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Spain Educational - 9 Days (7nts)

Package Inclusions:

- **5 Nights in Madrid – the capital of Spain** -at a 3-Star centrally located air-conditioned Hotel
- **2 Nights in the university city of Salamanca** at 4-star centrally located air-conditioned Catalonia Plaza Hotel
- **14 Meals:**
7 Buffet Breakfasts & 7 Dinners
- **4 Educational Sightseeing Tours:**
- ½ Day sightseeing of Madrid including entrance fees to the Prado Museum.
- Full Day sightseeing tour of Avila & Segovia including entrance fees to the Alcazar.
- Full Day sightseeing tour of Toledo including entrance fees to the Cathedral and Santo Tome Church.
- ½ Day Sightseeing city tour of Salamanca, its unique main square, and the University.
- **High Speed Ave Train transportation** between Madrid-Salamanca-Madrid.
- Round-trip airport transfers in Spain.
- Hostess service & baggage handling.
- All hotel taxes and service charges

LAND ONLY

Net cost per person –1 free with every 7: \$1388

Net cost per person –1 free with every 10: \$1343

Net cost per person –1 free with every 15: \$1308

Net cost per person –1 free with every 20: \$1292

ITINERARY:

Day 1: USA – Madrid

Overnight flight to Madrid. Dinner, Breakfast, and Movie on board.

Day 2: Madrid

Arrival at Madrid Airport and transfer to your hotel. Day at leisure.



Madrid – Cibeles Fountain & Post Office Bldg

Madrid – Plaza Mayor



Madrid – Architecture

Day 3: Madrid Highlights & Prado Museum

After breakfast, guided panoramic tour of Madrid. Enjoy the city and learn about its history, architecture, and urban development. Visit the old quarter and the magnificent

Plaza Mayor, and the Royal Palace built by King Philip on an ancient Muslim fortress site. End up your tour visiting the Prado Museum (entrance fees included), which houses the world's best collection of Spanish paintings: El Greco, Velázquez, Goya, Ribera, Zurbarán, and Murillo. The Prado also contains paintings by Van der Weyden, Hieronymous Bosch, and a collection of Titian and other painters of the Venice School, plus some first-class works of German, French and English Artists. Afternoon free.



Madrid- Puerta de Alcalá

Madrid - The Prado

Museum

Day 4: Sightseeing of Avila & Segovia

Breakfast and departure to visit the city of Avila, encircled by 11th century walls resembling a great castle. Here we visit a number of Romanesque Churches, Gothic –style Pal- aces and a fortified Cathedral from the 12th century. The city was the birthplace of St. Teresa de Jesus, one of the greatest mystics of the Catholic Church. We'll stop at Cerro de Los Cuatro Postes for one of the best views of the city. Departure to Segovia, which was a very important military nucleus during the Romans, times, as shown by its magnificent Aqueduct. This city, chosen by some of the Castilian Kings as their summer residence, preserves



The walled city of Avila

Segovia, Roman Aqueduct

one of the most notable medieval influences in Spain. Time at leisure for Lunch (on own). After lunch we'll visit the Cathedral (the last Gothic Cathedral built in Spain), which grace and style have earned the nickname of "Queen of Cathedrals". We'll also see the Alcázar, the country's most spectacular castle.

Day 5: Excursion to Toledo

Breakfast and departure for a full day tour of Toledo, a museum city. It was the country's capital and one of the oldest city in Europe. Toledo keeps magnificent examples of architecture from different epochs, Arab, Jewish, and Catholic. We will admire its beautiful cobblestone streets and monuments and visit the Cathedral, and the St. Tome Church, holding El Greco's masterpiece: The burial of Count Orgaz. Then on to Santa Maria La Blanca Synagogue and the church of San Juan de los Reyes. You'll also admire its famous handicraft works, and the Damasquinado (precious metals incrustated on steel). Time at leisure for lunch (on own).



The Medieval walled City of Toledo



Ancient wall access

Day 6: Madrid-Salamanca

Breakfast and transfer by private bus to the train station, to board the Ave high speed train to Salamanca (2:45 hours). Arrival and transfer to hotel. Rest of day at leisure.



Salamanca: Oldest University in the world University Library

Day 7: Sightseeing of Salamanca

Breakfast at the hotel and begin the visit of the city of Salamanca, a true museum of varied architectures and styles. The buildings of Salamanca were made using stone from the near- by Villamayor quarry. It was as soft as sandstone, and during the 16C it was finely worked to produce the marvelous filigree work of an art that became known as Plateresque. The stone is composed of iron ore, which hardens and rusts in contact with the air. Consequently, with the passing of time it takes on the beautiful golden color, which has always been associated with this city. If the golden-colored stone constitutes the material side of Salamanca, its spirit is found in science and culture, with a university way of life of both intellect and youthfulness. The University was built in 1218 by King Alfonso IX at a time, which coincided with the appearance of the Universities of Paris and Bologna. The very soul of Salamanca is to be encountered in its faculties and libraries, and around its Plaza Mayor - one of the most beautiful squares in Europe.



Salamanca- Plaza Mayor

Day 8: Salamanca-Madrid

Breakfast and transfer to Salamanca Train Station to board your train back to Madrid. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel in Madrid. Evening at leisure in Madrid.

Day 9: Madrid-USA After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to Madrid airport for your return flight home, arriving later today.

