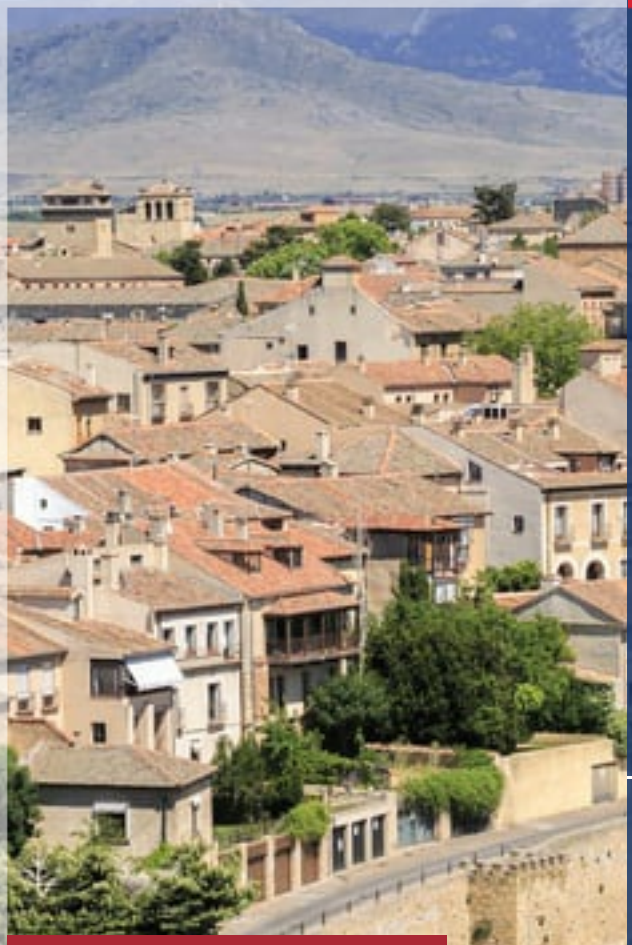
Home & Afar Travel
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INSPIRING VACATIONS



15 DAY AUTHENTIC SPAIN & PORTUGAL WITH BARCELONA EXTENSION SMALL GROUP TOUR

CÓRDOBA
SEVILLE
TOLEDO
GRANADA
MADRID
BARCELONA
SEGOVIA
SALAMANCA
PORTO
PINHÃO
COIMBRA
LISBON
MÉRIDA

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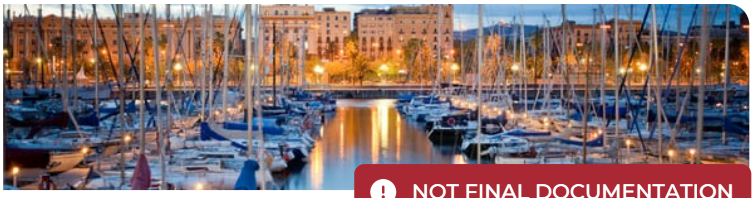
Embark on a captivating 15-day adventure through Spain and Portugal. Discover the charm of Barcelona, stroll down Madrid's Gran Via, and explore the UNESCO-listed town of Avila. Admire the iconic sights of Porto, visit Coimbra, the birthplace of Fado, and enjoy a city tour of Lisbon’s highlights. Continue your journey through Seville, Cordoba, and Granada’s magnificent Alhamb...

Book Now

TOUR ITINERARY



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Itinerary

DAY 1

Destination	Barcelona
Meals included	No meals
Hotel	4 ★ Barcelona Hotel NH Sants, or similar

Welcome to Barcelona!

Make your own way to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day exploring the city at your own pace.

Special Information
Airport transfers are not included. Our transfer portal offers the option to book your airport transfers for an easier arrival experience (additional charges apply). Access to this portal will be available through your Traveller Hub once your booking is confirmed.

Your time in Barcelona (Days 1 to 3) is independent. We have taken care of your accommodation and activities as well as the train trip to Madrid.

Your Barcelona Hop-On Hop-Off vouchers are delivered directly to the hotel, along with the welcome letter and all relevant information.

Once in Madrid (Day 3) you will join your tour leader, the rest of your fellow travellers. On day 4, you will continue your small group tour journey.

DAY 2

Destination	Barcelona
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Barcelona Hotel NH Sants, or similar

Discover Barcelona at your own pace aboard a comfortable double-decker sightseeing bus with a single ticket. Enjoy unlimited hop-on, hop-off access to explore the city.

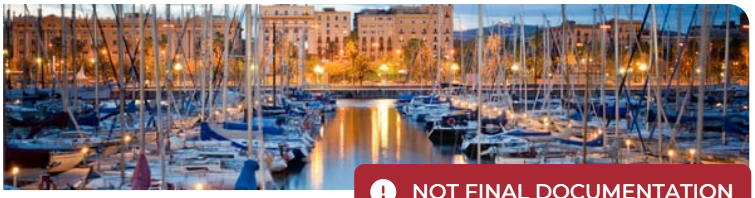
The Western route (orange) takes you past Barcelona's iconic modernist architecture, covering key landmarks such as Camp Nou and the National Art Museum of Catalonia. You can visit either museum and reboard the bus whenever you're ready. In the El Born district, experience exquisite dining and a charming atmosphere—just relax and enjoy the views.

The Eastern route (green) highlights the city's artistic side, featuring a collection of Art Nouveau buildings. From Plaça Catalunya to Park Güell, marvel at some of Barcelona's most stunning monuments, including the Sagrada Familia, with its intricate and symbolic facades. Learn about the city's rich history and uncover hidden gems as you ride.

Inspiring Highlights

- Barcelona Hop-on Hop-off Sightseeing Bus Tour

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DAY 3

Destination	Barcelona Madrid
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 Hotel Liabeny, or similar

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

A private transfer will take you to Sants train station, where you'll board a high-speed train ride to Madrid.

Arriving by 3 PM, a local representative will welcome you and you'll be transferred directly to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax or explore Madrid at your own pace. Settle into your comfortable accommodation and get ready to experience the vibrant energy of Spain's capital.

This evening you will meet your tour leader and fellow travellers, and spend the evening at leisure.

Special Information
Your travel time today will be approximately 4 hours.

Your train documentation will be given to you on tour by your local representative. Your train ride will be unescorted, however a local representative will assist you on either end to ensure that your journey is trouble free.

This evening, you'll meet your fellow travelers at the welcome meeting, and tomorrow, you'll begin your guided small group tour.

DAY 4

Destination	Madrid
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	4 Hotel Liabeny, or similar

This morning, meet your tour guide and the rest of your group. Enjoy breakfast before heading out to explore Madrid on a guided city tour.

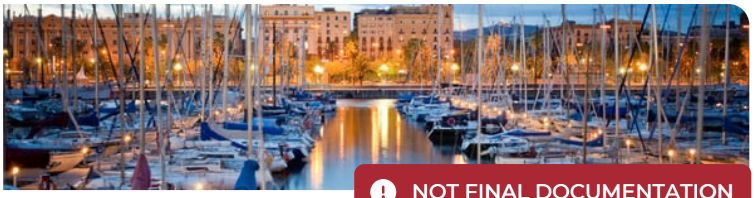
Explore Barrio de la Morería, the Habsburgs District, Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor and Plaza de la Villa; the Madrid of the Bourbons and the complex town planning schemes of Charles III, the Royal Palace, Cibeles and Neptuno Fountains and the Puerta de Alcalá. We continue on to contemporary Madrid with areas such as Gran Vía, Castellana, the district of Salamanca, Plaza Castilla and Parque del Oeste, as well as commercial and financial areas of Modern Madrid, and the emblematic Las Ventas Bullring.

Tonight, join your fellow travellers for an authentic Tapas dinner at a local restaurant.

Inspiring Highlights

- Barrio de la Morería
- Puerta del Sol
- Plaza Mayor

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- Plaza de la Villa
- Gran Vía
- Castellana
- Plaza Castilla
- Parque del Oeste
- Las Ventas Bullring
- Tapas Dinner

DAY 5

Destination	Madrid 🚌 Segovia 🚌 Avila 🚌 Salamanca
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ⭐ Hotel Salamanca Soho Boutique, or similar

Your Iberian adventure commences today after breakfast, as we drive into the Castilla region towards Salamanca.

En route, the first stop will be the city of Segovia, known for its UNESCO World Heritage Site – the Aqueduct of Segovia, which dates back to Roman times. Whilst here, you will have time to explore at your own pace before we continue west towards Avila.

One of the most well-preserved fortifications in Spain, the UNESCO-listed town of Avila has a fully fortified town centre, parts of which can be walked atop. Here you will have enough time to enjoy lunch and explore the fortifications at your leisure.

This afternoon, we will arrive in Salamanca – renowned for its architectural heritage, historical University of Salamanca and a popular stop on the Vía de la Plata path of the Camino de Santiago. The night will be spent at your leisure to enjoy this wonderful city.

Inspiring Highlights

- Aqueduct of Segovia
- Avila

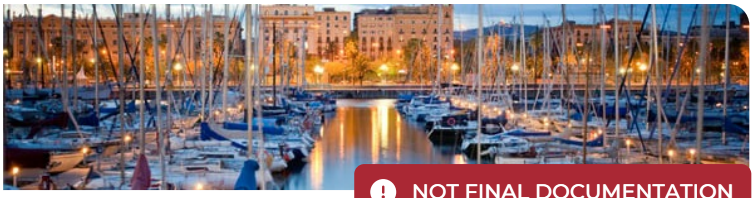
Special Information
Your travel time today will be approximately 3.5 hours.

DAY 6

Destination	Salamanca 🚌 Pinhão 🚌 Porto
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ⭐ Hotel Porto Oca Oriental, or similar

Today, Portugal beckons.

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NOT FINAL DOCUMENTATION

Departing after breakfast, our first stop in Portugal is the quaint town of Pinhão. Nestled on a bend of the Douro River, surrounded by terraced hillsides, the regions around Pinhão are known as being the centre of port production and home to some of the best wines in the world. It is worth mentioning the beautiful train station ornate with vintage harvest images.

Heading west, we will arrive in Porto, one of the oldest European cities. Be in awe of the beautiful buildings that line the Duoro River, the iconic Portuguese trams and the double-deck metal arch Luís I Bridge.

Enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure.

Inspiring Highlights

- Pinhão

Special Information
Your travel time today will be approximately 5.5 hours.

OPTIONAL TOUR - PINHAO WINERY TASTING & LIGHT LUNCH

Join our optional tour to a gem in the Douro Valley, where you'll enjoy a tour of its historic vineyards and an exclusive wine tasting. Discover the secrets of the region's winemaking and delight your palate with a selection of its finest wines, complemented by a light lunch of local products. This experience is not just a journey through taste and tradition, but a unique opportunity to soak in the beauty of Portugal's most iconic wine landscape.

Included: Transportation, guide, wine tasting and light lunch.
Meeting Point: During the tour, before reaching Porto.
Duration: The whole experience lasts around 3 hours. That includes the drive up from Pinhão to the Quinta, the visit itself, the explanation and tasting with a light lunch, and the return drive back down to Pinhão to pick up the rest of the group and continue towards Porto.

DAY 7

Destination	Porto
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Porto Oca Oriental, or similar

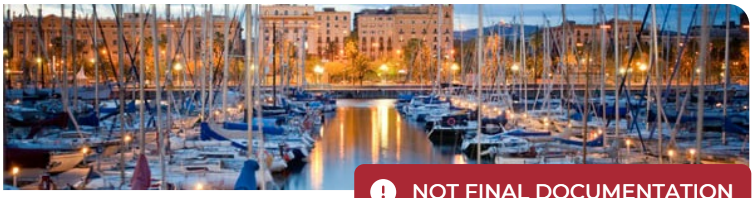
Today after breakfast, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Porto.

The tour starts at Avenida dos Aliados, heading toward the iconic Clérigos Tower and the famous Livraria Lello for an outside view and historical introduction to both sites. You will then pass by the University of Porto and the lush Cordoaria Garden, continuing past the historic old Relação Prison before reaching the breathtaking lookout at Miradouro da Vitória. From there, take a scenic walk down Rua das Flores to São Bento Railway Station to admire its world-renowned tilework and learn about its history. The guided portion concludes at the magnificent Porto Cathedral (view from outside).

The remainder of the day will be free to further explore this beautiful city, and enjoy all that it has to offer.

Inspiring Highlights

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- Porto Walking Tour: Avenida dos Aliados, Clérigos Tower (exterior), Livraria Lello (exterior), University of Porto, Cordoaria Garden, and Miradouro da Vitória viewpoint.

DAY 8

Destination	Porto 🚌 Coimbra 🚌 Lisbon
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Masa Hotel Campogrande, or similar

Departing Porto after breakfast, we head south en route to Lisbon via Coimbra – birthplace of the folk music genre, fado. Whilst in Coimbra, embrace the historic centre, the cathedral and famous University of Coimbra, all whilst hearing the traditional music through the city.

In Coimbra you will witness how student traditions and symbolic practices are preserved. Students in their long black coats enter monumental buildings that still serve as study houses. Walk through the narrow beautiful streets and admire the Roman ruins, the city walls and the special nooks and crannies of the typical neighbourhoods of the historical centre.

Continue onto Lisbon. Spread across seven hills and known for its decorative arts, Lisbon is one of Europe's most interesting capital cities.

This afternoon is at your leisure, however we recommend venturing to the Alfama Quarter, the old city, and marvelling at the Arco da Rua Augusta.

Inspiring Highlights

- Coimbra
- University of Coimbra
- Lisbon

Special Information
Your travel time today will be approximately 4 hours.

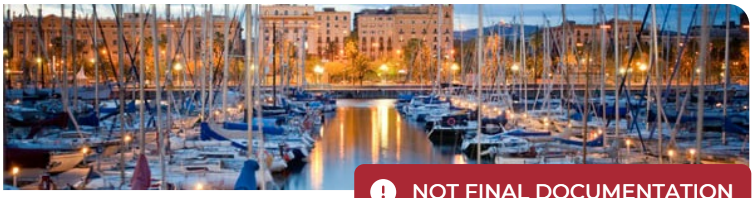
OPTIONAL TOUR - FADO DINNER

Enjoy a typical Portuguese dinner visiting one of the oldest Fado venues in the city.

Included: Transportation, tour leader, 3 course dinner with one drink.
Start Time: 7pm.
End Time: 9pm.

Please note: In Lisbon, the narrow streets around the Fado venue mean the coach may drop off nearby, with a short walk to follow. The return to your hotel may be by taxi.

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DAY 9

Destination	Lisbon
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Masa Hotel Campogrande, or similar

After breakfast, join a city sightseeing tour of the ancient Olissipo. Drive through Lisbon's main squares and avenues, visiting Belem Tower, Jeronimos Monastery, the Coach Museum, Monument to the Discoverers, Marquis of Pombal Square and Liberty Avenue.

Spend the afternoon at your leisure.

Inspiring Highlights

- Belem Tower
- Jeronimos Monastery
- Coach Museum
- Monument to the Discoverers
- Marquis of Pombal Square
- Liberty Avenue

DAY 10

Destination	Lisbon 🚌 Merida 🚌 Seville
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Catalonia Santa Justa, or similar

Today after breakfast, we bid farewell to Portugal as we make our way to Seville via Merida. Enjoy the heritage bequeathed by the city's inhabitants over the centuries. Its streets and buildings reflect the passage of Roman, Visigoth, Arab and Christian culture, transporting us to the past. Augusta Emerita archaeological site stands a symbol of great Roman city features, including the amphitheatre, the circus and the theatre.

In the afternoon, our journey continues towards Seville, capital of Andalucía, and the essence of Spanish tradition. On arrival (approx. 5:30pm), you will have the remainder of the day at your leisure to explore this wonderful city.

Inspiring Highlights

- Merida

Special Information

Your travel time today will be approximately 5.5 hours.

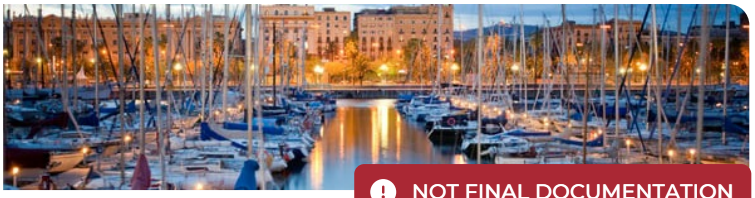
DAY 11

Destination	Seville
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Catalonia Santa Justa, or similar

Explore the city on a morning tour of the Andalusian capital, Seville.

Today you'll explore romantic Seville on a city tour, including the largest Gothic cathedral in the world (please note,

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the visit will be limited to the exterior unless an optional interior tour is booked). It is a testament to the historic health and importance of Seville. Continue to the barrio de Santa Cruz, the former Jewish quarter of Seville. From here, we continue to Maria Luisa Park and Plaza de España.

This afternoon is at leisure for you to enjoy the city of light.

Inspiring Highlights

- Sevilla Cathedral (outside)
- Barrio de Santa Cruz
- Maria Luisa Park
- Plaza de España

OPTIONAL TOUR - INSIDE TOUR OF SEVILLA CATHEDRAL

Choose this optional tour if you'd like to take a guided tour inside the Sevilla Cathedral.
Includes: Guide, Entrance Ticket.
Duration: 1h approx.

DAY 12

Destination	Seville 🚌 Cordoba 🚌 Granada
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Macia Real de la Alhambra, or similar

We will leave Seville after breakfast, with a stop at Cordoba to explore its Jewish Quarter, narrow winding streets and also Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba.

Afterwards, we continue onto Granada at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains. On arrival (approx. 5pm) the remainder of the day will be yours to explore.

Inspiring Highlights

- Cordoba
- Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba

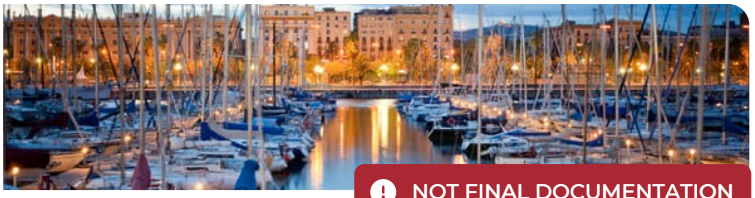
Special Information
Your travel time today will be approximately 4.5 hours.

DAY 13

Destination	Granada
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Macia Real de la Alhambra, or similar

The time has come to explore the famous Alhambra and Generalife Gardens. Given the vastness of this sprawling complex, this involves approximately three hours on foot – don't forget your walking shoes!

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The Alhambra is the contemporary history of Granada's Arab past. Its buildings, towers, palaces, patios and gardens make this palace and fortress complex one of the most visited monuments in Spain. It towers over Granada's historic Arabic quarter. Within the fortress you'll find exquisite palaces and serene pathways weaving through amazing gardens and courtyards. The detail is next level – sumptuous interiors, beautiful Islamic geometric patterns, exquisitely carved wood, incredible ornamental features. First built by the Moors as a fortress during the Muslim rule of Spain, the complex is testament to their decadent lifestyle.

The rest of the day is free for you to see more of Granada at your own pace. The city is home to a huge number of tapas bars – what better way to pass the time?

Inspiring Highlights

- Alhambra

OPTIONAL TOUR - AUTHENTIC GYPSY FLAMENCO WITH DINNER

Experience the most authentic Gypsy Flamenco show in Granada, including dinner. An evening not to forget!

Included: Transportation, tour leader, 3 course dinner with one drink.
Start Time: 7:30pm
End Time: 9:30pm

Please note: Alhambra entry is subject to timed tickets, which are released in limited numbers and vary by date. Depending on the slot allocated, the optional Flamenco show and dinner may run on the preceding evening instead.

DAY 14

Destination	Granada Toledo Madrid
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	4 Novotel Madrid Campo de las Naciones, or similar

Today after breakfast, we bid farewell to Granada, and set our sights on Madrid, but not before stopping in Toledo en-route.

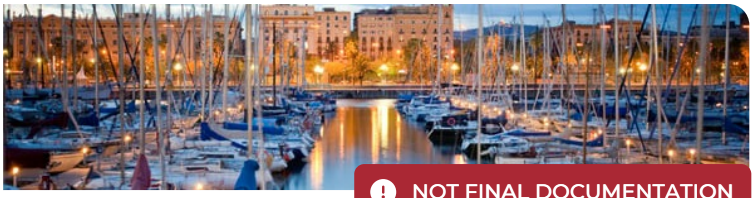
The Imperial City of Toledo, where the Moors, Christians and Jews have lived together for centuries, invites you to a guided city tour, including its iconic Old Town.

Inspiring Highlights

- Toledo

Special Information
Your travel time today will be approximately 5 hours.

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Today will be the last full day as a group, as some travellers will complete their journey with Inspiring Vacations tomorrow, while others will continue onwards to Morocco. Tonight you will enjoy a farewell group dinner to bid farewell to Spain and to the group members who will be departing.

DAY 15

Destination	Madrid
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today marks the end of your trip. Thank you for travelling with Inspiring Vacations. We hope you had a memorable experience.

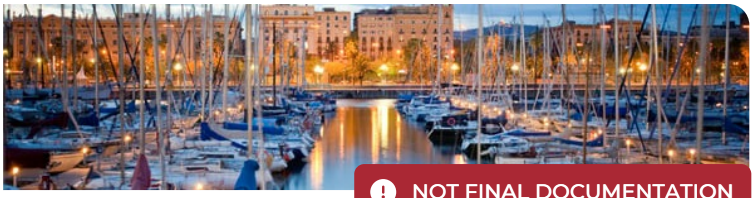
Special Information

Departure transfers are included as part of your package. You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport to meet your flight.

If you choose to extend your stay (e.g., departing after the final tour date) and have booked your additional accommodation independently, this included service will be forfeited and no refund will be issued.

If Inspiring Vacations has not provided your international airfares, please ensure you provide your flight details via your Traveller Hub portal no later than 90 days prior to travel so that your transfers can be confirmed.

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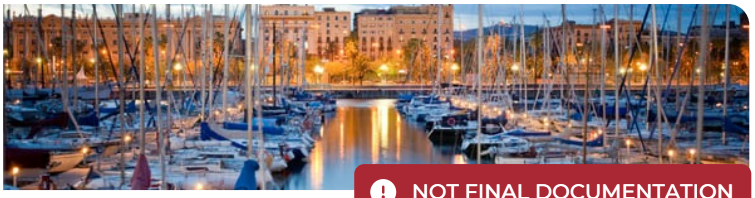


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Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED	• 14 nights in 4-star accommodation • Breakfast daily & 2 dinners • Airport transfer on the last day of your tour • Escorted by an English-speaking leader (Days 4-15) • Fast train (2nd class) from Barcelona to Madrid • Dedicated transportation throughout • In-depth sightseeing and entrance fees as per the itinerary
SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS	• Barcelona - Sightseeing bus tour • Madrid - City tour • Castilla Region - Aqueduct of Segovia • Salamanca - Salamanca Visit • Pinhão - Pinhão visit • Porto - Porto city tour • Coimbra - Coimbra visit • Lisbon - City tour • Merida - Merida visit • Seville - City tour • Córdoba - Córdoba visit • Granada - Alhambra & Generalife Gardens • Toledo - Toledo visit
ADD-ONS, UPGRADES AND ROOM CONFIGURATION	**Optional tours** To enhance your journey, we are offering guests a choice of the following optional activities (prices are per person): • Pinhao Winery Tasting & Light Lunch (Day 6) - $218 per person • Fado Dinner (Day 8) - $191 per person • Inside Tour of Sevilla Cathedral (Day 11) - $110 per person • Authentic Gypsy Flamenco with Dinner (Day 13) - $140 per person Optional tours can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add Optional Tours, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance. If you choose not to select them at this time, you can choose to add them later by logging in to your Account online. Please note that you must select your Optional Tours no later than 70 days before departure, after which you will be required to purchase them on tour. Please keep in mind that anything purchased on-tour is subject to availability and prices may vary as you will be paying in local currency. We appreciate your understanding. Please note that transportation to and from each optional tour is not included in the price. You will be required to make your own way to the starting point of the optional tour, as well as back to your hotel. Your tour guide can provide you with the direction and guidance needed to make your own way. *Please note: All add-ons, including upgrades, pre/post accommodation, and optional*

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tours, are subject to availability until confirmed by our operators. We recommend waiting for final confirmation of all itinerary components before making irreversible bookings like flights.

Pre/Post Tour Accommodation
You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

Pre Tour Accommodation

- $575.00 per room, per night for double and twin share
- $545.00 per room, per night for solo travellers

Post Tour Accommodation

- $445.00 per room, per night for double and twin share
- $385.00 per room, per night for solo travellers

Please select the number of extra nights required in the 'Additional Nights Accommodation' field when making your purchase. The additional cost for these arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

Upgrades
Not available

Airport Transfers
Some of our packages will include airport transfers in either one or both directions when arriving or departing from your destination. To know if transfers are included please view the 'inclusions' section of your selected package. If airport transfers are stated, transfers will be included as advised.

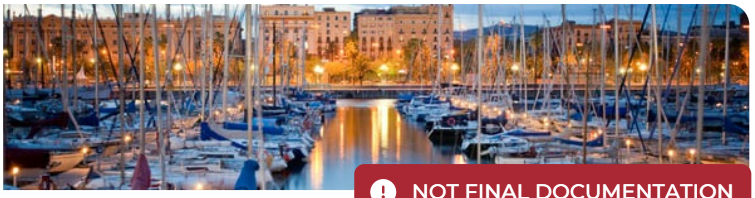
If transfers are not included, we also offer the option to book your airport transfers using our online portal. Access to this portal is available through your Traveller Hub once your booking is confirmed. Transfers are readily available and do not need to be booked until your final hotel list has been confirmed. Once you have made a transfer booking, please refer to your confirmation email for all transfer details including a local contact number for the transfer company.

If you book pre and/or post-tour accommodation on your arrangement, and the tour includes transfers, note that these will be forfeited. The transfers are only provided in line with the tour dates and pre and/or post-tour accommodation purchased through Inspiring Vacations when available.

Bedding Configuration
You will have the option choose single, twin or double:

1 - Single Supplement
By paying an additional $2,450.00 per person, in addition to the twin-share price, you guarantee the privacy of your room throughout the entire tour.

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Please note when choosing Single Supplement for this tour, your room will generally consist of a double or semi-double bed. Occasionally there may be a hotel that will provide a single bedded room for single travellers.

2- Shared Room with a known friend
If travelling together with a friend, you can opt to share your room with him/her and avoid paying a single supplement.

You and your friend can create a unique booking each. Creating a unique booking, gives each of you the flexibility of making different travel arrangements (such as adding extra accommodation, flights, etc), making separate payments and having individual access to our Traveller Hub

During the purchase path, you will need to provide your friend's booking ID (if known) or at a minimum, your friend's full name.

3- Shared Room with a fellow traveller
In this tour you can opt to share a room with a fellow traveller of the same gender – as specified in your passport - and avoid paying a single supplement.

If you believe you may prevent your travelling companion from enjoying a peaceful night's rest, please refrain from selecting this option.

You will meet your rooming companion at the beginning of your tour.

Changes to room configuration during the tour must be organised by travellers directly with the hotel, subject to availability and additional charges.

This option is not available on additional accommodation booked before or after

Triple Share
Not available

Child Policy
Children must be 5 years old or above and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

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Fine Print

BOOKING & PAYMENT TERMS

Payment Information
Secure your trip with a $99.00 deposit per person.

Once we receive your deposit, we will send you an invoice with your remaining balance and payment options.

Instalment Schedule:

1. At the time of booking pay a $99.00 deposit per person.
2. Pay a 1st installment of $2,536.00 per person within 7 days.
3. Pay a 2nd installment of $3,417.00 per person within 60 days.
4. You will then be invoiced for final payment 120 days prior to departure.

Cooling Off Period
A refund will be available within the 7-day cooling-off period unless otherwise restricted by the purchased product.

Where 'last minute' bookings are available within 71 days of departure, the cooling-off period does not apply and bookings are immediately non-refundable.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Please review our terms and conditions here:
https://www.inspiringvacations.com/au/page/terms-and-conditions

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS

Starting Point

Your starting hotel may differ from the original itinerary. Please refer to your final documentation which will be provided approximately 14-30 days before departure for your confirmed hotel list. If you need to book pre-tour accommodation independently, we suggest you do this only once you have received your final hotel list for your tour. If you would like to book something sooner, we recommend that you book using a flexible rate that can be cancelled through your chosen third-party provider without penalty.

Travellers will arrive at various times throughout the day depending on flights booked. If arriving before standard check-in time, which is generally 3pm, you are welcome to leave your luggage at hotel reception and explore your surroundings until check-in becomes available as there are no scheduled activities on day 1 of the itinerary. The hotel may grant early check-in, however this is strictly subject to availability and at the hotel's discretion.

Note: if you need to apply for a tourist visa before departure, we recommend using the details of the suggested hotel on the tour itinerary if you wish to fulfil this before the release of your final tour documentation. Please refer to our visa section for more information on whether or not a visa is required for your destination.

Arrival Details

Airport transfers are **not included** as part of your package. However, we trust that your journey from the airport to the hotel will be comfortable and hassle-free.

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

To make your way to your hotel from the airport, there are various connections by taxi or rideshare apps like Uber, or the Barcelona Metro and Express Bus Service. The airport information desks can provide helpful advice, too.

Optional Airport Transfers - Transfer Portal

Depending on the package purchased, you may have the option to add airport transfers to your booking and you can do so through your Traveller Hub account. We partner with an online marketplace where travellers can compare and select the transfer of their choice.

Inspiring Vacations acts as an agent on behalf of our transfer service partner and any service is delivered by the provider. Inspiring Vacations cannot be held liable for any loss resulting from the transfer service provided. It is the customer's responsibility to ensure any transfer booked meets the requirements of any other travel arrangements. Likewise, your tour leader or any of our on-ground representatives cannot be held responsible for the service of your transfer nor are they in a position to assist with amending your reservation. Any transfer booking is separate from any other booking with Inspiring Vacations, regardless of whether purchased with regards to the same travel journey.

When you make your transfer service booking, you will receive a confirmation email and this will include your meeting instructions, as well as direct contact details. Please ensure you print and bring this with you as you will need to ensure you can make direct contact with your transfer service provider.

Welcome Meeting Instructions

On day 3 of your tour, will enjoy a welcome meeting at 7pm where you'll meet your trip leader and your fellow travellers. On arrival at the hotel, you will receive a letter containing meeting instructions for the following morning. If you do not automatically receive these details, please ask for them. Generally, you must meet at the lobby the following morning (on the day that sightseeing commences) as early as 0815 am local time. Please ensure that you are on time.

In Case of Emergency

Although we strive to deliver exceptional holiday experiences, unforeseen circumstances can occasionally arise during travel. If any issues arise during your trip, it's essential to promptly communicate them to your tour leader or local representative. This ensures they can take immediate action to address the problem and mitigate any negative impact on the remainder of your journey.

We understand that there may be instances where your tour leader or local representative is unable to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. In such cases, we encourage you to request that the tour leader or local representative escalate the matter to their direct manager for further assistance.

You also have the option to share details in your online feedback after the tour. However, please keep in mind that it's challenging for us to offer practical assistance once the trip is completed. Therefore, notifying us while still travelling allows us the chance to address the issue in real-time and provide a timely resolution.

For general contact details please visit the Contact Us page on our website.

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When your final tour documentation is released, this will include an emergency contact for our local travel partner while you are on tour. If this is not included in your documentation, you will receive this on arrival during your welcome meeting.

Finishing Point

Your finishing hotel may differ from the original itinerary. Please refer to your final documentation which will be provided approximately 14-30 days before departure for your confirmed hotel list. If you need to book additional post-tour accommodation, please do so once you have the final hotel list. We recommend booking a flexible rate that can be changed or cancelled without penalty should there be any unforeseen changes to your booking.

Travellers will depart at various times throughout the day depending on flights booked. Check-out time is generally from 10am-12pm. You are welcome to leave your luggage at the hotel reception and spend your final moments of free time exploring the area or please speak with hotel staff if you would like to extend your check-out time. This service is subject to availability and will likely come at an additional cost payable directly.

Departure Details

Airport transfers are **included** as part of your package, so long as you are departing as per the purchased itinerary. If you have purchased an extension, either pre or post-tour, the applicable transfer service will be forfeited from your package and you will need to make your arrangements to the starting hotel.

Where the service remains included, your tour leader will confirm the pick-up time from your hotel to the airport and this will depend on the flight that you have booked. Generally, you will be required to be at the airport approximately 3 hours before your scheduled departure.

Where the service has been forfeited due to an extended stay, we do offer airport transfers at an additional cost which can be booked via your Traveller Hub. We recommend you wait until you receive your final documentation to book transfers as your start and end hotels will only be confirmed at this point. Please note that if you are choosing to book an independent airport transfer service, your Inspiring Vacations Tour Leader cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen circumstances that may arise, nor can they resolve any concerns that you may have with your transfer service.

To make your way to your hotel from the airport, there are various connections by train or limousine bus. The airport information desks can provide helpful advice, too. Most destinations offer ride-share services, such as Uber or Didi.

If you're having any problems finding the hotel, please ring the hotel directly or you can phone our customer support team for on-tour assistance.

TOUR & DESTINATION INFORMATION

Tour Suitability

- Days 1 to 3 of your tour will be an independent tour, and you will be unescorted. You will meet your tour group and tour leader in Madrid in the evening of day 3, and continue your small group tour on day 4.
- This tour is a combination of several smaller journeys. You may have some fellow

passengers who will continue onwards to Morocco at the end of your tour in Spain. If you'd like more information on alternative tour options or extensions, please feel free to contact us.
- This journey spans a vast and varied landscape, with most travel conducted by private coach. This means there will be some long travel days, but it's the perfect opportunity to sit back, relax, and enjoy the scenic views from your window. Please review the itinerary for estimated travel times.
- Summer temperatures in this region can exceed 40°C (104°F). It's essential to use sun protection, wear layers to stay cool, and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

Visas & Entry Requirements

Many countries require a visa and obtaining the correct visa for your tour and any countries you may transit through is your responsibility. We recommend you check your visa requirements as soon as you have booked your tour. This will ensure you have time to prepare your documents and for your visa application to be processed. You can check the visa entry requirements for your nationality via our page here:

https://inspiringvacations-8357211.hs-sites.com/visa-information

You'll need a valid passport to travel internationally and most countries require your passport to have a minimum of 6 months validity, so remember to check the expiry date.

We need your passport information to get everything ready for your tour so the information on your booking must match your passport exactly. Please take care to provide the correct details. We recommend carrying a copy of the photo page of your passport while travelling and leaving a copy at home with family or friends.

Pace

This tour is **Lively**

Our **lively** tours are faster paced typically including full sightseeing days, some early starts, longer driving days and a number of 1 night hotel stays - perfect for those eager to maximise each moment and cover more ground.

Activity and Mobility

This tour is categorised as: **3 out of 5 - Balanced**

Our Balanced tours involve a moderate level of physical activity and are designed to suit the majority of travellers. Be prepared for walking on varied surfaces, which may include cobblestones, gravel paths, and noticeable inclines common in historic towns and natural areas. You must be confident on your feet and capable of navigating multiple flights of stairs and uneven ground without assistance to fully participate.

Typical walking: Around 2–5 km on most days. Walking is mainly through city centres, old towns and historic sites, often on cobblestones with some steps and gentle hills.

More demanding moments:

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- **Madrid, Porto, Lisbon & Seville:** City touring with sustained walking on paved streets and cobblestones
- **Segovia, Ávila, Salamanca & Toledo:** Historic centres with uneven stone surfaces and steps
- **Córdoba & Coimbra:** Narrow lanes, cobblestones and stair sections
- **Alhambra & Generalife (Granada):** Around 3 hours on foot with inclines, steps and uneven terrain

Hotels: Accessibility varies. Most hotels have lifts, though some historic locations may involve stairs. Power outlets are suitable for CPAP machines.

Good to know: Several longer driving days (up to ~5.5 hours). Comfortable walking shoes are essential due to cobblestones and uneven surfaces.

As a general requirement across all of our tours, you may be required to walk up and down stairs, get on and off transportation, handle your own luggage, and participate in all scheduled sightseeing that may be conducted on uneven ground and terrain. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability and where required, supporting documentation may be requested to ensure that we are comfortable that you will enjoy your tour.

Group Size

Days 1-3: Independent
Days 4-15: Minimum: 12 people, Maximum: 24 people

Escorted Style

Days 1 to 3 are Independent, and you will be exploring at your own pace. We have arranged transportation and day tours for you to see Barcelona. Enjoy the time and flexibility to linger longer or pick up the pace and see as much as possible. The choice is yours.

Days 4 to 15 of your tour will be fully escorted by a dedicated tour leader in each country who will accompany you throughout the tour.

When the group is made up of 10 or fewer passengers, the circuit will have no guide, but a knowledgeable expert driver-guide. Such change will not be considered as a significant change of the trip.

Tour Type

You have purchased a combination package, meaning that certain components of the tour are operated differently.

Days 1 to 4 you will be travelling on one of our Independent tours. Explore at your own pace with expertly crafted Independent itineraries that offer both must-see sights and free time, with all accommodation and transportation pre-arranged.

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Days 4 - 15 you will be travelling on one of our Small Group Tours. Our expertly crafted Small Group Tours take you to iconic landmarks and hidden treasures, ensuring a rich blend of must-see sights. Unwind in premium accommodations after each day filled with sightseeing alongside your dedicated tour leader, leaving you free to explore at your own pace during designated free time. Benefit from smaller group sizes, creating a truly unforgettable travel experience.

Exclusions

- International airfares
- Arrival airport transfer
- Departure airport transfer
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Tipping
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary

Getting Around

While in Spain and Portufal, you will travel by private coach. This journey spans a vast and varied landscape, providing the perfect opportunity to sit back, relax, and enjoy the scenic views. Please review the itinerary for estimated travel times.

Hotel Ratings

Star ratings can differ between countries, reflecting diverse standards and amenities. To give you the most accurate picture possible, we don't just rely on a single source for hotel ratings. We go beyond by researching various trusted travel websites like Tripadvisor and Booking.com. This allows us to analyse a wider range of genuine customer reviews and experiences, giving you a well-rounded understanding of the hotel's typical star rating.

This means you can book with confidence, knowing the hotel has a strong track record of satisfied guests.

Accommodation Details

In Spain and Portugal, we have carefully selected 4-star hotels to ensure your comfort and enjoyment. Our accommodations reflect the best available options, tailored to our style of travel. Locations are typically further from city centres, allowing for a more cost effective tour while giving a quieter environment. It's important to note that star ratings in European hotels can vary from what you may expect in Western standards. We have considered the hotel’s facilities, as well as its convenient location in the city and its proximity to the centre or good public transport connections.

European hotels tend to be cosy compared to what you might be accustomed to in other regions, and while some amenities like tea kettles may not be standard, hotels provide comfortable beds and essential toiletries. The focus is on a restful night's sleep after a day of adventure! If you require specific amenities, it may be best to plan ahead or to speak to hotel staff directly to see how they can assist you.

Packing Essentials

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

What you need to pack for your tour will vary according to the trip style you have chosen, the countries you are visiting and when you are travelling. We recommend you pack as lightly as possible, ensuring that you can carry and lift your luggage, and walk with it for short distances or up or down a flight of stairs.

A lockable suitcase with wheels is ideal for this trip. Many tours will include internal flights which often have luggage weight restrictions, and it is recommended that you keep your main luggage weight around 15kg and no more than 20kg. A small or medium-sized backpack (45-50 litres) is another good option. You'll also need a day pack/bag to carry water, a camera, a jacket, and your essentials while touring during the day.

Clothing: Pack a mix of lightweight and warm layers. Long sleeves and pants are beneficial for mosquito protection. Choose clothes that are easy to wash and dry.

Footwear: Closed-in shoes are recommended to protect your feet from injuries and potential bites or stings, whether you're walking in urban areas or through nature.

Sun Protection: Bring a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses to shield yourself from the sun.

Warm Gear: Desert can get cold at night. A light, warm waterproof jacket is advisable.

Medical Kit: It's good to carry personal items like mild painkillers, electrolytes, Band-Aids, and insect repellent. Ensure you are travelling with any prescription medication that you may need.

Comfort Items: Earplugs can help with noisy environments, a good book or journal for downtime, and a music player for entertainment.

Please take note of the following important instructions regarding luggage for this tour:

Luggage Limit: Due to limited space in the bus luggage compartments, it is crucial that each person limits their luggage to one piece weighing a maximum of 20kg. Additionally, you are allowed a carry-on pack that should easily fit under the seat or in small overhead compartments.

By following these guidelines and packing light, you will ensure a smooth and hassle-free travel experience during the tour.

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Climate

Travelling through Spain and Portugal offers a varied climate experience throughout the year. In Spain and Portugal, summer (June to August) brings hot and dry weather, especially along the Mediterranean coastlines of Barcelona and Lisbon, with temperatures often reaching into the 40s°C (mid-100s°F). Winters (December to February) are milder and wetter, particularly in northern regions and higher elevations like Madrid and the Alentejo in Portugal.

Currency and ATMs

In Spain and Portugal, the currency used is the Euro. ATMs are widely available in cities, towns, and tourist areas, accepting major international credit and debit cards. Many establishments in urban areas also accept card payments, but it's useful to carry some cash, especially for smaller purchases and in rural areas where card acceptance may be limited.

Food and Allergies

Travelling Spain and Portugal presents a rich tapestry of culinary experiences for travellers. Spain delights with paella, a saffron-infused rice dish, tapas like jamón ibérico and gazpacho. Portugal offers bacalhau (salted cod), pastéis de nata (custard tarts), and caldo verde (kale soup).

While travelling with Inspiring Vacations you'll enjoy iconic sightseeing, as well as experience the vast array of local cuisines. While many meals will be eaten together with your group, not all meals are included in your tour which gives you maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. If you have dietary requirements and/or food allergies, please let our Customer Support Team know before departure. Your Inspiring Vacations tour leader or local guide will also be able to give suggestions on which restaurants to try during your trip. For those with a particular food allergy, your Inspiring Vacations Tour Leader will endeavour to advise the main ingredients in the dishes consumed. It is, however, still your responsibility to ensure that you do not ingest any problematic ingredients.

Local Customs

In Spain and Portugal, greetings often involve a handshake or two kisses on the cheek, starting with the left. Meal times are notably different, with lunch typically enjoyed between 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM, and dinner served late, often beginning around 9 PM or later. Embrace Spain's tapas culture, where small plates are enjoyed with drinks, fostering a social and culinary experience. In some regions, especially smaller towns, you may encounter a midday break known as siesta when shops and businesses may temporarily close. Show respect for Spain's rich history when visiting cultural sites and churches, as these locations hold significant meaning for locals.

Understanding and respecting these local customs will enrich your travel experience in Spain, fostering positive interactions with locals and deeper cultural appreciation.

Dress Code

In Spain and Portugal, casual attire is generally acceptable in most urban settings, with smart-casual attire recommended for finer dining or formal occasions.

Responsible Dining

Avoid consuming endangered species or items harvested unsustainably. Be respectful of local customs and food practices, and always tip fairly to support local workers. Responsible dining helps protect the environment and promotes the well-being of local communities.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. While tipping is not customary, it's of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service, and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many destinations.

In Europe, we suggest EUR2 for hotel staff, EUR3-4 for local guides and EUR2-3 for the driver (suggestions are per person per day). If you are happy with the service provided by your Tour Leader we recommend tipping EUR2-4 per person per day.

Peak Travel Times

Peak travel times in Spain and Portugal are during the summer months of June to August when the weather is warm and sunny, ideal for beaches and festivals. Spring (April to June) and fall (September to October) are also popular due to milder temperatures and fewer crowds, perfect for sightseeing and cultural experiences.

Safety and Security

Most national governments provide regularly updated foreign travel advice on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your own government's advice for the most up-to-date travel information before departure and ensure that your travel insurance covers you for all destinations and activities on your trip.

Your Inspiring Vacations Tour Leader or local representative will accompany you on all included activities listed on the itinerary, however, you'll have some free time to explore on your own. While your Inspiring Vacations tour leader or local guide will assist you as best they can with your requests and the options available outside your itinerary, please note Inspiring Vacations makes no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running the activity. Please use your judgement when selecting an activity in your free time.

Please also note that your Inspiring Vacations tour leader or local guide has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the itinerary if it's deemed necessary due to safety concerns.

Apps to Download

Some useful apps you may want to consider downloading before your tour include Google Translate, the lens function is especially useful when wanting to read product labels, signs, and menus. Google Maps with offline maps downloaded is great for easy navigation without being reliant on wifi.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Itinerary Changes

Sometimes, unexpected things can happen, like unpredictable weather or higher-than-usual crowds at attractions. In these situations, your tour leader might need to adjust the itinerary slightly to improve your overall experience.

This flexibility ensures you get the most out of your trip! Your tour leader will always keep you informed of any changes and explain the reasoning behind them. Remember, when travelling with a group, sometimes going with the flow can lead to even more amazing experiences.

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Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended on all our trips. We require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency repatriation. It is also important to consider forced pre-trip cancellations and how your chosen insurance policy may cover such circumstances, so please keep this in mind when choosing your provider.

We strongly recommend all travellers have a policy that also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage or personal effects. For international trips, you will be asked by your tour leader for your travel insurance details if they were not already added to your Traveller Hub account pre-departure.

If you have credit card insurance your Inspiring Vacations tour leader or local guide may require details of the participating insurer/underwriter, the level of coverage, policy number, and emergency contact number rather than the bank's name and your credit card details. Please contact your bank for these details before arriving in-country.

Before you depart, you will be asked to submit your Travel Insurance details through the booking holder's Traveller Hub account through the Inspiring Vacations website. This is to ensure that we have this information readily available should we ever need it.

Health, Wellness & Fitness Requirements

All travellers need to be in good physical health to participate fully on this trip. For the safety and wellbeing of yourself and others, if you are unwell before travelling, please stay at home and contact us to make alternative arrangements.

When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully to assess your ability to manage and enjoy our style of travel. If we find that you are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to yourself and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to exclude them from all or part of a trip without refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information or any necessary vaccinations before departure. We recommend that you carry a first aid kit as well as any personal medical requirements in their original packaging as they may not easily be obtained while travelling. If you are carrying medication, ensure you check your government's foreign travel advice for any local restrictions or requirements. For the safety and wellbeing of yourself and others, if you are unwell before travelling, please stay at home and contact us to make alternative arrangements and we would be more than happy to assist you.

Important Information for Customers with Mobility Limitations

We want to ensure everyone has a fantastic and inclusive experience on our tours. If you require the use of a mobility aid, such as a cane, walker, or wheelchair, please disclose this information **at the time of booking.**

To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for the entire group, our tours are designed with a specific itinerary in mind. This may involve moderate walking, uneven terrain, or stairs. While some itinerary adjustments may not be possible, we'll do our best to find alternative solutions within the planned activities whenever possible.

Open communication helps us ensure your trip is a perfect fit and it allows your local guide or tour leader to assist you where possible.

Information for CPAP Users

If you use a CPAP machine, please let us know at the time of booking. Some portions of our itinerary, like overnight cruises or camping trips, may have limited access to power outlets. In such cases, we recommend travelling with portable battery packs.

Certain activities, like overnight journeys on board smaller vessels, may not be suitable for CPAP use due to space limitations or noise concerns. We can discuss these potential limitations upfront and help you make informed decisions about your trip.

Documentation

Tour documentation is typically emailed to the lead passenger or your travel agent between 14-30 days before your scheduled departure. This will include your final hotel list.

Official Travel Advice

To ensure a smooth and enjoyable journey, we recommend referring to the official travel advisory website of your home country for the latest updates on your chosen destination. These websites provide valuable information on:

- **Safety and Security:** Current risks and precautions for the country you'll be visiting.
- **Visa Requirements:** Ensure you have all the necessary documentation for entry.
- **Entry and Exit:** Up-to-date border regulations and health requirements.

Here are some helpful links to get you started:

- **Australia**: https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations
- **New Zealand**: https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/
- **America**: https://travel.state.gov/
- **Canada**: https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories
- **India**: https://www.mea.gov.in/travel-advisories.htm

In the unlikely event of a situation that could potentially disrupt your tour, we want to assure you of the following:

- **Local Expertise:** We maintain regular communication with our trusted travel partners in your destination.
- **Constant Monitoring:** We continuously monitor official travel advisories from relevant government websites.
- **Flexibility and Safety:** Should it become necessary, we will make appropriate adjustments to your itinerary to prioritise your health and safety.

By staying informed and working together, we can ensure a fantastic travel experience for you. We will post our own travel updates to our website here.

Connect with fellow travellers on Facebook

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During your booking journey, you might have received an email inviting you to join a special Facebook group dedicated to your chosen destination. These vibrant online communities are exclusively for Inspiring Vacations travellers headed to the same incredible place. Joining this group unlocks a wealth of information and connections. Swap travel tips, share packing insights, or even see if anyone's interested in travelling together.

We also regularly host insightful webinars featuring travel experts who share their tips and tricks for navigating your destination and maximising your itinerary. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to connect, learn, and get even more excited about your upcoming trip!

Travelling in a Group

Travelling in a group means you will experience both the pleasures and perhaps at times, some of the frustrations of travelling with people you don't know. The good news is you all have at least one thing in common: a love of travel and exploration. Your fellow travellers will probably come from different parts of the world, and fall into different age groups. We ask you to be understanding of the various needs and preferences of your group—patience with your fellow travellers is sometimes required for the overall benefit of the group. If you are requested to be at a place at a certain time, please ensure that you respect this request from your tour leader or local guide. Due to privacy reasons, we are unable to provide you with contact details and any personal information about your fellow travellers booked on your trip before departure.

Community Guidelines

Inspiring Vacations does not tolerate any kind of violence, harassment (whether physical, verbal or sexual), or disrespect toward fellow travellers, our teams (Inspiring Vacations Tour Leaders and local expert guides) or local communities.

Any behaviour that prevents your Inspiring Vacations Tour Leader from continuing the itinerary as planned, breaks local laws or opposes any of these guidelines, may result in Inspiring Vacations removing you from the tour.

If something concerns you during your travels, please speak to your Inspiring Vacations Tour Leader immediately. Alternatively, when you are on-tour and require immediate support you can contact our Customer Support team and select the "On-Tour" option when listening to the options.

Inspiring Vacations Tour Leader vs Guide

While both tour leaders and local guides enrich your travel experience, their roles differ. Tour leaders, who often accompany you for the entire trip, handle logistics, ensure smooth sailing of the itinerary, and act as your point of contact for any concerns. They might provide general information about destinations, but in-depth historical or cultural knowledge often comes from local guides. Local guides, frequently native to the area, lead tours at specific sites or attractions, offering a deeper understanding of the local history, art, or way of life.

Coach Transportation

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The size of your coach will comfortably accommodate your group. There's usually room for some extra seats, ensuring a relaxing journey. Your luggage will be safely stored either underneath the coach or in a dedicated trailer.

While the exact coach style may vary depending on the departure, all our coaches offer comfortable seating. Keep in mind that Wi-Fi and charging outlets might not always be available. To stay connected and avoid dead batteries, we recommend fully charging your devices beforehand or bringing a portable charger.

For longer journeys, we'll make sure to include ample restroom breaks along the way, so you can freshen up and recharge at your convenience, as facilities are not on-board the coach.

Staying Connected

If you want to stay connected and access reliable internet while on tour, there are a few options available. It is possible to purchase a virtual sim and we recommend contacting your mobile phone provider for assistance in doing so. You can add a roaming data plan to your existing phone contract is another option, albeit an expensive one. You will need to arrange this before departure. Purchasing a local SIM may be possible as a final option.

We also recommend downloading WhatsApp and using this to communicate with other group members while on tour, and of course, after the tour if you'd like to stay in touch. Our tour leaders may also use this as a means of communicating essential trip information with you, as well as if you choose to add-on transfers to your booking, as your driver may use this to confirm arrangements with you.

Post-Tour Feedback

Once your booking is confirmed, you will receive a link to a post-purchase survey, which is your opportunity to share your feedback with us on your booking experience and interactions with our Sales and Customer Success teams. This feedback is invaluable to ensure that we are servicing our customers to the best of our ability.

Furthermore, towards the end of your travels and while you are in your destination, you will receive an email from us with a link to an in-depth trip survey. It is very important to us that we hear from our customers to ensure that we continue to meet and exceed customers' expectations, so this will be your opportunity to let us know how your trip has been, what has worked well and potentially what could be improved.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

This is a **land only** package.

This package does not include international airfares. If you would like to add airfares to your booking our flight portal will be available via your Traveller Hub. The flight portal will allow you to search for all available airfares to your destination. The function works like most general flight search engines allowing you to select your preferred airline, book different cabin classes (eg. Business class) and view flight durations and transit times to your destination.

The flight portal will be available via your Traveller Hub once the following criteria has been met:

- Your booking is confirmed
- Your departure date is within 11 months
- You have completed your passenger detail form

Visit our Flight Hub for more information on terms and conditions, amending your flights and information on luggage allowances.

Home & Afar Travel
p: 4962 1116

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