

Spring 2016
Spain and Portugal
March 24 - April 3
Detailed Itinerary

11 days \$4258 Price includes the following:
Round trip airfare from SLC
High Speed train from Barcelona to Madrid
Flight from Madrid to Portugal
All hotels, based on double occupancy (single supplement \$513)
All breakfasts
6 Dinners
All local guides and tips
Private coach transfers
All entrance fees to scheduled sights
Travel and accident insurance

And your own Art Historian every step of the way!

Thursday, March 24th

Depart Salt Lake City for Barcelona, Spain

Friday, March 25th

We arrive in Barcelona mid morning and board our private coach for our transfer to our hotel located right in the heart of this beautiful city! We will check in, take a little time to freshen up, and then meet our **great local guide** for a walking tour of the heart of Barcelona. I am quite sure our guide will let you know that you are in **Catalunya** as opposed to Spain. Barcelona is fiercely proud of its regional heritage for reasons our guide will clearly explain! We will be temporary Catalans while we are here! We'll stroll the **Ramblas**, the great pedestrian boulevard running north and south through the heart of the city. It is the best people watching in town, and locals and tourists alike have been ambling down the Ramblas for over a century. Lined with shops, cafes, and churches it is one of the great walks in all of Europe. And we will be grabbing lunch along the way at the wonderful **La Boqueria market**. This thriving market hall is one of the best markets in all of Europe, and just wandering through it, let alone having lunch, is a delight. You'll want to come back here each morning to assemble a picnic lunch for the day. Saturday is especially fabulous! Our local guide will give you the rundown of the history of Barcelona as we make our way down the Ramblas to the **waterfront** for a little Christopher Columbus history at the **Columbus Monument**, the spot where he came ashore to greet Ferdinand and Isabella after his epic voyage to the new world. We will also go with our guide through the **Barri Gotic**, the Gothic Quarter of Barcelona. Filled with cafes, shops, and the original narrow, winding streets and lanes and beautiful little courtyards, it is the original sight of the **ancient Roman city** built here – the beginnings of Barcelona. On this walk you will encounter the remnants of ancient Rome including the **Temple of Augustus**, the hangout of **Pablo Picasso** during his early, formative years as an artist, the grand **Gothic Cathedral** at the heart of the neighborhood, the old **Jewish Quarter**, and much more. We will end our wonderful first afternoon with a traditional **Catalan Dinner** at a great local restaurant. **Paella** is the traditional rice dish that comes in many varieties and is absolutely delicious! We are sure to be well fed! After dinner you'll want to turn in for a good night's rest to help get over your jet lag. Tomorrow is going to be great!

Saturday, March 26th

After breakfast at our hotel we will meet up with our local guide for another great walking tour. This morning is our **Gaudi** morning, the great 20th century architect that did so much to shape the **Art Nouveau** face of modern Barcelona. We will visit his fantastic (and still unfinished) **Sagrada Familia**, his bold Gothic inspired cathedral rewritten in the Art Nouveau style. It is a fantastic place, and our local guide will bring the whole story to life. After the cathedral we head on over to **La Pedrera** (Casa Mila), Gaudi, justifiably famous apartment complex built for Barcelona's wealthy middle class and an Art Nouveau wonder. We will get a thorough tour of the inside as well as the rooftop terraces. After lunch you can join me for more Gaudi – a trip to **Park Guell**. A Gaudi designed park overlooking Barcelona it is a fun place to take a break from downtown and enjoy more Art Nouveau. Or you can enjoy the afternoon and evening on your own exploring the nooks and crannies of downtown. Dinner is on your own tonight. Get off the beaten path and find a restaurant where they don't advertise in English and you're sure to find a great place to eat!

Sunday, March 27th

Easter Sunday! This morning is free. You can sleep in, head to a local church for **Easter Mass**, or wander Barcelona at your own pace. After lunch we will meet our local guide for a tour of the **Picasso Museum**. Even if you are not a fan, this museum will not disappoint. Picasso was a lad here, and he mastered realism at a very early age. By his late teens he was already agitating for new style of expression, and it began here. The museum is a great retrospective of his early, realist years, and a glimpse of the changes that will rock the art world as he leaves Barcelona for Paris. After the museum our guide will take us up to the top of **Montjuic**. Barcelonans love their hill, and our guide will give us the rundown. We'll see the old **castle**, the **Olympic Stadium**, and the **1929 World Expo Fairgrounds**. We will then head back down to town for a traditional **Tapas** dinner together. The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy your last night in Barcelona. After breakfast tomorrow we catch the high speed train for our two hour trip to Madrid!

Monday, March 28th

After breakfast our private coach will transfer us to the train station for our fast, two hour ride to **Madrid!** We will transfer to our hotel, drop our bags, and a wonderful local guide will give us a four hour orientation walk of one of Europe's great cities. Starting at the **Puerta del Sol** we will stroll through the heart of Madrid as our guide fills us in on history, art, culture, and so much more. The **Plaza Mayor**, the old **Town Hall**, the incomparable **Almudena Cathedral**, and a tour of the **Royal Palace** round out our orientation to Madrid. You will have a couple of hours to get checked into your hotel room, explore our hotel neighborhood, and then we will meet up for what will be a most memorable dinner together – a traditional **Cocido Madrileño** at **La Bola Restaurant** in the center of town. Cocido madrileño is a traditional chickpea-based stew from Madrid, Spain. A substantial dish prepared with meat and vegetables, it is most popular during the winter but is served throughout the year in some restaurants.

Tuesday, March 29th

After breakfast we'll hop on a private coach and head off to two of Madrid's great museums, the **Raina Sophia** and the **Prado**. Starting with modern art, the Raina Sophia houses Picasso's great masterpiece **Guernica**. There is a great story to this monumental painting that our guide will enthusiastically give us, as well as other important works in this museum. We will then transfer to the Prado, arguable among the best two or three museums in the entire world! Taking center stage is **Diego Velazquez** and **Francisco de Goya**, both personal favorites of mine, as well as the powerful Greek painter **El Greco**. Our tour will end here and you can stay in the museum with me to see many other works by great masters, or walk over to **Retiro Park** for some people watching and a siesta. I'll end up there myself! The balance of the day and evening are yours to explore and enjoy.

Wednesday, March 30th

After an early breakfast we will hop on a private coach for a half day guided tour of **Toledo!** Perched on a hill above a beautiful river, Toledo is a medieval delight. Hills, hills, hills! Get ready.

Everything is up hill in Toledo! But everything is worth the climb! Our guide will give us the fascinating history of Toledo, guide us through the tangle of streets, and get us into the churches of **Santo Tome** for another El Greco Masterpiece, **The Burial of Count Orgaz**, and the **Cathedral**, one of the very best in Europe. You are going to love Toledo! Back in Madrid you'll have free time until dinner, where we will gather for another memorable meal at **Los Galayos** in Plaza Mayor. The food here is fabulous! The evening is yours to stroll around and have a memorable last evening in Madrid.

Thursday, March 31st

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for a quick flight to **Lisbon, Portugal!** At our hotel a local guide will pick us up for a four hour walking tour of Lisbon, enjoying all the different downtown neighborhoods and sights from Ancient Rome to Modern Lisbon. Our guide will give us the great maritime history of this fabulous city, as well as the story of the vibrant modern town. After our tour the balance of the afternoon and evening is free. I suggest we hop on a train for the short ride to **Sintra**, perhaps the most beautiful city in Portugal. I would like to spend the rest of the afternoon and entire evening here, finding a great meal and enjoying the sunset from the castle. Care to join me?

Friday, April 1st

After breakfast our guide will meet us for another wonder half day tour that will include the **Tower of Belem** and the **Gulbenkiam Museum**. The tower of Belem, right on the coast, played a very important part in the maritime history of Portugal, and our guide will be sure to help us see the importance of this beautiful monument. And the Gulbenkiam Museum is a great collection of world art that is extremely visitor friendly and a great look at our visual past. This morning will be a real treat! The balance of the afternoon is free, and we will meet up for traditional **Portugese cuisine** at a local restaurant.

Saturday, April 2nd

Today is a full day excursion to **Evora**. Due to its well-preserved old town center, still partially enclosed by medieval walls, and a large number of monuments dating from various historical periods, including a **Roman Temple**, Évora is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. An ancient Roman Temple sits at the heart of the old town center, and from there our guide will take us on an unforgettable walk through one of Europe's best little cities. The Portuguese love this place, and rank it as the second most livable city in all of Portugal. Back in Lisbon this evening we will have a traditional dinner and a traditional **Fado Show**. Fado is a music genre that goes back at least to the early 1800's and is a staple of Portuguese tradition. You'll enjoy your evening to be sure!

Sunday, April 3rd

Sadly it is off to the airport after breakfast for our flight back to Salt Lake City, but you will have some wonderful memories to take back with you. Hopefully this whets your appetite for more of Portugal and Spain, and that you'll get yourself back here some day!