









Join OLLI at FSU on

Spain & Portugal



Inimitable history and culture tucked into the corner of the continent.

Spain and Portugal share so much more than a border. The little towns and big cities in both countries are teeming with storied pasts, but also bring their own modern flavors and traditions to light. On this journey, you'll delve into the architecture and history of the region on immersive tours with local guides and during art lectures led by Dr. Arleen Pabon-Charneco and Debra Herman.

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Spain & Portugal



16 DAYS

YOUR TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

14 nights in handpicked hotels
14 breakfasts
2 lunches
5 three-course dinners
Guided sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

Plaza Porticada, Guggenheim Museum, Las Monedas caves, El Capricho, Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, Rías Baixas cruise, Prado Museum, El Escorial Monastery, Toledo, Sintra, cultural and historical lectures

TOUR PACE

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 3.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

Itinerary

Overnight flight | 1 NIGHT

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Bilbao today.

Santander | 4 NIGHTS

Day 2: Arrival in Santander

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Spain! Enjoy a *iBienvenidos a España*! lecture before gathering with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Santander

Included meals: breakfast

Take a tour of the Cantabrian port city of Santander.

- Embark on a guided walk and pass by the cathedral and the Plaza Porticada
- See the Plaza de la Escandalera, the town hall, and the modernist architecture of the Mercado de la Esperanza
- This afternoon, attend a lecture titled Spain and Times Past.

Day 4: Bilbao

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

As you make your way to Bilbao, enjoy a lecture titled *Architecture Where Desire Can Live.*

- Take a guided walking tour through Bilbao's Old Town
- View the unique architecture of the Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum, a showplace of modern and contemporary art
- Sit down for an included lunch at the Bistró Guggenheim restaurant

Day 5: Las Monedas caves, Santillana del Mar & Cave of Altamira

Included meals: breakfast

Listen to a lecture titled *Prehistory: The Youngest of Arts* as you travel outside of Santander for today's guided activities.

- Step inside the Las Monedas caves and learn about their important connection to the studies of human history
- Stop in Santillana del Mar and enjoy free time to explore the town
- Take a guided tour of the Cave of Altamira to see the 35,000-year-old paintings that appear on its walls
- Travel back to Santander and listen to a lecture called *The Stops in the Middle of This Thing We Call Life*

Santiago de Compostela | 2 NIGHTS

Day 6: Santiago de Compostela via Comillas & Oviedo

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

This morning, enjoy listening to *The Great Gaudí* lecture as you travel to Comillas and Ovideo.

- Visit the seaside town of Comillas to explore Gaudí's whimsical El Capricho building with a local guide
- View the Comillas Pontifical University
- Head to Ovideo and walk through the Gothic Quarter before entering the San Salvador Basilica

Continue on to Santiago de Compostela and learn about the city's history as you listen to a lecture titled *Santiago de Compostela: A Pilgrimage's End.*

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Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Santiago de Compostella & Rías Baixas cruise

Included meals: breakfast

An expert local guide shows you the city that marks the end of the Way of St. James.

• View the sprawling Praza do Obradoiro

• Enter the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

This afternoon, travel to the tiny fishing town of O Grove for a cruise on the Rías Baixas, the coastal inlets and estuaries of western Galicia.

- Sail through the town's harbor to discover this region's maritime heritage
- Watch a demonstration showing how mussels are harvested
- Enjoy all-you-can-eat local mussels and Galician white wine

Please note: The boat cruise is weather-dependent.

Madrid | 4 NIGHTS

Day 8: Flight to Madrid & Prado Museum

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Fly to Madrid this morning.

Visit the Prado Museum this afternoon. This world-class art museum began as the private collection of the Spanish monarchy and now houses works by Goya, Velásquez, and more. Later, attend a lecture titled *Royal Patronage and Museums*.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Madrid & El Escorial Monastery

Included meals: breakfast

Explore the Spanish capital's beautiful architecture, lively squares, and grand boulevards on today's guided sightseeing tour.

- View the Royal Palace, Spain's largest royal residence
- Pass by the Temple of Debod, a reassembled temple from ancient Egypt
- View the city's many squares, including Plaza de España, Plaza Mayor, and the bustling Puerta del Sol

Travel outside of Madrid and visit the El Escorial Monastery this afternoon. On the way, enjoy listening to the first part of a lecture titled *De Madrid al Cielo (After Madrid...Heaven).*

- Take a guided tour of the UNESCO-listed El Escorial Monastery
- Finish listening to the *De Madrid al Cielo (After Madrid...Heaven)* lecture as you drive back to Madrid

Day 10: Ávila

Included meals: breakfast

As you make your way to the 16-century town of Ávila, listen to a lecture titled *Medieval Cities.*

- Set off on a walking tour to see Ávila's famous medieval city walls
- Step inside the Museo del Convento de la Encarnacion and Ávila Cathedral, which combines both Roman and Gothic architectural styles
- See the Convento de Santa Teresa and the Basilica de San Vicente
- Drive back to Madrid and listen to a lecture titled Medieval Architecture

Day 11: Toledo

Included meals: breakfast

Discover Toledo, the clifftop city often referred to as "The Imperial City." On the way, enjoy listening to the first part of the *Toledo: Intersection of Three Traditions* lecture.

- Explore the labyrinth of medieval alleyways at the heart of the city
- Take a guided tour of Toledo Cathedral, a massive, Gothic structure that houses 750 medieval stained glass windows and a treasure trove of golden artifacts
- Gaze upon the cathedral's sacristy, containing masterpieces by the likes of van Dyck, El Greco, Rubens, and Titian
- Visit the Church of Santo Tomé and one of Europe's oldest synagogues, Santa María la Blanca
- Travel back to Madrid and finish the second part of the *Toledo: Intersection of Three Traditions* lecture

Please note: Today's activities involve some walking over uneven terrain. If the Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca is closed, you'll visit the Synagogue of El Tránsito

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Lisbon | 4 NIGHTS

Day 12: Fly to Lisbon

Included meals: breakfast

Fly to Lisbon, Portugal today. This afternoon, attend a lecture titled *Lusitania* (Portugal) and Hispania (Spain): One Origin Fractured Present.

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Lisbon & fado show

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Get to know the Portuguese capital on a tour with a local guide.

- Admire views of the city from Eduardo VII Park, then pass the Plaza del Marqués de Pombal and the Mouraria District
- Discover the city's maritime heritage at the Monument to the Discoveries and Tower of Belém
- Enter the Jerónimos Monastery, built to honor voyagers
- Walk from Bairro Alto through Chiado square to the Baixa district in the heart of the city
- Take a river cruise and admire the views of Lisbon as you float along the waterway

Spend your evening enjoying an included dinner at a Lisbon tavern as you listen to *fado*, Portugal's national musical treasure.

Day 14: Óbidos, Nazaré & Batalha

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Start the day off by listening to a lecture titled *The UNESCO World Heritage List* as you set off to explore the towns of Óbidos and Nazaré.

- Join your Tour Director on a walk through Óbidos's medieval old city and enter the Igreja de Santa Maria
- Enjoy free time to walk up to the medieval Castle of Óbidos
- Travel to Nazaré and sit down for a scenic seaside lunch
- Head up to the town's hilltop to soak in sweeping views of the coastline
- Stop in Batalha to visit the town's stunning monastery, which features an intricate combination of Gothic and Manueline style architecture

Day 15: Sintra

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Travel to UNESCO-listed Sintra, which poet Lord Byron called the most beautiful town in the world, and listen to the first part of a lecture titled *International Portugal*. Then, set off on a tour of the town.

- Get a glimpse of royal life during a guided tour of the 19th-century, Romanticist Pena Palace
- Admire this storybook, mountaintop site, which boasts picturesque gardens and sweeping views of the Portuguese countryside
- Spend free time strolling through Sintra, viewing the town's colorful villas, small shops, and impeccably manicured gardens
- Soak in beautiful coastal views of the Portuguese Riviera and finish listening to the *International Portugal* lecture as you drive back to Lisbon

Celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner this evening.

Day 16: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures) Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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Please note: The inclusions and order of events on this tour are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to your departure.