

JEWELS OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL - 2010

10 days incl. travel, or 9 days from Madrid to Madrid (6790)



Vacation Overview

This exciting adventure introduces you to the fascinating major cities of the Iberian Peninsula, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Begin with an overnight and free time in the Spanish capital of Madrid. Then, visit fortified Avila and pretty Salamanca, pearls of the Castille region, and cross the Sierra da Estrela into Portugal to reach Coimbra, a charming hillside town that overlooks the Mondego River. Stop in Fatima to see its famous sanctuary, then on to the awesome walled city of Obidos with its towers and bastions. Spend two nights in Lisbon and discover explorer Henry the Navigator's exquisite city. Back into Spain via the Sierra de Aracena for two overnights in Seville, a lively city on the banks of the Guadalquivir River. The vibrant city center boasts many stunning highlights, including the Cathedral, the Alcazar, and the Plaza d'España. Admire the Andalusian landscapes on the way to Cordoba with its Alcazar and lovely Mezquita. Travel across Don Quixote's La Mancha, known for its castles and windmills, and return to Madrid for the final two nights of your vacation.

Special Departures:

Mar 25th Departure - Holy Week in Seville
Apr 15th Departure - Feria in Seville

Itinerary

Day 1 Thu. BOARD YOUR OVERNIGHT TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT

Day 2 Fri. ARRIVE IN MADRID

Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to start exploring lively Madrid. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers. (Dinner)

Day 3 Sat. MADRID–AVILA–SALAMANCA–COIMBRA, PORTUGAL

Journey west to fortified Avila, then on to Salamanca, just six miles from the spot where Wellington routed Napoleon's army in 1812. Make sure you spend some time wandering around Salamanca's Plaza Mayor, the most beautiful square in Spain. Leave Salamanca and head westwards to the fortress town of Ciudad Rodrigo, perched high above the Rio Agueda. A profusion of woodlands and mountains awaits you as you journey into the valley of the Sierra da Estrela on your way for an overnight in Coimbra. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 4 Sun. COIMBRA–FATIMA–OBIDOS–LISBON

This morning, enjoy an orientation tour of Coimbra, strategically situated on a hill overlooking the Mondego River. Next, Fatima. Stop here to see the sanctuary, made famous by the Virgin's apparition to three shepherd children, Francisco, Jacinth, and Lucia, on May 13, 1917. A few more miles for a stop in Obidos, a fortified city still flanked by towers and bastions overlooking the countryside dotted with windmills. Overnight in Lisbon. (Breakfast)

Day 5 Mon. LISBON

Henry the Navigator made Lisbon the 15th-century mistress of the seas. You'll see his monument, the Belem Tower, the Moorish Citadel, the impressive Black Horse Square, and other highlights on the guided sightseeing excursion. Spend the afternoon in the Alfama's tile-decorated streets, or take an optional excursion along the Estoril Coast to Cascais and Sintra. (Breakfast)

Day 6 Tue. LISBON–SEVILLE, SPAIN

Drive southeast this morning into the Alentejo through the countryside famous for its production of cork. Then, on to the border at Vila Verde and cross into Spain for the journey into Andalusia, enjoying quite different scenery as you skirt the Sierra de Aracena before reaching delightful Seville

Explore the beautiful city of Seville, the artistic, cultural, and financial capital of Southern Spain

for two overnights. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 7 Wed. SEVILLE

One of Spain's most colorful cities. Perhaps you'd like to spend the morning enjoying an optional sightseeing tour including the main highlights of this vibrant city. (Breakfast)

Day 8 Thu. SEVILLE–CORDOBA–MADRID

Drive north towards Carmona, an Old World country town dominated by an ancient Alcazar, to Cordoba. This is Spain's most Moorish city with its great mosque, which is rightly known as

one of Islam's greatest pieces of architecture outside the Arab world and now a Catholic cathedral since 1236. Later, into the very heart of La Mancha, famed for its castles and windmills. Overnight in Madrid. (Breakfast)

Day 9 Fri. MADRID

Not only is it the capital of Spain, but because it is situated 2,180 feet above sea level, the Spaniards rightly say Madrid is the nearest thing to heaven. Enjoy the main highlights on the included guided sightseeing excursion. The optional trip to Toledo is rewarding in more ways than one; the splendid setting of this old walled city above the Tagus was made famous in El Greco's painting, and even now it's like a great open-air museum of Spanish history and art. (Breakfast)

Day 10 Sat. YOUR HOMEBOUND FLIGHT ARRIVES THE SAME DAY. (Breakfast)

Optional Excursions

Here's a list of optional excursions you can enjoy during your vacation. Whether it's a special dinner, a local show or a special behind-the-scenes glimpse into an historical site, optional excursions are a wonderful way to enrich your vacation even further. Plus, they give you flexibility. We include the must-see sites and experiences, and we also understand that people take interest in different activities and may want to craft a more personal vacation by hand-picking optional excursions that appeal to them.

Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, days of operation, group interests, and general feasibility for your vacation. The approximate value listed gives you a good, general idea of what you can expect to pay but may vary once you are on your vacation. Some information provided might be in a foreign currency; you can use our online [currency converter](#) for exchange rate information.

CITY: Cordoba

Moorish Cordoba

The most Moorish-looking of all Spanish cities. Visit the Medina and the Street of Flowers: see the Roman bridge and Moorish water mills. Highlights are the huge Mosque and now Christian cathedral since 1236. Walk through the Jewish quarter, Old Synagogue and Cordoban courtyards.

Approximate value: EUR €30 per person

CITY: Lisbon

A Real Portuguese Evening

Treat yourself to a tasty dinner at Café Luso, the most renowned Fado and folklore restaurant in Portugal, located in the former wine cellars within the arched vaults of the 17th century palace of Saint Roque. Then, sit back and enjoy the after-dinner entertainment. On the way back to your hotel, enjoy unforgettable views of the illuminated city.

Approximate value: EUR €50 per person

Sintra & Portuguese Riviera

Drive along the scenic ocean road -- the Portuguese Riviera -- past the cosmopolitan town of Estoril. Stop in Cascais, a small but bustling fishing port and resort, for optional lunch. Then to Sintra, favorite resort area of Portuguese royalty through the centuries. Highlight is a visit to the 15th-century Royal Palace decorated with the most important collection of 16th-century tiles in Europe. Free time to shop or sightsee before returning to Lisbon.

Approximate value: EUR €35 per person

CITY: Madrid

Madrid By Night & Tapas

An authentic Spanish food experience in a tapas restaurant situated in the centre of the capital: typical gourmet food such as "pisto manchego" (vegetables) with egg, Iberian ham & cheese, Spanish omelette and many other specialities. After dinner, an orientation drive of Madrid to admire the city with its splendid avenues, illuminated fountains and beautiful promenades.

Approximate value: EUR €35 per person

The Majestic City Of Toledo

The panoramic view of the city is an awesome experience, and visiting Spain's main Cathedral is truly unforgettable. See one of El Greco's most famous paintings, the "Burial of Count Orgaz", in the church of Santo Tome. Drive through Castilian landscapes to the old capital on the Tagus River. Time for a visit to a Damascene steel workshop.

Approximate value: EUR €45 per person

CITY: Seville

Dinner And Flamenco Show

A typical dinner to discover the Sevillian cuisine. After the meal, enjoy a flamenco show with professional artists, some of whom are national prize winners.

Approximate value: EUR €55 per person

Splendors Of Seville

A panoramic drive through the centre of Seville to the outskirts of the city for a visit to Italica, a Roman city founded by Scipio. The Roman ruins include an amphitheatre, baths, theatre and various buildings containing mosaics. The 2,200 year old city is the birthplace of emperors such as Trajan and Hadrian. Return to the city centre and after a walk through the Santa Cruz Quarter enjoy a visit to the magnificent Cathedral, which is the third largest Christian temple in the world. (For Tour 6820 visit will be made to Casa de Pilatos, as the Cathedral is closed on Sunday mornings for mass).

Approximate value: EUR €30 per person

Vacation Highlights

INCLUDED FEATURES

Visits to Avila, Salamanca, Coimbra, Fatima, Obidos, Seville.

SCENIC HIGHLIGHTS

Sierra da Estrela, Andalusia, La Mancha

INSIDE VISITS - Inside visits and special features are shown in the description, including admission charges when applicable.

GUIDES

Local Guides for city sightseeing in Lisbon and Madrid. Services of a professional Tour Director while touring.

Accommodations

MEALS - (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner Buffet breakfasts (B), 3 dinners (D)

HOTELS - (F) First-Class (ST) Superior Tourist-Class (T) Tourist Class

Madrid Abba (F), Coimbra Dom Luis (ST), Lisbon Roma (ST), Seville Don Paco (ST), Madrid Praga (F)

TRANSPORTATION Scheduled transatlantic flights and airport transfers in Madrid if Cosmos issues the air tickets. Touring by private first-class air-conditioned motorcoach.

Dates and Prices

View the following dates and prices to find just the right date for your vacation. Below you'll find the date you'll depart, the date the vacation starts and date you'll return.

Departure Details	Departure Date	Tour Start Date	Return Date	Land/Cruise Price Only
	7/8/2010	7/9/2010	7/17/2010	\$1,045.00
Popular Departure	7/22/2010	7/23/2010	7/31/2010	\$1,045.00
Popular Departure	8/5/2010	8/6/2010	8/14/2010	\$1,045.00
Popular Departure	8/19/2010	8/20/2010	8/28/2010	\$1,045.00
	9/2/2010	9/3/2010	9/11/2010	\$1,109.00
	9/9/2010	9/10/2010	9/18/2010	\$1,109.00
Popular Departure	9/16/2010	9/17/2010	9/25/2010	\$1,109.00
	9/23/2010	9/24/2010	10/2/2010	\$1,109.00
Popular Departure	9/30/2010	10/1/2010	10/9/2010	\$1,065.00
	10/7/2010	10/8/2010	10/16/2010	\$1,065.00
Popular Departure	10/14/2010	10/15/2010	10/23/2010	\$1,009.00
Popular Departure	10/21/2010	10/22/2010	10/30/2010	\$1,009.00
Early Booking*	3/3/2011	3/4/2011	3/12/2011	\$989.00
Early Booking*	3/17/2011	3/18/2011	3/26/2011	\$989.00
Early Booking*	3/24/2011	3/25/2011	4/2/2011	\$1,105.00
Early Booking*	3/31/2011	4/1/2011	4/9/2011	\$1,105.00
Early Booking*	4/14/2011	4/15/2011	4/23/2011	\$1,105.00
Early Booking*	4/25/2011	4/26/2011	5/4/2011	\$1,105.00
Early Booking*	5/12/2011	5/13/2011	5/21/2011	\$1,105.00
Early Booking*	5/26/2011	5/27/2011	6/4/2011	\$1,105.00
Early Booking*	6/9/2011	6/10/2011	6/18/2011	\$1,105.00
Early Booking*	6/23/2011	6/24/2011	7/2/2011	\$1,045.00
Early Booking*	7/7/2011	7/8/2011	7/16/2011	\$1,045.00
Early Booking*	7/21/2011	7/22/2011	7/30/2011	\$1,045.00
Early Booking*	8/4/2011	8/5/2011	8/13/2011	\$1,045.00
Early Booking*	8/18/2011	8/19/2011	8/27/2011	\$1,045.00
Early Booking*	9/1/2011	9/2/2011	9/10/2011	\$1,109.00
Early Booking*	9/8/2011	9/9/2011	9/17/2011	\$1,109.00
Early Booking*	9/15/2011	9/16/2011	9/24/2011	\$1,109.00
Early Booking*	9/22/2011	9/23/2011	10/1/2011	\$1,109.00

Popular Departure - due to itinerary and time of year, this departure historically sells out quickly. Early booking is encouraged.

Single room supplement:

\$400

No triple room reduction.

* Indicates that this departure and vacation is available for 2011 early booking. 2010 saw the lowest prices to Europe in recent history. Get this vacation on the books and save by paying 2010 prices for your 2011 European vacation. Price protection only applies to those tours that currently offer 2011 dates and prices and only with full, per person deposit. All tours will be open for 2011 bookings in the Fall of 2010. Vacation upgrades and/or additions will not be available for early booking, as well as, any extra pre- or post-night pricing until the Fall of 2010. With the exception of Journeys Club coupons, future travel promotions are not applicable and are not retroactive on early bookings.