



Going Places Travel Pte Ltd

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8D7N MADRID & BARCELONA TOUR

INTRODUCTION

Spain is a country in Southern Europe. It is in the Iberian Peninsula. Spain has borders with France, Portugal, Andorra and Morocco. In Spain's northeast side are the Pyrenees mountains. The people of Spain are called Spaniards. They speak Castilian or Spanish and other languages in some parts of the country. They are Catalan, Basque and Asturian, Galician, Leonese, Aragonese, Aranese Occitan and even Portuguese.

The religion of about 56% of the population in Spain is Roman Catholic. Since 1975, Spain has had a constitutional monarchy. The King of Spain is Felipe VI; he only does what the constitution allows him to. The government and the King's Palace are in Madrid, the capital of Spain. Spain has more than five hundred thousand square kilometres of land with a population of almost 50 million people. It is divided into 17 autonomous communities (this means that they can decide upon some affairs themselves). Each community has its own government.

Spain is known for flamenco which is usually performed by Roma gypsies. Now Spain is a modern democratic country, and does business with many countries around the world. It is the eighth largest economy in the world and is an important part of the European Union.

The middle of Spain is a high, dry, flat land called La Meseta. In La Meseta it can be very hot in the summer and cold or very cold in the winter. Spain also has many mountain ranges. The Mount Teide (Tenerife, Canary Islands), the highest mountain of Spain and the islands of the Atlantic (it is the third largest volcano in the world from its base). In the north there is a range of mountains called Los Picos de Europa (The European Peaks). Here it is very cold in winter with a lot of snow but with gentle warm summers.

In the south-east of the country is a range of mountains called La Sierra Nevada (The Snowy Mountains). This range of mountains contains the highest mountain in mainland Spain, Mulacen, at 2952 metres. La Sierra Nevada is very popular in winter for winter sports, especially skiing. Snow remains on its peaks throughout the year. The south coast, has a warm and temperate climate, not very hot or very cold. Since Spain is in the south of Europe, it is very sunny. Many people from Northern Europe take their vacations in Spain, enjoying its beaches and cities.

HOTELS

Hotel Praga 4*

- ✓ Address: C/ Antonio López, 65. Madrid.
- ✓ Web: www.h-santos.es



Hotel Madanis 4*

- ✓ Address: Carrer de la Riera Blanca, 10, 08903 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona.
- ✓ Web: www.hotelmadanis.com



ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL AT MADRID AIPORT

FLAMENCO DINNER SHOW.

Flamenco is a style of music and dance which is considered part of the culture of Spain, although it is actually native to only one region: Andalusia. Andalusian, Gypsy, Sephardic, Moorish and Byzantine influences have been detected in flamenco, often claimed to have coalesced around the time of the Reconquista in the 15th century. The origins of the term are unclear; the word flamenco itself was not recorded until the 18th century. Flamenco is the music of the Andalusian gypsies and played in their social community. Andalusian people who grew up around gypsies were also accepted as "flamencos".

Dinner and accommodation in Madrid.



DAY 2 - MADRID FULL DAY TOUR INCLUDING ENTRANCE TO ROYAL PALACE

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to excursion.

Madrid is located in the heart of Spain, in the geographical centre of the country. A lot can be said about Madrid, because in this city, everything goes. It is modern yet traditional, majestic yet popular, lively yet peaceful. More than anything else it is a haven of culture. Madrid is one of the world capitals for art. Its museums, headed by the Prado, and its rich, diverse heritage and monuments, make it a unique cultural destination not to be missed. Explore Madrid's attractions on a sightseeing tour by coach. This tour is the perfect introduction to Madrid's famous sights from the Gran Vía and Castellana, to famous squares including Plazas de España, Puerta del Sol and Puerta de Alcalá.



Few European royal residences conserve decorative elements like those of the Royal Palace in Madrid. Its majestic rooms are home to major artistic treasures and continue to bear witness to historic events. Magnificent and grand, the official residence of Spain's monarchs is located in the heart of the capital, in a privileged setting with extraordinary views of the Madrid Mountains. "For eternity" is the inscription on the first stone laid in construction of the Spanish Royal Palace in 1738. Despite the fact that today's Royal Family does not actually live there, it is used for numerous important ceremonies and events. The content of the palace is no less valuable: besides beautiful decorative elements such as tapestries, porcelain and crystal chandeliers, it is also home to a select collection of paintings, with major works by Caravaggio, Juan de Flandes,

Velázquez and Goya, string instruments made by Stradivarius for the Spanish sovereign, and exhibits from the Royal Armoury, one of the most highly prized in its genre. Explore its patios, corridors, rooms and gardens and feel like a real king or queen. The main entrance is in the grandiose Plaza de Armas Square. From here you can appreciate the elegance and majesty of the building's main façade. Take your time to admire its ornamental details, with the balconies of its most important rooms such as the Throne Room and the Gala Banqueting Hall.

Lunch at a local restaurant included. *Can be Spanish, Chinese or Indian as per the group's preference.*

Dinner and accommodation in Madrid.

DAY 3 - TOLEDO & LAS ROZAS SHOPPING OUTLET, FULL DAY EXCURSION

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to excursion.

Toledo: the way that Christians, Arabs and Jews lived side by side for centuries has been reflected in the form of a great artistic and cultural legacy. The maze of streets making up the historic centre of Toledo is only bounded by walls in which many gates were opened. The Bisagra gate, presided over by two bodies and a great imperial shield forms the main access to the city within the walls. This noble gate, of Muslim origin, includes a central courtyard and was altered during the reign of Carlos I (Emperor Carlos V). The Alfonso VI gate or Vieja de Bisagra gate, built in 838, is one of the most faithful reflections of Muslim art in the city. The Sol gate was built in the 13th century in Mudejar style and contains the remains of a paleochristian sarcophagus. Synagogues, mosques and churches jostle in the narrow streets of Toledo, which is characterised by the mixture of artistic styles.

One of the most outstanding buildings in the city is the Cathedral, considered one of the high points of Gothic art. The construction of this monumental building, with a basilica floor plan and five naves, because in 1226, although it was not finished until the 15th century. This is reflected in the great superimposition of styles in the building and the large number of renowned artists who left their mark on the church: from Pedro Berruguete, to Enrique Egás, Petrus Petri and Juan Guas. On its main facade the outstanding feature is the doorway, made up of three doors: Infierno (Hell), Perdón (Forgiveness) and Juicio (Judgement). The exterior is topped by the two cathedral towers, one of them in flamboyant Gothic style and the other in Gothic-Renaissance.

Las Rozas Village is one of the Collection of nine Chic Outlet Shopping® Villages by Value Retail. Founded in 1992, Value Retail is the creator and operator of Chic Outlet Shopping®, a unique concept in outlet shopping. As developer and operator of the Chic Outlet Shopping® Villages, Value Retail is the only company to specialise exclusively in the development and operation of luxury outlet shopping villages. Home to more than 900 outlet boutiques of the world's leading fashion and lifestyle brands, the Collection offers an unrivalled luxury outlet shopping experience for discerning shoppers in Europe. The nine Villages, located close to some of Europe's favourite cities, are tourist destinations in their own right.

Lunch at a local restaurant included. *Can be Spanish, Chinese or Indian as per the group's preference.*

Dinner and accommodation in Madrid.



DAY 4 - AVILA AND SEGOVIA FULL DAY EXCURSION

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to excursion.

The extensive history of Avila begins with the primitive Celtiberian settlement of the Vetones around 700 B.C. The first wall was built with the arrival of the Romans in the third century B.C., making Avila a strategic point of defence. Following several centuries of decadence, the city was repopulated and rebuilt in the 11th century. The legend says that Raimundo de Borgoña, son-in-law of King Alfonso VI, was in charge of supervising the reconstruction of the wall on top of the ruins of the ancient Roman fortress. The peak period of the city would come in the 16th century, when wool manufacture would allow its economic take-off. During this boom, many civil and religious buildings were built in the city, which still stand in the historic quarter. The wall is the symbol of the city and it is one of the best kept, medieval walled enclosures in Europe. Its two and a half kilometre perimeter is marked by almost 2,500 crenellations, a hundred towers, six gates and three openings.

Having been a trading centre under the Roman Empire, Segovia reached its period of greatest splendor during the Middle Ages, on becoming the court residence of the Trastamaras, as well as an important centre of livestock and textile activity. It was during this period that a great many of the local Romanesque buildings were built, a rich heritage that has come down to us today. The Roman aqueduct in Azoguejo square, serves as the main entrance to the historic quarter of Segovia. This engineering gem, built under the Roman Empire (1st century AD), carried water to the elevated city from some 15 Km away. Its 163 arches and its height, some 29 m at its highest point, are supported by blocks of stone from the Sierra de Guadarrama mountains that are completely plaster, lead and mortar free.

At one end of the walled enclosure you can see the outline of the Alcázar Fortress, behind the Queen Victoria Eugenia Gardens (this is the spot where the old cathedral stood). The exterior of the fortress as a whole makes quite an impact on the visitor given its 80 m high tower, its other twelve turrets and its defensive moat. Several courtyards and buildings can be visited, and it is even possible to climb the battlement tower and admire a panoramic view of the Segovian landscape from this marvelous vantage point.

*Lunch at a local restaurant included. **Can be Spanish, Chinese or Indian as per the group's preference.***

Dinner and accommodation in Madrid.



DAY 5 - DEPARTURE TO BARCELONA WITH STOP IN ZARAGOZA

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Barcelona.

Zaragoza is one of Spain's major cities. The capital of the Region of Aragon is located on the banks of the Ebro River, halfway between Madrid and Barcelona. The city has 2,000 years of history. You will find a stunning legacy of monuments in the streets of the city, vestiges of the Roman, Moorish, Jewish and Christian communities who left their mark on the place: Roman ruins such as the Circus; Aljafería Palace; Mudéjar-style churches, with the UNESCO World Heritage designation; Baroque gems like the Pilar Basilica; the work of brilliant artist Francisco de Goya... And also the most recent, such as the Expo 2008 site.

Lunch at a local restaurant included. Can be Spanish, Chinese or Indian as per the group's preference.

Dinner and accommodation in Barcelona.



DAY 6 - BARCELONA FULL DAY EXCURSION WITH ENTRANCE TO SAGRADA FAMILIA

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to excursion

Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, is a cosmopolitan Mediterranean city that incorporates in its urban street pattern Roman remains, medieval districts and the most beautiful examples of Modernism and 20th century avant-garde art. Not for nothing were the emblematic buildings of Catalan architects Antoni Gaudí and Luis Doménech i Montaner declared to be World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Of Roman origin, Barcelona's long history and economic dynamism have provided it with an impressive cultural heritage, shown in the conservation of its rich historic and artistic heritage and in the encouragement of the newest artistic trends. Its long cultural agenda will lead the visitor through museums, exhibitions, outdoor sculptures... and an extensive calendar of music, theatre, and dance.

The Basílica i Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família, commonly known as the Sagrada Família, is a large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926).

Although incomplete, the church is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and in November 2010 was consecrated and proclaimed a minor basilica by Pope Benedict XVI. Though construction of Sagrada Família had commenced in 1882, Gaudí took over in 1883, transforming the project with his architectural and engineering style — combining Gothic and curvilinear, Art Nouveau forms with ambitious structural columns and arches. Gaudí devoted his last years to the project and at the time of his death in 1926, less than a quarter of the project was complete. Sagrada Família's construction progressed slowly as it relied on private donations and was interrupted by the Spanish Civil War — only to resume intermittent progress in the 1950s. Construction passed the mid-point in 2010 with some of the project's greatest challenges remaining and an anticipated completion date of 2026 — the centennial of Gaudí's death. The basílica has a long history of dividing the citizens of Barcelona — over the initial possibility it might compete with Barcelona's cathedral, over Gaudí's design itself, over the possibility that work after Gaudí's death disregarded his design, and the recent possibility that an underground tunnel of Spain's high-speed train could disturb its stability.

Lunch at a local restaurant included. Can be Spanish, Chinese or Indian as per the group's preference.

Dinner and accommodation in Barcelona.



DAY 7 - MONTSERRAT & SHOPPING TO LAS ROCAS OUTLET, FULL DAY EXCURSION

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to excursion.

A Nature Reserve where the patron saint of Catalonia is venerated. In the heart of Catalonia there is a mountain with an unusual shape and huge slabs of grey rock. It is a spectacular massif and at the top you will find a statue of the Virgen de Montserrat, patron saint of Catalonia. This nature reserve is covered with pine and holm-oak woods and is home to squirrels, boars and genets, amongst others. There are many different itineraries and guided visits that will help you discover its most hidden spots. At the peak is the majestic sanctuary dedicated to "La Morenata", the 12th century, Romanesque style statue of the Virgin Mary. The architectural site is made up of various different squares and areas, along with the basilica that was originally built in the 16th century and then rebuilt in the 19th. There you will find a hostel for pilgrims and visitors. Close by is the Benedictine Monastery, with its beautiful chapterhouse, and neo-Romanesque cloister and refectory, refurbished in 1925 by the architect Puig i Cadafalch. It is also home to works by artists like Picasso, Dalí and El Greco.



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*Lunch at a local restaurant included. **Can be Spanish, Chinese or Indian as per the group's preference.***

Dinner and accommodation in Barcelona.



DAY 8 - DEPARTURE FROM BARCELONA

Breakfast at the hotel. Free and Easy until time for transfer to Barcelona International Airport for your flight departure to Singapore.

INCLUSIONS

- + Accommodation in 4 star hotels:
 - ❖ 4 Nights in Madrid
 - ❖ 3 Nights in Barcelona.
- + 7 buffet breakfast in hotels
- + 6 lunches at local restaurants (water included).
- + 7 dinner in restaurants at hotels (water included).
- + All bus transfers as per detailed itinerary.
- + English-speaking guide for the detailed itinerary (please note up to 8 hours of service a day + Flamenco dinner show).
- + Entrance tickets:
 - ❖ Madrid Royal Palace
 - ❖ Toledo Cathedral
 - ❖ Sagrada Familia
- + Flamenco Dinner Show.
- + Barcelona City Tax.

EXCLUSIONS

- + All International Air Tickets
- + All Domestic Air Tickets, if required
- + Travel Insurance
- + Visa, if required
- + All Personal Expenses
- + Meals not mentioned in the itinerary