



Educational Tours

From Spain to Portugal

10 days | 2021





Educational Tours

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Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; weShare, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily

Sightseeing: Toledo; Córdoba; Seville; Sintra; Lisbon

Entrances: Third Half program; Tapas night with Tuna band; Olive grove tour; Cathedral, Santo Tome & Synagogue, Toledo; Mezquita, Córdoba; Alcázar, Seville; Cathedral, Seville; Boat ride, Lagos; Palacio Nacional, Sintra; Mosteiro dos Jerónimos; Bike tour, Lisbon

Overnight stays:

- Madrid (3)
- Seville (2)
- Algarve region (1)
- Lisbon (2)



Sign up today

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Your itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Spain

Board your overnight flight to Madrid!

Day 2: Madrid

Arrive in Madrid

At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital, a Mecca for art-lovers, the world-stage for bullfighting and home to the world's most famous soccer team! The city was elevated to capital status in 1561 at the instigation of Phillip II, and the lavishly opulent Palacio Real, built in 1738, is now an uninhabited but fascinating monument to Spain's much-revered monarchy.

Exploration time in Madrid

Enjoy free time to become better acquainted with Madrid on your own. You might wish to visit museums, view the city's many monuments and churches, walk through outdoor plazas, or sample tapas at a café.

Day 3: Madrid

Walking tour of Madrid

Meet in Puerta del Sol at the statue of the bear and the strawberry tree; Madrid's emblem, which stands just meters from the site of kilometer zero from where all distances in Spain are measured. Puerta del Sol acts as the hub for demonstrations and New Year's Eve celebrations and in the nearby 17th century Plaza Mayor you can imagine the duels, hangings, festivities, bullfights and theater this space has staged.

Afternoon with the Third Half

Spend the afternoon with an NGO that uses soccer skills and practice to reach out to immigrants in the city. During this half-day program, the travelers will work with members of the NGO in a workshop session to understand the social impact that the NGO is aiming to have on the students. This organization uses the game to deliver education programs and foster social inclusion in the neighborhood of Lavapiés. After the workshop, the travelers will be brought to a soccer field where they will receive the same lessons that would be taught to the young people this program is attempting to reach (*pending organization availability*).

Tapas dinner with Tuna band

No trip to Madrid would be complete without getting a taste of the tapa - Spain's own unique dining tradition. Tonight, enjoy a tapas evening at a local restaurant where you will sample some of Spain's best-known culinary traditions. While you eat, you'll be serenaded by a traditional band.

Day 4: Madrid

Excursion to Castilla la Mancha

Olive grove tour

The ideal way to learn to distinguish between different grades of olive oil and to understand why each is produced. You'll have the opportunity to taste various samples, and we'll answer questions such as: Why are some oils spicier or more bitter than others? What information should I look for on the label? Does the color matter? What does the acidity mean? After the stroll and tasting course, take a break under one of our centuries-old olive trees and enjoy a tapa of mature Manchego cheese. The cheese is produced at a family farm from their own sheep's milk and is served with bread, olive oil and tomato.

Guided tour of Toledo

Embark on a journey to the former Spanish capital of Toledo, where Muslims, Jews, and Christians once peacefully coexisted. Notice the influence of all three cultures as you tour the 12th-century St. Mary's Synagogue. Designed to be a mosque, but then used as a synagogue, it was finally converted into a church. You'll also visit the cathedral that dominates Toledo's skyline before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomé. Here you'll view *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz (The Burial of Count Orgaz)*, one of El Greco's supreme achievements. Then, make a final stop at a local damascene workshop. Damascene is an intricate Muslim craft originated in Damascus and made famous in Toledo.

Day 5: Madrid | Seville

Travel via Córdoba to Seville

Guided sightseeing of Córdoba

See the Patio de los Naranjos and visit the 8th century Mezquita, formerly the largest mosque west of Mecca. As you walk past the Mezquita's 850 candy-cane columns, recall the days when Córdoba was one of the world's great centers of learning. At its height, Córdoba was home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths, and 70 libraries.

Arrive in Seville

Welcome to Seville, city of bullfights, flamenco dancing, Velazquez, Don Juan and Carmen, and the heartbeat of Andalusian culture.

Day 6: Seville

Guided sightseeing of Seville

Hispalis, as Seville was called in Roman times, rests on the banks of the Río Guadalquivir and is Spain's only river port. See the Old Tobacco Factory, setting of Bizet's opera *Carmen*, and pass the Plaza de Toros, one of Spain's preeminent bullrings. Then visit María Luisa Park to view the beautiful mosaics of Plaza de España, built for the 1929 Ibero-American Fair. Next, walk through the geranium-strewn alleys of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, an aesthetic treat you'll always remember. As you wind your way through this historic Jewish Quarter, notice the whitewashed houses with sand-colored trim-this is typical of Sevillian-style architecture. Top off your tour with a guided visit to the Seville Cathedral, the world's third largest church, and the Moorish Alcázar. Built for Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century, the Alcázar is one of the purest examples of mudéjar architecture in the world.

Walking tour of Seville

Meet at the base of the skyline-dominating Giralda Tower for your walking tour of Seville. This unique minaret can be ascended by thirty-five gentle ramps and has long been the bell tower of the Christian Cathedral. You will pass the 12th-century octagonal Torre del Oro (The Golden Tower) once part of the city wall on the Guadalquivir river, and continue on to the 18th-century Plaza de Toros bull ring, one of the oldest in Spain.

Day 7: Seville | Algarve region

Travel to the Algarve region

Portugal is a nation with close ties to the sea. For centuries, many of its people have made their living as fishermen, and some of Western civilization's best-known explorers began their journeys into the New World from the seaports of Portugal. Join your tour director in exploring the coastal region of Algarve..

Take a boat excursion

Board a catamaran in Lagos and head out to sea! Enjoy the scenic coastline as you make your way to the grottos. You will then board smaller boats and take a tour of the enchanting grottos that are carved into the coast.

Day 8: Algarve region | Lisbon

Travel via Sintra to Lisbon

Guided tour of Sintra

Enjoy a tour of the hillside town of Sintra, referred to by Lord Byron as "glorious Eden." Here you'll visit the National Palace of Sintra, whose two conical chimneys reign as the town's most recognizable landmarks.

Photo stop at Cabo da Roca

Enjoy the expansive views of the Atlantic ocean during a stop at Cabo da Roca, the westernmost part of mainland Portugal.

Explore Cascais on your own (*time permitting*)

Continue on to Cascais, now a popular destination for elegant youngsters seeking nightlife and surf at the fearsome beach of Boca de Inferno, Cascais was made fashionable when King Luis I converted the 17th century citadel into a beautiful Royal retreat. Neolithic remains were discovered in underground caves in the 19th century while the Museu do Mar reveals Cascais' history as a bustling fishing port.

Arrive in Lisbon

Built around the wide, winding River Tagus, the Atlantic port of Lisbon was conquered from the Moors in 1147 and later set forth intrepid seafaring discoverers such as Vasco de Gama. Trams run up and down the narrow, cobbled streets of Lisbon's seven hills, from which you can admire the magnificent government square of Praca do Comercio, rebuilt after the devastating earthquake of 1755.

Day 9: Lisbon

Guided sightseeing of Lisbon

Recall the Age of Discovery at Padrão dos Descobrimentos and the Torre de Belém. It was from here that many navigators set sail, including Bartolomeu Dias, who sailed around the southern tip of Africa. During a photo stop, enjoy a panoramic view of Lisbon's red-tiled roofs.

Visit the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos

Further relive the days when Portugal was a great trading empire as you visit the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, built by King Manoel to honor the country's great voyagers. Here the king lies buried, along with Vasco da Gama, who sailed from Portugal in 1497 and discovered a sea route to India.

Enjoy a Pastéis de Belém

This afternoon, visit the famous pastry shop, Pastéis de Belém. Established by a member of the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, Pastéis de Belém has been producing the famous pastéis de nata since 1837. While the recipe for this Portuguese delicacy remains a closely guarded secret, thousands of local and international visitors flock to the pastry shop to try them every year. During your visit, enjoy a taste of the famous pastéis de nata and learn why this pastry has become iconic in Lisbon.

Bike tour of the Lisbon Riverside

Take a bike tour along the Tage River, all the way to the Tower of Belem and the Jerónimos Monastery.

Day 10: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

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“My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.”

–**CHARLOTTE, PARENT**

