



enthusiastic like minded people.

Discover the Iberian peninsula on these fully escorted small Spain and Portugal tours, perfect for the single traveller or couple.

Although divided by history and language, these close neighbours once possessed mighty empires bringing them great wealth which they then used to create many of the monuments we admire today.

The Iberian Peninsula is renowned for the spectacular views of its scenery, its red wines of rioja , and exotic food. Our Spain and Portugal tour explores the Iberian peninsula 's intricate history and incredible art and architecture as we stroll and wander through its streets. These are small group package tours of Spain and Portugal for mature travellers, either couples or singles.

## Itinerary & highlights of the Spain and Portugal tour

Small group tours Spain and Portugal is for senior and mature travellers who seek to learn whilst on a group tour. The itinerary of this small group tour spends 24 days exploring the Iberian peninsula with your tour manager. As expected this trip includes several famous historic destinations rich in Spanish culture on this escorted tour. Your experienced tour director leads the way assisted by local a tour guide for guided sightseeing in key places such as Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Bilbao, Segovia, Braga and Lisbon ensuring you have a great trip.

This small group tour spends 24 days exploring several famous destinations. The tour commences in Spain in Barcelona , a highlight of which is the colourful Park Guell. As well as Barcelona's Sagrada familia Basilica. From Barcelona, the tour heads to northern Spain into Rioja and Basque country before reaching the northern industrial city and home to Europe's Guggenheim museum, Bilbao in Northern Spain. We leave Bilbao heading south to spend almost 6 days on a city tour in the Spanish capital, visiting the Royal Palace and other highlights. After Madrid the tour heads to Salamanca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and northwest into Portugal. We explore the Atlantic coast, and then on

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to Lisbon , the nation's historic capital. Leaving Portugal, the tour heads into Southern Spain to Seville and finally concludes in Granada.

This tour is fully escorted but also makes great use of a local tour guide and tour operator when appropriate whose knowledge enhances the program's highlights and your travel experiences on this group tour. Highlights include a visit to La Rioja, the mountain kingdom of Navarra, along with neighbouring Basque Country and the astounding Guggenheim Museum. We also take a guided tour of Braga , and wander the cobblestone streets of the capital of Portugal, Lisbon. The magnificent Moorish architecture left behind by the Moors in Seville and Granada will be another highlight of our Spain and Portugal tours.

On this tour of Spain and Portugal, in the evenings you can enjoy wine tasting, food at the tapas bars, and views of the mountains and other wondrous scenery.

Odyssey offers two departures a year, as well as an 11-day short version of the program. You can also combine this tour with our long stay program in Barcelona, an in-depth 22-day program exploring the city.

Odyssey's tours to Spain offered each year are popular package tours with travellers and typically operate every year.

You can learn more about both Spain and Portugal with our country profiles where all other tour departures are listed as well. For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, please call or send an email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

## Articles about Spain and Portugal tours

The following list of articles are either published by Odyssey Traveller for mature aged and senior travellers or carefully selected articles from external sources to maximise their knowledge and enjoyment of Spain & Portugal when visiting:

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- 15 of the best places in Spain to visit
- History of Lisbon
- Ten of the best books published on Spain
- Ten of the Best art galleries in Europe to visit
- Lessons about the Moors in Spain
- Monarchs of Spain.
- A brief History of Spain
- The culture of Portugal
- A brief history of Portugal
- Portugese Colonial War

## Tour Notes

- Group size is limited to a maximum of 16 participants.

## Highlights

1. Marvel at Madrid and the architectural splendours of Salamanca, Avila, and the Catalan Barcelona.
2. Experience La Rioja, the mountain kingdom of Navarra, and neighbouring Basque Country with its astounding Guggenheim Museum.
3. Explore Toledo and Moorish cities of Cordoba, with its awe-inspiring “Mezquita,” and Granada, with its Alhambra Palace.
4. In Portugal, stay in the charming city of Braga, visit Oporto, and explore the historical capital, Lisbon.
5. Visit the stunning coastal areas surrounding Lisbon, including Europe's westernmost point.



## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Barcelona

**Overview:**

Upon arrival in [Barcelona](#), we will come to the hotel individually. Our Spain tour begins with an orientation and welcome dinner. (D)

**Accommodation:**

3 nights at Amister Hotel or similar.

### Day 2

**Locations:** Barcelona

**Overview:**

Today, we enjoy a full day tour around Barcelona, visiting the Miró Foundation, the National Museum of Catalan Art and Park Guell, a World Heritage Site since 1984 and located in the gothic quarter. The evening is free to relax or to discover one of the many local restaurants for dinner. (B).

Once part of the Aragonese Empire, Catalonia is now an autonomous Spanish province, proud of its distinctive language and culture. Stretching from the Mediterranean to the Pyrenees, it was here that the Romans first landed on the Iberian peninsula and founded a new “colonia” on the site of a previous Carthaginian settlement, the area now forming Barcelona’s “Barri Gotic.” Catalonian heritage is a mixture of old and new as ancient churches and monuments vie for attention with the Modernist school of Gaudi and Dali. The Catalonian capital reflects this contrast with architecture ranging from its Gothic cathedral to Gaudi’s modernist Sagrada Familia.

**Accommodation:**

Amister Hotel or similar.



### Day 3

**Locations:** Barcelona

**Overview:**

Today, we continue exploring this wonderful city with our local tour guide. We walk along the Paseo de Gracia and through the Barrio Gothic (gothic quarter) and then visit the Maritim Museum. There will be some free time for lunch at our own arrangements. Later we continue with our tour, with a guided visit of Palau de La Musica Catalana. We then enjoy a guided tour of the magnificent, though still unfinished, Sagrada Familia. Dinner tonight is at own arrangements.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Amister Hotel or similar.

### Day 4

**Locations:** Barcelona - Calahorra

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we have a morning visit to the Picasso Museum. Thereafter, we head to the train station to catch the high speed AVE train to Zaragoza. The journey takes around 2 hours, and on arrival we'll be transferred to our hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore the surrounding area. Dinner this evening is at our hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

1 night at Parador de Calahorra or similar.

### Day 5

**Locations:** Calahorra - Bilbao

**Overview:**

This morning we will travel to Pamplona, a city made famous by its annual bull runs. We will meet our local guide for a tour of the city, exploring its rise from an army camp for the Roman general Pompey to



the capital of the semi-autonomous Navarre region. After lunch at own arrangements, we carry on to [Bilbao](#), (Basque country) where we will have dinner at our hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

1 night Silken Indautxu or similar.

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Bilbao - Burgos

**Overview:**

This morning the group starts with a tour of the city of Bilbao, including a visit to the magnificent Guggenheim museum where we spend 2 to 3h viewing the collection of contemporary works of art. We will stop at Mercado de Ribera to get some lunch (own arrangements) before continuing on to Burgos. Most of this section of the tour today runs parallel to the Camino de Santiago, the Cathedral in Burgos is an important stop for those making the pilgrimage. We arrive at our hotel in Burgos in time for dinner.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

1 night at Meson del Cid or similar.

**Day 7**

**Locations:** Burgos - Madrid

**Overview:**

We check out of our hotel this morning bound for the Spanish capital, Madrid. Before leaving Burgos, we meet our local tour guide for a walking tour this morning of the city's highlights, including entrance to the cathedral. En route to Madrid we pause to stretch our legs and grab some lunch (at own arrangements). In Santo Domingo de la Calzada, we stop to view the spectacular Roman aqueduct. We arrive at our hotel



in the late afternoon.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

4 nights at Quatro Puerta Del Sol or similar

**Day 8**

**Locations:** Madrid

**Overview:**

This morning we meet our local tour guide for a full-day viewing and exploring the highlights of the [Madrid](#), including entrance to the Royal Palace and “Museo Reina Sofia”; which is is Spain’s national museum of 20th-century art. In the evening, we meet up with a local guide who takes on a Tapas tour of the capital, where we will sample local cuisine across a series of bars. After a post-dinner walk to Mercado San Miguel, we return to our hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Quatro Puerta Del Sol or similar

**Day 9**

**Locations:** Madrid

**Overview:**

Today we join our local guide again in exploring the nearby city of Toledo on a walking tour. We will visit the Synagogue de Santa Maria la Blanca, Sante Tome Church, the cathedral and view the exterior of the Alcazar, before we return to Madrid for dinner at a local restaurant.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Quatro Puerta Del Sol or similar

## Day 10

**Locations:** Madrid

**Overview:**

This morning, we visit the Prado Museum with our local guide. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy the city at leisure.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Quatro Puerta Del Sol or similar

## Day 11

**Locations:** Salamanca

**Overview:**

This morning we check out of our hotel bound for Salamanca. We pause first in El Escorial, where we visit the Royal Monastery. We continue on and pause to view the medieval walls in Avila before arriving at our hotel in Salamanca. Salamanca is probably best known for having the oldest university in Spain and one of the oldest in Europe. This university is still what gives a charming ambiance to the town. Hundreds of students pass through the narrow streets and enjoy the numerous and beautifully decorated cafes until late at night. This charming town is unrivalled in its architectural purity. In central areas all recent buildings are built in Salamanca's best tradition. The city has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We have dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

(B,D).

**Accommodation:**

2 nights at Hotel Grand Coronal Sol or similar

## Day 12

**Locations:** Salamanca

**Overview:**

We meet our local guide this morning and have a field trip taking in Salamanca's main sights. We visit the old and new Cathedrals, the

House of Shells (Casa de las Conchas) and the University. We have a free afternoon to continue to explore Salamanca at our own pace.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Grand Coronal Sol or similar.

**Day 13**

**Locations:** Braga

**Overview:**

We check out of our hotel and depart for Portugal this morning. En route to [Braga](#), we pause to explore Zamora. We arrive in Braga and check in to our hotel. Dinner tonight is at our hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

2 nights at Mercure Braga Centro or similar.

**Day 14**

**Locations:** Braga

**Overview:**

This morning, we meet our local guide for a full-day tour introducing us to Porto. We visit the cathedral and the Church of São Francisco. We stop in a local port lodge for a guided tour and tasting of port. En route back to Braga we pause to view the main sights of Guimarães. Dinner tonight is at leisure.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Mercure Braga Centro or similar.

## Day 15

**Locations:** Lisbon

### Overview:

We check out of our hotel this morning bound for the Portuguese capital. On the way we pause to explore Coimbra and arrive at [Lisbon](#) in time for dinner at a local restaurant.

(B,D)

### Accommodation:

3 nights at Hotel Florida or similar.

## Day 16

**Locations:** Lisbon

### Overview:

This morning we meet our local guide for a half-day tour of Lisbon including entrance to the Royal Carriage Museum. The afternoon and evening are free for you to explore the city at leisure.

(B)

### Accommodation:

Hotel Florida or similar.

## Day 17

**Locations:** Lisbon

### Overview:

Today we explore the coastal areas surrounding Lisbon. We travel first to Estoril and then on to Cascais. We pause in Cabo de Roca, to view Europe's westernmost point, and also stop in Sintra where we pause for lunch (own arrangements). We carry on to Queluz to visit the Royal Palace and gardens before returning to Lisbon. Tonight we have dinner at a local restaurant where we are exposed to the traditional Portuguese art-form of the *fado*

in an evening performance.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Florida or similar.

**Day 18**

**Locations:** Merida

**Overview:**

We leave the Portuguese capital today as we travel to Mérida. En route we pause in Badajoz. Upon our arrival in Mérida, we meet our local guide and have a city tour during which we visit the Roman theatre, the amphitheatre, the Casa del Mitreo, and the National Museum of Roman Art. We have dinner at our hotel tonight.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

1 night at Hotel Velada Merida or similar.

**Day 19**

**Locations:** Seville

**Overview:**

We depart Mérida for [Seville](#) this morning. We pause in Aracena with time to explore the town at our own pace and get some lunch (own arrangements). We arrive in Seville late afternoon.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

3 nights at Hotel Sevilla Macarena or similar.

## Day 20

**Locations:** Seville

**Overview:**

This morning, we meet our local guide for a tour that takes in the highlights of Seville. On our tour, we will visit the Alcazar, the cathedral, the Treasury and Giralda. We will also walk through the Barrio de Santa Cruz. This afternoon is free for us to explore at leisure, and in the evening we will attend a flamenco show with a tapas dinner.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Sevilla Macarena or similar.

## Day 21

**Locations:** Seville

**Overview:**

Today we explore Jerez de la Frontera on foot, where we will visit a sherry bodega for a tour and tasting. We then continue to Cadiz to view the city on our own, before returning to Seville.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Sevilla Macarena or similar.

## Day 22

**Locations:** Granada

**Overview:**

We check out of our hotel this morning bound for [Granada](#). En route we meet a local guide in Cordoba where we are introduced to the highlights of the city. Our guide will take us to the Mezquita and Tower, the

beautiful Mosque of Córdoba, before we continue on to Granada.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

2 nights at Barcelo Carmen Hotel or similar.

**Day 23**

**Locations:** Granada

**Overview:**

We meet our local guide this morning and begin our exploration of Granada. We view the main sights of the city and visit the Royal Chapel (Capilla Real). We then enter the magnificent Alhambra Palace and the Generalife Gardens. The remainder of the afternoon is free for you to explore Granada at leisure. We come together this evening for our farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

Barcelo Carmen Hotel or similar.

**Day 24**

**Locations:** Granada

**Overview:**

After breakfast, the tour will end today in Granada. (B)

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 23 nights of hotel accommodation.
- 23 breakfasts and 13 dinners.
- Applicable entry fees and services of local guides.
- Touring by comfortable and modern coach.

- Field trips as indicated.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.
- Services of an Odyssey program leader.
- Detailed tour information booklet.

#### **What's not included in our Tour**

- Return international airfare and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive international travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.
- Meals not specified in the itinerary.

#### **Level 2 - Moderate**

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.