



**Group Travel Specialists**

**Spain, Portugal & Rest of Europe**

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## **The Best of Spain - 11 Days: Barcelona, Zaragoza, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Burgos, Madrid, Cordoba, Granada, Sevilla y Jerez - Price on request**

**TOUR BY PRIVATE MOTORCOACH** Visiting Barcelona, Zaragoza, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Burgos, Madrid, Cordoba, Granada, Sevilla & Jerez. Escorted Tour including Buffet Breakfast and Dinner with wine daily, 4-star centrally located hotels, Professional Tour Director. All Taxes

**1 Free Air & Land with every 16 paying travelers. Minimum group size 20.**

### **PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:**

- Round-trip Airfare
- Meeting and assistance upon arrival
- 11 Days/9 Nights at 4-star air-conditioned hotels:
  - 2 Nights Barcelona
  - 2 Nights San Sebastian
  - 2 Nights Madrid
  - 3 Nights Seville
- Professional Tour Escort from arrival in Barcelona to return from Seville
- Buffet Breakfast and Dinner with wine daily.
- Extensive Sightseeing: Barcelona & Sagrada Familia, San Sebastian, Bilbao & Guggenheim, Madrid, Toledo, Cordoba, Seville, Granada & The Alhambra Palace, Jerez, (Sherry Wine Country) & a spectacular Andalusian Horse Show.
- Round-trip airport transfers and all taxes.
- Luggage handling, and headsets with all excursions.

## A glance at the cities we will visit: Barcelona



Artistic facade in Barcelona



Sagrada Familia

**Barcelona** is arguably the most beautiful city of Spain, well known for its dramatic architecture, gothic quarter, parks and museums, world class dining, entertainment and shopping. Barcelona is Located in a privileged position on the northeastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula and the shores of the Mediterranean. The capital of the province of Catalonia, it is unequivocally a Mediterranean city, not only because of its geographic location but also because of its history, tradition, and cultural influences. The documented history of the city dates back to the founding of a Roman colony on its soil during the second century B.C. The Gothic Quarter bears witness to the splendor enjoyed by the city from the 13th to the 15th centuries. The 20th century ushered in widespread urban renewal throughout Barcelona, culminating in its landmark Eixample district, which showcases some of Barcelona's most distinctive Catalán art nouveau, or modernist, buildings. Antoni Gaudí, one of the most eminent architects, designed buildings such as the Casa Milà, the Casa Batlló and the Sagrada Família church, which have become world-famous landmarks.

## San Sebastian



San Sebastián (Basque country)

**San Sebastián** is a resort town on the Bay of Biscay in Spain's mountainous Basque Country. It's known for its beaches Playa de la Concha and Playa de Ondarreta, both framed by a picturesque bay front promenade, and worldrenowned restaurants helmed by innovative chefs. In its cobblestoned old town (Old Quarter), upscale shops neighbor vibrant pintxo bars pairing local wines with bite-size regional specialties.

## Bilbao



Bilbao

**Bilbao** is an industrial port city in northern Spain surrounded by green mountains. It's the "de facto" capital of Basque Country, with a skyscraper-filled downtown. It's famed for the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum, which sparked revitalization when it opened in 1997. The museum houses modern and contemporary works from prominent artists but it's the curvy, titanium-clad building that receives the most attention.

# Madrid



Madrid



Plaza Mayor

**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 heart of old Hapsburg Madrid is the portico-lined Plaza Mayor, and nearby is the baroque Royal Palace and Armory, displaying historic weaponry.

# Toledo



This remarkable town is considered a national treasure and it was declared a World

Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986 for its extensive cultural and monumental heritage and historical co-existence of Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures. We will walk its ancient cobble stone streets and visits the Cathedral where the famous painting El Entierro del Conde Orgaz, of El Greco is held.

## Seville



Typical Patio Sevillano



Viva el Flamenco!

**Seville** is the capital of southern Spain's Andalusia region and a hotbed for flamenco dance, especially in the Triana neighborhood. The city is known for its ornate Alcázar castle complex, built during the Moorish Almohade dynasty, and its 18th-century Plaza de la Real Maestranza bullring. The massive Gothic cathedral is the site of Christopher Columbus's tomb and a famous minaret turned belltower, the Giralda.

## Granada



Granada – The Alhambra Palace

**Granada** is a city in southern Spain's Andalusia region, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. It is known for its grand examples of medieval architecture dating to the Moorish occupation, especially the Alhambra Palace. This sprawling hilltop fortress complex encompasses royal palaces, serene patios, and reflecting pools from the Nasrid dynasty, as well as the fountains and orchards of the Generalife Gardens.

## Jerez (Sherry Wine Country)

Jerez is a Spanish city in the province of Cádiz well known for its excellent sherry wines featuring a very fertile zone for agriculture and vineyards. There are also many cattle ranches and horse-breeding operations, as well as a worldrenowned wine industry.



## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 1, USA - BARCELONA

Evening departure on your transatlantic flight to Spain. Dinner, movie, and breakfast on board.

## DAY 2, ARRIVAL BARCELONA

Arrival at Barcelona airport and transfer to your centrally located 4-star hotel. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a panoramic tour of the city including a stop at the mountain of Montjuich for a view of the capital and its port area. Our bus will leave us in the Plaza de Catalunya, in the heart of town where we will be able to have some typical Tapas on our own. Rest of the afternoon is free. Return to our hotel on our own. Welcome Dinner with wine in our hotel or local restaurant. Overnight in Barcelona.

## DAY 3: BARCELONA CITY TOUR

After a hearty buffet breakfast, our local guide will meet us in the lobby to take us on an escorted tour of Barcelona, rich in history, tradition, and cultural influences. The city was founded by the Romans in the II century BC and is located in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. During our visit we will see the ancient Gothic Quarter and its magnificent Cathedral, the Basilica of the Sacred Family (Sagrada Familia), and Gaudí's Park Guell.

Dinner with wine. Overnight in Barcelona.



Fachada artística en Barcelona



Sagrada Familia

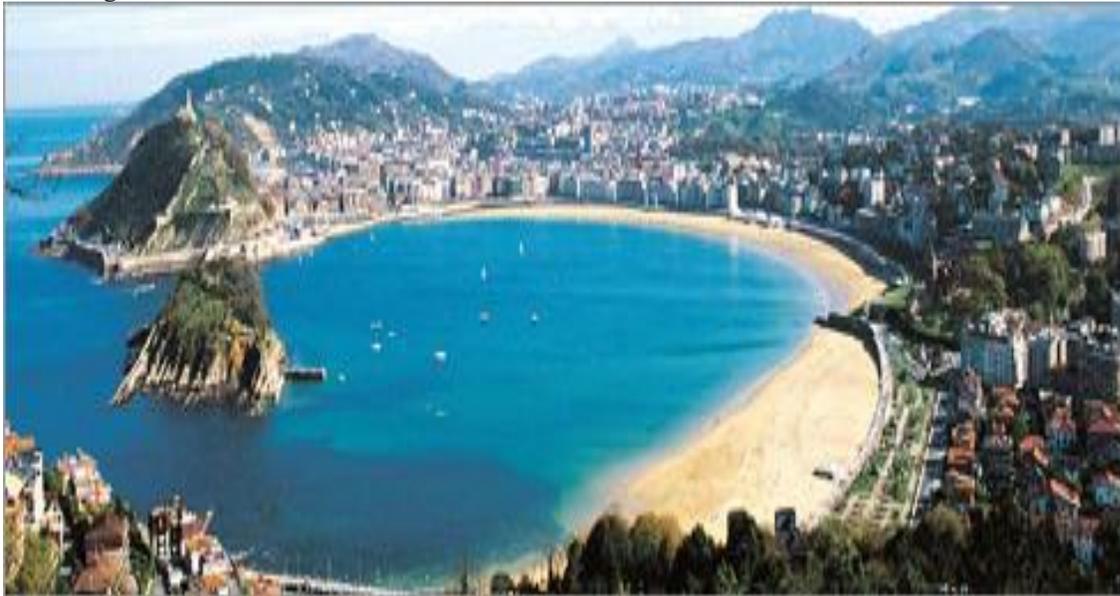
Barcelona is one of the most beautiful cities in Spain, known for its dramatic architecture, Gothic Quarter, parks and museums, class cuisine, and shopping. The city is in a privileged position in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula and on the Mediterranean coast. The capital of the province of Catalonia is clearly a Mediterranean city, not only for its geographical location, but also for its history, tradition and cultural influences. The documented history of the city indicates that it was founded as a Roman colony during the second century BC. The Gothic quarter is witness to the splendor that

the city enjoyed in the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. The twentieth century marked an extensive urban renewal throughout Barcelona, culminating in its emblematic Eixample district, which exhibits in some of its buildings the genuine characteristics of Catalan art nouveau or modernist. Antoni Gaudí, one of the most eminent architects, designed buildings such as Casa Milà, Casa Batlló and the Sagrada Família church, which have become world-famous landmarks

#### **DIA 4 BARCELONA - ZARAGOZA - SAN SEBASTIAN**

Buffet Breakfast at the hotel. Our guide will invite us to board our private coach headed to the northern city of San Sebastian, located in the Basque Country. Stop in Zaragoza, in the Plaza de la Basílica del Pilar, where we can visit the Basilica with time to take some tapas on our own in any of the nearby bars. We continue towards San Sebastian to visit this beautiful city with a famous beach (La Concha) and an elegant and attractive urban center. Dinner with wine at our hotel or at a local restaurant.

Overnight in San Sebastian.



San Sebastián (País Vasco)

#### **DAY 5 SAN SEBASTIAN - Excursion TO BILBAO & San Juan de Luz**

Buffet Breakfast at the hotel. Then we leave for Bilbao to visit the city and the old town and see the famous museum of Guggenheim that will delight everyone for its unique architecture, one of the most beautiful in the world. Return to San Sebastian and continue on excursion to San Juan de Luz (France). San Juan de Luz is crossing the border with France, (you have to carry the passport). There we will see its traditional fishing port, the houses of the shipowners of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the church of San Juan Bautista, place of marriage of King Louis XIV and the Spanish Infanta Maria Theresa, as well as its charming bridge houses, witnesses of the nascent architecture of this coastal city appreciated from the Belle Epoque. Return to San Sebastian. Tonight, Dinner with wine at a local restaurant. Overnight in San Sebastian.



San Juan de Luz (Francia)

### **DAY 6 SAN SEBASTIAN - BURGOS - MADRID**

Buffet Breakfast at the hotel and departure to the city of Burgos. After registering in our hotel, we will enjoy a panoramic visit to the city and visit its famous Gothic Cathedral of the thirteenth century, with the remains of the great Castilian warrior "El Cid Campeador" (Don Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar,) who during the eleventh century fought with formidable successes against the invading Arab armies under the orders of King Sancho II of León and Castile. Burgos is a beautiful city that preserves intact its old medieval architecture. After the visit we will leave for Madrid. Dinner with wine at our hotel or at a local restaurant. Overnight in in Madrid



**Royal Palace, Madrid**



**Prado Museum**

**MADRID** is the capital of Spain. It's located in the heart of the peninsula, in the very center of Castile, with a population of 3 million. Madrid is a cosmopolitan city, business center, seat of the Government, the Spanish Parliament and is also home to the Spanish Royal family. The city also plays an important role in both the banking and industrial sectors. Most of its industry concentrates in the southern strip of the city, where important textile, food and metal factories are grouped. An intense cultural and artistic activity and a very lively nightlife characterize Madrid. The great metropolis can trace its origins to the times of the Arab Emir Mohamed I (852-886 aC), who ordered the construction of a fortress on the left bank of the Manzanares River. It later became the subject of a dispute between Christians and Arabs until it was conquered by the

Christian king Alonso VI in the eleventh century. At the end of the seventeenth century, a defensive wall was built for the protection of the new peripheral areas, tracing the roads of Segovia, Toledo, and Valencia. During the eighteenth century, under the reign of Charles III, the great arteries of the city were designed, such as paseo del Prado and Paseo las Acacias. In the early nineteenth century, Joseph Bonaparte (during French rule) undertook the reform of the Puerta del Sol and its surroundings. The shopping street known as the Gran Vía was built as an east-west avenue at the beginning of the century. In the 1950s the north-south boulevard called Paseo de la Castellana was expanded and modern buildings were erected housing the largest financial institutions. Remains of the distant past are mainly the Baroque and neoclassical structures of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, such as the Plaza Mayor and the Royal Palace.

### **DIA 7 MADRID, VISIT TOLEDO & MADRID**



After our buffet breakfast we will leave on an excursion to the city of Toledo, an artistic monumental city of great historical and cultural value, cradle of Spanish Judaism and headquarters of magnificent architectural and religious monuments. The city retains its ancient walls and within them we will visit the Gothic Cathedral, seat of the famous painting 'The Burial of Count Orgaz', of El Greco, and the monastery of San Juan de los Reyes. Lunch in Toledo is on our own in any of the multiple tapas bars on the main street. Upon our return to Madrid, our guide will show us the city on a panoramic tour which will include the main streets and avenues passing through Gran Vía, Puerta del Sol, Plaza del Parlamento, Fuente de Cibeles and Puerta de Alcalá making a stop for photographs in front of the Royal Palace. Dinner with wine at our hotel or at a local restaurant. Overnight in in Madrid

## DAY 8 MADRID - CORDOBA - SEVILLA

After our buffet breakfast we depart for Seville, the capital of Andalusia – land of Flamenco, rich in culture and history. En-route we will visit the city of Cordoba and its Mosque, today converted into a Cathedral, and we will take a short walk through the Jewish Quarter.



Mosque of Cordoba

Its structure is considered one of the best achieved monuments of Muslim architecture. When the Arabs conquered Spain in 711, the existing church there was divided into two halves, one Muslim and one Christian. This arrangement lasted until 784 when the Christian part was acquired by the Amir Abd alRahman I, who then proceeded to the demolition of the old structure and the construction of the Great Mosque. The city of Córdoba was the envy of the West during the Arab occupation and was returned to the power of the Christians in 1236 in La Reconquista. The building was again converted into a Roman Catholic Church. Currently you can admire the originals of the multiple columns and Arab arches of the old Mosque that share the space with the Christian area. After our stop in Córdoba, we will continue to Seville. After checking into our hotel, we will leave to visit the city of Seville that will include the Torre del Oro on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, the Maria Luisa Park, the typical Santa Cruz neighborhood, and the Cathedral and its Giralda (an old tower of Arab origin). Dinner with wine at our hotel or at a local restaurant. Overnight in Seville.



Seville Fair



Flamenco

Seville is the capital of Andalucía, the most extensive region of Spain, rich in culture and history and the cradle of Flamenco. The city is known for its elegant Castle of the Alcazar, built during the dynasty of The Almohads, as well as for its grandiose Gothic Cathedral which holds the remains of Cristopher Columbus. Other monuments include the famous Torre del Oro and the ancient Arab tower of the Giralda.

#### **DAY 9 EXCURSIÓN TO JEREZ AND ANDALUSIAN HORSE SHOW.**



After a good breakfast, we will leave for the south of Andalusia on a full day excursion to visit the city of Jerez located in the wine region of the same name, where we will enjoy a fascinating Andalusian Horse Show. At the end of the show, we will go to the Bodegas Tio Pepe, by Gonzalez Byass, to visit the wineries, including a Wine Tasting with Tapas\* and a private lunch in the halls of the wineries.(\*). Note: Wine tasting will be served during the pre-menu aperitif. Return to our hotel.

Dinner with wine at our hotel or at a local restaurant. Overnight in Seville.

## DAY 10: EXCURSIÓN TO GRANADA & LA ALHAMBRA



Buffet breakfast in our hotel and departure on an excursion to the city of Granada, located next to the Sierra Nevada. This is the Andalusian city that offers the most representative Arab monument of the fourteenth century, the Alhambra Palace, which took 100 years to build during the Arab domination. The name Alhambra comes from the Arabic word of the same name meaning "red", the color of the walls that surround it. Our visit will include the beautiful courtyards of columns and carved inscriptions, such as the Patio de Myrles, Patio de Los Leones, the Salon de los Secretos and the Alcazaba, the castle that protected the Alhambra. We will also visit the beautiful Gardens of the Generalife with its fountains that inspired several Spanish composers. Over the centuries the Alhambra was degraded by neglect but coincidentally it was an American writer, Washington Irving, who urged the city to restore the monument. Irving lived in the palace during the early years of the 19th century when he wrote his book "Tales of the Alhambra". Currently the Alhambra is completely restored and in full operation. Return to our hotel in Seville. Farewell dinner in the restaurant "ABADES TRIANA" next to the river and in front of La Torre del Oro. After dinner, we will enjoy a Flamenco show and drink at the ANDALUSIAN PALACE in Seville.  
Overnight in Seville.

## DAY 11 SEVILLA - USA

Buffet breakfast. (If the flight is very early, we will ask the hotel the night before for a breakfast to take away) Hotel pickup and transfer to Seville airport to catch the flight back home via Madrid, arriving later today.

*INTERESTED IN THIS PACKAGE? Please email us at: [SuntoursUSA@gmail.com](mailto:SuntoursUSA@gmail.com) and give us desired dates and city of departure. We'll get back to you within 3 business days. Thank you*