

SPANISH Fiesta

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to **Barcelona**.

Day 2: Transfer to Barcelona. The history of Barcelona dates back to 218 B.C. when the Romans first developed the city walls, parts of which are still visible. Upon arrival, an escorted panoramic city sightseeing tour. Disembark at **Park Guell**, now a magical park with amazing buildings, sculptures and tile work designed by **Gaudi**. You will also find Gaudi's old home in Park Guell which is now open to the public as a small museum.

Day 3: Start at Placa Catalunya, the square that divides old and new Barcelona. 4 great boulevards radiate from here. **The Ramblas**, Passeig de Gracia, Rambla de Catalunya and Avinguda Portal de L'Angel. Follow Las Ramblas boulevard to the cruise port terminal. Many of Barcelona's most interesting streets run off or parallel to this main artery. Stop at **Mercat de la Boqueria** food market great for shopping but also for just wandering. The city's oldest and most interesting buildings of historic and artistic interest are located in the Barri Gotic or Gothic Quarter. See inside the vast Cathedral De Barcelona. See the Palace of the Catalan Government, City Hall and the Great Royal Palace.

Day 4: You cannot help but notice Gaudi's works throughout the city. This morning visit the iconic **Sagrada Familia**, the unfinished church begun by Gaudi. It is expected to be finished in approximately 2026. Other fascinating Gaudi monuments include **Casa Batilo and Casa Mila (La Pedrera)**, that time permitting you could visit on your own. Gaudi is even responsible for many of the intricate lamp posts you see around the city. Alternatively you may wish to visit the flea market Encants or wander the La Ribera neighborhood. Streets in this area are named after the shops that used to occupy them (ie The Carrer de L'Argenteria or Goldsmith Street). See the long square the Passeig del Born (it was formerly a jousting square) that is popular for its fine restaurants and tapas bars. Tonight see the **Font Magica Fountain** in its entire colorful splendor. It is a spectacular display of color, light, motion, music and water acrobatics.

Day 5: Morning flight to **Seville**. Meet your guide for a city sightseeing tour. Most highlights are clustered between two bridges. Seville's four greatest treasures – **the Cathedral, the La Giralda Tower, the Alcazar, and the winding streets of the Barrio de Santa Cruz**. Don't miss the Torre Del Oro (Tower of Gold), dating from 1220. An experience not to miss while in Andalusia are the bullfights complete with elaborately decorated ("suits of light") matadors. Unfortunately the fights are seasonal, therefore today you will only visit the **bullring, La Maestranza**. Visit the ring that surpasses in grandeur any other arena in Spain, the museum and the chapel where the matadors pray before the fight.

Day 6: Full day in Seville to discover its treasures. Visit the Cathedral. See the pinkish square Giralda Tower. Formerly a Moorish minaret from which Muslims were called to prayer, it became the Cathedral Bell Tower after the Reconquista. The Alcazar was originally a 10th century palace built for the governors of the Moorish state and still functions as a royal palace. Visit the Alcazar today. There was once a thriving Jewish Quarter in Sevilla but the only reminder of this past is the Barrio Cruz, a tangled street plan with small plazas, tile covered patios, whitewashed houses with wrought iron lattice work usually draped with flowers. Doors are purposely left open for passersby to enjoy the greenery and richly tiled patios. No visit is complete until you experience an authentic Flamenco show. This music and dance art form has its roots in the gypsy and Moorish cultures. Tonight be entertained at your Flamenco Show.

Day 7: Depart mid-day by private coach for **Cordoba** with its glorious Roman and Moorish history. It is home to one of Europe's most glorious Islamic sites, the Mezquita, a mosque turned cathedral dating back to 784AD. This afternoon visit this site. Marvel at this well preserved former mosque with a 16th Century church rising up in the middle of it.



Day 8: This morning wander the **Jewish Quarter** dating from the late middle ages after Muslim rule and during Christianity. Enjoy the narrow streets with cobbled central drains, whitewashed walls, colorful doors and windows, open and welcoming private patios along the back streets and iron grills. Consider why the corners of these skinny streets have stone bumpers scavenged from ancient Roman pillars! Perhaps a visit to the synagogue built in 1315. After lunch depart for Granada. At one time **Granada** was the grandest city in Spain. Today you can visit the main sites are a few minutes' walk from Plaza Nueva, the main square of the city.

Day 9: Enjoy a full day in Granada beginning with a visit to the Islamic gem the **Alhambra**. Guided tour of the spectacular 13th century Moorish palace. Visit Charles V Palace, the Alcazba – the oldest and original part of the castle, the Palacios Nazaries the Moorish Royal Palace and jewel of the Alhambra and the Generalife Gardens. Later spend time in Plaza Nueva, the grand boulevards and the tiny shopping lanes. Possible visit to the Royal Chapel which houses the bodies of Queen Isabel and King Ferdinand. Shop the Alcaiceria the great bazaar of Granada

Day 10: Drive through the rugged landscapes for **Madrid** stopping in **Toledo**. Toledo, is incredibly well preserved and the entire city has been declared a national monument. Spend a few hours visiting its main sites; the Cathedral, the Santa Cruz Museum, the Alcazar, and the Santo Tome a simple chapel with native son El Greco's masterpiece, The Burial of the Count of Orgaz. Arrive Madrid. Since the civil war, expansion has been vast and rapid but most of the great monuments of the 17th and 18th century survive. Enjoy a guided panoramic city tour.

Day 11: Visit the **Royal Palace**, an extravagant and flamboyant Renaissance Neoclassical structure consisting of 2000 rooms which was completed in 1764. Walk around El Retiro Park or possibly shop on the elegant Alcala shopping street. Visit one of Madrid's several museums. Three of the most important ones along or near the Paseo del Prado and El Retiro Park. The Prado Museum, Spain's most visited museum and one of the most important museums in the world, the Museo Thyssen Bornemisza, formerly a private collection owned by the German Hungarian Thyssen Bornemisza family and has a bit of everything beginning from medieval times to the present or the Reina Sofia, the National museum of the 20th century art named after Queen Sofia of Spain.

Day 12: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return flight to Barcelona return from Madrid
- Flight Barcelona to Seville
- Coach transfers
 - o Return airport transfers in Barcelona, Seville, Madrid
 - o Coach transfer Seville to Cordoba to Granada to Toledo to Madrid
- 10 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 10 breakfast
- 5 dinners
- Guided orientation city tours
 - o Barcelona
 - o Seville
 - o Madrid
- Entrances
 - o Guided entrance to Sagrada Familia
 - o Entrance to Park Guell
 - o Entrance to Cathedral in Seville
 - o Entrance to Alcazar in Seville
 - o Entrance and tour of La Maestranza Bullring in Seville
 - o Flamenco show
 - o Entrance to Mezquita in Cordoba
 - o Guided entrance to Alhambra in Granada
 - o Entrance to Royal Place in Madrid
 - o Entrance to Museum in Madrid

