

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

Highlights of Southern Spain and Madrid

March 10 – 18, 2022

\$4,185 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Day by Day Itinerary

Thursday, March 10 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of Iberia Airlines of Spain on the overnight transatlantic flight to Madrid, Spain.

Friday, March 11 – MADRID / GRANADA (I,HD)

As the sun begins to rise on the Iberian Peninsula we arrive in Madrid and continue by connecting flight to Granada. On arrival, we'll meet our Tour Escort who will accompany us on vacation. As we'll soon find out, Granada is a vibrant, friendly, and lively metropolis beautifully situated at the foot of the snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains in the heart of Southern Andalusia.

Saturday, March 12 – GRANADA (B)

Granada is a brilliant jewel of Moorish architecture, as we'll see on our tour of the fabled **Alhambra**, a compound of palaces, a fortress and lush gardens built in the 14th century where magical use of space, light, water, and decoration characterize the delicate craftsmanship. We'll also visit the **Generalife**, the country estate of the Nasrid kings, complete with fountains, tropical gardens, and picturesque vistas high above the city. This afternoon we'll travel across the city to visit the **Albaicin**, the former Moorish town with gypsy dwellings. One of the most charming things about visiting the Albaicin is wandering the cobbled streets; tucked away into narrow alleys and quaint squares are some of the oldest and most traditional shops. We'll visit **Cerámica Fajaluz** where the ceramic plant pots and bowls, typically white with a blue and green design, have been made since 1517. Our tour will come to an end as we return to the old city center where we'll see the Cathedral of the Incarnation and visit the **Royal Chapel** built to enshrine Ferdinand and Isabella. Following our tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure to sightsee Granada's two main squares, the Plaza Bib-Rambla and the Plaza Nueva.

Sunday, March 13 – GRANADA / RONDA (B,HD)

This morning we depart Granada and travel through the market town of Antequera, as we make our way to Ronda, perhaps the most spectacularly located city in the Andalusian Mountains. Afternoon sightseeing will introduce us to the Old Town where we'll visit the church of **Santa Maria la Mayor**, one of the most important sacred monuments of Ronda, and **Casa Don Bosco**, a modernist palace built at the beginning of the 20th century. Then we'll cross over the Tajo Gorge to arrive in the New Town that is home to the pedestrian precinct where we'll visit the **Plaza de Toros**, the second oldest bullring in Spain. Due to its history, architecture, character, and beauty, it is recognized as one the most monumental bullrings in existence.

Monday, March 14 – RONDA / SEVILLE

(Jerez de la Frontera) (B,L,HD)

After breakfast we depart Ronda and continue our journey across Andalucía to Jerez de la Frontera, located midway

between the Atlantic Ocean and the Cádiz Mountains. Jerez's extraordinary geographical location means that the city enjoys the very best fresh local produce, ideal for making its world-famous Sherry, Brandy and Vinegar. Alexander Fleming said, "If penicillin can cure those that are ill, Spanish sherry can bring the dead back to life." We'll soon find out, as we enjoy a tour of the **Williams & Humbert Bodega**, followed by a Sherry tasting. Afterward, it's time to sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery as we travel to Seville, the capital city of Andalusia that stands on the banks of the Rio Guadalquivir.

Tuesday, March 15 – SEVILLE (B)

Our day will begin with an introductory tour of Seville. Among the treasures that we'll see are the Barrio de Santa Cruz, a warren of white alleyways and patios that have long been the most picturesque corner of the city. Here, we'll visit the **Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See**, one of the largest and richest gothic Cathedrals in Christendom, unmatched in its abundance of artistic treasures, not to mention its great Giralda Tower, Seville's most prominent landmark. We'll also visit the 14th century **Alcazar** with its Moorish Palace and lovely gardens and see the Archives of the Indies, the building that houses all the famous drawings of the New World including letters by Columbus and Queen Isabella. We'll end our tour by traveling to the El Arenal district where we'll see the Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza, Seville's 18th century bullring, and the riverfront dominated by the Moorish Torre del Oro, an ideal location for an afternoon of leisure time spent along the tree-lined promenade beside the Paseo de Cristobal Colon.



Wednesday, March 16 – SEVILLE / MADRID (B,HD)

This morning we depart Seville aboard an AVE high-speed train bound for the capital city of Madrid. We'll find that a cosmopolitan air reigns in this fun-loving city as we enjoy a panoramic tour that will take us through Old Madrid, featuring the Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor, Bourbon Madrid, home to the Royal Palace, and discover contemporary Madrid, as we travel along the Gran Vía, one of the most fashionable avenues in the world. After checking in at our hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Enjoy shopping around the Puerta Del Sol, an area where craftsmen can still be found, or in the fashionable shops along the Gran Via. Life in Madrid is extremely pleasant, relaxed, and unhurried, so you may prefer to simply enjoy an afternoon at one of the outdoor cafes on the Plaza Mayor.

Thursday, March 17 – MADRID (Toledo) (B,RD)

Today begins with a visit to the Imperial City of Toledo. Built on a hill and surrounded on three sides by the Tagus River, the city is a National Monument reflecting various styles of architecture ranging from the Moorish and Gothic to the Renaissance, dating from the 15th and early 16th centuries. We'll start with a visit the lavish **Primate Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo**. We'll also visit the **Church of St. Thomas** that has on display the most famous of El Greco's paintings, "The Count de Orgaz", and **Santa Maria la Blanca Synagogue**. Toledo is also famous as the center of damascene. We'll learn of this time-honored Moorish tradition with a visit to a local workshop and watch the artisans inlaying gold or silver threads into black steel used to decorate plates, earrings, bracelets, and large pendants. On our return to Madrid, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight, we'll enjoy an evening of dinner and entertainment featuring a superb selection of Flamenco



and regional dancing. More than just a dance, Flamenco is a forceful artistic expression of the sorrows and joys of life.

Friday, March 18 – MADRID / CHICAGO (B,I)

Early this morning we travel to Madrid's Barajas International Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Highlights of Southern Spain and Madrid* vacation that will last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Iberia Airlines of Spain.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach and scheduled rail service with accompanying Tour Escort.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$460 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Escort, and Step-on Guides; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC

PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

AATP does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program. AATP does not act as agent for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations, or any other travel related services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AATP is not liable for any negligent, intentional, or willful act by any such person or entity. In addition and without limitation, AATP is not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or any accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any way to any accommodations, transportation or other services, or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses that may be incurred. AATP, in its sole and exclusive discretion reserves the right to withdraw its affiliation with any individual tour operator should conditions warrant.

Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, contact Pat Anderson at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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