

# A JOURNEY OF ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS



**From:** €3,825.00

**Embarkation:** Lisbon

**Disembarkation:** Barcelona

**Dates:** Thu, May 08, 2025 - Tue, May 13, 2025

**Duration:** 5 Nights / 6 days

**Ship:** EXPLORA II





📍 DAY PORTUGAL

## 1 Lyrical Lisbon

Port: Lisbon

Arrival Method: DOCK

Departure: 21:00

Enjoy the rich buzz of Lisbon. Dip into the city's strong architectural, cultural and historical connections. Wander charming-cobbled streets, colourful buildings, the river Sado and endless nature. Pilgrimage to Fatima, tour hilly villages, learn Portuguese cooking techniques and listen to the Lisbon blues. Slip to charming Cascais for quieter energy and golden beaches. And as you bathe in the captivating light, enjoy plates of petiscos which - like fado - you'll soon discover is vibrant, warm and most appealing.



📍 DAY PORTUGAL

## 2 Lyrical Lisbon

Port: Lisbon

Arrival Method: DOCK

Departure: 14:00

Enjoy the rich buzz of Lisbon. Dip into the city's strong architectural, cultural and historical connections. Wander charming-cobbled streets, colourful buildings, the river Sado and endless nature. Pilgrimage to Fatima, tour hilly villages, learn Portuguese cooking techniques and listen to the Lisbon blues. Slip to charming Cascais for quieter energy and golden beaches. And as you bathe in the captivating light, enjoy plates of petiscos which - like fado - you'll soon discover is vibrant, warm and most appealing.



📍 DAY SPAIN

## 3 Enriching Cadiz

Port: Cadiz

Arrival: 09:00

Arrival Method: DOCK

Departure: 22:00

Go back in time - where cobbled streets clatter with horse drawn carriages, culture and history seeps through this Spanish city's soul. Enjoy locally produced tapas and admire the form of iconic Andalusian horses. Drift into tasting tours at sherry wineries in Jerez, then step out to twirl the flamenco. Explore Seville's architectural marvels; baroque churches, palaces, gothic cathedrals, aristocratic mansions and medieval buildings. With no less than three Unesco World Heritage sites to visit, you'll feel truly inspired by what Cadiz has to offer.



📍 DAY MOROCCO

## 4 Gateway to Europe

Port: Tangier

Arrival: 08:00

Arrival Method: DOCK

Departure: 18:00

At the crossroads of Europe and Africa, this once rakish, countercultural Moroccan city has retained its bohemian, beguilingly artistic feel. People watch the demi-monde from the Petit Socco, heart of Tangier's seductive café scene, before strolling the Kasbah and cobblestone Grand Socco among a tangle of streets saturated in colour from tiles and painted cedarwood shutters and doorways. Iconic must-visits might include the 64-year-old Librarie des Colonnes, a sumptuous bookshop of literary greats; Café Hafa, for sunset sweet mint tea overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar; and El Morocco Club, for a nightcap on its rooftop terrace or in the city's only piano bar.



📍 DAY

## 5 At sea



Explora  
JOURNEYS



📍 DAY SPAIN

6

## Catalan's Cultural Heart

Port: Barcelona

Arrival Method: DOCK

Arrival: 08:00

Breathe in the cultural heart of Catalan; an elegant blend of high energy and undisturbed tradition. Muse over the origins of captivating Gaudi architecture within the enchanting labyrinth that is the Gothic Quarter. Savour the flavours of fresh tapas and crisp cava in breezy plazas, tranquil terraces and coveted cafés, or glide down to a shimmering beach club to unwind. Imagine a visit to peaceful Passeig de Gracia, where modernist buildings merge to showcase iconic global labels. And, as dusk falls, prepare for urban action and swing by the lively bohemian bars to fiesta on the leafy stretch of La Rambla. If you're serious about style, this colourful city provides plenty to celebrate.

## EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES

32 Experiences



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### Classical Seville and the Alcazar

In Seville, a wrong turn leads only to serendipity. Ancient bars on cobbled alleys, fiery flamenco, and the world's biggest gothic cathedral are among the Andalusian capital's abundant assets. The picturesque drive there, through olive groves, citrus trees, and vineyards, gives an enticing foretaste of the city to come. In Seville, we'll lead you through its ancient streets and plazas to the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the old Jewish quarter that today abounds with orange trees and beflowered squares. After lunch at a typical restaurant, you'll visit the colossal, arresting cathedral, the 98-metre Giralda tower, and the resplendent Royal Alcázar, a UNESCO World Heritage site and Europe's oldest working palace. Seville may be a compact city, but it packs more culture, history, and charisma than many of the world's great metropolises.

**Port:** Cadiz

**Price From:** €260.00

**Activity Level:**  High-energy

**Experiences:** Destination Essentials

**Duration:** 10.00 Hrs

**Available In:** English

**Features:** Architecture, History & Heritage



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### Asilah and the Caves of Hercules

From the emerald breakers along the coast to the ancient, ramparted *medina* (old town), Asilah is a town of stillness, beauty, and history. Today, it's renowned for its annual arts festival, a celebration of colour and creativity. Head south to Asilah and explore the vibrant white and blue streets under the heat of the golden African sun. After a brief refreshment break, journey to the Caves of Hercules to explore the fascinating geology of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is a key piece in the mythology of Morocco.

**Port:** Tangier

**Price From:** €95.00

**Activity Level:**  Moderate

**Experiences:** Destination Essentials

**Duration:** 5.00 Hrs

**Available In:** English

**Features:** Wonderful Nature, History & Heritage



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## Exploring Chefchaouen, the 'Blue City'

Chefchaouen is a city of a million views and photo opportunities, and an urban palette of dazzling cobalt, turquoise and royal blues. With the expertise of a local guide, meander through the vibrant city and note its citrus trees, miniature balconies and painted old town, before wending your way from the Ras el-Maa waterfall to the main square, the Place Outa el Hammam. Then, head to the Ethnographic Museum to find out more about Chefchaouen, before taking a walk and relaxing over a delicious lunch of Moroccan cuisine.

**Port:** Tangier

**Price From:** €155.00

**Activity Level:**  High-energy

**Experiences:** Destination Essentials

**Duration:** 9.00 Hrs

**Available In:** English

**Features:** History & Heritage, Architecture



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## Tangier's Coastline and Historic Medina

From the headland west of the city to the whitewashed old town at its heart, this destination experience is the perfect introduction to enticing Tangier. You'll begin by the Cap Spartel lighthouse, which overlooks the brilliant blue sea and the confluence of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Continuing to the Caves of Hercules, you'll explore the immense complex and discover its geological mystique. Leaving the coast, you'll visit the centre of Tangier and explore the vibrant *medina* (old town), including the *kasbah* and Petit Socco.

**Port:** Tangier

**Price From:** €105.00

**Activity Level:**  Moderate

**Experiences:** Destination Essentials

**Duration:** 5.00 Hrs

**Available In:** English

**Features:** History & Heritage



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## Taking in Tétouan

Shielded by the mountainside, the wondrous 'white dove' city of Tétouan is a thing of beauty and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin on the east edge of the old town, or *medina*, and you'll experience the glorious Hispano-Moresque (Hispano-Moorish) architecture of the Royal Palace of Tétouan. Continue west to explore numerous colourful *souks* (markets) teeming with fabrics, jewels, souvenirs and mouthwatering food. Rest and refuel at the Palace Bouhlal restaurant and coffee shop before concluding your experience at the Bab El Okla Royal Artisan School, a thriving hub of local craftsmanship.

**Port:** Tangier

**Price From:** €90.00

**Activity Level:**  Moderate

**Experiences:** Destination Essentials

**Duration:** 6.00 Hrs

**Available In:** English

**Features:** History & Heritage, Arts & Culture



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## Asilah, Lunch and the Caves of Hercules

Asilah is a modern artistic hub with a long, lustrous history, and its Caves of Hercules are mythologically and geologically enthralling. Journey to the coastal town of Asilah, where you'll walk the white-lined streets embellished with accents of striking blue and discover the secrets of the ancient *medina* (old town). After lunch at the Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa, you'll head to the Caves of Hercules, a myth-steeped cave system that's a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Port:** Tangier

**Price From:** €170.00

**Activity Level:**  High-energy

**Experiences:** Destination Essentials

**Duration:** 6.00 Hrs

**Available In:** English

**Features:** History & Heritage, Wonderful Nature



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## Sintra 4x4 Adventure

Hop into a rugged 4x4 vehicle for a day on 'the road less travelled'. Journey from the pier to the heart of Cascais, stopping to explore its charming centre. Then, head to the awe-inspiring Cabo da Roca (Cape Roca) and through the rugged beauty of Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, home to towering age-old trees. Enjoy a local snack in Ulgueira before soaking in the ocean views at Memória and glimpsing the iconic Park and National Palace of Pena. The experience concludes in the UNESCO World Heritage Site ('Cultural Landscape'), Sintra, where you'll stroll through the town's enchanting streets.

**Port:** Lisbon

**Price From:** €295.00

**Activity Level:**  Moderate

**Experiences:** Destination Essentials

**Duration:** 6.00 Hrs

**Available In:** English

**Features:** Action, History & Heritage

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## Seville's Gateway to New Worlds

Discover Seville, starting in the Triana neighbourhood's vibrant lanes, the heart of the city's maritime history and onetime haunt of sailors and flamenco artists. See the Torre del Oro watchtower's golden reflection on the river, a shining reminder of old Spain's pursuit of wealth and conquest. Meander through the historical Barrio de Santa Cruz Jewish Quarter, whose narrow, orange-tree-lined streets carry tales of its harmonious past. Enjoy a traditional Andalusian lunch before visiting the majestic Royal Alcázar of Seville, a fortress that conveys Spain's fusion of cultures and spirit of exploration and discovery.

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## Tapas Lessons at Casa del Marqués

Journey to Jerez de la Frontera, where the charm of Andalusian culture meets the fine art of gastronomy. Your adventure begins at Bodega Casa del Marqués, a 19th-century palace with a fascinating wine-trading past. Discover the refined period furnishings and feel transported to another era within the walls of this elegant residence. You'll learn the craft of tapas-making, blending traditional recipes with innovative flair—each dish offset by a glass of the region's famous Jerez sherry.

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## Explore Cádiz Like a Local

Discover Cádiz's white glow and cobbled mystique through the insider knowledge of a native. From the bustling port, you'll thread through the lively old market, Mercado Cádiz, and meander towards La Caleta's serene, blue shores. In a traditional tavern, you'll find the essence of Cádiz in a glass of wine; the air carries the rhythm of *flamenco*. Far from the beaten track, every turn intimately reveals the city's soul through its iconic landmarks and lesser-known nooks.



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## The Whitewashed Villages of Arcos and Medina-Sidonia

Journey to the ancient, whitewashed village of Arcos de la Frontera, a settlement originally dating from prehistory where the streets express a distinctly medieval aesthetic. Explore the Plaza del Cabildo, home to iconic landmarks like Ducal Palace, and admire bright houses adorned with colourful flowers and delicate tiling. Then, venture to Medina-Sidonia, a gleaming white hillside village of cobbled streets and Moorish gateways that betoken its richly eventful past. Finish with a sumptuous Andalusian lunch at the Michelin Guide restaurant El Duque.

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## Private Flamenco Lessons in Cádiz

Immerse yourself in the vibrant soul of Cádiz during an experience that celebrates its most famous cultural expression: flamenco dancing. Here, *flamenco* is more than an art form—it's the expression of the soul through the marriage of heel-tapping rhythm, guitar harmony, and heartfelt vocals. This experience leads you to a local tavern for an exclusive dance class with a seasoned *bailador* (flamenco dancer). Learn some of the captivating movements of this Andalusian dance before relaxing over a delicious spread of *tapas* and refreshments.

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## Cooking Class at Blue Door Cuisine

Tangier's *medina* (old town) offers many cultural delights, including bustling markets bursting with flavourful Moroccan dishes. Walk the medina with your senses alive to the experience, absorbing the energy, scents and flavours of the *souks* (markets), before making your way to Blue Door Cuisine for an authentic and hands-on cookery class. Prepare a zingy, well-seasoned chicken tagine with olives and preserved lemon, then taste the fruits of your labour during a deliciously indulgent lunch.

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## Independent Explorations: Private Large Van with Guide - Full Day

For you and up to eight travel companions who wish to blaze your own trail with a fully bespoke experience, this private large van for nine people, for up to eight hours, also features an English-conversant guide who can offer local expertise. Whether you wish to plan your own itinerary or let us offer suggestions and take care of all the technical details, entrance fees, and any required reservations in advance, you'll enjoy the utmost in style, privacy, and seamlessness so you can focus on creating memories together. Vehicles equipped for special mobility needs can easily be arranged in advance, too.

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## Explore the Winding Streets of Lisbon

Your exploration of charming Lisbon begins in magnificent Praça dos Restauradores, before taking the funicular to São Pedro de Alcântara viewpoint, where mesmerising views of the city await. Your guide will lead you through the spectacular Chiado district and its elegant architecture towards Baixo, to relish the fresh taste of locally produced Pastel de Bacalhau and a glass of Vinho Verde, Portuguese green wine. Before you depart, there's time to admire the grandeur of Praça do Comércio and the beautiful, winding streets of the Alfamo district.

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## Discoveries of Vibrant Belém

Journey to Lisbon's vibrant district of Belém, beside the majestic Tagus river, and view historical landmarks like Torre de Belém (Belém Tower, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Monument of the Discoveries. Later, stand at the gates of the Jerónimos Monastery, a spectacular building that's home to high arches, elegant columns and intricately decorated spires, offering a glimpse of its glorious past. Indulge in a taste of history when you sample the famed *pasteis de Belém* with coffee at a local café. Your experience concludes with panoramic views of Lisbon from the Ponte 25 de Abril suspension bridge.

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## The Naval History of Lisbon

Follow your guide through the fascinating quarter of Belém where you'll encounter the rich history of the maritime explorers who sailed from here centuries ago. Your next stop is the elegantly sculpted Torre de Belém (Belém Tower), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the city's most famous fortifications. Later, savour the unmistakable taste of freshly made *pasteis de nata* (egg custard tart pastries) in an attractive café, before visiting the grandiose Jerónimos monastery, and the Museu de Marinha, which documents the adventures of Portugal's famous mariners.

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## Discover Portugal's Delicious Petiscos

*Petiscos* are small plates of food served in Portuguese bars to accompany a glass of wine or beer, in a format similar to Spanish *tapas*. Get a taste for these sumptuous dishes as a renowned local chef talks you through their rich history and shares recipes to try at home. Then, head to the kitchen, where our chef will show you how to prepare irresistible *petiscos* recipes, including fish cakes and tempura green beans before you eat your creations for the perfect end to the day.

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## The Historic Seaside Town of Cascais

Discover how Cascais went from being a charming, backwater fishing village to a chic Portuguese Riviera retreat for 19th-century royalty. King Charles of Portugal and his queen began a trend for visiting the village that elevated Cascais to a symbol of refined leisure. This experience takes you into the grandeur of Condes de Castro Guimaraes' residence, which is filled with Romantic architecture and art. Wander through the old town, its cobbled paths leading to the glimmering bay, and enjoy a journey through the opulence and culture at the heart of Cascais' heritage.

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## Medieval Charms of Óbidos

Embark on a scenic drive through the Portuguese countryside to Óbidos, a medieval village nestled amongst the Gaeiras vineyards. Discover the history of this fairy-tale town, once a royal gift from King Dinis to his young bride, later offered as a wedding gift to all Portuguese queens. Take an intimate walk through Óbidos' charming lanes and visit the Igreja de Santa Maria, Matriz de Óbidos (Parish Church of Santa Maria), adorned with exquisite blue and white tiles. Discover artisanal shops and the converted castle, then take a moment to relax in one of the enticing outdoor cafés.

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### Independent Explorations: Private Vehicle with Guide - Half Day

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