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Spain's Classics

October 19 – 29, 2019



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11 Days • 14 Meals: 9 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Madrid, Royal Palace, Toledo, Cordoba, Seville, Flamenco Show, Granada, The Alhambra, Valencia, Choice on Tour, Paella Experience, Barcelona, La Sagrada Familia, Parc Güell

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	H10 Puerta de Alcalá, Madrid
Days 4, 5	Melia Sevilla, Seville
Day 6	Barcelo Carmen Granada, Granada
Days 7, 8	SH Valencia Palace, Valencia
Days 9, 10	Hotel Colon, Barcelona

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Collette's Flagship: Collette's tours open the door to a world of amazing destinations. Marvel at must-see sights, sample regional cuisine, stay in centrally located hotels and connect with new and captivating cultures. These itineraries offer an inspiring and easy way to experience the world, where an expert guide takes care of all the details.

Day 1: Saturday, October 19, 2019 Overnight Flight You are on your way to a colorful cultural adventure featuring the best of Spain.

Day 2: Sunday, October 20, 2019 Madrid, Spain - Tour Begins Welcome to Madrid, Spain's lively capital and largest city. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Monday, October 21, 2019 Madrid - Royal Palace - 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. **An expert-led tour of the monumental 18th-century Royal Palace*** reveals lavish halls, banquet rooms, the throne room, royal armory and the impressive courtyard. This afternoon we **travel to Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage 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. You'll also stop at the Church of Santo Tome to view El Greco's masterpiece painting, *The Burial of Count Orgaz*. (B)

Day 4: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 Madrid - Cordoba - Seville Travel to the extraordinary Moorish city of Cordoba. You may opt to take the AVE high-speed train to reduce travel time and increase leisure time in Cordoba. Upon arrival, **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." (B, D)

Day 5: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 Seville Today you will see Columbus' tomb, the ornate cathedral (UNESCO), and the 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 de España and the beautiful Maria Luisa Park, one of the loveliest in all of Europe. This evening, **enjoy an authentic flamenco show** (UNESCO) featuring Seville's top performers. (B)

Day 6: Thursday, October 24, 2019 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,**** an immense hilltop palace (UNESCO). Also tour the Generalife, meaning "garden of the architect," where the grounds are beautifully designed with waterfalls, courtyards and smaller secret gardens. (B, D)

Day 7: Friday, October 25, 2019 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. (B)

Day 8: Saturday, October 26, 2019 Valencia - Paella Experience - Valencia It's your choice! Take a walking tour of historic Valencia to see the ornate 14th-century Serranos Tower and imposing 15th-century Quart Tower; then arrive at the bustling central market, one of the largest in Europe, where you'll shop side-by-side with the locals before concluding your tour at the impressive 13th-century Gothic cathedral **-OR-** explore the impressive City of Arts & Science, an ultramodern, multi-faceted educational institution, followed by a tour of the Lladro City of Porcelain to learn about the history and creative process of the world-famous, handmade Lladro figurines.** Later, gather together and travel to the area where paella cuisine originated. **A "paella experience" features a boat ride on the canals** surrounding rice field plantations; a visit to a traditional fisherman's home known as a "barraca"; a paella-making



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demonstration and an authentic paella lunch. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 9: Sunday, October 27, 2019 Valencia - Barcelona Travel to Barcelona, one of Europe's most beautiful and exciting cities. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Barcelona's fascinating boulevards including the famous Las Ramblas, dotted with colorful bird and flower stalls. (B)

Day 10: Monday, October 28, 2019 Barcelona Today, **get an in-depth look at vibrant and lively Barcelona.** Your panoramic tour showcases the Columbus Monument, Parc de Montjuic, Antoni Gaudi's UNESCO World Heritage sites including La Sagrada Familia, Batllo House and the unconventional Casa Mila building with a guided visit to Parc Güell. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of an unforgettable trip to Spain! (B, D)

Day 11: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 Barcelona - Tour Ends You return home with vivid memories of a spectacularly beautiful land with an old, rich and diverse cultural heritage. (B)

Experience It! The Flamenco

"El cante," "el baile," and "la guitarra." Combine the three into one romantic tour de force, and you have the essence of the flamenco... the song, the dance and the guitar. The flamenco's roots began in southern Spain as a 17th-century art form created by Andalusian gypsies. Similar to the blues that originated in America's Deep South, the "cante," or song, was a way for the gypsies to express their sorrow and repression. They sang their lyrics in the dark mines where they worked, using verse to help ease each other's personal grief. As the 18th century approached, the gypsies gained more legal rights and many were able to purchase musical instruments. Soon the "guitarra," or guitar, was added to their repertoire. The "baile," or dance, quickly followed — and like any great art form, the flamenco took off. Soon performances in more mainstream venues like local cafés and dance halls combined with old-fashioned commercialism to make the flamenco the national dance of Spain.

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