



## SPAIN: SEVEN CITIES - A CONNECTIONS BOUTIQUE GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Experience the best of Spain on a wide-ranging journey of cultural, historical and culinary discovery, contrasting the sun-dappled and atmospheric Andalusia region with the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Madrid.

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Small Group Journeys, Connections Boutique Group Journeys



Europe, Spain



10 days from AU\$11,300 pp



24 Guests

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## Journey Overview

Experience the best of Spain on a wide-ranging journey of cultural, historical and culinary discovery, contrasting the sun-dappled and atmospheric Andalusia region with the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Madrid.

### Journey Highlights

- Explore the historic Alhambra, an architectural masterpiece overlooking the ancient city of Granada
- Mingle with locals as you explore La Boqueria in Barcelona, a food paradise boasting a spectacle of top-quality Catalan staples
- Experience an authentic bodega and privately sample sherry in the famed region of Jerez
- Ride in a horse-drawn carriage to a restaurant in Seville for authentic tapas, an integral and delightful aspect of Spanish culture
- Journey to a private palace in Seville, where local flamenco dancers and singers perform just for you



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Barcelona, Spain**

Upon arrival, you are met by your A&K representative and escorted to your hotel. Get to know your fellow guests at tonight's welcome dinner.

***Grand Hotel Central | Meals: D***

### **Day 2: Barcelona | Heart Of Catalonia**

Embark on a walking tour of culture-rich Barcelona. Let your inner foodie run wild on a stroll through La Boqueria — one of the finest food markets in Europe, where fresh goods have traded hands for hundreds of years. Peruse the vast array of produce, meats, seafood and sweet treats, and perhaps stop by one of its many eateries to sample something on the spot. Explore the narrow cobblestone streets and wide plazas of the Gothic Quarter and the fantastic Palau de la Música Catalana concert hall. You also experience a tasting of Spanish olive oil, an essential component of the local cuisine. Enjoy more of this captivating city with an afternoon at leisure. Perhaps stroll Las Ramblas, the pedestrian-friendly avenue that draws equal amounts of visitors and locals, and browse the inviting shops and cafés. As with other cities in Spain, Barcelona truly comes alive at night, and this evening is a perfect opportunity to experience it firsthand, as taverns and tapas bars spill over with spirited conversation.

***Grand Hotel Central | Meals: B***

### **Day 3: Barcelona | Gaudí's Extravagant Vision**

Discover more of vibrant Barcelona, focusing today on the city's one-of-a-kind architecture. Visit the wild Sagrada Família Basilica, the most-visited monument in Spain, begun by Gaudí in 1883 and still unfinished today; it is currently scheduled to be completed in 2026, the centenary of its architect's death. Drive past Casa Milà on your way to hilltop Montjuïc with its sculptural gardens and castle, a place with a checkered and often bloody history until it was designated a museum by Francisco Franco. Immerse yourself in the most notable creations of Antoni Gaudí, possibly the most famous Spanish architect of modern times. Gaudí was the premier proponent of Modernisme, a distinctly Spanish take on Art Nouveau, and his free-flowing, extravagantly detailed structures are unmistakable. After lunch, fly to Granada, an ancient Moorish capital.

***Villa Oniria | Meals: BL***

### **Day 4: Granada & Ronda | Awe-Inspiring Alhambra**

Begin your day with a visit to the ancient palace and glorious gardens of the Alhambra, an incredible example of Moorish influence and Islamic architecture. Occupying over 1.5 million square feet, this sprawling complex served as the seat of power for Islamic emirs throughout the 14th century, later becoming a royal palace for Ferdinand and Isabella. Explore Granada at leisure before departing for clifftop Ronda, where you check in to your boutique hotel opposite the bullring. Enjoy a short walking tour that introduces you to the city's rich history, followed by dinner. Ronda is known for bullfighting, and its Plaza de Toros is the oldest bullring in Spain. Ernest Hemingway did much to popularize both this controversial sport and Ronda itself, and a paseo (scenic walkway) bearing his name begins near the plaza. Another, dedicated to fellow aficionado Orson Welles, is located nearby.

***Catalonia Ronda | Meals: BD***

### **Day 5: Gibraltar, United Kingdom | Last Outpost**

Travel to the Rock of Gibraltar, the most famous feature of what is technically an overseas territory of Great Britain, and a symbolic bridge linking Europe and Africa. Visit St. Michael's Cave and observe Gibraltar's Barbary macaques, the only wild monkeys in Europe. Return to Ronda with time to relax and explore one of Andalusia's most beautiful pueblos blancos (white villages).

***Catalonia Ronda | Meals: B***

### **Day 6: Seville | Sherry In Jerez**

Travel through the mountains to Jerez, home of golden sherry, a distinctive fortified wine eagerly consumed the world over. Only wine from grapes grown in this region can properly be called sherry, and aficionados have many varieties to choose from, ranging from light-bodied fino to robust oloroso. Sample some of these for yourself during a visit to a bodega. Continue to Seville, later departing in style on a horse-drawn carriage ride for an authentic culinary adventure. Prepare for an evening tapas feast to remember, savouring delicious tapas from two of the city's traditional restaurants.

***Hotel Colón Gran Meliá | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 7: Seville | Sunny Santa Cruz**

Explore the sites in this uniquely lovely city: the Royal Palace of the Alcázar, the enormous Gothic cathedral and, of course, the Santa Cruz district, with its sun-drenched avenues, venerable architecture and shaded squares. The afternoon is at leisure to venture out on your own. Tonight, stroll to a resplendent palace nearby, where the owners take you on a tour and host your private dinner. Then, enjoy a performance of flamenco dancing and singing on the patio of this historic home.

***Hotel Colón Gran Meliá | Meals: BD***

### **Day 8: Córdoba | Streets Of Flowers**

Set out for Córdoba to visit the Mezquita, the cathedral and former great mosque of the city, and an extraordinary fusion of European and Moorish styles that encapsulates much of Spanish history in a single structure. Continue for a stroll down the famous Street of Flowers, a picturesque lane in the city's Old Town where potted flowers dot the walls of the charming old houses. In the afternoon, board your high-speed AVE train to Madrid.

***NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa | Meals: BL***

### **Day 9: Madrid | Masterful Art & Architecture**

View the Prado Museum's extensive collection featuring some of the greatest Spanish masters, including El Greco, Velázquez and Goya. Then, visit the Royal Palace, followed by a short walk to the Plaza Mayor and the marvellous iron-and-glass San Miguel Market, where locals have been hawking and buying since the early 19th century. Later, join your Resident Tour Director for a farewell dinner.

***NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa | Meals: BD***

### **Day 10: Depart Madrid**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

***Meals: Breakfast***

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## Journey Details

Internal air included: Barcelona/Grenada

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:30 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 9.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

## Included with this Connections Boutique Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Boutique Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

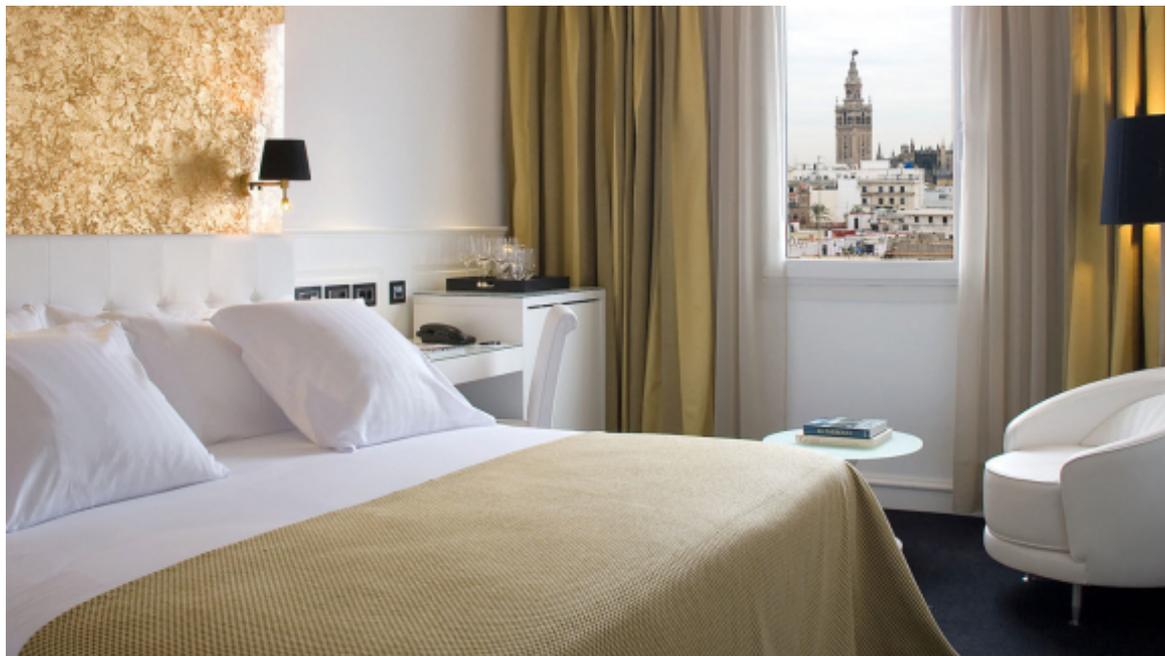
**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

# Map



## Accommodation

### Hotel Colón Gran Meliá, Seville



Hotel Colón Gran Meliá is an elegant five star hotel situated in the old quarter of Seville, between the Maestranza bullring, the Torre del Oro and the Giralda. The location is perfect for discovering the most interesting and original shops in the city. Built in 1929, the building is now a listed monument, maintaining its original neoclassical façade, but the interiors have been entirely remodelled for the modern traveller. Each floor is themed after a renowned Spanish artist and Goya's famous painting, the Dressed Maja, leads you to the Penthouse Master Suite. The red and gold room interiors are complemented by award-winning contemporary furnishings, and many of the rooms have views facing Calle Canalejas, Magdalena church, or Cruz del Cavario.

There are three restaurants serving a selection of cuisine from local tapas and Andalusian specialities to international buffet-style dishes. The hotel's Wellness Centre is on the top floor, a true highlight of your stay, it has a solarium deck with comfortable hammocks, Balinese beds and a spectacular hydro-massage pool with magnificent city views.

#### Why we like it

- Located in the historic old quarter of Seville within walking distance of Giralda cathedral and the Reales Alcázares

- 159 minimalist rooms, including 30 suites
- Each floor celebrates a different Spanish artist, from Murillo to Goya
- Feast on traditional Andalusian dishes at El Burladero
- Fully equipped wellness centre with a Turkish bath, sun terrace and panoramic city views

## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Apr 29, 2024 - May 8, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

### May 13, 2024 - May 22, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

### May 27, 2024 - Jun 5, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

### Jun 10, 2024 - Jun 19, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

### Jun 24, 2024 - Jul 3, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

### Jul 22, 2024 - Jul 31, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$11,300 pp</b>	AU\$3,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Aug 19, 2024 - Aug 28, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$11,300 pp</b>	AU\$3,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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**Sep 9, 2024 - Sep 18, 2024**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

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**Sep 16, 2024 - Sep 25, 2024**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

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**Oct 7, 2024 - Oct 16, 2024**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

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**Oct 14, 2024 - Oct 23, 2024**

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$12,085 pp</b>	AU\$3,530	Included	Call for Availability

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