

## Spain + Portugal Private Tour

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

### Overview

Similar to the Spanish-speaking countries of South America, Spain epitomizes a love-of-life culture with unlimited culinary, historical, and visually striking landscapes. Spain’s three official languages illustrate strong regional distinctions and the cultural mosaic that make up this country. Watch a clip of the Spanish national soccer team during the national anthem and you will notice there are no official words due to its highly contrasting languages and regional cultures! One moment you are strolling through the Gaudi-dominated streets of Barcelona and the next, you find yourself immersed in the compelling Moorish history and architecture of the breathtaking Andalucía.

In tandem with Spain, the small but impressive country of Portugal awaits to amaze you! Due to its long and slim geography, there are 600 miles of beautiful coastline along the Atlantic Ocean, offering stunning views from almost anywhere you visit. Although tourism has been on the rise, it is one of the few places in Europe that does not have an overpopulation of visitors. With such a tie to the ocean, the seafood in Portugal is an important part of the cuisine and culture and is always fresh and delicious! If you are a wine lover, you will be pleasantly surprised by the selection and harvest that takes place throughout the country including the Port and Madeiran wines. Whether you are on the coast soaking in the views of the ocean or enjoying a night of camping in the Alentejo region to witness one of the clearest night skies in the world, you will leave with valuable memories found in this hidden gem!

<u>SPAIN</u>	<u>PORTUGAL</u>
<b>Temperature Range</b> Highs: Mid 70’s Lows: High 40’s	<b>Temperature Range</b> Highs: High 70’s Lows: Low 60’s
<b>Area</b> 505,990 SQ KM 195,364 SQ MILES	<b>Area</b> 92,212 SQ KM 35,603 SQ MILES
<b>Population</b> 46.4 Million	<b>Population</b> 10.3 Million
<b>Language</b> Spanish (Castilian) and variants	<b>Language</b> Portuguese
<b>Capital</b> Madrid	<b>Capital</b> Lisbon
<b>Currency</b> Euro	<b>Currency</b> Euro

### **Day 1**

#### **Fly to Barcelona**

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

### **Day 2**

#### **Arrive Barcelona**

Upon arrival in Barcelona, you will be privately transferred to the Mercer Barcelona. Architecturally striking Barcelona is not only among our favorite cities in Europe, it’s one of our favorite cities in the world. In addition to being home to some of the world’s best-preserved Medieval and Gothic monuments and sites, Barcelona proudly features the many art treasures of its genius native son, Antoni Gaudi. Later this evening, your guide will take you on a private “tapas” tour.

### **Mercer Hotel Barcelona**

The Mercer Barcelona is a boutique luxury hotel in the heart of the historic Gothic Quarter. With just 28 rooms and suites, the hotel offers a personal and tranquil experience in the middle of the hustle and bustle of this busy city! Upon entering, you are greeted by a unique design that features exposed stone from the original building, welcoming colors, and a stunning glass structure with a seating area in the middle offering natural light and greenery. Rooms vary in layout, but all have the essence of the natural architecture of the building that has been refurbished to give guests a unique experience while also catering to modern needs. The location's advantage is its proximity to main attractions within walking distance and a quieter sleep away from the loud streets and areas. You will love your stay at this top-notch boutique hotel and appreciate the historic features, with a feel of staying in an ancient ruin with luxurious amenities!

**Meals: --**

**Accommodations: Mercer Barcelona**

### **Day 3**

#### **Barcelona Full Day Private Tour**

After a breakfast, you will be met by your private guide and driver for a day of discovering Gaudi's incomparable architectural masterpieces. Along with visiting the massive (and still to be completed!) Sagrada Familia, you'll visit his surreal park La Pedrera, Casa Batllo, and Parc Guell. For lunch, we suggest a popular and fresh fish restaurant and perhaps a sampling of paella.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Accommodations: Mercer Barcelona**

### **Day 4**

#### **Train to Madrid + Museum Visits**

Today you will take a high-speed train to Spain's capital, Madrid. In just 2.5 hours, arrive and be met by our representative who will privately transfer you to your hotel. Madrid is really the epicenter for art in Spain, home to both the Prado and Reina Sofia National Center of Art. You may wish to visit these world-renowned landmarks to see works by such artists as Goya, El Greco, Velázquez and Rembrandt.

#### **Principal Hotel Madrid**

This luxury boutique hotel is housed in a historic building dating back to 1917, integrating historic and architectural features with modern touches of chic and upscale interior. Located on the popular Gran Via, the hotel is a quiet escape from nearby attractions with a calm and cool interior. The 76 rooms and suites are spacious and bright and offer high ceilings and big windows with a contemporary aesthetic. All rooms include desks, safes, free shoeshine service, Nespresso machines with coffee, and hot water kettles for tea. When you're not out touring or relaxing in your room, the hotel has a fine dining restaurant and a rooftop terrace bar. If you're in need of wellness benefits, the hotel has a wellness suite with a sauna and a small fitness area where a personal fitness session can be arranged. We especially love this hotel's location, close to numerous cafes, restaurants, bars, theaters, and high-end shops.

## **Hotel Urban Madrid**

With its signature Art Deco-style decor, the Urban is a luxurious 5-star boutique hotel located in the heart of Madrid. This location is ideal as it is in the heart of the city's "Golden Triangle" made up of the Prado Museum, the Thyssen-Bornemisza and the Fundación Reina Sofia. The hotel is also close to some of Madrid's main attractions, including the Paseo del Prado, Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, and Retiro Park. The property has 96 rooms and suites, all with a local flair and modern amenities. We especially love the Asian and African art and decor throughout the hotel! It also has a small Papua New Guinea Museum located right in the hotel for its more prized and special items. There is a restaurant on site that has recently been awarded a Michelin Star, CEBO, run by head-chef Aurelio Morales. It specializes in contemporary Mediterranean cuisine all made with seasonal and local produce. The other restaurant option, Glass Mar, is Ángel León's latest project. This option focuses on a sharing seafood menu, as well as cocktails and fine wines. A rare attribute is the rooftop pool lined by lounge chairs, but the hotel is also home to a small fitness center. You stay at the Urban is sure to be both cultural and luxurious!

### ***Meals: Breakfast***

### ***Accommodations: Principal Madrid or Hotel Urban Madrid***

## **Day 5**

### **Full Day Madrid Private Tour**

After breakfast at your hotel, begin a day of exploring Madrid with a private guide and driver. Perhaps the most visited landmark in the city, the Royal Palace is a stunning representation of the Spanish Royal Family. Aside from the impressive marble and white stone exterior, the interior is a lavish display of themed rooms open to visitors, such as the porcelain room where even the walls are made of the material! After your royal experience, continue on a city tour to Retiro Park, Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol, and more!

### ***Meals: Breakfast***

### ***Accommodations: Principal Madrid or Hotel Urban Madrid***

## **Day 6**

### **Train to Seville**

Once you arrive at Seville Railway Station, you will be met by our local representative and transferred to the Hotel Alfonso XIII for check-in. After freshening up, you will be picked up by our representative and transferred to Tablao El Arena! Here you will experience a genuine flamenco show, reputed by Seville locals.

## **Hotel Palacio de Villapanes Seville**

The Hotel Palacio de Villapanes is a gorgeous early 18th-century traditional baroque-style palace in the eastern part of the historic district in Seville. The property is now a luxury boutique hotel combining traditional elegance with a modern touch. The palace is made up of marble columns and tiles, ornate archways, and parquet floors. Although the skeleton of the palace has a historic feel, the decor of modern luxuries mixes beautifully with Spanish tradition. With 50 total rooms and suites, the elegant and stylish chambers maintain the soul of the palace and a few architectural aspects but offer high-end amenities and stunning rich accent colors such as dark-hued walls and white crown molding. The dark marble bathrooms are also a favorite, giving a sense of both luxury and serenity to guests. The location of the former palace is an added benefit, allowing guests an intimate and quiet experience while only a 15-minute walk to major attractions including the cathedral, Basilica de La Macarena, Archivo de Indias, and the Metropol Parasol. If guests are looking to

relax in their downtime, the hotel does have a small spa including a sauna, a Turkish bath, and a fitness center. The rooftop terrace also offers another kind of relaxation, with stunning views of the city (beautiful at sunset!) and a dip in the plunge pool. There is a small restaurant on-site that specializes in tapas, as well as breakfast being served in the palace's old wine cellars.

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Accommodations: Hotel Palacio de Villapanes Seville**

## **Day 7**

### **Seville Full Day Private Tour**

After breakfast at Hotel Alfonso, you will be met by your guide and driver for a full-day private tour of Seville, the capital of Andalucia and the true essence of southern Spain. Among major historical sites: the most impressive 15th century Seville Cathedral (the third-largest in the world and resting place of Christopher Columbus), La Giralda Moorish tower, and Alcazar. You will also walk through the maze of narrow streets in Barrio de Santa Cruz.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: Hotel Palacio de Villapanes Seville**

## **Day 8**

### **Transfer Seville/Lisbon + Evora Stopover**

Meet a driver at your hotel and begin your transfer to Lisbon, about 4.5-hours away. En route, enjoy a stop in the Alentejo region's capital, Evora, for a delicious lunch and wine tasting. After lunch, take about an hour to explore the historic village, such as "Bones Cathedral" and the Dianna Temple! After your visit, continue to your hotel in Lisbon.

### **Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisbon**

The recently renovated Tivoli Avenida Liberdade welcomes you to its attractive 286 room/suite property in the heart of Lisbon! This upscale hotel is located along bustling Avenida da Liberdade, one of the most expensive shopping streets in Europe. Its ideal location puts you walking distance from main attractions, restaurants, and nightlife – making for a very nice home base. Rooms are simple and elegant and offer a tranquil space of modern amenities to enjoy during your stay. Rooms and suites have separate sitting areas plus Nespresso coffeemakers. Bathrooms are modern and sleek, with marble tiled tubs and showers, white countertops, premium toiletries, hairdryers, and magnifying mirrors. The hotel has two exclusive restaurants and bars, including a Sky Bar with breathtaking views over the city. The food specializes in fresh seafood that comes from local sources along the coastline. When you're not out exploring Lisbon, you are free to unwind at the hotel's Anantara full-service Spa.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Accommodations: Tivoli Avenida Liberdade**

## **Day 9**

### **Lisbon Full Day Private Tour**

On this full-day tour of Lisbon, enjoy learning the history and culture at the epicenter of Portuguese life. Along your tour, you will visit the Alfama district, Belém, Jeronimos Monastery, Bairro Alto, Castelo de S. Jorge, etc. As a special treat, make your way to Pastéis de Belém for the famous pastel de nata, a delectable Portuguese pastry.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: Tivoli Avenida Liberdade**

## **Day 10**

### **Transfer to Porto or Duoro Valley**

From your hotel in Lisbon, drive 3 hours north to the city of Porto with stops along the way. Stops can include but are not limited to Sintra, Obidos, Fatima, and Coimbra.

### **Le Monumental Palace Porto**

Making its debut for the French group Maison Albar's presence in Portugal, Le Monumental Hotel is a brand-new property on what locals call the "Champs Elysee of Porto". Monumental Palace is situated on the wide Avenida dos Aliados, one of the prettiest avenues in the city and home to Porto's early-twentieth-century grandeur. The hotel itself has a lavish "Gatsby" theme and decor, making guests feel the vintage luxury from the moment they arrive. There are 63 rooms in total and 13 grand suites, each individually decorated, and color schemed. The rooms have high ceilings and windows, allowing for natural light to take over and illuminate the space. The suede textured walls are a guest favorite as they are a unique accent of the hotel's character! There are three restaurants on-site, all overseen by Michelin starred chef Julien Montbabut. Spa lovers have a real treat here as Le Monumental is home to the only Nuxe Spa in all of Portugal.

### **Six Senses Douro Valley**

With an unbeatable location in the Douro Valley on a 19-acre vine-planted hillside, the luxury Six Senses hotel welcomes guests to revel in the stunning panoramic views of the rolling green valleys and Douro River. The property is a traditional 19th-century manor house as its exterior, but upon entering, guests will be greeted by a more contemporary style. There are a total of 60 rooms and suites, all of which have been recently renovated to contain large floor to ceiling windows, gray limestone baths, natural materials, and an authentic Portuguese design mixed with the Six Senses touch. Some rooms/suites even contain private balconies, bridges that lead to hidden gardens, and private pools. The main focus of the hotel is wellness, showcased by the award-winning full spa, inspired by the natural elements of wood, stone, and water. In addition to the indoor and outdoor pools, a yoga deck, and a gym with state of the art equipment, the spa also offers multi-day programs aiming to assist guests in their wellness journey with local treatments and therapies. The restaurant on site is open throughout the day serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner – incorporating all local and fresh ingredients in their dishes, even from their own gardens! Maintaining an eco-friendly concept is important to staff, who also donate 50 cents of all water bottle sales to local charities.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: Le Monumental Palace Porto or Six Senses Douro Valley**

**Day 11**

**Full Day Private Douro Valley Tour**

Enjoy a full day exploring the UNESCO Douro Valley! Flowing through Porto and all the way to Spain, the Douro River offers stunning views of the region and gives life to the infamous Port wine harvested here. During your excursion, stop at a favorite local winery for lunch and to taste the various Ports. Perhaps even take a cruise on the river to take in the gorgeous landscape from the water.

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch***

***Accommodations: Le Monumental Palace Porto or Six Senses Douro Valley***

**Day 12**

**Transfer to Porto Airport + Depart to U.S**

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: --***