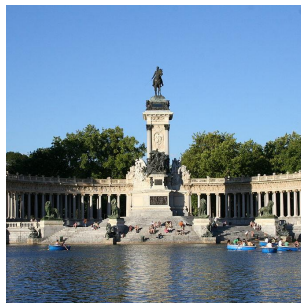
**The majority of the tour is done on foot but occasionally to avoid walking long distances and to optimize the time spent on-site visits, public transportation is sometimes needed (either taxi or metro). The cost of this public transportation is already included and no extra fees are added to the guided tour.*

***All skip the line tickets will be provided by your local guide on the day of the tour.*

**** Being a government building, the visit to the Royal Palace is subject to availability as it is sometimes closed for official events.*

Should the Palace no be available, we will find the next best possible alternative such as visiting it during your free day.

Madrid, Spain's central capital, is a city of elegant boulevards and expansive, manicured parks such as the Buen Retiro. It's renowned for its rich repositories of European art, including the Prado Museum's works by Goya, Velázquez and other Spanish masters. The Habsburg dynasty (los Austrias) ruled Spain during its Golden Age and established Madrid as the capital of the country. During their reign in the 16th and 17th centuries, the old center of the city was transformed with the construction of many of the city's historic buildings around the area of the Plaza Mayor. The Bourbon dynasty reigned after the Habsburgs, and they continued the transformation and expansion of the city. They are responsible for commissioning some of Madrid's most iconic buildings, including the Royal Palace, the Cibeles and Neptune fountains and the Prado Museum.



SUN
OCT
16

Toledo day trip

Full day trip (aprx 8 h)

09:20 AM Take the high-speed train to Toledo (just 30 min from Madrid).

From your accommodation, you could either take a taxi to Madrid's Atocha railway station, which would be a 10-minute ride or go walking, which would take aprx. 15 minutes)

09:53 AM Upon arrival in Toledo, your art historian guide will meet you at the railway station and will take you on a short panoramic tour of the city in a taxi, stopping along the way at the most spectacular viewpoints.

This will be followed by a **3.5-hour walking tour** of the historic center. During this tour, you will visit the **Cathedral**, widely considered one of the high points of Gothic art given the great superimposition of styles in the building and a large number of renowned artists who left their mark on the church: from Pedro Berruguete to Enrique Egás, Petrus Petri and Juan Guas. On its main facade, the outstanding feature is the doorway, made up of three doors: Infierno (Hell), Perdón (Forgiveness) and Juicio (Judgement). The exterior is topped by the two cathedral towers, one of them in flamboyant Gothic style and the other in Gothic-Renaissance.

You will discover the beautiful **Jewish quarter** where you'll visit the **El Tránsito synagogue** which houses one of the best Mudejar coffered ceilings in Toledo, along with walls richly decorated with geometrical and botanical designs as well as Hebrew inscriptions. Nowadays, it is where the Sephardic Museum is located.

You will also get to visit the **San Juan de Los Reyes Monastery**, a superb example of flamboyant Gothic style outstanding for its great ornamentation and for its cloister, of great sculptural value.

After the guided tour, you will have some free time to have **lunch** (cost not included). Here are some of our local recommendations for good places to eat the specialties of Toledo. If you are interested in trying any of these, we will gladly make a reservation on your behalf:

- Alfileritos 24 (Alfileritos, 24. Tel: +34 925 239 625)
- Parador de Toledo (Cerro del Emperador, s/n. Tel: +34 925 22 18 50) on the outside of town offering amazing panoramic views over the entire city and river.
- Hacienda del Cardenal (Paseo de Recaredo, 24. Tel: +34 925 22 08 62)
- Restaurante los Cuatro Tiempos (Sixto Ramon Parro, 5. Tel: +34 925 223 782)
- La Abadia (Pl. San Nicolas, 3. Tel: +34 925 671 457)
- Edemecum (Ctra Piedrabuena, 2. San Martin Bridge. Tel: +34 925 595 383)
- Restaurante Adolfo (C/Hombre de Palo, 7. Tel: +34 925 22 73 21)
- La Clandestina (C/Tendillas, 3. Tel: +34 925 22 59 25)
- La Fabrica de Harinas (C/Reyes Católicos, 5. Tel: +34 925 28 35 49)

During your **free time** in Toledo you could also stroll the narrow streets of the old town and visit some other interesting sites on your own (i.e. the **San Bartolome Church** to admire the famous Greco painting "*El Entierro del Conde Ordaz*", **The Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca** or the **Mezquita de la Luz**) before taking a taxi back to the train station.

05:25 PM You will take the return train to Madrid

06:00 PM Back in Madrid, you can enjoy the **evening** by further exploring the city at your own leisure or by revisiting your favorite spots.

Toledo is one of the Spanish cities with the greatest wealth of monuments. Known as the “city of the three cultures”, because Christians, Arabs, and Jews lived together here for centuries. Behind its walls, Toledo preserves an artistic and cultural legacy in the form of churches, palaces, fortresses, mosques, and synagogues. This great diversity of artistic styles makes the old quarter of the capital of Castile - La Mancha a real open-air museum, which has led to it being declared a World Heritage Site. If there is one person's name that defines Toledo it is that of *El Greco*. His House Museum, a palace with the atmosphere of the period, exhibits some of the best works of the painter who made the city world-famous.

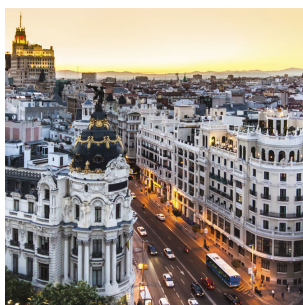


MON
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17

Madrid-Free day

Free time to explore other sites in Madrid at your leisure. Here are a few suggestions:

- Prado Museum (We can pre-book "skip the line" tickets for you if you are interested)
- Reina Sofia Museum
- Thyssen Museum
- The Royal Palace becomes the stage for the **Changing of the Guard** accompanied by the Music Unit. (Every Wednesday and Saturday of the year from 11am to 2pm - except on days an official event is held or the weather conditions prevent it - Free admission at Puerta del Principe (Bailén Street) - 17 June through 15 September 10am - noon
- The **Solemn Changing of the Guard** at the Royal Palace takes place first Wednesday of the month at noon (except January, August, September, and on days when official acts are held or when weather conditions prevent it - Free admission through Puerta de Santiago that gives access to Plaza de la Armería from Bailén Street)
- The stunning Palacio de Cibeles, Madrid's former post office, is the headquarters of Madrid City Council and home to CentroCentro, a cultural center. Head to the Terrace on the 8th floor (entrance fee: 3€) and enjoy the stunning panoramic views of the city.
- CaixaForum Madrid is one of Madrid's most eye-catching landmarks, seeming to hover above the ground, the brick edifice being topped by an interesting rusted iron roof. There are almost always interesting exhibitions on the four floors of this cultural center.
- Retiro Park (the green lung of Madrid)
- The Glass Palace (a beautiful glass structure from 1887 located in the heart of Retiro Park)
- Las Letras neighborhood (Plaza de Santa Ana)
- The Debod Temple
- Almudena Cathedral
- Palacio de Liria - This neoclassical palace, only recently opened to the public, is the Madrid residence of the Dukes of Alba.
- Salamanca and Recoletos districts (high-end shopping)
- Colon district (try lunch or dinner at the trendy food court La Platea)
- Fuencarral street or Gran Vía (shopping districts)



TUE
OCT
18

Flight: from Madrid to Porto

08:00 AM Private transfer to Madrid's airport.

10:30 AM Internal flight to Porto (1h 15mins duration)

10:45 AM Upon arrival at Porto's airport, private transfer to your hotel

Porto - Private walking tour

Walking city tour with private guide (length: aprx. 4h)

03:00 PM Your art historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel.

The tour will begin at the Cathedral* of Porto where you will explore the medieval streets that surround it and uncover the secrets that they hold. You'll then make your way to the S. Bento train station, which is well worth a stop, to admire its walls and ceilings which count over 20,000 hand-painted tiles! On the way, you'll pass by Aliados, the city's main avenue and will learn why people from Porto are the proudest in the country...

****You will not be entering this Cathedral, you will only pass by it. Your guide will be informed to not spend time on it.***

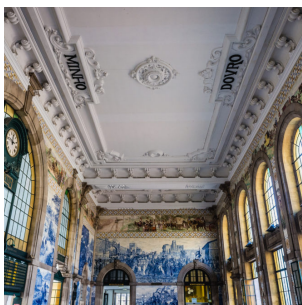
Learn some funny & interesting facts about Porto's ex-libris, the Clerigos Tower, and discover the cultural importance of the Lello bookshop.

Finally, you'll get to enjoy the view from one of the most beautiful viewpoints of the city just before your guided visit of the Stock Exchange Palace (Palácio da Bolsa).

Porto is Portugal's second largest city and is the commercial and industrial centre for the north part of the Mondego River. Opening up like a pop-up book from the banks of the Rio Douro, edgy-yet-opulent Porto entices with its historic centre, sumptuous food and wine, and charismatic locals. Considered a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996, the city of Oporto dates back to the 4th century and is one of the oldest tourist destinations in Europe. Its wealth of art, monuments, the famous port wine, Gaia's award-winning wineries and the unique colors of this city are very valid reasons to head north of the country.

There are really very few similarities between Porto and Lisbon – they are both near the coast, on the banks of large rivers and have some fairly daunting hills, but that's really where it ends. The two cities have a totally different feel and different charms.

Known far and wide for the wine that shares its name (Port), and for the bridges and architecture that make it easy to understand why so many people are drawn to this seaside city in Portugal - **Porto** has been a beacon of hope for the Jewish community in more ways than one. There's so much to see here beyond just the beautiful beaches, great food, and relaxed Portuguese culture.



WED
OCT
19

Aveiro, Costa Nova & Coimbra - Full-Day Tour from Porto

Full day trip with private driver & guide (length: aprx 10hrs)

Leave the beautiful city of Porto and head off to Aveiro.

Aveiro has a number of buildings in Art Nouveau style that are worth seeing. Many are situated along the main channel, but there are some off the beaten track and in other locations.

Emblematic of the city is the sweet made with eggs and sugar - the "ovos moles" (soft eggs) that are sold in wooden barrels or wrapped in a crusty wafer in different shapes.

Near Aveiro, you will visit Costa Nova mostly famous for its colorful striped houses along a narrow strip of land between the beach and the lagoon. The next stop is Coimbra.

On the banks of the River Mondego, Coimbra is famous for its University, the oldest in Portugal and one of the oldest in Europe, which over time has shaped its image to become "the city of students".

On this tour, you will visit the University, founded in the 13th Century and which UNESCO has placed on its list of World Heritage sites, in a classification that also includes Rua da Sofia and the upper part of the city. Its tower houses the bells that signal the start and end of classes and, at ground level, you have the Pátio das Escolas courtyard, the Sala dos Capelos hall where the most important ceremonies are held, the Chapel of São Miguel with an imposing Baroque organ and the Joanne Library, which has more than 300,000 works dating from the 16th to the 18th centuries arranged in beautiful gilt-covered bookcases. The buildings occupy the place of the Palace where the first Kings of Portugal lived, when they made the city the capital of the kingdom.

You'll then return to your Hotel in Porto

Aveiro is famed for its canals, Nouveau architecture, and colorfully painted Moliceiros boats. The city lies on the edge of the Ria de Aveiro, an expansive saltwater lagoon that was historically farmed for its seaweed, salt, and bountiful fish. Today, Aveiro is a bustling university city, with an authentic fishermen's district, ornate Art Nouveau houses, and numerous grand religious buildings.

Once the capital of Portugal all the way back in the 13th century, **Coimbra** has many impressive buildings, churches, and monasteries dating back to those days. As such, there are so many things to see and do in Coimbra. Famed for its university, which is one of the oldest in Europe, the city is a laidback place to visit, with lots of great bars and restaurants for you to enjoy. While it may not have the wealth of tourist attractions that Porto and Lisbon have, Coimbra offers an authentic Portuguese experience away from all the crowds and is well worth a visit. A captivating city with much to offer thanks to its intoxicating mix of history, culture, and art that make for an irresistible and unforgettable trip.



THU
OCT
20

Side trip to Nazaré & Óbidos on the way to Lisbon

Side trip with private driver/guide (length: aprx 10 h)

Explore the picturesque little villages of Nazaré & Óbidos on the way down to Lisbon.

Leave the beautiful city of Porto and head off to Nazaré.

This is the beach in Portugal that retains the more colorful fishing traditions, and it's not uncommon to encounter fishmongers who still wear the traditional seven skirts. Facing the sea on the right, you will see an impressive headland. This is Sítio, which provides one of the most famous views of the Portuguese coast. It is a 318-meter rock face with a sheer drop to the sea.

At the top sits the Ermida da Memória chapel*, famous for the legend of the miracle that Our Lady made to prevent the horse of the nobleman, D. Fuas Roupinho, from leaping over the precipice.

****You will not be entering this chapel, you will only pass by it. Your guide will be informed to not spend time on it.***

This is a good place to have lunch with plenty of options on the seafront with fresh fish dishes.

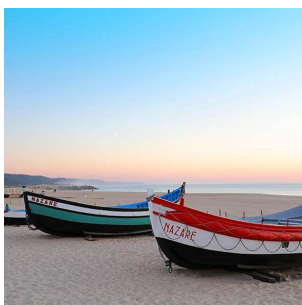
Afterward, you will stop in Óbidos. Quite close to the capital and located on high ground near the Atlantic coast, Óbidos has had strategic importance in the territory. It had already been settled prior to the Romans' arrival in the Iberian Peninsula, and the town prospered after being chosen by the royal family. King Dinis offered it to his wife, Queen Isabel, in the 13th century, and it became part of Casa das Rainhas (Queens' Estate), which improved and enriched it throughout the various dynasties. This is one of the main reasons for the high concentration of churches in this small place.

You will find a well-preserved castle within the walls and a maze of streets and white houses that are a delight to stroll amongst. Along with the Manueline porticoes, the colorful window boxes, and the small squares, many fine examples of religious and civil architecture from the town's golden days provide a host of reasons for making a visit.

Drop off in your Hotel in Lisbon.

The town of **Nazaré** used to be known for its traditional costumes worn by the fishermen and their wives who wore a traditional headscarf and embroidered aprons over seven flannel skirts in different colors. These dresses can still occasionally be seen today. Nazaré is also a very popular surfing destination thanks to its very high breaking waves that form due to the presence of the underwater Nazaré Canyon.

Óbidos is a beautiful town surrounded by a classic crenellated wall. The historic centre is a charming labyrinth of cobblestoned streets and flower-bedecked, whitewashed houses decorated with bright yellow and blue paint.



FRI Best of Lisbon walk: Culture, Gastronomy and Traditions

OCT Private city & food tour (aprx.5h)

21 *A private experience that connects travelers with locals through food, culture and tradition and introduces you to Lisbon through the eyes of a local.*

03:00 PM Your private local guide will pick you up from your hotel and will take you for a very enjoyable gastronomic and cultural introduction to the city.

This interactive tasting tour full of flavors and discoveries is guided by a local expert, in which you will explore old and vibrant neighborhoods, the ones that will tell you about the History and the stories of Lisbon, by its beautiful old stores and other unique venues while you taste the local flavors.

In this walking tour, you will start from **S. Pedro de Alcântara viewpoint**, pass through streets and visit places of historical and gastronomical significance, stopping at those with most character, charm and highest standards of quality, as it is **Chiado and Bairro Alto, Rossio, Castelo and Alfama**. All are compelling landmarks of our culture and Lisbon history where we will taste the flavors of one of the richest and most unknown cuisines of the world.

Depending on your pace, we hope there will be still time to have a walk in the new gastronomic attractions in Lisbon, such as the Cod Fish Museum* (stop for tasting without visit) and Time Out Market.

With this tour, you won't need to have lunch since it works as a kind of long meal providing you with the most typical food experience you could possibly have in Lisbon.

Your guide will be informed that one member of your family doesn't eat seafood so they can offer an alternative when possible.

Included:

- Private Lisbon cultural & food Tour with a local guide
- 6 tasting stops (+ drinks)

Lisbon is the stunning capital city of Portugal, and one of the most charismatic and vibrant cities in Western Europe. Set against the ever-present backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean and located at the mouth of the Tagus River, this dainty sun-kissed city lives in a Latin fairytale of timeworn manners and traditions. Lisbon is a city that effortlessly blends traditional heritage with striking modernism and enchants travelers with its white-bleached limestone buildings, intimate alleyways and easy-going charm. Check out the century-old wooden trams and iron funiculars that still lurch and rumble their way through the city or witness the best of this bygone heritage by wandering through the Baixa district, where age-old herbalists, haberdashers and tailors rub shoulders in the baroque streets of the ornate city centre. Lisbon is blessed with breath-taking viewpoints, a gorgeous climate, extremely friendly people and the passion of fado.



Lisbon - Free time

You will have the **day free** to explore Lisbon at your leisure.

Here are a few must-sees:

- Torre de Belem
- Alfama (Oldest district of Lisbon)
- Santa Justa Elevator
- St. George's castle (Sao Jorge)
- Portas do Sol
- Feira da Ladra flea market
- Vasco da Gama Tower
- Vasco da Gama Bridge (longest in Europe)
- Rua Garrett (High-end shopping, museums & theatres)
- Jeronimos Monastery
- Pedro IV Square
- Campo Pequeno Bullring
- Lisbon Oceanarium

Lisbon is the stunning capital city of Portugal, and one of the most charismatic and vibrant cities in Western Europe. Set against the ever-present backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean, it is a city that effortlessly blends traditional heritage with striking modernism. Perched on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, Lisbon enchants travelers with its white bleached limestone buildings, intimate alleyways, easy-going charm and century-old wooden trams & iron funiculars.



SAT
OCT
22

Flight: from Lisbon to Sevilla

05:30 AM Private transfer to Lisbon's airport.

07:25 AM* Internal flight to Sevilla (1h 10mins duration)

09:35 AM Upon arrival at Sevilla's airport, private transfer to your hotel

**The next flight is at 1:05PM*

Sevilla guided tour

Walking city tour with private guide (Length: 3h)

The perfect way to explore Seville's old town's UNESCO World Heritage Sites and learn about the important role they played in the history of the city.

03:00 PM Your art historian guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel for an introductory walking tour of aprx 3hrs to discover the main historic sites in Sevilla.

You will head to the **Royal Alcazar/Palace****, a beautiful example of Mudéjar architecture in the Iberian Peninsula. The tour will take you through the city's **Santa Cruz Jewish quarter**, this labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys designed to provide protection from the oppressive sun of the Sevillian summer are scattered with lovely green and lively plazas. This tour will end at the iconic **Plaza de Espana**, built in 1928 for the Ibero-American Exposition of 1929, a landmark example of the Regionalism Architecture, mixing elements of the Baroque Revival, Renaissance Revival and Moorish Revival (Neo-Mudéjar) styles of Spanish architecture.

This tour includes "skip-the-line" access*** to all the sites.

****You will not be entering this Cathedral, you will only pass by it. Your guide will be informed to not spend time on it.***

**** Subject to availability:** Being an active residence of the Royal Family, the Alcazar Palace is occasionally closed to the public. For security reasons, the information is never provided ahead of time.

*****All skip the line tickets will be provided by your local guide on the day of the tour.**

Some cities blast you away, others slowly win you over. **Sevilla** disarms and seduces you. The irresistible city of Sevilla, Andalucia's capital, is located on the shores of the River Guadalquivir. Its population of about 1.5 million makes it the fourth-largest city in Spain. Its historic center, the third-largest in Europe with an area of 4 km², contains three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the fabulous Mudéjar Alcázar palace, the Gothic Cathedral and the General Archive of the Indies. Lorded over by a colossal Gothic cathedral, the old town is an intoxicating mix of resplendent Mudéjar palaces, baroque churches and winding medieval lanes. Flamenco clubs keep the intimacy and intensity of this centuries-old tradition alive whilst aristocratic mansions recall the city's past as a showcase Moorish capital and, later, a 16th-century metropolis rich on the back of New World trade. But what is captivating about the city, as much as the monuments and works of art, is its essential romantic quality, the greatest city of Carmen, Don Juan and Figaro...



SUN
OCT
23

Sevilla-Free time

Free time in Sevilla at your own leisure. Our recommended places to visit and things to do are:

PALACES

- The Royal Alcazar
- **Palacio de Lebrija**
- Casa Pilatos
- Palacio de las Dueñas

Los Venerables

PARKS & GARDENS

- Jardines de Murillo (**Murillo Gardens**)
- Maria Luisa Park:

LANDMARKS & SITES

- Plaza de la Encarnacion and the Metropol Parasol ("**the mushrooms**")
- The **Torre del Oro - Maritime Museum of Seville**
- Plaza de España
- **The Nao Victoria**
- **Hotel Alfonso XIII**
- Archivo de Indias
- Plaza Nueva
- Casa de la Memoria (C/ Cuna, 6): a cultural building established to promote and preserve authentic Andalusian traditions. It is one of the best places to go for an authentic Flamenco show presented by recognized artists. On number 18 the same street one of the most envied private homes in town, at Calle Cuna 18:
- Acuario de Sevilla Modern aquarium with a wide range of marine creatures, touch pools & a tunnel tank with bull sharks.
- Triana district: Triana Market, Calle Betis, Triana Bridge, Triana ceramic workshops
- La Maestranza bullring and Museum



MON
OCT
24

Sevilla-Free time

Free time in Sevilla at your own leisure. Our recommended places to visit and things to do are:

MARKETS & UNIQUE SHOPS

Sevilla Soho Benita

Mercadillo Historico del Jueves (Calle Feria)

Encarnacion Market

Convento Madre de Dios

ACTIVITIES

Horse carriage tour (45 min for 40 €).

River cruise along the Guadalquivir River (aprx. 1h)

Shopping in **Calle Sierpes**, La Campana or Plaza del Duque

Aire de Sevilla (C/Aire, 15): An Arab Bath establishment, housed in a Mudejar style building. The baths consist of a spa area, a tea room, and a sauna. The interiors feature a mixture of Arabic and Roman styles, creating an exclusive and relaxing atmosphere for visitors.

Day trip to the Roman city of Itálica: It was the first Roman town in Spain, founded in 206 BC, and the birthplace of the 2nd-century AD Roman emperor Trajan, and of his adopted son and successor Hadrian. What remains of those times are broad paved streets and ruins of houses built around courtyards of beautiful mosaics. Itálica also contains one of the biggest of all Roman amphitheaters (seating 20,000 spectators). The most notable houses are the Casa de Los Pájaros (House of the Birds) and the Casa del Planetario (House of the Planetarium), with a mosaic depicting the gods of the seven days of the week.

MUSEUMS & ART GALLERIES

Bellver Museum (**Casa Fabiola**)

CAAC-Andalusian Contemporary Art Centre:

Fine Arts Museum

**** For further information and more detailed descriptions, please refer to your city guides in the final detailed version of this itinerary.***



Flamenco show

Museo del Baile Flamenco

The Museo del Baile Flamenco (Museum of Flamenco Dance) has become a place of reference for good flamenco in Seville. You will enjoy an hour's performance of the best flamenco in town at a historic building in the Old town of Santa Cruz.

We highly recommend visiting the museum on the first floor prior to the flamenco performance so make sure you get there at least one hour before the show starts.

The performance is held in the patio of the historic building with a cast of artists that changes every day. One day the show may feature *Alegrías*, another may be a solemn *Seguiriya*, *Solea por Bulerías*, a tragic *Taranto*, emotional *Tangos* or another style of flamenco.

The **Museo del Baile Flamenco** (Museum of Flamenco Dance) in Seville is an impressive venue for some of Seville's best flamenco. Located in the Santa Cruz quarter and just a few steps from the Plaza Alfalfa, the museum offers daily flamenco shows. The central patio of the museum has been specially designed to stage performances for a small number of spectators. Under the direction of the Sevillian flamenco dancer Cristina Hoyos, the museum shows, of course, attracts some of the best talents in Seville and Spain. Equally impressive is the Flamenco Museum itself, perhaps one of the most technologically advanced museums in Spain. Interactive exhibits show the origins and evolution of flamenco, covering the various styles of music and dance. Music, video, and costume displays are some of the best in any museum. The Museum also offers a wide variety of exhibits and workshops such as flamenco-focused exhibits that include paintings, drawings, and photography.

NOTE: A guided tour of the Museum, dance and percussion classes & workshops are also available upon request. If you are interested, please ask us for more information.



TUE
OCT
25

Flight*: from Sevilla to Barcelona

06:00 AM Private transfer to Sevilla's airport.

08:25 AM Internal flight to Barcelona (1h 40mins duration)

10:05 AM Upon arrival at Barcelona's airport, private transfer to your hotel.

**There is a train available but it is 5.5 hours long*

Modernist Barcelona: Gaudi's Highlights

Half-day walking city tour with private guide (Length: aprx. 4h)

Barcelona is known as the capital of Modernism and the place where the famous architect Antoni Gaudí, worked and lived. Gaudí, one of the greatest innovators of his time, has left behind numerous treasures in Barcelona for the discerning traveler to discover. Today, we invite you to enter Gaudí's world of fantasy and geometry by visiting some of his masterpieces.

03:00 PM Your art historian expert guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel for an introductory walking tour of 4hrs to discover the most exceptional works of Gaudí.

This artistic tour of Barcelona starts with a guided visit of the exterior and the interior of the **Sagrada Família** church, Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, and Barcelona's most famous landmark. Next, you will discover Gaudí's unusual **Park Güell**, a Unesco World Heritage Site, and an exceptional piece that unites nature and architecture like no other. In 1900, Gaudí was given the assignment of designing **Park Güell**. Güell understood better than any of his contemporaries the meaning of Gaudí's architecture and the relationship between the two men was not simply that of an artist and his patron, but a real story of friendship.

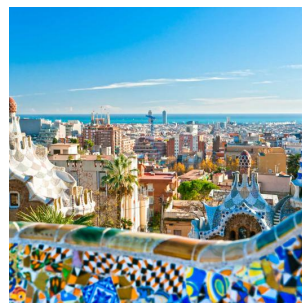
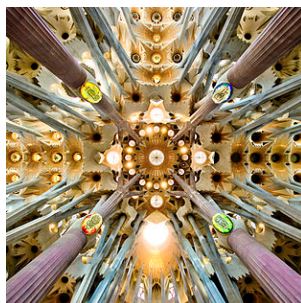
The tour will end at **Passeig de Gràcia** where you will get an introduction to the distinct façades of Gaudí's famous houses, **Casa Batlló**, and **Casa Mila "La Pedrera"**. You will also admire some other interesting modernist apartment buildings on the same promenade. Should you be interested in a self-guided visit of any of the Gaudí houses, we will be happy to secure "fast track" tickets for you to avoid long waiting lines, just let us know!

"Skip-the-line" access** to La Sagrada Família and Parc Güell are included.

** **Important note:** this tour is mainly done on foot but in order to avoid long walking distances (due to the vast size of the city) and optimize the time spent on-site visits, public transportation is sometimes needed (either taxi or metro). The cost of this public transportation is already included and no extra fees are added to the guided tour.*

***All skip the line tickets will be provided by your local guide on the day of the tour.*

Barcelona is the cosmopolitan capital of Spain's Catalonia region. Located at the Mediterranean sea in the very north of the Spanish coast, it is certainly the most cosmopolitan and economically active city in the country. Barcelona has always proved its will to be modern, to follow the latest international trends or be ahead of them, especially in its architecture, which so well reflects the general approach to life in this always pulsating city. Barcelona has a very old history too and there are monuments of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance periods but what most defines its character is all that has been built over the last 100 years. Barcelona has been a center of Modernist architecture and is especially distinguished by the works of the genius Antoni Gaudí who, together with his great contemporaries, gave new and exciting looks to it, and managing to remain at the peak of modernity since then.



WED
OCT
26

Costa Brava & Girona day trip

Instead of Montserrat, we have selected this wonderful day trip to discover Girona and the Costa Brava. This is a full day as opposed to a half-day trip (since it is further than Montserrat) - The cost has been modified accordingly.

Full day trip to the Costa Brava and Girona, 10h (with private driver and guide)

Today you will visit the beautiful Girona province coastline. The Costa Brava enchants all who visit with its unique rocky and rugged shores, its open areas of natural interest and the maritime character of its little towns. On this full-day tour, you will discover the southern part of this dramatic coastline by sightseeing in two of its most picturesque towns: the fortified Tossa de Mar and the fishermen Calella de Palafrugell. You will also enjoy a very scenic drive from Barcelona with impressive views over the cliffs and the surrounding pine forests.

9:30 AM Your private driver and your historian guide will pick you up at your hotel and will take you on a very scenic road along the coast. Your first stop will be **Tossa de Mar**, well-known for being 'the pearl of Costa Brava'. Your guide will walk you through the walled *Vila Vella* enceinte, the only example of a fortified medieval town still standing on the Catalan coast. After strolling through this enchanting space of narrow cobblestone streets, you will follow the fortified perimeter up to the lighthouse.

Your second stop along the Costa Brava will be the pretty fishing town of **Calella de Palafrugell**, an attractive spot well known for its various rocky coves, sandy beaches, and excellent fish restaurants. Thanks to its lovely location Calella has steadily moved upmarket in recent years and offers some very high-quality restaurants and accommodation. The perfect place to enjoy a nice paella or any fresh seafood dish while admiring the Mediterranean! (Lunch cost not included)

After lunch, you will continue your scenic drive by passing the Cap Roig botanical gardens and the Llafranc lighthouse to join the interior road that connects the coast with Girona (aprx 45 min drive).

In Girona, you will enjoy a 2-hour guided tour of its medieval old town, one of the best preserved in Spain. The walking tour will end with a drink before heading back to Barcelona.

At about **07:00 PM** you will be back at your hotel in Barcelona.

La Costa Brava, meaning '*wild coast*' is located in the top corner of the region of Catalonia. It's one of the most romantic, gorgeous, unspoiled stretches of coast in Europe. Gloriously wild in parts and tastefully manicured in others, the Costa has some of the finest Blue Flag beaches in Europe, broad and sandy beaches to elegant horseshoe bays and secluded smugglers' coves. This stretch of the coast is a foodie's paradise and Catalonia has one of the highest concentrations of Michelin-starred chefs in Spain. Beyond that, there's art, history and outdoor activities aplenty. This is Dalí country and three excellent museums – including the painter's home at Cadaqués – are devoted to him. The Costa Brava is also home to some of the most scenic and important Greco/Roman and Iberian archaeological sites in Europe.

The ancient **walled city of Girona** stands on a fortress-like hill, high above the confluence of the Onyar and Ter rivers. As the provincial capital, it has a long and distinguished history. Founded by Iberians, the Romans later named it Gerunda and established it as an important stopping point on the Via Augusta, linking Iberia with Rome. The huge 15th-century cathedral, boasting the widest unsupported gothic arch in the world, dominates the skyline, yet much of the city's attraction lies in exploring the medieval streets, especially around the charming Jewish quarter.



THU
OCT
27

Barcelona-Free day

Free time to explore Barcelona at your leisure.

Here are some sites of interest and things to do that we recommend not missing:

- Modernist houses in Passeig de Gracia:
 - 1.- Casa Milá "La Pedrera" by Gaudí
 - 2.- Casa Batlló by Gaudí
 - 3.- Casa Lleó Morera by Domènech i Montaner
 - 4.- Casa Amatller by Puig i Cadafalch
- Parc Güell and Gaudí's house & museum
- Stroll Las Ramblas and visit the Boqueria Market
- Stroll the Old Town (Gothic Quarter): Plaza del Rey, Plaza Reial, Plaza San Jaume, The Cathedral, Santa Caterina market
- La Barceloneta beach to sunbathe, swimming or simply enjoy a nice paella at el Xup Xup or El Arenal (both family-run restaurants right on the beach sand)
- El Born district: Old Born market, Picasso Museum, Palau de la Musica (Unesco Heritage site), Santa Maria del Mar church
- Montjuïc & Plaza de España area: MNAC (National Catalan Art Museum), Olympic ring, Montjuïc castle, Fundacion Miró and Poble Espanyol
- Hospital San Pau (Unesco Heritage site, designed by the modernist architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner)
- Ciutatella Park: the greenest part of Barcelona to enjoy a walk, have a picnic, visit the Zoo or the Modern Arts Museum
- Shopping at Paseo de Gracia (upmarket brands) or at the trendy art crafts boutiques in the Barrio Gótico or El Born

If you fancy a break from the hustle and bustle of Barcelona and would like to explore some "off the beaten" tracks, we invite you to go on one of these day trips by train:

1. **The seaside town of Sitges:** only 40 min on the *Regional Express Train R2 Sud* from Barcelona Sants/Passeig de Gracia/Estacion de França. Only 8€ for a return ticket.

2. **The Roman city of Tarragona:** aprx 1h on the *Regional Express Train R2 Sud* from Barcelona Sants/Passeig de Gracia/Estacion de França. Tarragona station, is actually in downtown Tarragona, near the port area and walking distance to many sights. There is one train every hour or so. This ticket costs aprx 16 € return. If you can, take a seat on the left-hand side of the train to take as the views as it ventures up the Costa Dorada are stunningly spectacular.



FRI **End of your trip**

OCT We will arrange for a private driver to take you to the airport for your flight home :(

28 *Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end...*

We hope you enjoyed your stay with us here in Spain.

Hasta pronto!



QUOTE - INCLUSIONS - TERMS & CONDITIONS

ACCOMMODATION

At Just Explore we understand one of the biggest worries when booking a holiday is the standard for your accommodation.

That's why we only use pre-viewed character hotels & self-catering apartments with great locations to help you relax and enjoy your stay with us. ***All properties are clean, centrally located, and all have been hand-picked and personally inspected by our reliable team.***

Mix of:

- Self-catered apartments (no breakfast)
- 5-star hotels (breakfast included)

GUIDED VISITS & TOURS:

ALL PRIVATE - All entrance fees included

Bilbao - City tour

Madrid - City tour

Toledo - Day trip

Porto - City tour

Aveiro, Costa Nova & Coimbra - Day trip

Nazaré & Obidos - Day trip

Lisbon - City tour

Sevilla - City tour

Barcelona - Modernist city tour

Girona & Costa Brava - Day trip

TRANSPORT (all included)

All private transfers from the airport/railway station to the hotel and vice versa

Flight: Bilbao to Madrid

Flight: Madrid to Porto

Flight: Lisbon to Sevilla

Flight: Sevilla to Barcelona

MEALS & SHOWS (all included)

Sevilla - Flamenco show

Assistance During Your Trip:

Full support & assistance on hand 24hrs/day

Local Tips:

As with all our clients, we will provide you with a list of recommended places to visit, bars & restaurants etc. to help you enjoy the authentic Spain whilst you're exploring at your leisure.

Insurance:

We recommend that all travelers take out their own private travel & medical insurance whilst traveling to avoid any unforeseen expenses. We do not offer travel insurance but below you will find attached our personal recommendations for some very trusted and loyal companies that you can approach directly for a quote.

Travel insurance.docx - https://um-image-prd.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/files/~EAobAhDRnXs/JdKv7lwXOoQ/travel_insurance.docx

JE Terms & Conditions 2022.pdf - https://um-image-prd.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/files/~leDQU_JC9yc/KJDOaVjKcoQ/je_terms___conditions_2022.pdf



COVID-19: TRAVEL REGULATIONS

If you are travelling from the United States of America, to enter Spain you must:

1) Show a vaccination certificate (vaccines are valid from 14 days after the last dose up to 270 days (9 months). If more than 9 months have passed since receiving the last required dose you must show proof of having received a booster shot. The booster shot certificate is valid since the day it was administered. Accepted vaccines: Pfizer-Biontech, Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, Jansen / Johnson & Johnson, Sinovac and Sinopharm. The vaccination certificate must include at least the following information:

Name and surname of the holder.
Vaccination date, indicating the date of the last dose administered.
Type of vaccine administered
Number of doses administered / complete regimen
Issuing country
Identification of the issuing body of the vaccination certificate

2) Health Control Form (FCS): it is mandatory to fill out the Spain Health Control form (FCS). It must be completed and signed it online before your trip to Spain. You may access the form and sign it through the *Spain Travel Health* portal or through the apps for Android or iOS devices.

* **Important:** Bear in mind that you cannot use the paper form. You must **download your QR code** and show it to the national authorities either on your mobile device or printed on paper

PLEASE NOTE:

As measures related to the pandemic are constantly changing, we highly suggest to keep up to date by checking the following links:

<https://es.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

<https://travelsafe.spain.info/en/>

<https://www.mscbs.gob.es/en>

In a document attached you will also find some useful information regarding the current measures in Spain.

NEGATIVE TESTS TO FLY BACK:

We highly recommend to check your government updates regarding the request of a negative Covid test (either Antigen or PCR) to fly back home. If needed, you can check this link from IMS (International Medical Services), a very professional medical care that operates in the major cities in Spain such as **Madrid, Barcelona or Malaga**. We will be happy to help you with the test booking arrangements but if you prefer to contact them direct, here you have the details:

IMS Contact Details:
freephone@villasmedical.com
+34 871 959 966
+34 900 844 484

Feel free to send them an email to enquiry for the different rates based on the different test options. You will need to provide all your travel details to confirm your appointment on the date you need. They can even come to your hotel for an extra fee...

IMS MADRID: HM Madrid Hospital (Plaza del Conde del Valle de Suchil, Chamberi-Madrid)

IMS BARCELONA: HM Delfos Hospital (Avinguda de Vallcarca, 151, Gracia-Barcelona)

IMS MALAGA: El Angel Hospital (Calle Corregidor Nicolas Isidro, 16, Malaga)

Besides IMS, there are several other options at every town/city where you can book your Covid test appointment and we'll be happy to help you. Just ask us!!

If you are travelling from the United States of America, to enter Portugal you must:

1) Show a vaccination certificate (vaccines are valid from 14 days after the last dose up to 270 days (9 months). If more than 9 months have passed since receiving the last required dose you must show proof of having received a booster shot. The booster shot certificate is valid since the day it was administered. Accepted vaccines: Pfizer-Biontech, Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, Jansen / Johnson & Johnson, Sinovac and Sinopharm. The vaccination certificate must include at least the following information:

Name and surname of the holder.
Vaccination date, indicating the date of the last dose administered.
Type of vaccine administered
Number of doses administered / complete regimen
Issuing country
Identification of the issuing body of the vaccination certificate

2) Fill a **Passenger Locator Card** (individually) before departure to Portugal or on board. As part of coronavirus travel restrictions in Portugal, **all overseas visitors** are required to fill out and submit the Passenger Locator Card.

PLEASE NOTE:

As measures related to the pandemic are constantly changing, we highly suggest to keep up to date by checking the following links:

<https://pt.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

<https://www.visitportugal.com/en/content/covid-19-measures-implemented-portugal>

NEGATIVE TESTS TO FLY BACK:

We highly recommend to check your government updates regarding the request of a negative Covid test (either Antigen or PCR) to fly back home. If needed, we will be happy to help you with the test booking arrangements.

Covid 19 Protocole information - APRIL 2022.docx - https://um-image-prd.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/files/~leDQU_JC9yc/KLmuxEHYcmY/covid_19_protocole_information_-_april_2022.docx