

JOURNEY IDEA:

"INTRIGUING SPAIN"

12 DAYS, LAND TRANSPORTATION BY COACH

Day 1: Fly to Europe

[In-flight meals]

Day 2: Madrid

Transfer to the hotel; check in.

Spend the afternoon relaxing from the flight before our Spanish Fiesta Welcome Dinner.

[D]

Day 3: Madrid

The capital of Spain is known for its outstanding art, beautiful parks, broad, tree-lined avenues, fabulous cuisine and flamboyant nightlife. Join our city tour this morning including the Prado, Spain's national museum of paintings, and view masterpieces by Goya, Velázquez, El Greco, Rubens and Titian.

Afternoon and evening at leisure.

[B]

Day 4: Madrid – Toledo - Córdoba

We motor past the "Hill of the Angels", the geographical center of the Iberian Peninsula, to the imposing town of Toledo. This former capital, where Moors, Jews and Christians once lived in harmony, is now a living national monument. See the cathedral, and wander in the footsteps of El Greco at the Chapel of Santo Tomé.

Continue to Córdoba, the ancient city of caliphs, one of Spain's oldest cities and the greatest embodiment of Moorish heritage in all Andalusia. See the Mosque (or "Mezquita"), completed in 987 by Al Mansur, and come to face with a forest of gleaming pillars of precious marble, jasper and onyx, rising to a roof of red and white horseshoe arches, one of the most characteristic traits of Moorish architecture.

Take a walk through the narrow streets this evening or visit the Museum of Bullfighting.

[B, D]



Day 5: Córdoba - Seville

In the late morning we depart for the heart of Andalusia, its capital Seville. Home of the legendary Don Juan and river port for Columbus' return from America, Seville exudes romance, history, tradition and art.

Explore Seville on a walking city tour this afternoon and visit its great cathedral, the largest Gothic building in the world and third largest church in Europe, holding priceless art, Columbus' tomb and St. Ferdinand's relics. Also see the Alcazar, a magnificent 14th century Mudejar palace.

In the evening, investigate the intriguing Barrio de Santa Cruz, Seville's colorful medieval quarter, on your own. [B]

Day 6: Seville

All day today is free to roam Seville; catch up on your souvenir shopping, join a cruise on the Guadalquivir river, or visit "Isla Magica", the city's theme park located on an island of the river. Clap your hands to the rhythm of fiery Flamenco music at our farewell show and dinner tonight.

[B, D]

Day 7: Seville – Torremolinos

Two days of life on the beach await you as we head south to the province of Málaga. Our port of call, Torremolinos, was a quaint fishing village just 30 years ago and is nowadays one of the main resorts on the Costa del Sol.

[B, D]

Day 8: Torremolinos

All day at leisure

[B, D]

Day 9: Torremolinos - Granada

Today, board AESU's luxury, air-conditioned motor coach and travel to Granada.

After check in, stroll through the ancient winding streets of the Albaicin, Granada's old Moorish quarter, founded in 1228.

[B, D]



Day 10: Granada, Overnight Train to Barcelona

The last stronghold of the Moors, Granada is renowned for its incomparable Alhambra. Originally a hilltop fortress turned into a lavish Moorish palace, the Alhambra is one of the finest examples of Islamic art and architecture in the world. This morning, join our local expert for a tour of the Alhambra.

Tonight, let the clickety-clack of track lull you to sleep as our overnight train takes us north to Barcelona.

[B, D]

Day 11: Barcelona

The capital of Catalonia is Spain's second- largest city, center of commerce and fashion, and its industrial muscle. On our city tour, see Gaudi's unfinished cathedral of Sagrada Familia, the Olympic sites of Mont Juïc, the Gothic Quarter and the Picasso Museum.

Later this afternoon, stroll along Las Ramblas and take part in the locals' favorite past time activity, people watching.

Share memories of your time in Spain with your friends tonight at our Farewell Dinner.

[B, D]

Day 12: Travel Home

Bid farewell to Spain as you board your flight bound for home.

[B, In- flight meals]

