

TRIP START DATES

2023

APR | 01, 08, 15,
21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

MAY | 05, 06, 07, 12,
13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26,
27, 28

JUN | 02, 03, 04, 09,
10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 24,
25, 30

JUL | 01, 02, 08, 09,
14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 28,
29, 30

AUG | 05, 06, 11, 12,
13, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

SEP | 01, 02, 03, 08, 09,
10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24,
29, 30

OCT | 06, 07, 13, 14,
20, 21, 28

NOV | 04

DEC | 20, 27

2024

JAN | 13, 20

FEB | 03

MAR | 02, 09, 16, 23,
30

APR | 19, 26

MAY | 03, 10, 17, 24,
31

JUN | 07, 14, 28

JUL | 12, 26

AUG | 09, 23, 30

SEP | 06, 13, 20, 27

OCT | 14, 11, 18

For full dates and prices, and to choose your group size, visit

insightvacations.com/bestspain

REGIONAL JOURNEY

ACTIVITY LEVEL: **BALANCED**

15 DAYS

3 COUNTRIES

21 MEALS

22 INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

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GUEST REVIEW ★★★★★

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

Seville: The Cristina Heeren Foundation aims to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco and is a beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Meet the students, learn some basic flamenco steps, and watch them perform an emotional show.

INSIGHT EXPERIENCES

Granada: Visit the famous Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens with a Local Expert.

Visit the Prado Museum with an art historian.

INSIGHT CHOICE

Seville: Choose to walk through the old Jewish quarter with a Local Expert. Alternatively, join a panoramic tour of the city.

AUTHENTIC DINING

Welcome Dinner in Madrid • Paella cooking demonstration dinner in Valencia • Lunch in Sant Sadurn d'Anoia • Celebration Dinner in Barcelona.

Taste wine in Porto • Olive oil in Alfaratejo • Pastéis de Belém in Lisbon • Cava wine in Sant Sadurn d'Anoia.

BEST OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL

"A highlight for guests is often meeting a group of ladies in a tiny Andalusian village. They cook typical local dishes for you and treat you like kings and queens." – Denise, Travel Director

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND



ALHAMBRA
PALACE,
GRANADA,
SPAIN



PARK GÜELL, BARCELONA (OPTIONAL)



BARBARY APES, GIBRALTAR



DAY 1 WELCOME TO MADRID

Your transfer will depart Madrid airport at 09:00, 11:30, 13:30 or 16:00.

Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant and get to know your fellow travellers over an evening of delicious food and wine. (DW)

Barcelo Emperatriz/NH Collection Madrid Suecia/Barcelo Torre De Madrid.

DAY 2 MADRID OF THE BOURBONS

Guided by your Local Expert, visit the Spanish capital's most historic neighborhoods. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter, discovering the origins of the city.

Enjoy a special visit to the renowned Prado Museum with an art historian who will guide you through the collective works of Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and more. (B)

Barcelo Emperatriz/NH Collection Madrid Suecia.

DAY 3 SEGOVIA AND GOLDEN SALAMANCA

Travel to the fortified city of Segovia. Walk through the medieval streets with a Local Expert and see the magnificent Alcazar fortress, before continuing onto the historic aqueduct.

Journey west, overlooking the ancient walls of Ávila, en route to Salamanca. During your guided sightseeing tour, admire the golden stone buildings the city is famous for, including the arcaded Plaza Mayor, the honey-coloured cathedral and the 16th century university buildings. (B)

Hotel Alameda Palace, Salamanca.

DAY 4 PORTO, GRANDE DAME ON THE DOURO

Cross the Portuguese border to reach Porto. Situated on the River Douro, the city is celebrated internationally as the capital of Port wine.

Visit the Vila Nova de Gaia wine stores and walk along corridors of casks. Get to know your tawnys and vintages during a tasting.

Continue your exploration of the city, admiring the multi-coloured houses, churches adorned with glazed tiles and iconic bridges (or 'Eiffel Towers on end' according to one Frenchman). (B) (DW)

NH Collection Porto Batalha/Infante Sagres, Porto.

DAY 5 HOLY FÁTIMA, ANCIENT ÓBIDOS AND LISBON

Head south for a visit to miraculous Fátima. See the Basilica or visit the Chapel of the Apparitions, which commemorates the apparition of the Virgin Mary to three young shepherds in 1917.

Journey to the fortified town of Óbidos and walk inside its walls, exploring the narrow, medieval streets where houses are covered with flowers. Your travels continue to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon. (B)

Dom Pedro Lisboa/Corinthia Hotel Lisbon.

DAY 6 LISBON AND THE AGE OF THE GREAT DISCOVERIES

Relaxed Start. Sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the spacious avenues of the Lower Town and beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paco, the finest square in the city. Visit the Belém Quarter, from where sailing ships once set forth to discover faraway lands.

Enjoy a taste of the famous Pastéis de Belém from a traditional patisserie that has managed to hold on to the secret recipe of Portugal's finest pastry for almost 200 years.

View the modern Monument to the Discoveries and the historic Belém Tower. This fortress was originally set in the middle of the river, but is now left high and dry on the riverbank. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Jerónimos Church with its beautiful Manueline architecture. With the afternoon at your leisure, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Portuguese Riviera? It is often visited by surfers, royalty and, on occasion, James Bond. (B)

DAY 7 SEVILLE, THE CITY OF CARMEN

Visit the Seville Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus.

Explore Seville with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a walk through the narrow lanes of the Santa Cruz Quarter. Alternatively, join a scenic drive around the city and enjoy panoramic views. (B)

NH Collection Sevilla, Seville.



TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT A chance to take a picture of Alcazar of Segovia from a beautiful viewpoint. (Photo by @DomNemer, Day 3, Segovia)



INSIGHT CHOICE Soak up Seville's traditional atmosphere on your walking tour with Insight Choice. (Photo by @Patrick_davis, Day 8, Seville)



AUTHENTIC DINING Taste freshly pressed olive oils with locally made farmer bread. (Photo by @Taniainsightvacations, Day 11, Alfarnatejo)

KEY

Join/Leave Options

UNESCO Heritage Site

Central Hotels + Nights

Scenic Hotels + Nights

Place Visited

Optional Place Visited

Trip Options

CHOOSE YOUR GROUP SIZE

This trip operates both classic and small group departures. You can also book your own private group with as few as 12 travellers.



Use the camera on your smart phone to view the full details of this trip on our website.



MONUMENT
TO THE
DISCOVERIES
PHOTO BY
@PATICK_DAVIS

DAY 8 FREE TIME AND FLAMENCO IN SEVILLE

Relaxed Start. Enjoy a relaxed start and a morning to unwind, shop or continue exploring this fascinating city at your own pace. Our suggestion is to join an Optional Experience to the ancient city of Córdoba, where you will visit the magnificent Mezquita and see the old Jewish Quarter. Later this afternoon, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as you visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant. Their mission is to promote the teaching and conservation of flamenco. Put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson. (B)

DAY 9 HEAD FOR GIBRALTAR, MIJAS AND THE COSTA DEL SOL

Head south to Gibraltar, part of mainland Spain yet an overseas territory under British control since 1704.

With your Local Expert, visit the Rock of Gibraltar and St. Michael's Cave. See the Barbary Apes, legendary guardians of the colony. Relax as you travel the scenic route along the Costa del Sol through high end resorts where the rich and famous holiday. Your journey continues through the green hills to the white-washed village of Mijas. Stroll through the old streets and gardens, taking in the views of the coast. (B) (DW)

Meliá Costa del Sol, Torremolinos.

DAY 10 AT LEISURE ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

Relaxed Start. Enjoy the day at leisure on the sun-drenched Costa del Sol. Relax by the blue Mediterranean waters, stroll along the promenade, savour the specialties in the local restaurants or consider exploring Málaga, the birth city of Picasso. (B)

DAY 11 DINING WITH LOCALS AND THE ALHAMBRA

Relaxed Start. Continue to Alfarnatejo, a quiet whitewashed village, with a population of less than 500 people, surrounded by stunning mountainous landscape. Walk the town centre to see the 18th century Iglesia del Santo Cristo de Cabrilla. Travel to the oldest olive grove in the region and stop at the rural mill-factory to taste a selection of different oils, paired with locally made farmer bread.

In small groups, you are invited into the home of a local family to join them for a delicious Highlight Lunch made of fresh, local produce with flavours typical of the region.

Continue to Granada to visit the magnificent Alhambra Palace with your Local Expert. Built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13th century, it is a wonder of beautiful gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. (B) (LW)

Vincci Albayzín, Granada.

DAY 12 ON TO VALENCIA

Journey to Valencia. Pass through the Old City to see its ancient gates, and the City of Arts and Sciences.

In your free time perhaps take a stroll to the Cathedral and El Miguelete? Alternatively sit back with a drink and watch the Valencians go about their day.

Valencia is home to one of the world's greatest dishes, paella. Meet the chef of a local family-run restaurant in the heart of the Old City and learn how to make this local specialty during a Cooking Demonstration. Later, indulge in the delicious flavours of this classic dish at your Highlight Dinner. (B) (DW)

Barceló Valencia.

DAY 13 ALONG THE COAST TO PEÑÍSCOLA AND ON TO BARCELONA

Follow the coast to Peñíscola to view the sea-lapped castle used in the film 'El Cid'.

At Cava Bodegas in Sant Sadurn d'Anoia, enjoy a delicious light lunch and savour a tasting as you learn the sparkling secrets of Spanish bubbly.

Continue along the coast to reach Barcelona. (B) (LW)

Meliá Barcelona Sarrià, Barcelona.

DAY 14 BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING

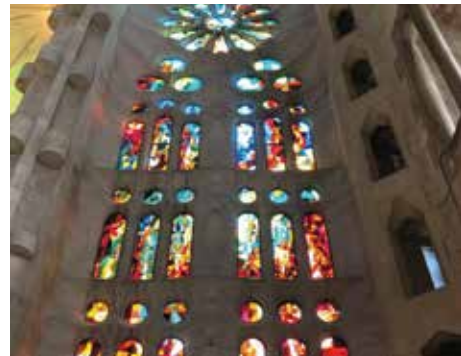
Relaxed Start. A Local Expert joins you for a drive along the Passeig de Gràcia, adorned with elegant wrought-iron street lamps and some of the most flamboyant Modernist buildings. Continue through the Eixample district to visit Gaudi's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família. See the central nave with its giant, tree-like pillars, spectacular vaulting and the beautiful rainbows flooding in through the intricate stained-glass windows. At a local restaurant, join your fellow travellers to toast to newfound friends and a wonderful journey, enjoying a Celebration Dinner with wine. (B) (DW)

DAY 15 DEPART BARCELONA OR MADRID

Departure transfers arrive at Barcelona airport at 07:00, 09:00 or 11:00. The 09:00 transfer continues on to Madrid airport and hotel in the early evening. (B)



 **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT** See the modern City of Arts and Sciences. (Photo by @Insight_Sabrina, Day 12, Valencia)



 **TOP RATED HIGHLIGHT** Explore Sagrada Família with your Local Expert (Photo by @sueinsight, Day 14, Barcelona)

