Paradores & Pousadas Historic Lodgings of Spain & Portugal

15 days from $5,274 total price from Boston, New York
($4,695 air & land inclusive plus $579 airline taxes and fees)

You’re invited on a distinctive small group journey through the Iberian Peninsula to the intimate lodgings of Spain’s paradores and Portugal’s pousadas: medieval castles, historic fortresses, and stately palaces, each reflecting the spirit of its region. We feel the spell of Iberia’s rich Roman and Moorish past – and the pull of its vibrant contemporary life.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Lisbon, Portugal

Day 2: Arrive Lisbon  We arrive in the Portuguese capital and transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times vary, we have no group activities planned during the day. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner.  D

Day 3: Lisbon/Queluz  This morning's city tour includes the Jeronimos Monastery, a masterpiece of Manueline architecture; iconic Belem Tower; and the Monument to the Discoveries commemorating Portugal’s storied explorers. Then we visit the National Palace of Queluz, the former residence of Portuguese royalty now used for state occasions. After returning to Lisbon, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore as we wish.  B

Day 4: Lisbon/Evora  Leaving Lisbon this morning, we travel through the rolling hills of the agricultural Alentejo district, with its bountiful fields of wheat, fragrant vineyards, and stands of olive and cork trees. After stopping for lunch in the fortified hilltop town of Monsaraz (pop. 150), late afternoon we arrive in Evora, capital of the Alentejo and site of our pousada, considered Portugal’s finest.  B,L,D

Day 5: Evora  Our morning walking tour of Evora introduces us to the many charms of this architectural gem – a university town, prosperous regional capital, and UNESCO site thanks to the many relics of its Roman and Moorish heritage. We sample Alentejo wines at a local winery then the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy this “Golden Age” city as we wish.  B,D

Day 6: Evora/Merida, Spain/Carmona  Today we travel east through countryside peppered with the ruins of fortresses and castles to the Spanish border town of Merida. Once the capital of ancient Lusitania (Latin for the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal), Merida boasts outstanding Roman ruins. There’s time to explore and eat lunch on our own before we continue on to Carmona and our parador, a restored 14th-century Arab fortress.  B,D

Day 7: Carmona/Seville  This morning we visit splendid Seville, Moorish capital of Spain’s Andalusia region and city of beauty and romance. This is the place that inspired Carmen and Don Giovanni; where fragrant orange trees and flower-bedecked balconies delight the senses; and home of the renowned Catedral, the world’s largest Gothic building. After a tour that includes the Alcazar palace and the Arab quarter, the afternoon is free to explore independently. We return to Carmona late afternoon and dine at our parador this evening.  B,D

On Day 11, we tour the Alhambra, the Moors’ historic palace and fortress complex now a UNESCO site.
**Day 8: Carmona/Cordoba**  Today’s visit to this cultural gem promises to be special indeed. First the capital of Roman Spain, then of Moorish Spain, Cordoba features some of the country’s most important monuments, including the Old Quarter built around the magnificent Mezquita mosque. It was here that the Moors ruled from the 8th to the 11th centuries and fostered a culture of learning and religious harmony known the world over. Cordoba also is home to Andalusia’s only synagogue to survive the expulsion of Spain’s Jews in the 15th century. After touring these and other highlights we have free time to explore on our own. Late this afternoon we return to our parador, where we dine tonight.  B,D

**Day 9: Carmona/Ronda**  Leaving Carmona this morning we travel south to tiny Ronda, one of Spain’s oldest and most aristocratic towns. It’s set high in the mountains with whitewashed houses clinging improbably to the edge of El Tajo Gorge – 500 feet deep and 300 feet wide.  B,D

**Day 10: Ronda**  This morning we take a walking tour of Ronda. We return to our parador, Ronda’s original town hall, for a special tapas lunch then the rest of the day is free for independent exploration.  B,L

**Day 11: Ronda/Granada/Ubeda**  Continuing our journey, we travel today to Granada, the former stronghold of Moorish Spain set in the foothills of the snowcapped Sierra Nevada. The city’s undisputed highlight is the Alhambra, the extraordinary palace of Spain’s last Moorish rulers. Sprawled across a hilltop above the Darro River, the Alhambra commands breathtaking views of the city below, as we see on our afternoon tour of this splendid citadel. We also visit the Granadín-style Generalife, the palace’s acclaimed gardens. Late afternoon we travel north to Ubeda and our next parador, where we dine tonight.  B,D

**Day 12: Ubeda/Toledo/Madrid**  A highlight is in store today as we visit Toledo, capital of medieval Spain. Declared a Spanish National Landmark, the city is little changed visually from its 16th-century days as a subject for the artist El Greco. Toledo boasts an incomparable hilltop setting overlooking the Castilian plains and surrounded on three sides by the Tagus River. After lunch on our own we see Toledo’s most important sights on our guided tour, including the massive Gothic Cathedral begun in 1226 and not finished until 1493. Then we continue on to Madrid, arriving late afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own; perhaps to dine late as theMadrileños do.  B

**Day 13: Madrid**  Our morning tour of this monumental and dignified capital city includes vast Plaza Mayor, in the heart of Old Madrid; the Moorish medieval district; and opulent 18th-century Palacio Real (Royal Palace), with its 2,800 rooms. Then we sample some of Madrid’s specialties over a lunch of tapas. Our tour ends at the Prado, one of the world’s greatest museums, displaying treasures by Spanish masters Goya, El Greco, and Velazquez. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration in this most cosmopolitan city. Well known for its “foodie” culture, Madrid offers a bounty of restaurants for dinner on our own tonight.  B,L

**Day 14: Madrid**  Today is at leisure to enjoy the Spanish capital as we wish. Tonight we bid “Adios” to Spain and our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.  B,D

**Day 15: Depart for U.S.**  We transfer to the airport this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S.  B

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**Post-Tour Extension**

**May 26-29, 2022**

**Barcelona – On Your Own**

4 days/3 nights for $795 total price

Single Supplement: $355

Enjoy this bustling seaport, Spain’s cultural and commercial capital, with its medieval Gothic Quarter and popular Ramblas waterfront promenade.

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights’ accommodations: 5 nights in Deluxe hotels; 8 nights in First Class paradores and pousadas
- 25 meals: 13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 9 dinners
- Regional wine with dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next UCLA/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after 3 tours; $300 after 10 tours)

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**Tour Departures:**

**Tour Departs: May 12, 2022**

Prices Include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston, New York</td>
<td>$5,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, Washington, DC</td>
<td>$5,474</td>
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<td>Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago</td>
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<td>Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis Phoenix, Portland(OR), San Francisco, Seattle</td>
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Land Only (transfers not included) $4,595

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $579, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,195. Your $500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. All 2022 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed. Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – $3,595 per person; Premium Economy – $1,595 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking up hills or stairs, and on uneven or cobblestone streets. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.