

# Spanish Wonder

## April 15-24, 2016



### Day 1 **DEPART HOME**

Overnight flight to Madrid.

### Day 2. **ARRIVE MADRID (2 NIGHTS)**

Welcome to Madrid! Relax or explore this lively city. Later, meet for a Welcome Reception with your fellow travellers and Travel Director and enjoy an evening drive to take in some of the city's main sights.

**Hotel** Ayre Gran Colon

### Day 3. **TOLEDO EXCURSION AND MADRID SIGHTSEEING**

This morning your Local Specialist takes you on a walking tour of Toledo. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé, home to one of El Greco's most famous paintings – The Burial of Count Orgaz. Visit the Synagogue during your guided walk through the narrow streets. Return to Madrid to admire the monument to Cervantes at the Plaza de España, and see Puerta del Sol, the city's hub with your Local Specialist. Later, why not join your new-found friends for a typical Spanish dinner?

#### Day 4. **MADRID – CORDOBA – SEVILLE (2 NIGHTS)**

Travel southwards from Madrid, through La Mancha, to Cordoba. Visit the Mosque of the Caliphs and learn about the influence of the Moors from your Local Specialist. Tonight, you might like to take an optional experience to watch a fiery flamenco show.

**Hotel** Zenit

#### Day 5. **SEVILLE SIGHTSEEING AND FREE TIME**

Meet your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour of Seville. View the Bell Tower of the Giralda. See the tiled fountains, pavilions and lush palms in the Maria Luisa Park, renowned for its landscape design and walk through the imposing Plaza de España. Marvel at Christopher Columbus' ornate tomb in the Cathedral. Finally, take a walk through the former Jewish Quarter. This evening, experience a unique Be My Guest dinner at an authentic ranch with views over the Andalusian countryside.

#### Day 6. **SEVILLE – GRANADA**

Visit the magnificent Alhambra Palace in Granada with a Local Specialist. A fine example of Moorish architecture, it was built during the 14th century towards the end of Islamic rule in Spain. Walk through the exotic water gardens of the Generalife, the royal summer palace, once linked to the Alhambra by a covered walkway across the ravine.

**Hotel** Carmen

#### Day 7. **GRANADA – GUADIX – VALENCIA**

This morning travel via the Mora Pass, and arrive in Guadix in the northern foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains where you can take pictures of the troglodyte dwellings. In Valencia, view the Bull Ring and admire the architecture of the medieval Cathedral and the Serrano and Cuarte Towers. See the impressive modern architecture of the Opera House. Dine tonight at your hotel.

**Hotel** Primus

#### Day 8. **VALENCIA – PEÑISCOLA – BARCELONA (2 NIGHTS)**

Head north along the coast through the Levant region and stop at Peñíscola to view the ancient castle of the 'Spanish Pope', used in the film El Cid. Continue along the Costa Dorada to Barcelona, Spain's most cosmopolitan city. See Gaudi's architecture at the inspiring Sagrada Familia. Walk the Ramblas and visit Plaça Catalunya. View the monument to Christopher Columbus and enjoy panoramic views from Montjuïc during your guided sightseeing tour of the city with a Local Specialist. Gain a Cultural Insight into the delicacies of Spanish cuisine with a guided walk through the food stalls of La Boqueria Market. Tonight, consider visiting a Catalan-style restaurant for a delicious dinner of local specialities.

**Hotel** U232

Day 9. **BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING AND FREE TIME**

This morning, enjoy free time in the city to shop or explore, or join an optional experience to the monastery at Montserrat to see the mystical Black Madonna. This evening join your companions and Travel Director for a special Farewell Dinner with wine.

Day 10. **RETURN HOME**

Say 'adios' to Spain, your Travel Director and travel companions at the end of this memorable Spanish adventure.

Please note that hotels and itinerary are subject to change.