



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Journey through Spain

Friday, November 6 - Thursday, November 19, 2009

Experience a full sampling of everything Spain has to offer as you journey from the vibrant capital of **Madrid**, where you'll tour the royal palace, to cities like **Toledo** and **Seville**, to the British colony of Gibraltar and its relaxing holiday resort locale, **Costa del Sol**. From there, it's off to Granada (home of the opulent 14th-century Muslim palace Alhambra) and Valencia, a town known for its succulent orange groves and the presence of a chalice believed, by some, to be the Holy Grail. Your vacation ends with two days in **Barcelona**, where you can tour Roman ruins or sun yourself on gorgeous Spanish beaches.

Includes...

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Madrid and Barcelona to Boston
- Twelve nights' four star accommodations
- Eighteen meals: 12 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners (including beer and wine)
- High-speed AVE train from Madrid to Cordoba
- Sightseeing and touring
- Services of a bilingual tour director

Highlights...

Madrid guided tour, Cordoba guided tour, visit Seville's Alcazar, excursion to Gibraltar, visit Granada's Alhambra, Andalusia, guided Valencia tour, visit of Tarragona, guided Barcelona tour; Optionals: Madrid—Traditional Spanish evening with dinner, Toledo full-day excursion, Seville—Flamenco evening with dinner, Costa del Sol—Morocco full-day excursion with lunch, Barcelona—Montserrat half-day excursion, BARCELONA 2n post-tour extension, pp/do \$299, single \$384

Rates...

\$2,849 per person double occupancy
\$3,299 for single reservations

Add \$113 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Madrid

Begin your trip with an overnight flight to Madrid.

Day 2 - Madrid

Your representative greets you at Madrid's airport and then escorts you to your hotel. Meet the rest of your group at this evening's included dinner. **(B in flight, D)**

Day 3 - Madrid

On your guided tour of Madrid, view the collection of Spanish art at the Prado museum and tour the 2,800-room interior of the Royal Palace. For a delectable Castillian meal, opt for our Traditional Spanish Evening. **(B)**

Day 4 - Madrid

Enjoy a free day in Madrid. Relax in one of Plaza Mayor's many cafés, or visit the Parque del Buen Retiro, featuring an Egyptian fountain at its center. Or join an optional excursion to the former Spanish capital of Toledo. **(B)**

Day 5 - Seville

Travel via high-speed AVE train to Córdoba. Upon arrival, you'll have a guided tour and visit the 8th-century Mezquita, a fascinating blend of Christian and Moorish architecture. Continue on to sunny Seville. **(B, D)**

Day 6 - Seville

Visit Seville's massive cathedral and the dazzling Alcázar, an excellent example of *mudéjar* architecture, during today's guided tour. The afternoon is free to discover Seville on your own. Tonight, enjoy a night of dinner and dance at our optional Flamenco Evening. **(B)**

Day 7 - Costa del Sol

Explore the British colony of Gibraltar during an excursion to the very tip of the Iberian Peninsula. Known for its namesake limestone rock and famed as one of two Pillars of Hercules in Greco-Roman times, this gateway to Northern Africa is an exotic mix of British, Spanish and African influences. Later you'll head to the Costa del Sol, Spain's resort region. **(B, D)**

Day 8 - Costa del Sol

Enjoy a free day in Costa del Sol, or opt to travel across the Straits of Gibraltar to Morocco. **(B)**

Day 9 - Granada

Transfer to Granada, the last bastion of Moorish rule in Spain, and tour the opulent 14th-century Alhambra, the hilltop fortress palace of Spain's last Muslim rulers. Washington Irving collected local legends—set in the Alhambra's courtyards—while living nearby. **(B, D)**

Day 10 - Valencia

On the way to Valencia, stop in the district of Guadix, the Andalusian town where many of the residents live in underground caves. Continue on to Valencia, known for its orange groves and annual Fallas celebration, a fiesta of bonfires, music and fireworks. **(B)**

Day 11 - Valencia

On today's guided tour of Valencia, travel along the city's boulevards and past its bell towers to the cathedral, where you can view the chalice said to be the Holy Grail. Then continue on to Alonja and the Fallas Museum. **(B, D)**

Day 12 - Barcelona

Travel north to Barcelona, stopping in the historical seaport of Tarragona. The city boasts an impressive array of Roman ruins, beautiful beaches and delicious cuisine (including the rich *romesco* sauce). **(B, D)**

Day 13 - Barcelona

View the many highlights of Barcelona as you tour the city with an expert guide. Take in views of the Columbus Monument, the 14th-century Barrio Gótico and Montjuïc Hill. You'll see La Sagrada Família (Church of the Holy Family), Gaudí's famous landmark; then explore more of Gaudí's work during your visits to the Parque Güell and La Pedrera. This afternoon, join our optional excursion to Montserrat. **(B)**

Day 14 - Barcelona

Board your flight home, or remain in Barcelona for our two-night tour extension. **(B)**

Extend your stay:

Add 2 nights, \$299 USD (Single room: add \$85 USD)

Barcelona has long been called "the Great Enchantress" and it's easy to see why. From the twisting gothic quarter to the whimsical creations of Antoni Gaudí and the modernist, egalitarian beauty of the Eixample district, the cityscape leaves you reeling with its architectural eye candy. Its music, theater, art, gastronomy, fashion, and architecture set the pace for European chic, and its nightlife will have you dancing until dawn.

Optional Tours

Traditional Spanish Evening - \$79

Indulge in an evening of succulent Castillian cuisine at Los Galayos, a restaurant on the Plaza Mayor. Revel in the traditional atmosphere while you feast on gazpacho, roasted potatoes and roast suckling pig in an ancient Castillian cellar.

Toledo - \$115

One of Spain's oldest and most beautiful cities, Toledo served as the Spanish capital until 1561. After a chance to explore the labyrinth of medieval alleyways that make up the heart of the city, visit one of Europe's oldest synagogues at El Tránsito.

Flamenco Evening - \$99

Experience the exciting aura surrounding flamenco dancing. A unique dance form, flamenco combines guitar playing, singing, clapping and dancing.

Morocco - \$175

Venture to mystical Morocco, a country that sits on Africa's northern tip.

Montserrat - \$99

Journey to the picturesque town of Montserrat, whose rugged mountain setting inspired the composer Richard Wagner as he wrote Parsifal.

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

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.*