



The Best of Spain and Portugal September 22 to October 6, 2012 – \$3570

This is a 14-night trip with 13 nights lodging in 4 and 5 star hotels. We will be traveling in the most direct pattern possible, hitting all of the most important sights in the Iberian Peninsula. The trip is well-paced — not too strenuous yet at each point there is enough time to explore the sights.

Trip includes: Nonstop round-trip air on Aer Lingus (operated by United Airlines), train from Granada to Madrid, daily full breakfast, bus with the same driver the whole time, local guides, admission fees to tourist attractions as spelled out below, and emergency medical and repatriation insurance. Optional cancellation insurance (\$170) available directly from tour operator.

- Sat Sept 22** Fly nonstop to Spain:
United 7663 Depart Washington Dulles 5:40pm Arrive Madrid 7:35am Sunday, Sept 23
- Sun Sept 23** Arrive in Madrid. Visit Segovia and Ávila if the group has the stamina to visit both places. We would find out what would be the most advantageous location for them to stop for lunch. End the day in Salamanca. [Hotel in Salamanca](#).
(Madrid-Segovia is 1hr 15min; Segovia-Avila is 1hr; Avila-Salamanca is 1hr 30 min).
- Mon Sept 24** Explore Salamanca, a UNESCO-declared World Heritage City. This ancient university town was first conquered by the Carthaginians in the 3rd century B.C. It then became a Roman settlement before being ruled by the Moors until the 11th century. The university, one of the oldest in Europe, reached its high point during Salamanca's golden age. The city's historic center has important Romanesque, Gothic, Moorish, Renaissance and Baroque monuments. The Plaza Mayor, with its galleries and arcades, is particularly impressive. [Hotel in Salamanca](#).
- Tues Sept 25** Depart Salamanca to Cáceres (3 hour 18 min) a UNESCO-declared World Heritage City. [Hotel in Cáceres](#)
- Wed Sept 26** Depart Cáceres early for Portugal's capital city of Lisbon (3hr 30mins). Explore Lisbon. [Hotel in Lisbon](#).
- Thurs Sept 27** Explore Lisbon. [Hotel in Lisbon](#).
- Fri Sep 28** Explore Sintra for the day. [Hotel in Lisbon](#).
- Sat Sept 29** Depart Lisbon for Seville (4hrs 15min). [Hotel in Seville](#).
- Sun Sept 30** Explore Seville. During your sightseeing, learn about the city's role in Roman times, its conquest by the Moors in 712 AD, and its contribution to the discovery of the New World. Admire Maria Luisa Park, the Golden Tower on the Guadalquivir River, and the

university that used to be the tobacco factory of Carmen fame. Then, stroll through the narrow lanes of the charming Santa Cruz Corridor. Highlight is a visit to the Alcazar, founded in the 11th century as a Moorish fortress, with its Palacio de Don Pedro.
[Hotel in Seville.](#)

- Mon Oct 1** Depart Seville to spend the day in Cordoba (1hr 45min).
In Cordoba, see the Alcazar, the Roman Bridge, and the medieval old Jewish quarter. Tour the magnificent 8th-century Mosque of the Caliphs, famous for its 850 pillars of porphyry, marble, and jasper.
Depart Cordoba for Granada (2hrs 20min). [Hotel in Granada.](#)
- Tues Oct 2** Explore Granada. Main attraction, the Alhambra Complex. The mighty yet graceful citadel was planned by a 13th-century Moorish ruler. A fantasy of “lace in stone” surrounded by arabesque gardens and fountains, it affords superb views of the Old Quarter and Sacromonte, a mountain occupied by Gypsy cave dwellers. Also amble through the magnificent Water Gardens of the Generalife. [Hotel in Granada.](#)
- Wed Oct 3** Depart Granada for Madrid by high speed train. Train will depart Granada at 910am and arrive in central Madrid at 135pm. This is the high speed Alaria train and Granada is the beginning of the line. So there is not a panic attack to board. After arrival in Madrid, the train rests there for 4 hours so again not a panic to get off. [Hotel in Madrid.](#)
- Thurs Oct 4** Explore Madrid. [Hotel in Madrid.](#)
- Fri Oct 5** Explore Madrid. [Hotel in Madrid.](#)
- Sat Oct 6** Fly home nonstop:
United 7662 depart Madrid 11:00am arrive Washington Dulles 2:00pm

Payment Schedule - All Costs are Per Person
Deposit \$500 – March 5 \$1000 – May 5 \$1000 – July 5 \$1070 – Total \$3570

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