

Romantic Spain and Portugal

DON QUIXOTE AND WINDMILLS, FLAMENCO AND PALACES!

MARCH 20TH - 30TH, 2014

11 DAYS AND 9 NIGHTS



Itinerary

March 20, 2014 - Your Journey Begins!

You board your international flight bound for Europe today beginning your adventure to Spain and Portugal!

March 21, 2014 - Beautiful Madrid!

Today, you'll experience swashbuckling **Madrid**, the Spanish capital since 1561. With an infectious appetite for art, music and epicurean pleasure, this cosmopolitan, modern city still fiercely preserves its centuries old traditions! From the medieval to the baroque to the romantic, you'll see the many faces of Madrid. You visit the **Plaza de España** with its monument to **Cervantes**, author of the brilliant novel detailing the adventures of Don Quixote de La Mancha and his earthy sidekick, Sancho Panza. You'll also visit the heart of Madrid, **Puerta del Sol**, where you'll see the magnificent fountains of Neptune and Cibeles. As you travel around the city, you'll visit the Castilian quarter of **La Morería**, the elegant neighborhoods around the Prado and the Gran Vía, as well as modern Madrid with its wide avenues and boulevards. And, of course, a visit to Madrid wouldn't be complete without seeing one of the city's famous bull fighting rings! This evening, enjoy a **Welcome Tapas Dinner!**

Overnight: Madrid

(D)

March 22, 2014 - The Prado!

After breakfast this morning, you'll travel through the center of historic Madrid to the **Royal Palace**. Formerly the residence of the Spanish Royal Family, it was built early in the eighteenth century and is one of the most beautiful palatial complexes in Europe! You'll also visit the **Prado**, featuring one of the world's finest collections of European art. From El Greco to Goya and Rafael to Velázquez, you'll surely agree! You'll return to your hotel with the remainder of the day at your leisure.

***TRIPS will be offering an optional "Opera Dinner" this evening in Madrid. You'll enjoy an exquisite meal featuring signature Mediterranean cuisine served by singing waiters! Accompanied by piano, the waiters perform arias, duets and zarzuela, songs from the Spanish lyric theatre!*

Overnight: Madrid

(B)

March 23, 2014 - The Soul of Spain!

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning before setting off for **Toledo!** The history of this beautiful city dates from the Roman occupation, when Toledo served as the capital of the Spanish empire, until the mid 1500s. With its narrow, winding, cobbled streets and ancient buildings, you'll truly sense the history of this city described as **the soul of Spain.**

You'll tour the massive **Toledo Cathedral**, begun in 1226 under the rule of Ferdinand III. You'll also visit **Santa María la Blanca**, a former synagogue erected in 1180 and now a museum, as well as the **Synagogue of El Transito** famous for its rich stucco decoration. Throughout the years, wealthy Spaniards would travel to their weekend homes on the outskirts of Toledo. Tonight, you'll be staying in a local *cigarral*, as well, enjoying the gardens and patios of your own "country house!" Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Toledo

(B/D)

March 24, 2014 - La Mancha and Windmills!

After breakfast this morning, you'll depart Toledo and travel south to **Granada**, stopping along the way at a local farm to enjoy a **cheese tasting** accompanied by a glass of a regional wine. As you continue your journey along the plains of **La Mancha**, you'll be struck by the sight of **12 windmills** that have stood high on this ridge since the 16th century. It was windmills such as these that inspired Cervantes to create **Don Quixote's** famous battle against the giants. You'll stop for a short visit before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant specializing in the area's **regional cuisine**. On arrival in Granada, you'll check into your hotel with time to freshen up before enjoying dinner and an exciting **Flamenco Show!**

Overnight: Granada

(B/L/D)

March 25, 2014 - Spectacular Alhambra!

Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, you'll be struck by the intricate carving and minutely colored ornamentation of Granada's historic buildings. After breakfast today, you'll enjoy a city tour, including the **Nazari Palaces Complex**, home to the famed **Alhambra** with brilliantly decorated walls, ceilings and floors. Sitting on a small plateau above the city, it was originally constructed as a fortress in 889 and then converted into a royal palace in 1333. The last Moorish stronghold in Europe, the Alhambra reflects the splendor of this civilization in Andalusia and offers superb architecture, spectacular and lush gardens, cascading water features and breathtaking views of the city. You then visit the **Royal Chapel of Granada**, where Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand II, who ruled in the mid-1400s, are laid to rest. You'll return to your hotel this afternoon with the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Granada

(B)

March 26, 2014 - Olive Oil Mill and Córdoba!

After breakfast this morning, you'll travel to **Córdoba** via the historic **Baena region of Andalusia**. The gently rolling hills of this land are one

of Spain's main olive oil producing areas with more than 7 million olive trees! You'll visit one of the **oldest olive oil producers** in the region and meet some of the 7th generation family members who cultivate the grove. You'll learn about the production process, then enjoy lunch with a menu that highlights olive oil! This afternoon, you'll set out on a walking tour of **Córdoba** which in the 10th century was the most populous city in the world! You'll see unique architecture as well as the famed **Roman Bridge**, built early in the 1st century BC, which for 20 centuries was the only bridge in the city! The highlight will surely be your visit to the **Great Mosque of Córdoba**, regarded as a wonder of the medieval world. Late this afternoon, you'll check in to your *Parador* where you'll enjoy dinner. Spanish *Paradores* are luxury accommodations in historic buildings ranging from castles to monasteries and fortresses, so be sure to take time to explore your beautiful surroundings!

Overnight: Carmona

(B/L/D)

March 27, 2014 - Seville: From Don Juan to Figaro!

After breakfast, you'll tour one of the most beloved cities in Spain - Seville! It is here that the legend of Don Juan, began as well as operas ranging from Carmen to Don Giovanni, The Marriage of Figaro and, of course, The Barber of Seville! You'll see the Cathedral of Seville where the remains of Christopher Columbus are interred. The largest Gothic cathedral in the world, the interior is magnificent with the main alterpiece alone taking 82 years to complete! Then visit the Barrio de Santa Cruz, a labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys that was once Seville's Jewish Quarter. You'll visit the Alcázar of Seville, the oldest royal palace still in use in Europe. The upper levels are still the royal families official Seville residence. After your tour you'll be transported to your *Parador* where you'll enjoy dinner.

Overnight: Zafra

(B/D)

March 28, 2014 - Portugal: Temples and Azulejo!

After breakfast this morning, you'll depart for **Portugal**, arriving in the village of **Evora** in time for lunch. You'll see the ancient **Temple of Diana** and the erie **Capela dos Ossos** or Chapel of Bones. This afternoon you'll visit an **Azulejo Factory**. This form of painted ceramic tilework has been produced here for five centuries and you'll have an opportunity to **create your own work of art!** Paint colorful glazes onto the Portuguese tile which will then be fired and delivered to your hotel as the perfect work of art! Dinner tonight will be at your hotel.

Overnight: Lisbon

(B/D)

March 29, 2014 - A Taste of Lisbon!

This morning after breakfast in your hotel, you set out for a tour of Portugal's capital city - **Lisbon!** You'll visit **Alfama**, the city's oldest district as well as **Rossio Square**, a meeting place for the people of Lisbon for centuries. In addition, see **Blackhorse Square**, one of the most majestic in Lisbon, and, of course, the district of Belem. Lisbon's most monumental and historic area, it was from the **Belem Tower** that **Magellan** began his first voyage and where **Christopher Columbus** stopped on his way back to Europe after discovering the New World. Before leaving, you'll enjoy the delightful **pastéis de Belém!** This creamy, flaky custard tart, served warm with cinnamon, is truly one of Portugal's great culinary gifts to the world! Return to your hotel with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Tonight, you'll enjoy a **farewell dinner!**

Overnight: Lisbon

(B/D)

March 30, 2014 - Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!

After breakfast, you'll be assisted with your transfer to the airport and your flight home. **Memories of your time in Spain and Portugal are sure to last a lifetime!**

(B)

Romantic Spain and Portugal
Priced at \$4,198.00

Single Supplement is an additional \$798.00

PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS TOUR!!

Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is available and is strongly recommended.

(For medical reasons only)

\$301.00 p/p Double Occupancy. \$348.00 Single Occupancy.



Travel protection available from Travelguard

Inclusions

- Round trip airport transfers
- Round trip international airfare to Spain and returning from Portugal (checked baggage fees are not included)
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout the itinerary with an English speaking tour escort
- 9 nights hotel accommodations in 4 star hotels and *Paradores*, including breakfast daily
- 2 lunches
- 7 Dinners with wine, water and coffee, including a welcome dinner in Madrid and a farewell dinner in Lisbon
- Flamenco Show in Granda
- All sightseeing and admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary, including the Prado, Royal Palace, Alcazar of Seville, Alhambra, the Windmills in La Mancha, a visit to an olive oil farm, the Great Mosque of Cordoba, the Cathedral of Seville, Belem Tower and much more
- Azulejo factory tour and tile painting
- Porterage of 1 full size suitcase, per person
- TRIPS travel wallet and luggage tags
- All taxes, government fees and fuel surcharges as of May 22, 2013

Call today to reserve your space!!!

Reservations for **"Romantic Spain and Portugal"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$750.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to December 21, 2013.

Final Payment is due on or before December 21, 2013.

50% non-refundable on December 22, 2013. 100% non-refundable as of January 30, 2014.

Contact Linda Mattingly at 877-903-2265 (toll free) extension 6707 or email lmatingly@alliancebank.com.

We accept all major credit cards.

Make checks payable to Alliance Bank c/o Linda Mattingly

PO Box 500 Sulphur Springs, TX 75483-0500

Passport Name: _____ DOB: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

CST # 2057913-10



The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing on May 22, 2013. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger.