



SPAIN & PORTUGAL WITH A&K CHAIRMAN'S AMBASSADOR - 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\$31,005 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Join A&K Chairman's Ambassador Fernando Barroso de Oliveira on a comprehensive adventure encompassing the best of Spain and Portugal, two countries with a fascinating shared history and heritage. With A&K's hallmark insider access paving the way, visit world-famous museums and galleries before they open to the public, attend exclusive cultural performances and sample gourmet food and wine in extraordinary settings, all while enjoying the finest in local hospitality.

Journey Highlights

- Explore in the company of A&K Chairman's Ambassador Fernando Barroso de Oliveira, a well-travelled raconteur with a unique firsthand perspective of Spain and Portugal
- Tour some of the region's most notable museums and palaces with exclusive before-hours access, viewing priceless art treasures in peace and solitude
- Ride by horse-drawn carriage to a private palace, where the owners welcome you for dinner and an exclusive flamenco performance
- Partake in incredible local dining opportunities, including a Moorish feast in Granada, a lively tapas tour through Madrid and dinner at an exclusive gastronomic society in Elciego
- Indulge with a delectable lunch and wine pairings at a visit to the Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture in the famous wine region of La Rioja
- View some of the world-renowned treasure of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, designed by Frank Gehry
- Pay a private visit to Camp Nou stadium, home turf of the Barcelona Football Club

Your Host



Fernando Barroso de Oliveira, A&K Chairman's Ambassador

As the Chairman's Ambassador, Portugal native Fernando hosts your journey with his own special brand of *joie de vivre*. A natural raconteur who's fluent in seven languages, his instinctive rapport and boundless

enthusiasm for exploration and discovery are a delight to experience. Fernando has ventured far and wide over his decades in travel, forging lasting connections with every place he's gone and every person he's travelled with — and he looks forward to doing the same with you.



Itinerary

Oct 18: Arrive Lisbon, Portugal

Upon arrival in Lisbon, capital of Portugal, you are met by an Abercrombie & Kent representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening, step aboard a historic Lisbon tram and traverse the city on a unique private welcome experience before gathering for dinner in a local restaurant.

Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon / Meals: D

Oct 19: Lisbon | Private Museum Experience

This morning, discover the Museu Calouste Gulbenkian — one of the world's most important private art collections — during a before-hours private opening. Then, explore Lisbon with a local expert, discovering the charm of this city on the Tagus and entering the Jeronimos Monastery, burial place of the Portuguese royal family. After an afternoon at leisure for further exploration, gather for cocktails at the Palace of the Marquesses de Fronteira, a National Monument of Portugal and one of the finest 17th-century palaces in Europe.

Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon / Meals: B

Oct 20: Évora | Walled Medieval City

Journey to Évora, a beautifully preserved medieval city, stopping at Jose Maria da Fonseca for a premium wine tasting and lunch 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

Oct 21: Mérida & Seville, Spain | 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 82-foot-tall aqueduct built from stone and brick. Afterward, 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 Palacio de Villapanes | Meals: BD

Oct 22: Seville | Gothic Cathedral & Jewish Quarter

This morning, experience an A&K-exclusive before-hours visit to the Baroque Hospital de la Caridad and hear Gregorian chant performed live. Then, 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 at leisure. Later, enter the Royal Alcázar — a monumental palace — for a special after-hours visit. Finish the evening with a dinner of authentic local fare.

Hotel Palacio de Villapanes | Meals: BD

Oct 23: 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, attend a feast where ancient Moorish cooking techniques are demonstrated alongside a performance of traditional Sephardic music.

Palacio de los Duques Gran Meliá | Meals: BD

Oct 24: 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 to 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

Oct 25: Madrid | Royal Splendour

This morning, enjoy exclusive before-hours access to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, one of the world's leading galleries. Then, 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

Oct 26: Madrid & Toledo | Design Your Day

Today, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities, arranged for you by your Resident Tour Director.

- **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.

This evening, gather for an A&K exclusive private visit and aperitif at the Liria Palace, the Madrid residence of the Dukes of Alba.

Palacio de los Duques Gran Meliá | Meals: B

Oct 27: Elciego | An Enchanting Food & Wine Experience

Today, journey to La Rioja, stopping en route for a tour of the Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture, which includes a Chef's Table experience featuring a gourmet lunch with wine pairings. 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 dinner overlooking the view.

Hotel Marqués de Riscal | Meals: BLD

Oct 28: 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 diving into a cooking experience and dinner at a local gastronomical society, an A&K exclusive.

Hotel Marqués de Riscal | Meals: BLD

Oct 29: 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

Oct 30: Barcelona | Gaudí's Unfinished Masterpiece

This morning, enter the iconic Camp Nou stadium, largest in Europe and home to Barcelona Football Club, for a private introduction. Then, 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 at 7:30 p.m., join your Resident Tour Director and fellow guests for a Scenic Sundowner followed by a festive farewell dinner.

Almanac Barcelona | Meals: BD

Oct 31: Depart Barcelona

Today you are transferred to the airport to board your departure 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 Oct 18.

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

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

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



👤 ⓘ 4 days from AU\$5,840

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

See Details

Accommodation

Hotel Palacio de Villapanes



Hotel Palacio de Villapanes is a stylish 18th century palace which combines classical style with Andalusian culture. High ceilings, balconies with original timber shutters and marble-columned patios are complemented by contemporary designer furniture. There are beautiful patios and arcades and 50 chic rooms and suites as well as a rooftop pool and bar.

Hotel Alhambra Palace, Granada



Hotel Alhambra Palace is a landmark luxury hotel and palace located on the top of the hill and situated in the heart of the Alhambra. Inspired by the Alhambra itself, there are 108 rooms and suites each with a special charm. The hotel's à la carte restaurant serves Mediterranean and International food. There is also a bar with a terrace boasting impressive views. Soak up the unforgettable views of romantic Granada, the Sierra Nevada and the forest of the Alhambra from a variety of dining venues.

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

Dates & Pricing

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

Oct 18, 2024 - Oct 31, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$31,005 pp	AU\$6,915	Included	Call for Availability

Abercrombie & Kent

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