



MADRID & BARCELONA
DECEMBER 26, 2015- JANUARY 5, 2016
\$6095 (SINGLE OCCUPANCY) ADD 2% FOR AMEX (\$123)

LEAVE JFK DELTA AIR SATURDAY DECEMBER 26TH
SUNDAY DECEMBER 27- Welcome to Madrid!

Madrid is one of the world's most vibrant and seductive cities. A city that takes unabashed pleasure in its past traditions, it is proud to display a wealth of cultural treasures and architectural glories. It always manages to exceed expectations.

Arriving in Madrid's Airport this morning, our representative will be waiting for you in the arrivals area to provide a **private transfer** to your hotel. **Luggage assistance included.**

Check in at the **Hotel Paseo del Prado.**

Welcome Lunch and reception.

Remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Madrid

MONDAY DECEMBER 28

A Half Day Private Tour of Madrid *car and driver at your disposal

Our expert guide will meet you at your hotel and together you will enjoy the architecture, history and anecdotes of Spain's capital.

Madrid is one of the world's most vibrant and seductive cities. A city that takes unabashed pleasure in its past traditions, it is proud to display a wealth of cultural treasures and architectural glories. Enjoy a walking tour that includes some of the capital's most impressive sights, such as the Plaza de Oriente and the historic quarter including the 17th-century Plaza Mayor, a wonderful Baroque square lined with arcades filled with picturesque cafes.



The Royal Palace

Walk through the peaceful Plaza de la Villa where the City Hall stands and the narrow streets of Madrid of the “Austrias”, named after the Austro- Hapsburg dynasty which came to rule over in 1516. Much of the Austrias neighbourhood today is a gastronomic centre, with traditional favourites aplenty, including the famous Botin, the oldest restaurant in the world. The nuns of the Convento nearby occasionally offer their home made cakes too!

The tour will also include an in-depth visit of either the Royal Palace or the Prado Museum time permitting.



The Plaza Mayor

Flamenco and dinner show this evening.

Experience FLAMENCO DANCING with included dinner at the highly-rated Corral de la Moreria, founded in 1956 and considered to be the most well-known tablao flamenco in the world. It’s the premier venue in Madrid, if not the world, to experience this incredibly physical dance genre complete with unique Spanish guitar accompaniment and impressive displays of hand clapping by the performers. The Corral de la Moreria is featured in the book 1,000 Places to See Before You Die and has been frequented by international artists, celebrities and various heads of state, including the King of Spain himself. Bring your camera, but note that flash photography is not allowed. The elaborate costumes alone are stunning!

Overnight: Madrid

The Single Gourmet
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TUESDAY DECEMBER 29

An Excursion to Toledo with a Private Tour

This morning meet your private driver and guide. Depart for Toledo, about an hour away.

On arrival in Toledo, your guide who will begin the visit by taking you to marvel at the overwhelming panoramic view of the former capital of Spain.

Toledo is a thousand-year-old masterpiece created by various cultures including the Romans, Moors, Jews and Christians. Its heyday was in the 16th century when it became the capital of the mighty Spanish empire. The beautifully preserved buildings of this ancient town provide striking testimony of Toledo's rich and colorful past. The city of Toledo, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986, is located on a rocky headland, bordered by the river Tajo in the very heart of Spain, just 70 kilometers (42 miles) from the capital, Madrid.

Although now completely overshadowed by Madrid, it is Toledo and its narrow, winding streets and steps, stone and brick houses and churches that embodies Spain's past.



Panoramic View of Toledo

In the Middle Ages, Toledo was built on a "convergence" of Christianity, Islam and Judaism, and contains two of the few remaining medieval Spanish synagogues. The two synagogues, which stand in the city today, are powerful reminders of that period of religious tolerance before the Spanish Inquisition.

Stop at the parish church of Santo Tomé, and marvel El Greco's famed Burial of the Count of Orgaz, considered to be El Greco's finest work and one of the greatest masterpieces of all time. At the centre of Toledo, you will find the soaring Gothic Cathedral, the finest example of Gothic style in Spain. The collection of paintings is also important, above all the excellent collection kept in the Sacristy that contains Christ Stripped of his Garments and the Apostolate by Greco, paintings by Caravaggio, Titian, Van Dyck, Goya, Morales, Rubens, Bassano and many more. An impressive collection of medieval garments and textiles can also be admired.

Following your tour... lunch at a local restaurant

When ready, return to Madrid and have the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Madrid

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30

Half day tour of Madrid's Art Galleries *transport included

Today with an art specialist visit the Reina Sofia and Museo de arte Thyssen-Bornemisza.

Following your tour, you will have lunch. **Lunch included today.**

Early evening, **A Private Wine Tasting Experience** *round trip transfers included

With the guidance of a sommelier and expert on Spanish wine, you will have the opportunity to taste and learn about aspects of locally produced wine.

Overnight: Madrid

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31

Check out of your hotel and **private transfer** to the train station. Board your **high speed AVE train** to Barcelona.

*A representative of Madrid & Beyond will travel with you and to assist with luggage.

Upon arrival, about 2.5 hours later, **private transfer** to your hotel.

Check in at the **Hotel Gallery**

After checking in... A Half Day Private Tour of Barcelona

*car and driver at your disposal.

Your expert guide and your private driver will meet you at your hotel and together you will explore one of Europe's most fascinating cities...

Barcelona, with typical Catalan pride and creativity, remains determined to project itself as Spain's most innovative city, and offers a staggering array of attractions. Our guided tour tries to give a little more than just a glimpse of how the city was reborn with the Olympics in 1992 and stresses the importance of Catalan history and culture in its development.

The tour takes in the Passeig de Gracia, the most stylish street of Barcelona, lined with boutique shops and art galleries. Also La Rambla, with its outdoor cafes, flower stands, exotic birds and equally colorful street performers.



Plaça Reial, Gothic Quarter

Just off La Rambla are the antique stalls at La Boqueria, Barcelona's outdoor market considered to be one of the best markets in the world. Barcelona's Gothic Quarter rests on the ancient Roman city of Barcino, today full of buildings from the 13th to the 15th century. The Quarter, where you'll spend most of the tour, is full of interesting shapes, peaceful plazas and winding alleyways, with its medieval Cathedral and the Picasso Museum.

Tonight, celebrate New Years, Spanish Style... Tonight is Nochevieja, which means 'the old night' in Spanish. Families and friends often gather together to enjoy a late meal, the last one of the year, before hitting the big parties. According to Spanish tradition, you're supposed to be wearing red underwear and eat twelve grapes at midnight, at every chime of the clock in the countdown to midnight. These two are said to bring good luck.

Celebrate New Years (Nochevieja) like a local with a festive **dinner and party!**

Overnight: Barcelona

FRIDAY JANUARY 1

This afternoon, **lunch at a local restaurant.**

Overnight: Barcelona

SATURDAY JANUARY 2

This Morning...A Private Tour of Gaudi & Modernisme Architecture *car and driver at your disposal.

You will spend half a day focusing on the period that was Barcelona's most vibrant and exciting - the period of visionary architect Antonio Gaudi and his contemporaries, a period of a Catalan Renaissance in the arts and literature.

Visit the iconic Casa Milà, a fantasy in stone which appears to have been carved out of the living rock, hence its nickname: La Pedrera, which means "the quarry." The building is an apartment house on one of Barcelona's main avenues.

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Casa Batlló is a home built for a wealthy businessman and an outstanding example of Gaudí's private work.

You will visit the unique and magical Cathedral of Sagrada Família. The monumental (and still unfinished) El Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família is Gaudí's most famous work and a worldwide symbol for Barcelona.

Gaudí designed the playful Parc Güell for his greatest patron. Many Gaudí aficionados consider this outdoor park his finest work.



The dragon/salamander fountain at the entrance to Parc Güell, Barcelona.

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Saturday January 2nd Afternoon, A Private Cooking Class in Barcelona

The cuisine of the various regions of Spain make some of the world's finest dishes. Rich in tradition and history (Arab, Jewish, Roman, Aztec, and many other cultures have all contributed methods and ingredients) Spanish cuisine has an identity of its own. It is sensual yet simple, delicate but unpretentious, folklorist yet innovative.

Enjoy a hands-on introduction to Spanish cooking with your host, instructor and chef whose infectious passion for food and Mediterranean cuisine will set the scene for a fun way to learn about traditional and contemporary homemade specialties.

Start with a walking tour around the famous Boqueria market, getting plenty of tips on picking local, seasonal products, and exploring in depth some of the extraordinary and delicious fresh food that is sold here. You'll get so much more out of the tour with a chef than you ever would hope to get on your own.

From the Boqueria, head to a superbly laid out kitchen, located in the heart of the Gothic Quarter and just a few minutes' walk from the market - a great spot to cook authentic typical dishes of Spain.

With your chef involving you as much as you wish in the preparation of the dishes, prepare a delicious starter, main course and dessert. Finish the adventure enjoying the menu prepared in a friendly and casual atmosphere.



If you would like the lesson to focus on any particular foods, please let us know.

Overnight: Barcelona



SUNDAY JANUARY 3

A Full-Day Private Excursion to Girona and Costa Brava

The province of Girona lies in the northeast of Spain, bordering France and the Catalan provinces of Barcelona and Lleida. The most striking characteristic about this historic area of north Catalunya is undoubtedly its great diversity - internationally acclaimed beaches, spectacular mountains at the eastern tip of the Pyrenees, a rugged rocky coastline reaching up to the French border, and the green rolling hills of rural Gerona. This bounty of rural and coastal treasures, together with the mild climate that it enjoys, makes Girona a popular destination for visitors throughout the year.



Your guide and driver will pick you up in Barcelona for your full-day tour of Girona. The drive will be approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The ancient walled city of Girona stands on a fortress-like hill, high above the confluence of the Onyar and Ter rivers. As the provincial capital it has a long and distinguished history. Founded by Iberians, the Romans later named it Gerunda and established it as an important stopping point on the Via Augusta, linking Iberia with Rome. The huge 15th century cathedral, boasting the widest unsupported gothic arch in the world, dominates the skyline, yet much of the city's attraction lies in exploring the mediaeval streets, especially around the charming Jewish quarter.

Girona's history dates back to the Roman era, and you will find the town full of magnificent monuments, museums and archives. Successive rulers have left a mix of architecture in Girona ranging from the Gothic cathedral to the beautiful 12th century Arab baths. Your guide will lead you through the winding medieval alleyways of Girona. Girona's Call, the old Jewish Quarter, was home to a prosperous community until the end of the 15th century. You will have lunch on your own in Girona.

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You will have **lunch in Girona, lunch included.**

This afternoon head to Figueres, Salvador Dalí's hometown. Here you will visit the Dalí Theatre-Museum, designed by the artist himself. It contains a broad range of works spanning his career. In the museum, you should expect the outrageous. Highlights include a stage set featuring large mannequins, a long black Cadillac with sprinklers inside, and a salon that uses furniture to recreate Mae West's face (with a sofa fashioned like soft red lips). Dalí himself is buried in a crypt here, next to a series of gold cobra statues.



Salvador Dalí, self-portrait

Overnight: Barcelona

MONDAY JANUARY 4

Day at leisure.

This evening, enjoy a special **farewell dinner at Michelin Star Restaurant**

Overnight: Barcelona

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TUESDAY JANUARY 5

Today, check out of your hotel and **private transfer** to Barcelona's airport. **Luggage assistance included.**
Adios España!

SPLENDORS OF MADRID & BARCELONA
DECEMBER 26, 2015- JANUARY 5, 2016

HOTELS:

MADRID, PASEO DEL PRADO, DEC 27-31

STANDARD DOUBLE FOR SINGLE USE

BARCELONA, GALLERY HOTEL, DEC. 31- JAN 5

STANDARD DOUBLE FOR SINGLE USE

TOURS/SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

MEET AND GREET AT THE MADRID AIRPORT

HALF DAY TOUR MADRID

FLAMENCO SHOW WITH DINNER, CORRAL DE LA MORERIA

FULL DAY TOUR TOLEDO

HALF DAY ART GALLERY TOUR

LUNCH AFTER ART GALLERY TOUR

WINE TASTING IN MADRID

HALF DAY TOUR BARCELONA, GOTHIC QUARTER

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

HALF DAY BARCELONA, GAUDI TOUR

COOKING CLASS BARCELONA WITH GUIDE

GIRONA/ FIGURES EXCURSION

ADMISSIONS WHERE NECESSARY

TRANSPORTATION

AIRFARE TO MADRID AND FROM BARCELONA DIRECT

ARRIVAL TRANSFER MADRID- HOTEL

TRANSPORT FOR MADRID TOUR

TRANSPORT FOR TOLEDO EXCURSION

TRANSPORT FOR ART TOUR

ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS FOR WINE TASTING

TRANSFER: MADRID HOTEL TO TRAIN

TRAIN: MADRID TO BARCELONA, PREFERENTE

ESCORT GUIDE FROM MADRID HOTEL TO BARCELONA HOTEL

TRANSFER: BARCELONA TRAIN TO HOTEL

TRANSPORT FOR HALF DAY BARCELONA TOUR, GOTHIC QUARTER

TRANSPORT FOR GAUDI TOUR

ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS TO COOKING CLASS

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TRANSPORT FOR GIRONA EXCURSION
ROUND TRIP TRANSFER FOR FAREWELL DINNER
DEPARTURE TRANSFER

MEALS

BUFFET BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING
WELCOME LUNCH IN MADRID
DINNER AT FLAMENCO SHOW IN MADRID
LUNCH IN MADRID, FOLLOWING ART TOUR
LUNCH IN TOLEDO
MEAL PREPARED AT COOKING CLASS IN BARCELONA
LUNCH IN BARCELONA, NEW YEARS DAY
LUNCH IN GIRONA, JAN. 3
FAREWELL DINNER AT MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANT IN BARCELONA

GRATUITIES:

INCLUDED THROUGHOUT.

OTHER SERVICES

ALL THE INTANGIBLES OF BOOKING WITH SPAIN'S LEADING SPECIALIST INCOMING TRAVEL COMPANY
VALUE ADDED TAX AND ALL SERVICE CHARGE

THE ABOVE ITINERARY IS ONLY A PROPOSAL. ALL ARRANGEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.