



SPAIN & PORTUGAL: A JOURNEY ACROSS IBERIA - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Explore the best of the entire Iberian peninsula
on one spectacular journey, discovering how
Moors, Jews and Europeans influenced the
culture, cuisine and arts of Spain and Portugal.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Europe, Spain, Portugal



14 days from AU\$22,065 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Explore the best of the entire Iberian peninsula on one spectacular journey, discovering how Moors, Jews and Europeans influenced the culture, cuisine and arts of Spain and Portugal.

Journey Highlights

- Experience two Gehry-designed architectural masterpieces, exploring the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and staying for two nights at the Hotel Marqués de Riscal
- Savour a private dinner and a superb flamenco performance at a palace in Seville, on an A&K-exclusive experience
- Roam the medieval streets of Córdoba's Jewish Quarter and view the stunning interior of the city's Grand Mosque
- Taste a variety of culinary treats on a tapas adventure in Madrid, partaking in a delectable Spanish cultural tradition
- Learn the secrets to baking a Portuguese dessert specialty, and then indulge in your creation, on a private, hands-on pastry-making workshop in Lisbon



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Lisbon, Portugal

Arrive in Lisbon, capital of Portugal, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Settle in and then join your A&K Resident Tour Director for a welcome drink, followed by dinner at your hotel.

Olissippo Lapa Palace / Meals: D

Day 2: Lisbon | Private Pastry-Making Workshop

This morning, set out on a panoramic review of the city including Jerónimos Monastery. Afterwards, try your hand at creating the famous Portuguese speciality, pastel de pata (custard tart). Learn the art of making this delicious, sweet treat from start to finish, guided by professional chefs during a private workshop in the Alvalade district of Lisbon. The class takes place in a tea house specialising in Portuguese desserts. Complete your experience by taking a mindful moment to savour your pastry, complemented by a cup of tea or coffee. The rest of your day is at leisure.

Olissippo Lapa Palace / Meals: B

Day 3: Évora | Walled Medieval City

Journey to Évora, a beautifully preserved medieval city, stopping for a wine tasting en route. On arrival, visit the historic town centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to view an ancient Roman Temple, the Gothic 13th-century Sé Cathedral with its Romanesque architectural influences, and the striking city walls.

Convento do Espinheiro / Meals: BLD

Day 4: Mérida, Spain & Seville | Ancient Mérida

Today, drive eastward into Spain, stopping in Mérida to view its Roman amphitheatre, inaugurated in 8 BC to host theatrical performances and gladiatorial combat. Also see an ancient 25-metre-tall aqueduct built from stone and brick. Afterwards, continue into Spain's storied Andalusia region for a two-night stay in vibrant Seville. Once there, ride a horse-drawn carriage to a palace where the owners host your private dinner, followed by a performance of flamenco dancing and singing on the patio of this historic home.

Hotel Alfonso XIII / Meals: BD

Day 5: Seville | Gothic Cathedral & Jewish Quarter

Set out on a guided excursion through Seville, including a visit to the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. Proceed to the Jewish Quarter, with its labyrinth of narrow streets dating to the time of Moorish rule. Then, relax during an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Hotel Alfonso XIII | Meals: B

Day 6: Granada | The Moorish Architecture of Alhambra

After breakfast, travel to Granada and take in the city. Visit Alhambra, a vast palace and UNESCO World Heritage Site that exemplifies Moorish architecture. Tonight, dine at a local restaurant overlooking the site.

Hotel Palacio de Santa Paula | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Córdoba & Madrid | Jewish Quarter & Mezquita

Travel to Córdoba, where you visit this city's historic Jewish neighbourhood and roam its narrow streets, and then enter the former Great Mosque, now known as the Mezquita, to view its breathtaking Moorish-influenced interior. Enjoy time to explore before boarding a high-speed AVE train, as you Ride Like a Local to Madrid. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel. Cap off your day of exploring with a fun tapas tour for dinner.

Palacio de los Duques Gran Meliá | Meals: BD

Day 8: Madrid | Royal Splendour

Set out on a city tour that includes the Royal Palace, with its rich decor comprised of marble, stucco and mahogany. Break for lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Palacio de los Duques Gran Meliá | Meals: BL

Day 9: Madrid & Toledo | Design Your Day

Today, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **See Madrid on a Relaxing Bike Tour**, discovering the city center's handsome architecture, historic neighborhoods and beautiful Retiro Park.
- **Discover Toledo**, a place in medieval Europe where Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities coexisted.
- **Tour the Prado Museum**, viewing works by El Greco, Velázquez and Goya, guided by a local expert.

Spend your evening at leisure in Madrid, free to sample the city's many culinary attractions.

Palacio de los Duques Gran Meliá | Meals: B

Day 10: Elciego | An Enchanting Food & Wine Experience

Today, journey to La Rioja, stopping en route for a tour, followed by a Chef's Table experience featuring a gourmet lunch with wine pairings at the Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture. Proceed to Elciego and check in to the Hotel Marqués de Riscal. Settle into your luxurious room and admire the hotel's amazing design, created by master architect Frank Gehry. Gaze out upon the vineyard-covered hills surrounding this contemporary retreat from one of its eight terraces and enjoy your evening at leisure.

Hotel Marqués de Riscal | Meals: BL

Day 11: Elciego | Tasting the Fruits of the Rioja

This morning, explore Spain's storied Rioja region, visiting an olive oil mill and sampling their oils, walking through Laguardia, and tasting wine with tapas in one of the village cellars. Return to your hotel to relax in the lush surroundings before dinner.

Hotel Marqués de Riscal | Meals: BLD

Day 12: Bilbao | Guggenheim Museum Tour

Drive to Bilbao today, where you tour galleries devoted to modern and contemporary art, including the monumental sculpture *The Matter of Time*, at the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. After lunch at a local restaurant, fly to Barcelona, settle into your hotel, and then enjoy a light dinner.

Almanac Barcelona | Meals: BLD

Day 13: Barcelona | Gaudí's Unfinished Masterpiece

This morning, set out on a panoramic city tour. See the Barcelona Pavilion, a study in minimalism built for the 1929 International Exposition, and then explore the Sagrada Família, a spectacular basilica designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. This amazing structure features eight towering spires outside and an incomparably detailed vaulted ceiling inside. Begun in 1882, parts of it are still under construction. Enjoy time for lunch at leisure in the Central Market, also known as La Boqueria, one of the city's many vital marketplaces for fish, meat and produce. Spend your afternoon with time to relax or explore this colourful, vibrant city on your own. Tonight, join your Resident Tour Director and fellow guests for a Scenic Sundowner followed by a festive farewell dinner.

Almanac Barcelona / Meals: BD

Day 14: Depart Barcelona

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Internal air included: Bilbao/Barcelona

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 7:00 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 13.

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

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- 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

Please note that alternative accommodations will be featured on the following departure date:

Sep 15-28, 2024: This departure stays at the Alhambra Palace on Day 6.

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



Extensions



Porto Pre-Tour Extension -
A Luxury Small Group
Journey (2024)

See Details

Accommodation

Hotel Palacio de Santa Paula



Hotel Palacio de Santa Paula is a 75-room property located in the old part of Granada, the result of a careful and meticulous renovation of the old 16th century Santa Paula Convent and cloisters and a neighbouring 14th century townhouse. Original vaulted ceilings and cobbled courtyards remain, as well as a Moorish patio, alcoved staircase and even the tombs of a few of the convent's former inhabitants. 'El Claustro' restaurant, housed in the old convent library, is one of the city's best.

Palacio de los Duques Gran Meliá



Located in the privileged Habsburg district next to the Royal Palace, the Opera House and the Cathedral, Leading Hotel of the World Gran Meliá Palacio de los Duques is a luxury urban resort. Inspired by the masterpieces of Velazquez, this beautiful hotel combines two historic buildings – a 13th century convent and the 19th century Palace of the Dukes of Ega and Villahermosa – updated in an avant-garde style with large reproductions of the great master’s paintings and a colour scheme inspired by his palette - ochre, indigo and maroon. Behind the magnificent Elizabethan façade are 180 spacious rooms and luxurious suites with different Velázquez portraits in each one. The serene courtyard garden and terrace and rooftop pool offer perfect spots to relax and dining is a treat at a choice of excellent restaurants. A gym and spa complete the leisure facilities.

Hotel Marqués de Riscal, Alava



The rural medieval village of Elciego in the Basque Country is home to a rather unusual hotel. Created by Frank Gehry, most famously known for designing the Guggenheim Museum, Hotel Marqués de Riscal is clad with striking ribbon panels of curling silver, gold and pink titanium that glimmer in the sunshine. Hidden beneath the sweeping exterior, you'll find the 148-year old Herederos del Marqués de Riscal winery - the oldest winery in the region - housing a contemporary and luxurious retreat.

Designed to offer a unique experience to visitors, the hotel is a stark contrast to the classic stone architecture of the town. The unique design continues inside with tilted walls, zigzag windows, high ceilings and a collection of bespoke furnishings. Each of the 43 spacious rooms and suites are a work of art and many overlook the Rioja Alavesa grape vineyards. Choose from a Grand Deluxe or Premium Deluxe Rooms, Executive Suite or the spectacular Gehry Suite with a private terrace and panoramic views of Elciego.

Also renowned for its superb gastronomy, the hotel is home to two innovative restaurants. Restaurant Marqués de Riscal is headed by Michelin-starred Spanish chef Francis Paniego and serves dishes local dishes with an haute-cuisine twist. With a selection of fine vintage wines and 200 international labels to choose from, the expert sommelier will be on hand to perfectly pair your dish. Alternatively, Bistro 1869 serves up regional fare using fresh local produce with views overlooking the mountains and vineyards of the Basque Country. While staying at Marqués de Riscal, a visit to Caudalie Vinotherapie Spa to soak up the benefits of the grape is a must. We love the crushed cabernet scrub followed by a honey and wine moisturising wrap to leave your skin clean, refined and

perfectly smooth. Other facilities include an indoor pool, rooftop lounge and elegant wine bar.

Why we like it

- An iconic wine hotel located in the region of Rioja
- Designed by Guggenheim architect Frank Gehry
- Home to one of the oldest wineries in the region
- Enjoy fine dining at the Michelin-starred Marqués de Riscal Restaurant
- Relax and unwind at the acclaimed Caudalie Vinotherapie Spa

Hotel Alfonso XIII, Seville



The Hotel Alfonso XIII was created in unique Andalusian style for the Exhibition of the Americas in 1928 and was opened by King Alfonso XIII. Since then it has been the home in Seville of Royalty, Heads of Government, film stars and every other important visitor to the city. The iconic Alfonso XIII is an unique landmark which embodies the hospitality, aesthetic genius and traditional harmony of life that characterises Seville.

It is located in the historic centre near the banks of the Guadalquivir and only a few minutes from the Royal Palace of the Alcázar, the Cathedral, the Plaza de España and the delicious flower filled Barrio Santa Cruz. The Hotel Alfonso XIII features 151 rooms all tastefully decorated in Moorish, Castilian and Classic styles all sparkingly renovated in the multimillion dollar refurbishment completed in 2012. The San Fernando restaurant offers traditional Spanish and European cuisine, the Bodega Alfonso, which has a charming terrace overlooking the gardens, offers tapas; and the newly created Taifas, set under the trees, a fusion of Andalusian and contemporary cuisine.

Why we like it

- A Luxury Collection Hotel in the heart of Seville.
- 151 renovated guestrooms reflect different eras of Spain's past.
- The outdoor swimming pool, surrounded by beautiful gardens, is the perfect spot for basking in the Andalusian sun.
- Within walking distance of international fashion houses, exclusive boutiques and quirky delicatessens.
- See the city from an authentic horse-drawn carriage ride or cycle the streets by bike.

Dates & Pricing

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

May 24, 2024 - Jun 6, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

May 31, 2024 - Jun 13, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Jun 14, 2024 - Jun 27, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Jun 21, 2024 - Jul 4, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Jul 5, 2024 - Jul 18, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,065 pp	AU\$6,145	Included	Call for Availability

Jul 26, 2024 - Aug 8, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,065 pp	AU\$6,145	Included	Call for Availability

Aug 9, 2024 - Aug 22, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,065 pp	AU\$6,145	Included	Call for Availability

Aug 30, 2024 - Sep 12, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,065 pp	AU\$6,145	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 6, 2024 - Sep 19, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 13, 2024 - Sep 26, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 15, 2024 - Sep 28, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$23,160 pp	AU\$7,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 27, 2024 - Oct 10, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 4, 2024 - Oct 17, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 11, 2024 - Oct 24, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 25, 2024 - Nov 7, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$22,375 pp	AU\$6,610	Included	Call for Availability

Abercrombie & Kent

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