

Glories of Spain and Portugal 2016/17

Optional Excursions

PORTIMAO – Silves & Monchique tour

Duration: 4-hours including private coach and an English speaking guide

Price: € 45—per person



Our excursion starts when we arrive to the ancient city of Silves , largely destroyed by a 17th century earthquake. Marvel at the centuries-old Moorish castle complex with an underground water reservoir, a 13th Century Cathedral built by Alfonso X of Castile on the site of a former Mosque and a fine strong 15th century bridge over the Rio Arade. During your visit to Silves, you'll also have time to browse the historic exhibits at the Museu Arqueológico. We leave Silves visit and travel into the Serra de Monchique to reach the picturesque city of Monchique nestled between two hills. The city retains its 16th century charm and you will walk through its cobble streets with small doorways housing various artisan trades. There is a 17th-Century Franciscan monastery overlooking the town and a 16th Century Parish Church decorated with hand-crafted blue ceramic tiles. Just after, We return to Portimao.

Travel for Travellers

BY GLP WORLDWIDE

CADIZ – Seville full day tour

Duration: 9 hours – Included: Private bus, English speaking guide, Lunch, entrance fees

Price: € 152—per person



Your drive into the center of the culture rich Andalusian capital will showcase some of the city's highlights, including Maria Luisa Park and 13th century Torre del Oro (Gold Tower). Join your guide on a short walk through the city streets to the Cathedral. The Cathedral is the largest gothic Cathedral in the world and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Step inside and explore the magnificent interior with its 138ft high central nave and fine Gothic carvings that adorn one of the richest altarpieces in the world. The Giralda is located in the northeast corner of the cathedral and if you are feeling energetic you can climb the 343ft high tower for a breathtaking view over the city. The Alcazar of Seville was built in the 14th century by the Moors and as the King of Spain still uses it as a residence while in Seville it makes it the oldest Palace still in use today. Enter through the Lions Gate and discover the palatial buildings, patios and gardens that represent every cultural style from the Renaissance to Neoclassical. Barrio Santa Cruz is a network of intricate maze of shaded, cobble-stoned lanes that were once the Jewish Quarter of Seville. Spend a little time soaking up the atmosphere and breathing in the fragrant orange blossom and flowers that adorn the terraces.

CADIZ – Jerez de la Frontera & Sherry Tasting

Duration Approx.:5 hours. - Included: Private Coach, English speaking & Sherry Tasting.

Price: € 70—per person



Inhabited since Palaeolithic times, the present-day town is located in a part of Andalusia where Tartessian culture reached the peak of its development. The Phoenicians called it Xera and the Romans, who also settled in the area, knew it as Ceret, a name modified to Xeritum by the Visigoths. However, real urban development did not begin until Moslem times, particularly during the Almoravide and Almohade periods. Mosques and palaces were built and the town centre was extended. In the 12th century the Christians staged several failed attempts at capturing the city before Alfonso X succeeded in doing so in 1264. For a long time after Jerez was a border town. One century later the border changed moving to the kingdom of Granada, which gave a huge boost to Jerez's economic development. The 15th century marked the start of a period in which the town became one of the most prosperous in Andalusia. Cattle farming and exports of agricultural produce to the rest of Europe and later to America, particularly wine, were vital factors in Jerez's development. Whether it is sherry-fino, amontillado or oloroso, you'll want to sample this fine fortified wine here in its hometown.

One of the famous 'bodegas' of Jerez opens its doors and invites you to see the blending process of this popular tipple. Your visit is rounded off with a tasting session of three different varieties within the unique atmosphere of the cellar itself.

GIBRALTAR – The Rock and the WWII Tunnels

Duration 3 hours.- Included: Private coach, English speaking driver guide and entrances.

Price: € 58—per person



The Original Rock Tour commences at the port and takes you along Winston Churchill Avenue to the Spanish border and then to the Eastside of the Rock, through the Dudley Ward Tunnel to Europa Point. Here you can see the magnificent views over the Straits of Gibraltar. On a clear day the Northern coast of Africa is visible. After the photo stop the minibus will travel to the Upper Rock / Nature Reserve to visit the spectacular St. Michael's Cave where you will see amazing examples of stalactites and stalagmites. Following the visit to the caves, you will travel to the Apes Den where the famous Barbary Apes can be observed in their natural habitat – the only apes roaming wild in Europe. It has been said, since after the Second World War, that Gibraltar will remain British as long as the apes inhabit the Rock.

The tour will then continue passing by the Second World War Evacuation Monument, and then, following the 18th/19th Century British Defense Wall made of white Portland Limestone we will see the King's Bastion. This was where General Elliott defended Gibraltar during the last Great Siege. The British Defense wall visibly changes to the Spanish built wall in the 1500's – called the King Charles V Wall. The first stop is the 100 Ton Gun, a 17.17 inch 100 ton rifled muzzle loader, the 'supergun' of the Victoria era. Only 4 guns of this type were built in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England. The tour then leads up the winding roads to the summit of Gibraltar – 426m above sea level where you will see the site of O'Hara's Battery. This Battery affords a 360° view of Gibraltar, Spain and – on a clear day – the coast of Africa.

In 1940, Britain was at war with Germany and Italy, and the future looked very bleak for Gibraltar as it was surrounded by the enemy. Winston Churchill and the British Military leaders believed that an attack on Gibraltar was imminent. The answer was to construct a massive network of tunnels, to build a fortress, or a city within a city, and the tunnels were excavated during 1939 – 1944 by the Royal Engineers and Canadian Engineers. In May 2005 these World War II Tunnels were opened to the public, and now you will be able to see the amazing testament to the soldiers and civilians who worked inside the Rock during the darkest days of the war. Finally the tour continues past the Tower of Homage, part of the Moorish Castle built in 1333, the oldest free standing building in Gibraltar. You will have an opportunity to finish the tour in Main Street for shopping, or go back to the Port.

*Travel for
Travellers*

BY GLP WORLDWIDE

MOTRIL – The Alhambra and Granada (full day tour)

Duration Approx.: 9 hours. - Included Private bus, English speaking guide, Lunch (3courses), entrances

Price: € 138—per person



From Motril, we will drive inland to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Alhambra and Generalife gardens. Alhambra's construction began in the 11th century on the red hill known as Assabika which overlooks Granada. The Alcazaba fortress was the first structure to be built, followed by the royal palace and residence of members of the court. We will visit the most important halls and courtyards of the Alhambra, including the Alcazaba fortress, the Serrallo, the Patio of los Arrayanes (Myrtle Courtyard), the Hall of la Barca, the Salon of the Embajadores (Ambassadors Hall), the Patio de los Leones (Lions Courtyard), the Hall of the Abencerrajes, the Royal Baths and the Palace of Charles V. Next to the Alhambra, you will also visit the sumptuous Generalife Gardens, the luxurious summer retreat of the Moorish kings of Granada. After the lunch we will visit the Cathedral was built by Queen Isabella immediately after the conquest of Granada on the site of the Mosque. This cathedral is a masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance style. Cathedral of Granada has impressive facades and a stunning interior with a grand altar and several chapels. Carlos V, always respectful to the memory of his ancestors, made sure that the Cathedral was built in accordance with desires of the Catholic kings. After you will visit The Royal Chapel is located between Granada Cathedral, the old Fish Market and the Church of Sagrario. The construction of the Royal Chapel of Granada was ordered by the Catholic Monarchs in 1504 as a place of burial for their bodies.

PUERTO BANUS – Ronda full day tour

Duration Approx.: 9 hours. - Included Private bus, English speaking guide, Lunch (3 courses)

Price: € 119—per person



Departure from Puerto Banus to the Reservatauro bull breeding farm. Founded in 2011, this biosphere reserve is located in a fantastic landscape with special characteristics, called Dehesa. Learn about the history of the particular bull race, with special attention to the guest and respect to the animals. After the visit we continue to Ronda, set in a valley yet perched on a hill, three sides of which fall perpendicularly to the gorge three hundred feet below. After lunch, a walking tour is made through the Moorish city with its narrow, cobbled streets, white houses, imposing portico's and grilled windows. The walk includes a visit to the second oldest bullring in the country. Some free time allows you to stroll around or go shopping. We drive back to the coast by the same spectacular route heading south down to San Pedro de Alcantara; passing the Serranía de Ronda - craggy mountains where eagles wheel, goats graze and human habitation is virtually non-existent. Last stop is done in Marbella, where you have some time to stroll around the historic city center around the Plaza de Naranjos before we return to Puerto Banus,

Please note: A minimum number of 10 passengers is required for the operation of the above tours. All shore excursions listed will only be offered subject to the ship's itinerary which may vary to due sea, weather or other conditions beyond the control of the ship's crew, or at the discretion of the captain taking the overall schedule, well-being of all passengers and other factors into consideration. Therefore, there is no guarantee that any or all shore excursions can or will be offered. Shore excursions may only be purchased onboard in Euro currency (credit cards or cash will be accepted). Operation of shore excursions will also be subject to a minimum number of participants electing to take part and also to a maximum number, depending on the capacity of the local tour operator. Neither Variety Cruises nor GLP Worldwide are liable for any occurrence whatsoever arising out of the participation on any shore excursion, and the booking of any shore excursion constitutes the passenger's express acceptance of all risk of his/her participation.