

CIRCA



TOURS

A division of Circa Terras, Inc.



The Alcazar - Seville

Photos by Circa Tours

Best of Spain

Barcelona - Madrid - Cordoba - Seville
(11 days - 9 nights)

Circa Tours - 30919 Brassie Lane - Temecula - CA - 92591
Tel: 951-676-6117 - Fax: 951-676-6118 - www.circatours.com - CST 2081474-40
© Copyright Circa Tours and Circa Terras, Inc. All rights reserved

SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is an example of a possible itinerary. It can be resized, reorganized and customized to fit your interests, budget and schedule. It can also be combined with other tours.

HIGHLIGHTS (11 days - 9 nights)

DAY	ACTIVITIES	NIGHT
1	Leave the U.S.	
2	Arrive in Barcelona . Airport transfer. At leisure	Barcelona
3	Day trip to Girona and Figueres with Dali Museum	Barcelona
4	Morning Barcelona Classic tour. Afternoon at leisure	Barcelona
5	Morning at leisure. Afternoon Barcelona Artistic tour	Barcelona
6	High-speed train to Madrid . Private walking tour	Madrid
7	Half-day Madrid tour. Afternoon at leisure	Madrid
8	Day trip to Toledo	Madrid
9	High-speed train to Cordoba . Private walking tour	Cordoba
10	High-speed train to Seville . Private walking tour. Afternoon at leisure	Seville
11	Airport transfer. Fly to Barcelona. Return to the U.S.	

ITINERARY (for more options, see our "Spain Highlights")

Day 1 - Leave the U.S.

Day 2 - Arrive in Barcelona. Enjoy a private airport transfer to your hotel and relax on your own the rest of the day. You may want to start exploring the Gothic and Ribera (Born) quarters and perhaps take a stroll on Las Ramblas.

Day 3 - Today you'll travel north to **Girona, Figueres** and the Dali Museum. On your walking tour of Girona, you'll discover a city rich in heritage, with one of Europe's best-preserved Jewish quarters. You'll also visit Figueres, with its surrealist Teatre-Museu Dalí, and "Dalí Joies," a delightful collection of extravagant jewelry created by the famous artist.

Day 4: Start your sightseeing today with the "Classic Tour" of Barcelona. This tour will give you a quick overview of this vibrant city: Plaza de Catalunya, Via Laietana, the Cathedral and its cloister, the Gothic Quarter, Plaza Sant Jaume (Generalitat and Town Hall). Then on to Villa Olimpica (residential complex for the 1992 Olympic games) and Port Olympic. Next, ascend Montjuïc Mountain, with panoramic views over the city and the harbor. Tour the Olympic Stadium, Palau Sant Jordi and the Calatrava-designed radio and television tower. Visit Poble Espanyol (Spanish Village), with its faithful reproductions of typical architectural styles around Spain. Afternoon at leisure.



Day 5: Spend the morning exploring the city at your own pace. In the afternoon, continue your exploration on the "Artistic Tour." Barcelona is the capital of the Modernista style of architecture and the place where the famous Catalan architect, Antonio Gaudí, lived and worked. On this panoramic tour along Passeig de Gràcia, you will see some of his most famous achievements: Casa Batlló and Casa Milà, also known as "La Pedrera". Then take a stroll around Parc Güell, a large public park and another example of Gaudí's creative genius. Next, admire the cathedral of La Sagrada Família, his masterpiece, which is still under construction. On to Santa Maria del Mar, a magnificent Gothic church. The last stop on the tour is the Picasso Museum, which houses some of the artist's early works. You can visit the museum on your own (closed on Mondays).





Day 6: Relax and enjoy the passing countryside as you travel by high-speed train to **Madrid** this morning. There, your guide will take you on a walking tour of the city, including the **Royal Palace**. This elegant building, one of the most popular attractions in Madrid, is one of Europe's greatest palaces, in close competition with the likes of Versailles in Paris, Schonbrunn in Vienna and the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. It was built in the 1700s by King Philip V, the grandson of Louis XIV. With over 2,000 rooms - only a handful of which can be visited, of course - it is full of sumptuous interiors: luxurious tapestries, priceless porcelain, elegant furniture and more. (The palace is still used for official state receptions, so it is sometimes closed to the public.)

Day 7: Get the “big picture” today on a half-day Madrid panoramic tour. Ride through the old Hapsburg district with its Renaissance and Baroque buildings at Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor and Plaza de la Villa. Panoramic tour of the Madrid of the Bourbon kings, the Royal Palace, the Cibeles and Neptune Fountains and the Puerta de Alcalá. Then on to admire the Madrid of José Bonaparte in the 19th century, with the elegant Plaza de Oriente and the Prado Museum. Next is contemporary Madrid with La Gran Vía, the district of Salamanca, Plaza de Castilla, Parque del Oeste, the University Campus, and commercial areas of modern Madrid. Finally, two signature pieces: the Las Ventas Bullring and the Santiago Bernabéu Football Stadium. The tour includes a stop at the Hard Rock Café for a complimentary drink.

This afternoon is free to visit museums, do some shopping or visit other sites as you please.

Day 8: Toledo is on the schedule today. This charming “city-museum,” located 50 miles south of Madrid, is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It was founded by the Romans in 200 BC. In the 6th century AD the Visigoths chose it as the capital of Spain. Today, it is the flourishing economic center of the Castilla La Mancha region. Toledo is known as “the city of the three cultures” and “the capital of universal tolerance” because for centuries, the religious tolerance of the Moors allowed Christians, Muslims and Jews to co-exist in peace and mutual respect. Its buildings include almost all the architectural styles Spanish history has produced (Gothic, Arabic, Mudejar, Renaissance and Baroque). The great 16th-century painter El Greco lived there. It is an easy day trip from Madrid, and with such rich cultural heritage, it attracts lots of visitors every day.

Day 9: Enjoy the countryside of Castilla la Mancha and Andalusia as you travel by high-speed train to **Cordoba** this morning. Upon arrival meet up with your private guide and take in the amazing sites of the former Moorish metropolis (Cordoba was the largest and most sophisticated city in Europe in the year 1000). Your guide will take you on a tour of La Mezquita - a stunning piece of architecture which combines a massive mosque with a Baroque cathedral, all under one roof - the Alcazar next door and the quaint, old quarter nearby. Spend the rest of the day on your own savoring the delightful combination of the old Arab world and the Andalusian atmosphere of the city.



Day 10: Seville is next, only a short one-hour train ride away. As in Madrid and Cordoba, explore the historic center with your private guide on a leisurely walking tour of the Cathedral and its Giralda bell tower, the Alcazar (Moorish castle) and the Jewish quarter of Santa Cruz. Then, enjoy the last afternoon of this wonderful journey with self-guided visits of your choice.

Day 11: Your tour concludes with a private transfer to the airport for your departure to the U.S.

Hello, my name is **Pierre Mainguéné**. I personally handcrafted this itinerary.

I am the co-founder and president of Circa Tours. I was born and raised in Brittany, France so, as a native European, I love everything about the “old country” especially France, Spain and Portugal, the three countries we specialize in. I love



their history (and there is lots of it), their art (same thing), their cuisine (especially in France, Catalonia and the Basque Country), their wine (everywhere), their lifestyle and the endless diversity of the local cultures.

In dozens of trips I have taken to Europe, I have traveled to nearly every corner of those countries, and I continue my journey of discovery every year. I am a Travel-Institute certified France and Spain Specialist, and I am also recognized by the Tourist Office of Portugal as a certified Portugal Specialist.

My goal is to create the best possible trip for you. I am always ready to listen to your wishes (however creative) and feedback, and I will always enjoy sharing my experiences with you.

That's me, by the way, in front of a Joaquin Sorolla painting in Madrid. And, the following are some comments made by a few of our clients:

- “Our trip was fantastic! We had such a wonderful time! All went well including getting our train tickets to Seville changed the day of the strike. Our guides were nothing less than phenomenal! We can't thank you and your staff enough for putting together a trip that was worthy of our 30th anniversary celebration!” M.B., Massachusetts
- “Pierre. Thank you for your services. I really enjoyed dealing with you. You are so knowledgeable, pleasant and professional. I certainly will recommend you to friends.” J.L., Colorado
- “It was not a good trip - it was a GREAT trip! Truly everything was fabulous, ran smoothly, and worked well. The guides were excellent, the itinerary perfect. We enjoyed Spain very much and will ask you for assistance on our next journey to southern Europe!” J.K., California
- “Circa Tours did a good job. They worked very closely with us in putting the program together. We were very pleased with how efficient everything ran. The information we received from Circa Tours was done up very well, which allowed us to just pull the appropriate paperwork and be on our way. The tours were very well done. The guides we had with the local travel providers did a very good job of explaining the areas we toured. Pierre at Circa Tours made sure we saw a bit of everything.” D.T., Florida
- “We are all home, safe and sound - very tired, but in a hazy daze of love for France. Thank you and Carolyn SO much for arranging such an amazing trip for all of us. Throughout the trip, my sisters, mom and myself could be heard saying such things as, “THANK YOU, PIERRE”...or, “thank goodness for Pierre!!!” Martine was an excellent guide, by the way...very good, nice, thorough and professional. We wouldn't have been able to do HALF of what we did (and certainly not with nearly as much carefree enjoyment) with out her. Thank you and Carolyn for all of you expertise and care in helping us and doing all of the hard work for us! Thank you! Thank you!!!” K.B., Iowa