

Highlights:

- ★ A chance to marvel at 5 prominent pieces of works designed by Antoni Gaudi
- ★ A chance to savor renowned delicacies and wines of Iberia
- ★ A chance to explore the two biggest cities respectively in Spain and Portugal on one trip
- ★ A chance to immerse in the local culture by attending unforgettable evening performances
- ★ A chance to cover a distance of 1000mi/1600km of the peninsula including a bullet train ride
- ★ Visit 16 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites

Included:

- 1. Round-trip international flight
- 2. Hi-speed bullet train from Barcelona to Madrid
- 3. Hand-picked 5-star hotel accommodations
- 4. Sightseeing admission fees as listed on the agenda
- 5. Food as specified on the itinerary
- 6. Special cultural programs as specified in the schedule
- 7. Professional English speaking local tour expert
- 8. All tax and fuel surcharge
- 9. UTOvacation's Worry-Free Plan worry-FreePlan

Excluded:

- 1. Travel insurance
- 2. Any personal expenses
- 3. Tour extensions and optional programs
- 4. Gratuity for tour guides and drivers
- 5. Single supplement fee: U\$999







Day 1: Depart from USA/Canada

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

· On board international flight to Spain.

Day 2: Barcelona Arrival

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Home to national quintessence like Flamenco dance, bullfight, Iberian ham and Paella, hometown of Cervantes, Gaudi, Picasso and Dali, paradise for vintage wine, olive oil and soccer lovers, Spain remains a delight to the senses. Every year there are over 50 million visitors from all around the world coming to Spain to enjoy the gourmet food, splendid history, quaint architecture, elegant works of art and breathtaking landscape. Today, you will touch down on the passionate Iberian Peninsula.
- Upon arrival at Barcelona, meet and greet then transfer to the hotel.
- · Rest up and get ready for your busy sightseeing tomorrow.

Day 3: Barcelona

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

 Barcelona, the Catalonian seaside city, is the second largest metropolis in Spain with a history of over 2000 years. Known as the "City of Gaudi", the city has over a dozen eye-catching architectures designed by Antoni Gaudi. Start off the day by visiting the city landmark, the towering La Sagrada Familia which has been built since



1883. This is the only structure that has been listed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site even during construction. It is estimated that this giant complex will be finished in 2026 at the final height of 565ft/172m, the tallest church in the world. Biblical stories, curvilinear designs, geometrical patterns, natural elements and the concept of light rays dominate the whole edifice which is considered the masterpiece of Gaudi. Following the construction site, you will also visit Casa Batllo and Casa Mila, both are on the UNESCO is list designed by Gaudi located on the Passeig De Gracia Avenue, a famed upscale commercial boulevard lined with prestigious and posh buildings from different historical periods of time. Stroll along the tree-lined pedestrian La Rambla Street which connects Placa de Catalunya and Columbus Monument. Make a quick stop at the well-known and hustle and bustle Boqueria Market and then move onto the Palace of Guell, another UNESCO [100] listed must-see sight done by Gaudi. Take pictures of those colorful and enigmatic chimneys on the rooftop before stepping in the well-preserved Barrio Gothic Quarter, an ancient Roman district with countless zigzag narrow lanes. Explore the Catedral de Barcelona, a grand Gothic cathedral with 13 white geese kept in the cloister. Proceed to the UNESCO iisted Palace of Catalan Music, celebrated as "one of the most exquisite and elegant concert halls on earth". This richly decorated auditorium was designed by Gaudi's teacher, Lluis Domenech I Montaner, who was also active in the Catalan Rebirth movement.

· Overnight in Barcelona.

Day 4: Barcelona - Madrid

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

After breakfast in the hotel, you will have a chance to visit
Guell Park, another UNESCO listed site belonging to
the Gaudi collection. First designed to be part of a higher
end residential area and later converted into a public
garden, this park was set on top of Carmel Hill overlooking
the city where Gaudi spent his last 20 years with his family.





Head to the train station and board a bullet train to Madrid (390mi/630km), the capital of Spain and as well as the third largest city in Europe. Upon arrival at **Atocha Station**, take a look at this 170-year-old railway station with a real forest actually inside the building. Check in your hotel and relax for the rest of the day. For those who cannot wait to marvel at the rousing nightlife of Madrid, we have prepared an optional evening outing for you.

Optional Tour: Madrid by Night with dinner at U\$99/person

- Follow our local expert to the Plaza Mayor in the heart of Madrid where you find the surrounding buildings of the square are all lit up at night. In the center of the square stands the statue of Philip III on a horse who observes people shopping, eating and chatting freely and happily here every night. Walk to the nearby San Miguel Market where your eyes will be feasted with delicate ingredients and ornate arrangements, your nose will be filled with aroma from all kinds of local wine, fruits and food. Tonight, you are invited to try the delicious Iberian ham and Spanish wine.
- · Overnight in Madrid.

Day 5: Madrid

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

• Embark on our bus to the Puerta Del Sol where Old Madrid and Bourbon Dynasty Madrid meet. Tap into the Royal Palace of Madrid, the third largest grand palace in Europe just after Palace of Versailles and Palace of Hofburg featuring fancy decorations, glitzy chandeliers and extravagant paintings. Unlike the Baroque façade of the Royal Palace, the Catedral de la Almudena on the other side of the Plaza de Armas is in neo-Gothic style, making a perfect balance in Old Madrid. A quick photo stop at the nearby Plaza de Oriente before entering into the French section of town and wander around on the mesmerizing Paseo del Prado Boulevard, the main parkway of Bourbon Madrid where you will come across the Spanish Louvre-Museo del Prado, the Spanish Pompidou Center-

Centro de Arte Reina Sofia and the Spanish Musée d'Orsay-Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. Swing by Parque del Buen Retiro, a serene and charming central park full of fountains, sculptures and monuments. The gorgeous glass and iron Palacio de Cristal is believed to be the Spanish version of Crystal Palace in London. Spend some free time on the busy shopping street, the Gran Via which is linking Puerta de Alcala with Plaza de España.

 Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure or you may want to participate in our optional evening excursion to appreciate Flamenco dance performance with Spanish flavor dinner.

Optional Tour: Fiery Flamenco Night with dinner at U\$99/person

- Derived from Andalusia, Flamenco is a combination of dancing, singing and music influenced by Moorish, Jewish and Roman culture. As the Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity declared by UNESCO, Flamenco is considered the national dance of Spain. Tonight, you are welcome to appreciate the fiery Flamenco performance with yummy Paella dinner.
- · Overnight in Madrid.

Day 6: Madrid - Toledo - Segovia

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

 Set off the day by driving southwards to the ancient city Toledo (43mi/70km), a so-called "City of Three Cultures" which has been declared a World Heritage Site capital to Madrid in 1561, Toledo served as the capital city for Visigothic, Arabian and Moorish dynasties for centuries due to its geographic and strategic importance. Christianity, Islam and Judaism have all left a rich and glorious multi-cultural legacy in this Castilla town making it a major cultural center during European Renaissance period. Situated on the hilltop and surrounded by water on three sides, the city has been depending on a 14th century Puente de San Martín as the main entrance with two fortifications on both sides guarding the bridge. At the highest point of the city stands the outstanding Alcázar de Toledo, a quadrangular stone landmark building of the Roman Palace crowned by four towers on each corner.





While the facade is in Renaissance style, the interior is a typical Arabian style courtyard. Afterwards, you will admire Catedral Primada Santa María de Toledo, a masterpiece of Gothic church building in Spain. Built between 1227 and 1493, the cathedral was constructed on the basis of a Muslim Mosque. Continue to Segovia (100mi/160km), a 2000 years old city. The first striking and mind-boggling landmark coming to your sight is the 2400ft/728m long, 95ft/29m tall Roman Aqueduct elevated by 120 posts and 20,000 stone bricks without plaster. The whole complex was initially built about 2000 years ago purposed to channel water from about 11mi/18km away to the city and amazingly, it is still standing intact today and functioning well and of course it is on the list of UNESCO WWW World Cultural Heritage Sites. Proceed to another eminent and enchanting structure, Alcazar de Segovia which was first built in the 12th century as a fortification for Arabs. Hailed as "One of the top ten most appealing citadels in Europe", this fortress was even imitated by Disney World to be the design model for the Snow-White Castle. Another imposing building is Catedral de Segovia, a Gothic-style Roman Catholic cathedral located in the Plaza Mayor with a 290ft/88m high clock tower and numerous spires on top of the roof. Dinner will be arranged in a local restaurant serving the famous roast sucking pig. After checking in the hotel, you might want to wander around in this peaceful old town with stunning night views.

· Overnight in Segovia.

Day 7: Segovia - Avila - Salamanca - Porto

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

• Morning bus ride to the small walled town of Avila (40mi/66km), built in the 8th century to ward off Moorish attacks. Walking in the well-preserved UNESCO Old Town of Avila today is like stepping back in time to the medieval period and roaming around in a tiny peaceful European town back then. Continue our rewarding day by driving to Salamanca(68mi/110km), a UNESCO listed old city featuring sophisticated ancient mansions and Universidad De Salamanca, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities around the world. Known as

the "Cultural Capital of Europe" and "Cradle of Spanish", Salamanca was one of the key centers of learning for many centuries in Europe. The 300 plus shells and different window designs on Casa de Las Conchas will for sure leave you with an unforgettable impression. Catedral de Salamanca, consisting of two wings with the old one in Romanesque style and new old one in combination of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles, are the national monuments. Plaza Mayor is believed to be the broadest and most magnificent one in the whole country full of vendors, stalls, cafes and restaurants. After lunch, bid farewell to this "Golden City", you will hit the road again for the long march to Proto (220mi/350km).

· Overnight in Proto.

Day 8: Porto - Fatima - Lisbon

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Proto is the second largest city in Portugal famous for its picture-perfect scenery and port wine. Douro River is the mother river of Porto which empties itself in the Atlantic Ocean. With lush terraced vineyards on both sides, **Douro River Valley** has been designated as a UNESCO site. Take a cruise on the Douro River and navigate through the rolling city dotted with historical monuments and 6 bridges including the well-known **Dom Luis Bridge**. Disembark and arrive at the popular and lively historical core of the city called Ribeira District that also has UNESCO World Heritage status where you find narrow cobblestone lanes, taverns, bistros and shops all over the place. Join our local expert for a walking tour covering many historical relics including one of the most important local Romanesque monuments, Se do Porto built in 12th century and the city landmark, Igreja dos Clerigos, the tallest Baroque style light tower in ancient time and city square, Praca da Liberdade.
- Waving off Porto and we continue onto Lisbon (190mi/310km) with a quick stop in the sacred Fatima, one of the four Catholic pilgrimage sites worldwide which attracts millions of pilgrims from home and abroad every year as they believe religious miracles have happened in this revered town.
- · Overnight in Lisbon.



Day 9: Lisbon

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Ola! Welcome to the westernmost city in Europe.
- Having been the capital city for Portugal since 1256, Lisbon was also the capital of one of the largest empires in the world with prosperity, vitality and aspiration during the big maritime navigation era. The fearless Portuguese have never shown a lack of courage and wisdom to explore the unknown ocean by setting sail on their voyage from Lisbon. Torre de Belem, erected from 1514 to 1520 to commemorate Vasco da Gama's arrival in India, is the symbol of Lisbon and protected by UNESCO . The tower is in Portuguese Manueline style about 98ft/30m tall built on a small island in the Tagus river near the shore and served mainly as a ceremonial gateway indicating the embarkation and disembarkation location for the Portuguese explorers at the time of the Age of Discoveries. You will also be introduced to view Padrao dos Descobrimentos, the symbol of Portugal which was finished in 1960 in memory of the 500 years of anniversary of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator. There is a group of 32 other celebrities aside from Henry on this 171ft/52m high monument who are also honored to be the key historical figures who devoted themselves to the Age of Exploration. Following the two unforgettable monuments, you will arrive at the remarkable ancient sites, Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, the best-preserved 16th century Portuguese Manueline style construction protected by UNESCO is and then Se do Lisboa, a cathedral combined with Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles built on the basis of a Muslim mosque in 1147 when the first king of Portugal, Afonso Henriques, took over the power of the whole nation. Walk around the old neighborhood at Bairro Alto, Arco da Rua Augusta, Elevador de Santa Justa, Av. da Liberdade and Praça Dom Pedro IV to catch the dynamic pulse and rhythm of Lisbon. Ascend to the city's highest point at Castelo de São Jorge. Once a Moorish fort nestled on a hilltop, this location is the best spot to enjoy the bird's eye view of the huge Cristo Rei and Ponte 25 de Abril over the Tagus River.

 Enjoy your relaxing evening for free or you are welcome to join us for an optional excursion to enrich your last evening in Lisbon with the national treasure of Fado performance, dinner and port wine tasting.

Optional Tour: Lisbon by Night with dinner at U\$99/person

- ► Fado has been popular in Portugal for 200 years, originally derived from Arabian, Roman and African cultures. Fado songs are usually composed of folk music, ballads and performed by a solo singer traditionally accompanied by a pear-shaped Portuguese guitarra. The tunes are often filled with mournful nostalgia and the lyrics are often sentimental story telling of the homesick sailors. In 2011, Fado was added to the UNESCO III list of World Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity because of its national status and Portuguese identity symbol.
- · Overnight in Lisbon.

Day 10: Depart from Portugal

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

 Check out from your hotel in the morning and head to the airport for your flight home.

Post Tour Extensions:

1) Morocco 6 Nights Extension Package: Click Here to View Details





Tour Highlights:

- ★ Visit the bucket-list workshop of Dye-pits and Tanneries in the YELLOW city of Fes
- ★ Visit the Mausoleum of Mouley Ismail in the GREEN city of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun
- ★ Visit the dynamic and lively Djema el-Fna Square in the RED city of Marrakesh
- ★Visit the trendy and cozy coastal Miami Beach Boardwalk in the WHITE city of Casablanca
- ★ Visit 5 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites



Day 1: Fly to Casablanca

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Upon arrival at Casablanca, meet and greet then transfer to hotel.
- · Rest up and get ready for your busy sightseeing tomorrow.

Day 2: Casablanca-Rabat-Moulay Idriss Zerhoun-Volubilis-Meknes-Fes

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

 Acclaimed as the "Atlantic Bride", Casablanca is also called a "White City" as the entire city is dominated by white color. Today you will start your journey from Casablanca to Fes and on the way, visit the political capital Rabat, some 56mi/90km away to the north along the ocean coast. Rabat is one of the four ancient imperial cities with a history of about 900 years. Follow our local expert to explore the UNESCO in listed Kasbah of the **Udyas**, once a military fortress on the ocean and first built by the Berber Dynasty in 12 century AD, now is a mesmerizing blue and white artist village, nicked named "Miniature Chefchaouen". The white marble Mausoleum of Mohammed V commemorating the founding father of modern Morocco sits just opposite of Hassan Tower, a remarkable and elegant structure from 1195 AD. In between the two constructions are 312 stone pillars still standing as the Ruins of Grand Hassan Mosque which was destroyed during 1775 earthquake. Continue on to Meknes, 94mi/150km from Rabat. En route, stop at Volubilis to visit a UNESCO III listed ancient Roman city archeological site and also stop at Moulay Idriss Zerhoun



to visit this green town famous for the **Mausoleum of Mouley Ismail**. Arrive at Meknes, one of the four ancient imperial cities and used to be the capital city in 1672 AD. Walk around the historical city under the protection of UNESCO including **Royal Stables**, **City Wall** and **Bab Mansour**.

Check in the hotel in Fes.

Day 3: Fes

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

 Being the first of the four ancient imperial cities, Fes is always regarded as the religious and cultural capital even today with 2800 years of history. Start off your full sightseeing day by observing the Bronze Doors of the Royal Palace, symbol of the country followed by entering the magnificent Bab Bou Jeloud erecting between the old town and the new town with shining blue façade on the outside and green mosaic design facing interior, a typical Moorish architecture. Stroll along the UNESCO Medina old winding alleyways lined with hundreds of mosques and tens of thousands of shops with medieval atmosphere. As the first Muslim city in North Africa and proud to be one of the Islamic Mecca places globally, Fes had the world first university, **Mosque and University** Karaouiyn which was built close to 400 years earlier than Oxford University. Once known as the "African Athens", "Paradise for Handicrafts" and "Pottery Capital", Fes was a much more prosperous and sophisticated city than most • Enjoy your free evening or you may join us for a unique optional evening excursion to enrich your experience.

Optional Tour: Fes by Night with dinner and live performance in Riad U\$99/person.

Day 4: Fes-Marrakesh

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Take the bus ride to Marrakesh (330mi/530km). En route, sit back relax and enjoy idyllic sceneries of the rugged Mountains, tree-fringed valleys and Berber villages.
- Overnight in Marrakesh.

Day 5: Marrakesh

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

• Today you are going to venture into the last of the four imperial cities, Marrakesh, often declared to be the "Pearl of the South". Age old red city wall together with other red sandstone buildings have granted the city a second name "Red City". In sharp contrast to this major city color, Majorelle Garden adopts vibrant colors especially the bright yellow and bright blue for decorating the courtyard dotted with leafy trees, dense shrubs, towering cacti and colorful flowers. The so-called Majorelle Blue villa located in the garden has been converted to be the Berber Museum, home to a collection of Berber cultural relics and artifacts. Next is Saadian Tombs, a richly and luxuriously



decorated complex depicting the high point of Moroccan and Moorish architecture in the Saadian Dynasty. Following the necropolis is the **Bahia Palace**, former residence of the royal family known for its ornate glazed tiles and intricate wood carving decorations. Your final stop is at the center of old quarter, **Koutoubia Mosque**, "The most beautiful mosque in North Africa", big enough to host 20,000 people at the same time. The 253ft/77m tall minaret tower, also called "Fragrant Tower", is the landmark and symbol of the city, not only due to its height but also its aroma as herbs and spices were added in the plaster when constructed.

 Enjoy the rest of the day or you may take part in our optional Marrakesh evening excursion with dinner.

Optional Tour: Marrakesh by Night with dinner U\$99/person:

Hop on a horse carriage for a ride to soak up the unique ambiance of thousand-year-old North African culture. Explore Medina, a UNESCO World Cultural Site and linger around the dynamic and lively Djema el-Fna Square, a never-sleeping bazaar for almost one thousand years where you will find dancers, fortune tellers, snake charmers and acrobats all over the market place. The smell of the food stands, the lights of the souvenir stalls, the rhythm of the musicians all make this souk a hustle and bustle hub of Marrakesh attracting visitors from home and abroad every single day. Dinner will be in the typical Moroccan style.

in the Atlantic and equipped with innovative facilities, the mosque is often hailed as the "Mosque on the ocean" and the "Most luxurious and modern mosque in the world". Stroll along the Miami Beach Boardwalk, a trendy and cozy coastal promenade where you may enjoy the ocean

cozy coastal promenade where you may enjoy the ocean breeze, view the stunning sunset, sip in the **Rick Café** or set foot on the sandy beach.

center in honor of the former king of Morocco Muhammad V. Head to **Hassan II Mosque**, the third largest mosque

worldwide. Designed by French architects, partially built

Overnight in Casablanca.

Day 7: Depart from Morocco

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

 Morning check out from your hotel and head to the airport for your onward flight.

