



An Iberian Peninsula Exploration: Barcelona, Madrid, and Lisbon

10 Days

This journey begins in Spain: the land of bullfighters and flamenco dancers, fiestas and siestas, and crispy churros con chocolate. Start off in Barcelona, once home to such influential artists as Picasso, Miró, and Dalí. No stop in this vibrant city is complete without a visit to Gaudí's architecturally intriguing Casa Batlló, Park Güell, and the Sagrada Família. In Madrid, take in the sights and sounds of the Plaza Mayor or relax with a row around the pond in El Retiro. Last — but certainly not least — is Lisbon, Portugal's rejuvenating capital. Wander the cobblestoned streets of timeworn Alfama, indulge in a crispy pastry from a local confeitaria, or take a ride on one of the city's old-fashioned yellow trams.

Highlights

- ★ Art Flamenco Show at Tablao Flamenco Cordobes
- ★ Private Monserrat Tour
- ★ Fatima, Obidos, Batalha, Alcobaca, and Nazare Tour with Lunch
- ★ A Guided Secret Food Walking Tour in Lisbon

Itinerary Details

Day 1 - 4

- ✈ International Arrival
- 🚗 Private Transfer to Hotel

3 Nights

Barcelona

This capital city of Catalonia, Spain, is celebrated for its cosmopolitan ambiance, artistic flair, and rich history. Among its most iconic landmarks, recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, are the masterpieces of Antoni Gaudí, the renowned Catalan architect and designer: the Sagrada Família and Park Güell. Gaudí's architectural legacy extends throughout the city, offering visitors a chance to discover his distinctive style in various corners of the metropolis. Beyond its architectural wonders, Barcelona is home to a variety of diverse cultures evident in its neighborhoods, culinary offerings, and lively festivals. Travelers can explore the Gothic Quarter (Barri Gòtic), meander along the bustling promenade of La Rambla, or immerse themselves in the lively atmosphere of El Raval, known for its nightlife, art scene, and cultural activities. The city hosts notable cultural institutions such as the Picasso Museum, dedicated to the life and works of Pablo Picasso, the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, and Camp Nou stadium, where visitors can catch football (soccer) matches of the highly successful FC Barcelona. No visit to Barcelona is complete without savoring its unique Catalan cuisine, which showcases fresh seafood, tapas, and traditional dishes like paella and fideuà. Visitors can explore local markets throughout the city, like the popular La Boqueria, to fully immerse themselves in authentic gastronomic experiences. Overall, Barcelona's fusion of art, culture, architecture, and culinary delights ensures its enduring allure as a captivating destination for travelers worldwide.

Included activities

DAY 1: Arrive in Barcelona

Meet the transfer representative to be transported to the hotel. Take the afternoon to get acquainted with the sights and tastes of Barcelona. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes for a late-afternoon guided tour of La Sagrada Família. When it's over, stroll through the produce and food stands of the Mercat de la Boqueria or check out the evening happenings on the Rambla pedestrian boulevard.

Recommended Hotels in Barcelona

In Barcelona, Europe Express offers a curated selection of exceptional properties to suit every traveler. For a five-star experience, the Ohla Eixample delights with a Michelin-starred Mediterranean restaurant and prime location in the Eixample District, while The One Barcelona, part of the prestigious H10 Hotels group, provides a fully tailored luxury stay. The Eurostars Grand Marina (5*GL), ideally situated near the port, is a standout choice for pre- or post-cruise stays. For those seeking four-star superior accommodations, the H10 Cubik (4*S) and H10 Metropolitan (4*S) combine stylish design with H10's renowned guest-oriented service. Both properties boast enviable locations near Plaça Catalunya and Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, placing the city's iconic sights just steps away.

GROUP TOUR: FAST TRACK SAGRADA FAMILIA GUIDED TOUR WITH TOWER ACCESS

Barcelona is known as the capital of Modernism and the home of famous architect Antoni Gaudí. His cathedral, La Sagrada Família, is one of the most visited buildings in the world. On this tour, walk through the astonishing interior of this church, with its 18 symbolic towers and 230-foot vaulted ceilings. There will also be a visit to the Sagrada Família Museum, which houses drawings, plaster models, and photographs depicting the basilica's history and development.

DAY 2:

After breakfast, meet in the hotel lobby for a private guided tour of Barcelona. Afterward, enjoy free time to explore the city. Take a walk to admire the façade of Gaudí's architecturally unique Casa Batlló, tour the Picasso Museum, or sample some traditional Catalan cuisine in El Raval. This evening, enjoy a flamenco show with dinner included.

PRIVATE HALF-DAY BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING - CAR AND DRIVER

Get a feel for Barcelona's history and culture with this tour of the city's most emblematic sites. The itinerary is customizable, but possible points of interest could include Passeig de Gracia, Park Güell, the port and beaches, Olympic Park, or Poble Espanyol.

FLAMENCO SHOW AT TABLAO FLAMENCO CORDOBES

Since the XIX century these "cafes" have occupied three areas in Barcelona: La Rambla, El Paralaleo and Sant Pau (known as "The Golden Triangle"). These small establishments are cozy, and intimate where flamenco comes alive in all its natural state. The live music, continuous improvisation, the proximity to the public, the absence of microphones, to name but a few elements that make this experience so intimate, create an atmosphere for flamenco that cannot be reproduced in larger spaces.

DAY 3:

Begin the day with a private tour of the awe-inspiring Montserrat. Upon return to the city, grab a late lunch - maybe some black rice with garlic aioli - and head out to do any final sightseeing in Barcelona. Take in an FC Barcelona match at Camp Nou or spend a serene afternoon at the 14th-century Monastery of Pedralbes, now a museum of monastic life.

PRIVATE MONTSERRAT HALF-DAY MORNING TOUR

This tour is an unforgettable journey to the Benedictine monk mountain retreat of Montserrat. Visit the Montserrat Natural Park and learn about its geology and wildlife while gazing down upon the spectacular Catalan landscape. Then tour the 11th-century sanctuary, Gothic basilica, and Chapel of the Virgin. Depending on the time and day, there might even be time to witness a performance by the Montserrat Boy's Choir in the basilica. After some free time to explore, the tour will head back to Barcelona.



-  Private Transfer to Train Station
-  Train Ride from Barcelona to Madrid
-  Private Transfer to Hotel in Madrid

3 Nights

Madrid

Madrid, the capital of Spain and its most populous city, epitomizes a modern, inclusive cultural hub rooted in ancient history and architectural grandeur. Among its diverse population of over 180 nationalities, Madrid balances tradition with contemporary sophistication. The city is home to significant landmarks, including the Royal Palace of Madrid, the official residence of the Spanish royal family, renowned for its opulent gardens and extensive art collections. Retiro Park, Madrid's largest green space, offers a serene escape with scenic pathways, historic monuments, and leisurely activities such as boating on the lake or admiring the Glass Palace, a former greenhouse and one of Madrid's most beautiful examples of cast-iron architecture. At the heart of Madrid lies Puerta del Sol, a bustling square teeming with shops, restaurants, and iconic landmarks like the Tío Pepe sign, a beloved billboard which has gained popularity likened to that of Los Angeles's Hollywood sign, and the Bear and the Strawberry Tree statue. Plaza Mayor, steeped in history, exudes charm with its elegant architecture, lively cafes, and artisan shops, providing an ideal setting for people-watching and immersing in the city's atmosphere. Art enthusiasts flock to the Prado Museum, housing an extensive collection of European art, including masterpieces by Velázquez, Goya, and El Greco, and the Reina Sofía Museum, dedicated to 20th century Spanish art. Food aficionados will devour the sights and smells of Mercado de San Miguel with its tantalizing gourmet foods, tapas, and Spanish delicacies. In Madrid, the fusion of history, culture, and gastronomy creates an unforgettable experience, where ancient landmarks coexist with modern amenities, reflecting the city's timeless allure and cosmopolitan charm.

Included activities

DAY 4: Arrive in Madrid

Meet the private driver in the hotel lobby for a transfer to the train station. Take the train to Madrid and meet the transfer representative for an escort to the hotel. Take the afternoon to explore at leisure. In the evening, enjoy a Madrid neighborhood and tapas tour.

Recommended Hotels in Madrid

In Madrid, travelers can enjoy an exceptional selection of luxury and boutique accommodations. The BLESS Hotel Madrid (5*), a member of The Leading Hotels of the World, sits in the upscale Barrio de Salamanca and is celebrated for its wellness facilities and refined culinary offerings. Nearby, The Principal Madrid (5*), part of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, combines elegant design with a Michelin-starred restaurant near the vibrant Gran Vía. For a four-star experience, the H10 Villa de la Reina (4*) offers warm hospitality in a beautifully restored historic building on Gran Vía. Its lively lobby bar has become a favorite meeting spot for both locals and guests, making it an inviting choice in the heart of the city.

SMALL GROUP TOUR: MADRID TAPAS ADVENTURE

Live like a local on this 3 ½ hour journey through Madrid! Sample traditional favorites like the bocadillo de calamari sandwich with the famed Madroño liquor in a heritage tavern, and stroll through trendy neighborhoods like La Latina with its rich history and detailed architecture. Explore the highlights of Madrid while enjoying numerous authentic dishes at five different locations. Bring an appetite!

DAY 5:

Meet the guide in the hotel lobby for a private full-day city tour, which will include the interior of the Royal Palace. Once the tour concludes, savor a traditional local meal like cocido Madrileño - a slow-cooked broth flavored with vegetables, chickpeas, chorizo, and pork.

PRIVATE MADRID HIGHLIGHTS AND 'SKIP-THE-LINE' GUIDED TOUR OF THE ROYAL PALACE

Stroll around Plaza de la Villa, the bustling Puerta del Sol, and the lushly landscaped Plaza de Oriente. Continue with a private car tour of more highlights including the Puerta de Toledo. Enjoy stunning views of Royal Palace and the Almudena Cathedral. Pass by Mayor Street, Las Cortes, Paseo del Prado, and the architecture of the Las Letras Quarter. Finally, see the ancient gate of Puerta de Alcalá, Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, and Colon Square. Next, skip the line for a guided tour of the Royal Palace and its glorious gardens. This grand former residence of Spanish kings and queens is furnished with intricate tapestries and stunning antique furniture spread across over 3,000 opulent rooms.

DAY 6:

This morning, take some time to explore. People-watch in the Plaza Mayor, wander the paths and marble statues of Parque del Buen Retiro, or head to the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía to admire Picasso's "Guernica." In the afternoon, get ready to explore other charming Spanish cities!

AVILA AND SEGOVIA FULL DAY TOUR WITH GASTRONOMIC LUNCH

Start the day with a walking tour of Old Town Ávila, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the best-preserved fortifications in Spain. See Romanesque style churches, Gothic palaces, and the Catedral de Ávila. Visit the Walls of Ávila, as well as its fortification, gates, and towers, which kept the Medieval city safe from invaders. Continue to Segovia for an included gourmet lunch. Then visit a breathtaking feat of Ancient Roman engineering, the famous Aqueduct of Segovia. This full day tour ends at the Alcazar of Segovia, a fortified castle which rises out of its rocky foundation like a stony ship out of the sea. Strikingly beautiful, the Alcazar was the inspiration behind the queen's castle in Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."



Day 7 - 10

-  Private Transfer to the Airport
-  Flight Journey from Madrid to Lisbon
-  Private Transfer from Lisbon Airport to the Hotel

3 Nights

Lisbon

Portugal's capital city, Lisbon, traces its roots back to the Phoenicians, who established a settlement on its hillsides. Today, Lisbon stands as a dynamic and cosmopolitan metropolis, blending its rich history with 21st-century modernity. Travelers can immerse themselves in the city's diverse heritage by exploring neighborhoods like Alfama, with its maze of narrow streets and alleys, and visiting São Jorge Castle, where panoramic views offer a glimpse into Lisbon's storied past. In Belém, maritime landmarks such as the imposing Belém Tower evoke Portugal's seafaring legacy during the Age of Discovery in the 15th and 16th centuries, while the aroma of freshly baked pastéis de nata beckons from Pastéis de Belém bakery, inviting visitors to indulge in this iconic Portuguese pastry. For a leisurely exploration of Lisbon's historic districts, Tram 28 offers a charming journey through cobblestone streets and past colorful facades. Meanwhile, miradouros—scenic viewpoints—provide breathtaking panoramas of the cityscape and the shimmering waters of the Tagus River. Lisbon's cultural richness is evident in its museums, where artifacts and artworks chronicle the city's past. The National Tile Museum showcases Portugal's intricate azulejo tiles, while the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum houses one of the world's most important and eclectic private art collections spanning centuries of art and history, from Ancient Egypt to the early 20th century. Of course, no visit to Lisbon would be complete without savoring its culinary delights. From savory seafood dishes to the creamy sweetness of pastéis de nata and the satisfying bifana sandwiches, Lisbon's gastronomy is worth the indulgence. A sip of ginjinha, a traditional cherry liqueur, in a historic tavern provides the perfect conclusion to a day of exploration. With its blend of history, culture, and gastronomy, Lisbon promises an unforgettable experience for travelers eager to delve into the history and culture of Portugal.

Included activities

DAY 7: Arrive in Lisbon

Meet the driver in the hotel lobby to depart for the airport. Upon arrival in Lisbon, meet a transfer representative for an escort to the hotel. Spend some time getting settled, then depart for a private half-day tour of Lisbon. Then grab some dinner and head to one of the city's popular - and plentiful! - wine bars.

Recommended Hotels in Lisbon

In Lisbon, the Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisboa (5*) is a landmark property that epitomizes classic luxury in the heart of the city. This elegant five-star hotel offers exceptional service, refined accommodations, and a prime location on Lisbon's most prestigious avenue. Guests can savor fresh seafood at the renowned Cervejaria Liberdade, take in sweeping city views with signature cocktails at the stylish Sky Bar by SEEN, and indulge in complete relaxation at the hotel's luxurious Anantara Spa.

PRIVATE HALF-DAY LISBON TOUR

Explore Lisbon with a private driver and guide! Sites include the Castle of São Jorge, Rossio Square, Jerónimos Monastery, Lisbon Cathedral, and the Cristo Rei monument. Customized itineraries are possible if they are arranged in advance.

DAY 8:

Awake well-rested and energized before heading off on a tour of some of Portugal's most historically and culturally significant landmarks. Upon return, indulge in an authentic Portuguese meal. Try arroz de marisco - rice cooked with herbs and an abundance of seafood - or spicy chicken piri piri.

FATIMA, OBIDOS, BATALHA, ALCOBACA, AND NAZARE FULL-DAY TOUR WITH LUNCH

On this tour, see some of Portugal's most important landmarks, including three of the Portuguese Seven Wonders. Be transported back in time with a visit to a medieval Obidos, admire the Gothic churches of Batalha and Alcobaca, and have lunch in Nazare, Portugal's most famous fishing village. End the day in Fatima, home to the Catholic pilgrimage site of the Sanctuary of Fatima.

DAY 9:

For the final day in Portugal, customize a memorable adventure! Spend a morning and afternoon at the National Tile Museum, or explore the shops and cafes of the old Alfama district. In the evening, embark on a nighttime secret food walking tour through Lisbon.

SHARED TOUR: LISBON SECRET FOOD GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Bring an appetite for this culinary journey through Lisbon to sample fresh favorites from local taverns such as Portuguese cheeses, traditional fishes, succulent pork sandwiches, local desserts, and fine wine. A local guide will share fascinating details about Lisbon and its history throughout this unforgettable adventure.

DAY 10:

Head to the hotel lobby to meet the driver and depart for the airport. Reflect on how quickly this trip flew by and the new memories made! Get excited for another European adventure once the lingering excitement from this one fades!

-  Private Transfer to the Airport
-  International Departure



Inclusions

Includes

- Accommodations: Barcelona 3 nights, Madrid 3 nights, Lisbon 3 nights
- Breakfast daily except where noted otherwise
- Private arrival transfers
- Fast-Track Sagrada Familia Tour
- Private Barcelona Sightseeing Tour
- Small group tour: Madrid Gourmet Tapas & Local Neighborhoods

- Private Madrid Highlights and 'Skip-the-line' Guided Tour of Royal Palace
- Avila and Segovia Full Day Tour with Gastronomic Lunch
- Private Lisbon Tour
- Private departure transfers