

# 2024 VISIONS OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL: ART, CULTURE & HISTORY TOUR



**Escorted by Michael Phillips • September 21 - October 5, 2024**

Welcome to the enchanting world of Spain and Portugal, where history, art, and culture intertwine to create a tapestry of unparalleled beauty and richness. Our journey through these two Iberian gems promises to be a transformative experience led by tour maestro, Michael Phillips. While on tour you will delve deep into the heart of the region's artistic legacy and cultural heritage. So, fasten your seatbelts, open your senses, and get ready to embark on a journey through the art, culture, and history of Spain and Portugal that will captivate your soul and inspire your imagination.

Date	Daily Schedule	Date	Daily Schedule
09/21 - Sat	Depart the USA to Madrid, Spain	09/29 - Sun	Lisbon to Saville via Evora
09/22 - Sun	Welcome to Madrid, Spain!	09/30 - Mon	Explore Saville
09/23 - Mon	Madrid, Spain	10/01 - Tue	Zahara, Grazalema, Pileta Caves, and Gibraltar
09/24 - Tue	Madrid to El Escorial and Segovia, Spain	10/02 - Wed	Costa del Sol to Granada with an Alhambra Visit
09/25 - Wed	Segovia to Salamanca, and cross into Coimbra, Portugal	10/03 - Thu	Journey through La Mancha to Toledo
09/26 - Thu	Coimbra to Lisbon via Nazare, Batalha, Fatima, and Óbidos	10/04 - Fri	Exploring Toledo's Cultural and Artistic Treasures
09/27 - Fri	Lisbon and Beyond	10/05 - Sat	Final Day, Departure Home to the US
09/28 - Sat	Lisbon		

Price from **\$4,495** per person/double occupancy (15 Days/14 Nights)

*\*Please note that while the physical activity on this tour (walking distances) is not strenuous, the days are full of touring from breakfast to dinner time with "down-time" only in the evening.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR:

- 1 tour-bus experience for the whole tour!
- Morris Murdock Escorted the tour director for the whole trip along with local guides
- Licensed, insured, and bonded travel agency with over 65 years of experience!! IT MATTERS!

**MORRIS MURDOCK**

**ESCORTED TOURS**

Book online at [www.mmetours.com](http://www.mmetours.com)

Call Morris Murdock Escorted

Tours:

**(800) 809-9910**

Scan the  
QR code for a  
full detailed  
itinerary!



**Your Tour Host:**

**Michael Phillips**, a veteran traveler and tour guide, has designed and led tours the world-over and is always excited to have his groups learn and experience something new and exciting. Michael is Senior Principal Consultant with the RBL Group. He works globally and has taught, trained, and lectured throughout the United States, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Known for his dynamic teaching, lecturing, and group facilitation, Michael has designed and taught courses for every level of learner, from grade-schoolers through graduate students, working professionals and retirees. Prior to his consulting career, Michael was a professor at Brigham Young University. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Michael is the author or editor of more than 35 books, articles and reviews and has served on the boards of several associations and foundations. He is married to Rebecca Wright Phillips and they have three children.

**Included:**

- Local Licensed English-speaking guides and historians
- Hotel accommodations in 4-star deluxe hotels
- Airport Transfers when flights are scheduled for group arrival and departure times. (Others can be booked for an additional fees)
- Sightseeing as outlined on the itinerary
- Meals as outlined
- Entrance fees to all noted locations and museums
- Deluxe/Air Conditioned motor coach transportation
- Audio system headsets throughout the tour
- Document package

**Not Included:**

- International Airfare
- Additional transfers when not arriving or departing with the group
- Any private sightseeing not included on the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature
- Tipping for international guides, hotels or drivers
- Travel Insurance
- Meals not included in tour outline

**Optional Pricing:**

- Single Supplement/Private room - \$5,555.00 and Triple Occupancy is \$2,896.00
- Cash discount - \$125.00 Per person \*\* See details

**Payment Terms:**

- \$500.00 pp deposit will be due at the time of booking
- Final Payments Jun 22, 2024

**Call Morris Murdock Escorted Tours at (800) 809-9910**  
**Book online at [www.mmetours.com](http://www.mmetours.com)**

**MORRIS MURDOCK**  
—◆—  
**ESCORTED TOURS**

**To Book This Tour, Contact your favorite Morris Columbus Travel advisor or the Group Tour Manager listed below:**

**Tour ID # 9224I21 – Tour Manger:** Sarah Wangsgard, **phone#:** (801) 483-6473, **email:** [swangsgard@morrismurdock.com](mailto:swangsgard@morrismurdock.com)

## Days 1-2: Saturday-Sunday, September 21-22, 2024

*Depart the USA to Madrid, Spain*

Saturday we will board our overnight flights to Spain arriving at the Madrid Airport on Sunday, May 22nd, 2024. Upon arrival, we will be met by our tour guide for the length of the tour to welcome us and transport us to our hotel to leave our luggage, clean up from our travels, and grab a bite to eat. This afternoon we will take a panorama city tour by motorcoach to get acquainted with the main city highlights. We have a stop and visit at the Chapel of San Antonio de la Florida. This historic chapel is renowned for its frescoes painted by the famous Spanish artist, Francisco Goya. We will have time to admire the beautiful artwork and learn about Goya's life and influence on Spanish art. Afterward, we will return to the hotel to rest from our busy arrival day. Dinner is on your own at the hotel or you can choose from many of the surrounding restaurants to enjoy. **Meals: In-flight**



## Day 3: Monday, September 23, 2024

*Jerash and Amman City Tour*

Today after breakfast we begin our day by visiting The Prado, often referred to as "the greatest painting museum in the world." We'll explore the remarkable collection of European art, including works by Goya, Velázquez, El Greco, and many others. After a lunch stop, we'll head to the Royal Palace of Madrid. This grand palace is the official residence of the Spanish royal family and is known for its opulent rooms, impressive architecture, and beautiful gardens. Our tour will let us explore the royal chambers, the Throne Room, and the Royal Armory, which houses a vast collection of arms and armor. We'll also take a leisurely stroll in the palace gardens and enjoy the scenic views of the city. This evening again is on your own for dinner. We suggest you make your way to the vibrant Plaza del Sol. This central square is the heart of Madrid and offers a bustling atmosphere with shops, restaurants, and street performers. There you can find an outdoor cafe and savor a delicious Spanish tortilla while people-watching. If you are still ready to explore after dinner, take a leisurely walk through the nearby streets, explore local shops, or perhaps indulge in some churros with hot chocolate at a local chocolatería.

**Meals: Breakfast**

## Day 4: Tuesday, September 24, 2024

*Madrid to El Escorial and Segovia, Spain*

Today we will check out of our hotel and enjoy a scenic drive as we head to the town of San Lorenzo de El Escorial. Here we will explore the Royal Monastery of El Escorial, a magnificent palace, monastery, and library complex built during the reign of King Philip II. We'll discover its rich history and architecture, including the beautiful basilica and the impressive library. From here we continue to the Valley of the Fallen (Valle de los Caídos). As we marvel at the grandeur of this monumental site, which includes a massive basilica carved into the rock of the mountain, housing one of the largest cathedrals in the world we'll gain a great appreciation for this memorial dedicated to those who died in the Spanish Civil War. We finish our journey today traveling to the historic city of Segovia. Here we visit the Alcázar of Segovia, a fairy-tale castle with its distinctive turrets and enchanting architecture. Explore the interior of this medieval fortress, which boasts impressive rooms, courtyards, and panoramic views of the city. We continue to stroll through the charming old town and admire the Segovia Cathedral, a stunning example of Gothic architecture. Take in the city's atmosphere,



wander its narrow streets, and perhaps enjoy some local cuisine at a traditional Spanish restaurant. We will check into our hotel and rest from our busy travel day.

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### **Day 5: Wednesday, September 25, 2024**

*Segovia to Salamanca, and cross into Coimbra, Portugal*

Today after breakfast we start our journey over the border to Portugal. We will be traveling via the enchanting city of Salamanca where we make our way to the vibrant Plaza Mayor, a central square celebrated for its stunning Baroque architecture. We'll appreciate the beauty of the square and maybe indulge in some coffee or pastries at a nearby cafe. Next, we'll visit the awe-inspiring Salamanca Cathedral. Explore its remarkable interior and be sure to gaze upon the intricate façade. Our morning concludes by visiting the University of Salamanca, one of the oldest universities in Europe. Don't forget to search for the famous "Frog of Salamanca" on the university's façade. We continue towards Ciudad Rodrigo, a charming Spanish town, and enjoy a leisurely drive through the picturesque Spanish countryside and arrive in Ciudad Rodrigo in the afternoon. Here we'll savor a delightful lunch at the Parador de Ciudad Rodrigo, which offers a fantastic view overlooking the border with Portugal. We finish our journey today as we cross the border into Portugal reach the historical city of Coimbra and check in to our hotel for a restful overnight stay in Coimbra, eagerly anticipating the adventures ahead in Portugal. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**



### **Day 6: Thursday, September 26, 2024**

*Coimbra to Lisbon via Nazare, Batalha, Fatima, and Óbidos*

We begin our day in Coimbra with a visit to the charming old town to stroll through the narrow streets, taking in the historic atmosphere and local shops. We'll explore the University of Coimbra, which is not only one of the oldest universities in the world but also home to a magnificent library. Marvel at the library's grandeur and its rich collection of books and manuscripts. We continue the morning with a visit to Coimbra Cathedral (Sé Velha). This Romanesque gem offers stunning views of the city. From here, we depart from Coimbra and head towards Nazaré, but make the most of your journey with several significant stops:

- **Batalha:** Visit the Monastery of Santa Maria de Batalha, a masterpiece of Gothic and Manueline architecture. Explore its impressive interior and cloisters.
- **Fátima:** Discover the remarkable pilgrimage site of Fátima, known for its Neoclassical Basilica and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima. Take time for reflection and exploration.
- **Óbidos:** Explore the captivating medieval walled city of Óbidos. Walk along its cobblestone streets, admire the picturesque houses adorned with colorful flowers, and enjoy a taste of Ginja, a traditional Portuguese liqueur. After an eventful afternoon, continue your journey to the vibrant capital city, Lisbon to check into our hotel to rest and recharge for your adventures tomorrow in Lisbon. **Meals: Breakfast**

## Day 7: Friday, September 27, 2024

### *Lisbon and Beyond*

Be sure to enjoy a full breakfast for the full day ahead! We begin with a visit to the Belém district, a historic area of Lisbon with significant cultural and historical sites. We start at Belém Tower (Torre de Belém), a UNESCO World Heritage site. Explore this iconic fortress and enjoy the panoramic views of the Tagus River. We continue to the Monument of the Discoveries (Padrão dos Descobrimentos), which pays tribute to Portugal's Age of Exploration. Climb to the top for more stunning views. Don't miss a visit to the Jerónimos Monastery (Mosteiro dos Jerónimos), a masterpiece of Manueline architecture. Explore its intricate cloisters and the final resting place of explorer Vasco da Gama. From here we'll depart from Lisbon and head to the enchanting town of Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage site to explore the colorful and whimsical Pena Palace (Palácio da Pena), perched atop a hill. Wander through the palace's eclectic architecture and beautifully landscaped grounds. We'll also visit the Moorish Castle (Castelo dos Mouros) with its ancient ruins and breathtaking views of the region. Here the lush Gardens of Monserrate (Parque de Monserrate), a serene and exotic garden with unique plant species await us. In the evening, we make our way to Cape Roca (Cabo da Roca), the westernmost point of mainland Europe. Here we'll witness the dramatic cliffs and the meeting point of the Atlantic Ocean and the European continent. We continue to the resort town of Estoril, known for its beautiful beaches and vibrant nightlife. Take a leisurely stroll and soak in the coastal atmosphere. Finally, we'll return to Lisbon for the night. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**



## Day 8: Saturday, September 28, 2024

### *Lisbon*

Our tour itinerary today begins by visiting the historic Castle of São Jorge (Castelo de São Jorge), an iconic fortress that offers panoramic views of Lisbon. Explore the castle's ancient walls and enjoy the picturesque surroundings. Wander through the Alfama district, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Lisbon. Stroll its narrow streets, and soak in its charming, atmosphere. We'll visit the Miradouro de Santa Luzia, a viewpoint that provides breathtaking views of the city and the Tagus River. It's a perfect spot for some photos and relaxation. In the afternoon, we'll immerse ourselves in the arts at the Gulbenkian Museum (Museu Calouste Gulbenkian), home to an exceptional collection of art, including paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts, and explore the vibrant Chiado district, known for its lively atmosphere and boutique shops. Now we head to the Bairro Alto, a historic and bohemian neighborhood. Take a funicular ride from the San Pedro Terrace (Elevador de Santa Justa) into the heart of Bairro Alto. Tonight we'll enjoy a traditional Portuguese dinner in the Bairro Alto district with soul-stirring Fado music at a local Fado show, where passionate performances will captivate you with the essence of Portuguese culture and emotions.

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**



## Day 9: Sunday, September 29, 2024

### *Lisbon to Saville via Evora*

Enjoy breakfast before our departure from Lisbon. As we leave the city, take in the breathtaking views from the 25th of April Bridge, Europe's longest suspension bridge. We'll make a stop at the Cristo Rei (Christ the King) statue. This Christ statue offers an excellent vantage point, and you can enjoy panoramic views of Lisbon and the Tagus River.

On our journey to Saville, we will have a break with time for lunch in Evora, the historic city which is known for its well-preserved medieval architecture. After the lunch break if time you can explore the town, possibility the Roman Temple, a well-preserved ancient structure, and admire the Gothic Évora Cathedral with its impressive architecture. We spend the balance of the afternoon traveling to our hotel check-in and dinner on our own.

**Meals: Breakfast**

### **Day 10: Monday September 30, 2024**

*Sacrament at the Jerusalem Center – Bethlehem – Shepherd's Fields*

Today we begin our morning by visiting the majestic Alcazar of Seville. Explore the ornate palace, beautiful gardens, and admire the stunning Moorish and Spanish architecture. Next, head to Seville Cathedral, one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in the world. We don't miss the opportunity to climb the Giralda Tower for panoramic views of the city and wander through the charming Jewish Quarter (Barrio Santa Cruz), with its narrow streets, whitewashed buildings, and historic ambiance. After a morning filled with history and culture, take a stroll to Plaza Nueva, a lively square in the heart of Seville. We will see the statue of the Weeping Virgin (Virgen de los Reyes) located nearby. Continue our afternoon with a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts of Seville (Museo de Bellas Artes), known for its outstanding collection of Spanish art. In the evening, experience the passion and artistry of Flamenco at a local tablao. Enjoy a captivating Flamenco show accompanied by a delicious Spanish dinner.

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### **Day 11: Tuesday, October 1, 2024**

*Zahara, Grazalema, Pileta Caves, and Gibraltar*

We start our day by traveling to the picturesque town of Zahara de la Sierra. This "white village" is perched on a hill, offering stunning views of the surrounding countryside and a beautiful reservoir. Explore the charming streets and visit the Castle of Zahara de la Sierra, which has a rich history and offers fantastic panoramic vistas. We continue our journey to Grazalema, another charming village located within the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park. Enjoy a leisurely walk through its cobblestone streets and admire its Andalusian architecture. In the afternoon, venture to the Pileta Caves (Cueva de la Pileta), a renowned cave complex with cave paintings dating back 25,000 years. Explore the incredible rock art and the fascinating geological formations. After our exploration, we'll make our way to Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory with a distinct blend of cultures. Experience the unique atmosphere and enjoy a dinner that might remind you of "jolly old England" before checking into our hotel for the night. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### **Day 12: Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

*Costa del Sol to Granada with an Alhambra Visit*

Begin our day with a scenic drive along the stunning Costa del Sol. Enjoy the picturesque coastal views as you make your way towards Granada. We'll make a short stop in the charming town of "Torremolinos" to stretch our legs and explore the local attractions or enjoy a coffee or Hot Chocolate' at a seaside café. We'll continue the journey to the historic city of Granada, which is renowned for its rich Moorish heritage and the iconic Alhambra. In the evening, our visit of the city Alhambra, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most iconic landmarks in



Spain. Explore the Nasrid Palaces, the Generalife Gardens, and the Alcazaba Fortress while enjoying the intricate Islamic architecture and beautifully landscaped gardens. We'll return to Granada for our overnight.

### **Meals: Breakfast**

### **Day 13: Thursday, October 3, 2024**

#### *Journey through La Mancha to Toledo*

Our day starts with a journey through the enchanting region of La Mancha, famous as the setting for Miguel de Cervantes' renowned novel, "Don Quixote." We'll enjoy the scenic drive through the iconic landscapes and windmills that inspired this literary classic. As we arrive in the historic city of Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its rich history and architectural beauty we'll check into our hotel to rest. This evening we'll savor a delightful dinner at a local restaurant, where you can enjoy traditional Spanish cuisine. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### **Day 14: October 4, 2024**

#### *Exploring Toledo's Cultural and Artistic Treasures*

After breakfast, we start our morning with a visit to the Santo Tomé Church (Iglesia de Santo Tomé), which houses El Greco's masterpiece, "The Burial of the Count of Orgaz." Admire this iconic artwork and the church's architectural beauty. We continue to El Greco's House (Casa de El Greco), the former residence of the famous artist. Explore the house museum and gain insight into the life and works of El Greco. We then visit the Santa Cruz Museum (Museo de Santa Cruz), a prominent museum that houses a diverse collection of art and artifacts, including Spanish Renaissance and Mannerist works. This afternoon, you can spend your time exploring the charming streets of Toledo, known for their medieval architecture and historic charm. We suggest visiting local shops and boutiques to indulge in some souvenir shopping. Tonight, dinner is on your own. **Meals : Breakfast**

### **Day 15: Saturday, October 5, 2024**

#### *Final Day, Departure Home to the US*

As we bid a fond farewell to the Iberian Peninsula and lifelong friends we have made throughout this journey, we prepare to fly home with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. **Meals : Breakfast, In-flight**

#### **Introductory Terms and Conditions**

*(Full Terms & Conditions available on our website and included with each booking)*

**HEALTH & HYGIENE, MOBILITY and CANCELLATION POLICIES:** By signing up for this or any of our tours, you are expressly agreeing to be bound by the TERMS & CONDITIONS contract that will be provided to you with your confirmation, specifically that you understand: i) All policies outlined therein regarding current health and hygiene requirements that may be required by the countries and locations visited; ii) The required mobility needed for the tour; and, iii) The Morris Murdock Escorted Tours cancellation policy may be more restrictive than a vendor or cruise line with which you are traveling.

**INTERNATIONAL TRIPS:** For all tours and cruises that include international air, a valid passport is required and must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of the trip. Morris Murdock Escorted Tours must receive a copy of your passport information page by final payment date. Airlines have strict policies concerning name changes/corrections after tickets have been issued. If a name change/correction is required on your ticket, you will be required to cover the cost of any fees.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Morris Columbus/Morris Murdock Escorted Tours, ("Agent") gives notice that all services, reservations and arrangements for transportation, cruise, conveyance, hotel or lodging of any type, meals, sightseeing services, or any other activities made by Agent, are made by Agent as dual agent for the traveler/passenger and for the air carriers, hotels, sightseeing companies, transportation companies, cruise lines, and other companies (Suppliers) providing services for this program. As such, Agent shall not be liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reasons of defect in any vehicle or mode of transportation, through the acts, defaults, financial difficulty, bankruptcy, or omissions of the Supplier or person engaged in carrying out the arrangements of the trip or otherwise in connection therewith. Agent is not liable for delays and/or cancellations of services and resultant expenses or loss caused by acts of God, weather, disaster, government regulations, sickness or death, quarantine, strikes, war, terrorism, social or labor unrest, local laws, mechanical or construction difficulties, curtailment or disruption of transportation, abnormal conditions or other situations, actions, omissions or conditions outside Agent's control. Agent is not liable for loss of, or damage to, baggage or personal possessions. Agent and Supplier reserve the right to alter or cancel the itinerary or substitute services as conditions require or for the safety of traveler/passenger. Passengers must be in good health and able to care for their own needs. Please contact us regarding any health concerns you may have or if you need to bring any specialized medical equipment such as wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, C-Pap, etc. so that we can determine if Supplier can accommodate your equipment. Tour directors on the trip cannot be of assistance with such needs. We reserve the right to remove travelers/passengers from the group at their own expense if the care of or actions of a traveler/passenger become detrimental to the functioning of the tour. Payment of deposit(s) as outlined in this agreement shall be deemed consent to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement. Airline schedule changes, mechanical or weather delays may affect flight times. Your connecting flights and/or transportation to and from the tour start and end point, whether issued by Morris Columbus Travel/Morris Murdock Escorted Tours or on your own arrangement, may be affected. Morris Columbus Travel/Morris Murdock Escorted Tours is not responsible for misconnections, delays, and/or cancellations.