



# Spain & Portugal in Depth 2018

15-Day Grand Circle Tour

## EXTEND YOUR TRIP

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**PRE-TRIP**

*Barcelona, Spain*

**POST-TRIP**

*The Island of Madeira, Portugal*

Your Day-to-Day Itinerary

## GRAND CIRCLE TRAVEL

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Grand Circle Travel, founded in 1958 to serve the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP), is the leader in international travel and discovery for Americans over age 50. Grand Circle vacations have been recommended by *The New York Times*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Travel + Leisure*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel*, and others. But our most impressive reviews come from our travelers. More than two million people have traveled with us, and the overwhelming majority say they'd gladly do so again.

## YOUR GRAND CIRCLE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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During your Grand Circle vacation, you'll have reliable assistance available at all times from an on-site local Grand Circle Travel Program Director throughout your trip. He or she is fluent in English and can give you an inside perspective on your destinations. You will also be supported along the way by local tour guides, who lead you expertly through particular sites and cities.

Many Program Directors are graduates of professional education programs for travel guides. In addition, they receive specialized training directly from Grand Circle, based on what we've learned from past travelers about how to make the trip most enjoyable. Your Program Director offers both a deep knowledge of the region and a commitment to make this a very pleasant, informative, and rewarding travel experience for you.

He or she will provide sightseeing trips, handle all travel details, reserve optional tours you choose to take, oversee your Discovery Series events, and provide any other assistance you may need.

## INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » Choose to **purchase Grand Circle's airfare**, and your airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges are included. Or, make your own air arrangements
- » **Accommodations** for 13 nights in comfortable rooms with private baths
- » **22 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 6 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Lunch)
- » **12 included features:** 10 guided tours and 2 exclusive Discovery Series events: Home-Hosted Lunch · Horse-breeding farm visit
- » Exclusive services of a local **Grand Circle Program Director** (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
- » **Gratuities on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers**
- » **Personal headset** for all included and optional tours on your main trip
- » Private motorcoach land travel
- » Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- » **5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip—an average of \$215**

## WHAT THIS TRIP IS LIKE

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### GROUP SIZE

- » A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Program Director

### PACING

- » 5 locations in 14 days

### PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- » Walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs
- » Two days of this trip may require 4 miles of walking and 3-4 hours of optional physical activity
- » Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters

- » Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- » We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

### TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- » Uneven walking surfaces, unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and cobblestones
- » Travel by 45-seat motorcoach

### CLIMATE

- » Daytime temperatures range from 51-85°F during touring season
- » June-August are the warmest months
- » November and December weather can be unpredictable and change quickly

# Spain & Portugal in Depth 2018

*From peaceful, whitewashed villages where time stands still to ornate mosques and palaces that reawaken the majesty of the Moorish past, your discoveries in Spain and Portugal are framed by a coast and countryside of exquisite beauty. On a journey that leads you through modern cities and medieval towns filled with architectural wonders, you'll encounter a welcoming people who are devoted to their proud heritage and eager to share the joys of a vibrant culture.*

## EXTEND YOUR TRIP

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### ***Barcelona, Spain***

4 NIGHTS PRE-TRIP

*Discover a vibrant confluence of medieval charm and modern, avant-garde grandeur in one of Europe's greatest cities. Barcelona's grand boulevards, narrow Barri Gotic alleyways, coastal views, and fairy-tale architecture are an invitation to discovery that reveals a wealth of cultural and historical gems.*

### ***The Island of Madeira, Portugal***

5 NIGHTS POST-TRIP

*Discover the lush island of Madeira, known as the "floating garden of the Atlantic." From your seaside hotel in Funchal, the island's capital, you'll tour this flower-bedecked and culturally rich city. Later, explore the island in depth on optional tours, or seek out the vineyards where Madeira wine is made.*

## DETAILED ITINERARY

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### Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly from one of several U.S. gateway cities to Madrid, Spain.

### Day 2 Arrive Madrid, Spain

Arrive today in Madrid to begin your tour of Spain. You are met at the airport by a Grand Circle representative and transferred to your hotel. You have the balance of the day to relax after your overseas flight. This evening, join your Program Director and fellow travelers, including those who took our *Barcelona, Spain* pre-trip extension, for an orientation walk to get to know your surroundings.

Dinner is on your own this evening. Your Program Director will be pleased to share dining suggestions with you.

### Day 3 Madrid • City tour

Vibrant Madrid—the highest capital city in Europe—may put you in mind of the paintings of Velazquez, with clear blue arching skies that gave rise to the phrase, “*De Madrid al cielo*” (“Madrid is the next thing to heaven”). One of the few European capitals not settled by the Romans, it became Spain’s capital city in 1561, when Philip II moved his court from Toledo to the city in which he had been born. Located at the geographic center of Iberia, Madrid was a crossroads of the peninsula and remains a thriving cultural and artistic center, with the liveliest nightlife in the country.

Set out this morning to discover its highlights on an included panoramic tour. Among the sights are the exterior of the 18th-century *Palacio Real* (Royal Palace), an opulent,

2,800-room complex inspired by France’s Versailles. You’ll also admire the Plaza de Espana, the city’s main square. After your Madrid city tour, you’ll have the remainder of the day to do as you please.

Lunch is on your own today, and your choices are endless. Make your own discoveries this afternoon. Perhaps you will visit one of the city’s greatest attractions: the Prado Museum. Intended as a natural science museum when it was conceived in 1785, it evolved into the repository of the royal art collection by the time it was completed in 1819, and is now one of the world’s most renowned art galleries.

Or, if you prefer, return to the Royal Palace to explore its ornate royal apartment, banquet hall, Royal Armory, and Royal Library with its first edition of *Don Quixote*. Stroll the austere Plaza Mayor, one of Europe’s largest public squares; or simply relax at a cafe and encounter the legendary friendliness of this welcoming city, melting pot for all the varied regions of Spain.

Savor an authentic taste of Spanish cuisine and get acquainted with your traveling companions over a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

*Breakfast, Dinner*

### Day 4 Madrid • Optional El Escorial tour

Make your own discoveries this morning, or join us on an optional tour of the imposing El Escorial, a 16th-century architectural masterpiece completed in 1584 as a residence for the King of Spain and a monastery for the Hieronymite monks. Designed at the height of Spain’s international power, the

structure's floor plan was actually inspired by descriptions of the Temple of Solomon. Set at the foot of Mount Abantos, the enormous gray granite complex is the resting place of 500 years' worth of Spanish kings.

The afternoon is yours to spend as you wish. Dinner is on your own tonight.

*Breakfast*

### **Day 5 Madrid • Toledo tour • Granada**

After breakfast this morning, you will begin your transfer to Granada. Just an hour along the route, however, lies a stop that is bound to be a highlight of your trip: medieval Toledo—a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and capital of Spain until the 16th century.

Picturesquely set on a hill overlooking the Tagus River, Toledo proudly preserves its 2,000-year history in more than 100 buildings and monuments. At its peak, between the eleventh and 13th centuries, it was known as the “City of Three Cultures” for the harmonious co-existence of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities.

Breathe in this remarkable history as you embark on a walking tour along the narrow, cobble streets of Toledo's center, enjoying the striking blend of Moorish-Mudejar-Jewish, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture. You'll view El Alcazar, the 16th-century Moorish citadel that stands at a point originally fortified by the ancient Romans and which dominates the city skyline. You'll also discover Toledo Cathedral, which you'll have the opportunity to enter so as to view the stunning artistry contained within.

After your Toledo tour, you'll continue on your way to Granada, arriving at your hotel this evening, where dinner is included.

**Please note:** On select departures the cathedral may be closed, and only the exterior will be available for viewing.

*Breakfast, Dinner*

### **Day 6 Granada • The Alhambra**

This morning, you'll tour the mighty Alhambra, one of Granada's greatest sights. When the Moors crossed the Strait of Gibraltar in AD 711, they claimed a hillside city that had been founded by the Romans and later settled by Visigoths, yet whose history dates to pre-historic times—Granada, which is believed to mean “great castle.” The Moors chose Granada as the site to build their own mighty citadel—one of the great architectural wonders of all time: the Alhambra.

Even from a distance, the Alhambra is a breathtaking sight, sprawling over a hilltop overlooking the city. Construction of the Alhambra began during the 13th century and continued over centuries, resulting in a mix of surfaces and styles. Enjoy an included tour of this complex of palaces and courtyards, a deliberate effort to create a paradise on Earth. Pass by patios, graceful arches, cupolas, fountains, and pools, the Royal Palace, the harem, and more.

After your tour of the Alhambra is concluded, you'll set off on a short walking tour of Granada before stopping in at a local restaurant in the city's old town for an included lunch where you'll experience a classic Spanish culinary tradition—tapas. These small sampler plates allow you to taste a wide range of Spanish specialties.

The rest of the day is yours at leisure after lunch to explore Granada at your own pace. Dinner is on your own tonight.

*Breakfast, Lunch*

## **Day 7 Granada • Malaga • Home-Hosted Lunch • Torremolinos**

Travel to Spain's southern coast after breakfast, stopping along the way for an included walking tour of the Old Town of Malaga. Malaga is the main city of coastal Andalucia, and retains a distinctly Spanish flavor, with twisting, narrow streets and a lovely waterfront promenade. Tall palm and plane trees, bougainvillea, aloes, and geraniums make a luxurious tropical paradise alongside the clean, modern port. This is Picasso's birthplace, and was a popular winter holiday site for the 19th-century wealthy. A leisurely walk then takes you past the ruins of an ancient Roman theater, built more than 2,000 years ago.

After your tour, you'll get a taste of typical Spanish life as you join a local family in their home for an intimate visit and a freshly cooked meal, accompanied by wine. Together, you'll improvise a way to share conversation and learn more about one another—this usually involves the international language of hand signals and smiles! During this exclusive Discovery Series event, you'll enjoy an authentic and unique interpersonal exchange and come away with a deeper understanding of the local culture.

Bid *adios* to your gracious hosts, and continue on to Torremolinos, arriving at your hotel later in the day. The rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure. Dinner is on your own tonight.

*Breakfast, Lunch*

## **Day 8 Torremolinos • Optional Gibraltar tour**

You have the day free in Torremolinos. Perhaps you'll take a walk to La Carihuela, the original fishing village that was once

all there was to Torremolinos. Today, its many cafes and restaurants are still the best places to go for fresh local seafood. Try *pez espada* (swordfish), *pescaito frito* (fish fried in olive oil), or the local specialty, *pescado a la sal* (bream or sea bass baked in a crispy coating of sea salt).

Or, you may join us on our optional tour to Gibraltar. Located at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula and settled over a millennium ago by the Phoenicians—and consequently by Arab sultans and Spaniards—Gibraltar today is a British territory.

We'll begin by discovering a man-made wonder as we navigate a network of underground military tunnels created by the British during World War II to protect soldiers and equipment from bombings. Then, we'll visit Europa point at the end of the Rock of Gibraltar, where on a clear day you may be able to take in views of Africa across the water.

We'll stop for an included lunch in the quaint fishing village of Catalan Bay, and the rest of the day is free for discoveries on your own. Perhaps you'll explore Gibraltar's ancient walls—a collection of gates, walls, and bastions surrounding the inner city. While first built by the Moors, later modifications were made by both the Spanish and the British. Today, the government of Gibraltar is in the process of restoring the structures to their original beauty and might.

*Breakfast*

## **Day 9 Torremolinos • Ronda**

Discover Ronda on an included tour today. One of the oldest cities in Spain, lovely Ronda—nicknamed the “Dream City” by the poet Rainer Maria Rilke—enjoys a lofty

setting on a promontory overlooking El Tajo, a spectacular 360-foot-deep river gorge. Readers of Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* will recognize El Tajo as the place from which Fascists were thrown to their deaths during the Spanish Civil War.

Though its roots are in pre-historic times, Ronda is like many Andalucian cities in that it saw its glory days under Moorish rule. Conquered by the Christians in 1485, Ronda was one of the last strongholds of the Arabs, and Arabic architecture dominates the old city, set on one side of the ravine. On the other side of El Tajo stands El Mercadillo (the "new" city), constructed mostly during the 18th century. Connecting the two halves of the city is the *Puente Nuevo* (New Bridge), an amazing architectural feat built between 1755 and 1793 and spanning a dizzying drop over the gorge.

You'll get a sense of both facets of the city during an included tour. Admire the whitewashed houses with charming balconies that line the winding streets of the old town, and view Santa Maria la Mayor, once the city's Great Mosque and later rebuilt as a Gothic Christian church. You'll also see the Palace of Mondragon, where Moorish kings and later King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella took up residence.

After your tour, enjoy time for lunch on your own in the old city before returning to Torremolinos, where the rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner is on your own this evening.

*Breakfast*

## **Day 10 Torremolinos • Cordoba • Seville**

Travel to Seville after breakfast, stopping along the way for an included walking tour of beautiful Cordoba, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Once capital of the Western world, Cordoba was founded by the ancient Romans at the highest navigable point of the Guadalquivir River, where it was easiest to ship olive oil, wheat, and wine back to Rome. It was after its conquest by the Moors in AD 711, however, that the city grew to become the largest in the world.

Today, Cordoba is best known for its most famous landmark, the Mezquita (Great Mosque)—the third-largest mosque in the world. The Mezquita was built during the tenth century, while Cordoba was in its glory as the capital of the Moorish kingdom of El-Andalus, one of the wealthiest and most powerful cities in Europe, and an important center for science, education, and the arts.

In AD 929, the Cordoba region broke away from the Islamic center, Baghdad, and formed its own independent kingdom, falling into anarchy shortly afterward. The city was conquered in 1236 by King Ferdinand, a Christian who had the mosque consecrated and constructed a cathedral in the middle of it, while still preserving the remarkable beauty of the original structure.

During your escorted tour of Spain's historic cultural capital, you'll find that Cordoba is often a study in contrasts: Moorish and Christian, old and new. You'll pass by a reconstruction of the original Roman Bridge and enter the synagogue—the only ancient synagogue still standing in Spain outside Toledo. You'll also stroll through the *Juderia* (Jewish Quarter), admiring the famous Andalucian patios of pretty ceramics, iron grilles, and plants.

Your tour culminates at the Mezquita. Here you'll stroll through the courtyard, filled with orange trees and fountains, to the entryway, where you'll be greeted by 850 stunning



granite and marble arches of various colors, illuminated by sunlight streaming through the cupolas. At the center of the mosque, find the 16th-century Renaissance cathedral with its mahogany pulpits and choir stalls. Surrounding the cathedral, the mosque remains largely untouched since the eleventh century, revealing some of the finest Islamic architecture in Spain.

After your tour, you'll have time to find lunch on your own and make your own discoveries in Cordoba before moving on to Seville along the *Ruta de los Pueblos Blancos*—the “Route of the Whitewashed Villages.” You'll see several of these classic Andalusian villages tucked into hillsides and framed with greenery during your scenic ride. Arrive in Seville later today, and enjoy a few hours of leisure before an included dinner at your hotel.

**Please note:** *The synagogue may be closed on select departures, at which time only the exterior will be available for viewing.*

*Breakfast, Dinner*

### **Day 11 Seville • City tour • Flamenco show**

Located on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, Seville is fabled to have been settled by Hercules, and its wealth of magnificent monuments and buildings attest to its long and storied history. Founded by the Tartessians, the city was later settled by the Romans, and two of Rome's great emperors, Trajan and Hadrian, were born here. Seville was occupied by the Moors from AD 711 until 1248, and many of its most fascinating monuments date to that period. Today, Seville occupies a special place in Spanish culture, with its fiestas, bougainvillea, and strolling

musicians. The fourth-largest city in Spain, Seville is also renowned as the birthplace of *flamenco* and Don Juan.

A half-day included tour this morning reveals the city's highlights, including the resplendent Plaza de Espana, designed for the Ibero-American Exhibition of 1929, incorporating elements of Renaissance style infused with a contemporary Spanish flair, as well as the Barrio de Santa Cruz, a lovely neighborhood known for its maze-like cluster of narrow streets. Your Program Director will help you wind your way amidst the whitewashed homes, impressive mansions, and charming plazas, such as Plaza de Santa Cruz and Plaza de las Cruces. Admire—and smell—the flowering pots adorning the private patios that you pass. You'll also take in the architectural feat that is Seville Cathedral on this tour, as you admire its towering facade, and go inside to tour its vaulted halls, which purport to contain the remains of Christopher Columbus. **Please note:** *Official ceremonies may prevent entrance into the cathedral at certain times.*

The remainder of the day is yours to explore at leisure. Visit the Alcazar, official Seville residence of Spanish royalty. Explore the exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts, whose collections include works by Murillo and El Greco. Browse the shops along the Calle Sierpes, Seville's main shopping venue. Or simply relax at a cafe and enjoy the colorful whirl that is Seville.

Tonight, enjoy an included dinner performance of the *flamenco*, the intensely emotional dance that was created here.

*Breakfast, Dinner*

## Day 12 Seville • Horse-breeding farm visit • Lisbon, Portugal

Today, you'll ride through the sweeping Portuguese countryside on your way to Lisbon. Along the way we'll stop in the region of Alentejo, where you'll visit a working horse farm and enjoy an exclusive opportunity to chat with the owners. You'll learn the wrenching story of how many families here lost their lands to the communists and the difficulties they encountered regaining their holdings. A horse presentation in the arena will give you the opportunity to learn the differences between breeds of horses raised here.

After an included lunch at the farm, transfer to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, where you'll check into your hotel this evening. Dinner is on your own tonight.

*Breakfast, Lunch*

## Day 13 Lisbon • City tour

After breakfast, discover Lisbon on an included tour. Built on seven hills, Lisbon has been Portugal's capital since the 13th century, and the area around the steepest hill, Sao Jorge, was first settled by Phoenicians in the twelfth century BC. They were followed by Carthaginians, Romans, several Germanic tribes, and Visigoths. In AD 714, the Moors captured Lisbon, and held it for the next 400 years.

Portuguese explorers began colonizing parts of Africa and Asia at the beginning of the 15th century. Vasco da Gama set sail for India from Lisbon in 1497, and the city became a center for successful voyages of discovery throughout the East and the New World for the next 300 years. The immense riches brought back by these explorers and navigators ushered in a period of building and expansion that gave

birth to the new Manueline architectural style, with its ornately carved decorative motifs. You'll see the best example of this style of architecture in the historic section of Belem. Here you'll see the 16th-century church of the Jeronimos Monastery, containing Vasco da Gama's tomb, the ornate Belem Tower, and the Monument of the Discoveries. **Please note:** *On select dates, the interior of the Jeronimos Monastery may be in use for official purposes and will be closed to visitors—on these dates, only the exterior of the building will be viewed.*

The rest of the day is yours in Lisbon. Spend some time in the Alfama district, and enjoy the winding alleyways where the city's Moorish heritage thrives. Venture to St. George's Castle, constructed by the Moors on the site of a fifth-century Visigoth fort and once the residence of Portuguese kings. Admire the elegant carpets and crafts at the Museum School of Decorative Arts. Visit Chiado, a fashionable shopping district. Enjoy lunch on your own at Lisbon's wide array of restaurants and cafes. Dinner tonight is included at a local restaurant.

*Breakfast, Dinner*

## Day 14 Lisbon • Sintra & Cascais

This morning, embark on an included excursion to Sintra and Cascais. Begin at the Royal Palace in Sintra, dating back to the Middle Ages. During time on your own in Sintra, you'll see why well-traveled English poet Lord Byron called the town "the most beautiful in the world." Then continue to Cascais, a one-time humble fishing village that has grown into a lively coastal resort town.

**Please note:** *On days when Sintra Palace is closed for holidays or official celebrations, we will visit the Queluz National Palace instead.*

Enjoy the afternoon, then gather with your fellow travelers for a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

*Breakfast, Dinner*

### **Day 15 Return to U.S.**

Early this morning, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or begin your post-trip extension to *The Island of Madeira, Portugal*.

*Breakfast*

## OPTIONAL TOURS

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During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Program Director. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2-3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2-3 months following your return.

**Please note:** *Optional tour prices include gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers, are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication, and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.*

### El Escorial

(Day 4 \$70 per person)

Discover extraordinary El Escorial, completed in 1584 as a residence for the King of Spain and a monastery for the Hieronymite monks. Designed at the height of Spain's international power, the structure's floor plan was actually inspired by descriptions of the Temple of Solomon. Set at the foot of Mount Abantos, the enormous gray granite complex is the resting place of 500 years' worth of Spanish kings.

### Gibraltar

(Day 8 \$110 per person)

Set off with us to discover Gibraltar on this optional full-day tour. You'll enjoy hearing some facts about the extensive history of this self-governing British territory, perched at the entrance to the Mediterranean and overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar. You'll have an orientation tour of this small territory, visit fascinating sites including the World War II tunnels and a quaint fishing village, and then enjoy time to explore at your own pace.

## PRE-TRIP

### Barcelona, Spain

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » **Air transportation** from Barcelona to Madrid
- » **Accommodations** for 4 nights
- » **4 meals:** 4 breakfasts
- » **2 included tours:** Barcelona & the Sagrada Familia basilica, Old City discovery walk
- » **Gratuities** on this extension for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- » Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- » All transfers

#### PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*Discover a vibrant confluence of medieval charm and modern, avant-garde grandeur in one of Europe's greatest cities. Barcelona's grand boulevards, narrow Barri Gotic alleyways, coastal views, and fairy-tale architecture are an invitation to discovery that reveals a wealth of cultural and historical gems.*

##### **Day 1 Depart U.S.**

Fly from one of several gateway cities to Barcelona.

##### **Day 2 Barcelona, Spain**

Arrive in Barcelona today. You'll be met at the airport and assisted to your hotel, where you'll greet the local Grand Circle Program Director who will be there to assist you throughout the duration of your pre-trip extension.

Enjoy the balance of the afternoon at leisure to settle into your room and relax after your flight. You are invited to join a short walk around the neighborhood of your hotel.

Capital of the autonomous region of Catalonia, Barcelona is the second-largest city in Spain and Europe's largest metropolitan area along

the Mediterranean Sea. Legend attributes the city's founding to the mythological Hercules, but historians believe the city was originally founded by the ancient Carthaginians around the third century BC. Since that time, Barcelona and the Catalonia region have flown under many flags. From the Romans and the Visigoths to the French and native Catalonians themselves, Barcelona's rich and varied history remains evident in the architecture and cultural pastiche of its warm and inviting people.

An abundance of sites and one-of-a-kind experiences make Barcelona one of the most-visited cities in the world, and while most travelers prefer to see the attractions by foot, you'll find an easy-to-navigate subway system connects you to all corners of the city.

As you explore, you'll find a bounty of culinary delights pulled from the sea. An assortment of oysters, shrimp, squid, fish and other seafood can be found at restaurants all over the city. Perhaps you'll have your first sample this evening, over dinner on your own. Your Program Director can give you some suggestions.

### **Day 3 Barcelona**

Get acquainted with Barcelona today during an included half-day tour.

As part of your explorations, you'll visit the famed Sagrada Família basilica. The massive UNESCO World Heritage Site is the unfinished masterpiece of Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. While construction of the church began in 1882, the colossal structure isn't scheduled for completion until 2026. Originally started by architect Francisco de Paula del Villar, Gaudí took over in 1883 and then devoted his entire life to its construction. When he died in 1926, after nearly 43 years of work on the basilica, the project was only 15 percent completed.

At first blush, the breathtaking mixture of Gothic and geometric Art Nouveau forms appear to be dripping in melted wax, but closer inspection reveals a meticulous stone tapestry depicting the life and acts of Jesus Christ. Once completed, the church will accommodate some 13,000 worshippers.

You'll also visit the wooded slopes of Montjuïc Hill, which hosts Castell de Montjuïc, a 17th-century fortress. Scattered along the hillside are buildings from the 1992 Olympic Games, including Santiago Calatrava's Olympic Needle.

The remainder of the afternoon is yours to soak up the splendors of Barcelona. Perhaps you'll visit the Museu Picasso, a gallery

devoted to Picasso's formative years. Or ride the old tram, Funicular del Tibidabo, to the top of Barcelona's highest mountain for an unparalleled view of the city.

*Breakfast*

### **Day 4 Barcelona • Optional Montserrat tour**

Today is yours to pursue your own interests in Barcelona. Perhaps you'll spend the day savoring the cuisine of the city. Be sure to try some tapas (platters of bite-sized food meant to be shared and sampled) at one of the many excellent restaurants during a day at leisure here.

Or, you can choose to join an optional half-day tour to Montserrat, a jagged mountain range outside the city which offers exhilarating hikes past peculiar rock formations and spectacular views of the Catalan countryside below. The mountain is also home to a Benedictine abbey, which hosts the Virgin of Montserrat, a Black Madonna statue which attracts many devout pilgrims.

*Breakfast*

### **Day 5 Barcelona • Old City discovery walk**

This morning, set off on a discovery walk of Barcelona's *Ciutat Vella* (Old City), the historic city center where famous landmarks seem to be hiding around every corner. After your walk, you'll have another day at leisure to enjoy the myriad attractions of Barcelona. Seek out more of the fascinating architecture throughout the city, including one of Gaudí's other masterpieces. While nowhere near as colossal as the Sagrada Família, Gaudí's luminous *Casa Batllo* is just as stunning. Referred to by locals as "the house of bones,"

this impressive building is decorated with a mosaic of broken ceramic tiles of golden orange and greenish blues that lend it its skeletal facade.

Or perhaps you'll spend some time in the sun on a visit to the golden beaches of Barcelona. Take a dip in the Mediterranean, unwind with a good book in the shade, or simply enjoy a *cerveza* (beer) in the salt-tinged breeze.

*Breakfast*

## **Day 6 Barcelona • Madrid**

After breakfast, you'll transfer to the airport for your flight to Madrid, where you'll begin your tour of *Spain & Portugal in Depth*.

*Breakfast*

## **OPTIONAL TOUR**

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### **Montserrat**

(Day 4 \$90 per person)

Explore Montserrat, a jagged mountain range outside the city which offers exhilarating hikes past peculiar rock formations and spectacular views of the Catalan countryside below. The mountain is also home to a Benedictine abbey, which hosts the Virgin of Montserrat, a Black Madonna statue which attracts many devout pilgrims.

## POST-TRIP

### *The Island of Madeira, Portugal*

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » **Air transportation** from Lisbon, Portugal to Funchal, Madeira
- » **Accommodations** for 5 nights
- » **5 meals:** 5 breakfasts
- » **Included tour:** Funchal
- » **Gratuities** on this extension for local guides and motorcoach drivers and all optional tours
- » Services of a local hospitality desk representative
- » All transfers

#### POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*Discover the lush island of Madeira, known as the “floating garden of the Atlantic.” From your seaside hotel in Funchal, the island’s capital, you’ll tour this flower-bedecked and culturally rich city. Later, explore the island in depth on optional tours, or seek out the vineyards where Madeira wine is made.*

##### **Day 1 Lisbon • Funchal, Madeira**

After your discoveries of *Spain & Portugal in Depth*, bid farewell to your Program Director and fly to the stunningly beautiful island of Madeira, some 500 miles southwest of Lisbon, known as the “floating garden of the Atlantic.” Enjoy the oldest tourist destination in Europe, known for the warm hospitality of the locals as well as its many scenic splendors. Fly from Lisbon to Funchal, Madeira’s five-century-old capital. You’ll be met at the airport and assisted to your hotel, where you’ll meet the local Grand Circle representative who will be available to assist you throughout your post-trip extension. After time to settle in, you’re welcome to join a short orientation walk to get acquainted with your surroundings.

##### **Day 2 Funchal • City tour**

This morning, enjoy a tour of Funchal, as you stroll along cobblestone sidewalks that wind their way into plazas lined with statues, churches, and shops where embroidery and wicker ware are local specialties. You’ll be introduced to such traditions, particularly the famous embroideries of Madeira, on this tour. You’ll also pass by historic monuments and museums that you may wish to revisit during your leisure time. You’ll have free time this afternoon to relax or to get acquainted with Funchal at your own pace. Colorful houses and a profusion of flowers adorn the mountainsides above the city’s magnificent bay. Your evening is at leisure to discover Funchal’s wealth of cultural, entertainment, and dining possibilities.

*Breakfast*



### **Day 3 Funchal • Optional Agriculture, Nature & Volcanic Rock Pools tour**

Today is at leisure for you to discover the charms of Madeira on your own.

Or join a full-day excursion to discover the best of western Madeira. First, you'll visit a working fishing village, Câmara de Lobos, to the south. Then view Cabo Girão, a point of striking beauty along the island's shoreline, where the highest sea cliff in Europe rises over 1,900 feet from the ocean's edge. Last, you'll discover Porto Moniz, famed for its natural swimming pools.

*Breakfast*

### **Day 4 Funchal • Optional High Peaks, Traditions & Gentle Eastern Charms tour**

Spend today as you please. Stroll among the many seaside cafes, shops, and gardens in Funchal. Perhaps you'll visit one of the famed wineries—terraced vineyards on the island's mountain slopes are the source of Madeira wine.

Or join an optional full-day excursion to eastern Madeira. You'll enjoy a closer look at three gems of the area on this excursion: Santana, a romantic village famed for its quaint cottages with their steep, thatched roofs; Ribeiro Frio, a natural park with its own trout hatchery; and the island's second-highest peak, Pico do Arieiro.

*Breakfast*

### **Day 5 Funchal**

Your final day in Madeira is for more discoveries at your own pace. You may choose to seek out the best gardens, admiring the profusion of color in plants like mimosa, bougainvillea, and bird of paradise.

*Breakfast*

### **Day 6 Madeira • Return to U.S.**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

*Breakfast*

## **OPTIONAL TOURS**

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### ***Agriculture, Nature & Volcanic Rock Pools*** (Day 3 \$90 per person)

Discover the best of western Madeira on this full-day excursion. First, you'll visit a working fishing village, Camara de Lobos, to the south. Then view Cabo Girao, a point of striking beauty along the island's shoreline, where the highest sea cliff in Europe rises more than 1,900 feet from the ocean's edge. Then you'll discover Porto Moniz, famed for its natural swimming pools.

### ***High Peaks, Traditions & Gentle Eastern Charms*** (Day 4 \$90 per person)

On this full-day excursion, you'll enjoy three gems of eastern Madeira: Santana, a romantic village famed for its quaint cottages with their steep thatched roofs; Ribeiro Frio, a natural park with its own trout hatchery; and the island's second-highest peak, Pico de Arieiro.