

ROM

Highlights of Spain

Ancient and Modern

May 15 to 31, 2023

A ROMTravel Art and Culture Trip



Figure 1: Alhambra palace, Granada, Spain. © Slaunger, Wikimedia Commons, 2014.

Spain's culture and history owe much to the many nationalities who have fought for control of her land. Traces of these passing civilizations can be found all over the country and provide a fascinating glimpse into a distant and rich history.

600 years of Roman presence in the Iberian Peninsula left an indelible legacy of architectural beauty and cultural wealth. The ruins found in towns or scattered in the countryside, and the

sculptures, jewellery and artifacts in the museums are palpable witnesses to the passage of a great civilization.

Islamic rule of the Iberian Peninsula lasted for varying periods of time, which ranged from only 28 years in the extreme northwest (Galicia) to 781 years in the area which surrounds the city of Granada in the southeast. The two most prominent cities of Islam's legacy, Granada and Córdoba, are both listed as

United Nations' cities of "Heritage of Humanity".

Join Doctor Jonathan Edmondson, a global expert in the history of Rome's Hispanic provinces, as we visit Mérida, Cartagena, Itálica and numerous other sites where the architecture of the Romans has been so well preserved.

With its intricately designed archways, exquisitely manicured gardens and pristine courtyards, the breathtaking Alhambra in Granada is Spain's most visited monument and the oldest Muslim palace in the world. The entire old town of Córdoba, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, is home to the Mezquita, once a mosque, now a cathedral, and one of the world's greatest works of Islamic architecture.

As we explore many of Spain's historical sites, we will be staying in Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Córdoba, Sevilla, Mérida and Madrid. Steeped in history, these cities are the perfect blend of classical and modern. All our hotels are well-located so that you may explore on your own or step out the door for an interesting stroll through the historical centre.

Enjoy all that Spain has to offer: magnificent scenery which often forms the backdrop to many of its famous monuments, flamenco, tapas, paella, fine wines, magnificent museums, beautiful cathedrals. There is always more to discover.

Trip Itinerary and Highlights

Day 1 Arrivals in Barcelona

Individual arrivals and transfer to the hotel. Welcome reception and dinner.

Day 2 Barcelona

Full day city tour of Barcelona to include Sagrada Familia, Gaudí's Park Güell, Gothic Quarter, Archaeological Museum of Catalunya and Barcelona City History Museum. Tapas dinner with cava tasting.

Day 3 Barcelona to Empúries to Barcelona

Tour of the Roman villa of Torre Llauder. Drive to Empúries to see Roman sites and visit the Empúries branch of the Archaeological Museum of Catalunya.



Figure 2: Remains of the ancient Greek city of Neapolis, Empúries, Spain. © Mary Harrsch, Wikimedia Commons, 2013.

Day 4 Barcelona to Tarragona to Sagunto to Valencia

Drive to Tarragona for a tour including the Amphitheatre, Roman Circus and Aqueduct. Tour of Sagunto including the Roman Theatre and the Temple of Diana.



Figure 3: Roman Amphitheatre, Tarragona, Spain. © Cintxa, Wikimedia Commons, 2008.

Day 5 Valencia

Full day city tour of Valencia to include the City of Arts and Sciences, Cathedral, Central Market, Valencia Silk Exchange and La Almoina Archaeological Museum.



Figure 4: The Cathedral, Valencia, Spain. © Felivet, Wikimedia Commons, 2008.

Day 6 Valencia to Cartagena to Granada

Drive to Cartagena for a tour including the Roman Theatre, Forum, the Fortuna House and the Museum of Subaquatic Archaeology.



Figure 5: The Roman Theatre, Cartagena, Spain. © Trasmundo, Wikimedia Commons, 2010.

Day 7 Granada

Morning tour of the Alhambra. Explore Albayzín, the old Moorish quarter of Granada.

Day 8 Granada to Baena to Córdoba

Drive to olive oil farm for a tour and tasting. Tour of Torreparedones Archaeological Park in Baena. Visit Bodegas Alvear near Córdoba. Tour of the Mezquita on arrival in Córdoba.



Figure 6: The Mezquita, Córdoba, Spain. © Jim Gordon, Wikimedia Commons, 2021.

Day 9 Córdoba

Tour of Córdoba including Archaeological Museum, Jewish Quarter and Castle of the Christian Monarchs. Visit the Caliphate City of Medina Azahara on the outskirts of Córdoba. Visit the Royal Stables, subject to availability.



Figure 7: A street in the Jewish Quarter, Córdoba, Spain. © Doctor Jonathan Edmondson.

Day 10 Córdoba to Écija to Carmona to Sevilla

Drive to Écija for a walking tour including the Municipal History Museum. Visit Carmona with its Roman Necropolis and Amphitheatre. Enjoy lunch at Parador de Carmona, a nearby historic hotel. Time permitting, on arrival in Sevilla, tour of the Cathedral and its bell tower.

Day 11 Sevilla

Tour of Sevilla including the Royal Palace, María Luisa Park, the University of Sevilla, Casa de Pilatos Palace and Las Setas in the Incarnation Plaza. Evening flamenco show.

Day 12 Sevilla to Itálica to Sevilla

Tour of Itálica, one of the first Roman settlements in Spain and the birthplace of two Roman emperors. Afternoon tour of Sevilla or at leisure.

Day 13 Sevilla to Mérida

Drive to Mérida for a tour including the amphitheatre, theatre, Circus, aqueduct, Temple of Diana, Guadiana River Bridge, Mithraeum House and the National Museum of Roman Art.



Figure 8: Temple of Diana, Mérida, Spain. © DarkEngel1, Wikimedia Commons, 2008.

Day 14 Mérida

Continue tour of Roman sites.

Day 15 Mérida to Trujillo to Carranque to Madrid

Drive to Trujillo, a city on the Route of the Conquistadors and birthplace of Francisco Pizarro. Visit Carranque Archaeological Park, one of the best-preserved Roman sites in Spain.

Day 16 Madrid

Tour of the National Archaeological Museum. Leisure time. Farewell dinner.

Day 17 Departures from Madrid

Transfer to airport and individual departures.

Hotels

Barcelona

Hotel Barcelona Ramblas

3 nights

Valencia

Hotel Balneario Las Arenas

2 nights

Granada

Hotel AC Palacio de Santa Paula

2 nights

Córdoba

Hotel NH Collection Amistad

Córdoba

2 nights

Sevilla

Hotel Abba Sevilla

3 nights

Mérida

Hotel Ilusión Mérida Palace

2 nights

Madrid

NH Collection Palacio de Tepa

2 nights

Map of the Itinerary



Figure 9: © Worldwide Quest International.

Resource Person

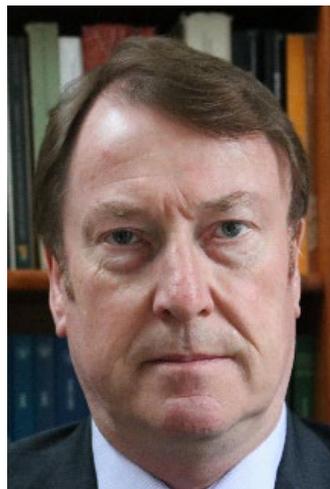


Figure 10: Doctor Jonathan Edmondson.

Jonathan Edmondson is a Roman historian, who specializes in the history and epigraphy of Rome's Hispanic provinces. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge and has taught at York University since 1987, where he is now Distinguished Research Professor. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he has published widely on Roman Spain, epigraphy and Roman spectacle. A seasoned visitor to Spain and Portugal, Jonathan looks forward to sharing his expertise, as well as his love of, and enthusiasm for, the Iberian peninsula with our tour participants.

ROMTravel Coordinator

Ann Dandy is a past Co-Chair of ROMTravel. A passionate traveller, she has spent over 20 years living and working overseas in Hong Kong, Korea, Hungary, Pakistan and Oman. She has led a ROMTravel trip to Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, and two trips to Greece.

Trip Cost Per Person

Double Occupancy: \$ 10,350

Single Supplement: \$ 2,700

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Tour begins at Barcelona (BCN) Airport.

Tour ends at Madrid (MAD) Airport.

International flight costs not included.

Contact Information

Ann Dandy

ROMTravel Coordinator

Phone 647.834.1503

Email ann_dandy@yahoo.com

Worldwide Quest International

Laurielle Penny

Phone 416.633.5666 or 1.800.387.1483

Email laurielle@worldwidequest.com

TICO Registration Numbers 2667946
and 1667953



Figure 11: The Court of la Acequia inside Generalife Palace at the Alhambra, Granada, Spain. © Ajay Suresh, Wikimedia Commons, 2020.

Terms and Conditions

Highlights of Spain: Ancient and Modern

May 15 to 31, 2023

All participants on this trip must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All trip leaders, guides and drivers will also be fully vaccinated.

Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada.

Trip Cost Per Person

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Double Occupancy: \$ 10,350

Single Supplement: \$ 2,700

Trip cost does not include international flight costs between your home and Spain. Worldwide Quest International can assist with booking flights.

Trip Cost Includes

Arrival transfer from Barcelona (BCN)

Airport to hotel on Day 1. Departure transfer from hotel to Madrid (MAD)

Airport on Day 17.

Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person at the hotels.

Ground transport in private air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary.

Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities and free WiFi access.

Meals: Buffet breakfast daily, 9 lunches and 8 dinners. All meals include bottled water, coffee or tea, and a choice of soft drink or 2 glasses of wine. Bottled water daily on the bus. Welcome and farewell dinners with wine.

All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.

All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant and guiding staff related to the basic trip.

All hotel and local taxes.

Services of a Resource Person, a ROMTravel Coordinator, English-speaking local guides, and Worldwide Quest, including a national tour escort.

Pre-trip orientations; post-trip reunion.

A trip handbook.

Not Included

International flight costs not included.
Fuel surcharges.

Internet access outside the hotels.

Items of a personal nature such as laundry or phone calls for example.

Airline baggage or video camera fees, if any.

Visa fees, if any.

Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services unless specified.

Additional meals and accommodations due to delays for any reason.

Emergency evacuation costs.

Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage and out of province health insurance.

Costs related to COVID-19 testing, where required. In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result, costs related to flight re-scheduling, additional land transportation, quarantine or self-isolation accommodation and food.

Costs

All costs quoted herein are based on rates, fees and taxes as of February 15, 2022. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should trip costs increase, Worldwide Quest International (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the cost accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Worldwide Quest reserves the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond their control. Any change to itinerary will not result in eligibility for a refund.

ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of Royal Ontario Museum. For a full list of membership levels and benefits, visit the [ROM website](#). Only one person per room must be a member.

Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$800.00 per person is required at the time of booking. A second non-refundable deposit of \$2,000.00 is due on December 15, 2022. The balance of payment of \$7,550.00 per person, and if applicable, single supplement of \$2,700.00, are due on February 15, 2023.

Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made or when it occurs, if later. ROMTravel, Worldwide Quest International and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing to Worldwide Quest International. All payments are non-refundable. No refunds will be given for payments made or unused services.

This trip follows Worldwide Quest International's "Tour-Ready" criteria. This trip will only proceed when all of the following "Tour-Ready" criteria are met:

1. The Canadian government does not have an “Avoid All Travel” advisory to the country or region within a country for any part of the trip.
2. No region of the trip has any significant COVID-19 related restrictions.
3. There is reliable airline access for arrival and departure.
4. Worldwide Quest International and its in-country partners are confident that your trip can operate safely and enjoyably.

You may transfer without any fee or penalty from any of Worldwide Quest International’s land trips at any time if your trip is not ‘Tour-Ready’.

For more information, read Worldwide Quest International’s [Trip Cancellation and Refund Policy](#).

Documents

A passport valid for six months after the return date is required. It is the individual participant’s responsibility to ensure proper visas, affidavits, COVID-19 test results, proof of vaccination and/or any other documents that may be required to enter and or to not have to quarantine at the destination or upon returning to your home. Neither Worldwide Quest International nor ROMTravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Note that public health entry and quarantine requirements for any country may change with little notice. Entry to another country may be refused even if the

required information and travel documents are complete.

ROMTravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the trip handbook unless you advise not to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMTravel and the travel agency, and will not be shared with anyone else. For this trip, Worldwide Quest International will not publish a list of participants.

For this trip, Worldwide Quest International will not use photographic images of you for future promotional purposes.

Insurance

Travel insurance is available and is highly recommended. Insurance can be purchased from many different insurance providers. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have adequate out of province medical, hospital, trip cancellation and interruption insurance and baggage insurance to cover changes in health or other circumstances prior to, or during, the trip, including coverage related to COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases. All losses suffered or additional costs incurred associated with failure to have insurance, or to have sufficient insurance, are the sole responsibility of the participant. Insurance purchased through Worldwide Quest International is underwritten by Manulife Financial. The

insurance premium is non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed, or at a later time but, if purchased later, would be subject to any changes to the premiums and/or to the participant's health or other circumstances at the time of purchase. Travellers may provide their own travel insurance or purchase travel insurance through another provider. A ROMTravel waiver of insurance will be required if the participant does not purchase insurance through Worldwide Quest International. Proof of medical insurance is required. For coverage options and complete coverage details, limitations and exclusions, please contact Worldwide Quest International for a quote.

Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the

conducting of the trip, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this trip however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the trip. The applicant by applying to join the trip hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

Responsibility and Jurisdiction

The Terms and Conditions herein concerning publication of a list of participants and use of photographic images of you supersede any such Terms and Conditions set by Worldwide Quest International.

Worldwide Quest International has additional [Terms and Conditions](#), which you must accept when completing Worldwide Quest International's online registration form.

Contact Information

Ann Dandy
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Phone 647.834.1503
Email ann_dandy@yahoo.com

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Internet Link for this Trip

This document contains an internet link to become a member of Royal Ontario Museum, which can be clicked when viewing the document on a smartphone, tablet or computer screen. The link is:

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/join-us/membership/become-a-member>



Figure 12: Plaza Virgen de los Reyes, Sevilla, Spain. © Diliff, Wikimedia Commons, 2009.

ROMTravel
100 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M5S 2C6

Phone 416.586.8034
Email travel@rom.on.ca
Website www.rom.on.ca

ROMTravel is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

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