

### A Multi-Narrative Journey in the Iberian Peninsula

(Scheduled Group Departure)

#### **Dates & Pricing:**

July 17 - 27, 2026 (\$5,995 per person, + \$1,320 single room supplement) Extension Tour: July 27 - 30, 2026 (\$2,385 (2 pax) // \$1,650 (4 pax) per person, +\$375 single sup.)

July 16 - 26, 2027 (\$6,415 per person, + \$1,415 single room supplement) Extension Tour: July 16 - 29, 2027 (\$2,550 (2 pax) // \$1,765 (4 pax) per person, +\$400 single sup.)

#### Included:

10 nights' accommodation at hotels per itinerary

1 MEJDI-Trained Tour Leader throughout the tour

Local city tour guides and speakers

9 Days of private ground transportation

Meals listed in itinerary<sup>1</sup>: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners

Bottled water during all touring and light drinks at meals

All site entrance fees and activities as per itinerary

Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

## Not included:

International airfare

Travel and Medical insurance-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Single Supplement costs

Customary tips for all included services (guides, drivers, porters)

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Airport transfers upon arrival and departure

Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Including necessary tips



#### **Overview**

This immersive journey through Spain explores the country's richly layered identity—from Islamic palaces and Jewish quarters to revolutionary street art and modern resistance. Walk through ancient cities reborn through architecture, dance, food, and protest. Alongside historians, artists, and community leaders, discover how Spain's past empires and modern movements continue to shape its landscapes and its people.

This isn't just a trip through history—it's a tour of living memory, contested narratives, and cultural reinvention.

#### **MEJDI Socially Conscious Experiences**

Our socially conscious model focuses on the human element of destinations—the diversity of its people and their stories—in a way that benefits local communities around the world. We specially design our itineraries to immerse you in these cultures. So you don't just visit new places; you become part of them. These human experiences and how we treat the people we meet are what sets MEJDI apart.

• Interfaith Conversations with Muslim and Jewish Community Members
Engage with contemporary Muslim and Jewish leaders to explore faith,
identity, and belonging in modern Spain—conversations that challenge
assumptions and reflect the country's evolving pluralism.

#### • Urban Innovation & Justice in Barcelona

Tour the revolutionary "superblocks" and meet with local planners to learn how the city is reclaiming space from cars for community, sustainability, and equity.

#### • Roma Heritage Night in Granada

Meet a Roma actress and activist for an evening of dialogue on repression, resilience, and the cultural power of flamenco as resistance.

#### • Hands-On Satire: The Fallas Workshop

Engage in Valencia's fiery tradition of social critique through art—learn how political commentary is carved into public monuments.

#### • Street Art & Social Justice in Málaga

Explore the Soho District's murals tackling feminism, climate justice, and immigration—where every wall speaks truth to power.



• Dialogue on Spanish Memory and Democracy
In Seville, meet with a local historian to unpack the legacy of Franco, civil war memory, and Spain's ongoing struggles with justice and identity.

#### **Itinerary:**

#### Day 1: Arrival in Barcelona (Guide, No Transportation)

Arrive to Barcelona and travel on your own to your hotel for check in.

Meet up with your group and guide for an opening session. Then, head to a **local restaurant** for a **Welcome Dinner** where you will be treated to **traditional Catalonian cuisine**.

After dinner, meet with a speaker to talk about Spain's political landscape

Overnight: Hotel Regina Barcelona (Dinner included)

# Day 2: Barcelona: Urban planning, superblocks and Gaudi's vision (Guide, Private Transportation)

Start the day exploring Barcelona through the lens of radical urban vision and social impact. Begin with a **guided tour of the Sagrada Família**, delving into Gaudí's anti-elitist philosophy and how his architectural choices reflected a deeply rooted social agenda. Continue to **Park Güell**, where you'll uncover Gaudí's early experiments in communal urbanism and imaginative public space design. From there, embark on a **walking tour focusing on Urban Planning and the Superblocks**, visiting the city's innovative *superilles*—an ambitious rethinking of city space that places pedestrians, sustainability, and social life at the center of urban design. Discuss how Barcelona is dealing with over-tourism and what the future holds.

In the evening, enjoy dinner on your own.

Overnight: Hotel Regina Barcelona (Breakfast included)

#### **Day 3: Barcelona to Valencia (Guide, Private Transportation)**

Travel from **Barcelona to Valencia**, with a cultural and historical stop along the Mediterranean coast. Depart in the morning and head south by private coach. After about two hours, arrive in **Tarragona**, a former Roman capital rich in ancient architecture and regional pride. Begin with a **guided walking tour of the Roman ruins**, including the seaside **amphitheatre**, **Roman circus**, and remnants of the



ancient forum. **Meet a local historian** to discuss how Tarragona is preserving its heritage while facing the pressures of modern tourism and climate adaptation.

Later, continue to Valencia and check into your accommodation. In the afternoon, head to a tour of Valencia's Arts & Architecture, covering Gothic, modernist, and futuristic influences. Check out the central market, silk exchange building, town hall and the Cathedral.

Later, dive into the heart of Valencian culinary culture with a **hands-on paella** cooking class.

Overnight: Melia Plaza Valencia (Breakfast and Dinner included)

#### **Day 4: Valencia (Guide, Private Transportation)**

Start the day learning about the traditions of Fayas - Valencia's yearly festival. dive into Valencia's most iconic cultural tradition with a **Fallas workshop**, where you'll create your own miniature sculpture inspired by the city's famed festival. Learn how **satire, identity, and politics** are carved into these ephemeral monuments, and how the festival has become a fiery mirror of Valencian society. In the afternoon, shift from fire to water as you leave the city and cross the **Turia Riverbed**, once a flood channel, now transformed into a greenbelt of climate-conscious urban design.

Arrive at the **Albufera Wetlands** for a **guided boat ride on Albufera Lake**, exploring how **agriculture**, **tourism**, **and conservation** intersect in this delicate ecosystem.

Then, enjoy dinner in **El Palmar**, a quiet lakeside village known as the **birthplace of paella**.

As the sun sets, head back to Valencia.

Overnight: Melia Plaza Valencia (Breakfast and Lunch included)

#### **Day 5: Going south (Guide, Private Transportation)**

Leave to the Andalucia region and fly to **Granada**, a city layered with cultural crossroads and contested histories. Upon arrival, take a panoramic tour of Granada.

Have lunch and check in to your accommodation for some rest before the late afternoon activities.

Take a **walking tour of the Albaicín**, the city's oldest quarter and a former Muslim stronghold. Trace the story of **religious expulsion** and forced conversions, and reflect on how the removal of Muslim and Jewish communities in 1492 reshaped the identity of Spain. Wind through narrow streets that still echo with Andalusi design



and layered memory. Have lunch and discussion at a local Andalusian Cultural Center, covering Andalusia's multicultural past and modern challenges.

Then, head into the caves of **Sacromonte** for a **Roma heritage experience**.

Meet a **Roma actress and activist** for a personal conversation on the history of **Roma repression, marginalization, and resistance** in Spain. End the night with a live **Flamenco performance**, born from centuries of pain and pride—a defiant expression of identity through rhythm, voice, and movement.

Overnight: Hotel Granada Center (Breakfast and Dinner included)

#### **Day 6: Southern communities (Guide, Private Transportation)**

Start the day with a guided tour of the **Alhambra**, one of the most iconic monuments in Spain. As you walk through its intricate palaces and quiet courtyards, explore the **political symbolism** of the site—how it embodied Islamic rule, intellectual flourishing, and later, how it was reimagined through the lens of the **Christian Reconquista**.

Then, head to **Bodega Señorio de Nevada**, a scenic winery just 30 minutes from Granada at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Tour the vineyards and cellars, learning about the region's unique terroir and winemaking traditions. Then, enjoy a **tasting of local wines**, paired with Andalusian cheeses, olive oil, and cured meats. Non-wine options include local vermouths and craft spirits. A rich and relaxing way to experience the flavors and heritage of the region before returning to Granada in the late afternoon for some time to rest / shop on your own.

Overnight: Hotel Granada Center (Breakfast and Wine Tasting included)

#### **Day 7: Cordoba (Guide, Private Transportation)**

Depart Granada and journey westward to **Córdoba**, a city that once stood at the heart of Al-Andalus and remains a symbol of cultural and religious convergence. Upon arrival, enjoy **a tour of the Mezquita-Catedral**, one of the most extraordinary religious sites in the world. Explore the layers of its transformation—from grand mosque to cathedral—and discuss how architecture was used to assert power, faith, and identity across centuries.

In the afternoon, shift into Córdoba's present and stroll through the **Jewish Quarter**.

Continue your journey to **Seville** (approx. 1.5 hours), where golden light, flamenco rhythms, and Moorish palaces await. Check into your hotel and settle in for the night.



In the evening, gather for **dinner and discussion with a local historian** specializing in the **Spanish Civil War**, unpacking Seville's role as a stronghold of Franco's uprising, the city's ideological divides, and the lingering shadows of authoritarianism in Spanish memory.

Overnight: Catalonia Giralda, Seville (Breakfast included)

#### **Day 8: Seville (Guide, Private Transportation)**

Today, dive into the **layered past and evolving present of Seville**, a city where every stone tells a story of empire, religion, and resistance. Begin with a **heritage tour tracing the city's Islamic and Jewish roots**. Wander through the **Alcázar of Seville**, a royal palace built by Muslim artisans under Christian rule, where Islamic aesthetics and Christian power intertwine. Continue to the **Seville Cathedral and the Giralda Tower**, once a mosque minaret and now a symbol of Christian dominance—offering insight into the transformation of sacred spaces in post-Reconquista Spain. Walk the narrow alleys of **Barrio Santa Cruz** and explore the community's rich cultural legacy and the trauma of expulsion.

Over lunch, meet with a **Reform Jewish Community member.** 

In the afternoon, shift your gaze to **contemporary Seville**. Walk the elevated pathways of the **Metropol Parasol**—nicknamed Las Setas or "the Mushrooms"—a dramatic wooden structure that redefined the city's public space and sparked debate about heritage and innovation. Then visit **Caixaforum**, a striking **cultural center built inside an old ceramics factory**, now home to exhibitions and performances at the crossroads of past and future. End the tour outside the **Pellitower**, Seville's tallest building, as a starting point to explore how modern Spain negotiates tradition, development, and global identity.

In the evening, enjoy a **Tapas tour**: A culinary stroll through local and delicious flavours of Sevillia's Tapas.

Overnight: Catalonia Giralda, Seville (Breakfast and Dinner included)

#### Day 9: Cadiz (Guide, Private Transportation)

depart Seville and head south to **Cádiz** (approx. 1.5 hours), one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities and a vital port of empire, trade, and revolution. Upon arrival, explore the **historic center of Cádiz** on foot, beginning at the **Plaza de San Juan de Dios** and continuing through **narrow alleys, seaside fortresses, and lively markets**. Learn about the city's **role in the Spanish Constitution of 1812**, its legacy as



a gateway for Spanish colonialism and return migration, and its **multicultural** identity shaped by centuries of maritime exchange.

In the afternoon, explore the **neighborhood of La Viña**, where local voices echo through flamenco bars and where working-class culture and resistance still live.

Enjoy a traditional **seafood lunch** in one of Cádiz's taverns before continuing your journey east along the coast to **Málaga** (approx. 2.5 hours). Check in at your hotel, and enjoy the city, known for it's many bars and music scene.

Overnight: ICON Malabar, Malaga (Breakfast included)

#### **Day 10: Malaga (Guide, Private Transportation)**

On your last day,uncover the many layers of **Málaga**, a city where ancient foundations meet bold, contemporary expression. Begin with a **guided tour of the historic center**. Walk through the **Alcazaba**, a Moorish fortress overlooking the sea, continue to the **Roman Theatre** nestled beneath its walls, and visit the **Cathedral of Málaga**, known as "La Manquita" for its unfinished tower. As you move through time, reflect on how Málaga's shifting roles—from imperial outpost to cultural capital—mirror the broader evolution of **Spanish identity**, economy, and memory.

In the afternoon, dive into the city's **urban edge and political voice** with a tour of the **Soho District**, Málaga's creative heart. Stroll through a vibrant **open-air gallery of street art**, where murals by local and international artists tackle urgent themes such as **immigration**, **feminism**, **environmental justice**, **and workers' rights**. Learn how public art here functions as both protest and storytelling, reclaiming space for the marginalized.

End the day with a visit to the **Centre Pompidou Málaga**, a bold cultural space housed beneath its signature multicolored cube.

Later, have some free time to rest, before joining a **farewell dinner** with the group.

Overnight: ICON Malabar, Malaga (Breakfast and Dinner included)

#### Day 11: Departure

Check out of your hotel and take a train/flight from Malaga's train station/airport.

Overnight: N/A (Breakfast included)



#### **Optional Extension**

Madrid

Included: 3 nights' accommodation at Princesse Bora Lodge, Sainte

Marie (Executive Villa with sea view - double occupancy)

1 domestic round-trip flight: Antananarivo ₹ Sainte Marie

Roundtrip arrival/departure transfers

Meals listed in itinerary: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners Whale watching excursion (non-private, eco-friendly boat) Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not included:

International airfare

Travel and Medical insurance-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Single Supplement Costs

Customary tips for all included services (guides, drivers,

porters, restaurant staff)

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Additional excursions or services in Antananariyo

Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

#### **Itinerary:**

#### Day 1: From Málaga to Madrid – Arrival & Historical Layers

Morning: Depart Málaga by high-speed train and arrive in Madrid in time to check into your hotel in the historic center. Have a walking tour of **Plaza Mayor, the Royal Palace, and the Spanish Parliament**. Along the way, discuss how Madrid has been shaped by monarchy, dictatorship, democracy – and constant reinvention.

Afternoon: Explore **Malasaña**, the birthplace of *La Movida Madrileña* — Spain's post-Franco punk explosion — with stops at rebellious bookstores, political graffiti, and local haunts where resistance became culture.

Overnight: Petit Palace Hotel Gran Via, Madrid (No meals included)

#### Day 2: Art, Memory, and Resistance in the Capital

Start your morning with a guided visit to the **Reina Sofía Museum**, home to Picasso's Guernica, and explore how art has been used to challenge authoritarianism and



express collective trauma.

Head to Lavapiés, Madrid's multicultural heart, for a walking tour focusing on immigration, resistance, and gentrification, meeting with a local activist or community leader along the way.

Enjoy a **lunch featuring North African or Latin American influences**, reflecting Madrid's global flavor.

In the afternoon, continue to **El Rastro neighborhood**, home to Europe's most famous flea market (if it's a weekend) or explore **Mercado de Antón Martín**, a buzzing local spot blending food stalls, small art galleries, and immigrant-run eateries, and visit **El Ratiro Park.** 

Evening at leisure, with optional **flamenco fusion performance** or rooftop dinner overlooking the Gran Vía (Not included).

Overnight: Petit Palace Hotel Gran Via, Madrid (Breakfast and Lunch included)

#### Day 3: Departure

Check out and transfer to **Madrid-Barajas International Airport** for your flight home or continue your travels.