

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## Portugal, Spain & Morocco

16 DAYS: Friday, March 20-Saturday, April 4, 2020

Per person double occupancy \$4,489; Single reservations \$5,189

With Optional 3-Night Madrid & Barcelona Extension

**Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$450.**

Discover the alluring countries at the crossroads of Europe and Africa.

Relive the Age of Discovery, when explorers brought treasures from around the world—now on glorious display in Portuguese palaces and Spanish cathedrals. See the Moorish influences in exotic Andalusia, travel into the heart of Morocco, and explore the maze-like medinas of the imperial cities.

### Your tour package includes

- 14 nights in handpicked hotels, 14 breakfasts, 8 dinners, 12 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & , local guides, Private deluxe motor coach, 1 on-tour flight, 1 ferry transfer

### Included highlights

- the church at Jerónimos Monastery, Seville Cathedral, the Alhambra, ferry ride to Tangier, Chaouen Fez Medina, Djemaa el Fna market in Marrakech, Prado Museum



### Overnight Flight | 1 night

#### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Portugal today.

### Lisbon | 2 nights

#### Day 2: Arrival in Lisbon | Inclusion: Dinner

Welcome to Portugal! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight.

### **Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lisbon**

**Included meal: Breakfast**

Get to know the Portuguese capital on a tour with a local guide.

- Admire views of the city from Eduardo VII Park, then pass the Plaza del Marqués de Pombal and the Mouraria District
- Discover the city's maritime heritage at the Monument to the Discoveries and Tower of Belém
- Enter the church at Jerónimos Monastery, built to honor voyagers
- Walk from Time Out Market through Chiado square to the Baixa district in the heart of the city

Enjoy a free afternoon in Lisbon or add an excursion.

#### **Optional Excursion      Sintra      (additional cost)**

The poet Lord Byron called UNESCO-listed Sintra the most beautiful town in the world. Today, Sintra is a popular weekend escape for Lisboetas, but it was once the playground of Portuguese royalty. Get a glimpse of royal life during a guided tour of the 19th-century, Romanticist Pena Palace. Take a bus and mini-train ride up to this story-book, mountaintop site, which boasts picturesque gardens and sweeping views of the Portuguese countryside. After your tour, you'll have free time to stroll through Sintra, viewing the town's colorful villas, small shops and impeccably manicured gardens. Then, enjoy beautiful coastal views of the Portuguese Riviera as you drive back to Lisbon.

## **Seville** | 2 nights

### **Day 4: Seville via Évora**      **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel through the unspoiled countryside of Portugal en route to Spain. Before crossing the border, stop in the UNESCO-listed city of Évora for a sightseeing tour with a local guide. View the Roman temple and visit the Church of St. Francis, known as the "Chapel of Bones."

This evening, sit down for an included dinner.

### **Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Seville**      **Included meal: Breakfast**

Uncover the beauty of Seville, the historic Andalusian capital, on a guided sightseeing tour.

- View the tiled pavilion of the Plaza de España and step inside the Gothic Seville Cathedral, the third largest church in the world
- Pass the whitewashed homes of Barrio de Santa Cruz

Enjoy a free afternoon in Seville or add an excursion.

#### **Optional Excursion      Traditional Seville Flamenco Show      (additional cost)**

Tonight, get a taste of old Seville during a live flamenco show. Flamenco is a unique and colorful Andalusian art form that combines guitar playing, singing, clapping, and dancing, and this excursion is sure to be one of the highlights of your Spanish journey. Sip an included drink as you watch the authentic performance, which allows expressive lyrics, moving instrumentals, and passionate dancing. After discovering why UNESCO has declared flamenco to be one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, enjoy free time to explore the vibrant Santa Cruz neighborhood.

## **Granada** | 2 nights

### **Day 6: Granada via Córdoba**      **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

On the way to Granada, stop in the town of Córdoba. There, explore the Mezquita, a UNESCO World Heritage site that was built in the eighth century as a mosque and then transformed into a cathedral during the Christian Reconquista of 1236.

Then, sit down for an included dinner this evening.

**Day 7: Sightseeing tour of the Alhambra**      **Included meal: Breakfast**

Discover Granada on a guided tour that includes the 14th-century Alhambra, the Moorish sultans' last stronghold and home to a unique blend of Western and Islamic art.

**Tangier** | 1 night

**Day 8: Transfer to Tangier**      **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel to Tarifa to board your ferry to Tangier. *(Please note: Travelers may need to handle their own luggage on the ferry.)*

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

**Fes** | 2 nights

**Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Tangier**      **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Begin your day with a guided tour of Tangier, a city celebrated by Western writers like Paul Bowles and William Burroughs.

- Explore the stately French plaza and Boulevard Pasteur
- Traverse the maze-like passageways through the medina
- At Cape Spartel, take in one-of-a-kind views of the Atlantic

On the road to Fes, stop in Chaouen, a hilltop town famous for its blue-painted buildings. Admire panoramic views of the city, then stroll through the streets to soak in Chaouen's unique character.

This evening, sit down for an included dinner.

**Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Fes**      **Included meal: Breakfast**

A local guide leads a tour of Fes, the spiritual and cultural center of Moroccan life.

- See the University of al-Karaouine, dating back to the ninth century, and the wonderful Souk el Attarine
- Learn about the traditional madrassas, the ancient Islamic schools that serve as the foundation of the city's intellectual life
- Explore the labyrinthine medina before reaching the colorful bazaars to barter with potters, weavers, and carpenters for their wares

Later, enjoy a free evening in Fes or add an excursion.

**Optional Excursion**      **Evening in Fes: Dinner & Music** (additional cost)

Head to a local restaurant in Fes for an evening of traditional entertainment. Enjoy a dinner of regional specialties like shish kebabs and pastilla, an elaborate meat-filled pastry that's known as Fes's signature dish. Afterward, sit back and take in a traditional Moroccan show including musicians, belly dancers, and more.

## Casablanca | 1 night

### Day 11: Casablanca via Rabat      Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tour Morocco's capital city of Rabat with a local guide before continuing on to the city of Casablanca.

- Explore the Roman ruins at Chellah Gardens
- View Hassan Tower, intended to be the world's largest mosque until construction halted in 1199
- Tour the white and green Mausoleum of Mohammed V, which houses the tombs of the 20th-century king and his two sons

Sit down for an included dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

## Marrakech | 2 nights

### Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Casablanca & transfer to Marrakech      Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Discover the highlights of seaside Casablanca, a city with a modern-day legend that was established by Old Hollywood, with a local guide.

- Step inside Casablanca's ancient medina, the bustling heart of the city
- Enter the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in Morocco
- Stroll the fashionable Corniche waterfront area

Then, continue on to Marrakech this afternoon where you'll sit down for an included dinner with your group.

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Marrakech      Included meal: Breakfast

Get a feel for Marrakech, located to the north of the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, on a guided tour.

- Visit the Djemaa el-Fna, a festive open-air market where musicians, snake charmers, and clowns perform during the evenings
- Marvel at the massive Koutoubia Mosque, which features a minaret that reaches nearly 200 feet high and dominates the city's skyline
- Enter the evocative Saadian Tombs, the mausoleum for the 16th-century ruling princes, and the Bahia Palace
- View the Rue Souk Smarine, famous for its textiles

Enjoy a free evening in Marrakech or add an excursion.

### Optional Excursion      Moroccan Evening & Sunset Camel Ride      (additional cost)

Experience a taste of Moroccan life on tonight's excursion. First, set out to enjoy a sunset camel ride in a lush desert oasis. Nicknamed "ships of the desert," camels have been a traditional mode of transport for centuries. You'll learn about this history as you follow your guide through the palm grove, stopping to admire the stunning sunset. Then, you'll visit a local family to share mint tea and pastries in their home, learning about the indigenous Berbers. Afterward, head to a nearby restaurant to enjoy a family-style meal with your group. You'll enjoy a glass of wine as you're served regional specialties such as chicken or lamb tagine, a North African stew cooked in an earthenware pot.

## Madrid | 2 nights

### **Day 14: Flight to Madrid**    **Included meal: Breakfast**

Fly to Madrid this afternoon and settle into your hotel. Then, enjoy a free evening in Madrid.

### **Day 15: Sightseeing tour of Madrid**    **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Explore the Spanish capital's beautiful architecture, lively squares, and grand boulevards on today's guided sightseeing tour.

- Make a photo stop at the Royal Palace and pass by the Temple of Debod
- Pass the city's many squares, including Plaza de España and Plaza Mayor
- Explore the Prado Museum, home to the works of Goya, Velásquez, and more

Say goodbye to your group at a farewell dinner tonight.

## **Flight Home**

### **Day 16: Departure**    **Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home or continue on in Barcelona.

## **Extension to Madrid & Barcelona \$629pp/double occupancy**

Linger in the Spanish capital then discover Barcelona's twisting Gothic quarter, the whimsical creations of Antoni Gaudí, and the Modernist, egalitarian beauty of the Eixample district—this city's architectural eye candy has no equal. Its music, theater, art, gastronomy, fashion, and architecture set the pace for European chic, and its nightlife will have you dancing 'til dawn.

### **Madrid**    | 1 night

#### **Day 16: Free day in Madrid**    **Included meal: Breakfast**

Spend a free day in Madrid or add an excursion.

#### **Optional Excursion**    **Toledo**    **(additional cost)**

Discover Toledo, the cliff-top city often referred to as La Ciudad Imperial ("The Imperial City"). Upon arrival, you'll have some free time to explore. Later in the afternoon, your guided tour begins at Toledo Cathedral, a massive, Gothic structure that houses 750 medieval stained glass windows and a treasure trove of golden artifacts. Gaze upon the cathedral's sacristy, containing masterpieces by the likes of van Dyck, El Greco, Rubens, and Titian. After exploring the labyrinth of medieval alleyways at the heart of the city, you'll visit the Church of Santo Tomé and one of Europe's oldest synagogues, Santa María la Blanca. Please note: This tour involves some walking over uneven terrain. Also, depending on the day of the week, the sites visited are subject to change. If the Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca is closed, you'll visit the Synagogue of El Tránsito instead.

### **Barcelona**    | 2 nights

#### **Day 17: Train to Barcelona**    **Included meal: Breakfast**

Take the high-speed train to Barcelona and spend free time in the city or add an excursion.

#### **Optional Excursion**    **Park Güell & La Pedrera**    **(additional cost)**

On today's excursion, discover the magnificent works of Antoni Gaudí, the famed Spanish architect known for his bold, distinct designs. Casa Milà is the first stop. Take a guided tour of this building, popularly known as "La

Pedrera,” which was built by Gaudí between 1905 and 1910. Everything about the building is visually unique, from the wave-like stone structure and grandly designed roof to the apartment that reflects the style of the 20th-century bourgeois. Next, you’ll head to Park Güell, also designed by Gaudí. Your guide will lead you through the park, which contains stunning buildings, intricate stonework, and colorful mosaics. At the top of the park, marvel at the brilliant views of Barcelona. Must book 20 days before departure

### **Day 18: Sightseeing tour of Barcelona Included meal: Breakfast**

Discover why the Catalan capital is touted for its unparalleled architectural landmarks, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- Step inside La Sagrada Família, Gaudí’s famous masterwork-in-progress
- Drive along Passeig de Gràcia, past Gaudí’s “House of Bones”
- Stop at Montjuïc, where the 1992 Olympic Games took place, and stroll through Mirador de l’Alcalde Park
- Pass Plaça d’Espanya and the soaring monument to Christopher Columbus

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

## **Flight Home**

### **Day 19: Departure**

**Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home.