











# INSIGHT VACATIONS

## *Amazing Spain & Portugal*





## KEY

-  Central Hotels + Nights
-  Scenic Hotels + Nights
-  Place Visited
-  Optional Place Visited
-  Trip Option
-  Cruise
-  Train
-  Join/Leave Options
-  Included Flights
-  UNESCO Heritage Site

## Day 1 | Welcome to Madrid



While in Madrid, explore the elegant boulevards, expansive parks and varied architectural styles. Join your Travel Director for dinner at a local restaurant and enjoy the opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers over a delightful evening of good food and wine.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Riu Plaza España, Madrid

## Day 2 | The old capital of Toledo and on to Granada



Visit the fascinating city of Toledo, situated high above the River Tagus. This was Spain's capital during the Golden Era, where Arab, Jewish and Christian cultures flourished side-by-side through the Middle Ages. From here you will venture south to meet a local artisan in a Damascene workshop for a personal insight into this ancient craft, handed down by the Moors centuries ago. Then enjoy a walk within the city walls of Toledo, through the narrow cobbled streets, led by your Local Expert. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé, housing El Greco's famous painting, 'The Burial of the Count of Orgaz.' Your journey continues to Granada.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Vincci Albayzín, Granada

## Day 3 | The Alhambra Palace and Seville, City of Carmen



'Give him alms, woman, because there is nothing sadder in life than being blind in Granada', proclaims the inscription on the walls of the Alhambra. Bathed in the morning light, the Alhambra Palace awaits—a fantasy of arabesque gardens, fountains and stone cut like lace. Explore with your Local Expert before visiting the exotic water gardens of the Generalife, the summer residence of the Spanish royals. Take a moment to relax in the sunshine as you enjoy the fine views over the town and its three verdant hills before continuing on to Seville.

Visit the Seville Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus.

Explore the city with Insight Choice. Choose to embark on a walk through the old Jewish quarter. Alternatively, enjoy a drive with panoramic views.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Meliá Sevilla

**Andalusian Evening & The Atmosphere Of Old Seville** - Enjoy a delicious array of alluring Andalusian specialities in a local restaurant with wine included. Perhaps round off the evening with a stroll through the atmospheric squares and lanes of Seville's old quarter, which has a magical charm by night.  
Adult: 65.00 EUR

#### Day 4 | Free Time and Flamenco in Seville



This day is yours to completely relax or continue exploring this fascinating city. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to Córdoba and visit the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th-century mosque with a Christian cathedral built inside it? Later, visit the Cristina Heeren Foundation, a beneficiary of a TreadRight Foundation grant, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. This private dance school is dedicated to promoting the conservation of flamenco and supports young enthusiasts from all over the world with a special focus on new talent from the Andalusian region. Feel the passion behind the choreography as you put your rhythm to the test during a dance lesson before witnessing emotions come to life in a flamenco performance.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Meliá Sevilla

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Cordoba & the Mezquita** - Join your Local Expert for a walking tour of the perfectly preserved Moorish city of Cordoba. The highlight is undoubtedly the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th-century mosque with a Cathedral built inside. Walk through the forest of horseshoe shaped arches to the Baroque choir stalls of the Cathedral and the richly ornamented Mihrab prayer niche, with free time to enjoy this amazing city.  
Adult: 60.00 EUR

#### Day 5 | Évora and on to Lisbon



Continue to the lively university town of Évora, one of the best preserved medieval towns in Portugal, with architectural styles dating back to Roman Times. Visit the fascinating Capela dos Ossos, a chapel decorated with 5000 bones, before making your way to Lisbon.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Turim Saldanha

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

**Lisbon by Night** - Drive to Restauradores then, with your Local Expert, enjoy a gentle walk through Rossio across the Baixa to discover the beautiful views of Santa Justa, the arch of Augusta, St George's Castle and the Cathedral. Enjoy a drink at sunset in

Commerce Square. There's free time for dinner before returning to your hotel.

Adult: 24.00 EUR

**Seafood Dinner By The Tagus River** - Across the mighty Tagus River await Lisbon's famous traditional restaurants and wonderful views of the city. Board your ferry to cross the wide blue waters for a delightful evening of Portuguese seafood and fish specialities. After dinner, encounter more sweeping views over the Portuguese capital, as you return to your hotel via the impressive suspension bridge.

*Local crab will usually be available on the menu for a €7.00 supplement.*

Adult: 69.00 EUR

*\* Due to operational reasons, the ferry may not be used on some departures and we will travel over the bridge both ways.*

## Day 6 | Lisbon and the Age of the Discoveries



During your stay, a guided orientation of the city with your Local Expert takes you to visit the Belém Quarter and enjoy a taste of Pastéis de Belém from the patisserie that has been using the same, secret recipe for almost 200 years. View the Monument to the Discoveries and the historic Belém Tower. This fortress was originally set in the middle of the river, but is now left high and dry on the riverbank. Visit the National Coach Museum. With the afternoon at your leisure, consider joining an Optional Experience to the beautiful Portuguese Riviera.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Turim Saldanha

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Excursion to the Royal Portuguese Riviera** - Like the Kings of Portugal before you, travel along the Portuguese Riviera. With your Local Expert, see the glamorous resort of Cascais and the wealthy playground of Estoril, with its famous Casino and learn of the inspiring people who frequented Portugal's Golden Triangle. Finally, a visit to Queluz Palace — all veritable jewels in the crown of Portugal.

Adult: 58.00 EUR

**Fado Evening** - Known as "the soul of the Portuguese identity", Fado is the emotive national song. Take in an unmissable performance of this UNESCO-recognised art in one of the country's famed Fado houses. To complete the experience, savour a typical Portuguese dinner with drinks included.

Adult: 80.00 EUR

## Day 7 | Holy Fátima and Salamanca



Travel into the green hills north of Lisbon to visit Fátima, the most celebrated place of pilgrimage in Portugal. Visit the chapel commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary to three children in 1917. Cross the border, returning to Spain and continue to Salamanca, famous for its golden stone buildings and the handsome arcades of the Plaza Mayor. Across the River Tormes, see the Puente Romano with 15 of its 26 arches dating from the time of the ancient Romans.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Alameda Palace, Salamanca

## Day 8 | Ávila and Madrid



Cross the rock-strewn hills of the Castile, to arrive at Ávila. Admire the impressive city still entirely enclosed within its 11th-century walls, a unique occurrence in Europe. Return to Madrid to explore more of the capital with your Local Expert. At a local restaurant, join your Travel Director and newfound friends for a lively dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana

## Day 9 | Depart Madrid



Today, your remarkable journey comes to an end as you transfer to the Madrid-Barajas Airport. Take a moment to reflect on the unforgettable experiences, meaningful connections and enriching encounters that have shaped your travels.

**Meals:** Breakfast