

# Barcelona, Madrid, and Southern Spain

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS - INDEPENDENT TRAVEL  
DEPARTS DAILY FROM MADRID OR BARCELONA



Come visit the beautiful country of Spain! Begin in Barcelona, formerly home to artists like Picasso, Miró and Dalí, this city is famed for its culture. While here be sure to check out Gaudí's architectural masterpieces like the Casa Milà, Park Güell and the iconic Basilica of the Sagrada Família. Continue to Madrid, Spain's lively capital. Explore its excellent museums and tapas bars. Madrid boasts the magnificent Plaza Mayor, the world-renowned Prado Museum and the ever-refreshing Retiro Park. Next stop Seville, a wonderful city with Moorish architecture, beautiful 17th-century palaces and a gorgeous Old Town. Local flamenco bars along the Guadalquivir River add to its charm. It is no surprise that visitors feel such a strong affection for Spain. Centuries of culture, art and local traditions are still alive in this country, which has learned how to embrace modernity while still maintaining its past.



## DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE BARCELONA

Arrive in Barcelona and collect your bags. As you

exit customs you will be met by a representative that will help you with your luggage and escort you to your hotel where you will stay for three nights. Take the afternoon to become accustomed with the city and then make it back to your hotel lobby in time for your evening sightseeing tour.

**SECRET TOUR OF LA PEDERA** ~ Discover the secret La Pedrera, a unique building designed by the Catalan architect, Antoni Gaudí. Architecturally it is considered an innovative work for its steel structure and curtain walls. Its design was controversial at the time it was constructed and would still be considered Avant-garde today. Enjoy this intimate tour, where you can discover the nooks and crannies of this landmark in the tranquility and magic of the evening. Discover the hidden secrets of La Pedrera and become the lucky witness to the lives, customs and stories of the residents of this 100-year-old building.



## DAY 2 ~ BARCELONA

After breakfast you will be picked up at your hotel for your exciting full-day private

sightseeing tour. On this tour you will see the highlights of the city and get a terrific understanding of Barcelona's famous history, which pre-dates the Romans. After this full-day tour, you will be free to spend the evening dining and relaxing. Make sure to wander down to the Las Ramblas and check out the street performers before indulging in some gazpacho and sangria.

**PRIVATE, FULL-DAY SIGHTSEEING** ~ On this full-day, private sightseeing trip you will see the highlights of Barcelona's cultural heart. You will visit famous sites related to the artist and architect Antoni Gaudí, such as the Sagrada Família and Park Güell. You will also get to visit Barcelona's famous waterfront, including the Old and Olympic ports. You'll marvel at the beauty of the facades of the Passeig de Gracia and take stunning photographs on Montjuic Hill. Lastly you can't visit Barcelona without visiting the Gothic Quarter with its beautiful ornate cathedral. All this and more on this exceptional sightseeing tour.

## INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival Transfers
- 3 nights Barcelona
- Secret Tour of La Pedera
- Private Full-Day Sightseeing
- Morning Montserrat Tour
- Barcelona Market and Cooking Class
- Rail Between Cities
- 3 nights Madrid
- Madrid Sightseeing by Night and Flamenco Show with Drink
- Private Madrid Sightseeing Tour
- Toledo and Escorial Full-Day Tour
- 3 nights Seville
- Private Full-Day Seville Sightseeing
- From Seville to Granada
- Private Departure Transfers

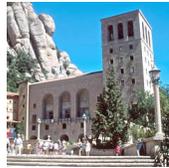
EuropeExpress



## INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival Transfers
- 3 nights Barcelona
- Secret Tour of La Pedera
- Private Full-Day Sightseeing
- Morning Montserrat Tour
- Barcelona Market and Cooking Class
- Rail Between Cities
- 3 nights Madrid
- Madrid Sightseeing by Night and Flamenco Show with Drink
- Private Madrid Sightseeing Tour
- Toledo and Escorial Full-Day Tour
- 3 nights Seville
- Private Full-Day Seville Sightseeing
- From Seville to Granada
- Private Departure Transfers

EuropeExpress



### DAY 3 ~ BARCELONA

This morning you will want to eat breakfast early and then make your way to your designated meeting point for your tour to Montserrat. After the tour you will be returned to downtown. You will have a few hours of free time before meeting your guide for a private market tour and cooking class. After the class, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure- but make sure not to miss Barcelona's famous nightlife!

**MORNING MONTSERRAT TOUR ~** Enjoy the picturesque drive to the foot of the Montserrat Mountain. Perched 2380 feet above sea level in this stunning natural park is the sanctuary of Santa Maria de Montserrat. You will enjoy a guided orientation tour of Abby of Montserrat, during which the guide will show you all the treasures of Catalonia's most important religious retreat including the monastery, basilica and museum, which has a marvelous collection of paintings. You will also get some free time to explore the bars, restaurants, shops and market.

**BARCELONA MARKET AND COOKING CLASS ~** You will meet your guide for an escorted shopping tour of Barcelona's famous food market, *La Boqueria*. Your expert chef will show you the raw foods that you will use to create amazing Catalan cuisine. You will then continuing to a cooking school where you will learn to cook delicious dishes like tapas, seafood paella, and *crema catalana*. You will get the chance to indulge in your many creations, and will leave full of tasty dishes and ready to experience the local nightlife.



### DAY 4 ~ TRAVEL TO MADRID

Eat breakfast and then pack your bags, because today you will take the train from Barcelona to

Spain's capital city, Madrid. Meet your transfer representative in the lobby for your ride to the station. You will then board the very comfortable train and on arrival meet your transfer to your hotel. You then have the afternoon to yourself. You may want to use this afternoon to visit the Prado Museum, which is the main national art museum and features one of the world's finest collections of European art. Tonight you will enjoy a city sightseeing tour and flamenco show.

**MADRID SIGHTSEEING BY NIGHT AND FLAMENCO SHOW WITH DRINK~** Tonight you will enjoy a panoramic tour of Madrid's avenues and lovely squares. Its beautiful boulevards and illuminated fountains make a tour of Madrid by night a must! Afterwards you will attend a flamenco show where you will enjoy a complimentary drink. Flamenco is a genre of Spanish music, song and dance from Andalusia, a region in southern Spain. Always dramatic and passionate, this is an evening you are sure to remember.



### DAY 5 ~ MADRID

After an early breakfast you will meet your tour guide for a full-day sightseeing tour of Madrid. After the tour you are free to relax on your own for the rest of the evening. Tonight you might consider dining in a restaurant that specializes in tapas, a popular type of Spanish appetizers. They can be combined to make a full meal giving you the opportunity to try many different tastes and flavors.

**PRIVATE MADRID SIGHTSEEING TOUR~** Built above the old Alcazar of the Habsburgs, Madrid was the official residence of the Spanish monarchy from 1765 until 1931. Within the Royal Palace, you will visit the Official Reception Zone, the private rooms of King Carlos III, the Museums Section, the Royal Chapel and



## INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival Transfers
- 3 nights Barcelona
- Secret Tour of La Pedera
- Private Full-Day Sightseeing
- Morning Montserrat Tour
- Barcelona Market and Cooking Class
- Rail Between Cities
- 3 nights Madrid
- Madrid Sightseeing by Night and Flamenco Show with Drink
- Private Madrid Sightseeing Tour
- Toledo and Escorial Full-Day Tour
- 3 nights Seville
- Private Full-Day Seville Sightseeing
- From Seville to Cordoba
- Private Departure Transfers

EuropeExpress

the private rooms of Queen Isabel II. After touring the palace, your sightseeing tour will continue with a stroll through the Plaza España. You'll see the city's best landmarks and monuments including the Gran Vía, Plaza de Oriente, Puerta del Sol and the Prado Museum. This private tour gives you the perfect orientation to this extremely interesting and beautiful city.



### DAY 6 ~ MADRID

Make sure to eat breakfast and then make your way to your designated meeting point for your full-day Toledo Sightseeing excursion. This former capital of the Spanish Empire has been populated since the Bronze Age so you're in for a true historical treat. After returning from the tour, take the evening to relax on your own and marvel at the differences between Spain's former capital and its current one.

**TOLEDO AND ESCORIAL FULL-DAY SIGHTSEEING TOUR~** On this exciting full-day tour of Toledo and the Escorial you will see many of the major buildings and monuments including the City Hall Square, the Victorio Macho Museum and San Juan de los Reyes. The city of Toledo is home to many of Spain's best cultural treasures. This beautiful city has a rich artistic, religious and historic heritage. Its buildings walk you through centuries of Spanish history. It continues to be the religious capital of Spain and is considered the city of three cultures (Christian, Jewish and Moorish). From Toledo, you will travel to The St Lawrence's Royal Monastery of The Escorial, a magnificent construction from the 16th century. It is a pantheon of the Kings of Spain and is considered to be the Eighth Marvel of the World.



### DAY 7 ~ TRAVEL TO SEVILLE

After breakfast you will be

met by your transfer representative in the lobby. He or she will take you to the station where you will catch the train for Seville. Upon your arrival meet your transfer representative, who will escort you to your hotel. This evening you can relax and settle in to Andalucía's top destination. This would be a great time to take advantage of your Sevilla Card, which grants you access to most of the museums and monuments in the city.



### DAY 8 ~ SEVILLE

Eat breakfast and then meet your private guide in the lobby. Seville has a long history that includes being the most important Roman port on the Guadalquivir River. Today you will be shown many of the important buildings and landmarks left in the wake of multiple cultural waves. The evening is yours to wander the charming streets or dine in a delicious restaurant or tapas bar.

**PRIVATE SEVILLE CITY SIGHTSEEING~** Discover Seville's fascinating touristic areas. From the grand fair grounds of the Ibero-American exhibition of 1929, to the contemplative alleyways and flowers of the Santa Cruz quarter, Seville has something for everyone. You will also have the chance to tour the Cathedral, Giralda Tower and the Royal Palace of Alcazar, the oldest residence of the Spanish kings that is still in use today. After touring the central district you will continue on to Plaza de Toros, the oldest bullring in Spain, and the vibrant and cultural Triana neighborhood. Lastly, you will view the lovely city from the water with a cruise along the shores of the Guadalquivir River.



### DAY 9 ~ SEVILLE

Eat a good breakfast and then make your way to the designated meeting point



for your full-day trip to the stunning city of Granada. This fascinating and historic city has been continuously inhabited for at least 2500 years. After the tour you have the rest of the night to enjoy at your leisure. Take in some more of the local Andalusian culture and perhaps enjoy some of Seville's famous nightlife.

**INCLUSIONS**

- Private Arrival Transfers
- 3 nights Barcelona
- Secret Tour of La Pedera
- Private Full-Day Sightseeing
- Morning Montserrat Tour
- Barcelona Market and Cooking Class
- Rail Between Cities
- 3 nights Madrid
- Madrid Sightseeing by Night and Flamenco Show with Drink
- Private Madrid Sightseeing Tour
- Toledo and Escorial Full-Day Tour
- 3 nights Seville
- Private Full-Day Seville Sightseeing
- From Seville to Cordoba
- Private Departure Transfers

**SEVILLE TO GRANADA~** Granada has a extremely varied and long cultural legacy. At the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, The Alhambra is the joy that crowns this beautiful city. You will visit this picturesque Nazarian city where every inch is a work of art. During the visit to the palaces, grand halls, rooms and exquisite gardens, you will begin to understand why the last Moorish king cried as he surrendered to the Catholic Kings who conquered it. You will then meander through the Generalife Gardens, some of the most impressive gardens in the world, with an official guide. At the end of the visit you will have time to relax in Granada before returning to Seville, never to forget this most spellbinding of experiences.



**DAY 10~ SEVILLE**

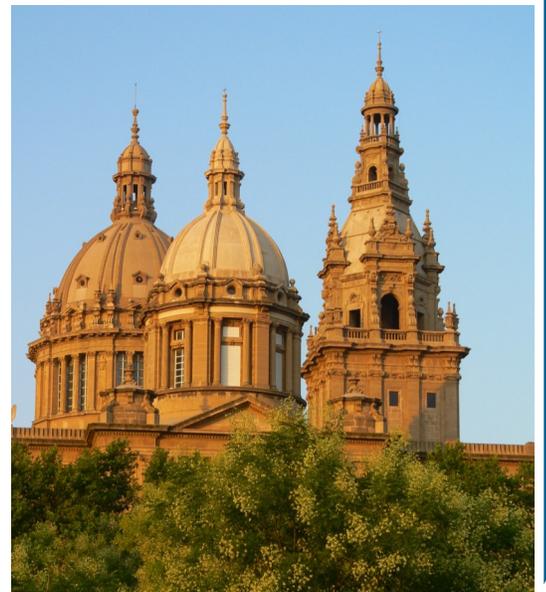
Enjoy breakfast and meet your transfer representative in the lobby of your hotel.

He or she will help you with your luggage and escort you to the airport for your flight. Wave goodbye to the spectacular Spanish landscape as you take off from Sevilla International Airport.



**DAY 11~ HOME**

Unpack and prepare for your next vacation with Europe Express!





The beautiful Alhambra in Granada

Want a private guide to show you the sights?

*Europe Express offers a wide variety of private sightseeing options too!*

The Casa Batlló in Barcelona, designed by architect Antoni Gaudi.



## Admission Tickets

Instead of simply buying tickets to the sights you want to see, consider taking a tour. This will benefit you in many ways:

1. Many of Europe's sights can have very long wait lines. By taking a tour you will often skip the line and make better use of your time.
2. You will receive explanations of what you see from local experts. This can enrich your experience and make it easier for you to understand the relevance of everything you see.
3. Don't waste your precious vacation time planning what you are going to do each day or shopping around for the right tour. By pre-booking your activities you can guarantee that you will see the sights you traveled around the world to see; make sure you have the best experience possible!

## City Cards and Passes

City Cards are your one-stop shop for a fantastic trip. It's a specially designed sightseeing package that provides you with everything you need to discover the city. The package is a bit like an "all you can eat" buffet - once you've purchased your city card you don't have to pay to get into any of the attractions covered by the pass; the more sights you see, the more money you save. This can especially come in handy if you're hiring a private guide, as your entrance fees are not always covered in the cost of the tour. It can also allow you to skip the line at many sights and attractions.

- **SEVILLA CARD** ~ This is a tourist card that entitles its holders to free access to most of the museums and monuments in the city and its surroundings, several Tourist Buses, a guided boat tour on the Guadalquivir River, and much more. Sevilla Card holders will benefit from discounts in restaurants, shows, clubs, discos and Isla Magica. The card is available in 24, 48, and 72-hour time limits.
- **BARCELONA CARD** ~ With Barcelona's tourist card, visitors are granted access to 17 different facilities, museum discounts, cultural venues, leisure centers, restaurants, shops and other services. The card also includes free public transport, which means you get access to metro and city buses of TMB and FGC city, suburban train network, trams, and Renfe trains in zone 1. Barcelona Cards are available in 2, 3, 4 or 5-day timeframes.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

