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We take pride in our products and are dedicated to excellence in customer service and value. The advantage of using Comtours, is that we know the areas we offer personally and have great knowledge of what we are selling, which is what sets us apart from the rest.

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CITY PACKAGES 2008



We offer the best in travel to Spain & Portugal for the independent traveler, as well as for groups.

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CONTOURS

BARCELONA HOTELS

Barcelona will put a smile on your face when you visit this modern city. In a privileged position on the north-eastern coast of Spain and the shores of the Mediterranean, Barcelona stands out as one of the most impressive and artistic cities in all of Europe.



Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
 - 3 Nights accommodation
 - Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
 - All Hotel taxes and service charges
- Extra nights can be added to these packages.*



Tiles at Guell Park

Price from \$345.00 per person in double

We have 65 hotels in Barcelona to choose from

Featured Hotels

Hotel Rialto 3* Barcelona. Centrally located in a picturesque spot in a historic building. Bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar and safe.

Hotel Condes de Barcelona Barcelona. Centrally located in the famous Paseo de Gracia street in a historic building. Bar/coffee shop and swimming pool. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar and safe.

Hotel Arts Barcelona 5* Barcelona. Centrally located by the port. Garden, swimming pool and heated pool, gym, sauna, bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV, telephone, fax & internet, mini bar, safe and hair-dryer.

We offer airfares from: ORD (Chicago) MIA (Miami) NYC (Kennedy) BOS (Boston) and IAD (Washington)
With over 23 other add-on gateways
Available upon request

CONTOURS

HISTORY OF SEVILLE

In the past the port of Seville played an important role in commerce between Spain and the Americas and remains today one of the most active river ports of the Iberian peninsula.

The Tartessians were the original founders of Hispalis. Next to this settlement, in 207 B.C. the Romans built Italica. It was the center of their Western Mediterranean dominions for seven centuries until the Roman Empire was overrun by people from the North at the beginning of the 10th century.

The long Moorish occupation of the Iberian Peninsula, from 711 A.D. to 1248 A.D., left indelible traces in Seville as in all of Al-Andalus. La Giralda, the tower of an important mosque is the most well known of the remaining Islamic monuments.

The 17th century was a period of artistic splendor in Seville. Painters such as Murillo and Valdes Leal, and sculptors like Martinez Montanes were born in Seville and left behind important works. The city also assumed an important role in world literature and was the birthplace of the myth of Don Juan.

Places worth a visit in Seville are: the renaissance Town Hall and the Gold Tower, once a bastion of the Almohad curtain walls located on the Guadalquivir River. The lovely Tabacco Factory, a baroque building, that houses the University and the lovely Plaza de España square (get those cameras ready) built of brick and ceramics, it is a semicircular structure, surrounded by a canal where one can row a boat. At Maria Luisa Park, admire the pools and fountains and then visit the *Cathedral with Columbus' Tomb, third largest Cathedral in Europe. Walk through the tiny narrow streets of the Santa Cruz quarters (old Jewish section) with its balconies and flowers.

*La Giralda, the minaret of the Arab mosque dating from the 12th c. was incorporated as a bell tower in the magnificent Gothic Cathedral three hundred years later. Also is the "Reales Alcazares" an Arab fortress with beautiful gardens, and the famous Archive of the Indias.



CONTOURS

SEVILLE HOTELS

Seville, a vibrant capital city, with streets filled with orange blossoms in the spring and so much to offer. The city of Seville is located on the plain of the Guadalquivir River, which crosses the city from North to South. The river can be navigated from Seville, all the way to its outlet near Sanlucar de Barrameda, on the Atlantic coast.

Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
 - 3 Nights accommodation
 - Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
 - All Hotel taxes and service charges
- Extra nights can be added to these packages.*



Price from \$329.00 per person in double

We have over 33 hotels in Seville to choose from

Featured Hotels

Hotel Las Casas de la Juderia 3* Seville. Centrally located in the old Jewish quarter of Santa Cruz in a historic building. Bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar, safe and hairdryer.

Hotel San Gil 4* Seville. Centrally located in a picturesque spot in a historic building full of old world charm. Garden, swimming pool, bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar, safe and hairdryer.

Hotel Alfonso XIII 5*DL Seville. Beautiful historic building, centrally located. Garden, swimming pool, shops. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar, safe and hairdryer

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CONTOURS

BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING

AM H/D CITY TOUR OF BARCELONA Placa Catalunya, Via Laietana, the Cathedral and its cloister, the Gothic Quarter, Plaza Sant Jaume (Generalitat and Town Hall). Continue on to the Vila Olimpica (athlete's residential complex during the Olympics) and the Port Olimpica (harbor), which you will tour on foot. After this you will go up the Montjich Mountain, which offers a panoramic view of the city and the Port. Tour the Stadium, Plau Sant Jordi and Calatrava Tower. Then enjoy a visit to the Poble Espanyol (Spanish Village) which reproduces the most typical regional architectural styles of Spain. At the same time you will be able to taste the famous Catalan Cava (sparkling wine). On the way back to the terminal a stop will be made at the "Hard Rock Café".
Daily Departure from Bus Terminal located at 5 Ronda Universidad at 9:30 am

PM H/D CITY TOUR OF BARCELONA- GAUDI & PICASSO Passeig de Gracia, bus tour to see Gaudi's famous buildings like Casa Batlló, and Casa Milá, and a visit to the world renown Güell Park declared an artistic monument and mankind's heritage by the UNESCO. Then on to admire the famous "Sagrada Familia" (Holy Family) Cathedral – an unfinished masterpiece of the world famous architect Gaudi. Also you will visit Barcelona's Monumental Bull Ring and the Picasso Museum – which exhibits works from this world-famous painter's "blue" and "pink" periods. On Sundays and Mondays the Picasso Museum is closed to the public, so you will visit the "La Ciutadella" or Santa Maria del Mar instead. **Daily Departure from Bus Terminal located at 5 Ronda Universidad at 3:30 am**

FD TOUR OF BARCELONA Combination of tours 1 & 2 plus lunch in restaurant located in the Spanish Village. **Daily Departure from Bus Terminal located at 5 Ronda Universidad at 9:30 am**

AM H/D MONTSERRAT FROM BARCELONA Situated at 38 miles from Barcelona, Montserrat is the holy mountain of Catalonia. This is a peculiar rocky outcrop, smoothed into round shapes by the rain and wind throughout the millenniums. A Benedictine Monastery stands on the mountainside which is the guide to Catalan spiritual life, and is also a homage to the Virgin of Montserrat, the patroness of Catalonia. Montserrat has also the oldest boy's choir in Europe which sings everyday at 1pm and 6:30pm, except in July due to the vacations of the Coral. Drive through picturesque little villages to Montserrat which holds the famous Verge Moreneta, a 12th century Romanesque carving. On the way back to Barcelona, stop will be made for those people who wish to visit the Aquarium, restaurants, shops and cinemas may do so on their own, the bus will then proceed back to the terminal. **Daily Departure from Bus Terminal located at 5 Ronda Universidad at 9:30 am**

H/D MONTSERRAT & MODERNISMO FROM BARCELONA Arrival at Montserrat and visit of the Basilica. Arrival back in Barcelona for the Modernismo tour of the city. **Daily Departure from Bus Terminal located at 5 Ronda Universidad at 9:30 am**

On Sundays & Mondays, the Picasso Museum is closed. So on Sundays you will visit the Church of Santa Maria del Mar and on Mondays the Ciutadella Park.

COMTOURS

BILBAO HOTELS

The Cantabrian Sea and the Pyrenees mountains provide the backdrop for a landscape with all the shades of green, craggy coasts with small estuaries, and highlands of beach and oak trees. For centuries, its inhabitants have been sailors, farmers and shepherds who speak an ancient language, bearing no relationship to any other known tongue, whose origin must be sought in legends rather than history.



Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges

Extra nights can be added to these package.



Price from \$266.00 per person in double

We have 15 hotels in Bilbao to choose from Featured Hotels

Htl Ercilla 4* Bilbao. Centrally located. Bar/coffee shop, shops, discothèque. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV/Video, telephone, minibar and hair-dryer.

Hotel San Gil 4* Bilbao. Closest hotel to the famous Guggenheim Museum. Centrally located. Bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar and hairdryer.

Hotel Alfonso XIII 5*DL Bilbao. Centrally located in a historic building. Air conditioned. Bar/coffee shop. Rooms have; TV/Video, telephone, mini bar and hair dryer. Garage.

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COMTOURS

HISTORY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

The scenery is spectacular and has remained unchanged for centuries.

Santiago de Compostela is a universally famous former pilgrimage center and is famous for its cathedral, where the remains of Saint James the Apostle is to be found. The whole town is a museum waiting to be explored.

Declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and built on a hill encircled by the river Sar and its tributary, the river Sarela, Santiago de Compostela is a beautiful town, made for walking. The legend of Santiago de Compostela was born through the discovery in 813 A.D. of the sepulcher of St. James the Apostle, who was beheaded in 44 A.D. in Palestine. King Alfonso II visited the site and ordered a modest temple and monastery to be built, erecting the center around which the city later grew. At the end of the 9th Century, Alfonso III built the ancient basilica.

The main part of this typical walled medieval city is the cathedral on the lovely Obradoiro Square, surrounded by other magnificent buildings such as the parador, which was the old hospital built in the 16th century to care for the pilgrims. Off of the square are many narrow streets (ruas) with typical restaurants, shops etc. Typical of the area are the “empanadas” little pies, “lacon con grelos” pork with parsnip tops and “cocido gallego, a kind of stew. Of course the fish and shellfish are what makes Galician cuisine most famous. One must try the “pulpo” octopus, which is part of every meal in the region as are the delicious creamy cheeses.

There are many places to visit from Santiago de Compostela, like the towns of Muros and Noia or a little further a-field, the Island of Toja, that has a great Spa.

Also worth a mention are the lovely handicrafts of Galicia, such as the bobbin lace from Camariñas, the wooden shoes from Betanzon, baskets from Noia or the Porcelain from Sargadelos to mention just a few.



Pilgrim's Symbol of Santiago

COMTOURS

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

A pilgrim destination, Santiago de Compostela is located in Galicia, a beautiful province of Spain in the northwest corner of the peninsula, embraced by the sea and full of fjord like "rais" (estuaries). Typical of Galicia are the "cruceiros" elaborately carved stone crosses on tall columns and the "horreos" for storing grain.



Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges

Extra nights can be added to these packages.

Price from \$299.00 per person in double

We have 12 hotels in Santiago de Compostela Featured Hotels

Hotel Los Tilos 4* Santiago de Compostela. Located in a picturesque spot. Garden, bar/coffee shop, swimming pool, tennis and gym. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, TV and mini bar.

Hotel Melia Araganey 5* Santiago de Compostela. Centrally located in a picturesque spot. Sauna, garden, swimming pool, shops, bar/coffee shop and discothèque. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, TV, mini bar and hair dryer.

Hotel Hesperia Compostela 4* Santiago de Compostela. The hotel is considered a historic building, centrally located in a picturesque spot. Rooms have; safe, telephone, TV, mini mar and hair dryer. Coffee shop.

COMTOURS

BILBAO INFORMATION

History of Bilbao

One thing is certain, the Basques are the oldest and purest ethnic group on the Iberian Peninsula. The Basque country (Euskadi in Basque) has many cities of interest, the best known are Bilbao, San Sebastian and Vitoria.



Bilbao, which was founded at the beginning of the 14th century is the largest city in the region and has a lovely Old City with an outstanding Gothic cathedral and City Hall. It is an industrial and financial center. Bilbao is now known for its Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, which basically includes works by the most prominent artists of the last forty years of this century and is supplemented by works from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. However there is the Museum of Fine Arts. Bilbao, which was founded in 1905.

To get to the Guggenheim there is the Moyua Metro or the local buses, 1, 10, 13, 18 that stop at the Plaza del Museo de Bellas Artes. For information one can call the Guggenheim Museum at 435 9080

Shopping in Bilbao

Looking for ceramics, antiques, clothes, shoes, sweet pastries etc. Then Bilbao is the place for you. The main shopping areas are to be found in the old quarters: Indautxi and Ensanche. Don't "shop till you drop", take a breather and head for one of the many small cafes and try some delicious "pintxos" or "tapas" (small canapés). Modern shops next to the old stores can be found in what is known as the "Seven Streets in the historic center of Bilbao.

Every Sunday, you will find street Markets under the arches of the Plaza Nueva. Here you will find everything under the sun. There is also another market in the "Boluetá" quarter, where you can find music, shoes and much much more....

COMTOURS

CORDOBA HOTELS

Cordoba, home of the great mosque, has been in the heart of Western history: its colossal caliphal civilization, in the Middle Ages, was the most magnificent in Europe and laid down a bridge between East and West.



Maimonides

Our Packages Include:

- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges
Extra nights can be added to these packages,

Price from \$199.00 per person in double

We have 12 hotels in Cordoba to choose from Featured Hotels

Hotel Conquistador 4* Cordoba. Centrally located in a picturesque spot in the Juderia next to the Mosque. Garden, shops, bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, TV, mini bar and hair dryer.

Hotel Occidental Cordoba 4* Cordoba. Located in a picturesque spot. Garden, pool, tennis and bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, TV, mini bar and hair dryer.

Hotel Maimonides 3* Cordoba. The hotel is centrally located in the old walled town. Room have: air conditioning, heating, telephone, TV, hair dryer, safe and mini bar. Garden, shops, garage and coffee shop.

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COMTOURS

PORTO SIGHTSEEING & DOURO RIVER CRUISE

Porto City Tour-World Heritage site *Departs daily Morning departs 9:00 am Afternoon departs 2:00 pm*

Minho Tour "Guimaraes & Braga" *Departs Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9:00 am.*

Douro Tour "Amarante, Regua, Lamego & Pinhao" *Departs Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays*

Fatima & Coimbra *Departs daily* **Santiago de Compostela (Spain)** *Daily*

Fados Dinner & Show *Daily except Sundays*

DOURO RIVER CRUISES: Enjoy a relaxing cruise along the beautiful Douro River, where you can view the terraced Vineyards, where the grapes for the famous Port Wine is grown and for which Oporto (Porto), second largest city in Portugal, is well known.



Comtours can arrange for you to enjoy a one, two or 3 day cruise **along the Douro river. These cruises are only available with a 3 night hotel package.**

For a full itinerary of one of our Douro River Cruises from Porto, please contact us and we will be happy to send you the information. Here is one sample of our 1 day Douro River Cruises:

Porto / Régua / Porto – Daily Promotion (Downstream)

08H30 Meeting at S. Bento Railway Station & departure by train to Régua.
12H00 Passengers board at Régua quay Lunch on board.
Pass through Carrapatelo & Crestuma/Lever dams, with locks of 35 and 14 meters each.
18H00 Estimated arrival at Vila Nova de Gaia quay

COMTOURS

PORTO HOTELS

Porto is Portugal's 2nd largest city in the northwestern corner and most famous for its port wine, and birth place of Henry the Navigator. It sits on Penaventosa hill, overlooking the Douro River with unforgettable sights of gilded baroque churches, blue tiled buildings and wrought-iron bridge. Places of interest are the river side sector, with its impressive bridges, the Se Cathedral, Palacio da Bolsa (Stock Exchange).



Our Porto Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges

Extra nights can be added to these packages.



Douro Wine Region

Price from \$345.00 per person in double

We have over 20 hotels in Porto to choose from Featured Hotels

Htl Pestana Porto Carlton 4* Porto. Located in the historical center of Porto. Restaurant and bar. Air conditioned. Rooms have; Telephone, Tv, mini bar and safe.

Htl Le Meridein Park Atlantic Porto 5* Porto. Located in one of the famous Avenues of the city and with fantastic views. Restaurant, bar, garden. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; telephone, TV, safe and mini bar .

Htl Infante de Sagres 5* Porto. Located in the shopping center. Restaurant and bar. Awarded the Gold Medal of Tourist Merit. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; Telephone, TV and mini bar.

COMTOURS

HISTORY OF CORDOBA

The city of Cordoba is set in the geographical center of the province and is washed by the Guadalquivir River, which splits the town and the province in two: to the north closely knit mountain ranges are plentiful in game; to the south there spreads a fruitful country, the Campiña, speckled with white villages and trimmed by another stretch of mountains belonging to the Southern Betica mountain range.

Cordoba, the capital, has 300,000 inhabitants, almost half of the population in the province. The average yearly temperature is 17.5 °C. It also stands out among the many Spanish cities attracting tourists, undoubtedly because of its marvelous historical legacy and monumental heritage.

Founded around 169 B.C. by the Roman praetor Claudius Marcellus, it was the birthplace of the philosopher Seneca and the poet Lucan, among others. It was during the period of Islamic dominance when Cordoba reached its peak. Caliphal Cordoba became the most cultivated and magnificent city in 10th century Europe: it had around 1,000 mosques and 600 public baths, lighting in the streets (700 years earlier than London or Paris) and was the home of a numerous group of wise men, poets, doctors, philosophers, and mystics, some of whom achieved universal status such as the philosopher Averroes and the Jewish doctor Maimonides. Thanks to translations made by the Arabs, classical culture was rediscovered and made available to the West.

Equally important is the legacy accumulated in the city after the Christian conquest: churches, convents, hospitals, palaces, and many stately houses shelter the Islamic jewel of Cordoba, its mosque, which makes it one of the great monumental cities in Europe. UNESCO recently declared the old quarter and the mosque – “World Heritage” sites.

Among the museums in Cordoba worth a visit, is the little art museum of the painter Julio Romero de Torres, which is located in his home.

Outside of Cordoba are the ruins of Madinat al-Zahra (Medina Azahara) which is a restored palatine city, that we highly recommend one visit, which will give the visitor an idea of just how splendid the city once was.

COMTOURS

GRANADA HOTELS

Granada, with its backdrop of the Sierra Nevada mountains, is the capital of the province with the same name situated in the eastern part of the region of Andalusia. Geographical and scenic diversity characterized the land. There is the coastal with its warm climate; the extensive, fertile Genil plain; and the mountainous region with a colder climate, where we find the 3,481 meter Mulhacen, the highest peak on the peninsula.



Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges
Extra nights can be added to these packages.

Price from \$249.00 per person in double

We have over 20 hotels in Granada to choose from Featured Hotels

Hotel Los Alixares 3* Granada. Located in a picturesque spot near the Gardens of the Generalife. Gardens, pool, shops and bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Telephone, safe, mini bar and TV.

Hotel Carmen 4* Granada. City center. Garden, pool, shops, bar/coffee shop. Airconditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, TV, mini bar and hair dryer.

Hotel Alhambra Palace 4* Granada. Centrally located near the Alhambra Palace in a picturesque spot, this hotel is in a historic building. Garden, shops, bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, TV, mini bar and hair dryer.

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COMTOURS

MADRID SIGHTSEEING



Toledo

AM H/D PANORAMIC TOUR & PRADO MUSEUM *Daily except Sundays and Mondays.* DEPARTS FROM TERMINAL AT 8:45 AM

AM H/D PANORAMIC TOUR & ROYAL PALACE *Daily* DEPARTS FROM TERMINAL AT 8:45 AM

AM H/D ARTISTIC TOUR MADRID *Daily except Mondays & holidays* DEPARTS FROM TERMINAL AT 8:45 AM

AM / PM H/D PANORAMIC TOUR MADRID *Daily* DEPARTS FROM TERMINAL AT 9:45 AM & 3:00 PM

AM PANORAMIC & BULLFIGHT IN MADRID DEPARTS FROM TERMINAL TWO HOURS PRIOR TO BULLFIGHT

AM/PM H/D ESCORIAL-VALLEY OF THE FALLEN TOUR *Daily except Mondays* DEPARTURE FROM BUS TERMINAL AT 8:45 AM (ALL YEAR ROUND) AND 3:00 PM (APRIL TO OCTOBER)

ESCORIAL/VALLE/TOLEDO FROM MADRID DEPARTS FROM TERMINAL AT 8:45 AM. *Daily Except Mondays*

TOLEDO *Full day with lunch or Half day mornings or afternoons - no lunch* DEPARTS TERMINAL At: **FD** = 9:45 AM **HD** (AM-April thru October) – 8:45 AM **HD (PM-all year round) – 3:00 PM**

ESCORIAL/VALLE/TOLEDO FROM MADRID DEPARTS FROM TERMINAL AT 8:45 AM. DAILY EXCEPT MONDAYS.

F/D AVILA/SEGOVIA WITH *GASTRONOMIC LUNCH *Daily *Also available: Touristic menu or without lunch* DEPART TERMINAL AT 9:45 AM

DINNER AND FLAMENCO IN MADRID *Daily except Sunday & holidays* Depart from Terminal at 8:30 pm Evening dress not required, but gentlemen will have to wear tie and jacket.

PANORAMIC & FLAMENCO (WITH OR WITHOUT APETIZERS) *Daily except Sunday & holidays* Depart from Terminal at 8:30 pm

CONTOURS

MADRID HOTELS

Madrid, a vibrant city located in the heart of the Spanish peninsula. As the capital city of Spain, it has much to offer. Parks, museums, monuments, squares, avenues, etc. Madrid offers many restaurants where one can sample the very best of Spanish cuisine. For the art lover, there are many museums such as the Prado, Thyssen-Bornemisza, Queen Sofia etc, not to mention the beautiful Royal Palace and other splendid architectural buildings like the post office! A busy city by day, and a nightlife full of fun...come discover all that Madrid has to offer.



Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges

Extra nights can be added to these packages.

Price from \$345.00 per person in double

We have over 75 hotels in Madrid to choose from

Featured Hotels

Hotel Tryp Gran Via 3* Madrid. Centrally located in a historic building on the famous Gran Via street. Offers Bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Rooms have; TV, safe and telephone.

Hotel Tryp Ambassador 4* Madrid. Centrally located in a historic building. Bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar, safe and hairdryer.

Hotel Palace 5* Madrid. This historic building is located in the heart of the city near the Prado Museum. Bar/coffee shop, restaurant, shops, gym and sauna. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; TV, telephone, mini bar, safe and hairdryer

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CONTOURS

HISTORY OF GRANADA

The city of Granada is located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at the confluence of the Darro and Genil rivers. Its unique history has bestowed it with an artistic grandeur embracing Moorish palaces and Christian Renaissance treasures. As the last Moorish capital on the Iberian peninsula, it also holds great symbolic value.

The city of Granada has been shaped by the hills, where the old districts in the Albaicin and the Alhambra were founded, brimming with steep, narrow streets, beautiful nooks and corners, and marvelous landscapes. The new part of the city is situated on the plain, crisscrossed by the large arteries of Gran Via and Colon and Calle de los Reyes Catolicos, and where the busy streets around the Cathedral are found.

The Moors crossed the Strait of Gibraltar in 711 and settled in what was then a small Visigoth town perched atop the Alhambra hill. Here they settled, erected walls and laid the foundation for the prosperous civilization that would follow. It was in the 9th century when Granada rose to importance after the fall of the Caliphate of Cordoba. Its splendor was reached in 1238, when Mohammed ben Nasar founded the Nasrid dynasty, and the kingdom of Granada stretched from Gibraltar to Murcia. This dynasty bore 20 kings and until King Boabdil was forced to surrender Granada to the Catholic monarchs, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, in 1492. During 3 centuries, a magnificent and rich Islamic culture flourished, leaving Granada with architectural marvels of the caliber of the Alhambra, declared a World Heritage Site, along with the Generalife and the Albaicin.

Granada, a student town set in the foot hills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, is the capital of the province with the same name situated in the eastern part of the region of Andalusia. Geographical and scenic diversity characterized the land. There is the coastal with its warm climate; the extensive, fertile Genil plain; and the mountainous region with a colder climate, where we find the 3,481 meter Mulhacen, the highest peak on the peninsula. The city of Granada is located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at the confluence of the Darro and Genil rivers. Its unique history has bestowed it with an artistic grandeur embracing Moorish palaces and Christian Renaissance treasures. As the last Moorish capital on the Iberian peninsula, it also holds great symbolic value.

The main attraction is the "Alhambra Palace". The mighty yet graceful citadel was planned by the 13th. century ruler, Al Ahamar. The American writer Washington Irving lived in and wrote his "Tales of the Alhambra" there. A fantasy of "lace in stone" the shallow pools reflecting the sky and trees is pure joy to walk through and is perhaps one of the best example of ancient Arab architecture in western Europe. Surrounded by arabesque gardens and fountains, it affords superb views of the old quarter and Sacromonte, a mountain occupied by gypsy cave dwellers. It was here that the relics of the patron saint of the city were found. One can also amble through the magnificent Water Gardens of the Generalife, the royal summer residence.



COMTOURS

LA CORUÑA HOTELS

La Coruña is located in Galicia, a beautiful province of Spain in the northwest corner of the peninsula, embraced by the sea and full of fjord like "rais" (estuaries). Typical of Galicia are the "cruceiros" elaborately carved stone crosses on tall columns and the "horreos" for storing grain.

Hercules' Tower Lighthouse, working for over 2,000 yrs



Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges

Extra nights can be added to these packages.

Price from \$375.00 per person in double

We have 12 hotels in La Coruña to choose from Featured Hotels

Htl Maria Pita 4* La Coruña Located in a picturesque spot by the beach. Garden, shops, sauna and bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Safe, TV, telephone, mini bar and hair dryer.

Htl NH Atlantico 4* La Coruña Centrally located near the wharf. Sauna/Jacuzzi, bar/coffee shop, and discothèque. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Safe, TV, telephone, mini bar and hair dryer.

Htl Finisterre 4* La Coruña Located on a picturesque spot near the water. Sauna., gym, tennis, swimming pool and heated pool, garden, shops and bar/coffee shop. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, TV, mini bar and hair dryer.

COMTOURS

LISBON SIGHTSEEING

H/D LISBON CITY TOUR Daily all year except Jan 01 and Dec 25. Departs 9:00 am / 2:30 pm from Parque Eduardo VII

F/D LISBON CITY AND SINTRA, ESTORIL & CABO DA Daily all year except Jan 01 and Dec 25. Departs 9:00 am from Parque Eduardo VII

H/D ESTORIL COAST AND SINTRA Daily all year except Jan 01 and Dec 25. Departs 2:30pm from Parque Eduardo VII

F/D SINTRA DELUXE Daily all year except Jan 01 and Dec 25. Departs 9:00 am from Parque Eduardo VII. Lunch included

H/D FATIMA AND THE 3 SHEPHERDS April-October (except the 12 & 13) Departs 2:30 pm from Parque Eduardo VII

F/D FATIMA AND THE MONASTERIES Daily all year except Jan 01 and Dec 25. Departs 9:00 am from Parque Eduardo VII. Lunch included

F/D LISBON AND FATIMA April-October (except the 12 & 13) Departs 9:00 am from Parque Eduardo VII.

H/D ARRABIDA AND THE MOORISH CASTLES April-October (except the 12 & 13 Monday to Friday) Departs 2:30 pm from Parque Eduardo VII

F/D LISBON AND ARRABIDA April-October (except the 12 & 13 Monday to Friday) Departs 9:00 am from Parque Eduardo VII

F/D EVORA-THE ROMAN CITY Daily All year / April to October (except the 12 & 13 Tuesday and Saturday) Departs 9:00 am from Parque Eduardo VII. Includes lunch.

H/D LISBON RIVER CRUISE Departs April –October (except Mondays)) Departs 2:30 am from Parque Eduardo VII.

H/D MARTIME DISCOVERIES Departs Daily, April-October (except Mondays and holidays) Departs 9:00 am from Parque Eduardo VII

LISBON BY NIGHT WITH DRINK OR DINNER Departs All year – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays with previous reservation

CASINO IN ESTORIL WITH DRINK AND SHOW OR DINNER AND SHOW Departs Tuesdays and Thursdays with previous reservation. Departs 8:00 pm from Parque Eduardo VII



Shrine
Of
Fatima



CONTOURS

LISBON HOTELS

The imposing Tagus river (Tejo) flows alongside Lisbon from east to west. Its source lies in Spain, but a good part of its journey to the sea lies inside Portuguese frontiers before it meets the Atlantic ocean. Lisbon, the dazzling city that stretches along the banks of the Tagus, is an enchanting capital. There is the fortress around which the city originally sprang up, and which is now circled by neighborhoods drenched with medieval charm.

Our Packages Include:

- Roundtrip transfers
- 3 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast Daily (except apartments)
- All Hotel taxes and service charges

Extra nights can be added to these packages.



Price from \$395.00 per person in double

We have over 30 hotels in Lisbon

Featured Hotels

Hotel Mundial 4* Lisbon. Located down town. Restaurant with panoramic views of the city, restaurant 1st floor, snack bar and bar. Air conditioned. Garage. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, mini bar and TV and hair dryer.

Hotel Lisboa Plaza 4* Lisbon. Centrally located. Restaurant, Bar and individually decorated rooms. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; Safe, telephone, mini bar, TV.

Hotel Avendia Palace 5* Lisbon. Centrally located down town. Bar, restaurant and beautifully decorated sitting areas. Air conditioned. Parking. Rooms have; Safe, TV, telephone and mini bar.

We offer airfares from: ORD (Chicago) MIA (Miami) NYC (Kennedy) BOS (Boston) and IAD (Washington) With over 23 other add-on gateways Available upon request

CONTOURS

LA CORUÑA INFORMATION

The scenery is spectacular and has remained unchanged for centuries.

La Coruña is the largest Galician city and has several attractions like the 19th c. elegance of its glass galleries skirting the harbor basin of La Marina. An old city, **La Coruña** has managed to preserve a considerable share of its monumental heritage, outstanding among which, are several Romanesque churches like Santa Maria del Campo. Another outstanding monument in **La Coruña** is “La Torre de Hercules, de Trajano” (Hercules of Trajano Tower) the only Roman lighthouse still working. **La Coruña’s** most beautiful and original features, are perhaps the bay windows which often cover whole façades.

Other towns of importance are: Lugo (with its impressive Roman Wall), Pontevedra, Ourense, and Santiago de Compostela (see page on Santiago).

Also worth a mention are the lovely handicrafts of Galicia, such as the bobbin lace from Camariñas, the wooden shoes from Betanzon, baskets from Noia or the Porcelain from Sargadelos to mention just a few

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Typical Galician Cheese.
“La Tetilla”