

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Classic Spain

*Madrid, Sevilla, Granada, Cordoba, Valencia Barcelona
Sunday, February 12 – Tuesday February 21, 2012*

The most popular Spanish cuisine is tapas—small sample-sized dishes that offer a variety of different and exotic tastes. Consider this tour of Spain to be the travel equivalent—a chance to experience all Spain has to offer in “bite-sized” explorations of its most popular cities. You’ll arrive in **Madrid** and spend two days touring the heart of España, complete with a guided tour of the **Prado Museum** and a sidetrip to Spain’s medieval capital, **Toledo**. Next, you’ll visit the Moorish city of **Cordoba**, and tour the Mezquita, a glorious 8th-century mosque. From there, you’ll move on to **Sevilla**, visit Christopher Columbus’ tomb and end your evening with an authentic flamenco dance show. On to **Granada** to tour the famous **Alhambra**—an immense hilltop palace—and the **Generalife**, an ornately laid-out series of flowering gardens, before traveling through the picturesque Spanish countryside to **Valencia**. You’ll visit the town’s bustling markets and stop at the old Silk Exchange building, lauded as a masterpiece of civil Gothic architecture. Your trip ends in vibrant **Barcelona**, where you can explore the city on your own or take part in an optional tour to the mountain village of Montserrat. A bit of this, a taste of that—it’s the perfect way to experience the best of Spain!

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Madrid and Barcelona to Boston
- Eight nights’ first-class accommodations:
- Fourteen meals: eight breakfasts, one lunch, and, five dinners
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

Rates

\$2,579 per person double occupancy
\$2,549 per person triple occupancy
\$3,059 for single reservations
Add \$230 for current air taxes and fees.
Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$200.
Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Passport required.

TRIP PLANNER:

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston
DAYS 2–3 Melia Galgos Hotel, Madrid
DAYS 4–5 Melia Sevilla Hotel, Sevilla
DAY 6 Hotel Tryp Albayzin, Granada
DAY 7 Beatriz Rey Don Jaime Hotel, Valencia
DAYS 8–9 Hotel Colon, Barcelona
DAY 10 Return flight to Boston

Features

Madrid and the Prado Museum, Cordoba and the Mezquita, Sevilla and a flamenco show, Granada and the Alhambra, Valencia, Barcelona;
OPTIONALS: Madrid—Evening Tour and Tapas Dinner, Barcelona—Evening Tour and Dinner, Montserrat half-day tour

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Day 2: Arrive Madrid, Spain

Welcome to Madrid, Spain’s capital and largest city. You will be transferred to the Melia Galgos Hotel for check in. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers.

Today dinner will be included.

Day 3: Madrid - Prado Museum - Toledo - Madrid

During a locally guided tour of Madrid's historic center, see the Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor, where events have been held since the 17th century. A guided tour of the Prado Museum, open since 1819, provides you with an historical and cultural perspective of this magnificent museum that boasts the world's finest collection of art by masters such as Velazquez and Goya. **This afternoon travel to Toledo, a UNESCO site and the capital of medieval Spain until 1560. A comprehensive tour highlights the magnificent Gothic cathedral and the 13th century synagogue, a testament to Toledo's Jewish heritage.** Also stop in the Church of Santo Tome to view El Greco's masterpiece painting, The Burial of Count Orgaz.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 4: Madrid - Cordoba - Seville

Today, your Tour Manager provides a brief lesson on the origin and history of the Spanish language. Then, travel to the extraordinary Moorish city of Cordoba. Embark on a walking tour of the Mezquita. This UNESCO site, an architectural marvel, built by the Moors in the 8th century as a magnificent mosque, was converted into the city's cathedral in the 16th century. Continue your exploration of Cordoba in the city's well-preserved and historical old Jewish Quarter. Later, transfer to Seville, considered Spain's "cultural capital."

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 5: Seville

Today you will see Columbus' tomb, the ornate cathedral, a UNESCO site, and Giralda Bell Tower. Enjoy a walking tour of the quaint old Santa Cruz Quarter with its bright flowers, white-washed buildings and winding streets; then continue to Plaza D'España and the beautiful Maria Luisa Park, one of the loveliest in all of Europe. **A local flamenco dancer joins you for a typical "tapas lunch" featuring small portions of hot and cold specialties; here you learn about the history, culture and artistry of flamenco.** This evening, take your reserved seats for an authentic flamenco show featuring Seville's top performers.

Today breakfast and lunch will be included.

Day 6: Seville - Granada

Travel along the peaceful Sierra Nevada to Granada, the last great capital of the Moors in Spain before it fell to the Catholic monarchs in 1492. **Join a local expert for a tour of the world-famous Alhambra, the immense hilltop palace that is a UNESCO site.** Also tour the Generalife, meaning "garden of the architect," where the grounds are beautifully designed with waterfalls, courtyards and smaller secret gardens.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 7: Granada - Valencia

Today you travel through Spain's amazing landscape viewing rolling hills dotted with picturesque olive groves while en route to the Mediterranean coast. Arrive in the city of Valencia, a treasure trove of Roman and Arabic architecture, surrounded by citrus groves.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 8: Valencia - Barcelona

A city tour of historic Valencia features the ornate 14th century Serranos Tower and imposing 15th

century Quart Tower. You'll also see the bustling central market, one of the largest in Europe, and view the Gothic Cathedral, where construction began in 1262 on the site of an ancient mosque. Your trip to Valencia would not be complete without a stop at Lonja, the old Silk Exchange, recognized by UNESCO as one of the most beautiful buildings of European civil Gothic architecture.
Today breakfast will be included.

Day 9: Barcelona

Get an in-depth look at Barcelona, one of the most vibrant and lively cities in Spain! Your locally guided tour showcases Las Ramblas Boulevard, the most famous in Barcelona, dotted with bird and flower stalls. Also see Columbus Monument; Parc Montjuic; Antonio Gaudi's UNESCO World Heritage sites including "La Sagrada Familia," Parc Guell, Bartlo House and the unconventional Casa Mila building. This afternoon continue to explore colorful Barcelona on your own. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a lovely trip to Spain!
Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 10: Barcelona - Tour Ends

You return home with vivid memories of a spectacularly beautiful land with an old, rich and diverse cultural heritage.
Today breakfast will be included.

Optional Excursions for Spain's Classics

Plan Ahead, Reserve Now!

Add a touch of personalization to your vacation by selecting from our well-researched list of options. And now, you can reserve your options in advance of your tour! Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than final payment. Prices are subject to change.

City: Barcelona- Montserrat \$85.00

A leisurely drive through picturesque villages brings you to majestic Montserrat Mountain, soaring 4,320 feet above sea level. A local guide will lead you on a tour exploring the area's most important sights. While here, stroll the grounds of the 8th century monastery and see its famous Romanesque sculpture of the "Black Virgin," patron saint of Catalonia. This is also the site of many pilgrimages and where Christopher Columbus brought natives to pay homage.

Your transportation is included.

Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required.

Duration: approximately 3 hour(s).

City: Barcelona- Barcelona By Night with Dinner at the Port \$90.00

While in Barcelona, tantalize your taste buds with Mediterranean cuisine at one of Barcelona's waterfront restaurants, Moncho's. You will enjoy a wonderful three course meal of typical local dishes while enjoying a glass of regional wine. Famous for its seafood and local cuisine, Moncho's will surely be a highlight for anyone traveling to Barcelona. After your delicious dinner, enjoy a panoramic evening tour of Antonio Gaudi's La Sagrada Familia, Casa Batllo and Casa Mila followed by a drive around the famous Las Ramblas...see the city's historic Columbus Monument, Plaza D'Espanya and the ever-fashionable Diagonal Avenue, Barcelona's own "5th Avenue!" This experience will certainly be a

wonderful addition to your time in cultural Barcelona!

Private transportation and dinner is included.

Your transportation is included.

Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required.

Duration: approximately 3 hour(s)

City: Madrid- Madrid by Night with Tapas Dinner \$99.00

Madrid is a city that never sleeps and a trip to Spain would not be complete without experiencing a Tapas dinner at the popular Restaurant Meson Rincon de la Cava, located in the heart of Madrid. Enjoy old world ambiance and traditional castillian “tapas” including croquetes of Iberian ham, Spanish tortilla, mushrooms with garlic, and fried chorizo sausage, along with unlimited Rioja wine. Later, view Madrid’s major sights and avenues illuminated at night. Take a stroll through nearby San Miguel Market, Plaza Mayor and Puerta Del Sol. Next, travel by coach viewing Plaza d’Espana, known for its statue dedicated to Cervantes, author of Don Quijote de laMancha; the Royal Palace, the illuminated buildings along Gran Via, Paseo Castellano and Velazquez Avenue. In addition, marvel at the beautiful Poseidon and Cibeles Fountains and Plaza Colon.

Your transportation is included.

Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required.

Duration: approximately 3.5 hour(s).

Proof of Citizenship: *US citizens require a passport with at least six months' validity past the date of return.. Passports are the responsibility of the traveler.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*