



# Spectacular Spain

May 5 – 17, 2017

*Moorish, modern and inspirational. Find Moorish arcades, French Gothic styling and Romanesque arches all over Spain along with the works of Golden Age artist Velazquez and 18<sup>th</sup> century Goya in Madrid's Prado Museum...whitewashed Andalucian villages...the magnificent Alhambra, the sultans' palace in Granada and the flower draped balconies of Seville...the amazing Roman aqueduct of Segovia, the ancient walls of Avila and so much more*

## ITINERARY

### **MAY 6** Arrive in Madrid, Spain

Welcome to Madrid! At 6 pm, meet our Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner with wine at the hotel. Dinner

### **MAY 7** Madrid

The capital since 1561, Madrid today is a strikingly modern city, the showcase of a country resolutely turned towards the future. Our Local Guide takes us to the Puerta del Sol, Plaza de España with its monument to Cervantes, the Parliament, Cibeles Fountain, elegant Calle Alcalá, and Paseo de Castellana. Then, the highlight: a visit to the palatial PRADO MUSEUM with its priceless art treasures. Breakfast



### **MAY 8** Madrid–Toledo–Granada

Spectacularly situated on a granite hill surrounded by a loop of the Tagus River, the ancient Castilian capital of Toledo attracts more sightseers from all over the world than any other Spanish town. A Local Guide takes us to the Moorish bridge, an early SYNAGOGUE, the 13th-century gothic CATHEDRAL, and the CHURCH OF SANTO TOMÉ with one of El Greco's most famous paintings. Also visit a DAMASCENE STEEL WORKSHOP and taste traditional Santo Tomé, the local marzipan produced in Toledo since 1856, before arriving in history-steeped Granada. This evening, a special dinner with wine has been prepared for us at a local restaurant. Breakfast/Dinner



### **MAY 9** Granada–Costa Del Sol

See the sights of Granada with a Local Guide and visit its main attraction, the ALHAMBRA COMPLEX. The mighty yet graceful citadel was planned by 13th-century Moorish ruler Al Ahmar. A fantasy of "lace in stone" surrounded by arabesque gardens and fountains, it affords superb views of the Old Quarter and Sacromonte, a mountain occupied by Gypsy cave dwellers. Also amble through the magnificent WATER GARDENS OF THE GENERALIFE, the royal summer residence. Then, turn towards the sea, away from the mountains, to lively Torremolinos on the Costa del Sol. Breakfast

### **MAY 10** At Leisure on the Costa Del Sol

Today is our chance to join an optional excursion (70.00 euros per person) to the Rock of Gibraltar, in British hands since 1704. Later, enjoy the sandy beaches, browse through the trendy boutiques, and sample the many fancy restaurants. Or you can enjoy the magnificent beaches here on the glistening Mediterranean. Torrimolinos is full of fun shops and restaurants. The choice is yours. Breakfast

### **MAY 11** Costa Del Sol–Ronda–Jerez–Seville

Visit picturesque, historic Ronda, perched on a platform of the Sierra de Ronda and cut in two by a deep ravine, and visit the impressive Plaza de Toros. Next is Jerez, famous for its sherry wines and magnificent horses of mixed Spanish, Arab, and

English blood. Visit a SHERRY BODEGA for a tasting, accompanied by local tapas. Then, on to Seville, the vibrant capital of Andalusia. Breakfast/Dinner

### **MAY 12 Seville**

Hear about the city's role in Roman times, its conquest by the Moors in 712 AD, and its contribution to the discovery of the New World during our guided sightseeing tour. Admire Maria Luisa Park, the Golden Tower on the Guadalquivir River, and the university that used to be the tobacco factory of Carmen fame. Also visit the ALCAZAR, founded in the 11th century as a Moorish fortress, with its Palacio de Don Pedro. Then, stroll through the narrow lanes of the charming SANTA CRUZ QUARTER. For those interested, an optional (20.00 euros per person) extended guided visit to the cathedral is available. Tonight, for a truly Andalusian night out, reserve a seat at our optional (70.00 euros per person) Flamenco show. Breakfast



### **MAY 13 Seville–Cordoba–Madrid**

During our guided walking tour of Cordoba, see the Alcazar, the Roman Bridge, and the medieval Jewish quarter. Tour the magnificent 8th-century MOSQUE OF THE CALIPHS, famous for its 850 pillars of porphyry, marble, and jasper. Next, drive north from the fertile valley of the Guadalquivir River through the arid landscapes of Don Quixote's La Mancha back to Madrid. A dinner with wine awaits at our hotel. Breakfast/Dinner

### **MAY 14 Madrid - Segovia**

After breakfast we will travel to Segovia. Just 50 mi (80 km) north of Madrid, Segovia transports you back to a distant time in history. From its ancient Roman aqueduct to its 13th century castle, this city is full of symbols representing its inhabitants of the past. Originally established by the Romans, Segovia later became a summer retreat for Spanish monarchs to hide away in their castle on the hillside. The castle, known as the "Alcazar", was destroyed in the 19th century and rebuilt in the fairytale fashion we see today. It is even rumored to have inspired the fanciful castle of Walt Disney's Sleeping Beauty. Another landmark of Segovia is the cathedral, built in the late Gothic style with many flourishes and adornments to its exterior. Taking nearly 200 years to complete, the cathedral is a monument to the end of the Gothic era and a symbol of Spain's devout Catholic roots, boasting beautiful sculptures and altarpieces. After a late morning arrival the balance of the day is at leisure. Tonight we will enjoy dinner included at a popular local restaurant. Breakfast/Dinner

### **MAY 15 Segovia**

Today we will have a guided tour of the UNESCO listed city of Segovia. We will visit the massive Roman aqueduct and explore the Gothic cathedral and fairy tale-like Alcazar fortress-palace. The beauty of this ancient city will amaze you. The balance of the day is at leisure. Breakfast



### **MAY 16 Segovia – Avila - Segovia**

We have a full day tour of the UNESCO listed city of Avila. We will learn about Santa Teresa de Jesus, a great mystic woman of the Roman Catholic Church. Avila also has the most ancient and completely fortified complex in Spain. Its 8,200-foot-long wall (about 2,500 meters) and its 90 fortified towers surround the old city, which houses a great part of its monumental treasures, including a large number of Romanesque-style churches, gothic palaces, and a fortified cathedral of the 12th century. After our tour we'll return to Segovia for the night. Breakfast

### **MAY 17 Segovia – Home**

Transfer this morning to the Madrid airport for flights home. Arrive home this evening. Breakfast

**Great hotels in great locations:** (subject to change)

Madrid – Innside Suecia (F)

Granada – Hotel Saray (SF)

Costa del Sol – Melia Costa del Sol Torremolinos (SF)

Seville – Sevilla Center Hotel (SF)

Madrid – NH Principe de Vergara (F)

Segovia – Hotel Convento Capuchinos (D)



## Tour Includes:

- Arrival transfer in Madrid
- Sightseeing by luxury coach
- Professional tour director
- 11 nights First Class and Superior First Class or Deluxe hotels
- Full breakfast daily
- 5 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as indicated in the daily itinerary
- Services of VIP World Travel hosts
- All local taxes, hotel service charges
- Portage for one suitcase per person

Note: The cost of a departure transfer from Segovia to the Madrid airport on May 17 is not included in the cost of the trip. This cost will be advised based on the number of group members traveling together to the airport for flight departure.

There are several optional excursions available during this tour in Torremolinos and Seville. Prices for these optional tours are listed in the itinerary and can be booked once we are on the tour.

**Tour Price:** Per person based on two people sharing a room

**\$2740.00**

**Single supplement: \$770.00**

**Prices listed do not include airfare.**

**VIP World Travel will help you arrange your air. Please contact us.**

Book and deposit no later than November 29, 2016 and receive a \$200 per person discount!!

Offer may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice.

### DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT and TRAVEL INSURANCE

**DEPOSIT:** A deposit of \$400 per person is required to confirm your reservation.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** is due by Feb. 24, 2017

**CANCELLATION PENALTIES:** From date of deposit until there is a cancellation penalty of \$250 per person. For cancellation from Feb. 24 to April 6 the penalty is 25% of the trip cost. For cancellation from April 7 to April 27 the penalty is 50% of the trip cost. For cancellation April 28 or later the penalty is 100% of the trip cost.

**COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE** is highly recommended.

**Insurance premiums must be paid with deposit.**

Per Person cost: \$299

Based on two sharing a room

Singles: \$357

### Required Documentation

A valid passport is required for this trip and must be good for at least 6 months past the date of your return home.

## VIP World Travel

4971 Ringwood Meadow

Sarasota, FL 34235

941-377-0017 or 800-323-7448

email: [mail@vipworldtravel.travel](mailto:mail@vipworldtravel.travel)

Website: [www.vipworldtravel.travel](http://www.vipworldtravel.travel)





### Fun Facts

- Spain was among the most powerful empires in the world during the 16th century.
- Soccer is the most popular spectator sport in Spain.
- The locals of Spain have lunch at 2:00 pm and dinner around 9:00 to 10:00 pm.
- Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain to find the New World.

Spain...a country with breathtaking landscapes, picturesque villages and towns, hilltop castles, Moorish palaces, and historic cities. Typical Spanish scenery includes mountains, vast plains, vineyards, and groves of citrus, almond, and olive trees. With a territory of 195,000 square miles, Spain is only slightly smaller than its northern neighbor, France, but has almost 20 million less inhabitants. Architecture from throughout the centuries is represented—from Gehry's futuristic Guggenheim Museum in the north to the dramatic Moorish Alhambra palace (a carefully preserved heritage from the Phoenicians, Romans, and Moors) in the south. The wealth of Spanish culture conjures up Cervantes' 16th-century book *Don Quixote* and the internationally renowned operatic voices of Plácido Domingo, Jose Carreras, and Montserrat Caballé— not to mention the Iglesias family. Famous artists Velasquez, Goya, Picasso, and Dali all hailed from Spain, and their works can be admired in the country's magnificent museums. But the real essence of Spain is captured in the unique and passionate combination of voice and dance that is Flamenco, an experience not to be missed. Spain has an international and varied cuisine; thanks to the long coastline, there is plentiful fresh fish and seafood, and dining venues range from the most sophisticated to the rustic bodega. *Paella* is its most famous dish, and excellent wines are produced throughout the country.