



MEJDI TOURS

Private Custom Tour

Tapestry of Cultures: Imperial Spain & the Spirit of Andalusia

Dates: *September 24 - October 3, 2026*

Included: 9 nights' accommodation at 5* hotels listed in itinerary¹
MEJDI Expert guide for 9 days
Local guides as needed for specific cities/sites
Private transportation daily per itinerary
Individual arrival & departure airport transfers
Meals per itinerary: 9 breakfasts [B], 4 lunches [L], 9 dinners [D]
Soft drinks and non-alcoholic beverages included with meals
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
Gratuities for guides, drivers, hotels and restaurant meals included
Bottled water on tours & transfers
US-based customer service representatives

Itinerary

Day 1 - Spanish Arrival - Thursday, September 24 **[Guide; Transfers]**

Arrive in Madrid and transfer to your boutique hotel in the elegant Salesas district. Enjoy a gentle orientation walk through Barrio de las Letras and surrounding literary quarters, introducing Spain's cultural and political evolution. After checking in, head to dinner at Saddle, celebrated for its refined reinterpretation of classical Spanish gastronomy.

Overnight: URSO Hotel & Spa, Madrid² [D]

¹ Or similar; double occupancy, breakfast included

² Deluxe Rooms



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Day 2: Madrid: Art, Memory & Urban Transformation - Friday, September 25 **[Guide; Transportation]**

Begin at the Museo del Prado, focusing on art as an instrument of empire, faith, and statecraft. From there, move outdoors into Lavapiés — one of Madrid’s most dynamic and multicultural neighborhoods — for a guided urban walk led by a local expert. Visit La Tabacalera, a former tobacco factory reclaimed as a grassroots arts and civic space, and visit the Museo Reina Sofía for a focused discussion of *Guernica* and the politics of memory. In the evening, meet a Madrid-based journalist or former diplomat for a discussion of Spain’s contemporary social and political landscape, then enjoy a group dinner near your hotel.

Overnight: URSO Hotel & Spa, Madrid [B, L, D]

Day 3: Palaces & Imperial Past - Saturday, September 26 **[Guide; Transportation]**

Check out Madrid’s Royal Palace in the morning for a glimpse inside the largest functioning palace in Western Europe, a stunning monument to Spain’s history and monarchy. Head south to Toledo for lunch and an afternoon in Spain’s imperial capital at a historic crossroads of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions. Walk through the cathedral quarter, synagogues, and former mosques, reflecting on the multi-religious dynamics that characterized “Convivencia” and rupture in Iberian history. Return to Madrid for dinner and prepare to depart the next morning.

Overnight: URSO Hotel & Spa, Madrid [B, D]



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Day 4: Seville: Empire, Faith & Guadalquivir - Sunday, September 27 **[Guide; Transportation]**

Depart early on a high-speed train to Seville, arriving for a late morning visit to Real Alcázar with a specialist guide, tracing centuries of Islamic, Christian, and royal architectural language. After lunch, continue to the Seville Cathedral and Giralda, reflecting on Seville's role as the intellectual and logistical gateway to the New World. After checking in to your hotel, board a privately chartered river boat on the Guadalquivir for an intimate cruise through the historic heart of the city. Dinner is served on board, paired with Andalusian wines and live Spanish guitar, offering a refined, atmospheric perspective on Seville after dark.

Overnight: Palacio Villapanes, Seville³ [B, D]

Day 5: Cordoba Excursion **[Guide; Transportation]**

Journey eastbound, stopping at the ruins of Medina Azahara, once the most sophisticated palace-city in Western Europe. Continue to Córdoba for a guided visit to the Mezquita-Catedral, see the statue of Maimonides in the narrow streets of the Jewish Quarter and meet with an expert at the Casa de la Memoria, a cultural center and museum dedicated to preserving Sephardic history, culture and traditions. Return to Seville for the evening, enjoy dinner with the group at the hotel or nearby.

Overnight: Palacio Villapanes, Seville [B, L, D]

³ Deluxe Rooms



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Day 6: The Plains: Carmona & Antequera **[Guide; Transportation]**

Depart Seville heading east along the historic corridor that has linked Andalusia's great cities for millennia. Pause in Carmona for a brief stroll through its whitewashed lanes and panoramic viewpoints overlooking the fertile Vega plain — an introduction to the agricultural wealth that has shaped this region since antiquity. Continue toward Antequera to visit the UNESCO-listed Dolmens of Antequera, monumental stone structures that reframe Iberia's human story thousands of years before Rome or Al-Andalus. For lunch, enjoy a private culinary experience at a restored countryside cortijo or refined local restaurant featuring seasonal Andalusian cuisine rooted in olive oil traditions, mountain produce, and regional wines. Arrive in Granada and settle into your hotel before a city orientation, including a stop to see the mausoleum of the kings Ferdinand and Isabella at the Royal Chapel. Enjoy dinner with the group nearby.

Overnight: Palacio de los Patos⁴, Granada [B, L, D]

Day 7: Granada Heritage **[Guide; Transportation]**

Begin the day with a contextualized visit to the Alhambra, focusing on geometry, water symbolism, and Nasrid political philosophy. After lunch, meet with a Roma cultural representative for a presentation on their community's unique heritage including the social and artistic evolution of flamenco. Explore Sacromonte and Albacin in the evening, taking in the iconic view back towards the Alhambra, before dinner and an intimate flamenco performance at Jardines de Zoraya.

Overnight: Palacio de los Patos, Granada [B, D]

⁴ Dreamer Rooms



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Day 8: Foothills and Coastline

[Guide; Transportation]

Depart Granada, pausing briefly in the Lecrín Valley for sweeping views back toward the Sierra Nevada foothills. Continue to Salobreña, where whitewashed houses rise beneath a Moorish hilltop castle overlooking subtropical plantations and the sea beyond. Stop in Nerja for lunch and walk the Balcón de Europa for impressive panoramic coastal views. Explore the extraordinary Cueva de Nerja, a vast prehistoric cavern system with soaring stalactites and Paleolithic cave art, then continue to Malaga. Prior to dinner, meet a local urban historian examining the city's evolution from industrial port to contemporary cultural capital. Enjoy dinner with the group.

Overnight: Palacio Solecio⁵, Malaga [B, L, D]

Day 9: Mediterranean Horizon

[Guide; Transportation]

Begin with a guided exploration of Málaga including the Alcazaba fortress, expressive murals of the SOHO district, and Museo Picasso, housing over 4,000 of the famous 20th century artists' works. Continue to the striking Centre Pompidou Málaga, a bold cultural space housed beneath its signature multicolored cube and enjoy time at leisure by the sea. Gather for a farewell dinner at José Carlos García, located along the waterfront within walking distance of the hotel.

Overnight: Palacio Solecio, Malaga [B, D]

Day 10: Departure or Mini-cruise Extension (details forthcoming)

[Transfer only]

Transfer to the airport in Malaga for departing flights or embark on an extension tour experience.

Overnight: N/A [B]

⁵ Palacio Rooms