

A Custom Designed Itinerary to

SPAIN

by

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

IQOTC REF: F704101

DAY 1: BARCELONA/ CORDOBA. You are met at the Barcelona harbor as you disembark your cruise ship and privately transferred to the rail station to board your train to Cordoba. On arrival in Cordoba, you will be met by an English-speaking driver and privately transferred to the **Palacio del Bailio**, Check into a double bedded room for a two night stay. Built between the 16th and 18th centuries, this traditional Andalusian estate has been meticulously restored and finely balanced with contemporary design. Original detailing such as wrought-iron balcony railings, terracotta tiles, Moorish decorative elements and a lavishly painted ceiling have been artfully combined with understated modern touches. Rich fabrics and textures in champagne and copper tones are offset by dark walnut wood and light polished marble floors throughout the interiors – solid slabs of black stone from Cordoba lead to the gardens outside.

<http://www.hospes.es/Hotels.aspx?m=2&hotelid=7§ion=11,1>

DAY 2: CORDOBA. This morning we include a half day walking tour with an English-speaking guide. Cordoba's crown jewel is the Great Mosque. Part of it was destroyed to make way for a cathedral built in its center, but you can still recapture the spirit of Al-Andalus (the former Islamic name for the city) as you wander through its forest of hundreds of delicate marble columns and double-tiered arches. The charm of this tolerant Andalusian city beckons with taverns offering tasty tapas and fine wines, and plazas alive with flowers and strains of flamenco wafting from balconies and windows. This afternoon collect your rental car at the downtown Cordoba rental office. We include a midsize, manual Opel Vectra or similar with unlimited mileage, CDW, and tax included *An international driver's license is recommended.*



DAY 3: CORDOBA/ GRANADA. Drive approximately two hours to Granada today. Upon arrival in Granada we have included a two night stay at **The Palacio Santa Paula**. Located in the old town area of Granada, it is the result of a very careful and well-thought-out refurbishment of the old Convent of Santa Paula and maintains the old cloister. You can enjoy the pleasure of resting in a luxurious hotel in this unique building, one of the key monuments of the historical downtown area of the city. <http://ac.hotelsearch.com/achotelsantapaulagranada/>

DAY 4: GRANADA. Today meet your English-speaking guide at the Alhambra for a half day tour of the palace. We include reserved tickets. Balance of the day at leisure.



DAY 5: GRANADA/ RONDA. Drive approximately three and a half hours to Ronda. Here you will check into your king bedded room at the **Parador de Ronda Hotel**, an imposing first class hotel, originally the town hall, perched on a cliff overlooking a gorge of the Tagus River and featuring sweeping views of the gorge and mountains. Enjoy the balance of your day at leisure. The old walled town is very picturesque and nearby is Ronda la Vieja, the site of an old Roman city. <http://www.paradores-spain.com/spain/pronda.html>

DAY 6: RONDA/ JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA. Drive approximately two hours to Jerez today to check into the **Hotel Prestige Palmera Plaza**, a lovely first class hotel in the historical center. A queen bedded room is included for 1 night. Jerez is famous for producing sherry and we include a sherry and tapas tasting at a local bodega. Jerez is also horse country, and we include tickets for a visit of the famous Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Arts, and performance of the “Dancing Horses” at 12.00 noon today.

http://www.slh.com/spain/jerez_de_la_frontera/hotel_jervil.html

DAY 7: JEREZ/ SEVILLE. Drive approximately two hours to Seville today. On arrival, drop off your rental and make your own way to **Las Casas Del Rey De Baeza** for a two night stay. The hotel is set in a beautiful and unique location, the Houses of the King of Baeza, in the heart of the historical center. Its traditional architecture and exquisite furniture make it one of the most prestigious small first class hotels in Seville.

<http://www.hospes.es/Hotels.aspx?m=2&hotelid=3§ion=11,1>



DAY 8: SEVILLE. Spend the day at leisure in Seville.

DAY 9: SEVILLE/ MADRID. Today make your own way to the train station in time to board your fast train for Madrid (2 hrs 30 minutes). We include first class tickets and reserved seats. On arrival in Madrid, you will be greeted and privately transferred to the **Wellington Hotel**, a traditional deluxe hotel with classical ambiance, located in a residential area of the city center. Facilities include restaurant, grillroom, and snack bar, bar, swimming pool, sauna and massage. www.hotel-wellington.com. Here we have included a three night stay.

DAY 10: MADRID. Meet at your hotel today with a local English-speaking guide and driver for a half day of private sightseeing in Madrid. After your tour spend the balance of your day at leisure.



DAY 11: LOCAL TOURING. Meet with your English-speaking guide and driver at your hotel for a full day's private tour of Toledo. Toledo is the city of El Greco, perched on a hill above the Tagus River. You will enjoy a walk through the old medieval streets to the cathedral, considered the second finest (after Burgos) Gothic masterpiece in Spain. The Church of Santo Tome contains one of El Greco's most famous paintings, *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*. El Greco's House and Museum displays 20 paintings by the master, including the famous *View of Toledo*. The whole city is a treasure trove of Moorish, Jewish and Christian history. Return to your hotel for evening at leisure.

DAY 12: DEPART. A private transfer to the airport for the flight to the USA.