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From
$7,610 AUD

Single Room
$8,500 AUD

Twin Room
$7,610 AUD

Prices valid until
30th December 2024

11 days
Duration

Spain
Destination

Level 2 - Moderate
Activity

Short Spain Tour for senior and mature travellers



Apr 29 2024 to May 09 2024

Spain Short Tour | Small Group Tours Spain

Enjoy this short tour of Spain designed for mature travellers. This unique travel experience gives you the opportunity to discover Iberia in an escorted small group program. Experience a country with a rich history, diverse culture and delicious food. Once a formidable and mighty empire, Spain had access to great wealth and used this to create many

of the monuments, structures and heritage sites we admire today.

The Iberian Peninsula in particular is renowned for its red wine, exotic cuisine and bustling street life. Starting in the vibrant beach-side city of Barcelona, we will travel through northern Spain into Rioja and Basque country before visiting the industrial city of Bilbao. After Bilbao we head back down to Spain's incredible capital Madrid, where we get a chance to see how Spain has contributed to the world of art.







Highlights of this short tour of Spain

The small group short tour to Spain is fully escorted and makes great use of local guides whose knowledge enhances the program. Some highlights you can expect from this vacation include a visit to La Rioja, an autonomous community in the north of Spain famed for its red wine and vast blue skies, the incredible Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, and the Royal Palace in Madrid. This will offer you everything you could want in a small group holiday, from the chance to sip red wine against a rugged, mountainous backdrop, to eating tapas in the bars of Barcelona, to exploring some of Madrid's amazing churches and learning of its complex religious history.

We will spend nights in the following cities:

Barcelona

The entrancing cosmopolitan city of Barcelona is one of the cultural highlights of Europe. Situated on the Mediterranean coast of the Iberian Peninsula, the Catalan capital is famous for its distinctive architecture and its world-renowned food and wine. It was believed to have been founded by either the Phoenicians or Carthaginians. Under the Romans, it was known as "Colonia Faventia Julia Augusta Pia Barcino" or Barcino, which gained importance around the 3rd century AD. Towards the end of the 1800s, an avant-garde style of music, literature, art and architecture evolved in Barcelona, which led to a regional artistic and linguistic renaissance. This cultural re-birth went on to become a means of expression for Catalan nationalism. The major exponent of this 'modernism' in architecture was Antoni Gaudí, whose buildings and

monuments have left an indelible mark on the city.







Madrid

Madrid, the capital of Spain, is situated in the geographical centre of the peninsula, on the *Meseta Castellana*, the Castilian Plateau, around 700 metres above sea level. With its more than three million inhabitants and another two million in its surrounding *Comunidad de Madrid*, it is indeed one of the liveliest and most exciting cities in Europe. Madrid has been inhabited since the Stone Age, but it developed as a medina (Arab town) in the 9th century, growing around the alcazar or castle overlooking the Manzanares River. It was eventually captured from the Muslims by Alfonso VI of Castile and Leon in 1083. Many kings spent time in this city, and in 1309, the Cortes, precursor to the Spanish Parliament, was first called in Madrid.

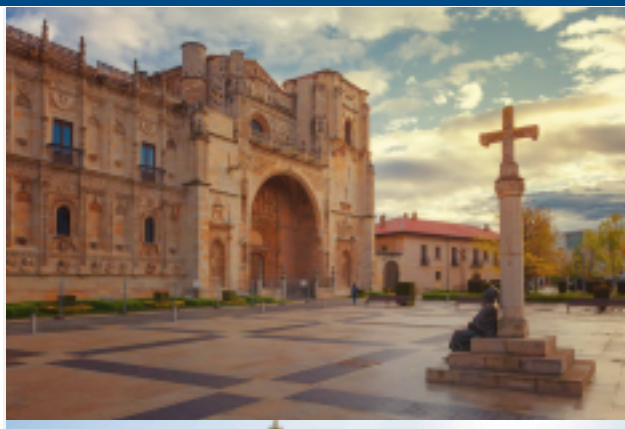
The last king of Spain to live in Madrid's Royal Palace was Alfonso XIII, who abdicated the throne in 1931 following a municipal plebiscite that abolished the monarchy. The Spanish Constitution of 1931, calling for the democratic election of Spain's rulers, was legislated in Madrid. The Spanish Civil War broke out in 1936, and Madrid, a bastion of the Republican forces, was besieged and bombed by Franco's Nationalist forces. The Nationalist forces were supported by Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, and Madrid eventually fell in March 1939.

Following Franco's death and the end of his dictatorship in 1975, Madrid was confirmed as Spanish capital in the 1978 constitution. The 1978 constitution also established the Spanish government as a parliamentary monarchy, with the monarch as head of state and the prime minister as head of government.

Bilbao

In the heart of Basque Country, 11 km from the Bay of Biscay, you will find Bilbao, one of northern Spain's greatest treasures. Renowned for its famous Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao's architectural wonders are surrounded by a ring of rolling green hills and lies on the mouth of the Nervion River. Once an industrial city, it has been transformed into a design city, where sleek new buildings sit alongside Gothic cathedrals

and art nouveau train stations. At the end of 2017, Bilbao was chosen the Best European City 2018 at The Urbanism Awards 2018 and it is not hard to see why, with a new rapid transit system, a tram line and the Azkuna Zentroa, a wine storage warehouse turned cultural centre. This Spanish city has it all: vibrant history and culture, modern architecture, beautiful scenery and spectacular regional cuisine.







Calahorra

Calahorra is a town in the La Rioja region of northern Spain that has been inhabited since the Paleolithic. As the Roman town Calagurris (later Calagurris Nassica), it became an important administrative centre for surrounding regions. The town famously resisted the general Pompey—who was part of Caesar's First Triumvirate and married to Caesar's daughter, Julia—supporting instead his rival Quintus Sertorius, leader of the revolt against Rome. Calahorra supported Sertorius for four years until it suffered from starvation and fell to Pompey's legate. This small town has historic landmarks dating from this era, such as ruins of a Roman aqueduct, as well as a 5th-century Gothic Cathedral, and the Casa Santa, said to house the bodies of the town's patron saints (Emeterius and Celedonius), making it a pilgrimage site every August.

Burgos

The medieval town of Burgos served as an important commercial centre and capital of the unified kingdoms of Castile and Leon for five centuries. The city's significance in the Middle Ages can be seen in its lush architecture and notable pieces of art. The Burgos Cathedral, constructed from 1221 to 1567, is hailed as a comprehensive example of the evolution of Gothic architecture, leading to its being listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Another important Gothic landmark is the 15th century Cartuja de Milaflores (Milaflores Charterhouse), once the recreational residence of Henry III of Spain, restored by his son John II with the help of Spain's top architects, sculptures, and painters.

This Spain Short Tour is limited to 14 travellers. This tour is featured in our brochure as "Discovering Iberia – Short Tour". Odyssey offers a long version of the program that includes Portugal and southern Spain as

well.

You can learn more about Spain and see all other tour departures on our country profile. For more details on this tour, 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.



External & Internal Articles about Spain

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

- 15 of the best places in Spain to visit.
- Ten of the best books published on Spain
- Ten of the Best art galleries in Europe to visit
- Discovering Spain (and Portugal)
- Lessons About the Moors in Spain
- Monarchs of Spain
- A Brief History of Spain
- Spanish Civil War

Tour Notes

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

Highlights

1. Explore the beautiful city of Toledo.
2. Marvel at Madrid and the architectural splendours of the Catalan Barcelona.
3. Experience La Rioja, the mountain kingdom of Navarra, and neighbouring Basque Country with its astounding Guggenheim Museum.
4. Explore the history of Iberia and its measured way of life.
5. Sample the famous red wines of Spain and enjoy the rich texture of its street life.

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Barcelona

Overview:

Upon arrival in Barcelona, we will come to the hotel individually. Our tour begins with an orientation and welcome dinner.

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 “colonnia” 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.

(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 Güell, a World Heritage Site since 1984. The evening is free to relax or to discover one of the many local restaurants for dinner. (B).

(B)

Accommodation:

Amister Hotel or similar.

Day 3

Locations: Barcelona

Overview:

Today we will continue to explore Barcelona. We will view the main sights of the city, walk along the Paseo de Gracia, and walk through the Barrio Gothic. Entrance to the Museum of Contemporary Art is included. We will have lunch individually, and afternoon touring takes us to the Pauau de La Musica Catalana, with a guided tour and entrance to Sagrada Familia cathedral.. Dinner tonight is at own arrangements.

(B)

Accommodation:

Amister Hotel or similar.

Day 4

Locations: Barcelona - Calahorra

Overview:

In the morning we will visit the the Picasso Museum and then transfer to the train station where we will take the high speed train from Barcelona to Zaragoza. The journey takes approximately 2 hours. The remainder

of the afternoon is at leisure and dinner is at our hotel this evening.

Zaragoza was founded by the Romans in 25 BC, features some of Spain's best examples of Mudejar architecture.

(B,D)

Accommodation:

1 night at Parador de Calahorra or similar.

Day 5

Locations: Calahorra - Bilbao

Overview:

This morning we will travel to Pamplona, famed for the running of its bulls. We will meet our local guide for a tour of the city. After lunch at own arrangements, we carry on to Bilbao.

(B,D)

Accommodation:

1 night at Tryp Bilbao Arenal Hotel or similar.

Day 6

Locations: Bilbao - Burgos

Overview:

We will view the main sights of the port city of Bilbao with our guide, who will show us the city's highlights. Today's highlight is the amazing Guggenheim Museum, where we spend 2 to 3h viewing their collection of contemporary works of art. We will stop at Mercado de Ribera where we can get some lunch (own arrangements) before continuing on to Burgos. We arrive at our hotel in time for dinner.

(B,D)

Accommodation:

1 night at Meson del Cid or similar.

Day 7

Locations: Burgos - Madrid

Overview:

Today we will have a city tour of Burgos in the morning including entrance to the Cathedral. We will drive to Segovia with a stop for lunch in Santo Domingo de la Calzada, and view the Roman Aqueduct before continuing our journey to Madrid where we stay for 4 nights.

Madrid is the capital of Spain and Europe's highest capital city, located close to the country's geographical centre on the Castilian Plateau. With a population of over 3 million, it offers a rich treasure chest of Spain's art and ancient monuments.

(B)

Accommodation:

4 nights at Quatro Puerta Del Sol or similar.

Day 8

Locations: Madrid

Overview:

Today we have a full-day tour exploring the highlights of the city, including entrances to the Royal Palace and the Museo Reina Sofia, Spain's national museum of 20th century art. Later in the evening, we will meet our local guide again for a Tapas tour to sample the 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 will join our local guide to explore the nearby city of Toledo. We will visit the Synagogue de Santa Maria la Blanca, Sante Tome Church, the cathedral, and view the outside of Alcazar. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant.

(B,D)

Accommodation:

Quatro Puerta Del Sol or similar.

Day 10

Locations: Madrid

Overview:

In the morning we make our way to the Prado Museum and meet our local guide for a tour of the museum. The remainder of the day is free for you to continue to explore the city.

Accommodation:

Quatro Puerta Del Sol or similar.

Day 11

Locations: Madrid

Overview:

After breakfast, the tour will end.

(B)

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 10 nights of hotel accommodation.

- 9 breakfasts and 6 dinners.
- Transport and field trips as indicated.
- Applicable entry fees and services of local English speaking guides.
- Touring by comfortable and modern coach.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.
- Services of an Odyssey Tour Leader.
- Detailed tour information booklet.

What's not included in our Tour

- Return international airfare and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive international travel insurance.
- Airport transfers.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.

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.