



Spanish Panorama

From Madrid to Seville with Gavin Miller

April 14 - 23, 2016

Spain is a land of vivid contrasts. Timeless, sun-baked landscapes surround its vibrant cities, and traditional rural communities continue unchanged beside the bustle of modern-day urban life. The country's proud history and architectural legacy embrace Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Moors, and the Catholic Kings of Spain's "Golden Age." This spring, join *Discover Europe* for a journey into the heart and soul of Spain.

We begin in Madrid, a vibrant city that centers around the Plaza Mayor, little changed since the 17th century. Then, we'll take a day excursion from Madrid to the monumental palace of Philip II, El Escorial, and the gorgeous city of Segovia for a taste of things to come. We'll wander through Toledo, set high on a plateau above the Rio Tajo, and visit the church of Santo Tome to view El Greco's *Burial of the Count of Orgaz*. On to Cordoba where we pause for a night, visiting the remarkable Mezquita and exploring the old city's narrow lanes and alleyways.

Two nights to enjoy Granada and the ethereal beauty of the Alhambra, the gorgeous gardens of the Generalife, and the old city known as the Albaicin. And across Andalusia to Spain's most romantic city, Seville, with a guided tour that introduces highlights, and free time to wander narrow tree-lined streets. A short flight from Seville back to Madrid connects with your return flight to the United States.

This spring, join *Discover Europe* and Gavin Miller in his beloved adopted homeland for an unforgettable journey across centuries of Spanish history.



The Plaza de Espana, Seville

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$3490**
Single supplement: **\$ 780**

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels, double occupancy, all rooms with private facilities. All hotel taxes and service charges.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 4 dinners.
- Couriers:** Services of *Discover Europe* tour leader Gavin Miller.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Guides:** Local guides in Madrid, Toledo, Cordoba, Seville, and Granada.
- Entrances:** All entrance fees to sites featured in the itinerary.
- Extras:** Flamenco evening in Seville.

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.



Granada's Alhambra

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Thursday, April 14. Evening departure from your chosen gateway city aboard your transatlantic flight to Madrid.

Friday, April 15. Morning arrival in Madrid where you will be met and transferred to your city-center hotel. After time to rest, you'll have a short walking tour of the neighborhood and free time to explore before a dinner party at the hotel welcomes you to Spain! **(D) Overnight: Madrid**

Saturday April 16. A panoramic sightseeing tour of Madrid this morning concludes at the Prado with a brief overview of the masterpieces on display there. The afternoon and evening are free to explore at your leisure, with suggestions from your courier: perhaps a visit to the Royal Palace or the Basilica of San Francisco el Grande, or enjoy the heart of Madrid, the Plaza Mayor. **(B) Overnight: Madrid**

Sunday, April 17. Today a full day excursion to some spectacular sights just outside Madrid. We'll begin at El Escorial, the massive palace built for Philip II and continue to the Valley of the Fallen, a monument to those who died in the Spanish Civil War. At the elegant city of Segovia we'll see its famous Roman aqueduct before having free time to explore. Upon returning to Madrid, the evening is free to find a tempting neighborhood restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Madrid**

Monday, April 18. It's a short journey to Toledo, where a local guide takes us through the cathedral, the church of Santo Tome to view El Greco's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, and the Synagogue del Transito. Free time to lunch and visit the Damascene sword factory before we turn south to Cordoba, where we'll see the city before dinner together at a nearby restaurant. **(B, D) Overnight: Cordoba**



El Escorial



Cordoba

Tuesday, April 19. A local guide introduces us to Cordoba and its extraordinary Mezquita, a Muslim mosque with a Christian cathedral in its center. We'll explore the old Jewish quarter and its synagogue, then take a gorgeous drive southeast, past olive groves and tiny hilltop villages to arrive in Granada with free time to explore before dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Granada**

Wednesday, April 20. This morning we visit Granada's exquisite Alhambra! This magical fortress-palace encapsulates Moorish culture and architecture. We'll also tour the gardens of the nearby Palace of the Generalife. The afternoon and evening are free and your guide will be on hand. You may choose to wander the picturesque Albaicin neighborhood or shop in the city center. Sacromonte has breathtaking views of the Alhambra by night. **(B) Overnight: Granada**

Thursday, April 21. Today we travel west to Seville, passing through the beautiful hilltop towns of the Andalusian Mountains and down into the broad valley of the Guadalquivir River. Gavin will lead a brief orientation to the city before a free evening to explore local restaurants and tapas bars. **(B) Overnight: Seville**

Friday, April 22. A local guide introduces Seville in a walking tour. The afternoon is free to stroll through the Barrio de Santa Cruz, visit the Tower of Gold, or walk through the Plaza de Espana. This evening we enjoy dinner and flamenco in Seville's old quarter! **(B, D) Overnight: Seville**

Saturday, April 23. Transfers this morning to Seville Airport for returning flights back to the United States. **(B)**



Granada

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **D** - dinner