Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte

Spain: Journey through Historic Moorish Andalusia and Classical Barcelona*

October 10-20th (10-Days)

*2-night optional extension to Barcelona

Please contact Danielle Cobos via email (dcobos@worldaffairscharlotte.org) or call 704-687-7757 to confirm your interest in traveling with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte as soon as possible.

For questions or information regarding the trip, please contact LJ Stambuk, President & CEO of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via email (lstambuk@worldaffairscharlotte.org) or call 704-687-7760.

Day 1: Friday, October 10, 2014

Charlotte/Munich

Depart from Charlotte early evening via Lufthansa Airlines nonstop service to Munich. Time appropriate meals and inflight entertainment offered on board

Day 2: Saturday, October 11, 2014

Madrid/Munich

Arrive in Munich at 9:45 a.m.

Travelers will fly on connecting flight Lufthansa 1801 departing at 11:40 a.m. Arrive in Madrid at 2:20 p.m.

The group will be transported to the Hotel Hesperia (5-star), one of Madrid’s leading contemporary luxury showcases. High-profile Spanish designer Pascua Ortega designed the hotel’s stunningly modern interiors, spaces that elegantly blend with the classic style of the rooms.

Upon arrival at hotel, travelers may freshen up before the welcome dinner at Restaurante Sobrino de Botín, Hemmingways’ favorite restaurant and according to Guinness, the oldest one in the world. Dinner will include wine.

Located in the heart of Madrid, Restaurante Sobrino de Botín is certified as the world’s oldest restaurant by the Guinness Book of Records. Botin is a typical Spanish four floors restaurant, with a centuries old woodfire oven, dating back to 1725. The house specialties are cochinillo asado (succulent roast suckling pig with crispy skin) and cordero asado (roast lamb), cooked following old style Castilian recipes. (Read More)

Stay overnight in Madrid.
Day 3: Sunday, October 12, 2014

Check out of hotel after breakfast.

Travellers will continue with a 4-hour panoramic tour of the city of Madrid.

The Telegraph: My Madrid

“No city on earth is more alive than Madrid, a beguiling place whose sheer energy carries a simple message: this city really knows how to live. Here is a place where the passions of Europe’s most passionate country are the fabric of daily life, a city with music in its soul and an unshakeable spring in its step. Few cities can boast an artistic pedigree quite as pure as Madrid’s and many art lovers return here again and again, so rich is the city’s art collection. For centuries, Spanish royals showered praise and riches upon the great artists of the day, from home-grown talents such as Goya and Velázquez to a stunning pantheon of Flemish and Italian masters.” Read More

Independent lunch.

Take a tour after lunch of the magnificent Prado Museum, the main Spanish national art museum with features one of the world’s finest collection of European art (12th–early 19th century), based on the former Spanish Royal collection.

Transfer to Madrid train station at around 3 p.m. to board the 4 p.m. AVE high-speed train (Preference Class) to the beautiful city of Seville.

Spend the next four nights at the Alma Sevilla Hotel Palacio de Villapanes Sevilla. This exquisite boutique hotel is a converted 18th century palace situated just outside Seville’s historic Santa Cruz district.

Independent dinner.
Day 4: Monday, October 13, 2014
Seville

Breakfast provided in the morning

Spend a half-day on a guided sightseeing tour of the former Moorish capital of Spain’s Andalusian region, Seville.

As one of the largest historical centers of Europe, it is home to the minaret of La Giralda, the Cathedral of Seville (one of the largest in the Western world), and the Alcázar Palace.

A custom tour has been arranged for travelers during the visit to the Cathedral and the Alcázar Palace.

“SEVILLE is easily Spain’s most flamboyant city. As a former Moorish capital, its streets are awash in a sultry jumble of Christian-Muslim architecture, with many grand buildings in need of a fresh coat of paint. And unlike much of Spain, Seville has resisted the urge to make its tiled courtyards and medieval sidewalks, some as narrow as a bicycle tire, sleek and trendy. Flamenco dancers, gypsy street performers and Andalusian cowboys in wide-brimmed boleros still strut in 2,000-year-old plazas shaded by orange trees and palms. On balmy nights, parties can erupt spontaneously over bottles of red wine. It’s a contagious street theater in which everyone can join.” (Source: NY Times)

Travelers will spend the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Independent lunch and dinner.

Day 5: Tuesday, October 14, 2014
Seville / Jerez / Cadiz / Seville

Breakfast provided in the morning

Explore Jerez and Cadiz for the full-day. Included in today’s tour to Jerez is a visit to the Bodega González Byass Jerez, one of Spain’s most well-known sherry bodegas, for a tour and tasting.

Following the tasting, the tour will continue to the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art, which is devoted to conserving the ancestral abilities of the Andalusian horse while maintaining the classical traditions of Spanish baroque horsemanship. Travelers will be treated to a performance by world class riders and horses.
Complimentary lunch at a local restaurant in Jerez.

After lunch, journey to Cadiz, one of Spain’s oldest cities, situated founded about 1100 BC by the Phoenicians, and is among the country’s principal ports. Travelers will enjoy Cadiz’s beautiful beaches and cathedral.

“Cádiz is generally considered to be the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in Europe. Now well into its fourth millennium, the ancient centre, surrounded almost entirely by water, is a romantic hodgepodge of sinuous streets where Atlantic waves crash against eroded sea walls, municipal beaches stretch for miles, and rambunctious taverns echo with the sounds of cawing gulls and frying fish.” Read more

Independent dinner.

Return to Seville for overnight.

Day 6: Wednesday, October 15, 2014
Seville/Cordoba/Carmona/Seville

Breakfast provided in the morning

OPTIONAL: Full day excursion to Cordoba

Cordoba features some of Spain’s most important monuments, including the Old Quarter built around the magnificent Mezquita mosque, a symbol of worldly and sophisticated Islamic culture, and Andalusia’s only synagogue to survive the expulsion of Spain’s Jews in the 15th century.

The city’s heart needs no introduction, for its fame is widespread: the magnificent Mezquita, a symbol of worldly and sophisticated Islamic culture, lords over the town centre and pulls thousands of tourists into its arched interior every day. The streets of the Juderia (Jewish quarter) stretch out from the great mosque like capillaries (albeit those nearest the monument are clogged with tourist bric-a-brac), unexpectedly emerging on peaceful plazas. - Lonely Planet

Independent lunch.

The tour will continue to Carmona, one of Europe’s oldest urban sites. Located on a low hill overlooking a fertile plain,
Carmona is a delightful little town with a magnificent 15th century tower built in imitation of Seville's Giralda. The town is known for its thriving trade in wine, olive, oil, grain and cattle.

“Carmona is a lesser-known highlight of western Andalucia. This strategic site was important as long ago as Carthaginian times. The Romans laid out a street plan that survives to this day: the Via Augusta, running from Rome to Cádiz, entered Carmona by the eastern Puerta de Córdoba and left by the western Puerta de Sevilla. The Muslims built a strong defensive wall around Carmona but the town fell in 1247 to Fernando III. Later on Mudéjar and Christian artisans constructed fine churches, convents and mansions.” Read more

Dinner this evening will be at the Tablao El Arenal in Seville. Enjoy five tapas dishes, dessert and wine, followed by a flamenco show.

Day 7: Thursday, October 16, 2014
Breakfast provided in the morning

This morning, travelers will explore the dramatic city of Ronda, considered the birthplace of modern bullfighting with the oldest ring in Spain. Spend between 4-5 hours in Ronda exploring this stunning cliffside city.

“Perched on an inland plateau riven by the 100m fissure of El Tajo gorge, Ronda is Málaga province’s most spectacular town. It has a superbly dramatic location, and owes its name (‘surrounded’ by mountains), to the encircling Serranía de Ronda. Established in the 9th century BC, Ronda is also one of Spain’s oldest towns. Its existing old town, La Ciudad (the City), largely dates back to Islamic times, when it was an important cultural center filled with mosques and palaces. Its wealth as a trading depot made it an attractive prospect for bandits and profiteers and the town has a colorful and romantic past in Spanish folklore.” Read more

Enjoy lunch in the spectacular Parador de Ronda in the center of the city with unparalleled views of the Tagus River.
After lunch, continue on to the city of Granada via the Costa del Sol.

“The Costa del Sol in southern Spain is made up of several towns along the Mediterranean coast. This area has transformed from small, fishing communities into a tourist destination for the jet set.” Source: Travel Channel

Spend the next three nights in the city of Granada at the 5-star luxurious Alhambra Palace Hotel.

Dinner with wine is included tonight. Experience a wonderful evening dining at the Mirador de Morayma, with breathtaking views of the Alhambra.

Day 8: Friday, October 17, 2014
Granada
Breakfast provided in the morning

Participate in a full-day of touring Granada with visits to the Cathedral and the magnificent Alhambra Palace, greatest Moorish palace built for the last Emirs in Spain.

“Seville may have the pasión and Córdoba a medieval charm, but Granada has an edge. Most visitors concentrate solely on the magnificent Alhambra, but if you explore further, you’ll find Andalucía’s hippest, most youthful city, with a ‘free tapas’ culture, innovative bars and intimate flamenco haunts. Here the Islamic past feels recent, as Muslim North Africans make up some 10% of the population; there’s even a modern mosque in the medieval district of the Albayzín. Read more

OPTIONAL EVENING PROGRAM: Flamenco Dancing in the Gypsy Caves (*after independent dinner)

Travel to Mirador de San Nicholas for an incredible view of Granada and the Alhambra enroute to Sacromonte.

Continue to Sacromonte, the area above Granada where gypsies have lived in caves for hundreds of years to find the real flamenco, performed in a cave.

Explore Granada at your leisure.
Things to do in Granada – Lonely Planet

Independent dinner.
Day 9: Saturday, October 18, 2014

Granada

Breakfast provided in the morning

Travelers may spend the full day sight-seeing in Granada at leisure OR participate in the following optional tour:

OPTION 1: Full day tour to Malaga (75 miles) to visit the cathedral and the Picasso Museum.

Travelers will have the option of lunch at Restaurante El Pimpi or independent lunch.

“Although its history dates back centuries, since the 1950s Malaga has been best-known as the gateway to the Costa de Sol, which General Franco wanted to turn into the ‘‘Florida of Europe’’” Read More

“The Picasso Museum follows Picasso’s progress from the late-19th century until his passing in 1973. Situated at the Palacio de Buenavista in the heart of the old town, the museum is a few minutes away from the house where Picasso was born on Plaza de la Merced, which is also open to the public.” Read More

Explore Granada at your leisure.
Things to do in Granada – Lonely Planet

Day 10: Sunday, October 19, 2014

Granada/Barcelona

Breakfast provided in the morning

After breakfast, transfer to the Granada Airport for a short flight to Barcelona. The flight will leave Granada at 9:25 a.m. and arrive in Barcelona at 10:50 a.m.

Upon arrival, travelers will be transported to a luxury hotel in the heart of Barcelona.

Independent lunch.

After lunch, enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of Barcelona that will include a visit to the Sagrada Familia temple, a magnificent (unfinished) church designed by the famous architect.
Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí.

“If you have time for only one sightseeing outing, this should be it. La Sagrada Família inspires awe by its sheer verticality, and in the manner of the medieval cathedrals it emulates, it’s still under construction after more than 100 years. When completed, the highest tower will be more than half as high again as those that stand today.” [Read more]

This evening, the group will join in a farewell dinner at Torre d’Atla Mar. Its unique setting with breathtaking views at a height of 250 feet over the Barcelona waterfront will make one feel like they’re “on top of the world.”

Dinner will include wine.

Day 11: Monday, October 20, 2014  
Barcelona/Munich/Charlotte

Breakfast provided in the morning

Depart from the hotel this morning for Barcelona Airport to check-in for flight Lufthansa 1809, which departs from Barcelona at 9:20 a.m., arriving in Munich at 11:20 a.m.

Travelers will connect to Lufthansa 428, which departs Munich at 12:25 p.m. and arrive in Charlotte at 4:20 p.m.

WELCOME HOME
OPTIONAL 2-DAY EXTENSION: BARCELONA
Day 11: Monday, October 20, 2014
Barcelona/Montserrat/Barcelona

Breakfast provided in the morning

After breakfast, participate in a full day tour of Montserrat, which will include a wine tasting at an area winery.

Montserrat is nicknamed The Emerald Isle of the Caribbean both for its resemblance to coastal Ireland and for the Irish ancestry of some of its inhabitants.

“Twenty years ago, Montserrat marketed itself as being ‘The way the Caribbean used to be.’ Little did anyone know that in a few short years the slogan would become horribly ironic for anyone who harkened back to a pre-Palaeozoic era when volcanic eruptions shaped the planet. A series of volcanic eruptions beginning in 1995 devastated the lower two-thirds of the island. By 1997, the capital and only significant town, leafy Plymouth, was an ash-covered wasteland. Today almost 5000 people live in the northern one-third of the island that was unaffected by the volcano. Long the refuge of goats and a few herders, new settlements are rising over the steep brown hills.” Read more

Independent lunch and dinner.

Day 12: Tuesday, October 21, 2014
Barcelona

Breakfast provided in the morning

Enjoy a full day of exploring Barcelona at your leisure. Barcelona, a beautiful city sitting between the sea and mountains, holds the reputation of being the most cosmopolitan, modern and avant-garde city in Spain. Between its beaches, vibrant food landscape, unique architecture, shopping scene and wealth of cultural attractions, the city has everything tourist could want.

“Set on a plain rising gently from the sea to a range of wooded hills, Barcelona is the most cosmopolitan city in Spain, and one of the Mediterranean’s busiest ports. Restaurants, bars and clubs are always packed, as is the seaside in summer.

Barcelona has been breaking ground in art, architecture and style since the late 19th century. From the marvels of Modernisme to the
modem wonders of today, the racing heart of Barcelona has barely skipped a beat. The city’s avant-garde chefs whip up a storm that has even the French reaching for superlatives. Read more

Independent lunch and dinner.
Things to do in Barcelona
What to do in Barcelona (Trip Advisor)

Day 13: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 Barcelona/Munich/Charlotte
Breakfast provided in the morning

Depart from the hotel this morning for Barcelona Airport to check-in for flight Lufthansa 1809, which departs from Barcelona at 9:20 a.m., arriving in Munich at 11:20 a.m.

Travelers will connect to Lufthansa 428, which departs Munich at 12:25 p.m. and arrive in Charlotte at 4:20 p.m.

WELCOME HOME

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PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

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Travelers must be members of good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact Danielle Cobos, Program and Membership Manager via e-mail at dcobos@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7757 or go to our website and sign-up online. Individual membership begins at $50.

****In addition, air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at prevailing rate at the time of billing.

Single occupancy is available upon request. If you are traveling alone, but would like a roommate, please let us know and we will work on matching you up with another traveler
BARCELONA 2-NIGHT EXTENSION
PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
(**Single occupancy is available upon request)

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OPTIONAL TOURS

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- Please note that reservations for this trip are limited and confirmed on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- A deposit of $500 per person is required upon confirmation to secure your place on this trip.
- Final payment will be due no later than Monday, August 25th, 2014.