



ALLURING ANDALUCIA

APRIL 17TH - 25TH 2017

With an Optional Extension to Madrid

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 autumn, join *Discover Europe* for a journey into the heart and soul of Southern Spain - *Andalucia!*

Teeming with passion, elegance, and beauty, Seville—with its mild winters and about 3,000 hours of sun each year—is the perfect antidote to April in New England. We'll embark on an exploration of this brilliant city that includes a visit to the nearby Royal Residence, the Real Alcázar, with its lavish rooms and spectacular gardens, and an excursion into the surrounding countryside to view the remains of Roman Italica, birthplace of the Emperor Hadrian.

On to Cordoba, Granada and the ethereal beauty of the Alhambra, the gorgeous gardens of the Generalife, and the old city known as the Albaicin. We return to Seville across Andalucia, through wonderfully romantic white-washed villages.

This spring, join us for an unforgettable journey across the centuries of Spanish history and come bask in the sunshine of *Al Andalus!*



RONDA



ALHAMBRA

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$3260
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 890

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Continental breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- EXPENSES:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe guide throughout, local guides in Seville, Cordoba and Granada.

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.



MONDAY, APRIL 17TH - Departure today from your chosen international gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH - Arrival in Seville, where you are met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. There will be time to unpack, relax, and begin to explore before we gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: SEVILLE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH - After breakfast, Francisco, our local guide, takes us on a walking tour that includes the cathedral and the Alcázar, Seville's royal palace. The afternoon is free to walk up the steep ramp of the beautiful Moorish bell tower, La Giralda, for fabulous views over the city or stroll through the Barrio de Santa Cruz, enjoying its tangled maze of whitewashed alleyways and tree-lined squares. You may also choose to visit the Tower of Gold or walk through the Plaza de España. In the evening, we'll celebrate with tapas and Flamenco. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SEVILLE**

THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH - Just a few miles north of Seville, in the nearby village of Santiponce, lies Roman Itálica, one of the largest, most important Roman ruins in Spain. We'll investigate the site at our leisure and have lunch; for the rest of the day, you're free to explore Seville, sampling tapas along the way! **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: SEVILLE**



MEZQUITA CATHEDRAL, CORDOBA

center. We'll also explore the old Jewish quarter and the synagogue built in the Mudéjar style. From here, it's a gorgeous drive southeast, past tiny hilltop villages, to our hotel in Granada where we'll gather for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: GRANADA**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND - A morning walking tour with a local guide showcases Granada's exquisite Alhambra, a fortress-palace that captures the beauty and intricacy of Moorish culture and architecture. We'll also tour the extensive gardens of the nearby Palace of the Generalife, which evoke a timeless feeling of serenity and tranquility. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are free: you might decide to wander the picturesque streets of the Albaicín neighborhood, visit the royal tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella, dine at a restaurant on the side of Sacro-monte, or enjoy an evening of flamenco in the old gypsy caves. **(B) OVERNIGHT: GRANADA**

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD - This morning we will drive up into the Sierra Nevada to hike a section of the Gran Recorrido 7, the 1900-km foot trail that links the tip of Southern Spain to Alsace in France. Our portion covers the Alpujarras range, one of the most scenic of the GR-7, especially in Spring, when blooming flowers create fields of yellow. Start in the town of Busquístar, in the heart of the Alpujarras, crossing orchards, terraces and open countryside between the tiny white villages of Pórtugios, Atalbéitar and Pitres. As we near the end of the trail in Capileira there are spectacular views of the snow-covered Sierra Nevada. This is a moderate walk, on well-established paths and some dirt roads, with a picnic lunch en route. From Capileira we drive back to Granada, for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: GRANADA**



MONDAY, APRIL 24TH - Today we travel west through the area of Los Pueblos Blancos, the "white villages," working agricultural towns whitewashed in the Moorish tradition. We'll stop at the extraordinary city of Ronda, built on either side of a precipitous gorge, and the last Moorish bastion before it fell to Christians in 1485. Ronda's famous bullring is one of the oldest and most important in Spain, and the spiritual home of bullfighting.

Arriving back in Seville, we'll check in to our hotel and gather for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SEVILLE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH - This morning sees transfers to Seville Airport for return flights to the US. Alternatively why not stay on for an optional extension to Madrid? **(B)**

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO MADRID

The cost of this extension per person **\$1190** (single supp: **\$330**)

This includes: 3 nights accommodation in a first-class hotel (all hotel taxes and service charges included, all ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, first class train tickets from Seville to Madrid, continental breakfast daily and 2 dinners, a Discover Europe tour director throughout, a local guide in Madrid, portage of one large suitcase per person and entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH - This morning you board a high-speed train from Seville to Madrid. After transferring to your city-center hotel, the rest of the day is free to unpack, relax and explore the neighborhood. Dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: MADRID**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH - A panoramic sightseeing tour of Madrid this morning will conclude at the Paseo del Arte, the Art Walk, a rejuvenated route joining Madrid's three largest art galleries, the Prado, the Reina Sofía and the Thyssen-Bornemisza. Each one has recently unveiled new wings. Our local guide will give us an introduction to the masterpieces on display at the Prado and then there will be free time for lunch and those who so desire can continue on the Art Walk in the afternoon. Or you may prefer to visit to the Royal Palace or the Basilica of San Francisco el Grande, or enjoy the sunshine and atmosphere in the social heart of Madrid, the Plaza Mayor. This evening why not sample a few tapas bars. Your courier will have plenty of suggestions. **(B) OVERNIGHT: MADRID**

THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH - Today we make a full day excursion to some of the most spectacular sights in Spain 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 free time to explore. Upon our return to Madrid, there will be time to relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MADRID**



EL ESCORIAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH - This morning sees transfers to Madrid Airport for return flights to the US. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast L - lunch, D - dinner