



HARVARD

Alumni Travels

**PARADORES & POUSADAS:
HISTORIC LODGINGS OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL**
SEPTEMBER 7-21, 2019

Feel the spell of Iberia's rich Roman and Moorish past – and the pull of its vibrant contemporary life – on this distinctive 15-day journey through the Iberian Peninsula to the intimate lodgings of Spain's *paradores* and Portugal's *pousadas*. See Lisbon's sights and encounter Evora, a UNESCO site, with its rich Roman and Moorish heritage. Discover Merida's Roman ruins, Seville's romance, and cultural gem Cordoba. From charming Ronda, journey to Granada with its extraordinary Alhambra. Explore medieval Toledo before a three-night stay in monumental Madrid, visiting its Royal Palace, the world-renowned Prado, and Plaza Mayor. Enjoy Spain's cultural capital, spirited Barcelona, on an optional 4-day/3-night post-tour extension.

GROUP SIZE: 12- 24 guests

PRICING: Per person double occupancy:

- \$5,878—Air inclusive from Boston or New York (including airline taxes and fees)
- \$5,095—Land only
- \$1,195—Single supplement

STUDY LEADER: To be announced

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 DEPART U.S. FOR LISBON, PORTUGAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 ARRIVE LISBON

Arrive in the Portuguese capital early this afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure before dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: *Corinthia Hotel Lisbon* (D)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 LISBON / QUELUZ

This morning's city tour includes the Jeronimos Monastery, a masterpiece of Manueline architecture; Belem Tower; and the Monument to the Discoveries commemorating Portugal's storied explorers. Then visit the National Palace of Queluz, the former residence of Portuguese royalty now used for state occasions. After returning to Lisbon, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore as you wish, perhaps to visit a local club to hear Portuguese Fado music.

Overnight: *Corinthia Hotel Lisbon* (B)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 LISBON / EVORA

Leaving Lisbon this morning, travel through the rolling hills of the agricultural Alentejo district, with its bountiful fields of wheat, fragrant vineyards, and stands of olive and cork trees. After stopping for lunch in the fortified hilltop town of Monsaraz (pop. 150), in the late afternoon arrive in Evora, capital of the Alentejo and site of your pousada, considered Portugal's finest and dine together.

Overnight: *Pousada dos Loios* (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 EVORA

A morning walking tour of Evora introduces you to the many charms of this architectural gem – a university town, prosperous regional capital, and UNESCO World Heritage site thanks to the many relics of its Roman and Moorish heritage. The tour includes a Roman ruin; the Cathedral of Evora; Giraldo Square and the Church of St. Francis, home of the Chapel of Bones. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy this "Golden Age" city as you wish.

Dinner this evening is at your Pousada.

Overnight: *Pousada dos Loios* (B, D)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 EVORA / MÉRIDA, SPAIN / CARMONA

Today, travel east through countryside, peppered with the ruins of fortresses and castles, to the Spanish border town of Merida. Once the capital of ancient Lusitania (Latin for the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal), Merida boasts outstanding Roman ruins. There's time to explore and eat lunch on your own before you continue on to Carmona and your parador, a 14th-century Arab fortress.

Overnight: *Parador de Carmona* (B, D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 CARMONA / SEVILLE

This morning visit splendid Seville, Moorish capital of Spain's Andalusia region and city of beauty and romance. This is the place that inspired Carmen and Don Giovanni; where fragrant orange trees and flower-bedecked balconies delight the senses; and home of the renowned Cathedral, the world's 3rd largest Gothic Church in the world. After a tour that includes the palace (Alcazar); and the Arab quarter, the afternoon is free to explore independently. Return to Carmona late afternoon and dine at your parador this evening.

Overnight: *Parador de Carmona* (B, D)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

CARMONA / CORDOBA

Today's visit to this cultural gem promises to be very special. First the capital of Roman Spain, then of Moorish Spain, Cordoba features some of the country's most important monuments, including the Old Quarter built around the magnificent Mezquita mosque. It was here that the Moors ruled from the 8th to the 11th centuries and fostered a culture of learning and religious harmony known the world over. Cordoba also is home to Andalusia's only synagogue to survive the expulsion of Spain's Jews in the 15th century. After touring these and other highlights you have free time to explore on your own.

Late this afternoon return to your parador, where you dine tonight.

Overnight: *Parador de Carmona* (B, D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

CARMONA / RONDA

Leave Carmona this morning to travel south to tiny Ronda, one of Spain's oldest and most aristocratic towns. It's set high in the mountains with whitewashed houses clinging improbably to the edge of El Tajo Gorge – 500 feet deep and 300 feet wide. After a brief walking tour, the afternoon is at leisure. Tonight dine together in your parador.

Overnight: *Parador de Ronda* (B, D)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

RONDA

Today begins with a walking tour of Ronda, taking in the graceful cathedral of Maria Mayor in the town's Old Quarter; two 17th Century bridges; and the Case de Mondragon, once home to the Moorish kings.

This afternoon is at leisure to relax and enjoy this charming and historic town on your own. Tonight dine at your parador,

Overnight: *Parador de Ronda* (B, L)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

RONDA / GRANADA / ÚBEDA

Continuing your journey, travel today to Granada, the former stronghold of Moorish Spain set in the foothills of the snowcapped Sierra Nevada. Upon arrival in Granada, enjoy lunch on your own before the tour of the Alhambra.

The city's undisputed highlight, the Alhambra is the extraordinary palace of Spain's last Moorish rulers. Sprawled across a hilltop above the Darro River, it commands breathtaking views of the city below. Also, visit the Granadian-style Generalife, the palace's acclaimed gardens. Late afternoon, travel north to Úbeda and your next parador, a former palace dating to the 16th century and where you dine tonight.

Overnight: *Parador de Úbeda* (B, D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ÚBEDA / TOLEDO / MADRID

A highlight is in store today as you visit Toledo, capital of medieval Spain. Declared a Spanish National Landmark, the city is little changed visually from its 16th-century days as a subject for the artist El Greco.

Toledo boasts an incomparable hilltop setting overlooking the Castilian plains and surrounded on three sides by the Tagus River.

After lunch on your own, see Toledo's most important sights on a guided tour, including the massive Gothic Cathedral begun in 1226 and not finished until 1493. Your tour of Toledo concludes with a stop at Santo Tomé, home of El Greco's most famous painting "The Burial of Count Orgaz." Then continue on to Madrid, arriving late afternoon. After checking into the hotel, dinner is on your own tonight.

Overnight: *Wellington Hotel* (B)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

MADRID

Your morning tour of this monumental and dignified capital city includes vast Plaza

Mayor, in the heart of Old Madrid; the Moorish medieval district; and opulent 18th- century Palacio Real (Royal Palace), with its 2,800 rooms. The tour ends at the Prado, one of the world's greatest museums, where you are free to explore on your own. Displaying treasures by Spanish masters Goya, El Greco, and Velazquez, the Prado also houses an important collection of Flemish and Italian masterpieces.

The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration in this cosmopolitan city.

Overnight: *Wellington Hotel* (B, L)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

MADRID

Today is a free day to enjoy the Spanish capital as you wish. Tonight bid "Adios" to Spain and your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

Overnight: *Wellington Hotel* (B, D)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

DEPART FOR U.S.