

Jewels of Spain & Portugal

October 4—13, 2012

9 days from Madrid to Madrid with St. Mary Church, Cecil, PA



Join Father Stan Gregorek from St. Mary's Church on this fully escorted adventure introducing you to the fascinating major cities of the Iberian Peninsula, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Begin with an overnight in the Spanish capital of Madrid. Then, visit fortified Avila and pretty Salamanca, pearls of the Castile region, and cross the Sierra da Estrela into Portugal to reach Coimbra, a charming hillside town that overlooks the Mondego River. Stop in Fatima to see its famous sanctuary, then on to the awesome walled city of Obidos with its towers and bastions. Spend two nights in Lisbon and discover explorer Henry the Navigator's exquisite city. Travel back into Spain via the Sierra de Aracena for two overnights in Seville, a lively city on the banks of the Guadalquivir River. The city center boasts many stunning highlights, including the cathedral, Alcazar, and Plaza d'España. Admire the Andalusian landscapes on the way to Cordoba with its lovely Mezquita. Travel across Don Quixote's La Mancha, known for its castles and windmills, and return to Madrid for the final two nights of your vacation.

Day 1: Arrive in Madrid, Spain. Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to start exploring lively Madrid. Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers. (Dinner)

Day 2: Madrid—Avila—Salamanca—Coimbra, Portugal. Journey west to fortified Avila, then on to Salamanca, just six miles from the spot where Wellington routed Napoleon's army in 1812. Make sure you spend some time wandering around Salamanca's Plaza Mayor, the most beautiful square in Spain. Leave Salamanca and head westwards to the fortress town of Ciudad Rodrigo, perched high above the Rio Agueda. A profusion of woodlands and mountains awaits you as you journey into the valley of the Sierra da Estrela on your way for an overnight in Coimbra. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 3: Coimbra—Fatima—Obidos—Lisbon. This morning, enjoy an orientation tour of Coimbra, strategically situated on a hill overlooking the Mondego River. Next, Fatima. Stop here to see the sanctuary, made famous by the Virgin Mary's apparition to three shepherd children, Francisco, Jacinth, and Lucia, on May 13, 1917. A few more miles for a stop in Obidos, a fortified city still flanked by towers and bastions overlooking the countryside dotted with windmills. Overnight in Lisbon. (Breakfast)

Day 4: Lisbon. Henry the Navigator made Lisbon the 15th-century "Mistress of the Seas." You'll see his monument, the Belem Tower, the Moorish Citadel, the impressive Black Horse Square, and other highlights on the guided sightseeing excursion. Spend the afternoon in the Alfama's tile-decorated streets, or take an optional excursion along the Estoril Coast to Cascais and Sintra. (Breakfast)

Day 5: Lisbon—Seville, Spain. Drive southeast this morning into the Alentejo through the countryside famous for its production of cork. Then, on to the border at Vila Verde and cross into Spain for the journey into Andalusia, enjoying quite different scenery as you skirt the Sierra de Aracena before reaching delightful Seville for two overnights. (Breakfast)

Day 6: Seville. One of Spain's most colorful cities. Perhaps you'd like to spend the morning enjoying an optional sightseeing tour including the main highlights of this vibrant city. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 7: Seville—Cordoba—Madrid. Drive north towards Carmona, an Old World country town dominated by an ancient Alcazar, to Cordoba. This is Spain's most Moorish city with its great mosque, which is rightly known as one of Islam's greatest pieces of architecture outside the Arab world and now a Catholic cathedral since 1236. Later, into the very heart of La Mancha, famed for its castles and windmills. Overnight in Madrid. (Breakfast)

Day 8: Madrid. Not only is it the capital of Spain, but because it is situated 2,180 feet above sea level, the Spaniards rightly say Madrid is the nearest thing to heaven. Enjoy the main highlights on the included guided sightseeing excursion. The optional trip to Toledo is rewarding in more ways than one; the splendid setting of this old walled city above the Tagus was made famous in El Greco's painting, and even now it's like a great open-air museum of Spanish history and art. (Breakfast)

Day 9: Madrid. Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (Breakfast)

In addition to the above, Optional Excursions are available.

Tour Cost: \$2,569 (double occupancy)
\$3,049 (single occupancy - limited availability)
Travel Protection Plan: \$129 (Insurance due at initial time of deposit)

Deposit & Payments:

Initial Deposit \$250 is required immediately to reserve your seat *(plus insurance if taken)*
Final Payment Due: \$2,319 per person due August 1, 2012

CHECKS ONLY

✂ Reservation Application - Please Print

Please reserve _____ seat(s) on St. Mary's Church for the "Jewels of Spain and Portugal" on October 4-13, 2012.

Name *(as on passport)* _____ Passport # _____

Exp Date _____ Where was Passport Issued _____

Address _____

Phone *(Home)* _____ *(Street)* _____ *(City)* _____ *(State)* _____ *(Zip)* _____
(Work) _____ *(E-mail)* _____

Passenger sharing with: _____
(Please indicate if roommate is sending deposit with separate reservation application Yes No)

Roommate Name *(as on passport)* _____ Passport # _____

Exp Date _____ Where was Passport Issued _____

Roommate Address _____

Phone *(Home)* _____ *(Street)* _____ *(City)* _____ *(State)* _____ *(Zip)* _____
(Work) _____ *(E-mail)* _____

Deposit of \$250* per person is enclosed

****Plus insurance if taken***

Second Payment of \$2,319 per person is due August 1, 2012.

CHECKS ONLY

Room Type Twin/ Double Single \$600 *(limited availability)*

Optional Travel Protection Plan - \$129 *(additional)* Yes No Please initial _____

**Please make checks payable to St. Mary Church and
send to St. Mary's Church, 10 St. Mary's Lane, Cecil, PA 15321.**

***Further inquiries,
contact Donna Belfiore at 724.745.3022 (Home) or 724.809.5688 (Cell) or donnabelfiore@comcast.net
or Mary Ann at St. Mary's Church at 412.221.1560
or e-mail stmarysch@comcast.net or visit our website at www.stmarycecil.org.***

Travel arrangements made through Travel Leaders, 1580 McLaughlin Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241