



MADRID AND ANDALUSIA



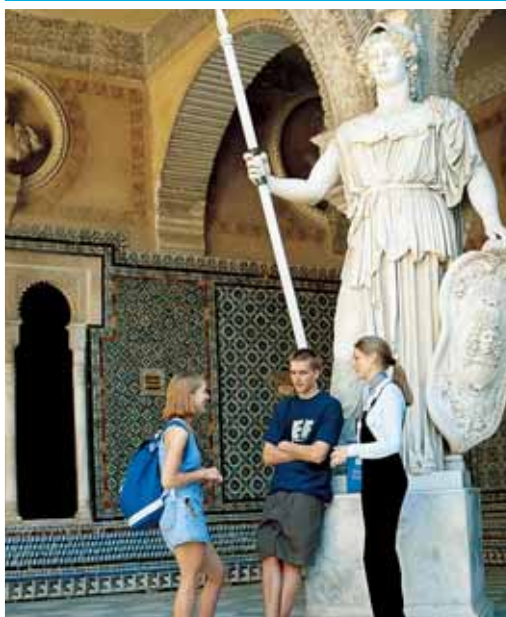
*Educational
Tours*

→ *Discover the Global Classroom*

10 or 12 DAYS

Madrid and Andalusia

Spain



From the Alhambra Palace to the Plaza de la Maestranza, a bullfighting ring in Seville, you are going to take in the best of Spain.

Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- 4 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Madrid • Seville • Granada • Toledo
- 1 EF walking tour: Seville
- 1 EF orientation tour: Madrid
- 10 visits to special attractions: Prado • Royal Palace • Toledo Cathedral Church of Santo Tomé • St. Mary's Synagogue Alhambra • Granada Cathedral and Royal Chapel Seville Alcázar • Seville Cathedral • Mezquita

OPTIONAL:

- Morocco excursion
- Seville Flamenco Evening
- El Escorial and Segovia

WITH EXTENSION:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Barcelona
- 1 EF walking tour: Barcelona
- 1 visit to a special attraction: Parque Guell
- AVE high-speed train

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Spain • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Madrid

Arrival in Madrid • Touch down in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital. After clearing customs you are greeted by your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Madrid orientation tour • Your tour director shows you Madrid. Travel back in time to Spain's Golden Age, when painters like Goya and Velázquez ruled and the Royal Court reigned. Get acquainted with the center of Iberia and its biggest draw—the friendly *madriñeos* who inhabit the cafés, *tascas* and flea markets that pack the city. And discover what makes Pedro Almodóvar want to immortalize the Madrid scene in his films.

Visit to the Prado • You'll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with works collected by the Spanish monarchy. One of the museum's most famous paintings is *Las Meninas* by Velázquez. You'll also find Goya's paired canvases *The Clothed Maja* and *The Naked Maja*, along with works by Bosch, El Greco and many others.

Day 3 Madrid

Guided sightseeing of Madrid • Your sightseeing adventure begins with a panoramic tour of Spain's capital city. At the Puerta del Sol, the center of Madrid, pass through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza

Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This grand square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to royal weddings to public executions. Continue to the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Next, you will explore this magnificent palace, built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 rooms, including one with extravagant ceramic walls. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible variety of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

Day 4 Toledo • Consuegra • Granada

Guided excursion to Toledo • Embark on a journey to the former Spanish capital of Toledo, where Muslims, Jews and Christians peacefully coexisted for centuries after the arrival of the Moors in the early 8th century. You'll see the influence of all three cultures as you tour the 12th-century St. Mary's Synagogue. Designed to be a mosque, but then used as a synagogue, it was finally converted into a church. You'll also visit the cathedral that dominates Toledo's skyline before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomé. Here, you'll view *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz* (*The Burial of Count Orgaz*), one of El Greco's supreme achievements. Then, make a stop at a local damascene workshop; damascene is an intricate Muslim craft originating in Damascus and made famous in Toledo.



Learn before you go
www.eftours.com/pbs

Transfer via Consuegra • Travel through Consuegra, marveling at the huge windmills atop Crestería Manchega that Don Quixote mistook for giants.

Transfer to Granada • Arrive in Granada, one of the eight provinces in Andalusia. Located at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, it was the last bastion of Moorish rule in Spain.

Day 5 Granada

Guided sightseeing of Granada • Recall both *The Arabian Nights* and the works of Washington Irving as you tour Spain's most celebrated building: Granada's 14th-century Alhambra. See the exotic mosaics and richly ornamented courtyards of the country's last Moorish stronghold. Here, Christopher Columbus discussed with the king his plans for sailing to India. Then walk in the footsteps of sultans as you tour the Generalife—a 14th-century palace surrounded by magnificent gardens—where they often spent their summers. (Please note: Because of the Alhambra's extreme popularity, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons.)

Transfer to the Costa del Sol • Travel to the sunny Costa del Sol.

Day 6 Costa del Sol

Optional excursion to Morocco • Join our full-day optional excursion to Morocco. Ferry across the Strait of Gibraltar and enter a world of mosques, camels, snake charmers and bustling markets. You'll travel to Tetouan, a serene North African town whose culture and architecture reflect the area's Moorish past. See the Andalusian and Islamic-influenced architecture, as a local guide leads you through the Medina. You'll also hear presentations at a carpet bazaar and a local spice shop.

Day 7 Seville

Transfer to Seville • Follow the Guadalquivir River to Seville—capital of Andalusia, birthplace of Velázquez, and host of the 1992 World's Fair.

Guided sightseeing of Seville • Hispalis, as Seville was called in Roman times, sits on the banks of the Río Guadalquivir and is Spain's only river port. See the Old Tobacco Factory, setting of Bizet's opera *Carmen*, and pass the Plaza de Toros, one of Spain's preeminent bullrings. Then visit Maria Louisa Park to view the beautiful mosaics of Plaza de España, built for the 1929 Ibero-American Fair. Next, walk through the twisting alleys of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, Seville's old Jewish Quarter. The white-

washed houses with sand-colored trim are typical of Sevillian-style architecture, and many are still among Seville's most desirable homes. Top off your tour with a guided visit to the Moorish Alcázar. Built for Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century, it is one of the purest examples of *mudéjar* architecture in the world. On Mondays, when the Moorish Alcázar is closed, groups will visit the Casa de Pilatos, an early Andalusian palace with lovely gardens.

Guided visit to Seville's Cathedral • Columbus landed in Seville upon returning from his first voyage in 1493. Pay tribute at his grave inside the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral, the third largest in the world. Then climb the cathedral's Giralda Tower for a spectacular view of the city below.

Tour Seville's Bullring • With its Baroque façade in white and ochre, Seville's bullring is one of the most charming bullrings in the country. Although its capacity is only 12,500, it attracts the top bullfighters. You can see bullfights in Seville from April (during Seville's Feria de Abril) through to October.

EF walking tour of Seville • Our EF walking tour begins at the base of the Giralda Tower, Seville's best-known symbol. Make your way toward the 12th-century Torre del Oro (The

Golden Tower), built to defend the river entrance to Seville. Then head for the Plaza de Toros, one of the oldest and grandest bullrings in all of Spain.

Optional Flamenco Evening • To better understand the soul of Spain, choose to attend an optional flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco dance is a passionate display of intricate heelwork and clapping, accompanied by songs and guitar.

Day 8 Córdoba • Madrid

Transfer to Córdoba • Transfer to Córdoba, northeast of Seville. The former Moorish capital was once a draw for intellectuals and was known as one of Europe's cultural centers. Today, see the influence of the Moorish, Roman, Jewish and Christian cultures that flourished here at different times in the city's history.

Visit the Mezquita • Visit Córdoba's 8th-century Mezquita, formerly the largest mosque west of Mecca. Córdoba was once a sacred Muslim city and one of the world's great centers of learning—at its height, it was home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths and 70 libraries.

Transfer via AVE train from Córdoba to Madrid • Board Spain's high-speed train, dubbed the AVE—Alta Velocidad Española.

Seville's history of both Roman and Muslim reign is reflected in the city's architecture.



The first AVE train was inaugurated in 1992 with the completion of the Madrid-Sevilla line. The train will reach a maximum speed of more than 180 miles per hour before arriving in Madrid.

Arrival in Madrid • Arrive back in Madrid.

Day 9 Madrid

Optional excursion to El Escorial and Segovia

• Opt to journey into the Castilian countryside. First stop is El Escorial, known to Spaniards as “the eighth wonder of the world.” In this royal city created by Philip II, see the king’s deathbed and the tombs of the majority of past kings and queens of Spain. This enormous Renaissance palace boasts 16 courtyards, 2,673 windows, 1,250 doors, 86 staircases and 88 fountains. Then we proceed to the beautiful medieval city of Segovia, where Isabella was declared queen in 1474. Tour the 14th-century Alcázar fortress, where Christopher Columbus made out his will. See, too, the town’s golden cathedral and Roman aqueduct. Dating from the 1st century, it was used until 1983. (Lunch is included.)

Free time in Madrid • Alternatively, you’ll have free time to become better acquainted with Madrid on your own. You might wish to visit museums, view the city’s many monuments and churches, walk through outdoor plazas or sample tapas at a café.

Day 10 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 10 Barcelona

Transfer via AVE train from Madrid to Barcelona • Board Spain’s high-speed train to Barcelona.

Arrival in Barcelona • Arrive in Barcelona, Spain’s second-largest city and the capital of Cataluña. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Barcelona played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain’s monarchy in 1931 and was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939.

EF walking tour of Barcelona • Barcelona, known as “La Gran Encisera” (the Great Enchantress) has inspired countless artists—Miró, Picasso and Dalí all lived or studied here at the beginning of their careers. Experience the spirit and romance of Barcelona on our EF walking tour. Your tour director takes you down Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian boulevard that W. Somerset Maugham called “the most beautiful street in the world.” Wander among the newspaper kiosks, flower and bird stalls, and performers, from human statues to street musicians to fortune tellers. Restaurants, cafés and hotels abound, as do tourists and locals alike.

Day 11 Barcelona

Guided sightseeing of Barcelona • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still unfinished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family), where you will make a photo stop. This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You will also see some of Gaudí’s other works during our panoramic bus tour of Paseo de Gracia, one of Spain’s most cosmopolitan streets. Check out Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España, a bustling six-street intersection that boasts the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place. Here, you will see the former stadium and the Olympic Rings. Continue to the Plaza de Colon, a square built in honor of Christopher Columbus. Finish your tour in the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city and home to the stunning Barcelona Cathedral, built in the Mediterranean Gothic style.

Visit to Parque Guell • You’ll also visit the Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. The beautifully landscaped park is decorated with playful Modernist mosaics. Visit the Room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu, where Gaudí lived from 1906 to 1926.

Day 12 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

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Educational Tours