

## Spain tour 15 days

### *Accommodation*

- ✓ 3 nights in Barcelona
- ✓ 1 night in Pamplona
- ✓ 1 night in Potes
- ✓ 1 night in Segovia
- ✓ 1 night in Salamanca
- ✓ 2 nights in Seville
- ✓ 2 nights in Granada
- ✓ 1 night in Córdoba
- ✓ 3 nights in Madrid



### *Detailed program*



#### Day 1 Barcelona (Montjuic Hill, Gothic Quarter & Las Ramblas) (L/D)

Upon arrival, we begin our Barcelona sightseeing to Montjuic Hill, by Funicular / Teleferic de Montjuic. Once in the park enjoy the spectacular views of Barcelona and the seaport around the **Montjuic Castle** then proceed to visit the **Fundacio Miro** (include entrance), the **Olympic Ring**, the **Poble Espanyol** and the impressive **Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya** (include entrance). Take on the Port Vell Aerial Tramway to Port Vell. Then ride in the lift to the top of **Columbus Monument**, the **Mirador de Colon** to enjoy magnificent views of Barcelona and its famous Ramblas.

Proceed to our lunch @ **Can Culleretes** (Barcelona's oldest restaurant - established in 1786). After lunch, explore the narrow-laned barrio of La Ribera, with its **Museu Picasso** (include entrance) and imposing **Santa Maria del Mar church** (include entrance).

Next, we start our walking tour around **Barri Gotic**. Visit to the **Cathedral (La Seu Cathedral)** (include entrance), then do a jaunt into the quiet alleyways along its wall - particularly, **Carrer del Bisbe** (with its neo-Gothic bridge hanging over the street & and the remains of the **Roman wall** on the corner) and **Placa Sant Felip Neri** (with its fountain and bullet-holed

walls). Also not to be missed are the central **Plaça del Rei**, with its two key monuments, and the **Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat**, built over a complete subterranean Roman township. Another must-see is the **Palau del Rei**, where Columbus introduced American Indians to Spain's monarchs for the first time in its Salódel Tinell

Take a short break @ the splendid **Plaça Reial** (a neoclassical gem that happens to contain Antoni Gaudí's first work in the city - the lampposts by the central fountain) before proceed to **Las Ramblas** - enjoy the spectacular pavement mosaics by Master Joan Miro, impressive architecture, live performances and human statutes art.

Continue our walking tour to Las Ramblas to the **Palau Güell** at Carrer Nou de Las Ramblas 3-5 (the grand residence Gaudí designed for his immensely wealthy patron Eusebi Güell), go through the **Gran Teatre del Liceu** (opera house). Make a stop at **Mercat de la Boqueria** to see the amazing fresh food markets. And shopping at El Corte Inglés in the Plaça Catalunya Square. Dinner @ Las Ramblas / @ La Barceloneta for seafood.

Check in Hotel.

## **Day 2 Barcelona (Sagrada Família Church, Passeig de Gràcia, Park Güell and Tibidabo) - B/L/D**

After breakfast, head to **La Sagrada Família** (include entrance) - the jewel in the crown of Gaudí's works, take a ride up to the top of one of the towers and enjoy the fine view.

Then proceed to **Passeig de Gràcia**, one of the more elegant and striking boulevards in the Eixample quarter, greatest concentration of modernist (Art Nouveau) architecture, highlighted by the **Manzana de la Discòrdia** zone, where Gaudí's **Casa Batlló**, **Puig i Cadafalch's Casa Amatller**, and **Domènech i Montaner's Casa Lleó Morera** are all so close, and most famous of all the **Casa Mila** (popularly known as La Pedrera).

Visit the **Manzana de la Discòrdia** - Gaudí's frilly and curvaceous **Casa Batlló**, **Puig i Cadafalch's** staid Flemish-style **Casa Amatller**, and **Domènech i Montaner's** decidedly eccentric **Casa Lleó Morera**.

Continue our walk to further up the avenue to **Casa Mila (La Pedrera)**, seeing the bizarre chimneys, arched windows and wrought-iron balconies are mind blowing. Head up to the rooftop for some photos, view a restored apartment on the top floor and get an in-depth view of Gaudí's life and work in the Espai Gaudí museum.

Head back down into the lower Eixample for an indulgent lunch at **Casa Calvet**, Carrer Casp 48 a Gaudí-designed ground-floor restaurant.

After lunch, head out of the downtown core for a reststop and refresher at **Park Güell** (include entrance), one of the most popular green spaces in the city, dotted with mosaic terraces and sculptures, including the iconic **Salamander fountain**. Look out for its **mosaic serpent** and **Hansel-and-Gretel houses at the entrance** (one of which is a tiny museum, the Centre d'Interpretació Acol·lida, devoted to describing creator Gaudí's building methods). At its center, up some steps, the **Banc de Trencadís** -- a multi-colored ceramic bench -- curves around a spacious esplanade, while behind it footpaths climb into the pine woods of **Vallcarca** and **Monte Carmel**, offering scenic views through the trees of the city below.

To make our walk easier, take the escalators to the back of the park and start at the highest point and the best views. Then slowly make our way down the windy walkways and view the whole of the park, and effectively save the best for last - the ornate entrance complete with dragon fountain and Hansel and Gretel houses.

Then continue up travel up to **Tibidabo** by funicular for the best panoramic views of the city and coast stretching north toward the Costa Brava

Travel back towards central Barcelona the district of **Gracia** to have dinner.

### Day 3 - Barcelona-Zaragoza-Pamplona (483km - 4 hrs 16 mins) (B/L/D)

*Barcelona to Zaragoza (314km, 2 hrs 48 mins); Zaragoza to Pamplona (180km, 1 hr 39 mins)*

Depart from Barcelona and drive northwest to **Zaragoza** on the banks of the River Ebro. In Zaragoza, visit **Plaza Del Pilar**, one of Spain's grandest squares, and the **Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar**, where, according to legends, the Virgin Mary appeared to St. James. Lunch @ Zaragoza.

Continue north through fertile valleys and the Rioja wine-growing region to Basque Country and on to the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Navarra, **Pamplona**, enjoy a walk through the **Calle Estafeta**, where the famous "running of the bulls" takes place, and dinner with local specialties. Overnite @ Pamplona

### Day 4 - Pamplona -Bilbao - Picos de Europe (B/L/D)

*Pamplona-Bilbao (184km, 2 hr 20 mins); Bilbao - Picos de Europe (220km, 3 hrs 19 mins)*

Journey northwest to the port town of **Bilbao**. Time to visit (entrance fee included) the spectacular **Guggenheim Museum**. We then embark on a **guided tour of the interior and exterior** of this incredible **building** and earn more about this architectural gem designed by Frank Gehry. Apart from its amazing collection of modern paintings, the building itself, by Frank Gehry, is considered one of the 20th century's great architectural masterpieces. Afterwards we take a walk along the banks of the Nervión River to Bilbao's old quarter, known as '**Siete Calles**' (**Seven Streets**) - the perfect place to sample some of famous Basque cuisine lunch.

After lunch, we drive towards the Picos de Europa National Park. Stopping en route to discover visit to the the world-famous **prehistoric cave painting in Altamira** (More small groups of people will be allowed to see the paintings in weekly visits until August - If the unable to get the permit, then will replace by **Paleolithic rock art at Pindal**, a World Heritage Site). We pass by the fishing villages of **Comillas**, with Gaudí's 'Capricho', and **San Vicente de la Barquera** before we reach our hotel in Potes/Cosgaya.

### Day 5- Picos de Europe-Segovia (B/L/D)

*Potes-Segovia (327km, 4 hrs)*

The next day we drove up to the blind valley of **Fuente Dé** and took the cable car 750 metres up to the **plateau**. Here we feast our eyes on panoramas of knife-edged summits soaring into the sky. Take a few minutes to enjoy the magnificent **view from the El Cable terrace**, where there is a map identifying the peaks. Take a stroll / some trekking around the plateau, before descent down. Our descent takes us down through beech and oak forests. We then visit the picturesque mountain village of **Potes**, the capital of the Liébana district, or its Infantado Tower and the delightful Barrio Viejo (Old Quarter), where we sample local tapas.

After lunch, we head southwest into Castile, passing over the Piedraslenguas pass, Cervera de Pisuerga, Aguilar de Campoo, Palencia and Valladolid to **Segovia**. Dinner enjoy the local famous **wood-roast pork and lamb** for which the province is famous. Stay @ Segovia

### Day 6- Segovia- Salamanca (B/L/D)

*Segovia -Salamanca (250km, 3 hrs)*

After breakfast, begin our **Segovia** visit, our first stop is in the **Plaza del Azoguejo square**, where we find the main Visitor Reception Centre and the imposing **Roman Aqueduct**. As well as having our photo taken under the monument, we can also discover observe interesting details, such as the perfection of the stone-cutting, or the absence of any kind of adhesive material to keep the blocks together.

From Aqueduct, we head to the **Alcazar - the fairytale Castle** (Incl entrance), the 2 of the Acazar's most interesting rooms are the Sala de Reyes (containing wooden carvings of the early Castilian, Leonese and Asturian Kings) and the Sala del Cardon (decorated with frieze of the Franciscan cord). Admired the Iglesia de la Vera Cruz from the viewpoint near the Alcazar.

After Alcazar, proceed to the **Former Main Synagogue** and the **Cathedral along Calle San Geroteo** to the Plaza de la Merced square. Lunch at the Plaza Mayor square, time to sample the local gastronomy.

We continuing our journey to **Salamanca** in time to enjoy the extraordinary beauty of its **Plaza Mayor**. Stay @ Salamanca.

#### **Day 7 - Salamanca-Caceres-Seville (B/L/D)**

*Salamanca-Caceres (202km, 2hrs); Caceres-Seville (265km, 2 hrs 30 mins)*

Leave early this morning and cross the mighty Tagus River and the Guadarrama to set off in the direction of Extremadura. Stop in **Caceres** (world Heritage Site) for it blend Roman, Islamic, northern gothic, and Italian renaissance styles. Roam through the old city and explore its **Plaza Mayor**. Lunch sample some traditional cuisine. Enjoy more Spanish landscape before reaching Seville. Stay @ Seville.

#### **Day 8- Seville (Barrio de Santa Cruz, the Cathedral de Sevilla & Giralda Tower, Alcazar, Museo de Bellas Artes de Sevilla) ( B/L/D)**

After breakfast, we start our day to explore the highlights of the city. We start off by wandering the narrow streets of **Barrio de Santa Cruz**, the most evocative district, with its medieval streets, pocket-size plazas, and flower-filled wrought-iron balconies or tiled courtyards.

After that, head for the **Cathedral de Sevilla & Giralda Tower**. The cathedral is the largest Gothic building in the world and the third-largest church in Europe. After spending 1.5 hours here, climb La Giralda, an adjacent Moorish Tower erected by Islamic architects in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

After lunch, head for the **Alcazar** (north of the cathedral), is a royal palace for over 1000 years and home to some of Spain's most beautiful Mudejar architecture and gardens. Allow 1.5 hours quick visit. With time remaining, visit **Museo de Bellas Artes de Sevilla**, a converted convent housing some of Andalusia's greatest artwork, including masterpieces by El Greco and Murillo. A standard visit takes 1 1/2 hours.

As the afternoon fades, go for a **stroll through Parque María Luisa**, which runs south along the **Guadalquivir River**. After dinner in the Old Town, head to a very special **flamenco show** which takes place nightly in the social centre of the **Barrio Santa Cruz**. Stay @ Seville.

#### **Day 9- Seville- Jerez la Frontera-Arcos de la Frontera-Ronda-Granada**

*Seville-Jerez (91km, 1hr); Jerez-Arcos de la Frontera (35.8km, 30 mins); Arcos de la Frontera-Ronda (85km, 1 hr 10 mins); Ronda-Granada (178km, 2 hrs 6 mins)*

Star early today to see the best of Andalusia. Head first into the **Jerez la Frontera** region for a sherry-tasting stop and visiting the bodegas where sherry is made (bodegas are open for visitors from 9am-1pm only). Then proceed to the **Ruta de los Pueblos Blancos tour (or white-town route)**. First, we make our short stop at **Arcos de la Frontera** (clings impossibly to an outcropping of rock with the Guadalete River at its foot), climbing up the hill of the Plaza de Espana at heart of the old town.

Before reaching Ronda, we will pass by **Setenil** town, where we make picture stop (a classic, little white town with one very interesting aspect- at the bottom of the town, in the ravine, the houses are actually built into the cliff itself).

Continue our tour to **Ronda**, a town perched on the edge of the Serrania de Ronda, slashed by 153m gorges and cut in two (Ciudad and Mercadillo) by the Tajo ravine carved by Guadalevin River.

After lunch (enjoy the culinary specialties of this region - incl. gazpacho and fried seafood dishes), make a **stroll through the town** (incl. the **Bulring** with its wrought-iron balconies) and discover the spectacular **Puente Nuevo** with its incredible view of the ravine. Visit the **Plaza de la Ciudad** and its church, **Santa Maria la Mayor**, whose tower affords still more picture-perfect views. Continue our journey to Granada, after dinner check-in hotel.

#### **Day 10- Granada (Alhambra, Generalife Gardens, Albaicin, Sacromonte)**

After breakfast, begin our tour to the **Alhambra**, whose construction began in the 11th century on the red hill known as Assabika which overlooks Granada. We will visit the most important halls and courtyards of the Alhambra - These include the **Alcazaba fortress**, the **Serrallo**, the **Patio of los Arrayanes (Myrtle Courtyard)**, the **Hall of la Barca**, the **Salon of the Embajadores (Ambassadors Hall)**, the **Patio de los Leones (Lions Courtyard)**, the **Hall of the Abencerrajes**, the **Royal Baths** and the **Palace of Charles V**.

Continuing to the **Generalife Gardens**, next to the Alhambra, visit the retreat of leisure and recreation for the Moorish kings of Granada. The tour includes further courtyards, the **Patio de la Acequia** and the **Patio de la Sultana**.

After lunch at the **old quarter of Albaicin**, we will continue in the historic centre to visit the **Cathedral**, considered the first Renaissance church and a **National Monument**, the **Royal Chapel** where the Catholic Kings Pantheon is found, and the gypsy barrio of **Sacromonte (cave houses)**. Finish off our day by seeing a flamenco show (optional) in the evening and sampling one of the Moroccan "teterias" in the souk like Alcaicerai.

#### **Day 11- Granada - Las Alpujarras - Corboda**

*Granada-Las Alpujarras (97km, 1hr); Las Alpujarras-Cordoba (297km, 2 hrs 50 mins)*

After breakfast, departure towards the **Alpujarras** in the Natural Park of Sierra Nevada, We will pass through the **Spa town of Lanjarón** (altitude 650 m). Short Visit.

We continue towards **Pampaneira**. It's a great to walk through its streets admiring its unique architecture, the "tinaos" and drink from the Bitter Fountain (ferruginous). We can also walk beside the Poqueira or the Bubi6n Rivers.

The route continues through **Bubi6n (1,350 mts.)**. We will see the same 'alpujarre6a' architecture, white streets filled with pots and flowers and a great variety of sources of pure water from the Sierra.



Then we will continue to **Capileira (1,436 mts)**. This is the closest town to the high peaks (which we are at the "Gateway to the Sierra Nevada" because of its southern slope). We'll make a short stop here.

After lunch, continuing our route we will arrive at **Trevélez (1,476 mts.)** in the northern part of the Alpujarras. The town is known for its cured and dried hams and sausages. Besides visiting the **Church and the Chapel of San Antonio** (18th century), **public baths and medieval district** we will have a chance to taste "in situ" their famous sausages.

Later on we will leave toward Cordoba. Stay at Cordoba.

### **Day 12- Cordoba-Madrid**

*Cordoba-Madrid (393km, 4 hrs)*

Start early after breakfast, we head towards to the Historic centre, where the visit are including the **Great Mosque (Mezquita)**, the **Alcázar**, the **Roman bridge** that crosses the Guadalquivir River and the **Jewish Quarter**.

The Great Mosque of Cordoba is one of the most important religious buildings in the world and one of the most beautiful examples of Muslim art in Spain. More than 850 columns of jasper, onyx, marble and granite stand in the Mosque and reflect the importance of the city in the Middle Ages.

After the Great Mosque, we will visit the **Alcázar Fortress**, one of the primary residences of Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon, the **Roman bridge** and gate built by Julius Caesar, the **Calahorra Tower** and the **Plaza de la Corredera**.

Later after lunch, we journey into the very heart of **La Mancha**, famed for its castles and windmills. Reach Madrid in time to enjoy a relaxed evening. Stay at Madrid for 3 nights (Prefer near to town center).

### **Day 13- Madrid (Puerta del Sol, Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales, Royal Palace, Sabatini Gardens, Plaza Mayor, San Miguel Market, Museo del Prado, Botanic Garden)**

Begin our tour to **Puerta del Sol. (The Sun Gate)**, the center of Madrid. The most remarkable building of the square was built in the late 18th century as the head office of the Spanish post (**Royal Post Office**), the building features the **famous clock tower** on its main façade. The **equestrian bronze statue of king Charles III** and Statue of 'The bear and the bush' (**The Strawberry Tree**) - the most famous symbol of Madrid also located in this square.

Northwest of the square we visit to the **Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales**, Madrid's art-filled convent from the mid-16th century and a true treasure trove.

Then we proceed to the **Royal Palace**, the **Sabatini Gardens** / the **Almudena's Cathedral**. Continue our tour to the **Plaza Mayor** the architectural symbol of Hapsburg Madrid, a beautiful square, surrounded by wooden buildings, and head to the **San Miguel Market (Mercado de San Miguel)** for lunch.

In the afternoon, proceed to the the **Museo del Prado**, allowing at least 2 hours for a brief visit (concentrate on the splendid array of works by **Velázquez**, and take in some of the works of **Francisco de Goya**, including his **Clothed Maja and Naked Maja**).

After visiting the museum we go to the **Botanic Garden** that is close to Prado. All kinds of plants that come from the entire world will make very pleasant your little break.

For dinner, patronize Hemingway's favorite restaurant, **Sobrino de Botín** (the oldest restaurant in the world, recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records).

**Day 14- Madrid (Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Retiro Park, Gran Via and Fuencarral & Hortaleza) (B/L/D)**

Begin our visit to **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía**, whose main attraction is **Picasso's masterpiece Guernica**. Here we can also view one of the greatest collections of modern art in Spain, taking at least 2 hours. Then proceed to view Madrid's third great art museum, **Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza**, absorbing its many treasures. A visit will easily absorb at least 2 hours.

After lunch, proceed to **Retiro Park**, where we can the **Cibeles Fountain** (Fuente de Cibeles), and **Alcalá Door** (Puerta de Alcalá), walking from the Retiro to the España Square.

Then proceed to **Gran Via** and **Fuencarral & Hortaleza** (just off Gran Via) to do some shopping. To the right is Chueca, Madrid's gay district, to the left is Malasaña, the trendiest part of town.

**Day 15- Madrid-departure (B)**

Free & Easy, morning at leisure.  
End of our services.

***Package inclusions***

- accommodation and breakfast
- bus for the described itinerary
- driver's upkeep outside Barcelona
- English-speaking guides: arrival + 8 hours Barcelona, second day 8 hours Barcelona, Pamplona visit, Bilbao and Guggenheim visit, Altamira visit, Fuentede visit, Segovia visit, Salamanca visit, Cáceres visit, Seville visit, Jerez visit, Alhambra visit, Granada visit, Alpujarras visit, Córdoba visit, Ronda visit, Madrid 8 hours on 1st day, Madrid 8 hours on second day
- entrances and tickets: funicular Barcelona, Fundación Muro, Catalan art museum, Picasso museum, Santa Maria del Mar museum, cathedral Barcelona, Sagrada Familia, Casa Battlo, Casa Mila, Park Guell, Guggenheim museum, Altamira caves, Fuentede funicular, Segovia alcazar, Seville cathedral, Reales Alcazares, cave visit, cathedral-Don Bosco house and bullring in Ronda, Alhambra with headphones, Córdoba mosque, royal palace in Madrid, Prado museum, Botanical gardens, Reina Sofia museum, Thyssen museum
- lunch Can Culleretes, shellfish dinner in Barceloneta, lunch at Casa Calvet, dinner at Passeig de Gracia, dinner in Rioja, lunch in Bilbao, tapas lunch in Fuentede, lunch in Picos, suckling pig dinner in Segovia, lunch in Segovia, dinner in Salamanca, lunch in Cáceres, dinner in Seville, lunch in Seville, flamenco dinner show in Seville, lunch in Jerez, lunch in Ronda, dinner in Granada, lunch in Albaicín, lunch in Alpujarras, lunch in Córdoba, dinner in Madrid, lunch in San Miguel market, dinner in Botín, another lunch in Madrid, another dinner in Madrid
- local taxes

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