

## Europe Essence 9 Days 8 Nights Lisbon, Caceres, Madrid, Zaragoza, Barcelona, Paris

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### Day 1 Lisbon - Arrival

Arrive in Lisbon, meet with our local representatives and transfer to the hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

*Accommodation: Vip Executive Entrecampos Conference or similar*

### Day 2 Lisbon (B)

In the morning, embark on a sightseeing tour with a local guide, visiting traditional neighborhoods including the Belem district, the birthplace of Portugal's famous navigators. The tour will include stops at the Monument to the Discoveries, Belem Tower, and the beautiful Jeronimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards, enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore the city. In the late afternoon, transfer to Restauradores Square, a lively area with restaurants and cafes. Taking a ride on the Elevador Da Gloria funicular is recommended, offering access to the San Pedro viewpoint for stunning views over Lisbon and the Bairro Alto district. Return to the hotel to conclude the day.

### Day 3 Lisbon – Caceres – Madrid (B)

After breakfast, depart from Lisbon traveling through the picturesque region of Alentejo. The first stop is Estremoz, a charming town featuring a medieval castle, cobblestone streets, beautiful architecture, and a peaceful atmosphere that captures the essence of Portuguese identity. After leaving Estremoz, cross into Spain, passing through pastures as entering Extremadura. In Cáceres, enjoy time for lunch and a stroll through its historic center, one of the best-preserved medieval and Renaissance urban complexes in the world. Following the visit to Cáceres, the group departs, arriving in Madrid. Upon arrival, transfer to Plaza Mayor, where the lively atmosphere and a variety of restaurants can be explored.

*Accommodation: Praga or similar*

### Day 4 Madrid (B)

The morning begins with a comprehensive tour of central Madrid, including notable sights such as Paseo del Prado, Cibeles, Neptuno, the Gate of Alcalá, Plaza de Colón, and Plaza Mayor. Then, visit Retiro Park, a peaceful oasis in the heart of the city, and explore the lake and the Glass Palace. Next, the tour includes a visit to Las Ventas Bullring (admission included), one of the most famous bullrings in the world, with the tradition of bullfighting explored at the accompanying Bullfighting Museum. Afterwards, enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, transfer to Plaza de Oriente, located opposite the Royal Palace, a lively area with many restaurants offering a variety of cuisines, including local Spanish, international, and Chinese. Enjoy a pleasant dinner of choice before returning to the hotel together.

### Day 5 Madrid – Zaragoza – Barcelona (B)

The journey begins with a departure from Madrid, making a brief stop at Zaragoza. Upon arrival at Zaragoza, enjoy a guided overview of the city before visiting the Basilica in Plaza del Pilar and having time for lunch. Next, head to Poblet Abbey to explore the beautifully preserved medieval monastery, surrounded by ancient walls in a picturesque setting (admission included). Afterwards, travel through the agricultural regions of central Catalonia on the way to Barcelona.

*Accommodation: Hampton By Hilton Barcelona Fira Gran Via or similar*

### Day 6 Barcelona (B)

The day begins with a panoramic city tour of Barcelona, guided by either the tour guide or a local expert. Known as the "City of Counts," Barcelona is renowned for its stunning modernist architecture, especially the works of Gaudí. The tour includes notable landmarks such as the Columbus Monument, Plaza de Cataluña, Paseo de Gracia, Diagonal, Sagrada Familia, Montjuïc with its Olympic facilities, and Plaza de España. Stop at Sagrada Familia to admire its impressive exterior. The tour concludes at La Rambla where a stroll through the historic Gothic Quarter is recommended. Afterwards, an optional visit to Gaudí's iconic masterpiece, the Sagrada Familia, is available for those wishing to explore the interior. The afternoon is free to enjoy at leisure.

In the evening, transfer to Maremagnum, a modern entertainment and dining center by the sea, near Plaza de Colón. This lively area offers plenty of dining options, with time to explore and enjoy dinner.

## Day 7 Barcelona - Paris (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the train station for the high-speed train to Paris. In just over 6 hours, reach the destination on a comfortable and scenic ride. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel.

*Accommodation: Courtyard Marriot Paris St Denis or similar*

## Day 8 Paris (B)

Early in the morning, depart for Versailles, the immense palace of the kings of France. Afterwards, return to Paris around lunchtime and transfer to the Montmartre district. Ascend by funicular to the hill and enjoy the spectacular view of Paris from the top. This neighborhood is known for its painters, artists, and cabarets. Enjoy lunch in the area and soak in the magical atmosphere. Later, take a scenic guided tour to explore the history, main boulevards, and breathtaking monuments of Paris. Return to the hotel. Optionally, attend a variety show.

## Day 9 Paris - Departure (B)

Today, head to the center of Paris, starting with the Eiffel Tower area. There is an opportunity to ascend to the second floor of this remarkable metal monument (ticket included). Next, enjoy a boat cruise along the River Seine, which divides the north and south of Paris. The afternoon is free for exploration. Later, transfer to the airport for the evening homebound flight.

**B – Breakfast**

**L – Lunch**

**TOUR PRICE PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY – minimum 2 persons.**

| SUNDAY Arrival in Lisbon               | Land Package From | Single Supplement |
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| 2024: April – June, September, October | 3580              | 1610              |
| 2024: July, August                     | 3460              | 1610              |

**HOTEL BLACK OUT DATES and FAIR/SEASONAL SURCHARGES MAY APPLY.**

**~~ ALL PRICES ARE IN CANADIAN DOLLARS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE ~~**

### Tour Package Includes:

- Return transfer between airport and hotel.
- Superior 4-star hotel accommodation with daily breakfast.
- High-speed train from Barcelona to Paris.
- City tour in Lisbon, Madrid, Barcelona, Paris.
- Admission to Las Ventas bullring in Madrid, Poblet Monastery, Poble Espanyol in Barcelona, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- Evening transfer: Restauradores Square in Lisbon, Plaza de Oriente in Madrid, Ramblas and Plaza de Catalunya in Barcelona, Latin Quarter of Paris.
- Boat trip along River Seine in Paris.
- Motorcoach tour by English-speaking guide.

### Tour Package Does NOT Include:

- International airfare from Canada to Europe.
- Any applicable weekend and other surcharges imposed by airlines.
- Any taxes, airport fees and fuel surcharge.
- Travel/Medical/Cancellation insurance, Travel Visa and all personal expenses.
- Tipping and gratuities to local guides, drivers, and hotel staff.
- Any items not specified as included.

## Tour Highlights:

- Discover the Belem district and the UNESCO-listed Jeronimos Monastery in Lisbon.
- Visit the historic Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower in Lisbon.
- Explore the medieval and Renaissance treasures of Cáceres.
- Tour Madrid's iconic landmarks including the Prado, Plaza Mayor, and Retiro Park.
- Visit the renowned Las Ventas Bullring and explore the history of bullfighting in Madrid.
- Explore Zaragoza's Basilica del Pilar and the medieval Poblet Abbey.
- Visit the modernist wonders of Barcelona, including Gaudí's Sagrada Familia and Montjuïc.
- Experience the high-speed train to Paris and the charm of the Montmartre district.
- Explore the grandeur of the Palace of Versailles and iconic Parisian landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and River Seine.

## Good to Know:

- Madrid's Plaza Mayor is a vibrant hub for dining and entertainment, perfect for leisurely afternoons. The Las Ventas Bullring is an essential stop for understanding Spain's bullfighting heritage.
- Portugal, Spain, and France are all in the Central European Time Zone (CET), with Spain and France observing daylight saving time.