

Spain, Portugal & Morocco

16 Day Tour from Madrid to Madrid

Vacation Overview

On this Spain, Portugal, and Morocco tour, experience these three glorious countries with rich histories and distinct cultures. You'll overnight in Madrid, Seville, Granada, and the Costa del Sol in Spain; Coimbra and Lisbon in Portugal; and Rabat, Marrakesh, and Fez in Morocco.

The tour will start in Madrid, where you'll discover the main sights with a local guide. On the way to Portugal, visit Avila, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its ancient fortified towers and walls, and beautiful Salamanca. The Portuguese pearls you'll discover on this affordable tour are Coimbra, Obidos, Fatima with its famous Sanctuary, and the capital, Lisbon.

Cross the Strait of Gibraltar to Morocco on the African continent by ferry to step back in time in Rabat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Morocco's capital since 1912. Fez is still Morocco's cultural and spiritual center, and its centerpiece is the Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site founded in the 9th century and whose palaces, madrasas fondouks, residences, mosques, and fountains date back to the 13th-14th centuries.

Also founded in the 9th century, the red city of Marrakesh remains a tapestry of ramparts, mosques, palaces, gardens, vibrant public squares, and souks (markets). You'll get to know this fascinating city with a local expert on the included tour. Stop in Casablanca, Morocco's westernmost city and still known for the 1942 classic film with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. You will love the included guided visit to Granada's legendary Alhambra complex, a lavish palace and fortress built by Moorish kings in 889 AD, that you will appreciate even more after having visited Morocco.

These are just some of the many highlights on this comprehensive and affordable Spain, Portugal, and Morocco tour. It's a memorable budget vacation for value-minded travelers.





Itinerary

Day 1 **ARRIVE IN MADRID, SPAIN**

Check into your hotel. Take advantage of any free time to explore lively Madrid with the help of the CosmosGO app. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers.

 Dinner

Day 2 **MADRID**



Spaniards say the Spanish capital, situated 2,180 feet above sea level, is the nearest thing to Heaven. It's certainly worth making the most of today by joining the included guided sightseeing tour: a full panoramic drive by way of the Avenida Mayor, Puerta del Sol, Parliament Square, and a picture stop outside the Royal Palace. The optional trip to Toledo is most rewarding, too. 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 3 **MADRID-ÁVILA-SALAMANCA-COIMBRA, PORTUGAL**

Visit ancient fortified Ávila with its many towers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to Salamanca and make sure you spend some time wandering around Plaza Mayor, the grandest square in Spain. Cross the frontier to Guarda, the highest town in Portugal. From here, descend to the valleys of the Serra da Estrela to Coimbra.

Today's Distance: 329 mi/ 530 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 4 **COIMBRA-FÁTIMA-OBIDOS-LISBON**

Enjoy an orientation tour of Coimbra, celebrated for its beauty and ancient university. Later, travel southward to visit the Sanctuary of Fátima, one of Europe's most visited Marian shrines. Continue to picturesque fortified Obidos, before reaching Lisbon for two overnights.

Today's Distance: 168 mi/ 270 km

 Breakfast

Day 5 **LISBON**

Henry the Navigator made Lisbon the 15th-century "Mistress of the Seas." On the included guided tour, see his monument, the Belem Tower, the Moorish Citadel, and the impressive Commerce Square, also known as Black Horse Square. Spend the afternoon at leisure—maybe in the Alfama's tile-decorated streets, or take an optional excursion to the Portuguese Riviera.

 Breakfast

Day 6 **LISBON-SEVILLE, SPAIN**

From the rolling plains of the Alentejo with its woodlands of cork and eucalyptus trees, head south to the brilliant light of Andalusia. Admire its neat, white-painted villages and sun-drenched plantations of olives, figs, and almonds while traveling towards magnificent Seville.

Today's Distance: 261 mi/ 420 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 7 **SEVILLE**

Enjoy an included sightseeing tour of this vibrant city. Walk in the city center, see some of the main highlights and spend time to admire the impressive Plaza d'España. Afternoon at leisure.

 Breakfast

Day 8 **SEVILLE-FERRY TO MOROCCO-RABAT**

Drive through Spain's pretty sherry wine region and head south to the coast. Here, you will embark the ferry and cruise across the Strait of Gibraltar to Morocco on the African continent. Travel along what was once the infamous Barbary Coast, then continue the drive south to Rabat, one of Morocco's imperial cities.

Today's Distance: 311 mi/ 500 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 9 **RABAT-CASABLANCA-MARRAKESH**



Today starts with an included guided city sightseeing tour of the country's lively capital, and a visit to Chellah Gardens and Kasbah des Oudaias. Later, reach Morocco's westernmost city: Casablanca. Enjoy an orientation drive in this modern city and see the illustrious Hassan II Mosque. One of the largest mosques in the world, its minaret soars 689 feet into the sky. Continue on to the "red" oasis city of Marrakesh. An optional excursion this evening is the perfect ending of the day.

Today's Distance: 227 mi/ 365 km

 Breakfast

Day 10 **MARRAKESH**



Today's included city sightseeing with a Local Guide will make you feel like you've stepped back in time. Founded in the 9th century, Marrakesh remains a tapestry of ramparts, mosques, palaces, gardens, and vibrant public squares and souks (markets)—where buying and selling and a fascinating carnival of entertainment occurs daily. Also visit the Bahia Palace and Majorelle Gardens.

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 11 **MARRAKESH-FEZ**

Today, travel through the fragrant cedar forests of the Middle Atlas mountains, where a number of peaks soar above 13,000 feet in elevation. This range is home to the endangered Barbary apes, wild boars, and polecats. On your way north to Fez, enjoy glimpses of North African village life.

Today's Distance: 311 mi/ 500 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 12 **FEZ**

Ancient Fez is a city of outstanding scenic beauty. Visit the Medina during the included sightseeing tour this morning, and enjoy the maze of narrow streets through the colorful bazaars and exotic atmosphere. The madrasas, fondouks, palaces, residences, mosques, and fountains dating back to the 13th century are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the afternoon, explore further on your own.

 Breakfast

Day 13 **FEZ-FERRY CROSSING TO SPAIN-MIJAS**

Today, an early departure takes you north for the ferry crossing back to mainland Spain to the Costa del Sol. Overnight in Mijas.

Today's Distance: 311 mi/ 500 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 14 **MIJAS-GRANADA**

Travel along the Costa del Sol to Granada in the heart of Andalusia. Enjoy an included guided visit of the Alhambra Complex*, a lavish palace and fortress built by Moorish kings. Marvel at its architectural Moorish beauty and magnificent gardens, with construction dating back to 889 AD.

Today's Distance: 162 mi/ 260 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 15 **GRANADA-MADRID**

Travel through the very heart of Don Quixote's La Mancha, famed for its castle and windmills, on your way to Madrid.

Today's Distance: 267 mi/ 430 km

 Breakfast

Day 16 **MADRID**

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast