



The Traveling Professor and GoWay Travel Presents

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPAIN

MADRID • TOLEDO • SEVILLA • CORDOBA • GRANADA • ALHAMBRA

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Spain is known for its history, architecture, art, culture, and food. It is one of the most fascinating and desirable places to visit in all of Europe. The Traveling Professor and GoWay Travel have put together a Spain itinerary to provide a fascinating travel experience to talk about for years to come.

Day 1, October 1: Arrival in Madrid

Make your own way to the hotel and be greeted by your English-speaking tour leader. He/she will be with you for the duration of the trip. Check and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. This evening, join us to walk through the winding narrow streets to find the best tapas places and hideouts in the city. Be like a local Madrileños and enjoy drinks and authentic tapas at each of the 3 stops. For centuries, Madrid boasts of the finest farm products and bounty from the seas. Take the chance to taste Iberian ham, chorizo, local cheese, gazpacho, croquettes, and more. What a great start to the trip!

Accommodation: 4* hotel in Madrid (4 nights)

Day 2, October 2: Madrid

Visit two of Madrid's most important sights in a half-day guided morning tour. Enter the Royal Palace and admire one of the best-preserved palaces in Europe. Skip the lines and dive right into the history of this beautiful palace, double the size of Buckingham Palace in London. Built in an Italian baroque style, it was the former residence of the Spanish Monarchy from 1766 to 1931. Today, it holds the most important receptions of the Spanish Crown. Know the audiences, dinner parties and signature of agreements celebrated through the years. Walk around the Armory Square. Marvel at the beautiful tapestries and elegant furniture. Follow your guide through the Grand Staircase, the Throne Room and the Banqueting Hall, among others. Once the guided tour finishes, travel to the Prado Museum, displaying some of the most important artworks by artists such as El Bosco, Goya and Rubens. The Prado is overwhelming in scope and size, but your guide makes it easy. Learn about some of the most important works and backstories. The current exhibition holds more than 1.000 paintings of four different centuries.

The rest of the day is free to enjoy at your leisure.

Day 3, October 3: Madrid

Full day at leisure.

Day 4, October 4: Toledo

After breakfast, depart for Toledo. Enjoy the dramatic scenery on the way. Follow your local guide on a walking tour of this historic city. Once Spain's capital, it is a unique and fascinating mix of Arab, Jewish and Christian cultures. Visit the Cathedral of Toledo, considered one of the most important Gothic Cathedrals in Spain. Admire the stained-glass windows decorating the 36 naves and discover the history of this great monument. See more than ten paintings by El Greco and wander around the location listening to your guide. The tour continues to the Synagogue of Sta. Maria la Blanca. Originally built as a synagogue, it was expropriated and became a Church only 211 years after it opened its doors. Today, it is an incredible museum of Mudejar (Arabic) style. Admire the world-famous painting by El Greco - The Burial of the Count of Orgaz - at the Church of St. Tomé. Return to Madrid.

Day 5, October 5: Sevilla

After breakfast and hotel check-out, transfer to Madrid railway station. It's a high-speed train journey to Sevilla. Upon arrival, meet your private transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, enjoy an artistic walk through the city. Discover monuments such as the Giralda or the Cathedral of Santa María de la Sede, the Mudejar architecture and many other elements that constitute the Andalusian historical and artistic heritage. You will be shocked by the Gothic- Mudejar beauty of the Reales Alcázares and amazed by the dimensions of the Cathedral of Saint Mary. Walk through the streets and the courtyards of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the old Jewish quarter of Seville, the second largest Jewish community in Spain. See where Columbus proposed to Ferdinand and Isabella the radical idea that the world was round and his plan to sail to India on the Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria. Of course, we all know what was discovered instead! The tomb of Columbus can be visited in the Seville Cathedral.

Accommodation: 4* hotel in Sevilla (3 nights)

Day 6, October 6: Sevilla

Full day at leisure.

Day 7 October 7: Cordoba

Depart the hotel in the morning and head to Cordoba. Tucked into a bend of Guadalquivir River, the Andalusian town of Córdoba has a glorious Moorish past. While its old wall evokes the history of a long-ago empire, its elegant cityscape and convivial squares show modern pride. Typical of southern Spain, it is a people-friendly place filled with energy and color. You will love the visit here!

Once in Córdoba, we will discover one of the most beautiful and unique buildings in the world, the Mosque. This monument offers us an exceptional journey through the History of Art and Architecture. Next, we will start visiting the wonderful Jewish Quarter of Cordoba, full of life, shops, its most emblematic streets like as the alley of flowers, a joy for the senses, to the plaza of the great Maimonides.

Free time for lunch. Return to Sevilla.

Day 8, October 8: Sevilla and Granada

Breakfast and check out of the hotel. Depart by private coach and head to Granada. Arrive in Granada and the rest of the day is free to enjoy at your leisure.

Accommodation: 4* hotel in Granada (2 nights)

Day 9, October 9: Alhambra in Granada

In the morning, enjoy a private 3-hour tour with a local guide. On the itinerary is one of the most fascinating places on earth, the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Alhambra Palace and gardens. Protected by mountains and barricaded by a rocky river, the Alhambra strikingly rises above the city. There is nothing else like it. Then, a visit inside reveals its soft and authentic side. Originally designed as a military area, the Alhambra became the residence of royalty and the court of Granada in the middle of XIII century. The complex of monuments has also an independent palace opposite the Alhambra; the Generalife, which is surrounded by orchards and beautiful gardens, which can also be visited.

Afternoon, free time at leisure to discover the city on your own.

Day 10, October 10: Departure

Breakfast and check out of the hotel. Say goodbye to your group and make your own way to the airport or wherever your next destination may be.

ABOUT OUR SMALL GROUP TOURS

We travel with a small group of 12-18 active adults. This offers the flexibility to do what we want to do, on our own schedule. Transportation on excursions is by private van with our group and our group only.

Breakfast is included each day of the tour. As noted on the itinerary, some lunches and dinners are included. All other meals are not included.

Well in advance of departure date, each traveler is supplied with a "final" detailed itinerary along with a complete and detailed information packet. It has advice on packing, money matters, passports, weather, etc. We make sure travelers are well-prepared. And of course, we are always available to personally answer any questions you may have.