

SPAIN: SEVEN CITIES 2022

10 days from \$6,495 per person — Limited to 24 guests

Experience the best of Spain on a wide-ranging journey of cultural, historical and culinary discovery, contrasting the sun-dappled and atmospheric Andalusia region with the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Madrid.

Included With Every Connections Boutique Group Journey:

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Boutique Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

A&K Advantages

- Explore the historic Alhambra, an architectural masterpiece overlooking the ancient city of Granada.
- Mingle with locals as you explore La Boqueria in Barcelona, a food paradise boasting a spectacle of top quality Catalan staples.
- Experience an authentic bodega and privately sample sherry in the famed region of Jerez Ride in a horse-drawn carriage to a restaurant in Seville for authentic tapas, a delightful aspect of Spanish culture.
- Journey to a private palace in Seville, where local flamenco dancers and singers perform just for you

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DAY 1: ARRIVE BARCELONA, SPAIN

Upon arrival, you are met by your A&K representative and escorted to your hotel. Get to know your fellow guests at tonight's welcome dinner.

Grand Hotel Central

Meals: Dinner

DAY 2: BARCELONA | HEART OF CATALONIA

Embark on a walking tour of culture-rich Barcelona. Let your inner foodie run wild on a stroll through La Boqueria — one of the finest food markets in Europe, where fresh goods have traded hands for hundreds of years. Peruse the vast array of produce, meats, seafood and sweet treats, and perhaps stop by one of its many eateries to sample something on the spot. Explore the narrow cobblestone streets and wide plazas of the Gothic Quarter and the fantastic Palau de la Música Catalana concert hall. You also experience a tasting of Spanish olive oil, an essential component of the local cuisine. Enjoy more of this captivating city with an afternoon at leisure. Perhaps stroll Las Ramblas, the pedestrian-friendly avenue that draws equal amounts of visitors and locals, and browse the inviting shops and cafés. As with other cities in Spain, Barcelona truly comes alive at night, and this evening is a perfect opportunity to experience it firsthand, as taverns and tapas bars spill over with spirited conversation.

Hotel: Grand Hotel Central

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3: BARCELONA | GAUDÍ'S VISION

Discover more of vibrant Barcelona, focusing today on the city's one-of-a-kind architecture. Visit the wild Sagrada Familia Basilica, the most-visited monument in Spain, begun by Gaudí in 1883 and still unfinished today; it is currently scheduled to be completed in 2026, the centenary of its architect's death. Drive past Casa Milà on your way to hilltop Montjuïc with its sculptural gardens and castle, a place with a checkered and often bloody history until it was designated a museum by Francisco Franco. Immerse yourself in the most notable creations of Antoni Gaudí, possibly the most famous Spanish architect of modern times. Gaudí was the premier proponent of Modernisme, a distinctly Spanish take on Art Nouveau, and his free-flowing, extravagantly detailed structures are unmistakable. After lunch, fly to Granada, an ancient Moorish capital.

Hotel: Villa Oniria

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 4: GRANADA & RONDA | AWE-INSPIRING ALHAMBRA

Begin your day with a visit to the ancient palace and glorious gardens of the Alhambra, an incredible example of Moorish influence and Islamic architecture. This sprawling complex served as the seat of power for the Islamic emirs throughout the 14th century, later becoming a royal palace for Ferdinand and Isabella. Explore Granada at leisure before departing for clifftop Ronda, where you check in to your boutique hotel opposite the bullring. Enjoy a short walking tour that introduces you to the rich history of Ronda, followed by dinner. The city is known for bullfighting, and its Plaza de Toros is the oldest bullring in Spain. Ernest Hemingway did much to popularize both this controversial sport and Ronda itself, and a *paseo* (scenic walkway) bearing his name begins near the plaza; another, dedicated to fellow aficionado Orson Welles, is located nearby.

Hotel: Catalonia Ronda

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5: GIBRALTAR, UNITED KINGDOM | LAST OUTPOST

Travel west to the Rock of Gibraltar, an overseas territory of Great Britain, and a symbolic bridge linking Europe and Africa. Visit St. Michael's Cave and observe Gibraltar's Barbary macaques, the only wild monkeys in Europe. Return to Ronda with time to explore one of Andalusia's most beautiful white villages.

Hotel: Catalonia Ronda

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 6: SEVILLE | SHERRY IN JEREZ

Travel through the mountains to Jerez, home of golden sherry, a distinctive fortified wine eagerly consumed the world over. Only wine from grapes grown in this region can properly be called sherry, and aficionados have many varieties to choose from, ranging from light-bodied *fino* to robust *oloroso*. Sample some of these for yourself during a visit to a bodega. Continue to Seville, later departing in style on a horse-drawn carriage ride for a culinary adventure. Prepare for an evening tapas feast to remember, savoring delicious tapas from two of the city's traditional restaurants.

Hotel: Colón Gran Meliá

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: SEVILLE | SUNNY SANTA CRUZ

Explore the sites in this uniquely lovely city: the Royal Palace of the Alcázar, the enormous Gothic cathedral and, of course, the Santa Cruz district, with its sun-drenched avenues, venerable architecture and shaded squares. The afternoon is at leisure to venture out on your own. Tonight, stroll to a resplendent palace nearby, where the owners take you on a tour and host your private dinner. Then, enjoy a performance of flamenco dancing and singing on the patio of this historic home.

Hotel: Colón Gran Meliá

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8: CÓRDOBA | STREETS OF FLOWERS

Set out for Córdoba to visit the Mezquita, the cathedral and former great mosque of the city, and a fusion of European and Moorish styles that encapsulates much of Spanish history in a single structure. Stroll down the Street of Flowers, a picturesque lane in the city's Old Town, where potted flowers dot the walls of the charming old houses. Board your afternoon high-speed AVE train to Madrid.

Hotel: NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9: MADRID | MASTERFUL ART & ARCHITECTURE

View the Prado Museum's extensive collection, featuring some of the greatest Spanish masters, including El Greco, Velázquez and Goya. Then, visit the Royal Palace, followed by a short walk to the Plaza Mayor and the marvelous iron-and-glass San Miguel Market, where locals have been hawking and buying since the early 19th century. Later, join your Resident Tour Director for a farewell dinner.

Hotel: NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 10: DEPART MADRID

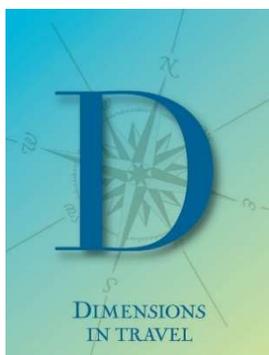
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Reserve Your Journey With Peace of Mind

With A&K's Book With Confidence policy, you can book travel through December 31, 2022, and change or cancel up to 30 days prior to departure in the event of a COVID-19-related reason.



To book your A & K journey to Spain, contact:

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