

# Highlights of Spain

Goya's art and Gaudí's architecture, the magnificent Alhambra to pintxos and paella, Spain is showcased in style.

9 DAYS | 1 COUNTRY | 12 MEALS | BALANCED



4.5/5  
★★★★★  
feefo

Guest Review Rating



## DEPARTURE MONTHS

Year-round

For dates, prices and to choose your group size call your Travel Advisor or see [insightvacations.com/highlightsspain](https://www.insightvacations.com/highlightsspain)

Trip code: E936/W936

### DAY 1 | WELCOME TO BARCELONA

Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

**Hotel:** Hilton, Barcelona/NH Collection Barcelona Constanza

**TRANSFERS:** Depart the airport at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:00.

**WELCOME:** Meet your Travel Director at 16:30.

### DAY 2 | BARCELONA, THE CITY OF GAUDÍ

With your Local Expert, 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 for a visit inside Gaudí's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família, to see the central nave with its giant, tree-like pillars, spectacular vaulting and the beautiful rainbows flooding in through the intricate stained-glass windows. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore or perhaps join an optional experience to Montserrat and The Black Madonna. (B) (RS)

### DAY 3 | ALONG THE COAST TO VALENCIA

Follow the sunny Costa Dorada, past the rice fields of the Ebro Delta. Stop at the seaside resort of Peñíscola and see the hilltop castle used in the film 'El Cid'. Pass through the famous orange groves to Valencia and see the City of Arts and Sciences. Later see the Old City and take in its medieval charm. 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 speciality during a Cooking Demonstration. Later, indulge in the delicious flavours of this classic dish with a glass of wine at your dinner. (B) (D) (RS)

**Hotel:** Barceló Valencia

### DAY 4 | EXQUISITE GRANADA AND ALHAMBRA

Travel south toward Andalucía, passing the castle at Lorca and troglodyte dwellings hollowed out of the soft rock near Guadix. Enjoy views of the Sierra Nevada mountains from a distance as you reach glorious Granada. This historic city was a Moorish kingdom for almost eight centuries and was the last stronghold to fall to the Catholic monarchs of Spain in 1492. Overlooking Granada stands the Alhambra, one of the most remarkable fortresses ever built. Led by your Local Expert, explore this exquisite palace, built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A fantasy of arabesque gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. Later, stroll through the elegant exotic gardens of the Generalife, the Royal summer residence. (B) (D)

**Hotel:** Gran Hotel Luna de Granada

### DAY 5 | A SCENIC DRIVE TO SEVILLE

The morning is at your leisure to explore as you wish. Perhaps join an optional experience and

**INCLUDED MEALS:** Breakfast (B) Lunch (L) Dinner (D)

**RELAXED STARTS:** (RS)

**HOTELS:** On occasion, hotels of a similar standard and location may be used.

visit the Albaicín Quarter with a Local Expert. Here, in addition to falling in love with Granada, you will also uncover its pivotal role in European history. Continue your travels to Seville, past gleaming white villages and olive groves that stretch as far as the eye can see. **(B)**  
**Hotel: Meliá Sevilla**

#### DAY 6 | 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 old Jewish Quarter. Alternatively, join a scenic drive around the city. This evening, 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)**

#### DAY 7 | MOORISH CÓRDOBA AND ON TO MADRID

Set off early along the Guadalquivir Valley, passing villages and towns studded with Moorish towers and fortresses. Stop in the perfectly preserved Moorish city of Córdoba and see the famous Roman bridge, built in the 1st century BC. Meet a local historian and visit the magnificent Mezquita, a beautiful 8<sup>th</sup>-century mosque with a Christian cathedral built inside it. Make the most of your time at leisure and stroll the narrow streets of the city. Follow in the

footsteps of Don Quixote as you travel through La Mancha and on to the capital, Madrid. **(B)**

**Hotel: NH Madrid Balboa/Barceló Torre de Madrid**

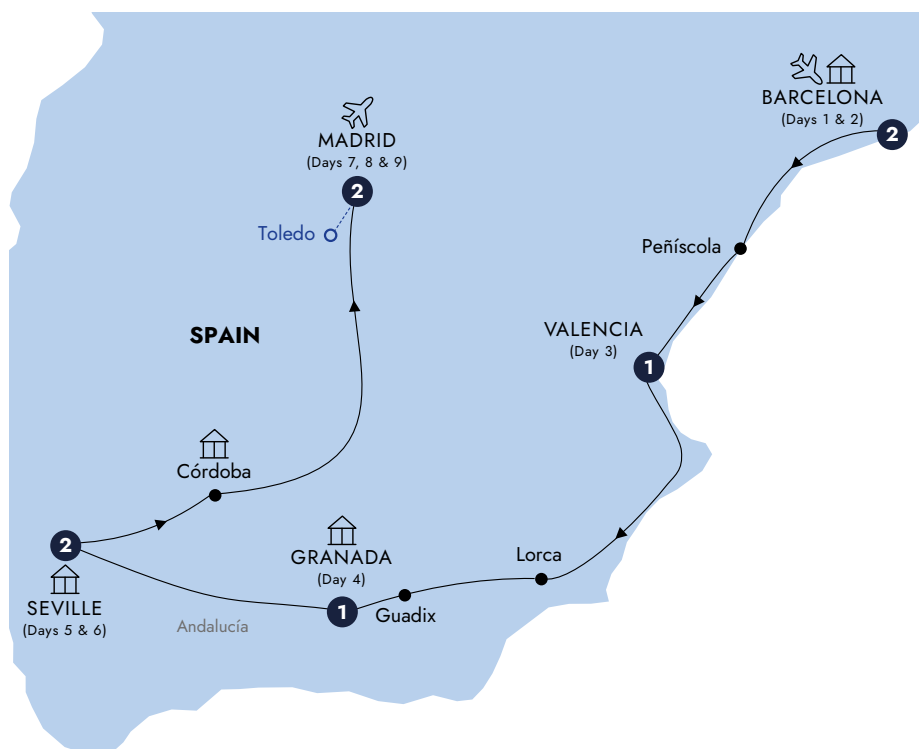
#### DAY 8 | MADRID OF THE BOURBONS

Enjoy sightseeing with your Local Expert as they guide you through the most historic neighbourhoods in the Spanish capital. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter to discover the origins of the city. Visit the renowned Prado Museum with an art historian who will guide you through the collective works of Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and more. With the afternoon at leisure, perhaps travel to Toledo with an optional experience. Join your Travel Director and newfound friends at a local restaurant to toast your adventures during a delicious dinner served with wine. **(B) (D) (RS)**

#### 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.



#### KEY

- Join/Leave Options  
 UNESCO Heritage Site  
 Hotels and Nights  
 Place Visited  
 Optional Place Visited



## HIGHLIGHT INCLUSIONS

### Premium Experiences

**Barcelona** | View the contrasting architectural styles of Gaudí's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família, under construction since 1882.

**Valencia** | See the ultra-modern Centre of Arts and Sciences and the huge gates of the old town, Torres de Serranos and Torres de Quart.

**Peñíscola** | See the seaside castle featured in the film 'El Cid'.

**Granada** | Visit the famous Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens.

**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.

**Córdoba** | Visit The Mosque—Cathedral and its forest of arches with your Local Expert.

**Madrid** | Witness the world's finest collection of Spanish paintings as you tour the Prado Museum with an art historian.

**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

**Valencia** | Learn the authentic recipe of paella joining a local chef for a Cooking Demonstration.

**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.