

9 DAYS • 11 MEALS • MADRID > BARCELONA

SPLENDORS OF SPAIN

Departure Date: April 27, 2027 **Return Date:** May 5, 2027

History and beauty await your discovery on this journey showcasing the highlights of Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona. From the Royal Palace and lively central squares of Madrid to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Ávila and Valencia. Relax as you travel between cities by high-speed trains. Spectacular scenery welcomes you to Montserrat in the Catalonia Mountains for an unforgettable viewing of the Black Madonna in the Abbey. Explore the underground cellars in the winery where the tradition of Cava began and sample Spain's renowned sparkling wine. Seeing Gaudí's masterpieces, Sagrada Familia and Park Güell in Barcelona, leave you with treasured memories of your time in Spain.

BEARS travel PROGRAM



Massive medieval city walls guard the charms of Ávila that lie within

DAY 1 Depart the USA
Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Madrid, Spain.

DAY 2 Madrid
Bienvenidos a España! Upon arrival, you will be met by a local representative of Mayflower Cruises & Tours and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to become acquainted with your new surroundings. This evening, join your Tour Manager and traveling companions for the welcome dinner. Meal: D

DAY 3 Madrid
Begin exploring this capital city with an orientation tour. During the panoramic portion by coach, see the impressive Puerta de Alcalá monument and the iconic fountains of Cibeles and Neptune, both symbols of the city. The walking tour takes you through the historic heart of Madrid, seeing Puerta del Sol, home to another symbol of the city, El Oso y El Madroño statue. In Plaza Mayor, witness the architectural charm and lively atmosphere.

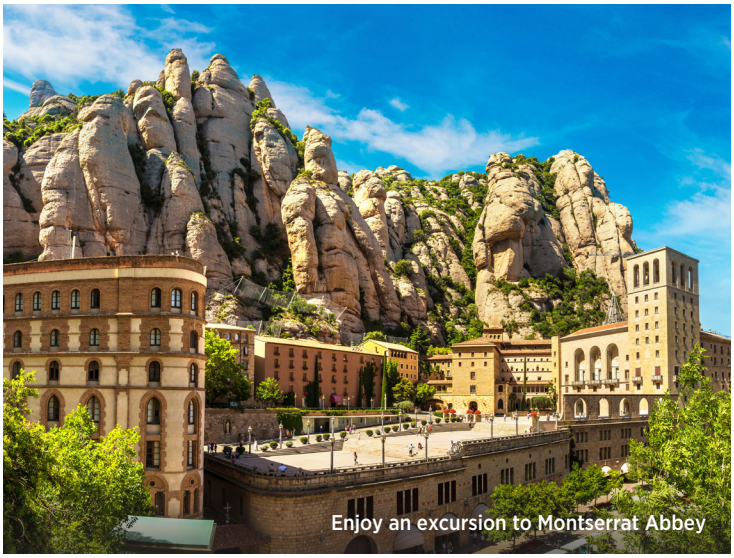


Madrid's Royal Palace - the largest in Western Europe

Visit the Royal Palace, one of the largest in the world, and official seat of the Heads of State. See frescoed ceilings, tapestries, sculptures and learn about Spain's royal history as you pass through various rooms of the palace. At the end of the tour, return to the hotel for the rest of the day at leisure. Meal: B

DAY 4 Ávila and Segovia
Journey through the scenic countryside by coach on today's excursion. Approaching the UNESCO World Heritage City of Ávila, the massive medieval city walls come into view and create an amazing first impression. Still intact, these impressive walls are some of the most complete in Europe and have over 80 semi-circular towers and nine gates. Once inside these iconic fortifications, a walking tour helps you discover the charms of this protected city with its cobblestoned streets, churches and peaceful atmosphere. Visit the cathedral, the oldest Gothic cathedral in Spain, that stands as both a church and a fortress and take a stroll along the walls for breathtaking views of the city and surrounding area. Continue by coach to Segovia to see the historic Roman aqueduct. With 167 arches, held together by balance, it is truly an engineering masterpiece which operated until the 19th century. Return to Madrid for a final overnight. Meal: B

DAY 5 Madrid – Valencia
This morning, depart by train for Valencia, one of Spain's oldest cities. Upon arrival, a panoramic tour by coach showcases some highlights. See the avant-garde architecture of the City of Arts and Sciences, a complex of museums and concert venues. Pass the Plaza de Toros (bullring), the historic Estación del Norte train station, Quart and Serrano Towers – the two remaining gates of the old city wall. During the walking tour, visit the Valencia Cathedral with its stunning architecture and Holy Grail. Inside the Lonja de la Seda (silk trade market), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, admire the beautiful Gothic architecture of this building that was a symbol of Valencia's strength and wealth during the *Golden Age*. Experience the lively atmosphere of the Mercado Central before ending at the hotel. This evening, enjoy a paella dinner at a traditional restaurant to savor one of Valencia's famous dishes. Meals: B, D



Enjoy an excursion to Montserrat Abbey



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners
- Airport transfers on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
- Guided city tours in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona
- Embark on two train journeys
- Visit four UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Discover the sites and Cathedral in Ávila
- See the historic Roman aqueduct in Segovia
- Visit the iconic Valencia Cathedral and Holy Grail
- See venues of the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona
- Enjoy a day in the scenic mountains of Catalonia
- Visit Montserrat Abbey, home of the Black Madonna
- Learn the secrets of making Cava as you traverse the underground cellars on an electric train
- See Gaudí's masterpieces throughout Barcelona and visit Sagrada Familia and Park Güell

DAY 6 Valencia – Barcelona

Depart Valencia via train for Barcelona, home to artistic masterpieces by Antoni Gaudí. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant then begin discovering the city. On a panoramic coach tour see Plaza de España, one of the city's largest squares, surrounded by impressive architecture and the Venetian Towers. Ascend by coach to Montjuïc for a stop at the Palau providing breathtaking views of the city. The tour continues as you pass the area where the 1992 Summer Olympics were held and see the stadium and other landmarks from the Games. Travel past the vibrant marina area with its striking views of the Mediterranean Sea. Proceed to the Arc de Triomf, a grand archway built as the main gate for the 1888 World's Fair, and end at the hotel with an evening at leisure. Meals: B, L

DAY 7 Montserrat and Cava Tasting

Journey into the dramatic mountains of Catalonia on today's excursion to Montserrat Abbey, home to La Moreneta (the Black Madonna), revered patron saint of Catalonia. Stunning panoramic views of the surrounding rugged landscape greet you upon arrival at the Abbey. Once inside the basilica, visit La Moreneta in her chapel, known for its religious importance and beautiful architecture. Continue by coach to the Penedès region, home to the prestigious Codorníu Winery where the tradition of Cava – Spain's renowned sparkling wine – began over 450 years ago. Board an electric train and embark on an immersive tour through the vast underground cellars dating back to the 19th century. During the journey, discover the intricate process of Cava production from the harvesting of the grapes to the final fermentation that creates the sparkling wine. The tour concludes with a tasting of three premium Cavas, paired with appetizers before returning to Barcelona for an evening at leisure. Meal: B

DAY 8 Barcelona

The final day begins with discovering two of Gaudí's most famous sites of the city, each a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While visiting Sagrada Familia, you'll gain an understanding of the symbolism represented by all the artistic and architectural elements contained on the façades of this extraordinary basilica and within. Under construction since 1882, the structure combines Gothic and Art Nouveau styles with its intricate façades and towering spires. The overall size and grandeur make it one of the most remarkable buildings in the world. Park Güell is another of Gaudí's masterpieces gracing the city. Stroll through the park with the local guide to learn how it was created and the functionality of its design. See the dragon staircase, leading up to the Hypostyle Room filled with 86 columns topped by small-domed mosaic ceilings. Colorful, whimsical mosaics made from ceramic pieces are found throughout the park, and especially on the iconic serpentine bench. Offering beautiful views of the city and utilizing Gaudí's creative blend of art and nature, Barcelona has a true masterpiece in Park Güell. This evening, attend a farewell dinner at a local restaurant for a final taste of Catalan cuisine. Meals: B, D

DAY 9 Barcelona / USA

It's time to say *'adiós'* to Spain and depart for the airport for your flight home. Memories of the iconic monuments, palaces, cathedrals, scenery and hospitable people you've met throughout the journey will be cherished for a lifetime. Meal: B

Itinerary subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Days 2 through 4 – Melia Serrano or similar, Madrid
Day 5 – AC Valencia or similar, Valencia
Days 6 through 8 – Catalonia Ramblas or similar, Barcelona

SPLENDORS OF SPAIN



Whimsy abounds in Gaudí's Park Güell in Barcelona

Splendors of Spain		Tour Code 582MB
2027 Departure Date	**Per Person Twin**	**Single Room add**
April 27	$4,559	+ $3,399

Pricing includes Escorted Land Package, Taxes, Fees & Transfers.

Passport required on this program

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL

1	2	3	4	5

EASY ENERGETIC

Upgrade Your Flights To Business Class from An Additional $6,000 per person*

*Upgrades must be purchased at least **120 days prior to departure** and are subject to availability. Some domestic flights within the United States and Europe may require travel in Economy class. If our contracted levels of business class are sold out, we will advise of the price of published fares, if available, at time of confirmation and before purchase. Business Class must be ticketed immediately and is non-refundable.

Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) – $499 per person
This nonrefundable fee waives all cancellation fees when we are notified of cancellation one day before the tour departs. If you must leave the tour early due to personal illness, illness or death of a member of your immediate family, TPP guarantees full refund for any unused services after the departure of the tour. Other benefits include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, 24 hour hot line, and lost or stolen baggage assistance. Return air transportation is included ONLY if your air tickets were provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours. If you purchase the optional Travelers Protection Plan (TPP), you will be refunded all payments, including deposit amount, less the TPP premium amount.

Cancellation Charges Without Traveler's Protection Plan (TPP)
- 91 days or more: Deposit Amount
- 90 to 45 days prior: 20% of tour cost
- 44 to 15 day prior: 30% of tour cost
- 14 to 1 day prior: 50% of tour cost
- Day 1 of departure or early departure from tour: 100% of tour cost
- No refund on unused portions of the tour

Exclusions: Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its refund and cancellation policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lake Lambert IV
Coordinator of Alumni and Donor Engagement
Lambert_ld@mercer.edu
(478) 301-2173

MERCER UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

REVISED: 09-30-2026