

Amazing Spain & Portugal

Alhambra Palace, flamenco and a tart made from a 200-year-old secret recipe - embrace the old-world cultures of Spain and Portugal.

9 DAYS | 2 COUNTRIES | 11 MEALS | LEISURELY



4.6/5

feefo

Guest Review Rating



Trip code: E300/W300

DEPARTURE MONTHS

Year-round

For dates, prices and to choose your group size call your Travel Advisor or see insightvacations.com/amazingspain

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO MADRID

While in Madrid, explore the elegant boulevards, expansive parks and varied architectural styles. Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Hotel: Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana/ Riu Plaza España, Madrid

TRANSFERS: Depart Madrid-Barajas airport at 09:00, 11:30, 13:30 and 16:00.

WELCOME: Meet your Travel Director at 18:00.

DAY 2 | THE OLD CAPITAL OF TOLEDO AND ON TO GRANADA

Visit the fascinating city of Toledo, situated high above the River Tagus. This was Spain's capital during the golden era, where Arab, Jewish and Christian cultures flourished side-by-side through the Middle Ages. From here you will venture south to meet a local artisan in a Damascene workshop for a personal insight into this ancient craft, handed down by the Moors centuries ago. Then enjoy a walk within the city walls of Toledo, through the narrow cobbled streets, led by your Local Expert. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé, housing El Greco's famous painting, 'The Burial of the Count of Orgaz.' Your journey continues to Granada. (B) (D)

Hotel: Vincci Albayzín, Granada

DAY 3 | THE ALHAMBRA PALACE AND SEVILLE, CITY OF CARMEN

'Give him alms, woman, because there is nothing sadder in life than being blind in Granada,' proclaims the inscription on the walls of the Alhambra. Bathed in the morning light, the Alhambra Palace awaits - a fantasy of arabesque gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. Explore with your Local Expert before visiting the exotic water gardens of the Generalife, the summer residence of the Spanish royals. Take a moment to relax in the sunshine as you enjoy the fine views over the town and its three verdant hills before continuing to Seville. Visit the Seville Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus. Explore the city with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a walk through the old Jewish quarter. Alternatively, enjoy a drive with panoramic views. (B)

Hotel: Meliá Sevilla

DAY 4 | FREE TIME AND FLAMENCO IN SEVILLE

This day is yours to completely relax or continue exploring this fascinating city. Perhaps join an optional experience to Córdoba and visit the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th century mosque with a Christian cathedral built inside it? Visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a private flamenco dance school and beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER[®] Experience. Put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson, before witnessing emotions come to life in a flamenco performance. (B) (RS)

INCLUDED MEALS: Breakfast (B) Lunch (L) Dinner (D)
RELAXED STARTS: (RS)
HOTELS: On occasion, hotels of a similar standard and location may be used.

DAY 5 | ÉVORA AND ON TO LISBON

Continue to the lively university town of Évora, one of the best preserved medieval towns in Portugal, with architectural styles dating back to Roman Times. Visit the fascinating Capela dos Ossos, a chapel decorated with 5000 bones, before making your way to Lisbon. **(B) (RS)**
Hotel: Turim Saldanha



Portuguese custard tarts, pastéis de nata, only exist because of the nuns' laundry room. Egg whites were used to starch clothing and the remaining egg yolks were used to make the tarts.

DOM, TRAVEL DIRECTOR.

DAY 6 | LISBON AND THE AGE OF THE DISCOVERIES

During your stay, a guided orientation of the city with your Local Expert takes you to visit the Belém Quarter and enjoy a taste of Pastéis de Belém from the patisserie that has been using the same, secret recipe for almost 200 years. View the 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 National

Coach Museum. With the afternoon at your leisure, consider joining an optional experience to the beautiful Portuguese Riviera. **(B)**

DAY 7 | HOLY FÁTIMA AND SALAMANCA

Travel into the green hills north of Lisbon to visit Fátima, the most celebrated place of pilgrimage in Portugal. Visit the chapel commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary to three children in 1917. Cross the border, returning to Spain and continue to Salamanca, famous for its golden stone buildings and the handsome arcades of the Plaza Mayor. Across the River Tormes, see the Puente Romano with 15 of its 26 arches dating from the time of the ancient Romans. **(B)**

Hotel: Alameda Palace, Salamanca

DAY 8 | ÁVILA AND MADRID

Cross the rock-strewn hills of the Castile, to arrive at Ávila. Admire the impressive city still entirely enclosed within its 11th-century walls, a unique occurrence in Europe. Return to Madrid to explore more of the capital with your Local Expert. At a local restaurant, join your Travel Director and newfound friends for a lively dinner. **(B) (D)**

Hotel: Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana

DAY 9 | DEPART MADRID

Today, bid a fond farewell to your memorable journey through Spain as you transfer to the airport and reflect on the experiences and adventures you've had. **(B)**

TRANSFERS: Arrive at the airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00.

**HIGHLIGHT INCLUSIONS***Premium Experiences*

Toledo | At a Damascene workshop, meet a master artisan for a personal insight into this ancient craft.

Seville | *Insight Choice* See the city's top sights on a panoramic tour with your Local Expert, or stroll through Barrio de Santa Cruz with a Local Expert and learn about its history.

Seville | Admire the cathedral's immense golden altarpiece and see the Tomb of Columbus held aloft by four kings.

Granada | Visit the famous Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens.

Évora | Stroll through charming cobblestone streets flanked by whitewashed facades and marvel at the haunting Chapel of Bones.

Lisbon | Explore with your Local Expert.

Salamanca | See the golden stone and arcades of Plaza Mayor, and learn about the unique traditions of this historic university city.

Seville | Visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation to learn flamenco steps and watch an evocative performance. This experience advances United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 11: Quality Education, and Sustainable Cities and Communities.

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® EXPERIENCE

*Premium Dining*

Madrid | Indulge in delicious food and wine at a characteristic restaurant of the city's vibrant centre.

Lisbon | Delight in a taste of the famous Portuguese custard tart, Pastéis de Belém, made in a 19th-century bakery.

Madrid | Toast to your travels and enjoy local specialities in one of the city's elegant central neighbourhoods.

For all inclusions see tour page online.

