

Iberian Explorer

Trip Map



- Start Location
- End Location
- Over night

- Visited Location
- Cruise
- Ferry

- Plane
- Train

Day 1 | Arrive Barcelona



Bienvenido a España! The golden shores of Barcelona kickstart your exhilarating visit to Spain and Portugal. Check in to your hotel, then take some time to recharge siesta-style before meeting your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a glimpse of what lies ahead. There's boundless energy to Barcelona and you'll want to soak it all up on your first evening in the capital of Catalonia.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Campanile Sud - Cornella

Day 2 | Barcelona sightseeing and free time



Gear up for an exciting morning of sightseeing in Barcelona, joining your Local Specialist who knows all the best spots in town. Capture the sights and sounds of La Rambla, Passeig de Gracia and the ornate La Sagrada Família as you tour the city. Spend the rest of your day exploring on your own. Head to the Gothic Quarter or seek out the fanciful façades of Spanish Art Nouveau architect Antoni Gaudí, whose plentiful works of art and architecture lend a fairy-tale feel to Barcelona's skyline. Consider joining an Optional Experience to Montserrat with its hidden monastery, home to the revered La Moreneta, and later opt into a scenic drive of Montjuïc, host to the 1992 summer Olympics, before indulging in a delightful Catalan feast with drinks.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Campanile Sud - Cornella

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Mystical Montserrat - Joined by our Local Specialist, we'll take a drive to the enchanting and mystical mountain of Montserrat. You'll feel as though you've stepped inside a fairytale as you take in the spectacular scenery and enjoy a tour of the sights, including the Benedictine Monastery where you'll view the famed Black Madonna.

Adult: 53.00 EUR

* This optional experience involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation will incur a 50% cancellation fee.

Barcelona Evening with Montjuïc & Olympic Drive - We'll enjoy the beauty of Barcelona as the day ends, including a drive up to Montjuïc hill with our Local Specialist to experience an incredible panorama over the city with its impressive harbor. Later, we've included free time for dinner in a Catalan restaurant with your newfound friends.

Adult: 31.00 EUR

Day 3 | Barcelona – Peñíscola – Valencia



Today we'll skirt along the Costa Dorada, a gleaming strip of the Mediterranean coastline, travelling past expansive orange groves to Peñíscola. You'll see its imposing 13th-century Templar Castle, famed as the dramatic backdrop for the Hollywood classic *El Cid*. Then continue to Valencia, catching a glimpse of the iconic highlights of this bustling modern metropolis on your orientation tour with your Travel Director. View the Art Nouveau, Train Station Estación del Norte, the Towers of Serrano and Quart. Next, leave the present behind and admire the futuristic 'City of Arts and Sciences', a cultural complex built into the Turia riverbed.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: NH Las Ciencias

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Valencia's Golden Age, a Leisurely Walking Tour - Valencia has a well-preserved medieval centre which our Local Specialist will bring alive as they take us back to the city's heyday, from Roman and Gothic times into the Golden Age, when Valencia was Spain's most important city. We'll take a leisurely stroll through the medieval streets and also visit Lonja, an exquisite late gothic building, UNESCO-listed since 1996.

Adult: 32.00 EUR

Valencia Dinner and Discovery - We'll delve into the country's third-largest city to enjoy its Mediterranean verve. Vibrant and modern, Valencia still retains much of its past, going back to its Roman foundation 2,000 years ago. The iconic dish "Paella" originated here and tonight we'll learn about its traditions and enjoy this singular Spanish fare during a typical meal in one of the city's most emblematic restaurants.

Adult: 59.00 EUR

Day 4 | Valencia – Guadix – Granada



Today we journey to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada where you'll find a hidden underground world of cave houses. The trogloditas of Guadix live in these ancient man-made dwellings, skilfully carved centuries ago. The only clue to their existence is the white chimneys that rise up from the hills and front doors etched into the rockface. You'll have the chance to capture this curiosity on camera then continue your scenic travels across the Mora Pass to Granada, the last stronghold of the Moors in Spain.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Macia Condor

Day 5 | Granada – Costa del Sol



Embrace the laid-back spirit of your Spanish hosts and enjoy a slow start to the day on your Mediterranean tour. Spend your free morning exploring Granada and its Moorish influences on your own. There's even time for a quick tea break at a traditional tetería or you may choose to join an Optional Experience to the Albaicín Quarter, one of the oldest centres of Islamic culture in the city. Later, we head to the golden beaches of the Costa del Sol. Set your watch to siesta time or don your sandals and sunglasses for a leisurely stroll to soak up the fresh sea air. Consider joining an Optional Experience this evening to the hilltop village of Mijas offering stunning views of the coast followed by a delicious Mediterranean meal.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Moon Dreams Calabahia Hotel

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Mijas Andalusian Hilltown & Mediterranean Dinner - Visit this charming hilltop village, perched up high with splendid views of the coastline. With our Local Specialist, we'll traverse its narrow streets, pass white-washed houses and see the oval bullring, with time for hunting hidden gems in the shops. Our evening finishes with a Mediterranean dinner at a coastal restaurant.

Adult: 68.00 EUR

Albaicín and the Royal Chapel - With our Local Specialist, we'll enjoy a leisurely walking tour through the Albaicín UNESCO World Heritage Site – a maze of narrow streets and Moorish splendour. You'll explore the Catholic Monarchs' tombs and some of their treasures at the Royal Chapel, and wander through the picturesque Alcaicería quarter.

Adult: 41.00 EUR

Day 6 | Costa del Sol – Gibraltar – Seville



Explore a slice of Britain when you cross the border into Gibraltar, the much-contested gateway to the Mediterranean Sea. Maybe join an Optional Experience to get up close to the Barbary apes and visit the cave of St. Michael at the Rock of Gibraltar, the Roman and Greeks' former pillar of the "known world". Next, we return to Spain, travelling north through the Andalusian countryside to sizzling Seville.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: MA Congresos

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

A Guided Tour of the Rock of Gibraltar - Experience a tour of the Rock of Gibraltar, one of the pillars of Hercules, by private minibus. With cameras at the ready, you'll be sure to enjoy magnificent views of the meeting of the Atlantic and Mediterranean and the Spanish Sierra. You'll also have the chance to visit St. Michael's Cave and see the famous Barbary apes for an unforgettable travel experience.

Adult: 52.00 EUR

Day 7 | Seville sightseeing and free time



A Local Specialist is on hand today to reveal Seville's special allure and, standing amidst the pavilions and fountains of Maria Luisa Park, you'll hear all about the elaborate Ibero-American Exposition of 1929 which put this sleepy Spanish city on the global map. See the world's largest Gothic Cathedral and its Giralda Bell Tower, then consider joining an Optional Experience to the Alcázar, built by a Christian king who loved Mudéjar architecture. This lavish palace complex has witnessed key moments in Spanish history and welcomed great Spanish kings and queens over the centuries. After dinner at your hotel tonight, you might consider an Optional Experience to see the whirling skirts and fiery passion of a flamenco show. This foot-tapping extravaganza is not to be missed.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: MA Congressos

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Flamenco: Experience the Best Show in Town - Travelling through Andalusia is all about immersing yourself in the authentic culture of locals. Discover the passion, rhythm and magic of an Andalusian flamenco show with us this evening. We've organised tickets to the best show in town, where you'll experience 90 minutes of memorable entertainment with an included drink.

Adult: 44.00 EUR

Flamenco, the Best Show in Town With a Three-Course Dinner - This evening you'll discover the magic, rhythm and passion of flamenco, while being served a three-course dinner of Andalusian specialties with drinks included. We've organised tickets to the best show in town. You won't soon forget this incredibly memorable ninety-minute experience.

Adult: 74.00 EUR

Discover The Origin Of Tapas & Evening In Old Seville - Travelling through the historic city of Seville you'll be left in awe of gothic architecture, splendid palaces and, of course, dazzling Flamenco shows. But one of the best experiences to add to your bucket list is an evening of traditional tapas. Join us for an evening of mouth-watering taps specialties in the charming old quarter of Seville, sampling different flavours and wins as you dine like a local.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

The Moorish Alcázar and Plaza América - Today, with our Local Specialist, we'll visit the elegant 14th Century Moorish Alcazar, a royal palace set in its own beautiful gardens. The gardens were recently used as the setting for the Water Gardens of Dorne in the Game Of Thrones series thanks to their breathtaking beauty. We'll also journey to the famous exhibition site of Plaza América - a must for any visitor to Seville.

Adult: 51.00 EUR

* This optional involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation will incur a 50% cancellation fee.

Day 8 | Seville – Lisbon



The highlights of your Spain and Portugal value tour just keep on rolling and for now it's adiós Sevilla and a warm olá to Portugal, as we journey through the golden and green plains of the Alentejo to Lisbon. Pastel and azulejo-clad façades line the Portuguese capital's narrow streets which ramble across and over its seven hills from St. George Castle to the Tagus River. You'll be drawn to the city's vibrant nightlife in the Bairro Alto and beyond, so head out with new friends for a night on the town or join your Travel Director for a poignant Optional Experience including a traditional meal accompanied by the authentic sounds of fado.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Ramada by Wyndham

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Gourmet Dinner, Parliament, Exclusive Estrela and Evening Orientation - Take on the must-visit sights of Lisbon on this tour, kicking off with your chance to view the exclusive district of Estrela, its lush green park, enchanting Basilica and the Portuguese Parliament before enjoying a delicious gourmet dinner. You'll top off the evening with a drive along the banks of the mighty Tagus River.

Adult: 63.00 EUR

Portuguese Fado Evening Of Music & Song With Dinner - Take your tour of Portugal to the next level as you immerse yourself in the culture and tradition of Lisbon with a night on the town. Savour a typical meal with local aperitifs and drinks included as you listen to the melodic sounds of beautiful Fado singing, an expressive musical art with more than 200 years of history. Cancellation within 24 hours will incur a 50% cancellation fee.

Adult: 72.00 EUR

* Cancellation will incur a 50% cancellation fee.

Day 9 | Lisbon sightseeing and free time



Visit the banks of the Tagus River this morning, joining a Local Specialist for a guided sightseeing tour that will take you past the iconic Hieronymite Monastery and Belém Tower, built in the 16th century to defend the city. Later, you'll want to hop on one of the city's signature trams to explore the city's hilly bairros or find a corner café to sample some of the local pastries – pasteis de nata anyone? You could choose to leave the city limits behind this afternoon and visit the beach playgrounds of Estoril and Cascais, as well as Sintra, on an Optional Experience of the iconic Golden Triangle – the choice is yours.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Ramada by Wyndham

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

The Golden Triangle: Sintra, Cascais & The Estoril Coast - Venture outside Lisbon with our Local Specialist to experience some of the region's most wonderful sights. After passing through the fashionable Estoril Coast, explore the picturesque fishing village of Cascais, with its beautiful array of mansions and exclusive residences. To complete the Golden Triangle,

we'll visit one of the impressive Royal Palaces of Portugal nestled in the Sintra Mountains.

Adult: 51.00 EUR

Seafood Feast by the Tagus River - Enjoy a memorable evening out in Lisbon as we take a ferry across the mighty Tagus River to enjoy typical Portuguese seafood and fish specialties at a local restaurant. After dinner, we'll cross the impressive Suspension Bridge to take in sweeping views of the Portuguese capital. On occasion, the ferry may not be available and we will travel over the bridge both ways.

Adult: 64.00 EUR

* Due to operational reasons, the ferry may not be used on some departures and we will travel over the bridge both ways.

Day 10 | Lisbon – Fátima – Salamanca



Rub shoulders with visiting travellers who have made the journey to the Catholic pilgrimage centre of Fátima. It was here in 1917 that the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to three shepherd children. Today this humble village has been transformed into a place celebrating a religious miracle. There's time to explore the Basilica and Sanctuary before venturing east and crossing the Spanish border bound for Salamanca where your Travel Director will take you to one of Spain's most beautiful plazas - Plaza Mayor with its golden baroque facades. Spend the evening your way amidst the historic monuments and honey-hued façades for which this ancient university town is famous.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Bardo Recoletos Coco

Day 11 | Salamanca – Madrid sightseeing



We leave Salamanca behind, with Madrid firmly in our sights. Our scenic drive takes us through the Sierra de Guadarrama Mountains before arriving in the Spanish capital. With a Local Specialist at your side, you'll embark on a sightseeing tour to view the Cibeles Fountain, Gran Vía and Paseo de la Castellana. Admire views of the Royal Palace and Retiro Park, originally created as a retreat for the Royal Family. The evening is yours to discover why the Madrileños adore their nightlife, so resist the urge to set an early curfew and perhaps join an optional dinner and discovery in downtown Madrid.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Praga

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Dinner and Discovery in Downtown Madrid - Take your tour of Spain's capital city to the next level as we scratch beneath the surface of Madrid. Enjoy a tour of some lesser-known sights in Downtown Madrid, before indulging in an "a la carte" meal with musical entertainment. Top off the evening with a spin around beautiful squares and fountains of this magical city.

Adult: 68.00 EUR

Day 12 | Madrid free day



There's every excuse to rise with the Madrileños and enjoy a leisurely start to your morning. You'll have a full free day to explore the city your way and discover the legacy of 'Madrid's Best Mayor', which installed Madrid as one of the most gracious capitals across Europe. King Charles III's desire to 'beautify' Madrid can be seen around every turn. Alternatively, you could take an opportunity to join an Optional Experience to the medieval city of Toledo, the country's famous sword-making centre. This evening, you'll celebrate with your fellow travellers as your enchanting journey through the Iberian Peninsula comes to a close.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Praga

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Spectacular Toledo: Spain's Ancient Capital - Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Listed city of Toledo with a Local Specialist, uncovering the culture and enchanting medieval architecture of the ancient capital of Spain. Learn of the Moorish and Jewish cultures in the region, discover why Toledo is famous for Damascene metalworks and visit El Greco's masterpiece in St Thomas' church.

Adult: 54.00 EUR

Day 13 | Depart Madrid



Keep that Spanish gusto in your step as you prepare to close the curtain on your epic Mediterranean journey through Spain and Portugal. It's time to say a final hasta la vista to your fellow travellers and your Travel Director.

Meals: Breakfast