



# spain, portugal & morocco

21 AUGUST - 18 SEPTEMBER • 29 DAYS



This wonderful adventure follows the path of its predecessor only in reverse order for 2020. Featuring the colour, vibrancy and mystique of **Morocco's Medinas**. Craftsmen creating wares by hand, utilising skills passed down through generations, continue centuries old traditions, line a labyrinth of narrow, winding streets. Throughout the journey, incredible **royal palaces** and **well preserved fortresses** abound. A photographers paradise. Stand in the footsteps of great discoverers who once set sail from the very place you now find yourself. See timeless works by renowned artists and architects such as **Gaudi**, whose longevity is testament to their creators skilled hands. **Sagrada Familia, Casas Mila** and **Batllo** and **Parc Guell** to name a few. Enjoy the fruity refreshment of a chilled glass of **Sangria** on a hot summers day on **La Rambla**. Surrender to the temptation of mouth watering **Tapas**. Marvel at stunning architectural wonders, from **Plaza de Espana in Seville**, to **Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca**, and sip port from where else but **Porto**. If it's the quintessential experience of Spain, Portugal and Morocco you seek, look no further.



*"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."* Marcel Proust



## SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO



FROM **\$16,740** per person  
share twin

### INCLUDED

- Return Economy Class fares from CHC and AKL on Emirates Airlines and partner airlines
- Quality 4-5 star hotels throughout
- All breakfasts and 18 dinners
- All transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees as specified
- Local English speaking guides
- Private air conditioned touring coach
- All tips, gratuities and portage
- Travel 2U tour pack
- Services of a Travel 2U tour director

### EXCLUDED

- Items of a personal nature such as spending money, laundry, phone calls etc.
- Meals other than those mentioned
- Fuel surcharges, airport levies and airline surcharges (approx. \$240)

### OPTIONAL – PER PERSON (POA)

- Upgrade to Business or Premium Economy Class on Emirates Airlines flights
- Single supplement



### NEW ZEALAND – DUBAI

*one night Dubai*

**Days 1-2** We depart New Zealand this morning bound for a big adventure that awaits, stopping overnight in Dubai to rest our bodies, helping us to arrive in Casablanca in good shape.

### DUBAI – CASABLANCA – MARRAKESH

*two nights Marrakesh*

**Day 3** Upon arrival in Casablanca we're met by our national guide and touring coach, and make our way south to Marrakesh. Immediately you're struck by the very simple way of life many Moroccan's still live today. It's not unusual to see farmers working in their fields using old ploughs pulled by animals.

**Day 4** This morning we begin our sightseeing of this vibrant city, including bustling *Jemaa el-Fna Square*, sitting in the shadow of the *Minaret of Koutoubia Mosque*, where you'll find all manner of curios, artefacts and locally produced goods from the abundant stall holders, not to mention traditional medicines, snake charmers, story tellers and so much more. We'll also see the ornate *Ben Youssef Madrasa* and the *captivating Medina*, which is the Mecca for bargain hunters of genuine hand made goods.

### MARRAKESH – ESSAOUIRA – CASABLANCA

*two nights Casablanca*

**Day 5** We depart Marrakesh this morning bound for *Essaouira*. This intriguing port city sits proudly on the Atlantic Coast. Bold ramparts protect the old town, or *medina* as it is known in this part of the world and *18th century brass cannons* still line the walls in places. Once a 'hippy hangout' the city has changed very little over the years and retains its charm via the souks, myriad of tiny courtyards and captivating narrow pedestrian streets. We'll arrive in Casablanca late afternoon.

**Day 6** Our sightseeing today includes one of the world's most impressive mosques. *Hassan II Mosque* is Morocco's largest mosque, boasting the world's tallest minaret. The mosque has a glass roofed section that can slide back to give the faithful a view of God's creation, as well as a heated floor and electric doors. At night a laser on the roof points toward Mecca. We'll stop to admire the architectural excellence of *Place Mohammed V* and also make a photo stop at the grand entrance to the *Royal Palace*. Completing the day we'll drive along the Riviera of Casablanca, *La Corniche* and we'll try to allow some time for you to have a browse at the impressive Morocco Mall. Tonight we have a treat in store!

### CASABLANCA – RABAT – FES

*two nights Fes*

**Day 7** Continuing along the North Atlantic coast, in little more than an hour we'll be in *Rabat*, Morocco's capital and home to approximately 600,000 residents. Amongst other things we'll walk the narrow character filled streets of *Kasbah des Oudaias*, a fascinating 'fortress' filled with whitewashed houses and blue parapets. We'll also see the impressive *Hassan Tower*, intended to be the largest minaret in the world, and stop briefly at another of the Royal Palaces... they have many! Mid afternoon we begin the drive inland to our destination today, Fes.

**Day 8** Our guide will tell us more of the history of this ancient land today, proudly showing us the city highlights including the ornate *Medersa el-Attarine*. A 'Madrasa' as you'll see mentioned often in the Arab world, is the name commonly given to an educational institute, religious or secular. We'll then enter the incredible *Medina of Fes* via the grand gates of the *Fes el Bali*. The sights, smells and colours within will almost certainly awaken your senses! We'll also see the 16th century *Fort Borj Nord* and give you more free time to further explore this magnificent medina labyrinth.

### FES – TANGIER

*one night Tangier*

**Day 9** After a leisurely start to the morning we head back toward the coast and our last stop in Morocco, Tangier. On arrival we'll do a city highlights tour with our guide, where amongst other things we'll enter, conditions permitting, the incredible *Caves of Hercules*.

### TANGIER – ALGERICAS – GIBRALTAR – TORREMOLINOS

*two nights Torremolinos*

**Day 10** Although tinged with sadness having to leave Morocco, the next stage of our fascinating journey has just begun. After an enjoyable *high speed ferry* journey across the *Strait of Gibraltar* we head immediately to 'The Rock' itself where we join our local guide and coach to see highlights of this legendary fortress including the *Barberry apes*, the incredible *WWII tunnels* and the *100 ton gun* amongst other things. Following this memorable tour we cross the Gibraltar runway and rejoin our long distance coach for our drive to the beautiful *Costa Del Sol*.

**Day 11** Much has been said about the stunning Costa del Sol, the name itself says it all. Today is yours to spend entirely as you please, from the stunning beach at our doorstep to shopping in the upper town, or simply relaxing by the pool.

### TORREMOLINOS – CORDOBA – SEVILLE

*two nights Seville*

**Day 12** Driving amongst a varying landscape of farmlands intermingled with expansive farms of a different nature, notably solar farms, we make our way to captivating Cordoba to see the incredible *Mezquita*. There is nothing else like it in the world. An expansive *Mosque* built around a grand *Cathedral*, the two co-existing in harmony. For centuries accommodating worshippers of both religions. After some free time to explore the quaint narrow streets filled with all kinds of shops, cafés and galleries, we make our way to the architecturally significant city of Seville.

## SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO

**Day 13** Our city sightseeing today includes one of the most striking buildings you're ever likely to see, the *Plaza de Espana*, constructed in 1928 for the World Expo the following year. We'll also look through the Moorish Renaissance *Royal Palace of Alcazar* and stroll through the fascinating *Santa Cruz Quarter* with its beautiful flower boxes and vibrantly decorated facades. We'll stop briefly at the imposing *Seville Cathedral* and *Tower of Giralda*, and time permitting, make a photo stop at the ultra-modern, *Metropol Parasol*, constructed of timber and affectionately known locally as the 'mushrooms of Seville'.

### SEVILLE – EVORA – LISBON

*three nights Lisbon*

**Day 14** Departing the capital of the Andalusian region today, we cross the border into Portugal, and our first stop of significance, the fascinating *standing stones of Evora*. 93 megalithic stones that are thought to be two thousand years older than Stonehenge. We can freely move among them, touch them and take photos. After this we continue to Portugal's capital, *Lisbon*. Our first impression as we enter the city is that this is a modern city honouring its heritage, with architecture blending respectfully between old and new.

**Day 15** Today we'll see a few of the highlights, including the impressive *Vasco da Gama Bridge*. Further upstream we'll see the historic *Belem Tower*, guarding the mouth of the Tagus River, and *Jeronimos Monastery*, housing the *Tomb of Vasco da Gama*. We pass back via the symbolic *Bridge of 25 April* and *Pombal Statue*. We'll also visit the 'fisherman's district' of *Alfama*, a labyrinth of winding streets and quaint squares. Tonight we have another treat in store, dining while being entertained at a *performance of Fado*, traditional music and dance.

**Day 16** Today's a totally free day to do as you please. Our hotel's location makes it the ideal starting point for exploring Lisbon. By foot, an easy and enjoyable twenty minute walk will have you in the heart of *Rossio Square* off which you'll uncover many famous landmarks, galleries, wonderful shopping and a pedestrian only mall.

### LISBON – PORTO

*two nights Porto*

**Day 17** Leaving Lisbon this morning we drive to the quaint city of *Porto*. On arrival our guide will tell us more about some of the cities highlights including the colourful and much photographed *Ribeira* district, the incredible mosaics in *Sao Bento Station*, a photo stop at *Livraria Lello* made famous through the Harry Potter stories, in addition to other famous sights. Rounding off a very interesting day, you couldn't say you'd been to Porto without visiting a Port distillery, so we've chosen one of the best!

**Day 18** Porto is not a city to be rushed. There are so many things to see and do, and because we all have individual tastes and desires we felt a free day to indulge personal pleasures was appropriate.

### PORTO – SALAMANCA

*one night Salamanca*

**Day 19** Departing Porto this morning we make our way deeper into the heart of Spain. Scenery is ever changing, and on this particular leg we should see a significant number of *cork trees* in various stages of harvest, and expansive groves of *olive trees*, which is not surprising, given Spain produces half the world's olive oil. Salamanca is home to the *third oldest University in Europe*, dating back to 1218, and there are many wonderful examples of Romanesque, Baroque, Gothic, Moorish and Renaissance architecture everywhere you look. *The Plaza Mayor (Main Square) of Salamanca* is one of the best examples in Europe, and the perfect place to dine or have a nice cool drink on a warm summer's day.

### SALAMANCA – MADRID

*three nights Madrid*

**Day 20** Giving you the morning to have a final look around Salamanca, we should reach Madrid by mid afternoon. This afternoon, time permitting, we'll take you to the *Prado Museum*, one of the world's finest museums, and give you time to browse the impressive collection at your leisure. For the die-hard art lovers amongst us there'll be an opportunity to return here over the coming days, or to browse another world renowned museum, *Reina Sofia*.

**Day 21** This morning our local guide will show us some of Madrid's most notable sights including the *18<sup>th</sup> century Royal Palace*, the *Cervantes Memorial*, *Cibeles Fountain*, *Gran Via*, *Puerta Del Sol* and *Parque de Retiror*. We'll also see the beautiful *Atocha Railway Station*. For lunch we'll give you time to wander the *Plaza Mayor* at your leisure, after which you may choose to re-visit one of the aforementioned museums, stay and shop or possibly take a stroll through the nearby *botanical garden*.

**Day 22** Today's entirely yours to do as you please. We'll be on hand if you'd like any assistance, but Madrid being the city it is, we doubt you'll be stuck for ways to spend your day.

### MADRID – BARCELONA

*three nights Barcelona*

**Day 23** We bid farewell to Madrid this morning as we depart for Barcelona and an interesting day ahead with an ever changing landscape. We'll have several stops en-route to make the trip comfortable. You can sit back, relax and take in the views, knowing you're in the safe hands of our professional coach driver.

**Day 24** Today we'll take in some of the greatest features of Antoni Gaudi's beloved city, such as his grotesquely beautiful *Sagrada Familia Cathedral* where we have 'skip the queue' entry. We'll also visit spectacular *Parc Guell*, the forerunner of today's modern subdivisions. Two of Gaudi's most famous inner city properties are also on our itinerary today. *Casa Mila* (known locally as La Pedrera or 'the stone quarry') and the beautiful *Casa Batllo*. We'll see the top and bottom of *La Rambla*, one of the world's most famous boulevards, where you'll have time to stroll at your leisure tomorrow, and drive past the famous *Statue of Christopher Columbus* among other things.

**Day 25** Our last full day in Europe, and there's possibly no more fitting place than Barcelona in which to spend it. There's a plethora of things to do, from *drinking sangria* and *eating tapas* on La Rambla, to shopping at the boutique fashion outlets, having a personal browse through any of Gaudi's creations, or possibly a little of everything. Tonight we have a special dinner planned, to conclude our journey in the appropriate fashion.

### BARCELONA – DUBAI

*one night Dubai*

**Day 26** We have the best part of the day to spend doing as we please before we depart the hotel late afternoon to connect with our evening flight to Dubai.

**Day 27** After time to get freshened up, we'll have a look at the souks, Dubai Creek and possibly the Emirates Mall if there's sufficient interest. This evening we're going driving in 4WD's to a Bedouin style camp in the middle of the desert, under a star lit sky, to enjoy *dinner in the dunes*.

### DUBAI – NEW ZEALAND

**Days 28-29** This morning we depart Dubai bound for New Zealand, arriving next day and drawing to a close our magnificent journey together, for now.

