

Spain

Grand Journey



featuring
**Madrid, Segovia,
La Rioja and Barcelona**



*T*ravel through the most historic regions of northern Spain. Follow in the footsteps of ancient Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans and Moors—peoples who once called this land home and who left behind extraordinary vestiges of their presence. All contributed to the rich traditions and colorful culture of modern Spain. This special program also features five UNESCO World Heritage List sites: the old towns of Segovia, Ávila and Salamanca; Burgos Cathedral; and the architecture of Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover six distinct regions of Spain: **Madrid**, the capital; **Castile and Leon**, the Spanish heartland; **La Rioja**, home of a centuries-old winemaking tradition; **Basque Country**, a region with a unique culture and people within Spain; **Aragon**, a land of pristine beauty; and **Cataluña**, another unique pocket of culture on the Iberian peninsula.
- See the walled city of **Ávila** and **Segovia**, site of a well-preserved Roman aqueduct.
- Explore **Salamanca**, home to the most opulent Baroque square in Spain.
- Appreciate the wines of **La Rioja** during tastings at famous *bodegas*.
- Marvel at **Bilbao** and the Frank Gehry-designed **Guggenheim Museum**.
- Tour Hemingway's **Pamplona**.
- Admire the architectural wonders of Antoni Gaudí in **Barcelona**, where his style and flair is unmistakable.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Two nights** in **Madrid** at the *Hotel El Caloso*.
- **Three nights** in **Segovia** at the *Hotel Eurostars Plaza Acueducto*.
- **Three nights** in **Laguardia** at the *Hotel Villa de Laguardia*.
- **Three nights** in **Barcelona** at the *Hotel Eurostars Cristal Palace*.

Transportation

- Deluxe motorcoach transfers from Madrid to Segovia, Segovia to Laguardia and Laguardia to Barcelona, including baggage handling.

Activities and Events

- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Enjoy a **Farewell Reception and Dinner**.

Meals

- Enjoy 11 breakfasts, six lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **AHI Travel Director** throughout your trip.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- **Tipping** of all excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

AIR PROGRAM

- Scheduled jet service.
- Deluxe motorcoach transfers between the airports and the hotels, with baggage handling at the hotels.
- All domestic and foreign governmental airport/departure taxes and fees.
- Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance for all passengers ticketed by AHI Travel, subject to policy terms.

*Top to Bottom
Segovia's Alcázar; Parc Güell*

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPARTURE

Depart for **Madrid, Spain**, aboard scheduled jet service. *(Provided for Air Program participants only.)*

DAY 2: MADRID

Upon arrival in Madrid, transfer by deluxe motorcoach to the **Hotel El Coloso**. *(Transfer provided for Air Program participants only.)*

The rest of the day is at leisure.

This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY 3: MADRID

Excursion: Madrid. In the morning, tour the city and see many of the city's landmarks, including the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor and the Gran Vía. After lunch, spend the afternoon at the Museo del Prado with an expert guide.

Local Flavor: Savor a delicious Castilian meal at one of Ernest Hemingway's favorite restaurants.

DAY 4: SEGOVIA

The morning is yours to explore Madrid. This afternoon, transfer by deluxe motorcoach to Segovia and the **Hotel Eurostars Plaza Acueducto**.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 5: SEGOVIA

Excursion: Segovia. See the city's famous Roman aqueduct. The narrow, winding streets lead to a spectacular collection of medieval architecture. Visit the Alcázar and the Plaza Mayor.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

The afternoon is at leisure.

DAY 6: SEGOVIA

Excursion: Ávila and Salamanca. Explore the walled city of Ávila. Its wall, which still encircles the city, was built in the 11th century. Beautiful Salamanca has long been a center of learning and culture. Its university, Spain's first, was one of the best in medieval Europe.

DAY 7: LAGUARDIA

Transfer by deluxe motorcoach to Laguardia, located in the Rioja wine region, and the **Hotel Villa de Laguardia**. Stop in Burgos and visit its Cathedral. The Cathedral was built primarily between 1221-1567, though

some modifications were made through the 18th century. It is famous for its span of Gothic architecture. Also, El Cid, Spain's national hero, is buried here.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch and a wine tasting at a one of the region's famous *bodegas*, as wineries are called in Spain. Tonight, join another wine tasting and savor a tapas dinner.

DAY 8: LAGUARDIA

Excursion: Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum. Bilbao, the largest city in the Basque Country, is located on the Bay of Biscay and near the Pyrenees Mountains. Tour the famous Guggenheim Museum and the city, which has a medieval Old Town.

Local Flavor: A restaurant in Bilbao hosts you for lunch.

DAY 9: LAGUARDIA

Excursion: Pamplona. Discover Pamplona, the city immortalized in Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. See the bull ring and San Lorenzo Church.

Local Flavor: Visit the picturesque Remelluri winery, located in a 14th-century monastery, where a wine tasting and a tapas dinner await.

DAY 10: BARCELONA

Transfer by deluxe motorcoach to **Barcelona** and the **Crystal Palace Hotel**. Travel through historic Aragon.

Local Flavor: Stop in Zaragoza for lunch at restaurant serving regional cuisine.

DAY 11: BARCELONA

Excursion: Barcelona. See the Paseo de Gracia and Las Ramblas before visiting the Miro Foundation. The afternoon is at leisure in Barcelona.

DAY 12: BARCELONA

Excursion: Antoni Gaudí's Barcelona. Architect Antoni Gaudí left a distinct mark on the architecture of Barcelona. See his most important works, including the La Sagrada Familia. Visit Parc Güell, an unusual urban park.

The afternoon is at leisure.

This evening, attend a *Farewell Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY 13: BARCELONA

Transfer to the Barcelona airport for the return flight to North America. *(Provided for Air Program participants only.)*

ACCOMMODATIONS



Hotel El Coloso, Madrid

This centrally located hotel has luxurious accommodations. The hotel has two lounges. Each air-conditioned guestroom has a satellite television, telephone, minibar, refrigerator and Internet access.

Hotel Eurostars Plaza Acueducto, Segovia

The Plaza Acueducto, in the center of Segovia, is next to the famous aqueduct. Its amenities include a fitness center, coffee shop and lounge. The air-conditioned guestrooms have a fireplace, telephone, satellite television and a minibar.

Hotel Villa de Laguardia, Laguardia

The Villa de Laguardia is ideally located in Spain's famed Rioja wine region. Hotel amenities include a restaurant, lounge, wine cellar, pool and gardens. Climate-controlled guestrooms feature a minibar, television, telephone and Wi-Fi.

Hotel Eurostars Cristal Palace, Barcelona

The Cristal Palace is in the heart of Barcelona. Relax in the lounge or over a delicious meal in the restaurant and enjoy the many modern amenities of your well-appointed guestroom.

NOTE: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not closely accessible by motorcoach.



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