

SPAIN & PORTUGAL 2020

Burnsview Secondary School

Day 1: March 14, 2020: Vancouver - Barcelona

Depart Vancouver for **Barcelona**. Board your aircraft and settle in for a relaxing ride across the country and Atlantic Ocean.



Day 2: March 15, 2020: Barcelona (D)

Today you arrive in the city of **Barcelona**. The history of **Barcelona** dates back to 218 B.C. when the Romans first developed the city walls, parts of which are still visible. Today Barcelona is the country's major port and second largest city and is a blend of

modern sophistication and historical color and ambiance.

Meet your guide at the airport and board your coach for your **guided city sightseeing tour**. Stop at **Park Guell**, Gaudi's failed "gated residential community" which is now a magical park with amazing buildings, sculptures and tile work designed by Gaudi. You will also find Gaudi's old home in Park Guell which is now open to the public as a small museum.

Later drop off at the hotel and check in.

With your guide, starting at **Placa Catalunya**, the square that divides old and new Barcelona, follow the tree lined 1.2 km **Las Ramblas** boulevard all the way to the cruise port terminal. Many of Barcelona's most interesting streets run off or parallel to this main artery.

One of the best markets in Europe is the **Mercat de la Boqueria** located in the Ramblas of Barcelona. Plan a stop around lunch time to wander and graze through this fabulous market. It is great for shopping but also for just wandering. In *Catalunya*, towns and cities have been founded around markets. The same is true for la Boqueria. The history of the market is that it originated as an open air market in front of the old city walls where fruit and vegetables from local towns and farms nearby would sell their products. Its location was threatened several times but finally in 1914 the current market with its metal roof was inaugurated.





The city's oldest buildings of historic and artistic interest are located in the **Barri Gotic or Gothic Quarter**. See inside the vast **Catedral De Barcelona**, begun in 1298 but mostly completed by the mid-15th century. In addition, see the **Palace of the Catalan Government, City Hall** and the **Great Royal Palace**.

Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant prior to an early night.

Day 3: March 16, 2020: Barcelona (B)

This morning after breakfast at your hotel discover the famous and the most intriguing areas of the city.

Enjoy wandering and discovering the new city.

First, you will visit the iconic **Sagrada Familia**, the unfinished church begun by local architect Antoni Gaudi. Gaudi worked on the project for 40 years and work is still underway on the project. It is expected to be finished in approximately 2026.

Other fascinating Gaudi monuments include **Casa Batilo** and **Casa Mila (La Pedrera)**, that time permitting you could visit on your own. Gaudi is even responsible for many of the intricate lamp posts you see around the city.



Tonight you may wish to go back to **Placa Real** for a wonderful dinner or try any of the numerous restaurants in the **Barri Gotic** for authentic **Spanish Tapas**.

After dinner, make your way tonight to Montjuic to see the **Font Magica Fountain** in its entire colorful splendor. It is a spectacular display of color, light, motion, music and water acrobatics and a must see when visiting Barcelona.

Day 4: March 17, 2020: Barcelona – Granada (B, D)

After breakfast this morning, you will have some more time to explore the new town of Barcelona. Radiating from the Placa Catalunya square are 4 great boulevards. Besides the Ramblas, see **Passeig de Gracia** with its top shops, fashionable **Rambla de Catalunya** and the traffic free **Avinguda Portal de L'Angel**. You will even find a huge **El Cortes Ingles** department store overlooking the square.

This afternoon, you will take a short ride back to the airport for your flight to Granada.

Upon arrival, you will transfer to the hotel and have dinner and explore this evening around the hotel area, time permitting.

Day 5: March 18, 2020: Granada (B)

This morning you will have an early breakfast and then be off to visit the famous palace and fortress, **Alhambra of Granada**. One of Spain's most prized sights!

It was originally constructed as a small fortress in AD 889 on the remains of Roman fortifications, and then largely ignored until its ruins were renovated and rebuilt in the mid-13th century by the Nasrid emir Mohammed ben Al-Ahmar of the Emirate of Granada, who built its current palace and walls.



After your visit to the Alhambra, you have the afternoon and evening free to explore the old town, visiting all of the local shops and other city sights.

This evening, you will return to the hotel early to pack for your early departure tomorrow!

Day 6: March 19, 2020: Granada - Rhonda - Seville (B, D)

This morning enjoy a leisurely breakfast prior to your transfer to Rhonda and one of Spain's loveliest cities, **Seville**.



The sunny **Southern region of Andalusia** has come to symbolize Spain for most of the world. Many civilizations settled



along the shores and all have left their mark. The fame of **Rhonda** rests on its massive gorge that literally splits the town in half. Cliff hanging houses perch right along the edge and look like they will slide into the abyss at any moment. Three bridges link two towns

and two eras. The "new town" called **El Mercadillo** began around 1500. The "Old Quarter" known as **La Cuidad** is a labyrinth of cramped streets and wrought iron balconies brimming with potted geraniums. Here are some of Andalusia's finest aristocratic mansions including the **Casa del Rey Moro** which is the restored home of King Badis, a Moorish ruler who drank wine from the jewel encrusted skulls of his victims. A short walk away you discover gorgeous buildings reminiscent of former glory. There are numerous places you can visit on your own today if time permits. You will have a few hours to explore and eat lunch, before continuing on to Seville.



Upon arrival in Sevilla (Seville), you be transferred to your hotel for dinner and an evening to explore at your leisure – time permitting.

Day 7: March 20, 2020: Seville (B)

Today you have a full day in **Seville**. The core of the historical city sprawls along the east bank of the **Guadalquivir River**. The old town or *centro historico* once huddled inside city walls. Most highlights are concentrated around and between the two most central bridges, the mid 19th century **Puente Isabel II** and **Puente San Telmo**. Clustered between

these two bridges are Seville's four greatest treasures – the **Cathedral**, the **La Giralda Tower**, the **Alcazar**, and the winding streets of the **Barrio de Santa Cruz**. Don't miss the **Torre Del Oro (Tower of Gold)**, Seville's most romantic symbol on the banks of the river. It was one of 64 defensive towers built along the citywalls. It dates from 1220.

Today you will discover these treasures.

Start your day by **meeting your guide who will escort you on a walking sightseeing tour** of this beautiful city. Seville is quintessentially Andalusia.

Seville's Cathedral is the third largest in Europe, after St Peter's at the Vatican and St Paul's in London. It is the largest Gothic church anywhere and took 120 years to build. Today you will **visit the Cathedral** and marvel at its interior. As you exit the Cathedral, see the pinkish square **Giralda Tower**. Formerly a Moorish minaret from which Muslims were called to prayer, it became the Cathedral Bell Tower after the Reconquista. It is optional to climb to the top for a spectacular view.

The Alcazar was originally a 10th century palace built for the governors of the Moorish state and still functions as a royal palace, the oldest in use in Europe. While it still has fragments of its earliest construction, what you see today was commissioned by a



Spaniard, Pedro the Cruel in the 14th Century, still in the Moorish style. You will **visit the Alcazar today**. There was once a thriving Jewish Quarter in Sevilla but the only reminder of this past is the **Barrio Cruz**, a tangled street plan with small plazas, tile covered patios, whitewashed houses with wrought iron lattice work usually draped with flowers. Some of the buildings are so close to each other they are called “kissing lanes” but were actually designed to maximize shade. Doors are purposely left open for passersby to enjoy the greenery and richly tiled patios



An experience not to miss while in Andalusia are the bullfights complete with elaborately decorated (“suits of light”), heart throb matadors. Unfortunately the fights are seasonal, therefore today you will only **visit the bullring, La Maestranza**, strangely quiet and empty. Visit the ring that surpasses in grandeur any other arena in Spain, the museum and the chapel where the matadors pray before the fight.

No visit is complete until you experience an authentic **Flamenco show**. This music and dance art form has its roots in the gypsy and Moorish cultures. Women concentrate on graceful turns and a smooth shuffling step while the men perform the flamboyant rapid fire footwork. **Tonight after dinner you will be thrilled and entertained at your Flamenco Show**. After the show be sure to indulge in some **hot churros and chocolate sauce** as you enjoy your evening paseo through the lively streets of the city.



Day 8: March 21, 2020: Seville – Merida – Trujillo (B)

This morning after breakfast, you depart for Merida en route to Trujillo.

Upon arrival, you will have a couple hours to grab lunch and wander the old town and ruins. Merida was a strategic Roman Route between the gold mines around *Asturica Augusta* and was the most important Roman city in the Iberian Peninsula. The city became the capital of Lusitania province, and one of the most important cities in the Roman Empire. Mérida preserves more important ancient Roman monuments than any other city in Spain, including a triumphal arch and a theatre.

After lunch, you will continue to Trujillo, where you will spend your night in a hotel within the city center. This evening, time permitting, you will be able to explore the ancient ruins and medieval castle at your own leisure.

Trujillo, besides being known for the ruins and Medieval Castle, is also famous for its cheese! They host a national cheese festival in early May every year! Be sure to try some of this local delicacy this evening.



Day 9: March 22, 2020: Trujillo – Evora - Lisbon (B, D)

Today you depart for a new country – Lisbon, Portugal!



En route, you will stop in Evora for lunch and a bit of free time to explore the old town.

Due to its well-preserved old town centre, still partially enclosed by medieval walls, and a large number of monuments dating from various historical periods, including a Roman Temple, Évora is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

After lunch, you will continue to Lisbon.

Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in the world, and one of the oldest in Western Europe, predating other modern European capitals such as London, Paris, and Rome by centuries. Julius Caesar made it a municipium called *Felicitas Julia*, adding to the name *Olissipo*. Ruled by a series of Germanic tribes from the 5th century, it was captured by the Moors in the 8th century. In 1147, the Crusaders under Afonso Henriques reconquered the city and since then it has been a major political, economic and cultural centre of Portugal.

This evening, you will arrive late, so after checking into the hotel, you will have dinner included and enjoy the hotel amenities for the night.

Day 10: March 23, 2020: Lisbon (B)

Today, you explore Lisbon in the Belem, Chaido, and Bairro Alto areas of town.

Your guide will pick you up at the hotel this morning after breakfast to begin your day of touring.

Visit the Belem Tower, Jeronimos Monastery, Padrao dos Descobrimentos, and many more sights!

Later this evening, you will have a bit of free time to shop and explore the city center.

After dinner, return to your hotel for the night.



Day 11: March 24, 2020: Lisbon (B)

For your second day in Lisbon, you will explore other main city areas such as Baixa and Alfama. Your guide will meet you again in the morning after breakfast and take you to see the Avenida da Liberdade, Parque Eduardo VII, Rossio, Rua Augusta Arch, Praca do Comercio, Se Cathedral de Lisboa, Castelo de Sao Jorge and some amazing viewpoints from above the city!

Again this evening you will have a last bit of free time to buy souvenirs for friends and family and pack your bags for an early departure tomorrow morning!

Day 12: March 25, 2020: Lisbon - Vancouver (B)

Today, unfortunately your tour must come to an end. After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Return to Vancouver later this afternoon.