

American Celebration of Music in Portugal & Spain

Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Lisbon, Portugal

Day 2

Lisbon

(D)

Arrive in Lisbon

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach

Enjoy a half-day guided tour of Lisbon including Eduardo VII Park, Castelo de Sao Jorge, the Sé (the main cathedral which was once a fortress), Belem Tower, and entrance to Jeronimos Monastery, including its Cloisters and its Igreja de Sta Maria de Belem

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Lisbon is one of Europe's most visually striking capitals, built on a series of hills with scenic vistas from every angle. The almost constant presence of sunshine and the River Tagus transforms the Portuguese capital into a mirror of a thousand colors - highlighting the city's unique architecture and beauty

Day 3

Lisbon

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

For choirs only: Participate/Sing in Mass at Jeronimos Monastery

Lunch, on own

Afternoon excursion along the scenic "Coast of the Sun." Explore little fishing villages and white sand beaches on one of Europe's most westerly outreaches. Pass through Estoril. Continue to Cascais which highlights "Boca do Inferno" and the magnificent panorama of the Bay of Cascais. Pass the famous Guincho beach, to Cabo da Roca (the most western point of Europe) Return to Lisbon

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Portugal

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Lisbon / Obidos / Sintra

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning excursion to Obidos for time to explore within the walled city. The gorgeous historic centre is a labyrinth of cobblestoned streets and whitewashed houses livened up with dashes of vivid yellow and blue paint

Lunch, on own

Continue to Sintra for a guided tour including entrance to the Royal Palace. Sintra is a haven of peace and quiet amid many trees. For six centuries it was the country's monarch's favorite place of residence. Sintra's "cultural landscape" was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1995

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Portugal



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Return to Lisbon for dinner and overnight

Day 5 **Lisbon / Algarve / Seville** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Seville via the Algarve Region, known for its beaches, nature reserves, picturesque villages, and the vibrant colors of the landscape. Pass through Albufeira. Albufeira's old town with its pretty cobbled streets lined with restaurants, cafes and shops is a great place to stroll. Albufeira's waterfront contains sugar candy colored apartments and lovely sandy beaches

Lunch, on own

Continue to Faro, full of "old world charm" especially in the old town.

Then it is off to Seville for dinner and overnight

Seville ranks as one of the world's great tourist centers. Don Juan romanced and Figaro barbered in Seville; today, gypsies still sing age-old ballads, flamenco dancers whirl to the melodies of the guitar and matadors tease rushing bulls

Day 6 **Seville** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A morning guided tour of Seville includes Maria Luisa Park, Plaza de España, entrance to the Giralda and the Cathedral. Drive past the Torre del Oro (Gold Tower)

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 7 **Seville / Toledo / Madrid** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Toledo. Toledo is one of the great jewels of Spain! It stands out dramatically against the often luminously blue Castilian sky, a golden city rising from a granite eminence, encircled by a steep ravine filled by the green waters of the Tagus

Lunch, on own

Enjoy a guided tour including a visit of the magnificent Cathedral (with the El Greco paintings and other valuable relics) and the Church of St. Tomé (El Greco's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*)

Continue to Madrid for dinner and overnight

Madrid is a very hospitable city, known for the quality of its light and climate. Madrid became the capital of Spain in the 16th century when Spain ruled a vast empire. Its attractions include three internationally famous art galleries, a royal palace, grand public squares and many museums filled with treasures of Spain's

Day 8 **Madrid** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A morning guided tour of Madrid includes seeing Plaza Mayor (site of executions, tournaments, bullfights and Inquisition trials), Buen Retiro Park, Royal Palace and entrance to the Prado Museum which hosts one of the finest art collections in the world

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 9 **Madrid / El Escorial** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day excursion to El Escorial, the magnificent palace and monastery built by Phillip II. Visit the Royal Apartments and the Basilica

For choirs only: noon recital at El Escorial

A few miles away, view the Valley of the Fallen

Lunch, on own

Return to Madrid for afternoon at leisure

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Madrid's airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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