

## BARCELONA AND SEVILLE

### October 24 – November 1

#### Day 1 Depart United States

#### Day 2 Arrive Barcelona, Spain (connect through London)

Pre-arranged airport transfer

HOTEL: H10 Universitat Hotel, Barcelona

Activities:

##### Sightseeing Barcelona Hop-On Hop-Off Tour

Discover the ancient, medieval and modern sights of Barcelona on this convenient City Sightseeing hop-on hop-off tour. With your 1-day or 2-day pass, travel by open-top, double-decker bus along three routes to visit major Barcelona attractions including La Sagrada Familia, the Gothic Quarter, Park Güell, the Picasso Museum and Parc de la Ciutadella. Customize your own itinerary and hop on and off as you please at more than 44 stops around the city.

Board the open-top, double-decker bus at any of the 44 stops around the city to begin your City Sightseeing tour of Barcelona. Enjoy 360-degree views and informative onboard commentary as you wind your way through Barcelona's fascinating medieval streets. Learn about the city's history, culture, architecture and ancient Roman heritage, and hop off at any time to explore more by foot.

Explore the enchanting Gothic Quarter, visit UNESCO World Heritage-listed landmarks and stand in awe of the works of famed architect Antoni Gaudi, who's best-known for his legendary unfinished church, La Sagrada Familia, which stands as the symbol of the city. Other sights you can see include Casa Batllo, Casa Mila, Park Güell, Calle Reina Christina, the Picasso Museum and Parc de la Ciutadella, Barcelona's most central park, which includes a zoo, a lake, a large fountain and several museums. For evening entertainment, perhaps catch a concert at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, L'Auditori or Palau de la Música Catalana.

##### City Interactive Spanish Cooking Experience in Barcelona

Discover the aroma and flavors of Spanish cuisine as you learn how to prepare traditional Spanish dishes from a local chef. Whether you're a cooking enthusiast or culinary novice, you'll enjoy the hands-on experience of this small-group Spanish cooking class in Barcelona. At the end, enjoy the meal you've just prepared with a glass of wine!

Located in the heart of Barcelona, the cooking school is fully equipped to ensure you have a delicious experience. Begin by preparing two traditional starters, such as seasonal vegetables with traditional romesco sauce or red bell pepper soup flavored with saffron and cod. Continue uncovering the secrets of Spanish cooking as you make roasted veal with buttered potatoes or one of Spain's most famous dishes, paella – rice with seafood or a selection of meats. Finish your class by preparing mouthwatering desserts like crema catalana (Catalan cream) or arroz con leche (rice pudding).

As you prepare your meal, learn interesting facts about Spanish gastronomy from your local chef. Then, it's time to sit down and taste your creations with a well-deserved glass of wine! At the end of your class, receive a booklet of recipes to wow your family and friends with homemade Spanish cuisine! 05:00 PM Cooking Class; optional upgrade to include Boqueria Market

### Day 3 Barcelona

HOTEL: H10 Universitat Hotel, Barcelona

Activities:

Priority Access: Barcelona Sagrada Familia Tour Including Tower Entry

Walk straight past any long entrance lines, which are often in excess of two hours long, to Gaudi's Gothic masterpiece, La Sagrada Familia. Then, set off to explore Barcelona's attention-grabbing cathedral on a walking tour.

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, La Sagrada Familia was proclaimed a minor basilica by Pope Benedict XVI. Learn all about its fascinating history from your guide, and hear how Gaudi designed the church's interior as a Latin cross complete with five aisles. Gaze in admiration at the opulent ornamentation and walk underneath vaults that measure a dizzying 230 feet high.

Before leaving the church, visit La Sagrada Familia museum to see drawings, plaster models and pictures about the development of the cathedral. La Sagrada Familia remains famously unfinished, and the museum also documents information about the construction that is currently underway. The anticipated completion date of the building is 2026, the centennial of Gaudi's death.

Your guided tour concludes inside the museum. Bid your guide and group a fond farewell, and then make for one of the cathedral's towers. With your skip-the-line ticket, bypass the queues and travel up an elevator and some stairs. At the top of the tower, absorb the incredible panoramas of the city and — on a clear day — many of the Catalan capital's top sights

### Day 4 Barcelona

HOTEL: H10 Universitat Hotel, Barcelona

Activity:

Historical Montserrat Half-Day Hiking Tour from Barcelona

The mountain of Montserrat is situated 45km northwest of Barcelona. This multi-peaked mountain is also a unique Natural Park plenty of shapes, caves, stairs and paths. You can enjoy wonderful views from the top of it as well as its own weird shapes and rounded peaks. A unique visit! Montserrat is a Benedictine monastery nearly 1000 years old where you can find the Black Madonna, also known as La Moreneta, which represents the patron saint of Catalonia. This figure is very popular because in honour of her, Gregorian chants will be singing every day. Montserrat is thriving with culture: paintings, gold lamps, decorated chapels and so on. Enjoy also the library of 300,000 volumes and the museum where El Greco, Dalí, Picasso and other treasures from ancient Egypt can be found. The visit will coincide with the Boys' Choir Midday Concert if they children are performing that day. On arrival our guide will give a tour to the main places such as the museum with a great collection of paintings, the different bars, restaurants and shops that are located there and also the monastery and basilica, two of the main attractions. The guide will give explanations outside the basilica as silence must be kept inside it. You'll be shown the Lady's Chapel of the 12th Century figure of the Lady of Montserrat. Tour members will have free time to dedicate to the aspects of this beautiful and spiritual place that attract them most.

## Day 5 Seville

HOTEL: Casas de la Juderia

Transfer to Seville – Vueling Airlines, Flight #5754

Depart Barcelona 07:40 AM

Arrive Seville 09:20 AM

Activity:

### City Sightseeing Seville Hop-On Hop-Off Tour

Board the City Sightseeing open-top, double-decker bus at any of the 12 stops around Seville. Then, simply watch the sights roll by, accompanied by the on-board audio commentary, available in 15 languages. Remain aboard for the 1-hour full loop, or hop on and off as you wish to explore on foot. Why not hop off near Seville Cathedral to admire this incredible church, one of the world's largest Gothic cathedrals? Or perhaps visit the stunning Plaza de España, built for the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition world fair, and set in glorious Maria Luisa Park. Alternatively, hop off to admire the 13th-century Tower of Gold beside the Guadalquivir River; visit the Archaeological Museum at the Plaza de América, or to ride the coasters at the Isla Mágica theme park. Your ticket also includes free entry to several Seville attractions, plus four free walking tours. Among others, enjoy complimentary admission to the Castle of St George Inquisition Museum, once the seat of the Spanish Inquisition; and join a free walking tour to take in attractions such as Seville Cathedral and the markets and lanes of the historical Macarena quarter.

## Day 6 Seville

HOTEL: Casas de la Juderia

Activities:

### Seville Guided Tour into Alcazar and Cathedral

Meet your guide in the city centre of Seville. Get acquainted with your group, then set off to explore three of Seville's most impressive sites: Alcazar, Cathedral and Giralda, while learning about their history from your bilingual guide.

First, head to the Alcazar, the oldest active palace in Seville. This is the place of residence for the Spanish Royal Family when they visit. An impressive combination of architectural styles coupled with courtyards and gardens.

Next, see the Seville Cathedral, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. The transition from mosque to church, and continuous remodeling of the cathedral, make it truly unique for its kind. It is built on the site of a 12th century Almohad mosque, decorative parts of which still remain inside.

One special part of the mosque that remains is the tower standing next to it, known as the Giralda. Make your way to the top of the Bell Tower (only on the early or afternoon tours), an important point view of the city. Afterwards, say farewell to your guide and group to continue on your own.

### Gourmet Tapas and Wine Taking Tour

Meet your guide near Giralda Tower and then stroll to your first tapas bar of the afternoon. As you walk, your guide will chat to you about Spanish gastronomy, and of the explosion of the 'tapas scene' on the international stage. While Spain's best tapas city is frequently debated, Seville is one of the title's definite contenders with its concentration of atmospheric bars, cooking up Andalusian specialties to sweet perfection.

Tapas bars here are typically crowded, but that's all part of the fun! Jostle for space with locals and follow the tapas etiquette of your guide: sharing, finger-using and generally getting stuck in the food.

The dishes served each afternoon will vary, but you can expect a selection of food ranging from niche regional specialties to all-time Spanish classics.

Wolf down dishes like sizzling gambas (prawns), succulent oxtail, locally cured hams and refreshing gazpacho – a chilled soup made from the ripest of tomatoes. Treat your taste buds with bacalao – a delicately dried and salted cod (tasting infinitely better than it sounds) – and devour Spanish favorites like paella. All dishes are complemented with local wine, sherry and crisp Spanish beer like Cruzcampo and San Miguel.

Complete your tapas circuit of Seville at two more bars, continuing your afternoon of camaraderie and fine food. Your tour finishes at the third bar, leaving you perfectly placed to carry on eating your way around Seville should you wish.

### **Day 7 Gibraltar**

HOTEL: The Rock Hotel  
Pick Up Rental Car

Activity: Gibraltar's Top of the Rock Cable Car Ticket

### **Day 8 Seville**

HOTEL: Casas de la Juderia

Activity:

#### Kayak & Snorkel Tour in the Strait of Gibraltar

Enjoy three hours kayaking inside the Strait of Gibraltar and between the ancient Pillars of Hercules with Velair. The stunning views from Africa and mountain Jebel Mussa are impressive. The panoramic views of Strait of Gibraltar National Park are unique. The tour goes across cliffs, solitary calas, mountains and crystal clear waters. Even kayaking is a great fun, it could also be a joy to be on the water. We will enjoy a refreshing swim at La isla de la Paloma. Our journey continues towards Cala Arena, a perfect place for relaxing and dive in its clear waters.

We will meet at PN Strait of Gibraltar right in front of Africa from where we will carry kayaks into the pristine waters. One guide is included every 5 persons, they are professional and local people and they will know the area very well, happy and friendly people who are willing to share a great experience with you. During the excursion you will be able to swim, snorkel or just relax at solitary calas. In Cala arena there is a floatsam at just 10 meters deep where we can snorkel, there is a lot of sea life around. After three hours tour we will come back to the starting point.

Day 9 Return to US