



Lisbon, Seville & Madrid with OLLI CSU

11 days | 13 days with Barcelona extension | Apr 26 2026—May 06 2026

From lively avenues to hidden nooks, Lisbon, Seville, and Madrid serve feasts for all your senses. Start in the Portuguese capital, where fado music drifts from tucked-away taverns into cobbled, hilly streets. Then, get swept up by Andalusia's fiery flamenco culture and sun-drenched plazas, with savory tapas to keep you going. End in Madrid, where the Prado Museum's masterpieces offer a perfectly sweet finale. Each city's unique rhythm makes this trio a brilliant mosaic of Southern Europe's best—and if you can't get enough, take the Barcelona extension to indulge in one of Spain's most whimsical locales.



Your tour package includes

9 nights in handpicked hotels
9 breakfasts
3 dinners with beer or wine
5 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach
1 train ride

Included highlights

Monument to the Discoveries
Tower of Belém
Évora
Plaza de España
Royal Alcázar
Córdoba
Puerta del Sol
Prado Museum

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

For more information, contact

<https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/portugal-and-spain-2026-olli-csu> | 1-800-438-7672

Lisbon, Seville & Madrid with OLLI CSU

11 days | 13 days with Barcelona extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Lisbon today.

Lisbon → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Lisbon

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Portugal! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Lisbon

Included meals: breakfast

Get to know Portugal's alluring capital on a tour with a local guide. Roam historic neighborhoods dotted with pastel-painted buildings while a gentle Atlantic breeze whispers over cobbled streets.

- Discover the city's maritime heritage at the Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower—paragons of Portuguese Gothic architecture made with local limestone.
- View the outside of the church at Jeronimos Monastery, built near the launch point of the legendary explorer Vasco da Gama's first journey. You'll see a prime example of what is now known as Manueline architecture—a whimsical style incorporating carved maritime elements.
- Drive along the waterfront past the Alfama district and the Ponte 25 de Abril, an impressive suspension bridge that bears a striking resemblance to San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.
- Admire views of the city from the green expanse of Eduardo VII Park, then pass through the Praça Marques de Pombal—a massive plaza and roundabout with a soaring statue commemorating Lisbon's reconstruction following a devastating earthquake in 1755.
- Embark on a walking tour through central Lisbon's historic squares. You'll start at Rua dos Sapateiros and Praça da Figueira, then continue past the quirky, industrial Santa

Justa Lift before admiring the Rua Augusta Arch. End in Restauradores Square, a plaza punctuated by a massive obelisk commemorating the Portuguese Restoration War.

Discover the meaning of saudade—the crossroads of nostalgia and longing—by adding an optional evening fado show to your itinerary, starring Portugal's traditional music. Prefer to spend the evening on your own? Ask your Tour Director for a recommendation or grab one of your fellow solo travelers and head to the Graca district for a panoramic view of Lisbon from an uphill perch. You can also begin (or end) your night out with a punchy local specialty: a shot of ginjinha, a sour cherry liqueur.
+ Fado Show & Dinner

Day 4: Free day in Lisbon

Included meals: breakfast

Vividly hued architecture and impossibly perfect gardens will greet you should you sign up for today's excursion to Sintra, the former playground of Portuguese royalty. If you prefer to spend the day setting out on your own, explore the green expanse of Parque Florestal de Monsanto, a massive swath of protected forest right inside the city limits.
+ Sintra & the Portuguese Riviera

Seville → 3 nights

Day 5: Seville via Évora

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Before making your way to sun-soaked Seville in Spain, follow a local guide through UNESCO-recognized Évora, one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Its streets, paved with cobblestones, are culturally protected and cherished by locals. Look all around you for the yellow trim that decorates Évora's buildings—local lore promises the color offers protection from evil spirits.

There, prepare for an encounter with the macabre when you enter the Capela dos Ossos, the 16th-century "Chapel of Bones" lined with the skulls and skeletal remains of the interred. Later, arrive in Seville—a city brimming with traditional Spanish charm—and sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Seville

Included meals: breakfast

Uncover the beauty of Seville—Andalusia's capital city—on a guided sightseeing tour of its historic churches and Moorish buildings.

- View the Plaza de España—a massive, semi-circular brick structure built in the Renaissance and Neo-Moorish styles for the 1929 Ibero-American Exhibition.
- Pass the whitewashed homes of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, a popular neighborhood known for its cobblestone streets, narrow alleys, and tiled benches.
- See Seville Cathedral, one of the largest Gothic churches in the world. Awesome in scale, this 16th-century architectural marvel contains artworks by Goya and Murillo, as well as an enormous and richly decorated central altarpiece.
- Enter the Royal Alcazar, a palace complex that was once home to the Catholic Monarchs, King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I.

Tonight, treat yourself to an optional excursion to watch a heart-stopping, soul-stirring flamenco show. This expressive art form combines flamboyant singing, dancing, and clapping—it's even been recognized by UNESCO as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

If you'd like to spend your free evening on your own, continue exploring the elegant patios of the Santa Cruz neighborhood. For panoramic city views, head to the top of the Metropol Parasol—known to locals as Las Setas, or "the mushrooms." (The lookout is especially stunning at sunset.)

Please note: You should confirm your passport information at least 30 days prior to departure to ensure we can secure your tickets to the Royal Alcazar.

+ Traditional Seville Flamenco Show

Day 7: Free day in Seville

Included meals: breakfast

Use your free morning in Seville to catch your breath and unwind. Our recommendation: Start by visiting the Mercado de la Feria, one of the city's oldest markets. While you're there, you can sample Spanish cheeses, sip a coffee, and indulge in some people-watching.

And what's a trip to Andalusia without a sherry

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tasting? Opt into our excursion to Cadiz, one of western Europe's oldest inhabited cities, to stop at a local tavern for a tasting of the famous fortified wine. Prefer to continue exploring on your own? Head to a rooftop bar, take an evening stroll along the beautifully lit Guadalquivir River, or find a night market for authentic street eats and live music.

+ Cádiz & Sherry Tasting

Madrid → 3 nights

Day 8: Madrid via olive oil farm & Córdoba

Included meals: breakfast

Leave Seville and make your way to Madrid, stopping en route to discover some of the flavors and history of Andalusia.

- Join a local guide for a tour of a family-owned olive farm. See its groves, mill, and cellar, and learn about the delicate process of olive harvesting and oil production.
- Sample the unexpected flavor combination of orange-infused olive oil drizzled over a scoop of chocolate gelato. (Don't worry: You'll have time to shop for tasty souvenirs to bring home!)
- Stop in the town of Cordoba, which was once home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths, and 70 libraries.
- Enter the Mezquita, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the eighth century as a mosque and then converted into a cathedral during the Reconquista of 1236.

Later, board a high-speed train to Madrid, where you'll arrive in the afternoon.

Please note: Portage isn't included on train transfers. You should be comfortable lifting and carrying all luggage over steps, onto platforms, and into storage.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Madrid

Included meals: breakfast

Get an insider's view of Madrid, where the legacy of the Habsburgs and Bourbons meets the fiery spirit of the Spanish people. Join your Tour Director and trace its path from a small medieval town into a 16th-century powerhouse.

- View the Royal Palace, Spain's largest royal residence and a Baroque stunner complete with grand facades and sprawling gardens.
- Pass by the Temple of Debod, a reassembled temple from ancient Egypt, given as a gift to

Spain in recognition for the country's aid in saving the Abu Simbel temples from destruction. Madrid's skyline unfolds from this vantage point, a serene oasis amidst the city.

- View the city's many squares, including Plaza de Colon and Plaza de Neptuno. You're in for a treat, with enormous fountains and quaint cafes offering prime people-watching opportunities.
- Explore the Prado, a world-class art museum that began as the private collection of the Spanish monarchy and contains works by Goya, Velásquez, Rubens, and Bosch.

Nightlife in Madrid starts late and goes well into the early hours. Hit the streets for the classic 10 p.m. dinner or add our optional excursion for our (much earlier) take on the traditional Spanish evening. You'll explore the city by twilight—and enjoy a little traditional tuna music, too.

+ Traditional Spanish Evening

Day 10: Free day in Madrid

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Interested in ticking another UNESCO World Heritage Site off your list? Join our optional trip to Toledo—a multifaceted town revered for its bladesmithing and known as the City of Three Cultures for the way Christians, Jews, and Muslims peacefully coexisted there in the Middle Ages. Otherwise, spend your free day in Madrid checking out the lively streets of La Latina or the trendy boutiques of Malasana—two of the city's beloved neighborhoods.

Later, gather back up with your groupmates to celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

+ Toledo

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue to Barcelona to deepen your connection to Spain in one of its most colorful and art-filled cities.

+ Barcelona extension

Barcelona has a unique identity that practically radiates charm. Take a train ride to the Catalan capital to explore on a sightseeing tour and let your Tour Director point you toward the city's

highlights, including an up-close look at some of Antoni Gaudí's architectural masterworks.

Barcelona → 2 nights

Day 11: Train to Barcelona

Included meals: breakfast

Board a high-speed train to Barcelona today. When you arrive, enjoy free time to explore the cultural capital of Catalonia. Ask your Tour Director for a recommendation, or pack a picnic and a bottle of cava (a Spanish sparkling wine) and escape to the central Parc de la Ciutadella. Walk its manicured gardens or sit by the Cascada Monumental fountain.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Barcelona

Included meals: breakfast

You don't have to be an architecture fan to enjoy Barcelona, but you may just leave as one by the end of the day. Roman ruins, Gothic drama, and soaring odes to modernism fill the city with unparalleled landmarks, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- Immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring beauty of La Sagrada Familia, a testament to Gaudí's brilliance. Inside, marvel at the intricate details and stained glass that bathe the space in confetti-like bursts of color.
- Drive along Passeig de Gracia, where you'll encounter Gaudí's House of Bones (Casa Batllo) and the sculptural Casa Mila. Feel the pulse of the city as you traverse Barcelona and see how architectural modernism interacts with everyday life.
- Venture to Montjuic, the hill overlooking Barcelona and site of the 1992 Olympic Games. At the Mirador de l'Alcalde, breathe in panoramic views of the city, the harbor, and beyond, perfumed by a Mediterranean breeze and the surrounding gardens.
- Pass through the grandeur of the Placa d'Espanya, a hub of Catalan culture. Look for a pair of towers, inspired by the campaniles of Venice, and a classically styled fountain at the center of it all.

If you'd like to keep stoking your love for Gaudí, join our optional excursion to Park Guell this afternoon. Your eyes will joyfully bounce from colorful mosaics to the tops of quirky residential rooftops. Savor every tiny detail in the stonework—you never know what surprises you'll uncover when you take your time.

If you'd prefer to wind through Barcelona on your own, go for some rest and relaxation at Barceloneta Beach, where you can take a leisurely stroll on the boardwalk and—if it's warm—dip your toes in the Mediterranean. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

*Please note: On select departures, entrance to *La Sagrada Família* may be replaced with entrance to *Hospital Sant Pau*, a hospital-turned-public-art-space designed in the whimsical Catalan modernist style.*

+ Park Güell & La Pedrera

Flight Home

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/portugal-and-spain-2026-olli-csu> | 1-800-438-7672

Day 3: Fado Show & Dinner

From \$105.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Spend your evening at a Lisbon tavern listening to fado. Derived from the Latin word *fatum*—meaning “prophecy” or “fate”—fado is Portugal’s national musical treasure. Fado’s traditional theme is “*saudade*”—a word that doesn’t quite translate to English but conveys a sense of both nostalgia and longing. Dinner is included during this memorable musical evening. Please note: This excursion typically ends around 11pm.

Day 4: Sintra & the Portuguese Riviera

From \$105.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (8 hours, departs in the morning)
Journey to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed town of Sintra and learn why the poet Lord Byron once called it a “glorious Eden.” Get a glimpse into royal life during a guided tour of the 19th-century, romanticist Pena Palace. Take a bus and mini-train ride up to this storybook, mountaintop site, which boasts picturesque gardens and sweeping views of the Portuguese countryside. After your tour, you’ll have free time to stroll through Sintra, viewing its vibrant villas, small shops, and impeccably manicured gardens. On your way back to Lisbon, marvel at the coastal scenery of the Portuguese Riviera, stopping to take in the winding streets and pastel-colored buildings of the old fishing village of Cascais.

Day 6: Traditional Seville Flamenco Show

From \$79.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the evening)
Tonight, get a taste of old Seville during a live flamenco show. Flamenco is a unique and colorful Andalusian art form that combines guitar playing, singing, clapping, and dancing, and this excursion is sure to be one of the highlights of your Spanish journey. Sip an included drink as you watch the authentic performance, which allows expressive lyrics, moving instrumentals, and passionate dancing. After discovering why UNESCO has declared flamenco to be one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, enjoy free time to explore the vibrant Santa Cruz neighborhood.

Day 7: Cádiz & Sherry Tasting

From \$109.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (10 hours, departs in the morning)
Travel to the ancient port city of Cádiz and get to know one of western Europe’s oldest inhabited cities. Meet up with a local guide and stroll through the Old Town, admiring varying architecture styles from different cultural groups who have called the city home. Pass Plaza de San Juan de Dios and the old Roman Theatre, then enter Cádiz Cathedral, which took more than 116 years to complete. If you’re up for it, climb to the top of the cathedral’s tower, where you can enjoy views of the city. Make a pit stop at a local tavern for a tasting of Sherry, considered one of the world’s oldest wines. With a multitude of variations in between, this fortified wine

ranges from crisp and dry with notes of apple to dark and rich with a creamy texture. End with a visit to the Mercado Central for free time to enjoy lunch or shopping before returning to Seville.

Day 9: Traditional Spanish Evening

From \$119.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Start the evening with a stroll through the Plaza Mayor and learn about the square’s history from your Tour Director. On your way to dinner, walk through the illuminated streets of Madrid, taking in the local neighborhood ambiance in the evening light. Then, enjoy conversation, camaraderie, and live music at one of the oldest restaurants in the city. Between traditional Castilian courses, you’ll be entertained by tuna music, an artistic tradition with its roots in Spain’s universities.

Day 10: Toledo

From \$105.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (8 hours, departure time varies)
Today, discover Toledo, the clifftop settlement often referred to as La Ciudad Imperial (“The Imperial City”). Upon arrival, you’ll have some free time to explore. Later in the afternoon, you’ll kick off a guided tour at Toledo Cathedral: a massive Gothic structure possessing a treasure trove of stained glass windows and golden artifacts. Gaze upon its sacristy, containing masterpieces by the likes of Van Dyck, El Greco, Rubens, and Titian. After exploring the labyrinth of medieval alleyways in the heart of the city, you’ll visit the Church of Santo Tomé—a former mosque, dating to the 12th century, graced by one of El Greco’s finest works, “The Burial of the Count of Orgaz.” End your day with a stop at Santa María la Blanca, a museum housed in one of the oldest synagogues in Europe. Please note: This tour involves some walking over uneven terrain. Also, depending on the day of the week, the sites you visit may change.

Extension excursion options

Day 12: Park Güell & La Pedrera

From \$115.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, departure time varies)
On today’s excursion, discover the magnificent works of Antoni Gaudí, the famed Spanish architect known for his bold, distinct designs. Casa Milà is the first stop. Take a guided tour of this building, popularly known as “La Pedrera,” which was built between 1906 and 1912. Everything about it is visually unique, from its wave-like stone structure to the grandly designed roof. Next, you’ll head to Park Güell, also designed by Gaudí. Your guide will lead you through the park, which contains stunning buildings, intricate stonework, and colorful mosaics. At the top of the park, marvel at the brilliant views of Barcelona.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.