



Group Travel Specialists

Spain, Portugal & Rest of Europe

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TOUR BY PRIVATE MOTORCOACH

Catholic Spain, Portugal & France –12 Days - Price on request. Visiting Madrid, Lisbon, Sintra, Estoril, Cascais, Fátima, Braga, Santiago de Compostela, Burgos, San Sebastián, San Ignacio de Loyola, Lourdes & Barcelona.

Escorted Tour 12 Days/10 Nights including Buffet Breakfast and Dinner with wine daily, 4-star centrally located hotels, Masses where desired, Extensive Sightseeing Professional Tour Director, All Taxes. 1 free with every 16 paying travelers.



PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- **Round-trip Airfare**
- Escorted Tour of Portugal, Spain, and France by first class air-conditioned Motor Coach
- **12 Days/10 Nights** at 4-star Hotels: **2 Nights Madrid, 1 Night Lisbon (Portugal), 1 Night Fatima, 1 Night Santiago de Compostela, 1 Night Burgos, 2 Nights Lourdes (France), and 2 Nights Barcelona.**
- **20 Meals:** Buffet Breakfast and Dinner with wine daily
- **Extensive Sightseeing:** Madrid, Toledo, Avila, Segovia, Lisbon, Sintra, Estoril, Cascais, Fatima, Braga, Santiago de Compostela, Burgos, San Sebastian, St. Ignatius Loyola, Lourdes, and Barcelona with Sagrada Familia.
- **Mass in Fátima, Lourdes and where desired c/o the accompanying priest.**
- The service and assistance of a Professional Tour Director.
- Round-trip airport transfers and all taxes.
- Luggage handling, and headsets with all local excursions.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1, USA - MADRID, SPAIN

Overnight flight. Dinner, movie, and breakfast on board.

Day 2, ARRIVE IN MADRID (CITY TOUR & TOLEDO)

Welcome to Spain. Meeting and assistance at Madrid airport and transfer to your hotel. After checking in and some time to freshen up, our local hostess will meet you at the hotel lobby to take you to visit **the city of Madrid**. Guided sightseeing today includes a full panoramic drive by way of the Avenida Mayor, Puerta del Sol, Parliament Square, and a picture stop outside the Royal Palace. In the early afternoon, we will drive to **Toledo** is one of the most important centers of European medieval history. It was the capital of Spain from the Gothic epoch until 1560 and it is now one of the Spanish cities with the greatest wealth of monuments, known as the “city of the three cultures”, because Christians, Arabs and Jews lived there together for centuries in perfect co-existence. Behind its fortified walls, Toledo is the site of an impressive medieval architecture and it preserves an artistic and cultural legacy such as churches, palaces, fortresses, mosques, and synagogues. The great diversity of styles makes Toledo a real open-air museum and has been declared a World Heritage Site.

Welcome Dinner with wine & bottled water at your hotel. Overnight in Madrid.

Madrid

Madrid is located in the heart of the Iberian Peninsula, with a population of over 3 million. It's a city characterized by intense cultural and artistic activity. Madrid traces its origins to the year 882 and features museums & monuments of extraordinary beauty.



Toledo

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Day 3, MADRID – EXCURSION TO AVILA & SEGOVIA

After a hearty buffet breakfast your escort will meet you at the hotel lobby to take you on a day tour to **Avila & Segovia**.

Ávila was founded in the 11th century to protect the Spanish territories from the Moors. The city keeps its medieval austerity and is the birthplace of Santa Teresa de Jesus. Avila is one of the towns with the highest number of Romanesque and Gothic churches per capita in Spain, has prominent medieval town walls, a very unique gothic Cathedral, and fortifications with 82 semicircular towers and nine gates.

Segovia is located 85 kms north-northwest of Madrid. The name Segovia is of Celtibero origin. The first inhabitants called the city Segobriga. This name comes from two terms of the Celtiberan language of the Celtic branch of Indo-European. The term Sego means "victory" and the suffix -briga would mean "city" or "strength". So the name could be translated as "City of Victory" or "Victory City". The city is famous for its impressive Roman Aqueduct perfectly well preserved since 2000 years ago. Back to Madrid. Tapas dinner with wine in a typical restaurant in the city center. Overnight in Madrid.



Avila- medieval city walls



Segovia- Roman Aqueduct

Day 4, MADRID – LISBON CITY TOUR & EXCURSION TO SINTRA, ESTORIL & CASCAIS

Buffet Breakfast at our hotel in Madrid and departure for the airport to board our flight to Lisbon, Portugal. Arrival and transfer to our hotel to leave our luggage for check in after our day tour. Our guide will take us on a full day excursion visiting the city of Lisbon first and continuing to Estoril & Cascais in the afternoon. **Lisbon** is an enchanting city full of culture and history. The sightseeing will include the quaint Alfama, the former Moorish quarters with its narrow and twisting streets, cobblestone alleys, and small whitewashed houses, as well as the historical Belem district, where you will see the Tower of Belem, Monument to the Discoverers, and the unique Manueline architecture of the Jerónimos.

After Lisbon, we will be on our way to visit the towns of **Sintra, Estoril & Cascais**. Arrive to the magnificent city of Sintra where the Royal Family used to spend the summers. We will taste the traditional local pastry shop of this beautiful region and visit the Palace before continuing to Cascais where we will make a panoramic visit. We will also stop at Estoril to see the casino gardens. Return to Lisbon by the coast road.

Dinner with wine in our hotel. Overnight in Lisbon.



Lisbon view from St. George's Castle



Pena Palace in Sintra



Estoril

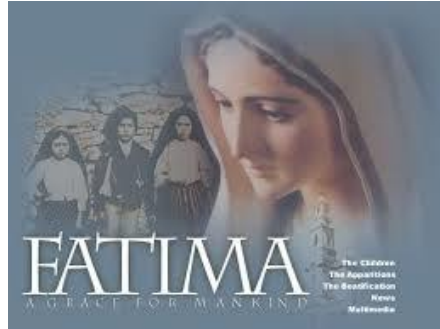


Cascais

Day 5, LISBON – FÁTIMA (1hr16m)

After buffet breakfast we will leave for Fatima, site of one of the world's most famous Catholic shrines. Check into our hotel and time to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Fátima with the tombs of the visionaries and the Chapel of the Apparitions, made famous by the Virgin Mary's apparition to three shepherd children -Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia- on May 13, 1917.

This evening, we will join the Rosary and Candlelight Procession on the Basilica grounds. Dinner with wine & bottled water at your hotel. Overnight in Fatima.



Sanctuary of our Lady of Fatima

Day 6, FÁTIMA–BRAGA–SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN (3hr53m)

Buffet Breakfast. Journey north to Santiago this morning and stop in Braga, one of the oldest Christian cities in the world and nicknamed the “Portuguese Rome.” Visit the Bom Jesus do Monte (Good Jesus of the Mount) sanctuary and see the unique zigzag stairway that is dedicated to the five senses—sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste—and the three theological virtues—faith, hope, and charity. Later, cross into Spain and head for Santiago de Compostela. Visit St. James' Cathedral and attend the rosary and Mass. Santiago de Compostela has been known throughout history for its famous pilgrimage route, the Way of St. James and for its cathedral, which houses the Apostle James' remains beneath the high altar. Dinner with wine at your hotel. Overnight in Santiago de Compostela.



Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

Day 7, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA–BURGOS (4hr34m)

Buffet Breakfast. Today, travel to Burgos, the historic capital of Old Castile. Your visit, upon arrival, takes you to the magnificent cathedral, a masterpiece of gothic architecture and the burial place of Spanish national hero El Cid.

Dinner with wine at your hotel. Overnight in Burgos.



Burgos

Burgos was founded in 884 and its historical heritage is always evident to the visitor. It's a monumental town, charming for its medieval northern Castilian ambience. Its most recognizable landmark is the French Gothic Cathedral of St. Mary, whose 3 main doorways are flanked by ornamented bell towers. Inside is the Chapel of Condestable, decorated with figures of saints, and the tomb of El Cid (Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar), the 11th-century military commander, a Castilian knight and warlord in medieval Spain.

Day 8, BURGOS–SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA–SAN SEBASTIAN-LOURDES (FRANCE)

Buffet Breakfast. Travel through the Basque region toward Lourdes. En-route we'll visit the 17th-century Sanctuary of Loyola, built in honor of San Ignacio de Loyola, founder of the Jesuit religious order. See its spectacular dome and main altarpiece, built in marble and jasper. Before driving into France we will make a stop in the beautiful Basque city of San Sebastian where we will have some free time for lunch on our own and to walk through the center of this charming city. After that, we will cross the border into France and overnight in Lourdes, home to another of the world's most famous places of pilgrimage.

Dinner with wine at your hotel. Overnight in Lourdes.

St. Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish Basque Catholic priest and theologian, who co-founded the religious order called the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The Jesuit order served the Pope as missionaries, and they were bound by a fourth vow of special obedience to the sovereign pontiff in regard to the missions. They therefore emerged as an important force during the time of the Counter-Reformation.



San Sebastian

Day 9, LOURDES, France

Buffet Breakfast. Today's guided walking tour includes the grotto where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858, Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Bernadette's birthplace, and her family home. The afternoon is at leisure to perhaps take a bath in the holy waters of the Sanctuary, which flow from a spring in the Grotto. Since 1858 many thousands of pilgrims to Lourdes have followed the instructions of Our Lady of Lourdes to "drink at the spring and bathe in it". It's free. Later you might like to explore this little market town that became a pilgrimage place of world renown during the 19th century. Attend Mass if desired. Dinner with wine at a typical French restaurant. Overnight in Lourdes.



Lourdes is the most visited pilgrimage shrine in the Christian world and the site of a Marian apparition in 1858 to the 14-year old Bernadette Soubirous. Four to six million pilgrims visit the shrine each year, from around the world, and it is estimated that more than 200 million pilgrims have come to Lourdes since 1860.

Day 10, LOURDES–BARCELONA, Spain

Buffet Breakfast. Leave France this morning and head for the French-Spanish border. Early evening arrival in Barcelona. Dinner with wine at your hotel.
Overnight in Barcelona.

Day 11, BARCELONA – CITY TOUR

Buffet Breakfast. Guided sightseeing includes a drive around Montjuïc to see the Olympic Stadium and a great panoramic view of the port and city. Continue to the city center to Plaza Catalunya and Paseo de Gracia to admire the fascinating eccentricity of Gaudi's architectural masterpieces in Houses Battló and Mila and the Sagrada Familia (entrance fees included). Free time for shopping if desired. Farewell Dinner with wine & bottled water at a typical Catalonian restaurant. Overnight in Barcelona.

Barcelona is located in the northeastern part of the country, 90 miles south of the French border. People from all around the world enjoy visiting this city for its individuality, cultural interest and physical beauty. When Hans Christian Andersen visited in 1862, he remarked that Barcelona was the "Paris of Spain." You're likely to agree. The city is a major cultural center with a fascinating history. Everywhere are archives, libraries, museums and buildings of interest - plus superb examples of modernist and Art Nouveau décor and architecture.





Ciudad de Barcelona



Sagrada Família



Interior

Day 12, BARCELONA - USA

Your vacation ends with breakfast at your hotel this morning followed by transfer to the airport to board your return flight home, arriving later today.