CUCRA – UC Retirees Travel presents ...

Back Roads of Iberia: Spanish Paradores & Portuguese Pousadas Small Group Adventure
Portugal: Lisbon, Évora | Spain: Carmona, Ronda, Úbeda, Toledo

16 days from $4595
Includes international airfare from San Francisco

15 days from $3695
Without international airfare
Single Supplement: FREE

Maximize Your Discoveries & Value
Optional extensions:
Northern Portugal: Porto & the Douro Valley
5 nights pre-trip from $1695
Travel from only $339 per night

Northern Spain: Bilbao, San Sebastian & Medieval Villages
7 nights post-trip from $2495
Travel from only $357 per night

DEPARTURE DATES: March 4, 2022 (SOLD OUT)
March 7, 2022

It’s Included

- Explore in a small group of 8-16 travelers (average group size of 13)
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation
- Accommodations for 14 nights
- 28 meals—14 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 7 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner)
- 19 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next O.A.T. trip—an average of $293

Overseas Adventure Travel

PLEASE MENTION THIS CODE WHEN BOOKING G2-28708

Reservations & Information 1-800-955-1925 www.oattravel.com/wps2022
DAY 1 • Depart U.S.
You depart today on your overnight flight from the U.S. to Lisbon, Portugal.

DAY 2 • Arrive in Lisbon, Portugal
Arrive at the airport in Lisbon, where an O.A.T. representative will greet you. We'll also meet those who traveled on our optional Northern Portugal: Porto & the Douro Valley and New! Medieval Citadels & Chateaux: Carcassonne to Toulouse extensions.

Hotel Marquês de Pombal or similar

DAY 3 • Explore Lisbon • Controversial Topic: Racism and Portugal’s colonial past with Ana Martins
Today, we’ll gather at the hotel for a welcome briefing about our upcoming discoveries. We’ll then explore Lisbon, including the Tower of Belém and the Avenida da Liberdade. We’ll also discover Baixa, an area in the heart of Lisbon that was destroyed and completely rebuilt after the Great Earthquake of 1755. After, we’ll explore the Alfama district on foot, one of Lisbon’s oldest neighborhoods. Here, we’ll stop at a local café for a conversation with a local woman about a Controversial Topic: racism in Portugal.

After the end of Portugal’s colonial rule in 1975, ethnic minorities from the colonies immigrated en masse to the mainland. Their integration into society, however, has not been smooth, and racial inequality is commonplace, although many white Portuguese citizens refuse to acknowledge it. We’ll learn about this issue during our conversation with a local woman who is married to a man of African descent, to get a firsthand perspective of the discrimination they and their son face in modern Portugal. Tonight, we’ll walk to a local restaurant where we’ll enjoy a Welcome Dinner together.

B,L—Hotel Marquês de Pombal or similar

DAY 4 • Cascais • Sintra National Palace
Today, we’ll leave the city’s environs to visit Cascais and Sintra, where our discoveries include Sintra National Palace, a 15th-century medieval palace where the Portuguese royal family resided until 1910.

After lunch in a local restaurant, you have the time to explore Sintra on your own before returning to Lisbon.

B,L—Hotel Marquês de Pombal or similar

DAY 5 • Rural Portugal • Overland to Évora • Home-Hosted Dinner
Today, we’ll learn about azulejos, the ceramic tiles used to decorate church walls, palaces, and the façades of many Portuguese homes. We’ll also try our hand at painting some of these tiles. Then, we’ll visit a traditional artisanal cheese producer. After, we journey to Évora, where we’ll join a local family for a Home-Hosted Dinner.

B,L,D—Pousada de Évora or similar

DAY 6 • Explore Évora • Discussion with university students • Portuguese cooking lesson
Today, enjoy a walking tour of Évora, an ancient hilltop town with Roman roots, which we’ll see at the ruins of the Temple of Diana. This afternoon, we’ll gather for a Portuguese cooking lesson. Then, enjoy free time to explore independently.

B,L,D—Pousada de Évora or similar

DAY 7 • Roman ruins of Mérida • Overland to Carmona, Spain
Crossing into Spain today, we enter Extremadura, an autonomous Spanish province known as the homeland of famous conquistadores Pizarro and Cortés. We’ll stop in Mérida, home to some of Europe’s best-preserved Roman ruins and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including a 6,000-seat Roman theater and adjoining amphitheater.

Then, we continue on to Carmona, arriving in time for dinner.

B,D—Parador de Carmona

DAY 8 • Carmona • Optional Seville tour • Grand Circle Foundation visit: Convent of St. Clare
Explore Carmona on your own, or join an Optional Tour to Seville, the romantic Spanish city renowned for bullfighting, flamenco, and Don Juan. During the Optional Tour, we’ll discover Seville’s whitewashed homes, 2,000-year-old plazas, and cobbled neighborhoods like the Barrio de Santa Cruz. We’ll also explore the Seville Cathedral,
one of the world's largest churches. Later experience our NEW Grand Circle Foundation visit when we meet the nuns of the Convent of St. Clare to see the social support they offer to Carmona’s poor and homeless.

Please note: If Day 8 falls on a Sunday, we will visit the walled fortress of El Alcázar instead of the Seville Cathedral.

B,D—Parador de Carmona

DAY 9 • Explore Ronda • Controversial Topic: The future of bullfighting in Spain

Today, we’ll journey from Carmona to Ronda, admiring views of the region’s “white villages” along the way. Andalusia’s Pueblos Blancos are a series of whitewashed hill towns and quaint villages. Along the way to Ronda, we’ll visit La Cobatilla, a bull ranch owned by the prestigious Murube family. We’ll tour the grounds with its owner, Jose, and enjoy lunch on the property. Then, we’ll join Jose for a conversation about a Controversial Topic: the waning popularity of bullfighting in Spain. Bullfighting is a cherished tradition, but much of the country’s younger generation view it as an act of animal cruelty. After our conversation, we’ll continue to Ronda, arriving in the afternoon. The rest of your day is free.

B,L—Parador de Ronda

DAY 10 • Explore Ronda Old Town • Controversial Topic: Royal corruption and the fate of the monarchy with Armando & Jaime

Today, our walking tour will focus on Ronda’s walled Old Town, where we’ll wander through the labyrinth of medieval streets, flanked by Moorish homes with wrought-iron balconies. We’ll also enjoy views of the canyon from atop the Puente Nuevo Bridge. Later, we’ll discuss a Controversial Topic: the uncertain fate of the Spanish monarchy. Following the end of the fascist Franco regime, the monarchy was restored, and king Juan Carlos I took the throne. However, he proved to be an unpopular king, and became embroiled in bribery and corruption scandals that resulted in him abdicating the throne in 2014. As a result, popular opinion today is split on whether the monarchy has any role in modern-day Spanish politics, which we’ll learn about during a conversation with two locals—Armando Gil Ecay, who believes it should be abolished, and Jaime Coronel, who thinks it is only in need of reform.

B,L—Parador de Ronda

DAY 11 • Explore Córdoba • Journey to Úbeda

After breakfast, we’ll journey to Úbeda. En route, we’ll visit Córdoba, which reached its peak as an Islamic capital in the tenth century, rising to become western Europe’s largest city. Today, Córdoba is known for the Mezquita, its eighth-century mosque and one of the world’s greatest Islamic buildings, which we will get to explore. Then we continue on to Úbeda. Upon arrival, we’ll enjoy dinner at our parador.

B,D—Parador de Úbeda or similar

DAY 12 • A Day in the Life of a family-run olive oil mill

Today, we’ll leave the city’s environs to visit a family-owned olive oil mill and learn about their way of life during our A Day in the Life experience. We’ll begin by joining a local family for coffee and a conversation on the importance of olives in the local economy. Afterwards, we’ll meet with the owners of the olive oil mill and get a tour of the olive fields. We’ll learn about olive-oil production during a visit to the family’s mill, where we’ll sample some of the extra virgin olive oil. Then, we’ll sit down and enjoy a traditional meal together with the family. We’ll return to our hotel and you have the afternoon free to explore Úbeda.

B,L—Parador de Úbeda or similar

DAY 13 • Overland to Toledo • Explore Toledo

Today, we depart Úbeda for Toledo, stopping en route to Casa Pepe and Puerto Lapice. Lunch is on your own after our hotel check-in, followed by a guided tour of Toledo. Dinner is on your own in Toledo.

B—Sercotel Alfonso VI or similar

DAY 14 • Toledo • Explore Madrid • Flamenco demonstration

We’ll embark on a day-long excursion to Madrid today, including a visit to the renowned Prado Museum for a glimpse into Spain’s varied artistic history. After an included lunch and flamenco demonstration, your afternoon is on your own in Toledo.

B,L—Sercotel Alfonso VI or similar

DAY 15 • Explore Toledo or Madrid

Enjoy a free day to explore on your own, either in Toledo or in adjacent Madrid, where you can discover why the Spanish say, “De Madrid al cielo” (Madrid is the next best thing to heaven), in one of the city’s museums or lovely parks. This evening, we’ll gather for a Farewell Dinner and toast to our discoveries on this adventure.

B,D—Sercotel Alfonso VI or similar

DAY 16 • Return to U.S.

After breakfast, we depart for the airport for our return flights home, or continue your Spain travel and fly to Bilbao to begin our post-trip extension to Northern Spain: Bilbao, San Sebastian & Medieval Villages or New! The Volcanic Canary Islands: Tenerife & Gran Canaria.
Uncover the legacy of Spain and Portugal’s ancient past ...

**Évora, Portugal**
A small medieval town of varied historical influences, Évora is brimming with charm: tangles of cobblestone streets, the Roman Temple of Diana, Gothic cathedrals, grand palaces, and a surrounding countryside peppered with vineyards and olive groves. This walled town enjoys an auspicious location on a hill overlooking the Alentejo plains, offering views that once delighted Portuguese kings and even Vasco da Gama. Évora also features the mysterious and macabre Chapel of Bones, which features 5,000 skeletons affixed to the walls and ceiling.

**Ronda, Spain**
Travelers to Ronda are understandably impressed by the remnants of Roman and Moorish influence here, yet the town’s unique setting is its true claim to fame. Perched precariously over a nearly 300-foot ravine known as El Tajo (“The Pit”), Ronda’s location ensured it was one of the last towns in Spain to fall to the Christians during the Reconquista.

Today, visitors come to admire the 13th-century Arab Baths and the bullring where modern bullfighting was established.

**Úbeda, Spain**
At the confluence of the Guadalquivir and Guadalimar rivers sits Úbeda, a former Arab fortress city sometimes referred to as the “Florence of Andalusia.” The architecture here is renowned, including the charming houses clustered among the cobbled lanes near Casco Antiguo (Old Town) as well as grand Renaissance edifices like the Palacio del Condestable Dávalos. The town is a hotbed of smaller-scale art forms as well, including some of the finest pottery to be found in Spain.

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**2022 Departure Dates & Prices**

Additional departure cities are available

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<th>March 4, 2022</th>
<th>March 7, 2022</th>
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<td>Small Group Adventure only</td>
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**AIR ADD-ONS**

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Additional departure cities are available. Call for details.

**Deposit:** $350 per person.

**Single Supplement:** FREE. Single accommodations are limited. If single rooms are full, ask about our Roommate Matching Service.

**Here's how you'll save with our exclusive Good Buy Plan:** based on a trip price of $6500 per person

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<th>Months That You Pay in Full Prior to Your Final Payment Due Date (90 days prior to your departure date)</th>
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OVERSEAS ADVENTURE TRAVEL®

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GOVERNMENT TAXES AND FEES The following government taxes and fees are now included in your airfare price. Government and other authority taxes and fees: September 11th Security Fee of up to $2.50 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (maximum charge per trip—$5.00 USD one-way, $10.00 USD round trip). A flight segment is defined as one takeoff and one landing. Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) of up to $18 per passenger. Federal Domestic Flight Segment Fee of up to $3.70 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (defined as a takeoff and a landing). U.S. or International Departure and Arrival Charges of up to $200 USD may apply depending on itinerary. On select itineraries that include the purchase of a pre- and/or post-trip extension, U.S. or international departure and arrival charges of up to $300 USD may apply. Call for details. Standard Terms & Conditions can be found on the web at [www.gct.com/tc](http://www.gct.com/tc).

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