

# Grand Circle Travel<sup>®</sup>

THE LEADER IN VALUE AND WORLDWIDE DISCOVERY SINCE 1958

## Your Grand Circle Travel Planning Guide



Spain & Portugal in Depth  
2026

# Grand Circle Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with Grand Circle Travel. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

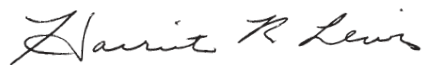
When you travel with us, you will enjoy a thoughtfully designed itinerary that balances unforgettable included discoveries with time for independent explorations. Your experience will be enriched by the company of like-minded American travelers and an **expert, local Program Director**. Assigned to a group of 30 travelers on average, these passionate leaders are ready and eager to share their homeland and insights as only a local can. Whether it is recommending their favorite restaurant, connecting travelers with people and culture, or providing the best regional maps to enhance your leisure time, your Program Director will be available to take care of all the details and ensure that you have a fun and carefree travel experience. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Throughout your explorations, you will experience Exclusive Discovery Series events designed to connect you with local people and culture. From sharing traditional fare and lively conversation during Home-Hosted Visits, to discussing Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, you'll gain an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who customize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-2610**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis  
Chair  
Grand Circle Travel

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Plaza de España, Seville

## Spain & Portugal in Depth

**Spain:** Madrid, Granada, Torremolinos, Seville |  
**Portugal:** Lisbon

**15 days starting from \$5,795**

including airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit

[www.gct.com/spe2026pricing](http://www.gct.com/spe2026pricing)

From peaceful, whitewashed villages where time stands still to ornate mosques and palaces that reawaken the majesty of the Moorish past, your discoveries in Spain and Portugal are framed by a coast and countryside of exquisite beauty. On a journey that leads you through modern cities and medieval towns filled with architectural wonders, you'll encounter a welcoming people who are devoted to their proud heritage and eager to share the joys of a vibrant culture.

### IT'S INCLUDED

- Choose to **purchase Grand Circle's airfare**, and your airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges are included. Or, make your own air arrangements
- **13 nights accommodation**
- **22 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 6 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Lunch)
- **12 included features:** 10 guided tours and 2 exclusive Discovery Series events: Home-Hosted Lunch • Horse-breeding farm visit
- Exclusive services of a local **Grand Circle Program Director** (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
- **Gratuities** on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- **Personal headset** for all included and optional tours on your main trip
- Private motorcoach land travel
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- **5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip**

*Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.*



## ITINERARY SUMMARY

### 1 • Fly to Madrid, Spain

### 2-4 • Madrid

Included Tour Madrid

### 5-6 • Granada

Included Tours Toledo, Alhambra

### 7-9 • Torremolinos

Included Tours Málaga, Ronda

### 10-11 • Seville

Included Tours Córdoba, Seville, Flamenco show

### 12-14 • Lisbon, Portugal

Included Tours Lisbon, Sintra & Cascais

### 15 • Return to U.S.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderately Easy

### Group Size

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

### Pacing

- 5 locations in 14 days

### Physical Requirements

- Walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs
- Two days of this trip may require 4 miles of walking and 3-4 hours of optional physical activity
- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send

travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

### Terrain & Transportation

- Uneven walking surfaces, unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and cobblestones
- Travel by 45-seat motorcoach

### Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 51-85°F during touring season
- June-August are the warmest months
- November and December weather can be unpredictable and change quickly

## MAXIMIZE YOUR DISCOVERIES & VALUE

### OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

all with FREE Single Supplements

#### Barcelona, Spain

PRE-TRIP: 4 nights from **\$1,795**

#### The Island of Madeira, Portugal

POST-TRIP: 5 nights from **\$1,195**



# Spain & Portugal in Depth

## YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

### BEGIN YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

#### 4 nights in *Barcelona, Spain*

**Day 1** Depart U.S.

**Day 2** Arrive Barcelona, Spain

**Day 3** Explore Barcelona

**Day 4** Barcelona • Optional Montserrat tour

**Day 5** Barcelona • Explore Old City

**Day 6** Barcelona • Madrid

#### Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly from one of several U.S. gateway cities to Madrid, Spain.

#### Day 2 Arrive Madrid, Spain

- Destination: Madrid
- Accommodations: Hotel Voco or similar

**Morning:** You are met at the airport by a Grand Circle representative and transferred to your hotel.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Join your Program Director and fellow travelers, including those who took our *Barcelona, Spain* pre-trip extension, for an orientation walk to get to know your surroundings.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

#### Day 3 Explore Madrid

- Destination: Madrid
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Voco or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Discover Madrid's highlights on an included panoramic tour. Among the sights are the exterior of the 18th-century *Palacio Real* (Royal Palace), an opulent, 2,800-room complex inspired by France's Versailles. You'll also admire the Plaza de Espana, the city's main square. Vibrant Madrid—the highest capital city in Europe—may put you in mind of the paintings of Velazquez, with clear blue arching skies that gave rise to the phrase, "*De Madrid al cielo*" ("Madrid is the next thing to heaven"). One of the few European capitals not settled by the Romans, it became Spain's capital city in 1561, when Philip II moved his court from Toledo to the city in which he had been born. Located at the geographic center of Iberia, Madrid was a crossroads of the peninsula and remains a thriving cultural and artistic center, with the liveliest nightlife in the country.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Perhaps you will visit one of the city’s greatest attractions: the Prado Museum. Intended as a natural science museum when it was conceived in 1785, it evolved into the repository of the royal art collection by the time it was completed in 1819, and is now one of the world’s most renowned art galleries.

Or, if you prefer, return to the Royal Palace to explore its ornate royal apartment, banquet hall, Royal Armory, and Royal Library with its first edition of *Don Quixote*. Stroll the austere Plaza Mayor, one of Europe’s largest public squares; or simply relax at a cafe and encounter the legendary friendliness of this welcoming city, melting pot for all the varied regions of Spain.

**Dinner:** Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

#### Day 4 Madrid • Optional El Escorial tour

- Destination: Madrid
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Voco or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Or join us on an optional tour of the imposing El Escorial, a 16th-century architectural masterpiece completed in 1584 as a residence for the King of Spain and a monastery for the Hieronymite monks. Designed at the height of Spain’s international power, the structure’s floor plan was actually inspired by descriptions

of the Temple of Solomon. Set at the foot of Mount Abantos, the enormous gray granite complex is the resting place of 500 years’ worth of Spanish kings.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

#### Day 5 Madrid • Explore Toledo • Granada

- Destination: Madrid
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Barceló Occidental Granada or similar

**Activity Note:** On select departures the cathedral may be closed, and only the exterior will be available for viewing.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Begin your transfer to Granada. Just an hour along the route, however, lies a stop that is bound to be a highlight of your trip: medieval Toledo—a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and capital of Spain until the 16th century.

Picturesquely set on a hill overlooking the Tagus River, Toledo proudly preserves its 2,000-year history in more than 100 buildings and monuments. At its peak, between the eleventh and 13th centuries, it was known as the “City of Three Cultures” for the harmonious co-existence of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities.

Breathe in this remarkable history as you embark on a walking tour along the narrow, cobbled streets of Toledo’s center, enjoying the striking blend of Moorish–Mudejar–Jewish,

Gothic, and Renaissance architecture. You'll view El Alcazar, the 16th-century Moorish citadel that stands at a point originally fortified by the ancient Romans and which dominates the city skyline. You'll also discover Toledo Cathedral, which you'll have the opportunity to enter so as to view the stunning artistry contained within.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Continue traveling to Granada, arriving later today.

**Dinner:** At your hotel.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

## Day 6 Explore Granada • The Alhambra

- Destination: Granada
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Barceló Occidental Granada or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Tour the mighty Alhambra, one of Granada's greatest sights. When the Moors crossed the Strait of Gibraltar in AD 711, they claimed a hillside city that had been founded by the Romans and later settled by Visigoths, yet whose history dates to pre-historic times—Granada, which is believed to mean "great castle." The Moors chose Granada as the site to build their own mighty citadel—one of the great architectural wonders of all time: the Alhambra.

Even from a distance, the Alhambra is a breathtaking sight, sprawling over a hilltop overlooking the city. Construction of the Alhambra began during the 13th century and continued over centuries, resulting in a mix

of surfaces and styles. Enjoy an included tour of this complex of palaces and courtyards, a deliberate effort to create a paradise on Earth. Pass by patios, graceful arches, cupolas, fountains, and pools, the Royal Palace, the harem, and more.

After your tour of the Alhambra is concluded, you'll set off on a short walking tour of Granada.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant in the city's old town so you can experience a classic Spanish culinary tradition—tapas. These small sampler plates allow you to taste a wide range of Spanish specialties.

**Afternoon:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

## Day 7 Granada • Home-Hosted Lunch • Explore Malaga • Torremolinos

- Destination: Torremolinos
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel Sol Don Pedro or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Today, we'll travel to Torremolinos on Spain's southern coast stopping along the way for a Home-Hosted Lunch in Salinas.

**Lunch:** You'll get a taste of typical Spanish life as you join a local family in their home for an intimate visit and a freshly cooked meal, accompanied by wine. Together, you'll improvise a way to share conversation and learn more about one another—this usually involves the international language of hand signals and smiles. During this **Exclusive**



**Discovery Series event**, you'll enjoy an authentic and unique interpersonal exchange and come away with a deeper understanding of the local culture.

**Afternoon:** Bid *adios* to your gracious hosts, and head to Malaga for an included walking tour of the Old Town. The main city of coastal Andalucia, Malaga retains a distinctly Spanish flavor, with twisting, narrow streets and a lovely waterfront promenade. Tall palm and plane trees, bougainvillea, aloes, and geraniums make a luxurious tropical paradise alongside the clean, modern port. This is Picasso's birthplace, and was a popular winter holiday site for the 19th-century wealthy. A leisurely walk then takes you past the ruins of an ancient Roman theater, built more than 2,000 years ago.

Following our discoveries here, we'll continue on to Torremolinos, arriving at your hotel later in the day.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

## Day 8 Torremolinos • Optional Gibraltar tour

- Destination: Torremolinos
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Sol Don Pedro or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** You have the day free in Torremolinos. Perhaps you'll take a walk to La Carihuela, the original fishing village that was once all there was to Torremolinos. Today, its many cafes and restaurants are still the best places to go for fresh local seafood. Try *pez espada* (swordfish), *pescaito frito* (fish fried in

olive oil), or the local specialty, *pescado a la sal* (bream or sea bass baked in a crispy coating of sea salt).

Or, you may join us on our optional tour to Gibraltar. Located at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula and settled over a millennium ago by the Phoenicians—and consequently by Arab sultans and Spaniards—Gibraltar today is a British territory.

We'll begin by discovering a man-made wonder as we navigate a network of underground military tunnels created by the British during World War II to protect soldiers and equipment from bombings. Then, we'll visit Europa point at the end of the Rock of Gibraltar, where on a clear day you may be able to take in views of Africa across the water.

We'll stop for a traditional English tea (included in the cost of your optional tour) in the quaint fishing village of Catalan Bay, then return to Torremolinos.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

## Day 9 Torremolinos • Explore Ronda

- Destination: Torremolinos
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel Sol Don Pedro or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Discover Ronda on an included tour today. One of the oldest cities in Spain, lovely Ronda—nicknamed the “Dream City”

by the poet Rainer Maria Rilke—enjoys a lofty setting on a promontory overlooking El Tajo, a spectacular 360-foot-deep river gorge. Readers of Ernest Hemingway’s *For Whom the Bell Tolls* will recognize El Tajo as the place from which Fascists were thrown to their deaths during the Spanish Civil War.

Though its roots are in pre-historic times, Ronda is like many Andalucian cities in that it saw its glory days under Moorish rule. Conquered by the Christians in 1485, Ronda was one of the last strongholds of the Arabs, and Arabic architecture dominates the old city, set on one side of the ravine. On the other side of El Tajo stands El Mercadillo (the “new” city), constructed mostly during the 18th century. Connecting the two halves of the city is the *Puente Nuevo* (New Bridge), an amazing architectural feat built between 1755 and 1793 and spanning a dizzying drop over the gorge.

You’ll get a sense of both facets of the city during an included tour. Admire the whitewashed houses with charming balconies that line the winding streets of the old town, and view Santa Maria la Mayor, once the city’s Great Mosque and later rebuilt as a Gothic Christian church. You’ll also see the Palace of Mondragon, where Moorish kings and later King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella took up residence.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend free time activities. You’ll return to Torremolinos late this afternoon where the rest of the day is yours to spend on your own.

**Dinner:** On your own. Your Program Director can recommend a restaurant.

**Evening:** Tonight is yours to relax or continue exploring independently.

## Day 10 Torremolinos • Explore Cordoba • Seville

- Destination: Seville
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Novotel Sevilla or similar

**Activity Note:** The synagogue may be closed on select departures, at which time only the exterior will be available for viewing.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Travel to Seville, stopping along the way for an included walking tour of beautiful Cordoba, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Once capital of the Western world, Cordoba was founded by the ancient Romans at the highest navigable point of the Guadalquivir River, where it was easiest to ship olive oil, wheat, and wine back to Rome. It was after its conquest by the Moors in AD 711, however, that the city grew to become the largest in the world.

Today, Cordoba is well known for the Mezquita (Great Mosque). The Mezquita was built during the tenth century, while Cordoba was in its glory as the capital of the Moorish kingdom of El-Andalus, one of the wealthiest and most powerful cities in Europe, and an important center for science, education, and the arts.

In AD 929, the Cordoba region broke away from the Islamic center, Baghdad, and formed its own independent kingdom, falling into anarchy shortly afterward. The city was conquered in 1236 by King Ferdinand, a Christian who had the mosque consecrated and constructed a cathedral in the middle of it, while still preserving the remarkable beauty of the original structure.

During your escorted tour of Spain’s historic cultural capital, you’ll find that Cordoba is often a study in contrasts: Moorish and Christian, old and new. You’ll pass by a reconstruction

of the original Roman Bridge and enter the synagogue—the only ancient synagogue still standing in Spain outside Toledo. You'll also stroll through the *Juderia* (Jewish Quarter), admiring the famous Andalusian patios of pretty ceramics, iron grilles, and plants.

Your tour culminates at the Mezquita. Here you'll stroll through the courtyard, filled with orange trees and fountains, to the entryway, where you'll be greeted by 850 stunning granite and marble arches of various colors, illuminated by sunlight streaming through the cupolas. At the center of the mosque, find the 16th-century Renaissance cathedral with its mahogany pulpits and choir stalls. Surrounding the cathedral, the mosque remains largely untouched since the eleventh century, revealing some of the finest Islamic architecture in Spain.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Travel to Seville along the *Ruta de los Pueblos Blancos*—the “Route of the Whitewashed Villages.” You'll see several of these classic Andalusian villages tucked into hillsides and framed with greenery during your scenic ride.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

## Day 11 Explore Seville • *Flamenco* show

- Destination: Seville
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Novotel Sevilla or similar

**Activity Note:** Official ceremonies may prevent entrance into the Seville Cathedral at certain times.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy an included tour of city's highlights. Located on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, Seville is fabled to have been settled by Hercules, and its wealth of magnificent monuments and buildings attest to its long and storied history. Founded by the Tartessians, the city was later settled by the Romans, and two of Rome's great emperors, Trajan and Hadrian, were born here. Seville was occupied by the Moors from AD 711 until 1248, and many of its most fascinating monuments date to that period. Today, Seville occupies a special place in Spanish culture, with its fiestas, bougainvillea, and strolling musicians. The fourth-largest city in Spain, Seville is also renowned as the birthplace of *flamenco* and Don Juan.

Your group will visit the resplendent Plaza de Espana, designed for the Ibero-American Exhibition of 1929, incorporating elements of Renaissance style infused with a contemporary Spanish flair, as well as the Barrio de Santa Cruz, a lovely neighborhood known for its maze-like cluster of narrow streets. Your Program Director will help you wind your way amidst the whitewashed homes, impressive mansions, and charming plazas, such as Plaza de Santa Cruz and Plaza de las Cruces. Admire—and smell—the flowering pots adorning the private patios that you pass. You'll also take in the architectural feat that is Seville Cathedral on this tour, as you admire its towering facade, and go inside to tour its vaulted halls, which purport to contain the remains of Christopher Columbus.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Perhaps visit the Alcazar, official Seville residence of Spanish royalty. Explore the exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts, whose



collections include works by Murillo and El Greco. Browse the shops along the Calle Sierpes, Seville's main shopping venue. Or simply relax at a cafe and enjoy the colorful whirl that is Seville.

**Dinner:** Enjoy an included dinner performance of the *flamenco*, the intensely emotional dance that was created here.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

### Day 12 Seville • Horse-breeding farm visit • Lisbon, Portugal

- Destination: Lisbon
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: TURIM Saldanha Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** You'll ride through the sweeping Portuguese countryside on your way to Lisbon. Along the way we'll stop in the region of Alentejo, where you'll enjoy an **exclusive Discovery Series visit** to a working horse farm and enjoy an opportunity to chat with the owners. You'll learn the wrenching story of how many families here lost their lands to the communists and the difficulties they encountered regaining their holdings. A horse presentation in the arena will give you the opportunity to learn the differences between breeds of horses raised here.

**Lunch:** Included during your visit at the farm.

**Afternoon:** Transfer to the Portuguese capital, Lisbon.

**Dinner:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

### Day 13 Explore Lisbon • Optional National Palace of Queluz tour

- Destination: Lisbon
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: TURIM Saldanha Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Discover Lisbon on an included tour. Built on seven hills, Lisbon has been Portugal's capital since the 13th century, and the area around the steepest hill, Sao Jorge, was first settled by Phoenicians in the twelfth century BC. They were followed by Carthaginians, Romans, several Germanic tribes, and Visigoths. In AD 714, the Moors captured Lisbon, and held it for the next 400 years.

Portuguese explorers began colonizing parts of Africa and Asia at the beginning of the 15th century. Vasco da Gama set sail for India from Lisbon in 1497, and the city became a center for successful voyages of discovery throughout the East and the New World for the next 300 years. The immense riches brought back by these explorers and navigators ushered in a period of building and expansion that gave birth to the new Manueline architectural style, with its ornately carved decorative motifs. You'll see the best example of this style of architecture in the historic section of Belem, where sailors used to be blessed before their long voyages to the unknown. Here, you'll see the Jeronimos Monastery, the ornate Belem Tower, and the Monument of the Discoveries.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Perhaps spend some time in the Alfama district,

and enjoy the winding alleyways where the city's Moorish heritage thrives. Venture to St. George's Castle, constructed by the Moors on the site of a fifth-century Visigoth fort and once the residence of Portuguese kings. Admire the elegant carpets and crafts at the Museum School of Decorative Arts. Visit Chiado, a fashionable shopping district.

Or, join us for an optional tour of the National Palace of Queluz, a majestic 18th century palace built in the style of Versailles which served as the residence of Portugal's monarchy until the royal family fled to Brazil in 1807 to escape Napoleon's invading French armies. As you explore the palace on a guided tour, you may note how the estate's eclectic blend of Baroque, Rococo, and Neoclassical architectural styles reflects the changing taste of Portugal's ruling class through the decades. The palace was recognized as a national monument since 1910, and is now open to the public for travelers to more closely acquaint themselves with this period of Portuguese history.

**Dinner:** On your own in Lisbon. Your Program Director can recommend a restaurant.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

### Day 14 Lisbon • Explore Sintra & Cascais

- Destination: Lisbon
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: TURIM Saldanha Hotel or similar

**Activity Note:** On days when Sintra Palace is closed for holidays or official celebrations, we will visit the Queluz National Palace instead.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Embark on an included excursion to Sintra and Cascais. Begin at the Royal Palace in Sintra, dating back to the Middle Ages. During time on your own in Sintra, you'll see why well-traveled English poet Lord Byron called the town "the most beautiful in the world." Then continue to Cascais, a one-time humble fishing village that has grown into a lively coastal resort town.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

**Dinner:** Enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

### Day 15 Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or begin your post-trip extension to *The Island of Madeira, Portugal*.

## END YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

### 5 nights in *The Island of Madeira, Portugal*

**Day 1** Lisbon • Funchal, Madeira

**Day 2** Explore Funchal

**Day 3** Funchal • Optional *Agriculture, Nature & Volcanic Rock Pools* tour

**Day 4** Funchal • Optional *High Peaks, Traditions & Gentle Eastern Charms* tour

**Day 5** Funchal

**Day 6** Madeira • Return to U.S.



## OPTIONAL TOURS

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During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Program Director. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases. We do not accept American Express.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

**Please note:** Optional tour prices include gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers, are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication, and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

### El Escorial

(Day 4 \$85 per person)

Discover extraordinary El Escorial, completed in 1584 as a residence for the King of Spain and a monastery for the Hieronymite monks. Designed at the height of Spain's international power, the structure's floor plan was actually inspired by descriptions of the Temple of Solomon. Set at the foot of Mount Abantos, the enormous gray granite complex is the resting place of 500 years' worth of Spanish kings.

### Gibraltar

(Day 8 \$140 per person)

Set off with us to discover Gibraltar on this optional full-day tour. You'll enjoy hearing some facts about the extensive history of this self-governing British territory, perched at the entrance to the Mediterranean and overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar. You'll have an orientation tour of this small territory, visit fascinating sites including the World War II tunnels, and then enjoy time to explore at your own pace.

### National Palace of Queluz

(Day 13 \$115 per person)

Spend an afternoon exploring the National Palace of Queluz, a majestic 18th century palace built in the style of Versailles which served as the residence of Portugal's monarchy until the royal family fled to Brazil in 1807 to escape Napoleon's invading French armies. As you explore the palace on a guided tour, you may note how the estate's eclectic blend of Baroque, Rococo, and Neoclassical architectural styles reflects the changing taste of Portugal's ruling class through the decades. The palace was recognized as a national monument since 1910, and is now open to the public for travelers to more closely acquaint themselves with this period of Portuguese history.

## PRE-TRIP

### Barcelona, Spain

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » **Air transportation** from Barcelona to Madrid
- » **Accommodations** for 4 nights
- » **4 meals:** 4 breakfasts
- » **2 included tours:** Barcelona & the Sagrada Familia basilica, Old City discovery walk
- » **Gratuities** on this extension for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- » Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director
- » All transfers

#### PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*Discover a charming confluence of medieval charm and modern, avant-garde grandeur in one of Europe's greatest cities. Barcelona's grand boulevards, narrow Barri Gotic alleyways, coastal views, and fairy-tale architecture are an invitation to discovery that reveals a wealth of cultural and historical gems.*

##### Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly from one of several gateway cities to Barcelona.

##### Day 2 Arrive Barcelona, Spain

- Destination: Barcelona
- Accommodations: Hotel Barcelona Center or similar

**Morning:** Arrive in Barcelona today. You'll be met at the airport and assisted to your hotel, where you'll greet the local Grand Circle Program Director who will be there to assist you throughout the duration of your pre-trip extension.

Enjoy the balance of the afternoon at leisure to settle into your room and relax after your flight. You are invited to join a short walk around the neighborhood of your hotel.

Capital of the autonomous region of Catalonia, Barcelona is the second-largest city in Spain and Europe's largest metropolitan area along the Mediterranean Sea. Legend attributes the city's founding to the mythological Hercules, but historians believe the city was originally founded by the ancient Carthaginians around the third century BC. Since that time, Barcelona and the Catalonia region have flown under many flags. From the Romans and the Visigoths to the French and native Catalonians themselves, Barcelona's rich and varied history remains evident in the architecture and cultural pastiche of its warm and inviting people.

An abundance of sites and one-of-a-kind experiences make Barcelona one of the most-visited cities in the world, and while most travelers prefer to see the attractions by foot, you'll find an easy-to-navigate subway system connects you to all corners of the city.

As you explore, you'll find a bounty of culinary delights pulled from the sea. An assortment of oysters, shrimp, squid, fish, and other seafood can be found at restaurants all over the city.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

### Day 3 Explore Barcelona

- Destination: Barcelona
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Barcelona Center or similar

**Activity Note:** Depending on availability, today's visit to the Sagrada Família may take place at an alternative time or day.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Get acquainted with Barcelona today during an included tour. As part of your explorations, you'll visit the famed Sagrada Família basilica. The massive UNESCO World Heritage Site is the unfinished masterpiece of Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. While construction of the church began in 1882, the colossal structure isn't scheduled for completion until 2026. Originally started by architect Francisco de Paula del Villar, Gaudí took over in 1883 and then devoted his entire life to its construction. When he died in 1926, after nearly 43 years of work on the basilica, the project was only 15 percent completed.

At first blush, the breathtaking mixture of Gothic and geometric Art Nouveau forms appear to be dripping in melted wax, but closer inspection reveals a meticulous stone tapestry

depicting the life and acts of Jesus Christ. Once completed, the church will accommodate some 13,000 worshippers.

You'll also visit the wooded slopes of Montjuïc Hill, which hosts Castell de Montjuïc, a 17th-century fortress. Scattered along the hillside are buildings from the 1992 Olympic Games, including Santiago Calatrava's Olympic Needle.

**Lunch:** On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

**Afternoon:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Perhaps you'll visit the Museu Picasso, a gallery devoted to Picasso's formative years. Or ride the old tram, Funicular del Tibidabo, to the top of Barcelona's highest mountain for an unparalleled view of the city.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

### Day 4 Barcelona • Optional Montserrat tour

- Destination: Barcelona
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Barcelona Center or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Perhaps you'll spend the day savoring the cuisine of the city. Be sure to try some tapas platters of bite-sized food meant to be shared and sampled) at one of the many excellent restaurants during a day at leisure here.



Or, you can choose to join an optional half-day tour to Montserrat, a jagged mountain range outside the city which offers exhilarating hikes past peculiar rock formations and spectacular views of the Catalan countryside below. The mountain is also home to a Benedictine abbey, which hosts the Virgin of Montserrat, a Black Madonna statue which attracts many devout pilgrims.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

### Day 5 Barcelona • Explore Old City

- Destination: Barcelona
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Barcelona Center or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Set off on a discovery walk of Barcelona's *Ciutat Vella* (Old City), the historic city center where famous landmarks seem to be hiding around every corner. After your walk, you'll have another day at leisure to enjoy the myriad attractions of Barcelona. Seek out more

of the fascinating architecture throughout the city, including one of Gaudí's other masterpieces. While nowhere near as colossal as the Sagrada Família, Gaudí's luminous *Casa Batlló* is just as stunning. Referred to by locals as "the house of bones," this impressive building is decorated with a mosaic of broken ceramic tiles of golden orange and greenish blues that lend it its skeletal facade.

Or perhaps you'll spend some time in the sun on a visit to the golden beaches of Barcelona. Take a dip in the Mediterranean, unwind with a good book in the shade, or simply enjoy a *cerveza* (beer) in the salt-tinged breeze.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your Program Director will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your Program Director for restaurant recommendations.

### Day 6 Barcelona • Madrid

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Transfer to the airport for your flight to Madrid, where you'll begin your tour of *Spain & Portugal in Depth*.

## OPTIONAL TOUR

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### Montserrat

(Day 4 \$105 per person)

Explore Montserrat, a jagged mountain range outside the city which offers exhilarating hikes past peculiar rock formations and spectacular views of the Catalan countryside below.

The mountain is also home to a Benedictine abbey, which hosts the Virgin of Montserrat, a Black Madonna statue which attracts many devout pilgrims.

## POST-TRIP

### *The Island of Madeira, Portugal*

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » **Air transportation** from Lisbon, Portugal to Funchal, Madeira
- » **Accommodations** for 5 nights
- » **5 meals:** 5 breakfasts
- » **1 included tour:** Funchal
- » **Gratuities** on this extension for local guides and motorcoach drivers and all optional tours
- » Services of a local hospitality desk representative
- » All transfers

#### POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*Discover the lush island of Madeira, known as the “floating garden of the Atlantic.” From your seaside hotel in Funchal, the island’s capital, you’ll tour this flower-bedecked and culturally rich city. Later, explore the island in depth on optional tours, or seek out the vineyards where Madeira wine is made.*

##### **Day 1 Lisbon • Funchal, Madeira**

- Destination: Funchal
- Accommodations: Hotel Melia Madeira Mare or similar

**Morning:** After your discoveries of *Spain & Portugal in Depth*, bid farewell to your Program Director and fly to the stunningly beautiful island of Madeira, some 500 miles southwest of Lisbon. Enjoy the oldest tourist destination in Europe, known for the warm hospitality of the locals as well as its many scenic splendors. Fly from Lisbon to Funchal, Madeira’s five-century-old capital. You’ll be met at the airport and assisted to your hotel, where you’ll meet the local Grand Circle representative who will be available to assist you throughout your post-trip extension. After time to settle in, you’re welcome to join a short orientation walk to get acquainted with your surroundings.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your local representative will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your local representative for restaurant recommendations.

##### **Day 2 Explore Funchal**

- Destination: Funchal
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Melia Madeira Mare or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy a tour of Funchal, as you stroll along cobblestone sidewalks that wind their way into plazas lined with statues, churches, and shops where embroidery and wicker ware are local specialties. You’ll be introduced

to such traditions, particularly the famous embroideries of Madeira, on this tour. You'll also pass by historic monuments and museums that you may wish to revisit during your leisure time.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your local representative will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your local representative for restaurant recommendations.

### **Day 3 Funchal • Optional Agriculture, Nature & Volcanic Rock Pools tour**

- Destination: Funchal
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Melia Madeira Mare or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Free for your own discoveries. Or join a full-day excursion to discover the best of western Madeira. First, you'll visit a working fishing village, Câmara de Lobos, to the south. Then view Cabo Girão, a point of striking beauty along the island's shoreline, where the highest sea cliff in Europe rises over 1,900 feet from the ocean's edge. Last, you'll discover Porto Moniz, famed for its natural swimming pools.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your local representative will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your local representative for restaurant recommendations.

### **Day 4 Funchal • Optional High Peaks, Traditions & Gentle Eastern Charms tour**

- Destination: Funchal
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Melia Madeira Mare or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Free for your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll stroll among the many seaside cafes, shops, and gardens in Funchal. You can also visit one of the famed wineries—terraced vineyards on the island's mountain slopes are the source of Madeira wine.

Or join an optional full-day excursion to eastern Madeira. You'll enjoy a closer look at three gems of the area on this excursion: Santana, a romantic village famed for its quaint cottages with their steep, thatched roofs; Ribeiro Frio, a natural park with its own trout hatchery; and the island's second-highest peak, Pico do Arieiro.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your local representative will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your local representative for restaurant recommendations.

### **Day 5 Funchal**

- Destination: Funchal
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel Melia Madeira Mare or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.



**Morning:** Free for your own discoveries. You may choose to seek out the best gardens, admiring the profusion of color in plants like mimosa, bougainvillea, and bird of paradise.

**Lunch/Afternoon:** Yours to do as you please. Your local representative will be happy to recommend a spot for lunch and free time activities.

**Dinner/Evening:** Continue making independent discoveries this evening, with dinner on your own. Ask your local representative for restaurant recommendations.

### **Day 6 Madeira • Return to U.S.**

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

## **OPTIONAL TOURS**

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### ***Agriculture, Nature & Volcanic Rock Pools***

(Day 3 \$100 per person)

Discover the best of western Madeira on this full-day excursion. First, you'll visit a working fishing village, Camara de Lobos, to the south. Then view Cabo Girao, a point of striking beauty along the island's shoreline, where the highest sea cliff in Europe rises more than 1,900 feet from the ocean's edge. Then you'll discover Porto Moniz, famed for its natural swimming pools.

### ***High Peaks, Traditions & Gentle Eastern Charms***

(Day 4 \$100 per person)

On this full-day excursion, you'll enjoy three gems of eastern Madeira: Santana, a romantic village famed for its quaint cottages with their steep thatched roofs; Ribeiro Frio, a natural park with its own trout hatchery; and the island's second-highest peak, Pico de Arieiro.

# TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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## Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

## Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

## Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this vacation.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 2 blank passport pages.
- **Pre- and/or post-trip extensions:** No additional pages needed.
- **Optional tour to Gibraltar:** If you plan on taking this optional tour, you will need 2 additional blank pages for a total of 4.

## Visas Required

**We’ll provide you information with detailed instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure.** In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.

- **Europe (Spain and Portugal):** U.S. citizens will require an online visa-waiver to enter countries in the European Union. There is no set timeline for when this requirement will start – we will contact all impacted travelers before their departure once the start date is confirmed.

### **Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?**

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **[www.pvsinternational.org](http://www.pvsinternational.org)**.

### **Traveling With a Minor?**

Traveling with a minor may require certain documentation for border crossings. For further detail on the required documentation, please contact the local embassy or state government.

### **Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents**

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

### **Overseas Taxes & Fees**

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency).

## RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

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### Keep Your Abilities In Mind

**Please review the information below prior to departing on this trip.** We reserve the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.

#### GROUP SIZE

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

#### PACING

- 5 locations in 14 days

#### PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs
- Two days of this trip may require 4 miles of walking and 3-4 hours of optional physical activity
- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

#### TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Uneven walking surfaces, unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and cobblestones
- Travel by 45-seat motorcoach

#### CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 51-85°F during touring season
- June-August are the warmest months
- November and December weather can be unpredictable and change quickly



## Health Check

Feeling healthy and confident of your mobility is essential to fully enjoy your trip. If you have ongoing medical conditions or concerns about your health, we highly recommend that you schedule a checkup with your personal physician at least six weeks in advance of your departure date.

- Discuss with your doctor any aspects of your itinerary that may affect your health and be guided by his or her advice. (You can use the “Keep Your Abilities in Mind” on the previous page as a guideline to discuss with him or her.)
- You may want to have a dental exam before your trip. A loose filling or developing cavity would be difficult to remedy while you are traveling.
- If you have a condition that requires special equipment or treatment, you must bring and be responsible for all necessary items related to your condition.

## No Vaccines Required

### Recommended Vaccines

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

## Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Select “Find International Travel Information” then select “Country Information”; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Your Health Abroad” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

## Staying Healthy on Your Trip

### Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.

- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don't push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

## Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

## Water

- Tap water is safe to drink on this trip; however, it may be processed differently than your tap water at home, so you might not like the taste.
- If you prefer bottled water, it is widely available for sale. Or you can bring your own reusable water bottle from home and refill it at the hotel.

# MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

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## Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM/debit card, and a credit card. **Don't forget to memorize your PINs as numbers.** (Most keypads in the region do not have alphabetic characters.)
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They are difficult to exchange and the commission fee for cashing them is quite high.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip;** you will need local currency instead.

## Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like [www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter), your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

**Euro Countries:** European Euro (€)

## How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2014) are best. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

## ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card. Many banks will charge a set fee or a percentage fee each time you use a foreign ATM. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart. Don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM. If you are visiting a country that has different expectation for ATMs, they will be listed below.

## Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. We suggest that you bring one or two, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, as not all are accepted around the world. If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

**Spain:** Visa and MasterCard credit cards are fairly common in Spain, but may not be accepted for small purchases or in the markets. American Express is not commonly accepted.

**Portugal:** Visa and MasterCard credit cards are fairly common in Portugal, but may not be accepted for small purchases or in the markets. American Express is not commonly accepted.

## Chip Cards

Many countries have adopted credit cards that have an embedded computer chip. These cards are inserted into the reader instead of swiped. The card owner then authorizes the purchase using a PIN instead of signing.

Though this technology is common in the U.S., occasionally there are machines in other countries that can't read U.S. cards, or the machine can read the card, but asks for a PIN. This doesn't happen often, and is nothing to worry about. You can usually resolve the situation by asking the cashier to let you sign. (If you don't speak the language, just mime signing on your hand.) If you are not able to sign for a purchase, such as at an automated ticket booth, you can use another form of payment, such as a debit card that has a PIN.

## Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

## Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines. To make it easy for you to budget, we have quoted the amounts in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars.



- **Grand Circle Program Director:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your GCT Program Director at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$7–\$10 per traveler for each day their Program Director is with them. *Please note that tips for your Program Director can only be in the form of cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Program Director during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Local Representative:** If you are taking *The Island of Madeira, Portugal* post-trip extension, you will have the services of a local Grand Circle representative who will assist you for that extension only. We recommend a tip of \$4–\$6 per traveler, for each day that your local representative is with you on the extension.
- **Hotel Housekeeping:** Many travelers will leave the equivalent of \$1–\$2 per day, per room for the hotel housekeeping staff.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

**Time at Leisure:** When you are exploring on your own, it’s useful to know when to tip and how much, because local customs often differ from the U.S. Here are a few helpful guidelines for the most common services a traveler might use:

- **Taxis:** In Portugal, you should tip a taxi driver about 10% of the fare. The practice of tipping taxi drivers in Spain varies from city to city in some cities it is expected and in others it is discretionary. Your Program Director can advise you what the practice is in each area that you visit.
- **Restaurants, cafes, and bars:** In Portugal and Spain, restaurants do not normally include service charges on bills and it is customary to leave a 5%–10% tip (10% in a better restaurant, less in a humbler establishment). When ordering snack foods or *menús del día*, round the bill off to the nearest euro; if you’ve received exceptional service, leave more at your discretion. The waiters in a hotel cocktail lounge can expect a tip of about 60 euro cents. In cafés and bars, leave small tips for barmen and waiters; a few small change coins—less than one euro—is sufficient.
- **Public Restrooms:** Most public restrooms in Europe have attendants that take care of cleaning and supplies. It is customary to leave a small tip for them—usually about .50 euro cents (half a euro)—so hold on to those coins! Some restrooms are pay-toilets; you pay the staff at the entrance to the restroom or drop the appropriate coin into the slot on the stall door. On this itinerary, public restrooms can be hard to find, so often you’ll need to duck into a cafe and buy a drink or a coffee *and* pay the attendant if there is one.

## AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

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### Land Only Travelers & Customized Air

#### Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Customized Air:** You booked international air with us, and have customized it in some way. If you have customized your trip's dates to arrive early, stay longer, or stop on your own in a connecting city, airport transfers will NOT be included. You must also arrange your own accommodations for any additional nights. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at [www.gct.com/myplanner](http://www.gct.com/myplanner) under "My Reservations".

#### Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased air with Grand Circle Travel, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **Arrival:** Once you arrive, you'll need to collect your luggage and clear customs. A Grand Circle Representative will meet you outside of customs and assist you with your transfer to the hotel or ship. Important note on porters: Airport porters are NOT allowed in the baggage claim area. On arrival, you must take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a cart, which you will then move through customs. When you exit customs, you'll handle your cart until reaching your transfer vehicle. Your driver will load your luggage into the transfer vehicle.
- **Flight Delays:** Grand Circle Travel is not responsible for flight delays or cancellations. In the unfortunate circumstance that your flight is delayed or changed, please try to reach the regional Grand Circle office (their number will be in your Final Documents) in order to make new arrangements for your transfer. Due to airline regulations our staff is not notified of flight rerouting, and our local representative won't necessarily be aware of your new arrival time. In these cases you will need to arrange your transfer by taxi to your hotel.
- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.

- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

## Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as GCT travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: **[www.rome2rio.com](http://www.rome2rio.com)**

## Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your vacation by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

### What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Program Director can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".
- Your Program Director will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at **[www.gct.com/myplanner](http://www.gct.com/myplanner)**).

## Communicating with Home from Abroad

To ensure you are available during your trip to friends and relatives at home, you will receive two copies of your hotel list, including phone numbers, with your Final Documents. One copy is for you to bring, and one to leave behind with friends or relatives in case they need to contact you during the trip.

### Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

### Calling Apps

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype, FaceTime, or WhatsApp. We recommend you use WhatsApp to communicate with home while abroad and with your Trip Experience Leader while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan's data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

### Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

### How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

**Spain:** +34

**Portugal:** +351



## PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

### Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on bag per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-on bags.
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (length+width+depth). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	A sturdy, fabric-sided suitcase with built-in wheels and lockable zippers is recommended.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as the main trip.	
REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS	
<p><b>One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person:</b> Due to the space limitations on bus transfers, you'll be restricted to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional airlines luggage fees (which are your responsibility). Most airlines now charge to check more than one suitcase per person for flights to Europe and other international flights.</p> <p><b>Luggage rules:</b> Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.</p>	

#### Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.

- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

## Your Luggage

- **Checked Luggage:** A sturdy suitcase is best. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Due to space limitations on our motorcoaches, you are allowed one piece of checked luggage per person. Portage at airports and hotels is provided for **one** bag per person. All bags should have luggage tags.
- **Carry-on Bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

## Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Travel light:** A good rule of thumb is to gather together everything you want to bring; then take half of that. To have a varied travel wardrobe, yet keep your luggage light, we recommend you select a color scheme and pack color-coordinated clothing items that can be mixed to create different outfits.
- **Pack casual clothes:** Comfortable, informal apparel is acceptable at each of your destinations. At dinner, you will not need to wear “dressy” clothing; men do not need jackets or ties and women do not need fancy dresses. You may want one or two “smart casual” outfits for the Welcome Reception or Farewell Dinner, but it's completely up to you.
- **Consider clothing designed for travel, sports, or camping:** With modern fabrics, lightweight packing for comfort and protection through a wide range of weather is easy.
- **Plan to dress in layers.** Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions: warm days with sun, chilly temperatures with showers, and evenings that could dip into the 40s or 50s, depending on your travel season.
- **Bring rain gear:** Regardless of your month of travel, rainfall is certainly a possibility. We suggest you bring a folding umbrella and waterproof shell. Water-resistant walking shoes are advantageous in case heavy downpours pass through.
- **Good walking shoes are critical.** This program features many included tours that follow steep, unpaved or cobbled routes; and even an average day of light sightseeing or shopping can put great demands on your feet. If you prefer more ankle support, take light hiking boots. In case you get caught in the rain, we suggest you bring an extra pair of walking shoes, and rain boots or galoshes.

## What to Bring

We have included suggestions from Program Directors and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

Your accommodations will supply soap, body wash, and shampoo/conditioner. If you prefer a certain brand you may want to bring your own, but otherwise you can rely on what they provide. **And don’t forget a reusable water bottle**—you’ll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

### Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts to layer
- ☐ Trousers, jeans, or skirts
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes and/or water resistant shoes
- ☐ Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Socks and undergarments
- ☐ A jacket or sweater, depending on the time of year

### Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, sunscreen, shampoo/conditioner, shower cap, body soap, etc.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses and your prescription
- ☐ Sunglasses with a neck strap
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor
- ☐ Compact umbrella
- ☐ Photocopies of passport, air ticket, credit cards
- ☐ Travel money bag or money belt
- ☐ Camera, spare batteries, and memory cards

- ☐ Washcloth
- ☐ Electrical transformer and plug adapter—see “Regional Electricity” section.
- ☐ Travel hair dryer: Many hotels will provide hair dryers, but not all. If a hair dryer is essential to you consider a travel-size version.

## Medicines

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Vitamins
- ☐ Cold remedies: Sudafed/Dristan
- ☐ Pain relievers: Ibuprofen/naproxen/aspirin
- ☐ Laxatives: Senokot/Ex-Lax
- ☐ Stomach upset: Pepto-Bismol/Mylanta
- ☐ Anti-diarrheal: Imodium
- ☐ Band-Aids, Moleskin foot pads
- ☐ Antibiotics: Neosporin/Bacitracin

## Home-Hosted Visits

It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts’ generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all Grand Circle vacations include a home-hosted visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

## Electricity

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.



## Voltage

Electricity in Spain and Portugal is 220 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner’s guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

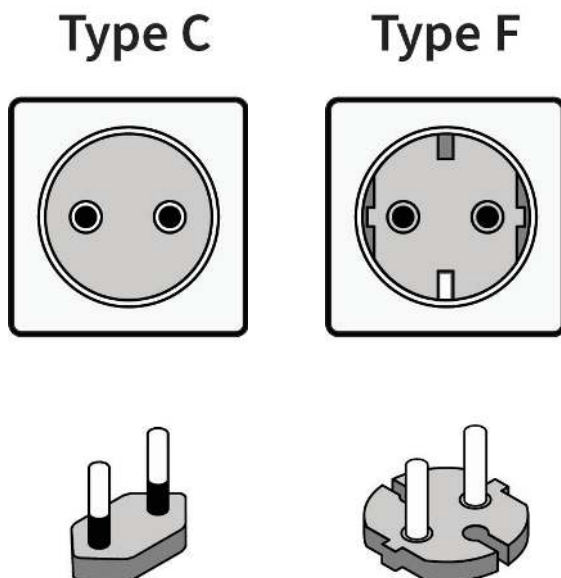
## Plugs

The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you’ll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Even though you’ll only need two types of adapters for this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

**Spain:** C and/or F

**Portugal:** C and/or F



## CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

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**Madrid, Spain:** The climate of Madrid fits into that of the interior of Spain. Rainfall is generally rather low over most of the interior. In late summer much of this area has a burnt and barren appearance after the long summer drought. Summers are generally hot. Spring and early summer tend to be the wettest seasons in many places, but the rainfall is light and not very effective as it often falls in short, heavy showers. Winters have frequent cold spells with biting winds blowing off the snow-covered sierras. Dust and hot winds are the most unpleasant features of the summer weather, but low humidity makes the heat more bearable. Sunshine amounts are quite high throughout the year, ranging from an average of five hours a day in winter to as much as twelve hours in midsummer.

**Costa del Sol, Spain:** Plenty of warm sunshine and cloudless skies are the norm on the Costa del Sol. There are, nevertheless, seasonal variations worth noting as you prepare for your holiday time. While long stints of dry sunshine are still to be found on the Costa del Sol in autumn and early winter, the normally balmy days may be interrupted by chilly winds from the mountains, as well as light showers. Heavier rains may pass through in November and the peak winter months of January and February. By March, and certainly during April and May, daytime temperatures remain quite warm; nights are cooler. Between June and September, hot days with low humidity are only occasionally broken by cooler evenings. Temperatures can reach well into the 80s.

**Seville, Spain:** Seville has a Mediterranean climate, with average temperatures of 79 degrees in the summer and 54 degrees in the winter, experiencing mild winds during spring and summer. Winters are also mild. It rains only slightly during the autumn (average annual rainfall: 514 inches). Highs in the summer can be in the 90s or higher.

**Lisbon, Portugal:** Lisbon is one of the warmest European capitals. Spring and summer months are usually sunny with maximum temperatures close to or above 86 degrees and lows between 59 and 68 degrees. Autumn and winter are typically rainy and windy with some sunny days; the temperature rarely falls below 41 degrees, usually staying at an average of 50. On average, there are 100 days with rain per year. Lisbon's climate is strongly influenced by the Gulf Stream.

**Barcelona, Spain:** Barcelona has mild, humid winters and warm, dry summers. Located on the east coast of the Iberian Peninsula Atlantic winds often arrive in Barcelona with low humidity, producing little rain. Barcelona winters tend to be mild. The coldest months are December, January and February; average daily winter temperatures range from 50 to 63 °F. The summer season lasts about six months, from May to October. July and August are the hottest months, with average temperatures around 82 °F during the day. May, June, September and October the average daily temperature is around 74 °F.

**Madeira:** This Atlantic island has a year-round subtropical climate. For North Americans, its weather most closely parallels that of coastal California, though Madeira is more humid. The island rarely gets extremely hot, thanks to the cool mountain air that wafts down from the interior peaks. Most of the rainfall occurs in autumn and winter. Showers can be heavy, but usually are not prolonged. Whatever time of year you go, be aware that it is always much cooler up in the mountains, and that the north coast may be windier than the south.

## Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

## Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	MADRID, SPAIN			TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	50 to 37	89 to 62	1.8	63 to 46	75	9
FEB	54 to 39	87 to 57	1.7	64 to 46	70	7
MAR	60 to 42	83 to 47	1.5	68 to 50	70	7
APR	64 to 45	83 to 48	1.8	70 to 52	65	7
MAY	71 to 51	82 to 44	1.6	75 to 55	65	7
JUN	80 to 59	76 to 38	1.0	81 to 63	60	2
JUL	88 to 65	67 to 30	0.4	86 to 68	60	1
AUG	87 to 65	68 to 31	0.4	86 to 68	65	1
SEP	79 to 59	75 to 38	1.2	82 to 66	70	5
OCT	66 to 50	85 to 51	1.8	75 to 59	75	9
NOV	56 to 43	89 to 60	2.5	68 to 54	75	8
DEC	50 to 39	89 to 66	1.9	63 to 48	75	10

MONTH	SEVILLE, SPAIN			LISBON, PORTUGAL		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	61 to 41	87 to 59	2.6	58 to 47	85 to 72	3.8
FEB	64 to 46	87 to 57	2.1	61 to 49	84 to 68	3.6
MAR	70 to 47	84 to 47	1.5	65 to 51	83 to 61	2.0
APR	73 to 50	86 to 48	2.2	67 to 53	83 to 61	2.5
MAY	80 to 56	85 to 42	1.3	71 to 56	82 to 57	2.2
JUN	88 to 62	83 to 37	0.5	77 to 61	83 to 54	0.7
JUL	96 to 67	77 to 31	0.1	82 to 64	80 to 48	0.2
AUG	95 to 67	77 to 32	0.2	82 to 65	80 to 48	0.3
SEP	89 to 64	80 to 35	0.9	80 to 63	82 to 51	1.1
OCT	78 to 56	83 to 46	2.4	72 to 58	84 to 62	3.1
NOV	68 to 49	87 to 56	3.3	64 to 53	86 to 71	4.2
DEC	62 to 44	87 to 61	3.7	59 to 49	86 to 75	4.8

MONTH	BARCELONA, SPAIN			FUNCHAL (MADEIRA), PORTUGAL		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	56 to 40	82 to 65	8	67 to 56	76 to 70	12
FEB	58 to 42	82 to 63	8	67 to 55	77 to 69	10
MAR	61 to 44	84 to 64	9	68 to 56	75 to 67	9
APR	64 to 47	84 to 66	10	68 to 57	74 to 66	8
MAY	69 to 54	86 to 70	10	70 to 59	75 to 66	6
JUN	76 to 60	85 to 68	9	73 to 62	76 to 66	3
JUL	82 to 66	82 to 66	6	76 to 65	74 to 64	1
AUG	82 to 67	84 to 66	8	78 to 67	74 to 65	2
SEP	78 to 62	86 to 66	8	79 to 67	76 to 67	6
OCT	71 to 55	85 to 66	10	76 to 64	76 to 68	9
NOV	63 to 47	84 to 66	9	72 to 61	76 to 69	10
DEC	58 to 42	81 to 64	8	69 to 58	76 to 69	13

## ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

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### Your Program Director

During your exclusive Grand Circle vacation, you'll have reliable assistance available at all times from an on-site Grand Circle Travel Program Director. Your Program Director is fluent in English and can give you an inside perspective on your destinations. He or she is supported along the way by local tour guides, who guide you expertly through particular sites and cities.

Many Grand Circle Program Directors are graduates of professional education programs for travel guides. In addition, they receive specialized training directly from Grand Circle, training that is based on what we've learned from thousands of past travelers about how to make the trip most enjoyable. Your Program Director offers both a deep knowledge of the region and a commitment to make this a very pleasant, informative, and rewarding travel experience for you.

Your Program Director will provide sightseeing trips, handle all travel details, reserve optional tours you choose to take, oversee your Discovery Series events, and provide any other assistance you may need. You will be in the company of a Program Director throughout your vacation.

### Spanish & Portuguese Culture

In 1983, the artist Joan Miró created an image for the **Spanish** Tourist Board that is still used today—a bold red orb encircled by a black shadow, with a vivid yellow penumbra, a star, and the stylized text “España.” Beneath this, the slogan read “Everything under the sun.” It is one of the few bits of advertising that truly captures its subject, for Spain boasts a culture that is strikingly bold, colorful, and lit up by diversity. Phoenicians, Romans, Moors, Jews, Arabs, Goths and many other people have left their imprint here, giving each region a unique cultural identity. In some cases, that identity is very distinct from the mainstream culture, most notably in Galicia, Catalonia, and the Basque Country, which are autonomous communities with their own languages and traditions.

Beyond the regionalism, there is a unifying national identity that is bound up with a deep love of country, a sense of personal honor, and a shared value around sociability that Spaniards are very proud of. That pride is sometimes mistaken by outsiders as haughtiness. But once you get acquainted with a Spaniard, you will usually find that they are informal, candid, and unafraid to show their emotions. Spaniards love to converse and will stick around long after a meal, chatting for hours. This period has a name: *la sobremesa*, which means “over the table.” So don't rush off after your lunch...enjoy a coffee or a digestif, and enjoy the good company.

One reason the *sobremesa* exists has to do with the organization of the typical Spanish day. Spain has some of the longest working hours in Europe—from 9am to 8pm. But there is also a two- to three-hour break in the afternoon, the *siesta*. Once upon a time the *siesta* was a practical way for workers to avoid the midday heat, and recharge their batteries with a little nap. Nowadays, most people do not nap, especially if they work too far from home to commute back for a snooze. Instead, they may linger longer at the table after lunch with colleagues or friends.



Many shops close during the *siesta*, but this is offset by the fact that they remain open late at night. Spain in general is a late-night culture. Most people do not eat dinner until 9pm at the earliest, and it's not unusual to see entire families, children included, socializing in the cafes and plazas until midnight or later. Recently, there has been debate as to whether Spain's traditional working hours make sense. On the other hand, in an age when stress and isolation are serious threats to one's mental and physical health, a forced break to slow down, relax and enjoy some human connection may not be a bad thing.

Among the things Spaniards are proud of is their country's artistic heritage, and here again, we are talking about diversity. You will see it in the striking architecture—from Roman ruins to Mudéjar palaces to Gothic cathedrals and the modernist masterpieces of Antoni Gaudí. Besides contemporary pop music, you are likely to hear Spanish classical guitar, and the flamenco music that arose from the *cante jondo* (deep song) of Andalusia's gypsies. Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes gave us the first modern novel in 1605 with *Don Quixote*, and others following in his footsteps include the avant-garde Federico Garcia Lorca, Miguel Delibes (a multi-time Nobel nominee), and the contemporary Javier Marías. As for visual arts, beyond the Golden Age giants like Goya, El Greco, and Velázquez, Spain's modernist pantheon includes Pablo Picasso, Juan Gris, Salvador Dalí, Miquel Barceló, and of course, Joan Miró, who was spot-on about that “everything under the sun” thing.

**Portuguese** culture is shot through with the influences of the Celtic, Lusitanian, Phoenician, Germanic, Visigoth, Viking, Sephardic Jewish, and Moorish people who settled here. Set at Europe's westernmost point, Portugal developed its own easygoing ways, and you'll notice that the pace of life here is more relaxed than in many other parts of Europe. It is one of the most charming aspects of traveling here.

Most visitors find the Portuguese people to be gracious, courteous and helpful—if a little reserved. Part of that stems from the value they place on modesty and humility. They are careful not to boast, be too loud, or cause offense. The Portuguese are arguably more conservative than their neighbors. They tend to uphold and revere old traditions, and religious and family ties are very strong here. As you come to appreciate those things, you'll also begin to feel the Portuguese people's real warmth.

António de Oliveira Salazar, Portugal's onetime dictator from 1926 to 1968, once described the nation's culture in terms of the “Three Fs:” *fado* (the searingly sad folk song), *Fátima* (the Catholic shrine where a miraculous vision is said to have occurred), and *futebol* (soccer). He was being facetious, but there is no denying that the Portuguese people hold these things very dear.

Take *fado*, for instance. This uniquely Portuguese style of folk music is on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Translating to “destiny” or “fate,” *fado* is mournful, and yet, passionate. The songs are often about homesickness, the sea, lost love and longing—things that would be familiar to many a Portuguese seafarer, of which there are many. It is the musical expression of an important concept called *saudade*, a word connoting longing, melancholy, and nostalgia for something lost. But *saudade* is also bittersweet, tinged with beautiful memories. The Portuguese writer Manuel de Melo called it “a pleasure you suffer, an ailment you enjoy.”

Some very devout people do make pilgrimages (*romarias*) to religious sites like Fátima, but overall, strict religious observance is on the decline in this predominantly Catholic culture. But that is a matter of church attendance and involvement with the organized church. Religion is still interwoven with the larger culture. Most towns are physically centered around a church, which is the nucleus of social events such as the annual village *festa* (festival). Most people have strong attachments to their hometowns and tend to remain there, or visit often. Grandparents are often involved in helping to care for children when the parents work, and especially in smaller towns (where homes tend to be larger), they often live with their children as part of the extended family.

As for *futebol* (soccer), Portugal's obsession with the sport borders on the religious, and some of the greatest players in the world (like Luís Figo, Eusébio, and Cristiano Ronaldo) hailed from Portugal, and are national heroes. When a big match is on, the whole country seems to stop to cheer their favorite of the so-called "Three Greatest" teams: F.C. Porto, Sporting C.P., and S.L. Benfica. Head to a local tavern, watch the game with the locals, and you are sure to get swept up in the excitement.

If sports are not your thing, you will surely find many other cultural diversions...Portugal has experienced a renaissance, with many talented young designers, artists, musicians, architects, chefs, and entrepreneurs flocking to cities like Lisbon, Porto, and Guimarães—all of which have been named European Capitals of Culture since the advent of this century.

## Religion and Religious Observance

Catholicism became the official religion of **Spain** in 589 AD, and since then its influence has pervaded every aspect of Spanish society. But the nature of that influence has shifted over the past century. Though 68.5% of Spaniards identify as Catholic, only 14% of them say they attend mass on a weekly basis. Some of this goes back to the Franco era, when the church's connections with the regime caused many Spanish Catholics to be skeptical of the clergy.

Mistrust of the church hierarchy notwithstanding, there is still a deep embrace of the religious traditions that are now embedded in Spanish culture. There is a church in every neighborhood, and Christian symbols are visible throughout the country. Each region or city has a patron saint who is celebrated on his or her dedicated holiday (*santo*) with processions and fiestas. Easter in Andalucía is marked by locals carrying elaborate floats and statues of Jesus and Mary through their towns. The truly devout may make pilgrimages (*romerías*) to religious shrines, the most famous of which is the *Camino de Santiago de Compostela* (the St. James' Way) in the north of Spain. Even those who are not observant may attend mass on holidays, have religious weddings, or baptize their children.

The second largest religious group in Spain are Muslims, who comprise about 4% of the population. Many are first- or second-generation immigrants from Morocco and other African nations, and they are more likely to be active worshippers than their Catholic counterparts.

The majority of **Portuguese** people (81%) identify as Catholics. However, apart from major celebrations, church attendance is quite low. Even so, Catholicism is deeply entwined with the national and cultural identity. Even those who are not devout still have religious weddings, baptisms, and funerals, and festivals honoring regional saints are still popular. It was only after the 1974 “carnation revolution” that the church and state were officially separated.

## Visiting Churches

Many churches run special services that you are welcome to attend. Otherwise, you are welcome to visit outside of services. Most churches have a dress code, but it is loosely enforced. Out of respect, you should try to cover your shoulders and wear long pants or shorts or skirts that reach the knee. If you’ll be traveling during warm weather and want to go sleeveless or wear a tank top, then we suggest that you throw a light sweater or cover-up into your daypack. A pashmina-type shawl is ideal for covering shoulders or low-cut blouses, or even wrapping around the waist as a sarong.

## Language in Spain

The official language that is spoken throughout Spain is Spanish—specifically, the Castilian form of Spanish. Spanish is a Romance language (along with Catalan, French, Italian, Romanian and Portuguese.) But there are many Spanish dialects and even separate regional languages that are widely spoken such as Catalan (spoken in Catalonia), Gallego (spoken in Galicia), Euskara (spoken in the Basque Country), and Aranese (spoken in parts of Catalonia near the Pyrenees.) What language you speak has social and political overtones, and many Spaniards choose to use local dialects at home or in daily business.

English is the most common foreign language, spoken by 27.7% of Spaniards. It is more widely used by young people, and those numbers are destined to rise given that nearly 90% of school-aged children are now learning English in school. In tourist areas, many signs are in English as well as Spanish.

## Useful Phrases

Since many people speak English you should have little trouble communicating. And if you know a little Spanish, your hosts will be very appreciative if you make the effort to speak it. Spain has some colorful slang and idiomatic expressions that you may hear. Here are a few:

- *Vale* is a word you will hear a lot. It just means, “okay,” as in “*Vale, vamos!*” (Okay, let’s go.) Sometimes, it is just tacked onto the beginning or end of a sentence, just as we might do in English.
- *No pasa nada* means “no worries” or “it’s nothing,” and is used as a reply when someone thanks you.

- *Chulo* is one of those words that originally had negative connotations (as a noun, it means “pimp.”) But today, it is very widely used to mean “cool.” *¡Que chulo!* means “how cool,” and you can use *chulo* to describe a person or object that you think is great. Another way to convey that idea is *es la cana*. It literally means “it is the cane,” but is used to indicate that an object is great. *Me gusta esta comida, es la cana* means “I like this food, it’s awesome.”
- *Tío* and *tía* mean “uncle” and “aunt.” But they’re also used to call someone a “guy/girl” or “dude/chick.” You can call your friends this, or even refer to strangers as *tío* and *tía*.
- You might have learned that *simpático* means “nice” in Spanish, and it does. But a more informal word to use is *majo* or *maja*. Besides meaning “nice” or “pleasant,” it can also mean “pretty.” So you could say, “*Nuestra líder de la gira es muy maja.*” (Our Trip Leader is very nice.)

## Language in Portugal

Portuguese is the official language of Portugal. It is a Romance language (along with Catalan, French, Italian, and Romanian), and is closely related to the Galician language spoken in northwest Spain. About 27% of the people also speak English, and that number is growing.

### Useful Phrases

Portuguese people will appreciate the effort (even a fractured one) if you try to learn a few words in their language. Please do not try to speak to locals in Spanish—the Portuguese are sensitive to comparisons with their neighbor and are also very proud of their own language. Since enough people speak English, you should have little trouble getting by. Here are some colorful slang expressions that you may hear:

- *Pa* or *Epa* are catch-all words that start or end many sentences, similar to “well,” “uhh,” or “so” in English.
- *‘Tá bem* is the Portuguese way to say “fine” or “it’s all good.”
- *Tipo* is the Portuguese equivalent of “like,” when like is used not to indicate a preference, but as a filler.
- *Fixe* means “cool,” but also “nice” and “good.” It can be used in a variety of contexts, such as *Ele é um tipo fixe* (He’s a cool guy) or *a viagem foi muito fixe* (the trip was really nice.)

## Hotel Courtesy in Spain

Like in many other European nations, manners are more formal in Spain than the U.S. Hotel staff will likely address you as “señor” or “señora” and may be caught off guard if you ask a question without greeting them with a quick “hello” or “good day” first. Local staff (and other visiting Europeans) will generally make an effort to be quiet in hallways and common rooms, which are normally used for reading, relaxing, or quiet conversation. For this reason, eating and drinking in any common rooms other than the bar or restaurant is frowned on. If you have any laundry to dry, please keep it inside your room (and not on the balcony).

## Getting Around in Spain

**Taxi:** Taxis are widely available in the area.

**Bus:** Generally less expensive than both taxi and train travel, bus travel in Spain has increased in recent years.

**Trains:** Spain has an extensive railway network linking all major towns and cities, and rail travel in Spain is generally comfortable, reliable and often cheaper than many other European countries. Trains are modern and many are high-speed.

## Getting Around in Portugal

**Taxi:** Portuguese taxis are a convenient but expensive method of transportation for long rides. If you are just going across town, prices are more reasonable. Officially metered taxis are ivory colored or black with green tops.

**Trains:** Portugal's railway system is not extensive, but it does operate between major cities. On all train fares, passengers 65 and older will be given half-rate fares upon presentation of passport.

**Remember to purchase your ticket prior to boarding the train.** Once on board, you may be asked to show your ticket. If you do not have one, you will be charged a hefty fine! Tickets are not sold on the train.

## Casino Estoril

One of the most famous casinos in Europe is in Estoril, about a thirty-minute taxi ride from Lisbon (cab fare costing about twenty euros). But before you set off, be sure to bring your passport with you, as it is required for entrance.

## Spanish Cuisine

The 21st century's culinary firmament is lit by a galaxy of superstar chefs from Spain. Among them are the legendary Ferran Adrià (whose former restaurant, El Bulli, launched the "molecular gastronomy" trend), Carme Ruscalleda (the only female chef to be awarded five Michelin stars), octogenarian Juan Mari Arzak (the father of the "New Basque" cuisine), and Jose Andrés, (credited with bringing small plate dining to America). Even if you do not dine in one of their restaurants, they have influenced Spanish chefs in even the humblest establishments, where you might find traditional classics like these:

- **Gambas al ajillo:** Shrimp cooked with Garlic and Chilies
- **Gazpacho:** A chilled soup that hails from Andalusia
- **Jamón Iberico:** A Spanish ham that is dry-cured and hung on the rafters of local bars and restaurants
- **Txangurro:** A baked spider crab stuffed with onions, tomatoes, leeks, brandy, and parsley, topped with breadcrumbs.



- **Pastel Vasco:** A slice of vanilla custard cream with a crunchy crust.

## Portuguese Cuisine

Start with rich farms and Europe's oldest vineyards, add in the bounties of the Atlantic and Mediterranean, season with some Moorish spice, and that is a good beginning for Portugal's unique cuisine. Then, you can ramp it up with a variety of novel ingredients that Portuguese explorers brought home during the 15th-century: African vanilla and cinnamon...potatoes from South America...*piri piri* chilies from Brazil (used in a popular chicken dish)...and citrus from the Orient. Here are a few things Portuguese chefs do with all that variety:

- **Caldo verde:** A classic soup of kale, potatoes, onions, and garlic simmered with olive oil in a clay pot. It is often served with cornbread and sometimes made with ham or sausage.
- **Feijoadà à transmontana:** A bean stew with cabbage and sausages. It is often served confit-style in a dish called *rojões*, which features white wine and cumin.
- **Francesinha:** A hefty sandwich of thickly sliced bread stuffed with bacon or pork belly, sliced roasted pork, sausage, beefsteak, fried egg, and cheese.
- **Aletria:** A sweet noodle pudding made with *vermicelli* (angel hair) pasta, milk, sugar, egg yolks, cinnamon, and lemon or orange zest.
- **Cataplana:** Fish and cod cooked with red and green peppers, tomatoes, garlic, wine, and paprika.
- **Pastel de Nata:** A egg custard pastry, iconic to Portugal. Traditionally dusted with a topping of cinnamon.
- **Bacalhau à Brás:** A dish of salted shredded cod, mixed with thin fried potatoes, onions, and egg.

## Madrid in Brief

### City Layout and Details

Madrid's compactness makes it relatively easy for visitors to explore the city on foot. Most of the major attractions are concentrated in the downtown area between the Royal Palace and Retiro Park, barely a mile apart. Clustered within this district are grand museums, winding medieval alleys, broad avenues, stately gardens, and quaint tabernas. The city's principal squares are Cibeles Square, a few blocks north of the Prado Museum and site of one of Spain's most famous fountains; Plaza de España, just north of the Royal Palace; Plaza de Oriente, east of the palace; and Plaza Mayor, located between the Royal Palace and the Puerta del Sol.

Madrid's "museum mile"—which extends along the Paseo del Prado—enables art fans to visit many of the city's best museums without having to travel across the city. Shoppers will want to browse the stores around the Puerta del Sol in the center of town, as well as the upscale shops

in the Salamanca district, bounded, roughly, by Serrano, Goya, and Conde de Penalver. South of the city center is the Mercado Puerta de Toledo shopping mall, featuring dozens of designer boutiques.

“Old Madrid”—a labyrinth of narrow lanes that constitutes the oldest part of the city—lies between Puerta del Sol and the Royal Palace. Each street, lane, and alleyway is marked by a sign with its name and a descriptive picture, visual aids originally created in the 17th century for those who could not read.

## Entertainment & Recreational Activities

Madrid offers plenty of things to do at night. Theater productions include ballets, operas, operettas, and zarzuelas. World-class jazz, salsa, and classical music concerts are also common events. Castilian dances (pasodobles and chotis) during local festivals and Andalusian dances (flamenco) are performed in tablaos throughout the city, and nightclubs with floor shows stay open until the wee hours of the morning. Almost a dozen movie theaters regularly show undubbed foreign films, the majority of them English-language.

## Local Transportation

**Bus:** Excellent, inexpensive bus service is available in Madrid between 6 am and midnight. Signs clearly marking the routes are at each bus stop. City buses are entered from the front and exited at the rear.

**Subway:** Madrid’s Metro is rapid and efficient. Stops along all thirteen subway lines are clearly marked, and color-coded Metro maps are easy to read. Metro tickets purchased from booths or machines are put into electronic turnstiles as you enter the system. Do not discard your ticket until the end of the ride. Exits are marked *salida*. The Metro operates from 6 am to 1:30 am, although a few entrances close earlier.

**Taxis:** Taxis are numerous and can easily be hailed in the street. Available cabs will display a *libre* sign during the day, a green light at night. The taxi should always run a fare meter and supply a receipt on demand.

## Lisbon in Brief

### City Layout & Details

Lined with restaurants, museums, shops, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and old pastel-colored buildings juxtaposed with modern architecture, Lisbon is a charming city with something to offer for everybody. The people are known for their hospitality and festive spirit which is demonstrated by the various festivals held in the city throughout the year to celebrate film, art, music, and sports, among other things.

The capital city of Portugal, Lisbon is located along the western coast where Tagus River opens into the Atlantic and sprawls across seven hills. Stroll through Belem, a neighborhood on the waterfront, where you will find the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, a beautiful monastery with UNESCO status, and the Museu Coleccao Berardo, a modern art museum. Explore the historic city centre,

the Baixa Pombalina, and wander through Chiado to scope out the shops and restaurants. For a taste of the quieter, local life, head to Alfama and meander through the narrow streets – be sure to start at the top and make your way down to the bottom! Delight your taste buds with a stop at one of the wine bars in Bairro Alto to taste some wine, cheese, and charcuterie.

## Local Transportation

Lisbon offers multiple forms of public transportation that make it easy to navigate the city. While driving is an option, streets are generally congested and difficult to maneuver, and parking can be extremely hard to find. With the many taxis and means of public transportation available, you will have plenty of options if you do not want to drive.

**Metro:** There are four main metro lines which are labeled by color: red, green, yellow, and blue. Metro stations will be denoted with “M” signs. Remember to validate your ticket at the station entrance before boarding the metro. A single ride costs approximately 1.40 euros. You can also purchase a 24-hour pass that is valid on all metro lines, as well as trams, funiculars, and buses.

**Buses and Trams:** Lisbon has an extensive bus and tram system that span the city, making it an easy option while you are exploring. The trams have an old-city charm that has turned the transportation itself into a tourist attraction. Pick up a map from the local tourist office or at your hotel to see all of the routes available to explore.

**Funicular:** There are four funiculars in Lisbon – the Ascensor do Lavra, the oldest in Lisbon, the Ascensor da Bica, the Ascensor da Gloria, and the Elevador de Santa Justa (the “Elevator of Santa Justa”). Most of the funiculars cost about 3.60 euros for a round trip ticket, except the Santa Justa which is 5 euros.

**Taxi:** Taxis are plentiful in Lisbon. Keep in mind that they may charge more at night or if you have luggage with you. It is also very common to use Uber.

## Madeira in Brief

### City Layout and Details

As the capital of Madeira, Funchal is the focal point of the entire island. The town has a long street running along the waterfront called Avenida do Mar. This bustling artery runs in an east-west direction. North of this wide boulevard is Avenida Arriaga, which is considered the “main street” of Funchal. At the eastern end of this road is the cathedral, and at the western end is a large traffic circle with a central fountain. As the Avenida Arriaga heads west, it changes its name to Avenida do Infante. As it moves east, it becomes known as Rua do Aljube. Running in a north-south direction, the other most important street is Avenida Zarco, which links the waterfront area with the heart of the old city.

### Entertainment & Recreational Activities

**The Casino Park Complex:** This complex, on Avenida do Infante, is a social hub for most island visitors. In addition to its casino featuring gaming rooms open from 4 pm to 3 am, it offers a dance club, panoramic restaurant, and several bars. The casino was designed by Oscar Niemeyer,

a principal architect of Brasilia. Other hotel complexes also offer nightclubs with musical entertainment and dancing. If you prefer a quieter ambiance, a sunset stroll through Funchal's lovely parks and gardens is a fine way to enjoy the evening.

**Golf:** The Santo da Serra Golf Club, about twelve miles northeast of Funchal, has an 18-hole course and a nine-hole course. The golf course, at more than 2,000 feet above sea level, offers an attractive setting in a wooded area with mimosa and eucalyptus. There is a clubhouse room, as well as a lounge area and bar. This golf club is accessible by public bus or taxi. The Palherio Golf Club offers a basic course.

You should reserve your tee time in advance, and be aware that many weekend tee times may be reserved for local club members. Be sure to ask about the hotel's special rates and tee times for guests, and be prepared to show your handicap certificate for the 18-hole courses. You can ask you Program Director or hotel concierge for any assistance you need.

**Tennis:** Public courts are available in the Quinta Magnolia. A fee may be charged.

**Walking:** Funchal has many parks and gardens that are well maintained and a joy to walk through. The interior is excellent walking country, too—the irrigation channels (levadas) have been mapped out and can make delightful walks.

## Local Transportation

**Taxi:** Many travelers rely on taxis to get across town or around the island. Taxis in Funchal usually congregate around the tourist office along Avenida Arriaga. Many taxi drivers speak English. Your hotel concierge can also help with hiring a taxi.

**Bus:** The most economical way to get around Madeira is by bus (provided you are not pressed for time). Local buses go all over the island. Most buses depart from the large park at the eastern part of the waterfront bordering Avenida do Mar. If you're headed to Camacha or Camico, you'll find buses leaving from a little square at the eastern sector of Rua da Alfandega, which runs parallel to Avenida do Mar near the marketplace.

**Note on travel time:** *While actual distances are short on Madeira, allow plenty of time to get to your destination—the winding, mountain roads and narrow town streets all take time to navigate.*

## Barcelona in Brief

### City Layout and Details

Barcelona has a style all its own, unmatched anywhere in the world. It seems to re-invent itself daily even as it preserves and maintains the best of its history. If you have time limitations, you'll still be able to take in the prime historic sights by focusing on the ciutat vella, the old town. You can reach the many majors sights from the central Plaça de Catalunya in under a half hour at a leisurely walk. For anything further out, the Metro is convenient, fast, and inexpensive.

The old town is split roughly in two by the tree-lined and very pedestrian friendly Ramblas. To the east you'll find the labyrinthine Barri Gòtic (Gothic Quarter), with the Sant Pere and La Ribera neighborhoods even further out. Going west takes you into El Raval, a district that offers a trendy and bohemian atmosphere. At the foot of the Ramblas you'll find the waterfront, with a newly polished harbor area. East from there you'll find the fishing and restaurant quarter of Barceloneta, city beaches, and the cafés and restaurants of the Port Olímpic. Moving past the old town you'll find L'Eixample (Catalan for "extension"), built when the population grew past the city walls. It is, in contrast with the cramped and historic lanes of the ciutat vella, a wide-open area of fine avenues and 19th-century modernista (Art Nouveau) buildings. It is also the location of the city's most iconic building, the Gaudí's Sagrada Família.

You'll find a cultural vibrancy here that's rare anywhere: from the glorious modernista architecture, and the work of Antoni Gaudí in particular, to the artistic legacy of Catalan artist Joan Miró and the showcase Pablo Picasso museum (one of the city's most popular.) When you're done taking in the sights, join the locals for a market visit, a stroll down the Ramblas, a lazy harborside lunch, lively festival nights, or a visit to the beach.

### Entertainment & Recreational Activities

From art openings and concerts to tapas bars, music bars, and clubbing, Barcelona is a great night-time city, and the array of after-dark diversions is huge. You don't have to leave the city center to find more than enough entertainment, but if you do, you'll find the outer districts just as lively. Trendy bars and clubs operate in every major district, and if one closes down, another seems to open the next night. Nightlife here is, however, a late adventure: evenings don't get seriously underway until after 10, bars stay open until 3am, and many clubs don't close until 6am.

From relaxing an evening away in local tascas (taverns), grazing on an array of appetizers at a tapas bar, or a slowly emptying a bottle of wine at a café, you can enjoy an easy and inexpensive way to spend an evening people-watching. If the weather is good (which it frequently is) the city's outdoor squares fill with tables and chairs. Drinking outside is so popular, and sometimes so noisy, that you might find restricted hours in some places.

There's more to the city than history and nightlife. Barcelona has numerous green belts and a busy waterfront, rebuilt with walkways, marinas, beaches, and top seafood eating spots. Outside the city, golf, horse riding, tennis, and swimming are available and within easy reach.

### Local Transportation

In central Barcelona comfortable shoes are your best travel buy: it's an eminently walkable city, particularly the old town. For areas further afield:

**Metro:** Barcelona's underground public transport system is very efficient, and it goes pretty much any place in the city you might want to visit. You'll find five color-coded/numbered lines radiating from the center of the city. Stations are identified by a red diamond-shaped sign with the letter M in the center, maps are widely available, and tickets can be bought ahead of time, or in the station as you travel. Tickets come in a range of flavors – from a simple single ticket to multi-trip and multi-day passes and can be bought from station offices or from touch-screen



vending machines (with instructions in English.) The metro runs from 5am to midnight Sunday through Thursday, until 2am on Friday, and is open all night on Saturday. Visit TMB's website ([www.tmb.net](http://www.tmb.net)) for more information on the city's transport system (in English.)

**Trams & Buses:** Subject to Barcelona's famed traffic snarls, *tramvías* (trams) work the main streets through the city alongside city buses. Routes are clearly marked at each stop, as are timetables.

**Taxis:** Yellow-and-black taxis are plentiful and reasonably priced. You can hail one in the street if its green light is on. Taxis have meters, and two stage pricing – cheaper during the day, more expensive after 8pm at night. You'll find a list of prices and surcharges is displayed (by law) on the back passenger window.

## Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your vacation. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. Grand Circle is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

### Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly. If the shop is outside the country, you should expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from the standards you are used to, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

### Crafts & Souvenirs

#### Spain

Leather goods, from supple suede gloves and elegant calf handbags to wineskins that require careful curing (*botas*), are excellent purchases. Other good buys are shoes, from classical calf pumps to provincial cloth espadrilles; porcelain by Lladro and pottery by regional craftsmen; and wool rugs made by tapestry makers or simple cotton-rag throws.

**Siesta:** Throughout Spain, most stores and offices close between 1:30 pm and 5 pm. Then they reopen until 7:30 pm (many close even later). Restaurants generally remain open during siesta. In the larger cities you may find that big department stores will stay open from 10am – 10pm.

**Value Added Tax:** Known in Spain as the IVA, Value Added Tax is levied on most articles, services, and meals. The IVA ranges from 7% to 21% (luxury items, cars). Depending on how much you spend on certain goods, you may be eligible for a partial refund of this tax. Ask the shopkeeper or salesperson about the VAT at time of purchase. Be sure to save all receipts and forms for Customs.

## Portugal

Among the recommended buys in Portugal are Atlantis crystal, Vista Alegre porcelain, pottery, tiles, and gold and silver-filigree jewelry. Other local handicrafts include lace, woodwork, cork products, ceramics, embroidered goods, hand-loomed carpets, hand-knit sweaters, crocheted shawls, brass, copper and pewter ware, and baskets.

**Europe Tax-Free Shopping:** Many stores in Portuguese cities have adopted the “Europe Tax-Free Shopping” (ETS) system, which allows foreign shoppers to easily recover the Value Added Tax (IVA)—which can be anywhere from 6%–23% depending on the item. Stores that participate in the ETS system will clearly display an ETS sign at the entrance. If you make a purchase, ask the shopkeeper for a tax-free form. When you depart Europe, you show the airport customs official your purchases and tax-free forms. You will then receive a cash refund or a credit to your credit card, approximately four weeks following your return to the U.S., for the total amount of your tax-free allowance.

## U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov) has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

## DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

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### Spain

#### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** The mainland occupies approximately 195,364.5 square miles. Off Spain's east coast in the Mediterranean are the Balearic Islands (1,936 square miles), the largest of which is Majorca. Sixty miles west of Africa are the Canary Islands (2,808 square miles).
- **Capital:** Madrid
- **Languages:** Spanish, Basque, Catalan, and Galician. In resort areas, many people also speak English, French, and German.
- **Geography:** Spain's topography consists of a broad central plateau that slopes to the south and east, crossed by a series of mountain ranges and river valleys. It is a land of both towering peaks and endless beaches, as well as fertile landscapes and high, dry plains. Principal rivers are the Ebro in the northeast, the Tajo in the central region, and the Guadalquivir in the south.
- **Population:** 47,325,360 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 67.8%, atheist 9.1%, other 2.2%, non-believer 18.4%, unspecified 2.5%
- **Time Zone:** Spain is six hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time.

## National Holidays: Spain

In addition to the holidays listed below, Spain celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Epiphany

05/01 Labor Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/12 Hispanic Day

11/01 All Saints Day

12/06 Constitution Day

12/08 Immaculate Conception

12/25 Christmas

## Spain: A Brief History

Spain has been continuously inhabited for 1.2 million years, but the bulk of our knowledge about Spain's earliest people begins around 1100 BC, when Phoenicians established trading colonies along the southern coast. These attracted the Greeks; and around the same time, Celts descended in the north, establishing hill villages known as *castros*, many of which still stand in Galicia and northern Portugal.

The Romans arrived in Spain around 206 BC, but had to defeat the Carthaginians for it. Afterwards, the Romans still had a fight on their hands: The Iberian tribes resisted for 200 years. Today, in places like Mérida, Córdoba, Segovia, and Tarragona, you can see remnants of Roman roads, bridges, aqueducts, temples, and amphitheaters. Towards the end of their dominion, the Romans also brought Christianity. But Pax Romana crumbled as Visigoths and Franks swept over the Pyrenees.

The civilized heights of Rome were not equaled until the Moors arrived from North Africa around 711 AD. The enlightened Islamic civilization they established was called Al-Andalus, and it lasted for nearly 800 years. Islamic cities such as Córdoba, Seville, and Granada flourished. Throughout Al-Andalus, Christians, and Jews lived under some restrictions, but were free to worship, work, own property, and trade. When the rest of Europe was struggling through the Dark Ages, the city of Córdoba became a beacon of enlightenment with a celebrated university, palaces, gardens, observatories, libraries, street lamps, and running water. Mathematics, astronomy, literature, music, and architecture flourished.

Córdoba's star began to dim in the 11th century as the caliphate broke into dozens of small kingdoms. Infighting opened a crack for northern Christians to pry open, and the Christian Reconquest pushed south. The last stronghold of the Moors, Granada, fell to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1491. They instituted a 300-year campaign of terror, the Spanish Inquisition, which sought to root out heretics through the confiscation of property, imprisonment, torture, and execution. It required Muslims and Jews to convert to Christianity or leave Spain, thereby ending a source of valuable cultural contributions.

But Spain's fortunes continued to rise. In 1492, Christopher Columbus opened up the New World to Spain's imperial ambitions. Spain amassed tremendous wealth and a vast empire through Columbus' conquest of the Caribbean, as well as the conquest of Mexico by Cortes (1519–21) and Peru by Pizarro (1532–33). In 1588, Philip II sent his Armada to invade England, but its defeat cost Spain its supremacy. After centuries of dwindling losses, Spain's overseas empire ended with Cuban independence in 1898.

Spain remained neutral during World War I, but was unable to avoid the upheavals that arose in its aftermath. Civil war erupted in 1936, pitting right-wing Nationalists under Francisco Franco against socialist, communist, and centrist Republicans. Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy supported Franco with planes, weapons, and 92,000 troops, making Spain a testing ground for WWII. Franco declared the war over in 1939, but there was no peace. In the ensuing years, his regime killed 100,000 intellectuals, teachers, and dissenters. After World War II (which Spain sat out), a UN-sponsored boycott plunged the nation into "years of hunger." They didn't wane until the 1950s, when U.S. aid and tourism infused the economy. When Franco died in 1975, Juan Carlos I took the throne and Spain transitioned to democracy.

When the 2008 global economic crisis plunged Spain's economy, the conservative government enacted harsh austerity measures. Youth unemployment reached 60%, and by 2017 over 87,000 workers left Spain, creating a brain drain. Recently, the government rolled out a "Return Plan" to lure them back. Also in 2017, a referendum in Catalonia backed separation from Spain. Madrid imposed direct rule, though polls show that 68% of Spaniards prefer dialogue with Catalonia.

## Portugal

### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** Portugal contains 35,556 square miles, including the Azores and Madeira islands. The Madeira island group occupies 305 square miles. The main island of Madeira is 35 miles long and about 13 miles across at its widest point.
- **Capital:** Lisbon
- **Language:** Portuguese
- **Geography:** Portugal's mainland terrain is mountainous, pastoral, and earthy. Its interior moors and flatlands are circumscribed by 500 miles of gorgeous coastline with long stretches of sandy beaches. Madeira consists of two inhabited islands, Madeira and Porto Santo, and two groups of uninhabited islands. The largest island is Madeira. It is volcanic and mountainous, with its highest peaks in the interior rising to over 6,000 feet. The island contains nearly 100 miles of coastline, but no beaches (except one tiny one at Prainha near the eastern tip of the island). The north coast is untamed and less populated; the western end is forested and cool; and the eastern tip consists of barren reddish rock that extends into the blue sea.
- **Population:** 10,421,117 (Estimate)
- **Religion:** Roman Catholic, 81%, Christian and other, 19%

- **Time Zone:** Portugal is ahead of U.S. Eastern Time by five hours; Central Time by six hours; Mountain Time by seven hours; Pacific Time by eight hours.

## National Holidays: Portugal

In addition to the holidays listed below, Portugal celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Corpus Christi. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

04/25 Liberty Day

05/01 Labor Day

06/10 Portugal Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/05 Republic Implantation

11/01 All Saints' Day

12/01 Restoration of Independence

12/08 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12/25 Christmas Day

## Portugal: A Brief History

Portugal's earliest tribes occupied the Tagus valley, the Alentejo and Estremadura as far back as 8,000 BC. Later, Neolithic clans built hilltop forts called castros in northern Portugal, and around 700 BC these were occupied by Celtic Lusitanians. They were fierce, which led the Carthaginians (who had settled on the south coast) to recruit them around 200 BC to fight off the Romans. The Celtic Lusitanians proved their worth—while it only took Rome seven years to conquer Gaul, it took them nearly 200 to subdue Iberia. By the time that was accomplished, Rome had colonies in Lisbon, Evora, Santarem, and Beja.

Christianity reached Portugal near the end of the 1st century, and by the 3rd century, bishoprics had been founded at Lisbon, Braga, and other towns. As Visigothic invaders crossed the Pyrenees, they made their way to Portugal. But since they ruled from Toledo, their influence was not strong. This made it easy for the Moors, who arrived soon after 711 AD. Portugal's Moors settled mainly in the south, and brought many agrarian reforms as well as a love of culture. They established Muslim supremacy, but allowed Christians and Jews to worship, work, own property, and freely engage in business. Though their cities were grander and larger in Spain, they still left an enduring impact on Portuguese culture.

The Christian Reconquest had some early victories in Portugal, taking Porto back from the Moors by 868 and Coimbra by 1064. Meanwhile, a small kingdom was coalescing around the old Roman settlement of Portus Cale. It was controlled by the kings of Leon and Castile until 1139, when Afonso Henriques won a battle and proclaimed himself King of Portucale. The Algarve was reconquered in 1264, the capital was moved from Coimbra to Lisbon, and Portugal's land boundaries have since remained almost unchanged.



But Portugal's imperial ambitions had no boundaries. In 1415, King John conquered the North African trading post of Ceuta. Under his son Prince Henry the Navigator, advances were made in shipbuilding, navigation, and cartography; and Portuguese *caravels* sailed the coast of Africa. Madeira and the Azores were colonized, and over the next century, explorers like Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama expanded the empire from Africa to India and southeast Asia, and to Brazil.

In 1580, Spain invaded Portugal and held it for 60 years. Although the Portuguese independence was restored in 1640, Portugal kept fighting back frequent Spanish raids to take over again for about 28 years. By that time, Dutch, English, and French competitors had surpassed Portugal's colonial might. The country's fortunes mostly waned over the next centuries. Portugal was able to end a five-year occupation by Napoleonic forces with the help of Britain. But that alliance did Portugal no good when the 1890 British Ultimatum was delivered, requiring Portugal to give up its claim to land between Mozambique and Angola. Still, Portugal fought in World War I on the Allied side.

A weak postwar governments led to a military coup in 1926, in which Antonio Oliveira Salazar became a Finances Minister, before progressing to dictator in 1933, ruling for almost 40 years. He kept Portugal neutral in World War II, but granted naval and air bases to the Allies after 1943. Portugal joined NATO as a founding member in 1949, but did not gain admission to the United Nations until 1955. Salazar suffered a stroke in 1968 and died in 1970. In 1974, a socialist military coup ended the Salazar era. It was called the "carnation revolution" since civilians placed flowers in the rifles of the military. Directly afterwards, most of Portugal's former colonies were granted their independence. With EU membership in 1986, Portugal entered the European mainstream.

Since the debt crisis of 2008, Portugal's economy has made progress. The government deficit has fallen, as has unemployment. But some of this has been achieved by austerity measures that have hit the young, teachers, health care workers, and others. The future will call for the same kind of resolve and innovation that drove Portugal's golden Age of Discovery so long ago.

## RESOURCES

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### Suggested Reading

#### General

***Cultural Atlas of Spain and Portugal*** by Mary Vincent and R. A. Stradling (1995, Culture) This reference book focuses on the rich cultural diversity and artistic heritage of Spain and Portugal, and examines how the historic events of each country have been partly impacted by their geography and climate.

#### Spain

***A Million Steps*** by Kurt Koontz (2013, Travel Narrative) Follow the author as he walks the Camino de Santiago—a pilgrimage route in Spain that stretches more than 400 miles—a journey that is both physical and spiritual.

***Sister Queens: The Noble, Tragic Lives of Katherine of Aragon and Juana, Queen of Castile*** by Julia Fox (2011, biography). The daughters of Ferdinand and Isabella each lost positions of power—one to the whims of England’s Henry VIII, and the other to madness.

***The Shadow of the Wind*** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (2005, Fiction) A mix of mystery, romance, and hauntings abound in this international bestseller, set in 1950s Barcelona.

***The Last Jew*** by Noah Gordon (2000, Historical Fiction) A sweeping tale of survival during the Spanish Inquisition.

***Traveler’s Tales: Spain*** edited by Lucy McCauley (1995, Anthology) Incisive, lyrical musings on all aspects of Spain, written by luminaries such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Calvin Trillin, and Barbara Kingsolver.

#### Portugal

***A Concise History of Portugal*** by David Birmingham (2018, History) This condensed, illustrated history offers an introduction to Portugal’s people, culture, and evolving role in contemporary Europe.

***A Small Death in Lisbon*** and ***The Company of Strangers*** by Robert Wilson (1999 and 2001, Fiction) Both these political thrillers are set in Portugal with flashbacks to World War II, when the supposedly neutral nation was a hotbed of espionage.

***Baltasar and Blimunda*** by Jose Saramago (1998, Historical Fiction) Written by the winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Literature, this historic romance offers detailed insight into what life was like in Portugal in the late 18th century. Set in 1711, in the midst of the terrors of the Inquisition and the plague, it follows a seemingly mismatched couple as they discover the wonders of love.

***The Portuguese: The Land and Its People*** by Marian Kaplan (1991, History) A travel guide and history book all in one that takes you from the Moorish Invasion to the Age of Discovery to modern times.

## Suggested Films & Videos

### Spain

***Pain and Glory*** (2019, Drama) Antonio Banderas earned a Best Actor nomination for his portrayal of a legendary director flashing back through his past, and facing a present filled with loss, memory, physical ailments, and imagination. This thinly-veiled autobiographical sketch from director Pedro Almodovar is a rueful reflection on creativity, wrapped up with warmth, humor, and vivid glimpses of life in late 20th-century Spain.

***Ocho Apellidos Vascos*** (released in the U.S. as *Spanish Affair*, 2014, Comedy) Two of Spain's most disparate cultures collide as a jilted bride from the Basque Country goes to Seville, where a skillful Andalusian ladies man is frustrated by his inability to woo her. A fun and warm-hearted look at the differences between northern and southern Spain.

***The Way*** (2010, Drama) A grieving father (Martin Sheen) honors his lost son's desire to finish the journey of a lifetime by competing the historical pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. Along the way, he meets other trekkers with their own stories to tell.

***Pan's Labyrinth*** (2006, Fantasy) From director Guillermo del Toro. Following Spain's bloody civil war, young Ofelia enters a world of unimaginable cruelty when she moves in with her new stepfather, a brutal military officer. Armed only with her imagination, Ofelia discovers a labyrinth and a faun who offers her a path to saving herself and her mother. The lines between fantasy and reality begin to blur, and before Ofelia can turn back, she's at the center of a ferocious battle between good and evil.

***All About My Mother*** (1999, Comedy) When her 17-year-old son is tragically killed in a car accident, Manuela sets out to reconnect with her son's father and ends up forging new connections with an outrageous transvestite, a pregnant nun, and her son's favorite actress. This 1999 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film is another from director Pedro Almodovar, whose other acclaimed works include *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Volver*.

### Portugal

***Porto*** (2016, Drama) An American expatriate and a French woman spend one intense night together in the titular Portuguese city. Years later, they try to make sense of their connection, the transience of joy, and haphazard nature of life. Filmed in 35, 16 and Super 8 mm, this film sees Porto through a novel and striking lens.

***Night Train to Lisbon*** (2013, Drama) A Swiss schoolteacher (Jeremy Irons) prevents the suicide of a young Portuguese woman, who then disappears. Soon thereafter, he visits a bookshop where he discovers a puzzling memoir written during the Salazar era. Consumed by the idea that he may not be living his life to the fullest, he travels to Lisbon to unravel the mysteries.

**No Reservations: Lisbon** (2012, Season 8, Episode 4) Emmy award-winning chef and social critic Anthony Bourdain visited Lisbon just as it was on the verge of becoming a travel sensation. Enjoy his witty commentary, local encounters, and mouth-watering presentations of Lisbon's culinary pleasures.

**Amália** (2008, Documentary) This biopic tells the story of Amália Rodrigues, Portugal's Queen of Fado.

**Lisbon Story** (1994, Drama) A straightforward tale of a German sound engineer who falls in love with Lisbon. Director Wim Wenders takes you through a city that he obviously loves, offering the beauty of old houses, narrow streets, the sounds of the city, a haunting soundtrack, and the lives lived in Portugal's capital.

## Useful Websites

**Grand Circle Forum** (tips from previous travelers)

[www.gct.com/forum](http://www.gct.com/forum)

**Grand Circle Frequently Asked Questions**

[www.gct.com/faq](http://www.gct.com/faq)

**International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)**

[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

**Electricity & Plugs**

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

**Foreign Exchange Rates**

[www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter)  
[www.oanda.com/converter/classic](http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic)

**ATM Locators**

[www.mastercard.com/atm](http://www.mastercard.com/atm)  
[www.visa.com/atmlocator](http://www.visa.com/atmlocator)

**World Weather**

[www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)  
[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)  
[www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

**Basic Travel Phrases** (80 languages)

[www.travlang.com/languages](http://www.travlang.com/languages)

**Packing Tips**

[www.travelite.org](http://www.travelite.org)

**U.S. Customs & Border Protection**

[www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel)

**Transportation Security Administration (TSA)**

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

**National Passport Information Center**

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

**Holidays Worldwide**

[www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays)

## Useful Apps

### **Flight Stats**

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

### **LoungeBuddy**

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

### **Timeshifter**

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

### **GoogleMaps or Maps.me**

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

### **Triposo**

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

### **Rome2rio**

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

### **Flush or Sit or Squat**

Find a clean toilet anywhere

### **Uber or Bolt or Grab**

Ride sharing around the world

### **Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus**

#### **ATM locations**

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

### **TunnelBear**

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

### **What's App or Skype or Signal**

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

### **Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel**

Learn dozens of foreign languages

### **Google Translate**

Fast and simple translations

### **XE**

Currency conversions

### **SizeGuide**

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

### **Best Units Converter**

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

### **Happy Cow**

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

### **Eatwith**

Dine with locals all over the world

### **Meetup**

Connects you with locals who share your interests

### **Skyview**

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

### **Travello**

Find travel friends on the road

### **TripWhistle**

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

### **GeoSure**

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

### **Tourlina**

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers



### **ALIX for One**

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

### **Chirpey**

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more



Arrival/Departure   
 Nights at destination **2**  
 Included Tour   
 Optional Tour   
 Motorcoach Route   
 Air Route 





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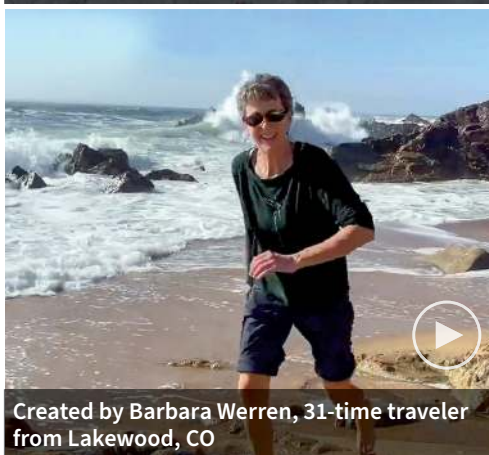
Submitted by Paul Motyka, 11-time traveler  
from Acton, MA



Submitted by Kay Gevedon, 3-time traveler  
from Mt. Sterling, KY



Submitted by David Woods, first-time  
traveler from Rockport, TX



Created by Barbara Werren, 31-time traveler  
from Lakewood, CO



Created by Sharon Fleury, 8-time traveler  
from Poughkeepsie, NY



Created by Susan Karski, 5-time traveler  
from Wimauma, FL



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