



2019/20

SPAIN

SMALL ADVENTURE TOURS



hemisphere
TRAVEL

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WELCOME

Hemisphere Travel small group travel experience

There's no need to rough it to have a Hemisphere Travel experience. Hemisphere Travel Small Group Adventure Tours are your style of travel if you want the whole grassroots experience, with a small group, staying in superior style hotels and guesthouses. On many trips you'll travel on private transport.

The Hemisphere Travel experiences are those moments you know you're really alive and experiencing

something special. While it could be the instant you see one of the world's great icons for the first time, it is more likely to be the moment you find yourself practicing tai chi in a village square, being treated to a home cooked meal by your new local friends or sharing a laugh with your fellow travellers as you try out a new mode of transport ... an elephant jungle safari anyone? These unexpected moments are what travelling is all about, and give you a holiday like no other.

Small groups, your style of travel

We think the smaller the group, the better the experience. That's why we limit the numbers on our Adventures tours to just 10 people. In fact most of our journeys average just 8 travellers. Travelling in such a small group is a bit like travelling with a group of friends – you just haven't met them yet. It also means you get to experience more of the local culture, something that's not always possible in a larger group or by yourself.



OH SPAIN...

Oh Spain... how you dazzle us with architectural feats and artistic treats, enrich us with historic treasures and nourish us with sangria and tapas! From charismatic cities full of boisterous bars and hip galleries, to sleepy villages dotted with run-down farmhouses and olive groves, Spain never fails to open up travellers' eyes, minds and hearts.

Located in south-west Europe, Spain shares borders with France, Andorra,

Portugal, Morocco and Gibraltar, as well as the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. Occupying most of the Iberian Peninsula, Spain's topography is mainly a blend of mountains and low-lying plains. Spain's coastline and islands are world-renowned, and draw in millions of tourists who come to bask at the beaches during the day and party all night long. Tenerife, Ibiza, Mallorca and Menorca are among the most popular with tourists chasing sunshine and good times.

Spain's major cities (Madrid and Barcelona) are busy, urban centres, yet have managed to retain their historic charm while encouraging contemporary development. In comparison, Spain's vast countryside offers picturesque landscapes dotted with rustic villas, traditional stone cottages, olive groves, farms and rivers. Life is slower here – perfect for hiking, indulging in fresh produce and enjoying the sense of peace that often can't be found in big cities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPAIN

Price: 2,540
Start: Madrid, Spain
Duration: 6 Days
Finish: Barcelona, Spain
Ages: Min 15
Group size: Min 1, Max 16



Feel the pulse of spirited Spain on this tour from the country's capital to the bustling coastal city of Barcelona. Enjoy Madrid's inspiring Art Walk, galleries and museums. This is a journey of old and new: history, tradition and architecture fused with Spain's best shopping, restaurants and nightlife.

Day 1 Madrid

Travel from magnificent Madrid to the coastal beauty of Barcelona

Feel the pulse of spirited Spain on this tour from the country's capital to the bustling coastal city of Barcelona. Enjoy all things arty – from Madrid's inspiring Art Walk to Barcelona's internationally renowned galleries and museums. Be captivated by Cuenca's Old City, mosey round the markets of Valencia and get lost in the convoluted streets of Barcelona's gothic quarter. This is a journey of old and new: history, tradition and architecture fused with Spain's best shopping, restaurants and nightlife.

Day 2 Madrid

Today is free to discover Madrid. The city is renowned for its rich repositories of



European art. This stylish, cosmopolitan city is also well known for world-class restaurants, shopping and nightlife, so take some time to uncover these wonders. Take a break in the Real Jardin Botanico, a garden wonderland dating from the 18th century. At night, head out to Chueca, Plaza Dos de Mayo or Plaza Santa Ana, where the pulse of the city will lead you from bar to bar on a night out you are sure to remember.

Day 3 Cuenca

Today travel by bus to charming Cuenca (approx. 2.5 hrs). The town is located literally on the edge of deep gorges created by two rivers: Jucar and Huecar. On arrival, venture out on an orientation walk around this historic World Heritage fortress city. Afterwards, use your free time getting to know the city. There is wonderful art all over the town, with a number of abstract artists making Cuenca their home in the 1960s. Enjoy a dinner in this picturesque town, with the old city beautifully brushed with light from a series of high-powered lamps suspended half-way up the rock.

Day 4 Valencia

Head east to the coastal town of Valencia (approx. 4 hrs). Known for being the Spanish gateway to the Mediterranean, with a big port, beautiful beaches, restaurants and a beach promenade along the waterfront. The old town is set back from the seafront. In the centre you will find the beautiful monuments and historical buildings. Over the next couple of days, wander around the city and see the sights. Explore the colourful stalls of the Mercado Central, and this evening perhaps head out to bar-hop and eat tapas in the Ciutat Vella (old town).

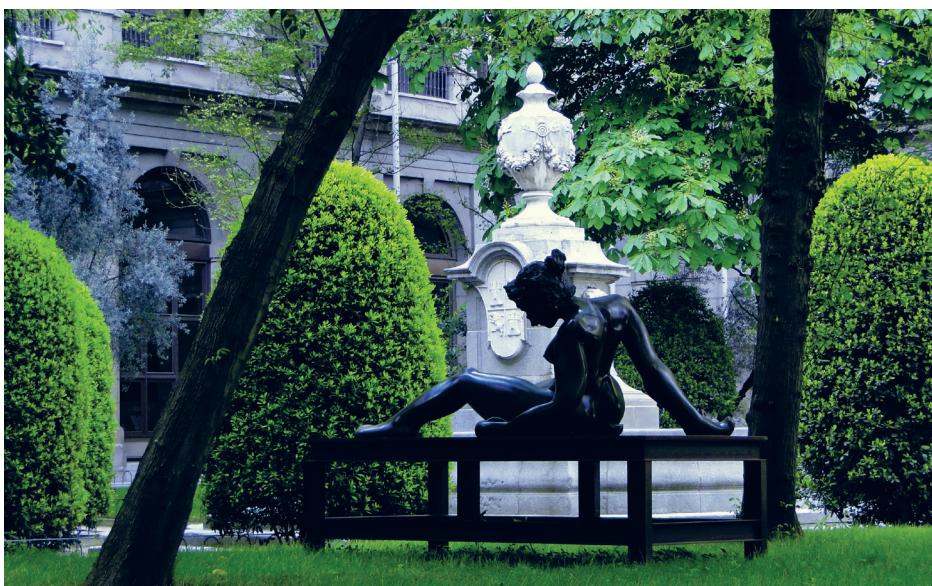
Day 5 Barcelona

Take the train up the coast to Barcelona (approx. 4 hrs). Barcelona's quirky character and fabulous Catalan cuisine mixes seamlessly with a groundbreaking art scene, Gothic architecture, superb dining and a non-stop nightlife. Take the funicular to the top of Montjuic or Tibidabo for panoramic views of Barcelona and the harbour.

The heart of Catalonia prides itself as a gastronomic centre and so this evening head out to taste the reputation for yourself. Take a tapas crawl through rustic Catalan dishes in the funky neighbourhood of El Born.

Day 6 Barcelona

Your 'Highlights of Spain' adventure ends today. There are no more activities planned and you're free to leave the accommodation at any time. If you'd like to spend a few more days in Barcelona, then our reservations team can help book accommodation (subject to availability).



NORTH SPAIN DISCOVERY

Price: 2,340
Duration: 6 Days
Start: Barcelona, Spain
Finish: Madrid, Spain
Ages: Min 15
Group size: Min 1, Max 12



Get a taste of northern Spain's culture, cuisine and charisma

Come on a short but sweet tour through the north of Spain and get to know the people, landscapes, customs and cuisine that combine to make this part of the country so fascinating. From sipping delicious Rioja in Logrono and delighting in the seaside charms of bustling Barcelona to enjoying the lively tapas bars of San Sebastian and pulling up a seat in an atmospheric square in Madrid - this will be one eight-day adventure you won't forget.

Day 1 Barcelona

Hola. Barcelona's quirky character and fabulous Catalan cuisine mixes seamlessly with a ground-breaking art scene, Gothic architecture, superb dining and a non-stop nightlife. Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 7pm. See great works of art in the Picasso Museum, head to the waterfront for a bowl of traditional paella, soak up the festive vibe of Las Ramblas, or catch the funicular to Montjuic for sweeping views of the city.



Day 2 Pamplona

Travel by train to Pamplona, the heartland of the Basque country. Take an orientation walk and get acquainted with this well-preserved fortified medieval town. Pamplona, named after its founder, Pompey the Great, has served for centuries as both a military stronghold and an important point on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail. It's also world famous as the home of the annual San Fermin, a weeklong festival that features the running of the bulls. Experience the quality of pintxos (Basque tapas) it is incredible.

Day 3 Logrono

After breakfast take the bus to the prized vineyards of La Rioja wine region and Logrono. The town sits on the banks of the Ebro River and is the capital of Spain's most renowned wine region. The city is rich in history and traditions, preserved since the Middle Ages. It also boasts one of the most distinguished culinary traditions in the country, home to some of the best tapas bars in the whole of Spain, all crammed into its small medieval centre.

Day 4 Logrono

Logrono has a central importance to the wine industry in Spain. Today you'll head out on an included winery tour to enjoy a day of grazing on delicious local produce – all grown or made within a few kilometres of town – sampling wine and basking in the sunshine.

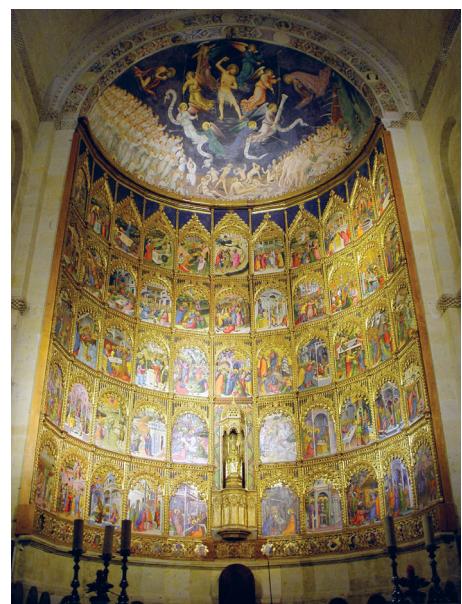
Day 5 San Sebastian

Bus to stunning seaside San Sebastian, jewel of the Basque country and a city obsessed with food. With its family friendly beaches and vibrant old city,

San Sebastian is a fantastic place to stroll along the promenade, shop, consume pintxos, or just to soak up the sun. This is the home of some of the world's best restaurants, most experimental chefs and a distinct food culture all its own.

Day 6 Madrid

Bus to Madrid, a city overflowing with world-class art galleries, atmospheric city squares, and heaving nightclubs and bars. The sassy central capital is known for its elegant boulevards and expansive, manicured parks, but it also pulsates with energy, and is without doubt a vibrant city. The Paseo del Arte (Art Walk) gives a great panoramic perspective of western art history. Your 'North Spain Discovery' adventure ends the following morning. Checkout out of your hotel or plan your own adventure to continue exploring Madrid.



BEST OF SPAIN

Price: \$3,785
Duration: 14 days
Start: Madrid, Spain
Finish: Barcelona, Spain
Ages: Min 15
Group size: Min 1, Max 12



A jam-packed tour capturing some the Spain's true highlights

Kick off this colourful Best of Spain tour in Madrid and let your imagination unfold on a journey through the beautiful Andalucian region. Visit the cities that reflect Spain's diverse history and culture. Experience a fiery flamenco performance in Seville and explore the mysterious maze of alleyways of the old Arab quarter in Albayzin. Follow your tastebuds to a tapas bar and wander among Gaudi's handiwork in Barcelona.

Day 1 Madrid

Welcome to Madrid, Spain. The sassy central capital is known for its elegant boulevards and expansive, manicured parks, but it also pulsates with energy, and is without doubt a vibrant city. We recommend arriving a few days early to explore. Perhaps while away the hours along the Paseo del Arte, or Art Walk, for an expansive history of Western art. Start with the Museo del Prado, then discover

modern Spanish masters, including Picasso and Dali, in the Museo Reina Sofia.

Day 2 Granada

Take a bus to Granada today (approx. 4.5 hours). Located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Granada is packed with Moorish architecture, great tapas bars and natural beauty. Take a walk around the old Arab quarter of the Albaicin, a labyrinth of crooked alleys, fountains, plazas and whitewashed houses, or the 'Alcaiceria' (old silk market area) and observe the craftworks on sale that include ceramics, marquetry and leather goods. For the best view of Granada at sunset try the Mirador de San Nicolas at the very top of the city's steep streets.

Day 3 Granada

Make a visit to Granada's impressive Alhambra Palace. The Alhambra was first built by the Moors as a fortress during the Muslim rule of Spain. A walk through the compound's luxurious rooms and gardens gives you an idea of the decadent lifestyle of the Moorish kings. This evening, unearth the restaurants in the tangled streets of the Albaicin and dine with the best views of the Alhambra.

Day 4 of Seville

Travel by bus and train to the vibrant city of Seville. If the legends are to be believed, Seville was founded by Hercules and its origins are linked with the Tartessian

civilisation. Barrio Santa Cruz, with its multicultural history, is a great place to start. This shaded warren was designed in medieval times to provide refuge from the great Andalusian heat. Spend your evening in San Jacinto, the bustling main street of the Triana quarter.

Day 5 Seville

Today is a free day to discover Seville. Check out the world's largest Gothic cathedral. Climb the cathedral's adjoining Moorish tower, known as La Giralda. Visit the magnificent Alcazar, a complex of palaces used by Moorish and Christian rulers through the ages, and now gaining international fame as a shooting location for 'Game of Thrones'. In the evening, catch a local flamenco performance with the group (included).

Day 6 the Costa de la Luz

Today travel south to the Costa de la Luz (Coast of Light) (approximately 3 hours). Your base for the next two nights is Tarifa, a laid-back beach town endowed with spectacular rocky scenery, a sea fortress, a lighthouse and plenty of character. The surfers lend the old town a laid-back, international vibe, along with hints of the North Africa that lies just across the water. In the evening, why not grab some dinner in town and join in Tarifa's vibrant nightlife.

Day 7 the Costa de la Luz

Plenty of optional activities to choose





from today. Perhaps head out on a whale and dolphin watching expedition on the Iberian Peninsula. At this unique place, where the Mediterranean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean and where Europe meets Africa, you will get the chance to see seven different species of whales and dolphins. Take in the charms of the city on the recently reconstructed beach promenade.

Day 8 Ronda

Leave the coast and head inland by bus and train to the town of Ronda in the Andalucian hills. Arrive in Ronda by lunch time, enjoy an orientation walk with your leader, and the rest of the afternoon is then free. Ronda is the birthplace of bullfighting in Spain. The Plaza de Toros is one of the oldest bullfighting rings in the country. The highlight of the town is the spectacular Puente Nuevo (New Bridge). In the evening find a spot from which you could enjoy a scenic sunset.

Day 9 Cordoba

Continue to explore Ronda then in the afternoon, hop on a train headed to Cordoba. On arrival, take part in an orientation walk and then the evening is free to enjoy at your leisure. There are also plenty of good-value eateries in the Juderia (Jewish Quarter).

Day 10 Cordoba

Today the group will visit the famous Mezquita - once the third largest

mosque in the world and one of the most beautiful. It was consecrated into a Roman Catholic cathedral in the 13th century when the Christians reconquered Cordoba. Later on you are free to enjoy Cordoba as you wish. Salmorejo and flamenquín: a thick, creamy soup of tomato and garlic, served cold with chopped boiled egg, and a roll of ham and veal, bread crumbed, fried in olive oil and cut into pieces is something you will never regret trying in Cordoba.

Day 11 Valencia

Take a train and head east to the coastal town of Valencia (approx.. 5 hrs). Known for being the Spanish gateway to the Mediterranean, Valencia has a large port, beautiful beaches, restaurants and a beach promenade along the waterfront. The old town is set back from the seafront, in the centre you will find the beautiful monuments and historical buildings. Busy markets, clean beaches, spectacular mountains and a fascinating mix of old town and new town makes up the best of Valencia. This evening head out to bar-hop and eat tapas in the Ciutat Vella (old town).

Day 12 Valencia

Take the day to explore. Why not do as the locals do and start the day with a breakfast of tortillas or churros at the colourful stalls of the Mercado Central. Then, visit the 13th-century cathedral, which houses what's claimed to be the

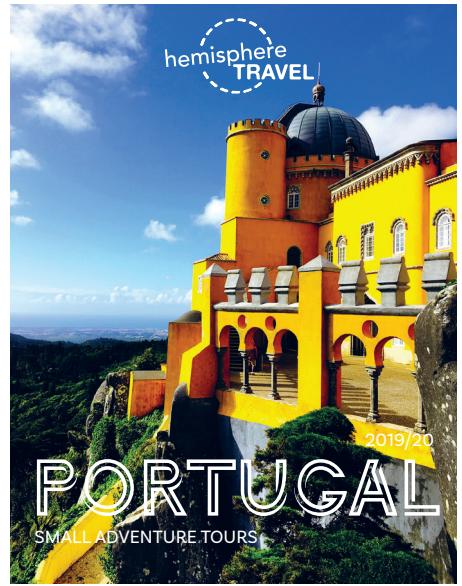
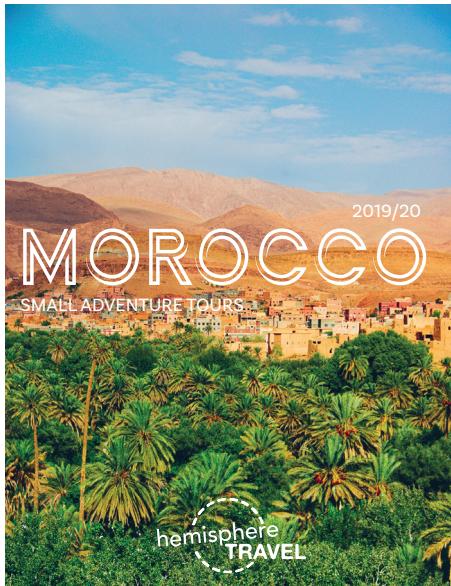
Holy Grail, and climb the 207 steps of the Miguelete tower for the best views of the city. To try the paella that Valencia is famous for (rabbit and chicken), do as the locals do and head to the restaurant area of Las Arenas for a hearty and reasonably priced lunch. Tonight, maybe head south to Ruzafa.

Day 13 Barcelona

Today take the train up the coast to Barcelona (approx 3.5 hrs). Barcelona's quirky character and fabulous Catalan cuisine mixes seamlessly with a groundbreaking art scene, Gothic architecture, superb dining and a non-stop nightlife, making it a city you won't soon forget. Wander the labyrinthine streets of the old Gothic Quarter and navigate your way through the throngs of tourists along La Rambla, Barcelona's famous tree-lined boulevard. Perhaps pay a visit to the Picasso Museum.

Day 14 Barcelona

Join your leader on an orientation walk around Barcelona today. See some of the city's main sights, including a visit to Antonio Gaudi's incredible La Sagrada Familia Cathedral. The architect worked on this hugely ambitious project for decades until his death, and it remains in constant construction. Gaudi was the master of the unique Catalan Modernista architecture for which Barcelona is famous, and his work is dotted all over the city.



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