



VANDERBILT  
Alumni Association



# Histories of Spain

FROM AL-ANDALUS  
TO ALMODÓVAR

SEPTEMBER 9-19, 2025

OPTIONAL  
PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

Segovia  
SEPTEMBER 7-10, 2025

OPTIONAL  
POST-TRIP EXTENSION

Barcelona  
SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2025





## Dear Vanderbilt Alumni, Family and Friends,

Join Vanderbilt on a journey through the vibrant cities of Spain, where centuries of captivating history, stunning architecture, and rich cultural experiences await. Discover the lively spirit of Madrid, wander through the enchanting streets of Toledo, admire the grandeur of Granada's Alhambra, explore the treasures of Córdoba, and soak in the heritage of Seville.

Your adventure begins in Madrid, where you'll wander through historic streets and visit iconic sites like Alcalá Gate, Retiro Park, and the Gran Vía. Dive into Spain's artistic heritage with a guided tour of the renowned Prado Museum, home to masterpieces by El Greco, Velázquez, Goya, and others.

Step back in time in Toledo, known as the "city of three cultures," where Christian, Muslim, and Jewish traditions have left an indelible mark on its stunning architecture. Prepare to be amazed by the beauty of Granada's Alhambra, once the hilltop fortress-palace of the Nasrid Kings, the last Muslim rulers in Spain, and a true masterpiece of art and architecture. Explore Córdoba and visit the extraordinary Great Mosque, or "Mezquita," a striking blend of Islamic and Christian influences that defines the city's history. In Seville, uncover the treasures of the majestic Real Alcázar, and venture to the ancient coastal city of Cádiz, where you'll be charmed by its enduring beauty and sweeping ocean views.

Spaces on this unforgettable trip are limited, so secure your spot now to experience the rich history and vibrant culture of Spain's most remarkable destinations.

Sincerely,

Cary DeWitt Allyn  
Director, Vanderbilt Travel



## Study Leader

**Marshall C. Eakin**  
is a historian of  
Latin America

specializing in the history of modern Brazil. He joined the Vanderbilt History Department 1983 and retired in 2024. His research has concentrated on economic and business history, industrialization, and the processes of nationalism and nation-building—primarily in the twentieth century. He has been the recipient of the Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Chancellor's Cup, the Madison Sarratt Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Alumni Education Award. He has lectured on a dozen alumni trips from Patagonia to the Caribbean. His next book, *Empires and Exploration: Richard Francis Burton's Travels in Nineteenth Century Brazil*, should appear in late 2025.



# Itinerary

**DAY 1 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

## U.S. • Madrid

Depart your home city for an overnight flight to Madrid.  
(MEALS ALOFT)

**DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

## Arrive Madrid

Arrive in Madrid, and transfer to our hotel. This evening, gather for an orientation followed by a welcome dinner.

HOTEL MELIA MADRID OR SIMILAR (D)

**DAY 3 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

## Madrid & Prado Museum

This morning, we delve into the heart of Madrid, one of the world's most vibrant capital cities. A city tour takes us to iconic sites including Alcalá Gate, Retiro Park, Neptuno Square, and Gran Vía Street. We'll enjoy a guided visit to the renowned Prado Museum, home to some of the world's most important artworks by Spanish masters such as El Greco, Velázquez and Goya. Learn about the fascinating history of the original building, and how it was transformed into a leading art museum. Following lunch, enjoy some free time to relax at the hotel, or continue exploring the city on your own.

HOTEL MELIA MADRID OR SIMILAR (B, L)

**DAY 4 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

## Toledo

Step back in time with a visit to the enchanting city of Toledo, also known as the "city of three cultures." Here, Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities peacefully coexisted for centuries, leaving behind a wealth of artistic and cultural legacies that make it one of the most unique cities in the world. As we explore the winding streets



of the old quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we'll see beautiful examples of Mudéjar (Christian-Muslim) architecture blending various cultural and period elements and visit the Cathedral, the Jewish Quarter, Santa María la Blanca Synagogue and Santo Tomé Church.

HOTEL MELIA MADRID OR SIMILAR (B, L)

**DAY 5 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

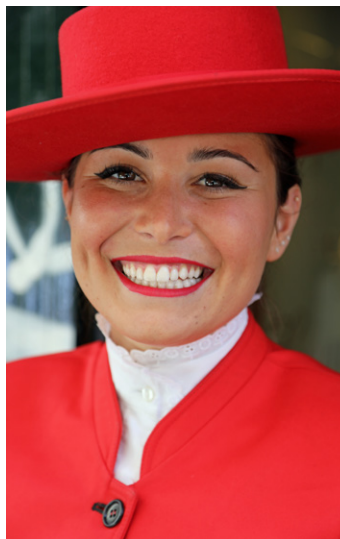
## Madrid

Embark on a walking tour through the winding streets of Madrid's historic city center, where we'll discover some of the most emblematic places in the city, including Plaza de la Villa, Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol, and Plaza de Oriente. We'll visit the Palacio Real, the largest royal palace in western Europe measuring 1,450,000 square feet and made up of 3,418 rooms. As the official residence of the royal family, it plays host to some of the most important state receptions and ceremonies of the Crown. A tour of the interior transports you to a world of opulence and grandeur, with exquisite architectural details and rooms filled with musical instruments, including several Stradivarius violins, beautiful

GREAT MOSQUE/MEZQUITA, CÓRDOBA







TOP: PAINTED TILE. BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: GENERALIFE GARDENS, ALHAMBRA; SPANISH WOMAN; PLAZA MAYOR, MADRID

collections of porcelain, and paintings by such artists as Goya, Caravaggio and Velázquez. Enjoy a tapas-style lunch before enjoying the remainder of the day at leisure.

HOTEL MELIA MADRID OR SIMILAR (B, L)

## DAY 6 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 Madrid • Granada

Your morning is free to relax or explore on your own. This afternoon, we'll take a train to Granada. After checking in to our hotel, you'll have some leisure time before gathering for dinner at a local restaurant. HOTEL VILLA ONIRIA OR SIMILAR (B, D)

## DAY 7 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 Granada

Today we will explore the Alhambra complex, Spain's most captivating attraction and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This hilltop fortress-palace of the Nasrid kings, the last Muslim rulers in Spain, is a true masterpiece of art and architecture. Admire the intricate designs, delicate details, and exquisite beauty of this unique building, which represents the pinnacle of Islamic creativity. Our tour will take us through the lush harem gardens and fountains of the Generalife, the summer palace of the Sultans, with breathtaking views of the Sierra Nevada and the city of Granada below. We'll continue to the Albayzín quarter of Granada for a brief walking tour of this picturesque, historic neighborhood with views of the Alhambra. This afternoon, visit the Royal Chapel, where Ferdinand and Isabella are buried, to behold the culmination of Spanish art and architecture. HOTEL VILLA ONIRIA OR SIMILAR (B, L)

## DAY 8 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

### Granada • Córdoba • Seville

This morning we'll depart for Córdoba by bus. Founded by the Romans, Córdoba became a port of great importance used for shipping Spanish oil, wine, and wheat back to Ancient Rome. However, its greatest legacy came in the 8th century as the capital of the kingdom of El-Andalus, when construction began on the magnificent Great Mosque, or "Mezquita." On our visit to the Mezquita, we'll admire the stunning architectural features including a forest of horseshoe arches, intricate mosaics, and unique blend of Islamic and Christian influences. Continue to the historic quarter of Córdoba, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for lunch at a local restaurant before driving to Seville.

HOTEL MELIA SEVILLA OR SIMILAR (B, L)

## DAY 9 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

### Seville

Depart on a tour of Seville, a charming city with a rich heritage, situated on the banks of the Guadalquivir River. We'll visit the Real Alcázar, a royal palace from the 14th century displaying one of the greatest examples of Mudéjar (Christian-Muslim) architecture. We'll see the General Archive of the Indies, which houses archival documents illustrating the history of the Spanish Empire in the Americas and Asia. We'll also visit the magnificent Santa Maria de la Sede, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, built on the site of a 12th century mosque of which only the minaret, known as the Giralda, remains. We'll complete our tour with a stroll through Seville's historical Jewish quarter, following the



labyrinth of narrow streets and alleyways dating back to the 13th century. This evening, enjoy dinner and a lively flamenco show. *HOTEL MELIA SEVILLA OR SIMILAR (B, D)*

#### DAY 10 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

### Seville • Cádiz • Seville

Today we'll enjoy a taste of southern Spain's countryside with a day trip to Cádiz, located on a slender peninsula along the Andalusian coastline. As the oldest city in Western Europe, its storied history permeates every street and plaza, where ancient Roman ruins coexist harmoniously with Islamic influences and Baroque architecture. This vibrant city invites

exploration, and we will have the opportunity to discover the city's most beautiful corners and revel in the endless coastal vistas. Return to Seville and gather for a farewell dinner.

*HOTEL MELIA SEVILLA OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)*

#### DAY 11 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

### Depart Seville

Transfer to the airport for flights back to the U.S. (B)

*Please note that the order of activities on the itinerary may change due to local conditions. Alterations in the schedule may occur to allocate time to enjoy visits and to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.*



### Optional Pre-Trip Extension to Segovia and Ávila • SEPTEMBER 7 - 10, 2025

Spend 2 nights in Madrid ahead of the start of the main program to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Segovia, located in a region known as the "Heart of Spain." Your afternoon and evening will be at leisure on the day of arrival in Madrid. The following day, embark on a full day tour to Segovia including entrance fees to the royal castle of Alcázar and Gothic Cathedral, and including a visit to nearby Ávila. Return to Madrid for an overnight, and join the main program the following day.

*Extension includes 2 nights in Madrid, arrival transfer from Madrid airport to hotel, private transportation, English-speaking local guide, breakfasts, lunch at a local restaurant with beverages, and audio guides during the tour. The pre-trip extension price is based on a minimum of 12 participants.*

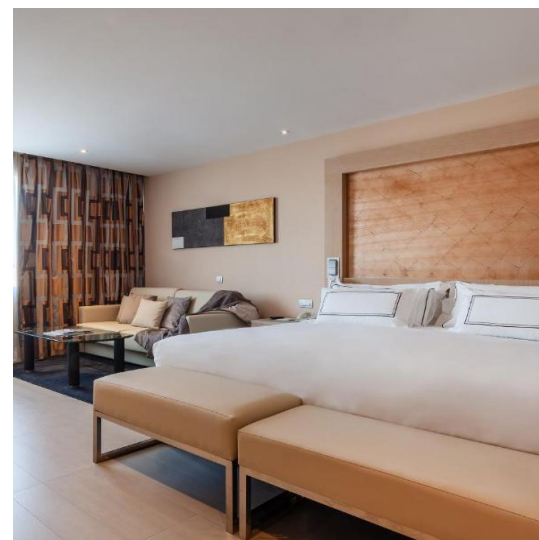


### Optional Post-Trip Extension to Barcelona • SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2025

Visit Barcelona, one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities of Spain known as the capital of Catalan Art Nouveau. Barcelona is home to masterpieces by Catalonia's most famous architect, Antonio Gaudí, one of the greatest innovators of his time and creator of many of the city's UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Extension includes panoramic walking tour, including the Picasso Museum, the elegant Paseo de Gracia and visits to Gaudí's Casa Batlló, La Pedrera, Park Güell, and the spectacular Sagrada Família Basilica. Visit the city's Gothic Quarter and explore the Central Market, also known as La Boquería. In addition, enjoy a free day in Barcelona to explore this colorful cosmopolitan city on your own.

*Extension includes 3 nights in the heart of Barcelona, arrival and departure transfers, walking tour of Barcelona, full day tour of Barcelona by private vehicle, entrance fees, English-speaking local guide, breakfast each morning, one lunch and farewell dinner at a local restaurant by the seaside. Airline ticket or train ticket to Barcelona is not included and will be invoiced separately. The post-trip extension price is based on a minimum of 12 participants.*





## Accommodations

### Hotel Meliá, Madrid

Indulge in the elegance and charm of the Hotel Meliá Madrid, situated in the heart of Spain's vibrant capital. Revel in the luxurious comfort of thoughtfully designed rooms, adorned with contemporary furnishings and equipped with cutting-edge amenities to ensure a restful stay. Savor exquisite culinary creations at the hotel's renowned dining establishments, and rejuvenate in the serene wellness center, featuring modern facilities and a tranquil atmosphere. With impeccable service, a central location, and a dedication to excellence, Hotel Meliá Madrid offers an unforgettable experience that captures the spirit and dynamism of Madrid.

### Hotel Villa Oniria, Granada

Welcome to Hotel Villa Oniria, a restored 19th century manor house nestled on a cobbled street in the heart of Granada. Each carefully curated room reflects a unique blend of sophistication and modern comfort, featuring luxurious amenities and upscale furnishings, including memory foam beds and down comforters. Immerse yourself in tranquility as you relax on the rooftop terrace, unwind in the spa or take a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool, surrounded by lush gardens. Indulge in a culinary journey at the renowned restaurant, where innovative dishes showcase the finest local ingredients. With its prime location, impeccable service, and a sense of refined beauty, Hotel Villa Oniria invites you to experience the allure and magic of Granada in style.

### Hotel Meliá, Seville

Immerse yourself in the sophisticated ambiance of Hotel Meliá Sevilla, located in the picturesque city of Seville. Enjoy the refined comfort of spacious, elegantly furnished rooms, complete with modern amenities designed to cater to your every need. Delight in the exquisite culinary offerings at the hotel's distinguished dining venues, and rejuvenate your body and mind at the state-of-the-art wellness center. With exceptional service, a prime location, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, Hotel Meliá Sevilla provides an unforgettable stay that allows you to fully experience the rich culture and vibrant energy of Seville.



## Land Program Costs *(per person)*

Double Occupancy. . . . .	\$7,390
Single Occupancy . . . . .	\$8,840
Sample Coach Airfare Nashville > Madrid / Seville > Nashville . . . . .	\$1476

**AIRFARE:** International airfare from Nashville, TN to Madrid, Spain with return from Seville, Spain is not included. Estimated airfare is approximately \$1,476 (coach class) as of September 2024. Airfares are subject to change. A recommended flight itinerary will be made available to registered passengers departing and returning from Nashville.

## Segovia Pre-Tour Extension *(per person)*

Double Occupancy. . . . .	\$995
Single Occupancy . . . . .	\$1,490

*(Price of the extension is based on a minimum of 12 passengers.)*

## Barcelona Post-Tour Extension *(per person)*

Double Occupancy. . . . .	\$2,100
Single Occupancy . . . . .	\$2,690

*(Price of the extension is based on a minimum of 12 passengers, and does not include airfare or train ticket to Barcelona.)*

**PROGRAM COST INCLUDES:** All accommodations and meals as stated in the itinerary • Meals as indicated in the itinerary, including daily breakfasts at the hotel, and wine at dinners • All activities per itinerary • Professional English-speaking local guides and Tour Director throughout • Transportation by private motor coach • AVE train tickets to travel from Madrid to Granada • Airport transfers for group flights • Tips to local guides, drivers and wait staff • Baggage handling • Service charges and taxes • Entrance fees • Pre-departure information, coordination and administration.

**PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:** U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) • Optional extension to Barcelona does not include airfare or train ticket to Barcelona • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, e-mail, fax or telephone calls • Alcoholic beverages except those mentioned above • Dishes or beverages not included with meals • Room service • Passport and/or visa fees • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Covid-19 testing or quarantine expenses • Medical expenses • Travel insurance • Fuel surcharges • Deviations from the scheduled tour • Tips to the Tour Director are at the participant's discretion

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** This is an exclusive program designed for Vanderbilt Alumni, and is a perfect introduction to the many cultural facets of Spanish culture. Temperatures throughout range between 65°F and 72° F during the day to 47°F and 54°F during the night and one should always be prepared for rain. This is a moderately active program. Daily program involves one to two miles of walking at a leisurely pace visiting cities, museums and monuments.



# Terms & Conditions

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT:** To reserve a space on this tour, please mail authorization of a credit card payment or a check made payable to "Royal Adventures" for \$1,000 per person, along with \$200 per person for the Segovia pre-trip extension and/or \$200 for the Barcelona post-trip extension (if applicable) with a completed reservation form to: Vanderbilt Travel Program, Office of Alumni Relations, PMB 407735, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-7735. Initial deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due by May 12, 2025 and must be paid by check or wire transfer only. Royal Adventures CST #2009579-40

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** All cancellations must be received in writing by Royal Adventures. Cancellations received within 14 days of booking: full refund of the trip deposit. Cancellations received on or before May 12, 2025, are eligible for a refund less a \$500 per person cancellation penalty. Cancellations received after May 12, 2025, are subject to a 100% penalty for all deposits and payments, regardless of booking date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour is exclusively designed for Vanderbilt University members and friends on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 14. Should the minimum not be met, we reserve the right to levy a small group surcharge.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance as the cancellation penalty in this brochure will apply. Trip cancellation insurance can be purchased through our recommended provider Travel Insured International, [CLICK HERE](#) to get a quote or call 1-800-243-3174 and mention Royal Adventures #53140. Most insurance plans need to be purchased within 14 days of paying the initial deposit in order to waive pre-existing medical conditions as well as to purchase "Cancel for Any Reason" insurance. Neither Vanderbilt University nor Royal Adventures accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the trip.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH:** Participation on the program requires that passengers be in generally good health. This is an active walking tour program, often over uneven terrain. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact Clay Krebs, Vanderbilt Travel Program, (615) 322-3673 or [alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu), or Royal Adventures (925) 820-6260 ext. 120 or 1-800-453-4754 ext. 120 or [christina@royaladventures.com](mailto:christina@royaladventures.com).

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Royal Adventures (CST #2009579-40), its owners, and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and the Vanderbilt University and the Alumni Association of Vanderbilt University (referred to herein as "Vanderbilt University") and Royal Adventures and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability therefor. Vanderbilt University and Royal Adventures assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, quarantine, *force majeure*, animal or insect bites, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Vanderbilt University and Royal Adventures reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty, in which case participants will be issued a full refund, except in the case of a *Force Majeure* Event. A *Force Majeure* Event, in relation to this tour, shall mean any circumstances beyond our control, including, but without limitation, to acts of God, explosion flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, sickness, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, government intervention or other unforeseeable event. Vanderbilt University and/or Royal Adventure s shall not be deemed to be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, and shall not provide any refund, by reason of delay in performance, withdrawal of the tour or by nonperformance, of any of our obligations hereunder to the extent that any such delay or non-performance is due to any *Force Majeure* Event. Limitations on travel arising from the COVID 19 pandemic shall be considered a *Force Majeure* Event. If this tour is affected by a *Force Majeure* Event, Vanderbilt University and Royal Adventures shall be entitled to, and may in their sole and absolute discretion, vary, or postpone the dates of any itinerary, departure date or other arrangements in relation to this trip. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, security surcharge, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Neither Vanderbilt University nor Royal Adventures accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket. The air ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.



# Reservation Form

For the ease of registering online, please visit [royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/vanderbilt25](http://royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/vanderbilt25) or scan the QR code listed. If you prefer to mail your registration, please sign and return this form with deposit check payable to "Royal Adventures" or credit card authorization to:

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY ALUMNI RELATIONS  
TRAVEL PROGRAM PMB 407735  
2301 VANDERBILT PLACE  
NASHVILLE, TN 37240-7735  
1-615-322-3673 OR [Alumni.Travel@Vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Alumni.Travel@Vanderbilt.edu)

Enclosed is my deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 per person (pp), plus \$200 pp for the Barcelona extension and \$200 pp for the Segovia extension if applicable, to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on Histories of Spain, departing Sep 9, 2025, with Vanderbilt University. Final payment is due May 12, 2025, and must be paid by check or wire transfer.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT	VANDERBILT YEAR	DOB
NAME AS ON PASSPORT	VANDERBILT YEAR	DOB
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
HOME PHONE	OFFICE PHONE	
FAX	E-MAIL	

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ Pay by check made payable to "Royal Adventures"
- ☐ Please charge my deposit for a total amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to:  
☐ AMEX ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

CARD #	EXP. DATE / SEC CODE
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## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- ☐ I/We wish to join the Segovia pre-tour optional extension, September 7–10, 2025
- ☐ I/We wish to join the Barcelona post-tour optional extension, September 19–22, 2025

## ACCOMMODATIONS

- ☐ Double 1 Bed ☐ Double 2 Beds ☐ Single (*limited availability*)
- ☐ I will share accommodations with: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE





VANDERBILT  
Alumni Association

PMB 407735 | 2301 VANDERBILT PLACE | NASHVILLE, TN 37240-7735

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OAKLAND, CA

# Histories of Spain

FROM AL-ANDALUS  
TO ALMODÓVAR



## Highlights

- **TOUR** Madrid's grand avenues, iconic monuments, and the renowned Prado Museum
- **EXPLORE** the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Toledo, "the city of the three cultures," where Christians, Muslims, and Jews lived together in harmony for centuries
- **MARVEL** at the great Mezquita of Córdoba, with its beautiful Spanish Islamic architecture
- **ADMIRE** the Alhambra and the gardens of Generalife in Granada
- **VISIT** exceptional Roman ruins, palaces, and charming squares

SEPTEMBER  
9-19, 2025