

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Grand Tour of Spain

14 DAYS: Thursday, February 20-Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Per person double occupancy \$3,759; Single reservations \$4,309

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$450.

Culture, history, and cuisine, all with Spanish flavor.

Spain's charismatic locals and cosmopolitan cities shine on this tour, which take you from the museums of Madrid to the sands of the Costa del Sol. Barcelona and Madrid compete for the title of cultural capital, both boasting incredible art and architecture. Andalusia is a showcase of mosques, churches, and Moorish castles. Sample it all on this guided tour of Spain, traversing the country from north to south and back again.

Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels, 12 breakfasts, 5 dinners with beer or wine, 7 guided sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach, 1 train ride

Included highlights

- Royal Palace, Prado Museum, Córdoba, Seville Cathedral, Ronda, Costa del Sol, the Alhambra, Cave district of Guadix, La Sagrada Família



Overnight Flight | 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Madrid today.

Madrid | 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Madrid Includ meal: Dinner

Welcome to Spain! Gather with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Madrid Includ meal: Breakfast

Get an insider's view of Madrid with a local guide.

- View the Royal Palace, Spain's largest royal residence
- Pass by the Temple of Debod, a reassembled temple from ancient Egypt
- See the city's many squares, including Plaza de España, Plaza Mayor, and the bustling Puerta del Sol
- Explore the Prado, a world-class art museum that began as the private collection of the Spanish monarchy and is home to the works of Goya, Velázquez, and more

Enjoy a free evening in Madrid or add an excursion.



Optional Excursion Traditional Spanish Evening (additional cost)

On your way to dinner, walk through the illuminated streets of Madrid, taking in the local neighborhood ambiance in the evening light. Then, enjoy conversation, camaraderie, and live music at one of the oldest restaurants in the city. Between traditional Castilian courses, you'll be entertained by tuna music, an artistic tradition with its roots in Spain's universities.

Day 4: Free day in Madrid Included meal: Breakfast

Spend a free day in Madrid or add an excursion.



Optional Excursion Toledo (additional cost)

Discover Toledo, the cliff-top city often referred to as La Ciudad Imperial ("The Imperial City"). Upon arrival, you'll have some free time to explore. Later in the afternoon, your guided tour begins at Toledo Cathedral, a massive, Gothic structure that houses 750 medieval stained glass windows and a treasure trove of golden artifacts. Gaze upon the cathedral's sacristy, containing masterpieces by the likes of van Dyck, El Greco, Rubens, and Titian. After exploring the labyrinth of medieval alleyways at the heart of the city, you'll visit the Church of Santo Tomé and one of Europe's oldest synagogues, Santa María la Blanca. Please note: This tour involves some walking over uneven terrain. Also, depending on the day of the week, the sites visited are subject to change. If the Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca is closed, you'll visit the Synagogue of El Tránsito instead.

Seville | 2 nights

Day 5: Seville via Córdoba Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Ride the high-speed train to the town of Córdoba and explore the Mezquita, a UNESCO World Heritage site that was built in the eighth century as a mosque and then transformed into a cathedral during the Christian Reconquista of 1236.

Continue to Seville, stopping en route at an olive oil farm for a tasting. Then, sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Seville Included meal: Breakfast

Uncover the beauty of Seville, the historic Andalusian capital, on a guided sightseeing tour.

- View the tiled pavilion of the Plaza de España
- Pass the whitewashed homes of Barrio de Santa Cruz
- Step inside the Gothic Seville Cathedral, the third largest church in the world

Enjoy a free evening or add an excursion.



Optional Excursion Traditional Seville Flamenco Show (additional cost)

Tonight, get a taste of old Seville during a live flamenco show. Flamenco is a unique and colorful Andalusian art form that combines guitar playing, singing, clapping, and dancing, and this excursion is sure to be one of the highlights of your Spanish journey. Sip an included drink as you watch the authentic performance, which allows expressive lyrics, moving instrumentals, and passionate dancing. After discovering why UNESCO has declared flamenco to be one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, enjoy free time to explore the vibrant Santa Cruz neighborhood.

Costa del Sol | 2 nights

Day 7: Travel to Costa del Sol via Ronda Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

On your way to the beaches of Costa del Sol, stop in Ronda, a famous cliffside town in Andalusia.

- View the staggering Puente Nuevo, an 18th-century bridge that spans a deep gorge
- Admire the town's picturesque white buildings and enter the Plaza de Toros, which was constructed in the late 1700s
- Walk by the Mondragón Palace and visit the terraced Cuenca Gardens

Continue on to the Costa del Sol and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 8: Free day on the Costa del Sol Included meal: Breakfast

Spend a day on the beaches of Costa del Sol or add an excursion.



Optional Excursion A Day in Gibraltar (additional cost)

Make your way along the Costa del Sol to Gibraltar, a pocket of British culture in the Mediterranean. This overseas territory of Great Britain is most famously home to the iconic Rock of Gibraltar. Today, you'll get a close-up look during a visit to the Gibraltar Nature Reserve, established in 1993 to protect native wildlife. Here, get to know the resident population of semi-wild Barbary macaques while keeping an eye out for the many species of migratory birds that use the rock as a resting place. Then, take in sweeping views of the ocean (and Africa on a clear day) as you journey to sites such as St. Michael's Cave, Spur Battery, and Europa Point Lighthouse. End with an included lunch and pint at a local pub and some free time in town before transferring back to Costa del Sol. Please note: As Gibraltar is a territory of the United Kingdom, you must show your passport to enter. Make sure you have yours with you before this excursion departs.

Granada | 1 night

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Granada **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Travel farther into Andalusia for a guided tour of Granada.

- Explore the Alhambra, the Moorish sultans' last stronghold in Spain
- Admire the blend of Western art and Islamic design
- Stroll through ornamented courtyards

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Valencia | 2 nights

Day 10: Valencia via Guadix **Included meal: Breakfast**

On the way to Valencia, stop in the cave district of Guadix, where nearly half of the residents live underground.

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Valencia **Included meal: Breakfast**

Discover Valencia on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Pass the City of Arts and Sciences, a symbol of Spain's modernist architecture
- View Valencia Cathedral during a walk through the Old Town and stop for a tasting of the decadent beverage known as horchata

Enjoy free time in Valencia or add an excursion.



Optional Excursion **Valencia Cooking Class & Dinner** **(additional cost)**

Travel into Valencia's countryside and join an expert chef in a cooking class, where you'll learn to make one of the region's culinary staples: paella. This dish is typical in Valencia—it was invented here, after all—and due to the fact that the region relies heavily on farming and is bounded on three sides by mountains, the original paella Valenciana that you'll make will be made with meat and vegetables rather than seafood. Depending on the season, you'll gather fresh ingredients from the garden and learn about important cooking techniques. While your paella cooks, whip up some sangria and nibble on regional snacks, like Iberian ham. Then, sit down to taste your creation for a better understanding of typical gastronomy in Valencia's countryside.

Barcelona | 2 nights

Day 12: Travel to Barcelona **Included meal: Breakfast**

Pass through Peñíscola, a seaside fortress, on your way to Barcelona.

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Barcelona **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Follow a local on a guided tour of the Catalanian capital.

- Step inside La Sagrada Família, Gaudí's famous masterwork-in-progress
- Drive along Passeig de Gràcia, past Gaudí's "house of bones"
- Stop at Montjuïc, where the 1992 Olympic Games took place, and stroll through Mirador de l'Alcalde Park

- Pass Plaça d'Espanya and view the soaring monument to Christopher Columbus

Enjoy a free afternoon in Barcelona or add an excursion.

Celebrate your trip with your group at tonight's farewell dinner.



Optional Excursion Park Güell & La Pedrera (additional cost)

On today's excursion, discover the magnificent works of Antoni Gaudí, the famed Spanish architect known for his bold, distinct designs. Casa Milà is the first stop. Take a guided tour of this building, popularly known as "La Pedrera," which was built by Gaudí between 1905 and 1910. Everything about the building is visually unique, from the wave-like stone structure and grandly designed roof to the apartment that reflects the style of the 20th-century bourgeois. Next, you'll head to Park Güell, also designed by Gaudí. Your guide will lead you through the park, which contains stunning buildings, intricate stonework, and colorful mosaics. At the top of the park, marvel at the brilliant views of Barcelona. Must book 20 days before departure

Flight Home

Day 14: Departure

Included meal: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)