



# Grand Tour of Spain

14 days | 16 days with Barcelona extension

Spain's charismatic locals and cosmopolitan cities shine on this tour, which take you from the museums of Madrid to the sands of the Costa del Sol. Barcelona and Madrid compete for the title of cultural capital, both boasting incredible art and architecture. Andalusia is a showcase of mosques, churches, and Moorish castles. Sample it all on this guided tour of Spain, traversing the country from north to south and back again.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 food tasting
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 train ride

## Included highlights

- Royal Palace
- Prado Museum
- Córdoba
- Seville Cathedral
- Ronda
- Costa del Sol
- Alhambra
- Cave district of Guadix
- La Sagrada Família

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills.

## Group size

15–38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Madrid today.

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## Madrid → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Madrid

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Spain! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Madrid

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get an insider's view of Madrid with a local guide.

- View the Royal Palace, Spain's largest royal residence
- Pass by the Temple of Debod, a reassembled temple from ancient Egypt
- View the city's many squares, including Plaza Colón and Plaza Neptune
- Explore the Prado, a world-class art museum that began as the private collection of the Spanish monarchy and is home to the works of Goya, Velázquez, and more

Enjoy free time in Madrid or add an excursion.

+ Traditional Spanish Evening

### Day 4: Free day in Madrid

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Madrid or add an excursion.

+ Toledo

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## Seville → 2 nights

### Day 5: Seville via Córdoba & olive oil farm

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Ride a high-speed train to the town of Córdoba. Then, discover some of the flavors and history of Andalusia.

- Explore Córdoba, which was once home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths, and 70 libraries

- Enter the Mezquita, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the eighth century as a mosque and then transformed into a cathedral during the Christian Reconquista of 1236
- Stop at an olive oil farm and join a local guide for a tour of the olive groves, mill, and cellar
- Sample some orange-infused olive oil drizzled on top of chocolate gelato
- Enjoy free time to shop

Then, continue on to Seville and sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Seville

*Included meals: breakfast*

Uncover the beauty of Seville, the historic Andalusian capital, on a guided sightseeing tour.

- View the tiled pavilion of the Plaza de España
- Pass the whitewashed homes of Barrio de Santa Cruz
- Step inside the Gothic Seville Cathedral, the third-largest church in the world

Enjoy free time in Seville or add an excursion.

+ Traditional Seville Flamenco Show

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## Costa del Sol → 2 nights

### Day 7: Costa del Sol via Ronda

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

On your way to the beaches of Costa del Sol, stop to explore the famous cliffside town of Ronda with a local guide.

- Admire the town's picturesque white buildings and pass the Plaza de Toros, which was constructed in the late 1700s
- View the staggering Puente Nuevo, an 18th-century bridge that spans a deep gorge
- Walk by Mondragón Palace and enter Casa don Bosco, a historic home with beautiful views over the surrounding countryside

Continue on to Costa del Sol and sit down for an included dinner.

### Day 8: Free day on Costa del Sol

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day on the beaches of Costa del Sol or add an excursion.

+ A Day in Gibraltar

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## Granada → 1 night

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of the Alhambra

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Take a guided tour of the UNESCO-recognized Alhambra, the Moorish sultans' last stronghold in Spain.

- Walk along the Cypress Promenade to view the upper and lower gardens of Generalife Palace, once the Nasrid dynasty's summer home
- Enjoy panoramic views overlooking Granada and the surrounding countryside
- View the unique curved, Roman-style courtyard inside the Palace of Charles V
- Admire the blend of Western art and Islamic design as you stroll through ornamented courtyards
- Enter the Nasrid Palaces and see the Mexuar, where the Council of Ministers met
- See where the royal family lived during visits to Comares Palace and the Palace of the Lions

*Please note: The order of activities is subject to change.*

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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## Valencia → 2 nights

### Day 10: Valencia via Guadix

*Included meals: breakfast*

On the way to Valencia, stop in the cave district of Guadix, where nearly half of the residents live underground.

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Valencia

*Included meals: breakfast*

Discover Valencia on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Pass the City of Arts and Sciences, a symbol of Spain's modernist architecture
- See the Torres de Serranos and national ceramics museum and on a drive through El Carmen neighborhood
- Admire the UNESCO-listed Llotja de la Seda as you walk through the Old Town to Plaza de la Virgen
- Gaze upon the unique architecture of Valencia Cathedral

- Stop for a tasting of the decadent beverage known as *horchata*

Enjoy free time in Valencia or add an excursion.

+ Valencia Cooking Class & Dinner

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## Barcelona → 2 nights

### Day 12: Transfer to Barcelona

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel along the Mediterranean coast as you make your way to Barcelona.

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Barcelona

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Follow a local on a guided tour of the Catalanian capital.

- Step inside La Sagrada Família, Gaudí's famous masterwork-in-progress
- Drive along Passeig de Gràcia, past Gaudí's "House of Bones"
- Stop at Montjuïc, where the 1992 Olympic Games took place, and stroll through Mirador de l'Alcalde Park
- Pass Plaça d'Espanya

Enjoy a free afternoon in Barcelona or add an excursion.

Celebrate your trip with your group at tonight's farewell dinner.

+ Park Güell & La Pedrera

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue exploring Barcelona.

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## + Barcelona extension

Barcelona has a unique identity that practically radiates charm. Spend a couple days uncovering the city's modernist architecture, Mediterranean shores, and Catalan cuisine, and lean on your Tour Director for guidance as you go.

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## Barcelona → 2 nights

### Day 14: Free day in Barcelona

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Barcelona or add excursions.

+ Barcelona Home-Hosted Dinner

+ Picasso & Gothic Barcelona

### Day 15: Free time in Barcelona

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Barcelona or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Montserrat

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## Flight Home

### Day 16: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/JOS](https://goaheadtours.ca/JOS) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Traditional Spanish Evening

\$165CAD/\$175CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Start the evening with a stroll through Plaza Mayor. Your Tour Director will tell you about the history of the square, where you'll see locals and travelers alike. On your way to dinner, walk through the illuminated streets of Madrid, taking in the local neighborhood ambiance in the evening light. Then, enjoy conversation, camaraderie, and live music at one of the oldest restaurants in the city. Between traditional Castilian courses, you'll be entertained by tuno music, an artistic tradition with its roots in Spain's universities.

## Day 4: Toledo

\$145CAD/\$155CAD\* (8 hours, departure time varies)

Today, discover Toledo, the cliff-top city often referred to as La Ciudad Imperial ("The Imperial City"). Upon arrival, you'll have some free time to explore. Later in the afternoon, you'll kick off a guided tour at Toledo Cathedral: a massive Gothic structure housing a treasure trove of stained glass windows and golden artifacts. Gaze upon its sacristy, containing masterpieces by the likes of Van Dyck, El Greco, Rubens, and Titian. After exploring the labyrinth of medieval alleyways in the heart of the city, you'll visit the Church of Santo Tomé—a former mosque, dating to the 12th century, graced by one of El Greco's finest works, "The Burial of the Count of Orgaz." End your day with a stop at Santa María la Blanca, a museum that ranks as one of the oldest synagogues in Europe. Please note: This tour involves some walking over uneven terrain. Also, depending on the day of the week, the sites you visit may change.

## Day 6: Traditional Seville Flamenco Show

\$109CAD/\$119CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening)

Tonight, get a taste of old Seville during a live flamenco show. Flamenco is a unique and colorful Andalusian art form that combines guitar playing, singing, clapping, and dancing, and this excursion is sure to be one of the highlights of your Spanish journey. Sip an included drink as you watch the authentic performance, which allows expressive lyrics, moving instrumentals, and passionate dancing. After discovering why UNESCO has declared flamenco to be one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, enjoy free time to explore the vibrant Santa Cruz neighborhood.

## Day 8: A Day in Gibraltar

\$219CAD/\$229CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Make your way along the Costa del Sol to Gibraltar, a pocket of British culture in the Mediterranean. This overseas territory of Great Britain is most famously home to the iconic Rock of Gibraltar. Today, you'll get a close-up look during a visit to the Gibraltar Nature Reserve, established in 1993 to protect native wildlife. Here, get to know the resident population of semi-wild Barbary macaques while keeping an eye out for the

many species of migratory birds that use the rock as a resting place. Then, take in sweeping views of the ocean (and Africa on a clear day) as you journey to sites such as St. Michael's Cave, Spur Battery, and Europa Point Lighthouse. End with an included lunch and pint at a local pub and some free time in town before transferring back to Costa del Sol. Please note: As Gibraltar is a territory of the United Kingdom, you must show your passport to enter. Make sure you have yours with you before this excursion departs.

## Day 11: Valencia Cooking Class & Dinner

\$159CAD (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Travel into Valencia's city center and join an expert chef for a cooking class to make one of the region's culinary staples: paella. This dish is typical in Valencia—it was invented here, after all—and since the region relies heavily on farming and is bounded on three sides by mountains, the original paella Valenciana you'll make features meat and vegetables, instead of seafood. Begin the night by sipping some sangria and munching on traditional Spanish appetizers. Then, work as a team to craft an authentic paella Valenciana. You'll hear about the fresh ingredients and cooking techniques needed to make the dish. After, sit down to taste your team's hard work, paired with sangria and followed by a tasty dessert. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 13: Park Güell & La Pedrera

\$149CAD/\$159CAD\* (4 hours, departure time varies)

On today's excursion, discover the magnificent works of Antoni Gaudí, the famed Spanish architect known for his bold, distinct designs. Casa Milà is the first stop. Take a guided tour of this building, popularly known as "La Pedrera," which was built by Gaudí between 1905 and 1910. Everything about the building is visually unique, from its wave-like stone structure to the grandly designed roof. Next, you'll head to Park Güell, also designed by Gaudí. Your guide will lead you through the park, which contains stunning buildings, intricate stonework, and colorful mosaics. At the top of the park, marvel at the brilliant views of Barcelona.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 14: Barcelona Home-Hosted Dinner

\$105CAD (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Barcelona to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Catalan. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Catalan culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

### Day 14: Picasso & Gothic Barcelona

\$119CAD/\$129CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

On today's immersive excursion, you'll join a local guide to stroll through one of Barcelona's most intriguing sections: the Gothic Quarter, or Barri Gòtic. This area is home to some of the city's most impressive landmarks. Walk past the massive Barcelona Cathedral, which is commonly referred to as La Seu, and is named after the city's patron saint. Then, admire King Square, discover the artsy El Born neighborhood, and walk by the Basilica of Santa Maria del Mar before stepping inside the iconic Picasso Museum. This institution houses an extraordinary collection of work by artist Pablo Picasso, and you'll learn more about his life and art during your visit.

### Day 15: Montserrat

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (4.5 hours, departure time varies)

Journey to the ninth-century Santa María de Montserrat Abbey, which inspired the composer Richard Wagner as he wrote Parsifal. Ride a high-flying cable car up the mountain and enjoy magnificent views of the Llobregat River Valley and—if the skies are clear—the Pyrenees. A local guide will lead the way to the secluded Santa María de Montserrat Abbey, where you may have a chance to see La Moreneta, Catalonia's miraculous and beloved statue of the Virgin of Montserrat. Take some time to explore the monastery before descending the mountain by bus and driving back to Barcelona. Please note: Due to the ever-changing schedule of church activities, a viewing of the statue of La Moreneta can't be guaranteed.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)