

Trip Details

Best of Spain

The 9-day tour will take you to some of the big cities, old towns and beautiful beaches. Enjoy delicious tapas and Portuguese spices and relax and unwind over a glass of sangria. Plenty of cultural and historical sites to visit as well as amazing nightlife and great weather!

Duration	9 Days	Group Size	13-35 People
Destination	Spain	Age Req.	18+
Start/Ends in	Madrid/Sevilla	Trip Theme	Classic, Overland
Hotels	4 Star	Departs	April to October

Why You Will Love This Tour

- * Tick-off the must-see sights of Spain on a 9-day tour, from the bustling cities of Madrid and Barcelona, to the charming towns in the south of Spain.
 - * Drink, dine and party until the early hours of the morning with fellow travellers as you experience the iconic nightlife in Spain's heartland, Madrid.
 - * Stay in hand-picked and centrally located 4 & 3 star hotels, with all breakfasts included in your tour package.
 - * Explore the Moorish palaces of Spain while following a local guide through the beautiful gardens and alleyways of Granada.
 - * Catch glimpses of the ancient times and Game of Thrones film-sets as you wander through grand plazas, jaw-dropping cathedrals and royal gardens of Sevilla.
 - * Get your cameras ready and make the most of your free time checking out Park Guell, La Rambla and the Old Gothic Quarter in Barcelona.
- Shape your holiday the way you want with optional activities including a traditional Flamenco Show in Sevilla, exploring Granada's iconic Alhambra, relaxing by the beach in Valencia or experiencing the scientific wonders of Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias museum... Spain has it all!

Arrival Details

The group welcome meeting with your guide and other travellers is held around 18:30 at the hotel lobby on Day 1 of your tour, unless otherwise notified.

Meeting Point

The meeting point for this tour is:

Hotel Mayorazgo – Madrid

Address : Flor Baja, 3, Centro de Madrid, 28013 Madrid / Spain

Phone : +34 915 47 26 00

Emergency Number: +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

Making Your Own Way to the Starting Point

The Plaza de España and Santo Domingo metro stations are less than 200 mt away from the hotel. If you prefer to use metro from the airport, you can change at Nuevos Ministerios Station (5th station) and take the Puerto Del Sur line (navy blue line) to Plaza de Espana Station (4th station). One-way metro ticket for one person is €5. The trip from the Airport to Plaza de Espana metro station takes around 40 min.

You can also use airport taxis, which cost €30 from Madrid-Barajas Airport to the city centre.

Finishing Point

The finishing point for this tour is:

Hotel Silken Al Andalus – Sevilla

Address : Av. de la Palmera, s/n, 41012 Sevilla / Spain

Phone : +34 954 23 06 00 **Emergency Number:** +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

Highlights

- * **Barcelona:** Barcelona, the cosmopolitan capital of Spain's Catalonia region, is known for its art and architecture. The fantastical Sagrada Família church and other modernist landmarks.
- * **Granada:** The cultural and historic centre of Cordoba is listed as a World Heritage Site. The Alcazar Fortress is breath-taking and the Jewish neighborhood is not to be missed.
- * **Madrid:** The capital of Spain, located in the heart of the Iberian Peninsula, offers an extensive artistic & cultural heritage. An amazing city in every aspect.
- * **Sevilla:** Walk around and get lost in the is Spanish city which is perfect combination of Roman, Islamic, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque style architecture.
- * **Valencia:** On the east coast of the Iberian Peninsula, this magnificent city will blow your mind with its phenomenal combination of Roman, Gothic and Renaissance.

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary may be subject to small changes depending on the conditions during the tour. Alternative accommodation of similar standards may be used depending on the group size and hotel availability.

Day 1: Madrid

Welcome to Spain! Meet at the lobby reception at 6:00pm for an informal meeting with your tour guide and other tour members. After, you will have free time to explore Madrid's vibrant nightlife or join us for an optional group dinner at a local restaurant.

• **Accommodation**

Hotel Mayorazgo – 4 Star

• **Included Activities**

Welcome Meeting

• **Optional Activities**

Group Dinner

Day 2: Madrid City Tour

Start the day with breakfast before we head off on a guided panoramic city tour passing by top attractions such as the buzzing social hub of Puerta del Sol, the historical square of Plaza Mayor, the official residence of the Spanish royal family Palacio Real, as well as the Almudena Cathedral among many other places. You can't leave Spain's capital without trying the regions speciality churros or a quick stroll through Buen Retiro Park for that insta-worthy pic at the Crystal Palace!

- **Accommodation**

Hotel Mayorazgo – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Panoramic Madrid City Tour

Day 3: Madrid, Barcelona

Today we will depart for the vibrant cosmopolitan city of Barcelona. A mecca of culture, art and adventure, it's no wonder it's a favourite city amongst many travellers. Spend your free afternoon as you please! You could check out some of Gaudí's stunning works of architecture which are scattered throughout the city, or visit Camp Nou stadium a football lovers dream.

- **Accommodation**

Catalonia Park Guell – 3 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

Day 4: Barcelona City Tour

We'll start the day by checking out all the top sites in our guided panoramic city tour. In the afternoon, you will have free time to explore the pretty cobblestone streets of the old Gothic Quarter or the buzzing La Rambla district.

- **Accommodation**

Catalonia Park Guell – 3 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Panoramic Barcelona City Tour

Day 5: Barcelona, Valencia

Valencia here we come! On arrival we will spend the evening exploring the city together on an orientation walk. In the evening why not try some delicious paella, it originated from this city after all and after check out Valencia's nightlife!

- **Accommodation**

Hotel Acteon – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Orientation Walk in Valencia

Day 6: Valencia City Tour

After breakfast we start our walking tour at Plaza de Reina, located in the heart of the old city. In the afternoon, you will have free time to explore the city by your own. Relax at the beach or visit Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias a modern scientific and cultural complex which is the largest of it's kind in Europe.

- **Accommodation**

Hotel Acteon – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Valencia

Day 7: Valencia, Granada

It's time to depart for our next stop Granada. On arrival we will take a guided orientation tour of Granada to get a glimpse into this beautiful region of Spain. Don't forget to check out one of Spain's iconic highlights, the Alhambra and Generalife gardens. Walk around the fortified Moorish palace complex, with its dramatic backdrop of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, it's not a sight you should miss. End the day by treating yourself to a cold drink and you'll usually get a free tapa! Winning!

- **Accommodation**

Los Angeles Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of Alhambra & Generalife Gardens

Sightseeing of Granada

- **Entrance Fees**

Alhambra & Generalife Gardens – EUR 21

Day 8: Granada, Sevilla

Time to hit the road, and drive to Sevilla. On arrival, we will walk around Sevilla city centre and you may even recognise some sights along the way, hint *GOT & Star Wars*. In the afternoon, spend some time exploring as you please. We'd recommend climbing the Giralda tower in the Cathedral of St Mary for some epic views, or wandering around the Plaza de España in Parque de María Luisa for it's grandeur, canal and beautiful ceramics. One of the oldest places in Europe, Reales Alcázares is also a must see, and is the perfect example of Mudéjar architecture. What better way to end the day with an optional Flamenco show! Olé!

- **Accommodation**

Hotel Silken Al Andalus – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Sightseeing of The Cathedral of St. Mary (Seville Cathedral)

Sightseeing of Parque de María Luisa

Sightseeing of Reales Alcázares

Sightseeing of Mudéjar Pavilion

Sightseeing of Sevilla

- **Optional Activities**

Flamenco Show – EUR 20-40

- **Entrance Fees**

The Cathedral of St. Mary (Seville Cathedral) – 10 Euro

Day 9: Sevilla

After breakfast we will check out of the hotel at 11:00am. Say farewell to all your new mates and we wish you a safe onward journey!

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

Inclusions & Exclusions

Accommodation: 4 & 3 star hotels

Meals: 8 breakfasts

Transportation: Air-conditioned coach or mini-bus

Guide: Services of experienced Travel Talk local guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism

Sightseeing: Alhambra & Generalife Gardens, Giralda Tower, Cathedral of St Mary, Mudéjar Pavilion
Parque de María Luisa, Plaza de España, Reales Alcázares

What is NOT included in the tour price?

- Any flights not mentioned above
- Travel insurance
- Meals not stated above
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips & gestures
- Entrance fees to the sights and museums
- Optional activities
- Other services not stated in the itinerary

Hotels & Accommodation

Solo travellers will be roomed with another solo traveller of the same gender in a twin or triple room, or can upgrade to a solo room by paying the single supplement.

HOTEL MAYORAZGO – MADRID – 4 Star

Hotel Mayorazgo is located very centrally in Madrid, in walking distance to Gran Via, Plaza Espana and The Royal Palace, it has a Mediterranean restaurant and a bar.

CATALONIA PARK GUELL – BARCELONA – 3 Star

This hotel with a rooftop pool and a restaurant is situated in the upper area of Barcelona, a few minutes away from Park Güell.

HOTEL ACTEON – VALENCIA – 5 Star

Located a few steps from Puerto de Valencia avenue and Ciudad de las Artes Ciencias. This hotel has a design of cheerful atmosphere.

LOS ANGELES HOTEL – GRANADA – 4 Star

This 4 star hotel situated in the beautiful heart of Granada, next to La Alhambra’s relaxing residential area. The property also features a pool and a lounge.

HOTEL SILKEN AL ANDALUS – SEVILLA – 4 Star

Silken Al-Andalus Palace Hotel is just 10 minutes’ drive from Seville s historic centre. It offers a gym, and a seasonal outdoor pool, as well as terraces, gardens.

Budgeting

Please note that entrance fees to sights and optional activities are not included in the tour price. Optional activities are not operated by Travel Talk and may require a certain number of attendees to run. Your guide will be happy to inform you further about the available optional activities at the start of your tour. Optional activities are also listed under each day in your tour itinerary.

Entrance Fees

St. George Castle	EUR 10
The Cathedral of St. Mary (Seville Cathedral)	EUR 10
Alhambra & Generalife Gardens	EUR 21

Optional Activities

Please note that Optional Activities are not operated by Travel Talk.

Flamenco Show	EUR 20-40
Boat Trip in Lagos	EUR 20

Personal Spending

Spain has adopted the common currency of the European Union, the Euro (EUR). In Europe, ATMs are the most convenient way to acquire cash. However, debit and credit cards are widely accepted across the country. While every traveller's spending habits may differ slightly, we have estimated the average daily expenses to help with budgeting for your next trip. Here you will find the average cost for a meal or drink and advice for best practice in tipping.

Meals

Lunch at restaurant	US\$ 7-10
Dinner at restaurant	US\$ 10-15
Paella at a stall	US\$ 5-8
Churros	US\$ 3-5

Drinks

Bottle of water	US\$ 0.7
Coffee	US\$ 2-3
Tea	US\$ 1-2
Bottle of beer	US\$ 2-4

Tipping

Tipping in Spain is considered optional, but is kindly appreciated for good service by waiters, drivers, and other similar services. At bars, cafes or in taxis, simply rounding your bill to the nearest Euro is commonplace. Your Guide and Driver would appreciate tipping as a sign of gratitude for their exception service at the end of your tour.

Shopping

Bustling with colour, local produce and atmosphere, the great city markets of Spain are an attraction, in their own right. Many locals can be found doing daily shopping in iconic marketplaces such as La Boqueria in Barcelona or Mercado de San Miguel in Madrid. There is an abundance of high-street fashion stores in the major cities or even flea markets if you are chasing a bargain.

Leatherwork

Leather production has been an integral part of Spain history since medieval times. Today, you can browse and buy anything from high-quality belts, bags, purses, and boots from leather workshops that line the streets and markets.

Flamenco Costumes

Home to the dramatic and passionate musical dance style of Flamenco, Spain is the perfect place to buy your own Flamenco dress, shawl or wooden Castanet instrument. A high-quality traditional Flamenco dress can cost approximately 100-200 USD depending upon design while hand-painted Castanets can be purchased for approximately 5 USD at the markets.

Vintage Abanico Fan

The Abanico Fan is an important piece of Spanish culture and history. While you can find a printed fan at almost every tourist shop in Spain, the flea markets of Barcelona and Madrid are the perfect place to visit if you are looking for a vintage fan that very few others may have! Expect to pay approximately 2 USD for a souvenir fan, or upwards of 10 USD for a vintage design at the flea markets.

Essential Information: Spain

Passport & Visas

Spain is part of the European Union and Schengen area, and European citizens do not require a visa. Citizens of the following countries do not require a tourist visa if staying for less than three months: USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan. Passport validity entry requirements may change per nationality. We generally recommend to have a passport with at least 6 months of remaining validity.

This information is provided only as a guidance, we strongly advise that you check with the consulate or embassy as this information can change at any time and with little notice. It is your responsibility to make sure that all the required travel documents are ready when travelling.

Travel Advice

We are closely monitoring the latest travel updates to Morocco and follow the advice of the UK Foreign Office (FCDO). For the latest travel advice from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain>

We recommend all travellers to check their Government National Travel Advisory prior to their departure:

- Australia - <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>
- Canada - <https://travel.gc.ca/>
- New Zealand - <https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>
- USA - <https://travel.state.gov/>

Travel Insurance

All passengers travelling with Travel Talk are required to have personal travel insurance before participating in any of our tours. Your guide will collect your travel insurance details on the first day of your trip. It is your responsibility to make sure you have an adequate and suitable travel insurance for you in place, you may read more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/travel-insurance>

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our passengers, staff and communities visited is of utmost priority. As we monitor and comply with the official advice from the UK Foreign Office, as well as World Health Organization and government authorities regularly, we have implemented several policies and precautions on our tours for your wellbeing. You may find our Safe Travels Protocols at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels>



Travel Talk Adventures has received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC), which allows travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols – so consumers can experience ‘Safe Travels’.

Please make sure to regularly check your Government’s travel advice before travelling and be well-informed of any requirements. Your tour guide will also notify you of the regulations and protocols to follow throughout your trip with us.

Please note that if any traveller is unable to complete the itinerary or possess a potential risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to remove them from all or part of a trip.

Please consult with your doctor for the latest medical travel information and any vaccinations you may need. We recommend that you bring any personal medical requirements and medications with you as these may be difficult to obtain while on tour.

Money Matters

Spain’s currency is the Euro (EUR / €) and credit or debit cards are accepted across all major Islands. We advise to carry some cash for small purchases from simple vendors and shops. We recommend you do not exchange bulk sums of money at the airport, as the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the major cities. Your tour leader will be happy to help if you need any assistance.

Please remember that everyone has different spending habits, some prefer to spend more on souvenirs, some on experiences and others on a night out! Make sure to budget your trip to your spending habits for shopping, drinking, and tipping.

Tipping is not compulsory in Spain but is appreciated for good service. In up-market restaurants we suggest adding a ~10% tip to your bill for good service. Your Guide and Driver would also appreciate tipping as a sign of traditional gratitude at the end of your tour.

Distances

- Madrid – Barcelona: 620km, 6 hours 30 min
- Barcelona - Valencia: 350km, 4 hours
- Valencia – Granada: 520km, 5 hours 30 min
- Sevilla – Lagos: 274km, 3 hours 45 min
- Granada - Seville: 250km, 3 hours

Weather

Spain experiences a wide range of climates, varying from hot summers and mild winters along the Mediterranean coast to semi-arid inland temperatures. Spain is a widely popular summer destination with beautiful beaches and lovely weather, drawing in visitors from all around the world in this season. A great time to visit Spain is in late spring (April to May) or early Autumn (September to October) due to the pleasant temperatures and quieter crowds of tourists. However, Spain's diverse climatic offerings mean you can enjoy travelling through the country any time of the year. Along the east coast, major cities like Barcelona and Valencia can be remarkably busy throughout the summer with temperatures pleasantly sitting around the high 20s to low 30s. Meanwhile, parts of Andalucía are blissful in the winter with skiing in the mountains and sunbathing on a beach all available within one day's adventure.

Months	Barcelona		Madrid		Sevilla	
	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F
January	13	55	10	50	16	60
February	14	57	12	53	17	62
March	15	59	14	57	20	68
April	17	62	15	59	22	71
May	20	68	18	64	27	80
June	24	75	21	69	31	88
July	27	80	24	75	35	95
August	27	80	24	75	35	95
September	25	77	23	73	32	89
October	21	69	19	66	26	79
November	17	62	14	57	20	68
December	14	57	12	53	16	60

Eating & Drinking

Food and drink are two of the most iconic elements of the Spanish culture. Tourists are often lured to Spain, particularly the South, to try the world-famous seafood, tapas, pintxo and endless jugs of fresh sangria. The Spanish are known to eat late in the evening, with a long gap between lunch and dinner. Breakfast is short, sharp and to the point, consisting of a strong coffee and pastry or churro. But nothing is more quintessentially Spanish than going for tapas or pintxo in the afternoon or late evening. This style of eating involves standing at a bar and trying a range of small plates or toothpicks piled with food while enjoying a beer, wine or vermouth. Tapas can be anything from stuffed olive appetizers to gourmet slow-cooked beef cheek served over a sweet potato puree. Tapas is a culinary experience that cannot be missed while visiting Spain. Searching for unique and authentic dishes can often be overwhelming if you are not a local, so here is a few must-try dishes to get you started.

Paella: Like flamenco or football, paella is synonymous with Spain. The dish consists of rice cooked in a shallow, wide pan with saffron to give it that unique yellow colour with either seafood, vegetables, meats, and more traditionally rabbit.

Croquettes: A tapas favourite, croquettes are little balls of fried bechamel filled with goat's cheese, beef, ham, or broccoli.

Churros: Traditionally served at breakfast, Churros are deep-fried, doughy bread sticks dipped in chocolate and sugar.

Jamon Iberico: Wafer thin slices of cured pork that can be eaten on it's own or with bread, tomato or

Tortilla de Espanola: A classic Spanish dish, it's simply a potato omelette. Usually served as tapa, this delicious comfort food is served in most bars and cafes in Spain.

Patatas Bravas: Chunks of potato fried and served with sweet and spicy pimentón – a Spanish paprika

Sangria: The perfect partner to Spain's golden hour every Summer afternoon, sangria is well-known alcoholic beverage across Spain with chunks of apple, lemon and orange chilled in a jug of red wine.

Spanish Chorizo: A fermented, cured pork sausage seasoned with spices and served by itself or with cheese and bread.

Pulpo: Commonly known as grilled octopus, this delicious dish is flavoured simply with Spanish paprika and olive oil. It is an extremely popular dish as tapas bars, often served on wooden plates with toothpicks.

One of the greatest pleasures of eating out in Spain is the chance to sample an array of the country's best wines. Over 50% of Europe's vineyards are in Spain. Restaurant wine starts at around 5 to 10 euro per bottle. Beer (cerveza) is nearly always lager in Spain and usually comes in 300ml bottles or botellines. Popular beers worth trying include San Miguel, Cruz Campo, Mahou and Estrella de Galicia.

Internet Access

Internet access is common in hotels, cafes, and restaurants across Spain. Many internet cafes can be found in the cities as well. If your current Mobile SIM provider is from the EU or UK, it may be possible that you can use your data roaming free of charge in Spain. Please consult your mobile provider to find out more. Alternatively, purchasing a Spanish SIM card for the duration of your tour may be a cost-effective option. Your guide will be happy to advise on this.

Essentials to Bring

- * Face mask/cover and hand sanitiser enough for your personal use throughout the trip – See more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels>
- * Travel Documents: Passport, Visa (if required), flight or transport ticket (and photocopies)
- * Travel Talk Tour Voucher (printed or digital)
- * Travel Insurance Policy (and photocopy)
- * Personal medical kit and medicine
- * Money (cash, credit card, travellers' cheques)
- * Power Adapter
- * Reusable water bottle
- * Ear plugs and eye mask
- * Sun protection – hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- * Comfortable, closed walking shoes
- * Wind/water proof jacket
- * Warm clothes, hat, and gloves for cold weather
- * Sandals, swimwear, shorts for warm weather

Culture, Traditions and Religion

Spain has one of the most distinctive cultures in all of Europe. Well known for its lively fiestas, routine for siestas and passion for food and drink – there is much to love about the Spanish way of life. The nation is made up of 17 distinct autonomous communities, each home to unique traditions, customs and cuisines shaped by politics, religion and centuries of mutual interaction.

Roman Catholicism is deeply embedded in Spanish society, and Christian holidays like Easter and Christmas are widely celebrated or acknowledged. Additionally, every different region or city in Spain has its own patron saint. Each city or village celebrate their saint with bonfires, feasts, and parades.

Etiquette and How to Dress

Spaniards are renowned for being welcoming and generous people who are passionate about sharing their culture with visitors. It is important to remain respectful when discussing the politics of Spain as locals may have passionate views towards whichever of the 17 distinct communities they belong to. Drinking in public is commonplace and acceptable across the nation, however public nuisances are not welcome. The Spanish are quite relaxed with the dress code of tourists, with many coastal destinations seeing flocks of visitors spend their days in swimwear and summery attire. However, Travel Talk does recommend packing a set of clothing that covers both your shoulders and knees for visiting religious complexes. Your Tour Leader can advise when such dress will be necessary throughout your trip.

Solo Travellers

We have many solo travellers joining our tours. Solo travellers will be roomed with another traveller of the same gender. If you would like a private solo room, please contact us.

Rules to Follow

We are committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. We do not tolerate any form of violence (physical or verbal), bullying or harassment involving customers, partners, Travel Talk staff or locals. Sexual relationships between a tour leader and a passenger are forbidden.

We will not tolerate any illegal activity, including but not limited to: use and possession of illegal drugs, trespassing, and disrupting public order. If you consume alcohol, please ensure that you drink responsibly and follow the local laws and regulations.

You must follow the advice of your tour leader and local officials regarding health and safety measures. We operate all tours under Safe Travels protocols for the wellbeing of our passengers, staff and communities visited. Please ensure that you have read the <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels/> and are fully prepared for your trip.

If someone is acting inappropriately regarding these matters, please notify your tour leader immediately or contact us on the emergency contact number provided below.

Your tour leader has the right to remove from the group anyone not abiding by these rules, with no right of compensation or refund. See more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/booking-terms/>

Please remember that our travellers come from different parts of the world and will have various needs and preferences. Be understanding and patient with your fellow travellers, and always strive to be on time.

Responsible Travel

We believe that travel is a force for good and show our support through various initiatives and charity organizations, as well as keeping the principals of responsible and sustainable travel at the core of our ethos. These values are engrained in our business culture and the design of our trips just the same. Together with you, we strive to make a positive impact on local people and economies, respecting the local culture, environment, social fabric and customs; encouraging respectful and meaningful cross-cultural exchange. Read more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/responsible-travel/>