



THE FORGOTTEN NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL WITH MESMERISING MOROCCO

9 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Highlights: San Sebastian – Fes - Marrakesh - Lisbon – Porto – Santiago

Enjoy an in-depth portrait of the local people, their cultural heritage and their multifaceted countries; this trip includes discovering Santiago, Santander to San Sebastián.



Discover the scenic delights and delicious cuisine of this forgotten part of Spain. Experience the passion, creativity and romance of Spain and Portugal, as you witness fiery flamenco performances, marvel at Gaudi's dreamy architecture and appreciate enchanting citrus-scented squares. Along the way, take in the diversity of architectural styles - ranging from contemporary to Moorish - and taste some of the region's most iconic dishes, including paella. We'll introduce you to local historians, chefs and musicians, as you travel in luxurious comfort and stay in the heart of each spectacular destination.

Morocco is a colourful mix of Islamic, Arabic and African influences. Spain and France have left their marks too. Journey to Morocco to experience a culture and cuisine that is at the crossroads of civilization, blending the most delectable Arabic, Berber, French and Spanish influences. You'll head from vibrant Casablanca to the charming fishing town of Essaouira, relax in a tiny Berber village in the High Atlas mountains, and finally, explore extraordinary Marrakech, the most African of Morocco's cities.

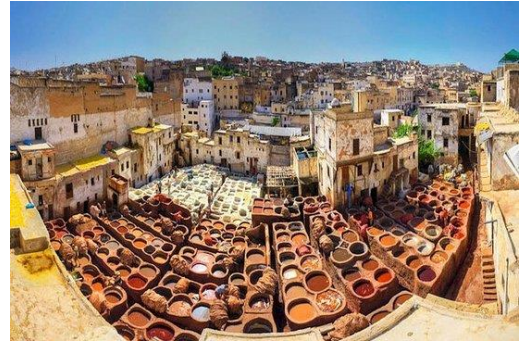


TOP HIGHLIGHTS

- **Santiago de Compostela:** The Romanesque interior of the cathedral is magnificent. Let a Local Expert take you through the Gateway of Glory to witness the final stage of one of the world's most ancient pilgrimages.
- **Santiago de Compostela:** Enjoy an guided tour of the Old Town.
- **Oviedo:** Led by your Local Expert, see 1,000-year-old wall paintings in some of Europe's oldest churches. Admire the incredible altarpiece, one of the finest in Europe, when you visit the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour.
- **Picos de Europa National Park:** Venture into this magnificent national park to admire the stunning picturesque scenery and rocky trails. Visit the holy cave of Covadonga and see the tomb of Pelayo who is celebrated for winning the Battle of Covadonga against the Muslim Moors in 722 and later became the first King of Asturias.
- **Santillana del Mar:** Step back in time when you visit this perfectly preserved and 'most beautiful village in Spain.'
- **Bilbao:** See the spectacular modern Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry and sites of this Basque region gem during your orientation with your Travel Director.
- **Getaria:** See the rock known as El Ratón, or the mouse.
- **San Sebastián:** Led by your Local Expert, enjoy a guided walking tour of the Old Quarter including Plaza de la Constitucion.
- **San Sebastián:** Ascend Monte Igueldo to marvel at the views of the town and La Concha Bay.



- **Porto** Visit the wine stores and enjoy a port tasting experience
- **Lisbon:** Explore with your Local Expert, from the Lower Town, beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paco. Visit the Belém Quarter to see the Monument to the Discoveries and the ancient Belém Tower.
- **Lisbon:** Visit the Jerónimos Monastery with its beautiful Manueline architecture, reflecting Portugal's trade over the centuries and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Fes:** Led by your Local Expert, wander the maze of streets that make up the ancient Medina. Pass one of the world's oldest university's and see the hidden courtyards, mosques and workshop and continue through the souks, an array of vendors selling food, clothes, leather goods and beautiful lights.
- **Fes:** Learn about the traditional craft of carpet making, gaining an insight to the designs the and the difference in materials.
- **Marrakesh:** Your Local Expert guides you past Jemaa el-Fnaa Square with its intriguing characters and through the seemingly entangled streets of the Medina with its many souks. See the protruding Koutoubia Minaret.
- **Marrakesh:** Built around a lovely inner-garden, explore the Bahia Palace with a Local Expert and see glimpses of a Moroccan kingdom's former opulence.





YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 : 09 September 2024 **Arrive Barcelona**

Welcome to Barcelona. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your tour hotel. Relax and settle in. This evening enjoy a welcome drink and a Catalonian meal at a local restaurant in the bustling city of Barcelona.

Meal(s): Dinner.

Hotel(s): Melia Hotel Barcelona Sarria or similar

DAY 2 : 10 September 2024 **Barcelona Sightseeing**

Join a Local Specialist and visit the unfinished La Sagrada Família then explore the Plaça de Catalunya and pay tribute to Christopher Columbus at the monument that bears his name. Enjoy a free evening to spend as you wish. Ramble through El Born for delicious tapas or consider visiting a Catalan-style restaurant for a delicious dinner of local specialties.

Meal(s): Breakfast.

Hotel(s): Melia Hotel Barcelona Sarria or similar

DAY 3 : 11 September 2024 **Barcelona – San Sebastian**

Our journey continues through the Ebro Valley to Zaragoza where we'll view the Basilica of El Pilar and Cathedral of La Seo. Passing the vibrant city of Pamplona, famous for its Running of the Bulls fiesta to reach San Sebastián, the gourmet capital of Spain with a rich maritime history. Hotel dinner tonight.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Barcelo Costa Vasca Hotel San Sebastian or similar



DAY 4 : 12 September 2024

San Sebastian

Admire the beauty of San Sebastian with a Local Expert. Walk through the Old Quarter to see the Plaza de la Constitucion. Head to Monte Egueldo for breath taking view of the town and La Concha Bay. Next we split into small groups for a Pinxtos tour to sample some of the regional delicacies. This evening is free.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel(s): Barcelo Costa Vasca Hotel San Sebastian or similar

DAY 5 : 13 September 2024

San Sebastian free time

Enjoy a day at leisure to stroll along San Sebastian's boardwalk and just relax.

Meal(s): Breakfast.

Hotel(s): Barcelo Costa Vasca Hotel San Sebastian or *similar



DAY 6 : 14 September 2024

San Sebastian – Santander

Admire the views as you drive along part of the Costa Vasca and pause in getaria to see El Raton, the mouseshaped rock. Then onto Bilbao and admire the striking architecture of the Guggenheim Museum. Continue to the beach resort of Santander. Hotel dinner tonight.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Santemar Hotel Santander or similar

DAY 7 : 15 September 2024

Santander – Oviedo

Travel to Santillana del Mar, arguably the most beautiful village in Spain. Next visit the holy cave of Covadonga, a shrine to palayo before travelling into Picos de Europa, a national park with spectacular scenery. Then its onto our base for the night, Oviedo. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Exe Hotel Oviedo Centro or similar



DAY 8 : 16 September 2024

Oviedo – Santiago De Compostela

With a Local Expert see the 9th Century churches and visit the Cathedral of the Holy Savior in Plaza Alfonso II. Admire the incredible alter piece, one of the finest in Europe. Then a short drive brings you to the Bay of Biscay and the delightful city of Gijon. Here we enjoy a traditional lunch before travelling along the Green Coast of Asturias, and then south to Santiago de Compostela.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch.

Hotel(s): Eurostars Gran Hotel Santiago or similar



DAY 9 : 17 September 2024

Santiago De Compostela

With a Local Expert, visit Plazo do Obradoiro to admire the cathedral façade festooned with architectural frills. Venture inside, passing the Gateway of Glory. The faithful may choose to pass behind the high alter to touch the giant 13th Century gilded effigy of St James and wander the Way of St James. Relax during your free time to explore the narrow streets and old squares of the city.

Meal(s): Breakfast.

Hotel(s): Eurostars Gran Hotel Santiago or similar

DAY 10 : 18 September 2024

To Porto

Continue south today through scenic countryside and the Spanish cities of Pordovedra known for its well preserved old town and nearby Vigo. We have a last taste of Spain here before crossing the border into Portugal and Porto, port wine capital of the world. This afternoon Cook and Taste Portugal Petiscos (Tapas) for lunch.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch.

Hotel(s): Pousada De Porto Hotel Rua Das Flores or similar

DAY 11 : 19 September 2024

Porto Sightseeing

With a full day free to enjoy at your own pace, why not take a stroll to admire the multi-coloured houses and iconic bridges? Perhaps embark on a relaxing Douro River cruise?

Meal(s): Breakfast.

Hotel(s): Pousada De Porto Hotel Rua Das Flores or similar



DAY 12 : 20 September 2024

Porto – Lisbon

Head south for a visit to miraculous Fatima. See the Basilica and visit the Chapel of the Apparitions, which commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to three young shepherds in 1917. Journey next to the fortified town of Obidos and walk inside the walls, exploring the narrow, medieval streets with houses covered with flowers. Your travels continue to the Portuguese capital Lisbon.

Meal(s): Breakfast.

Hotel(s): Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar

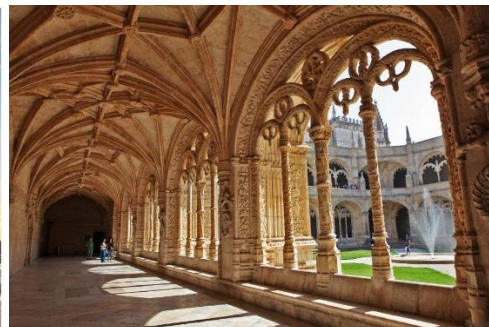
DAY 13 : 21 September 2024

Lisbon Sightseeing

Sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the spacious avenues of the Lower Town and beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paco, the finest square in the city. Visit the Belem quarter from where the sailing ships once set forth to discover unknown lands, See the traditional bakery that has managed to hold onto the secret recipes of Portugal's finest pastry for almost 200 years and enjoy a taste of the famous Pastéis de Belem. View the monument to the Discoveries and the more ancient Belem Tower. Then visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Jeronimo's Monument with its beautiful Manueline architecture. Tonight enjoy a Fado Show with dinner.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Corinthia Hotel Lisbon or similar



DAY 14 : 22 September 2024

Lisbon –Fly to Casablanca

This morning transfer to the airport and join your flight to Morocco (flight not included in costs, to be advised at a later date with group airfares). On arrival, you are met by your Travel Director. Enjoy an orientation of Casablanca before you continue to your accommodation in Casablanca. Dinner at the hotel tonight.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Grand Mogador City Center Casablanca or similar



DAY 15 : 23 September 2024

Meknes and onto Fes

This morning, sightseeing with a Local Expert in Rabat.

Travel to Meknes, one of the kingdom's great imperial cities dating back to the 11th century; its surroundings have remained unchanged for centuries.

Stand before the Bab el-Mansour, the monumental entrance to the imperial city and focal point of Place El-Hedim before continuing to Fes. You'll be delighted with your superb Moroccan Highlight Dinner in an ancient palace at the entrance to the Medina.

A colourful array of meze plates, aromatic tagines, exotic fruits and wine will be laid before you while you are entertained with a traditional folklore show. Enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere of belly dancers, drums and authentic music -- a truly unforgettable experience!

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace Fez or similar



DAY 16 : 24 September 2024

Fes Sightseeing

Led by your Local Expert, wander the maze of streets that make up the ancient Medina. Pass one of the world's oldest universities and see the hidden courtyards, mosques and workshops. Continue through the souks where an array of vendors sell food, clothes, leather goods and beautiful lights. Learn about the ancient craft of carpet making, witness age-old techniques of pottery making and learn how khobz, the traditional local bread, is made. Hotel dinner tonight.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace Fez or similar



DAY 17 : 25 September 2024

Fes - Erfoud

Leave the bustle of the city behind and head for the spectacular snow-capped High Atlas Mountains. Pass through Ifrane before reaching the great cedar forests of Azrou. After stopping for lunch at Midelt, continue through the magnificent Ziz Gorges, past palm-fringed towns to Er Rachidia, built by the French at an important crossroads. Your destination is Erfoud, where the red sand buildings contrast against the patches of greenery and surrounding desert. In the evening, there is an Optional Experience to meet the nomadic desert dwellers and marvel at the glorious Sahara sunset on a four-wheel drive vehicle. Hotel dinner tonight.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Kasbah Hotel Xaluca Erfoud or similar

DAY 18 : 26 September 2024

Erfoud – Ouarzazate

Venture towards the oasis of Tinehir and explore the Todra Gorge, known as the Grand Canyon of the Sahara. At Boumalne-du-Dades you will encounter the dry, rugged Dades Valley that is dotted with oases of figs, olives, date palms and castellated mud houses hugging the slopes.

Meet the locals of the region when you visit a traditional Nomad house to try authentic Berber tea. The Road of a Thousand Kasbahs concludes at Ouarzazate. It is known as the Film Capital of Morocco, with blockbusters such as Lawrence of Arabia to Star Wars having been filmed here. Hotel dinner.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Le Berbere Palace Hotel Ouarzazate or similar



DAY 19 : 27 September 2024

Onto Marrakesh

Visit the fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Ksar of Ait Benhaddou, one of the finest examples of South Moroccan architecture, boasting one of Morocco's finest kasbahs. Your journey continues via the spectacular Tizi n'Tichka Pass, before descending past charming mountain villages, dense woods and green fields to the ochre-coloured city of Marrakesh. With the rest of the day at your leisure, why not relax and enjoy the immaculate facilities of your hotel? hotel dinner.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Movenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahbi Marrakech or similar



DAY 20 : 28 September 2024

Marrakesh sightseeing

An exploration with your Local Expert will show you the Medina with its many souks and the Koutoubia Minaret dominating the skyline. Visit the intricately decorated Palais Bahia, intended to be the greatest palace of its time when it was built in the late 19th Century. Hotel dinner.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Dinner.

Hotel(s): Movenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahbi Marrakech or similar

DAY 21 : 29 September 2024

Marrakesh – Casablanca

After a relaxed start, journey to the west coast of Africa to reach Casablanca. On an orientation, see the Hassan II Mosque, the largest mosque in the country, and the chic seaside strip known as the Corniche, lined with trendy restaurants and cafes. This evening join a lively Celebration dinner at Rick's café and discover if Humphrey Bogart did say "play it again Sam."

Meals: Breakfast and Celebration Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Grand Mogador City Centre Casablanca or similar – 1 night



DAY 22 : 30 September 2024

Tour ends

Your tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to the airport.

Meals: Breakfast

*Please note - The itinerary and hotels are subject to change should circumstances dictate.

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

Accommodation

21 Nights accommodation based on twin share in superior 4 star hotels. Hotels quoted are to be used as a guide only and are subject to availability and change at the time of booking. If the quoted hotel is unavailable, we will secure another hotel in the same category as similar as possible.

Sightseeing & Meals

All included as per the itinerary.

There are many highlight Lunch and Dinners

Travel Director

Services of a professional English-speaking Travel Director throughout.
Sing Australia Leadership with singing opportunities throughout the tour.
Local expert guides where required and as noted on the itinerary.

Service Charges

Tips to restaurants where a meal is included in the itinerary.
Service charges and local taxes on services provided on tour.

Transportation

Transportation by luxury air conditioned
Arrival and departure transfers are based on one group arrival and one group departure transfer.
Should members of the group require transfers outside these times, they will have to make their own transport arrangements.

Porterage

One piece of luggage per person, in and out of hotels included on tour.

Gratuities (Tips)

Gratuities to Travel Director, Coach driver and local guides has already been included for your convenience.

NOT INCLUDED: Travel Insurance, Optional Experience, International flights and flight on 22nd SEP Lisbon to Marrakesh (to be advised at a later date) and items of a personal nature whilst on tour.

Tour Cost and Further Details

Total Tour/Land Cost: \$11,247 per person Australian Dollars (based on twin share) Excludes international flights

*please note that this an approximate cost and is subject to change, should minimum numbers not be met or for reasons outside our control if there is a large fluctuation in currency exchange or the itinerary needs to be amended

Single Supplement: \$2546

Deposit: A non refundable deposit of AUD \$3500 is required at the time of booking no later than **Friday 8th of December 2023**

Final Payment:

Due to Travelust by Friday 7th June 2024

For payments, please contact alycia@travelust.com.au for a secure credit card link or to process over the phone. For bank transfers details are below:

Travelust
Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB: 063539
Account number: 10721249

GROUP AIRFARES: A special group airfare with Emirates has been arranged either from Melbourne or Sydney (Specify on the booking form) The flight itinerary with times and cost is published on the website. Please see the separate PDF on the Sing Australia website. Any changes to airfares once booked do incur costs.

*Flying into Barcelona and departing from Casablanca

*If you are arranging your own airfare you will need to make your way to the start of the tour and transfers to and from the airport will not be included.

* Should you wish to extend your trip, you may deviate from the group on the way home whilst still utilizing the group airfare. This can be arranged with Alycia once the group is finalised

PRE OR POST TOUR EXTENTIONS: Please contact Alycia at Travelust, should you wish to add days before or after your tour or for any special amendments. alycia@travelust.com.au

INSURANCE: Insurance is required to travel on this tour. A special group rate has been organized and further details will be provided by Alycia at Travelust on request and by providing your date of birth. Policy prices vary according to age and if you have any pre existing medical conditions. Please contact her for details on alycia@travelust.com.au

Note that if you arrange your own travel insurance, assistance with any claims will not be provided and may incur a charge for any paperwork required to be completed by Travelust.

VISAS: A visa is not required for travel within Spain, Portugal or Morocco for up to 90 days for Australian passport holders. For all other passport holders, please check your requirements. It is each individual's responsibility to ensure that they meet visa and passport requirements.

PASSPORTS: Must have at least 6 months validity from the date of travel and 2 free blank passport pages

Terms & Conditions

Price: The advertised price is in Australian dollars and includes security & local taxes as per the itinerary. The price based on minimum passenger numbers and may increase if minimum numbers are not met. Sing Australia would advise in this instance of any changes.

Cancellation Fees:

Deposit is non refundable (unless tour is cancelled due to minimum numbers not met)

Prior to the 7th of June 2024 loss of deposit

From 7th of June 2024 to departure: 100% of total tour cost

Cancellation fees for airfares vary, depending on airlines and their individual conditions. These are not included in the above cancellation fees

Amendments: A fee of \$200 may apply to any change made to your booking once confirmed

Refunds: No refund is available if cancellations occur after the tour has commenced or in respect of any tours, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilised.

Itinerary Changes & Tour Cancellation: Travelust and Sing Australia reserves the right to vary itineraries should circumstances dictate, as well as cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements, or circumstances beyond its control. The advertised tours require minimum numbers to depart. Should these not be met Travelust and Sing Australia reserves the right to cancel arrangements.

Hotels listed are to be used as a guide only, and are subject to availability unless otherwise stipulated. Travelust and Sing Australia reserve the right to alter or deviate from the tour itinerary, inclusions or hotels should circumstances dictate. Coach use is subject to Driver Regulations.

Baggage Allowance & Porterage: Porterage of one suitcase per person is included in the tour price for arrival & departure from hotels in Europe. Due to limited coach capacity the sum of the length, width & depth of the case should not exceed 160cm (63 inches), and weight should not exceed 20kg (44 Lbs). Charges may be levied in the event these limits are exceeded & the promise to transport you may be invalidated.

What's Not Included: Passports and applicable visa fees, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, tips and gratuities to the Tour Director, coaches drivers and local city guides, excess baggage, optional excursions and travel insurance. Please note that travel insurance is a requirement of this tour.

Documentation: Will be sent out approximately 3 weeks prior to departure electronically. (Physical tickets are not required and no longer exist for flights – everything is electronic)

Disclaimer

In case of sudden price increases or surcharges levied by suppliers such as, but not limited to, fuel surcharges, government tax increases or other unforeseen price increases, Sing Australia and Travelust reserves the right to alter the price quoted in this document or the conditions mentioned. Travelust also reserves the right to change any arrangement (including tours, programs, prices and services) in the best interest of its Client, with or without prior notice.

Booking Terms and Conditions: These conditions incorporate the basis upon which bookings are accepted the Sing Australia member and Travelust. By making a booking you are agreeing to these terms & conditions. These must be studied prior to making the commitment of paying the deposit as they must be referred to. Additional terms and conditions may be applicable to group bookings and will be advised as they become known