

SPANISH FIESTA ***08 Nights / 09 Days***

Highlights:

- **Madrid** – City tour – Plaza Mayor, Royal Palace, Casa de Correos, Puerta del sol
- **Valencia** – City tour – Serranos tower, Quart tower, the Cathedral, Lonja de la Seda, Institute of Modern art.
- **Barcelona** – City tour Las Ramblas, Opera house, Columbus Monument, Barri Gotic, Picasso Museum, La Sagrada Familia, La Pedrera and Montserrat

Day 01 Arrive Madrid

Arrive at Madrid International Airport. Our local representative will be waiting at the airport to welcome you and transfer you to the hotel. As the capital of Spain, Madrid has a modern infrastructure as well as historic neighbourhood. Rest of the day at leisure on own. Visit one of the many shopping areas around the streets of Almirante and Conde de Xiquena. Also visit the large departmental stores in the vicinity of Puerta del Sol and Salamanca district which has prestigious shops selling fashions, accessories, jewellery and furniture. Head for some exciting nightlife at one of the many streets of Paseo de la Castellana or Paseo del Prado which has some of the best quality restaurants, cafes and popular night spots. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 02 Madrid – City Tour

After breakfast proceed for a city tour of Madrid. Start the tour at the “Plaza Mayor” (Main Square) which was built in the 16th century. Beneath the arcades you can find an assortment of shops that sell fabrics, costume jewellery and souvenirs and outdoor cafes and bakeries. Then visit the “Borbons Dynasty” area and visit the 18th century Royal Palace. The palace is no longer used as a residence but is used as a tourist attraction. Most of the important rooms can be visited and the palace is very interesting with its architecture and gardens. There are some excellent frescoes inside the palace. After that visit Puerta del sol (Sun gateway) which was once a 15th century defensive bulwark, part of a wall which enclosed the town of Madrid. The former “Casa de Correos” (Post Office) was built in 1768 under the direction of French architect Marquet. It is crowned with a tower with clocks on four sides and is the most famous time piece in Madrid. There are many other outstanding spots, churches and convents full of art. Rest of the day at leisure to explore and shop at Puerta de Sol. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 03 Madrid – Toledo – Madrid

After breakfast day at leisure to visit the following on your own – The church of San Francisco El Grande, the fountains of Paseo del Prado, the Toledo Bridge, the Prado Museum, and Puerta de Alcalá. Continue to the façade of Villa square, Puerta del Sol, Neptuno, Atocha, Alcala Gate and Street, the memorial Retiro Park, the Bullring, and Colón square. Followed by the new Madrid with modern building, gardens, large avenues reaching the Santiago Bernabéu Football Stadium (Bernabeu Stadium tour will be available) one of the largest in Europe and Castilla Square (Europe Gate), La Cibeles square and Gran Via. Or take an optional tour of “Toledo” – the capital of medieval Spain until 1560. Toledo is one of the Spanish cities with the greatest wealth of monuments. At arrival, take a walking tour to admire the beautiful streets and monuments, first visit will be to the Cathedral, an excellent example of Spanish Gothic art. Then visit “The Santa Maria la Blanca Synagogue” which was turned into a church. Then see the Santo Tomé church, a church with a Mudejar tower from the fourteenth century. Rest of the evening is at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 04 Madrid – Valencia

After breakfast check out and transfer to the station for your train to Valencia (1 Hr/ 38 min). Arrive at Valencia and transfer to the hotel and check in. Rest of the evening at leisure to explore the place on your own. Valencia is situated in the centre of the Spanish Mediterranean coastline and overlooks the Gulf of Valencia. It is also the administrative capital of the Valencian community. Valencia has outstanding landscapes, wide pavements and modern architecture. Evening you can shop for some exquisite and world famous “Lladro” porcelain figurines, handmade glassware, ceramics, handicrafts and jewellery along with the latest fashions. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Valencia

After breakfast visit the city which is a treasure trove of Roman and Arabic architecture surrounded by citrus groves. It is city with avant-garde buildings erected in the new millennium. Thanks to its location, Valencia has been the Spanish gateway to the Mediterranean, with the special charm that seaport cities have. The fine sand and crystal waters, the vastness of the open sea, and the proximity of the coastal mountain range lend the Valencian coast a unique appeal. View the highlights of this historical city, such as the ornate 14th century Serranos Tower and imposing 15th century Quart Tower. First stop will be in the Cathedral of Valencia which stands in the same place where the first temple of the Roman city was erected, and later, an Arab mosque. Second stop will be in the most remarkable building, the Lonja de la Seda (the Silk Exchange), an elegant Gothic structure built towards the end of the 15th century that has been declared World Heritage Site. It stands in the same place where the first temple of the Roman city was erected, and later, an Arab mosque. See the Valencia Institute of Modern Art having permanent collections, temporary exhibitions, conferences and workshop the old Silk Exchange, recognized by UNESCO as one of the most beautiful buildings of European civil Gothic architecture. In the evening visit one of the many beautiful beaches like Levante / Malvarrosa which is a high quality beach in the north with excellent water sports and equipments available on hire. Have a fun evening where you will have a presentation on how to make the traditional Valencia paella (Spanish dish) followed by a delicious paella dinner. Dine at “El Carne”. Valencia is known for its vibrant nightlife which begins only after midnight where the music plays until dawn. A lot of clubs are situated in “Calle Juan Llorens” area. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 06 Valencia - Barcelona

After breakfast check out and transfer to the station for your train to Barcelona (3 Hrs). Arrive at Barcelona and transfer to the hotel and check in. Barcelona lies on the Mediterranean coast and is the second largest city in Spain. The visitor unfamiliar with its history might be surprised that such a modern and enterprising city preserves its historic Gothic center almost intact, or by curious contrast between the maze of narrow streets and the grid-like layout of the “Eixample”, the urban planning “Enlargement” project completed at the end of the 19th century. Fabulous architecture, brilliant Spanish cuisine, flamboyant culture and wonderful weather combine to make Barcelona a truly magnificent city. The city has medieval districts and the most beautiful examples of Modernism and 20th Century Avant-Garde art. Enjoy the rest of the day exploring on your own. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 07 Barcelona

After breakfast, proceed for a city tour of Barcelona, Catalonia’s capital and one of the most vibrant and lively cities in Spain. The tour starts with “Las Ramblas” which is a tree lined pedestrian boulevard selling everything from clothes, jewellery, souvenirs etc. See the Bird Market, colourful flower stalls, 19th century Opera House and The Columbus Monument. Then visit the Barri Gotic – a concentration of medieval Gothic buildings with a maze of interconnecting streets linking with squares with plenty of cafes. Two of the city’s most significant buildings – the Ajuntament and the Palau de la Generalitat are located here. After that visit the Museu Picasso which is Barcelona’s most visited museum. The museum shows numerous works that trace the artist’s early years. Then visit the “La Sagrada Familia” - a unique

creation that has become Barcelona's most universal symbol. In 1883 the brilliant architect "Gaudí", agreed to direct this work, succeeding Francisco de Paula. The artist worked on it until his death. Work to complete this grand church continues still today. Also visit the La Pedrera – another Gaudi masterpiece, it is a quarry with uneven grey stone façade that ripples around a street corner with wrought – iron balconies. Visitors can tour the building and go right upto the roof. There is also a museum dedicated to Gaudi's work. Evening is free for some shopping as this city is a city of styles. Shop at some of the best designer lable outlets at La Rambla and Placa de Catalunya. Enjoy some of the best nightlife the city offers like outdoor cafes, restaurants and discotheques. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 08 Barcelona – Montserrat - Barcelona

After breakfast, visit Montserrat, driving across picturesque little villages will reach the outstanding Montserrat Mountain situated at an altitude of 1,235 meters. Our first visit will be The Royal Basilica, where the famous XII century Romanesque sculpture of virgin Moreneta shall be admired. An audition of "La Escolania de Montserrat will be included, this children chorus is considered as one of the oldest in Europe. Drive back to the Hotel. On the return we will stop at the Barcelona's harbour where you can go and shop or visit Aquarium by own. Rest of the day at leisure free on own. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 09 Depart Barcelona

After breakfast, morning at leisure. Later check out and transfer to the airport for your departure flight back home.