Paradores & Pousadas Historic Lodgings of Spain & Portugal

15 days from $5,274 total price from Boston, New York
($4,595 air & land inclusive plus $679 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 monasteries, 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.

On Day 11, we tour the Alhambra, the Moors’ historic palace and fortress complex now a UNESCO site.

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.  

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.

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
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 – 300 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 Granadan-style Generalife, the palace’s acclaimed gardens. Late afternoon we travel north to Ubeda and our next parador, where we dine tonight. B,D

I LOVE TALKING WITH fellow UCLA travelers on tours. People who enjoy traveling have a high level of curiosity and enthusiasm.”

– Jim Seiple ’76

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 Castillian 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 the Madrileños do. B,L

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

Post-Tour Extension

May 8-11, 2023
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

- Air transportation Madrid/Barcelona, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
- 3 nights’ accommodations at Hotel Avenida Palace (Superior First Class)
- 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
- Transfers to/from airport

For reservations, call UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613 or email travel@alumni.ucla.edu
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2023, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; services of a UCLA Lecturer or Host with a minimum of 15 travelers; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation and is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

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Important Information About Your Tour
General Terms and Conditions
Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.
For Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Ancient Greece, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos, Africa’s Wildlife

Prior to departure Charge
95 days or more: Full refund
94-65 days: 50% of tour price
64-30 days: 75% of tour price
29-0 days: No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package, should you or your travel companion cancel your participation during the tour. If because of low participation Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure
Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers
We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We will endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation
We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement.

Required Information
Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit www.tsa.gov), as well as for our travel partners: for international tours – your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender; for domestic tours – your full name as it appears on the accepted form of government-issued photo identification that you plan to use, date of birth, and gender. In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport (international tours) or other form of government issued photo identification (domestic tours) than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Travel Documents
A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 3, 2023, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit www.dhs.gov/real-id or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

Please note that no changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.
Smoking
For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

Health and Medical Issues
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance if you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that a number of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the UCLA Alumni Association reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, the UCLA Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

Air Transportation
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer more direct service, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates that enable us to offer you the best possible travel value. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. In addition, we recommend that you not purchase your tickets until final payment is due. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the UCLA Alumni Association will incur no liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes therein. In any event, neither Odysseys’s Unlimited, Inc., nor the UCLA Alumni Association is responsible for losses, direct or indirect, or missed components of a trip which result from air delays, cancellations, rerouting or any other air-related problem.

Responsibility
The liability of the UCLA Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. It serves only as an agent for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The UCLA Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within its control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.
To reserve your place on tour, please complete this Reservation Form and email it to travel@alumni.ucla.edu, or fax to 310-209-4271.

Once this request is received by UCLA Alumni Travel, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form.

Send to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

If you have any questions, please call UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613 or e-mail travel@alumni.ucla.edu.

I/we would like to request _________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

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