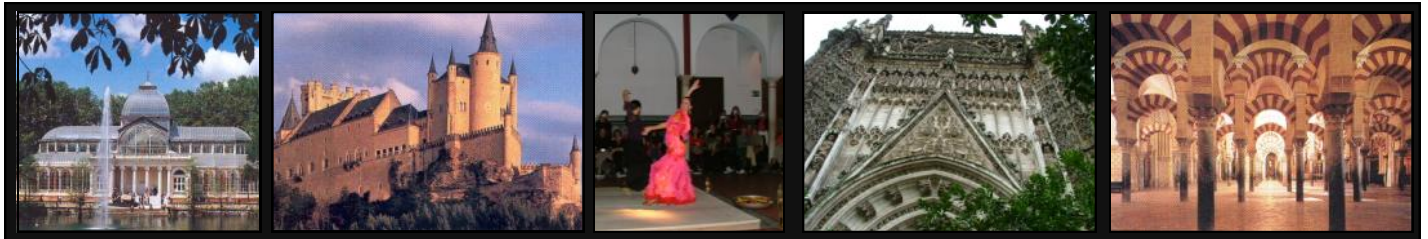




Heart of Spain

Madrid • Sevilla • Granada • Córdoba • Toledo



Day 1 • Depart

Our adventure begins as we board our international flight to Madrid, Spain.

Day 2 • Madrid

Upon arrival, we meet our motor coach and a local city guide and begin our tour of the capital city. Highlights of the tour include **Plaza Mayor**, the monument to Cervantes in the **Plaza de España**, the **Parque del Retiro**, the **Puerta del Sol** and the fountain and **Plaza de Cibeles**. We then transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free. **D**

Day 3 • Madrid

After breakfast we explore the **Prado** where we take a tour of one of the world's greatest collections of paintings, including works by Spain's three great masters: Goya, Velázquez, and Greco. This afternoon we tour the impressive **Royal Palace** commissioned by Felipe V, Spain's first bourbon king. Felipe gave instructions that the building should be "a palace to dwarf all others." His wishes were fulfilled in the Royal Palace containing 2,000 rooms and 20 square miles of tapestry. The remainder of the day is free for shopping or to stop for a *refresco* and take in the ambience of the Plaza Mayor. **B/D**

Day 4 • Madrid

Today we have a full day excursion to **Segovia** where a tour of the city includes the famous **Alcázar**. Next we visit the imposing palace of San Lorenzo de **El Escorial**, one of the most impressive monasteries in Europe. Its unadorned severity influenced architecture throughout Spain. We also see **Valle de los Caídos**, Franco's stupendous monument to his fallen troops in the Spanish Civil War. We return to Madrid for our overnight. **B/D**

Day 5 • Sevilla

This morning we travel southwest to delight in a real treasure, Sevilla, Spain's third largest city. This city epitomizes the Andalusian culture, with its Roman and Moorish architecture, elaborate gardens, and unshakable belief in the good life. When we arrive in the city, we take a panoramic tour before checking into our hotel. There is time to shop, stroll, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Sevilla this evening. **B/D**

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Day 6 • Sevilla

A local guide takes us on a tour of Sevilla today. Included is a visit to the great **Gothic Cathedral**, the third largest church in the world, where Christopher Columbus is believed to be entombed. We also visit the **Alcázar** (fortress), the finest example of Mudéjar architecture in Spain and Sevilla's official residence of the king and queen. We also enjoy strolling down the twisting alleyways and cobbled square of Sevilla's old **Jewish Quarters**. **B/D**

Day 7 • Granada

Today we travel eastward to the city of Granada, described by guitarist Andres Segovia as a "place of dreams". While occupied by the Moors in the 8th century, Granada enjoyed a golden period as an international center for culture. Our tour this afternoon includes the mighty **Alhambra**. (Spain's number one attraction) and **Generalife Gardens**. We also visit the **Cathedral and Capilla Real**. This evening we are treated to *flamenco* in the **Caves of Sacramonte**. **B/D**

Day 8 • Córdoba

A drive takes us to Córdoba, considered in the 10th century to be one of the greatest cities in the western world. The heart of the city remains the old Jewish quarter, which is situated just to the west of the Mezquita's towering walls. Upon our arrival, we tour **La Mezquita**, an amazing church converted from a mosque. Inside, we find delicate arches and pillars, an elaborate *mihrab* (prayer niche) with dazzling visual effects and a Cathedral built right in the very heart of the mosque. We learn the history of this unique building and an understanding of how it has withstood the test of centuries. **B/D**

Day 9 • Toledo

We make our way northward to Toledo, the walled fortress city and former capital of Spain. A city tour with a local guide includes the **Alcázar**, and **Capilla de Santo Tomé**. We also see how the Moors crafted beautiful *damascene* jewelry, a skill preserved in Toledo to this day. Later we enjoy free time to explore more of this ancient and beautiful city. **B/D**

Day 10 • Return

This morning we transfer to the Madrid airport for our return flight to the U.S.A. We return with memories of charming Spanish architecture, beautiful castles and landscapes, and, most importantly, new friends. **B**

Abbreviations for Meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Cost of tour: \$1,499*

Land portion only

**Based on minimum of 24 paying participants*

<u>Included</u>	<u>Not included</u>
Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach Accommodations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-bedded tourist class hotels Meals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As indicated in itinerary Sightseeing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary Tour Guides <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher serves as tour leader (Professional tour director can be added upon request)• Local guides for city tours and major attractions Taxes and Tips <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All taxes and tips for provided services except end of tour tip for driver Complimentary Tours <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One tour per 8 paying participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtrip air transportation• Meals not indicated in the itinerary• Beverages, except with breakfast• End of tour tip for driver• Items of a personal nature such as passport fees <i>Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date</i>• Travel Insurance <p>This tour can be customized to your specifications.</p> <p>Tour Code: SPSH10</p>

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