

# 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 this evening 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:** ibis Styles Barcelona Sant Joan Despi

## 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 Las Ramblas, Passeig de Gràcia and façade of 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 a Choice 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:** ibis Styles Barcelona Sant Joan Despi

## CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Mystical Montserrat** - With a Local Guide by your side, you'll take a drive to the magical Montserrat mountain. It's like stepping into a fairytale with its jaw-dropping views. Dive into this tour that'll sweep you off your feet, including a peek at the Benedictine Monastery, home to the famous Black Madonna.

**Adult: 59.00 EUR**

You will have the opportunity to choose between the following two Choice Experiences:

**Barcelona Evening with Montjuïc & Olympic Drive** - Catch Barcelona's beauty as the sun goes down, driving up Montjuïc hill with a Local Guide for the best view. Gaze out at the sprawling city and buzzing harbor below – it's a sight to behold. After, you've got free rein to enjoy dinner at a classic Catalan restaurant. It's your chance to feast and toast to the adventures with your new pals.

**Adult: 33.00 EUR**

**Olympic Barcelona with Catalan Dinner** - Gear up for a scenic drive to Montjuïc, where you'll catch breathtaking views of lively Barcelona and get a peek at the iconic sites of the 1992 Olympics. The fun doesn't end with the views; top off the experience with a sumptuous Catalan dinner. Enjoy the flavors, drinks, and great company, making it an evening to

remember.

**Adult: 76.00 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 13<sup>th</sup>-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 with Horchata Tasting** - Check out Valencia's medieval core with a Local Guide, who's ready to take you on a journey from its Roman and Gothic roots to its heyday in Spain's Golden Age. You'll wander the old streets at a relaxed pace, and swing by the Lonja, a stunning piece of late Gothic architecture that's been turning heads since it became UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996. It's history with a side of awe, served fresh in Valencia.

**Adult: 39.00 EUR**

**Valencia Dinner and Discovery** - Delve into Valencia, Spain's third-largest city, where modern flair meets ancient roots, dating back to its Roman origins 2,000 years ago. This city isn't just alive with Mediterranean energy; it's the birthplace of Paella, Spain's iconic dish. Tonight, you're not just eating; you're stepping into tradition with a hands-on Paella experience. Join for a delicious journey at one of Valencia's landmark restaurants, where you'll celebrate the rich history and flavors of this unique Spanish masterpiece.

**Adult: 62.00 EUR**

### Day 4 | Valencia – Guadix – Granada



Today we journey to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and pass by a hidden underground world of cave houses. You'll have the chance to capture this curiosity on camera, then continue your scenic travels 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.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Moon Dreams Calabahia

### CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Albaicín and the Royal Chapel** - Join a Local Guide for a leisurely walking tour through the Albaicín, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that's a delightful mix of narrow streets and Moorish magic. Discover the Catholic Monarchs' tombs and peek at their treasures in the Royal Chapel. Cap that all off with a wander through the charming Alcaicería quarter.

**Adult: 46.00 EUR**

You will have the opportunity to choose between the following two Choice Experiences:

**Mijas Village Stroll and Coastal Dinner** - Catch the vibe of a quaint hilltop village, where the views of the coastline are unbeatable. Stroll through tight-knit streets with a Local Guide, pass white-washed houses, and check out the unique oval bullring. There's also plenty of time to scout for hidden treasures in the local shops. Cap off the evening with a delicious Mediterranean dinner at a coastal restaurant.

**Adult: 74.00 EUR**

**Experience Málaga** - We'll spend the afternoon with our Local Guide in this charming, elegant Mediterranean capital, the birth-place of Pablo Picasso. We'll experience panoramic views from the Moorish Gibralfaro fortress, including the magnificent harbour and the Alcazaba ramparts. Then, in the heart of downtown Málaga, we'll see the ancient Roman theater and sample an aperitif in one of the city's most-famous taverns.

**Adult: 52.00 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 a Choice 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 Congressos

### CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**A Guided Tour of the Rock of Gibraltar** - Hop on your private minibus and let's head to the Rock of Gibraltar for a tour, where legends meet real life. Picture this: the Atlantic winking at the Mediterranean, with Spain's Sierra playing peek-a-boo in the background. Get ready to snap those jaw-dropping views! But wait, there's more – you're going underground to St. Michael's Cave and yes, you'll meet the cheeky Barbary apes. Trust us, it's a day packed with "wow" moments you won't forget.

**Adult: 57.00 EUR**

## Day 7 | Seville sightseeing and free time



A Local Guide 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 a Choice 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. Tonight, you might consider a Choice 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 Congresos

## CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**The Moorish Alcázar and Plaza América** - Today's adventure takes you to the stunning 14th-century Moorish Alcazar, a royal palace surrounded by its own spectacular gardens, which you might recognize as the Water Gardens of Dorne from Game of Thrones. Alongside a Local Guide, you'll soak up the beauty that caught the eye of filmmakers. Then, you'll make your way to the iconic Plaza América, a must-visit spot in Seville.

**Adult: 55.00 EUR**

You will have the opportunity to choose between the following three Choice Experiences:

**Andalusian Flamenco Show** - Tonight, dive into the heart and soul of Andalusia with a flamenco show, where the magic of rhythm and passion comes to life. We've organised tickets to the best show in town for this unforgettable ninety-minute journey into the essence of Spanish culture with an included drink.

**Adult: 47.00 EUR**

**Andalusian Flamenco Show and Dinner** - Tonight, dive into the heart and soul of Andalusia with a flamenco show, where the magic of rhythm and passion comes to life. As you're captivated by the powerful performances, savor a delicious three-course dinner featuring local specialties, with drinks included. We've organised tickets to the best show in town for this unforgettable ninety-minute journey into the essence of Spanish culture.

**Adult: 78.00 EUR**

**Seville Sights and Tapas Night Out** - Cruise through Seville's historic streets and get swept away by its gothic architecture, majestic palaces, and the fiery spirit of Flamenco. Top off your must-dos with a night of traditional tapas in the old quarter. Dive into an evening filled with tantalizing tapas and local wines, savoring the true flavors of Seville like a local.

**Adult: 65.00 EUR**

## 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 Choice Experience including a traditional meal accompanied by the authentic sounds of Fado.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Ramada by Wyndham

### CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will have the opportunity to choose between the following two Choice Experiences:

**Lisbon's Traditional Fado Show and Dinner** - Elevate your tour of Portugal with a night that's all about culture and tradition in Lisbon. Dive into local flavors with a meal that hits the spot, complete with local drinks to toast the night. Then, let the soul-stirring Fado tunes take you on a journey through 200 years of musical history. Cancellation within 24 hours will incur a 50% cancellation fee.

**Adult: 80.00 EUR**

**Downtown Lisbon Promenade** - Immerse yourself in downtown Lisbon as we explore the charming and historic neighbourhood of Baixa. Admire the intricate facades of historic buildings adorned with local azulejos (painted tiles), see the famous trolleys and uncover the diversity of the city's vibrant squares. To finish, savour the unmistakable Geringja liqueur, a sweet cherry flavoured delight, as we soak in the picturesque surroundings of Lisbon's bustling heart.

**Adult: 37.00 EUR**

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> century to defend the city. Later, you'll want to hop on one of the 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 a Choice Experience of the iconic Golden Triangle – the choice is yours.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Ramada by Wyndham

### CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**The Golden Triangle: Estoril, Cascais and Sintra** - Step out of Lisbon and into the magic of the region's top spots with your Local Guide. Glide along the chic Estoril Coast before hitting up Cascais—a postcard-worthy fishing town decked out in grand mansions and swanky residences. Then, cap off your "Golden Triangle" tour with a visit to one of Portugal's stunning Royal Palaces, tucked away in the Sintra Mountains.

**Adult: 58.00 EUR**



**Seafood Feast by the Tagus River** - Gear up for an epic night out in Lisbon that kicks off with a ferry ride across the grand Tagus River. Enjoy a feast of Portuguese seafood and fish favorites at a local restaurant. Post-dinner, cruise over the Suspension Bridge for killer views of the Portuguese capital at night. On occasion, the ferry may not be available and you will travel over the bridge both ways.

**Adult: 69.00 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 El 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:** Luze Castellana

## CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Dinner and Discovery in Downtown Madrid** - Elevate your Madrid adventure as you go beyond the usual sights with a tour of Spain's capital city. Dive into the hidden gems of Downtown Madrid, then feast on an "à la carte" meal, with musical entertainment. The night caps off with a whirl through Madrid's enchanting squares and fountains – pure magic!

**Adult: 72.00 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', who helps the city become 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 a Choice Experience to the medieval city of Toledo, the country's famous sword-making centre.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Luze Castellana

## CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Spectacular Toledo: Spain's Ancient Capital** - Dive into Toledo's ancient charm, a UNESCO World Heritage Listed city and Spain's storied capital, with a Local Guide by your side. Peel back layers of medieval magic, Moorish elegance, and Jewish heritage that define this city. Discover Toledo's renowned Damascene metalwork artistry and be captivated by El Greco's masterpieces within the hallowed walls of St. Thomas' church.

**Adult: 57.00 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