

Overseas Adventure Travel[®]

THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide[®]



Coastlines of Portugal, Spain & Morocco

2026

Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will enjoy the thrill of off-the-beaten-path discovery coupled with the convenience of unpacking just once. Aboard our privately owned small ship, you will visit lesser-known ports that larger vessels cannot access—and enjoy intimate interactions with local people in your small group of no more than 25 travelers. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation.

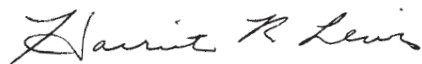
But your personal connections are not limited to your time on land—while onboard, you will enjoy the warm hospitality provided by our friendly, English-speaking crew, as well as the camaraderie of your fellow American travelers. Whether you travel with a partner, sister, friend, or independently, you will feel welcomed and included throughout your journey. And if you do choose to travel solo, you will enjoy an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis

Chair

Overseas Adventure Travel

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Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Coastlines of Portugal, Spain & Morocco

Small Ship Adventure

Portugal: Lisbon | **Spain:** Seville, Málaga | **Gibraltar** | **Morocco:** Tangier, Casablanca, Rabat, Safi, Agadir | **Portugal:** Funchal (Madeira)

Small groups of no more than 25 travelers, guaranteed

19 days starting from \$8,695

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **\$1495**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/rlc2026pricing

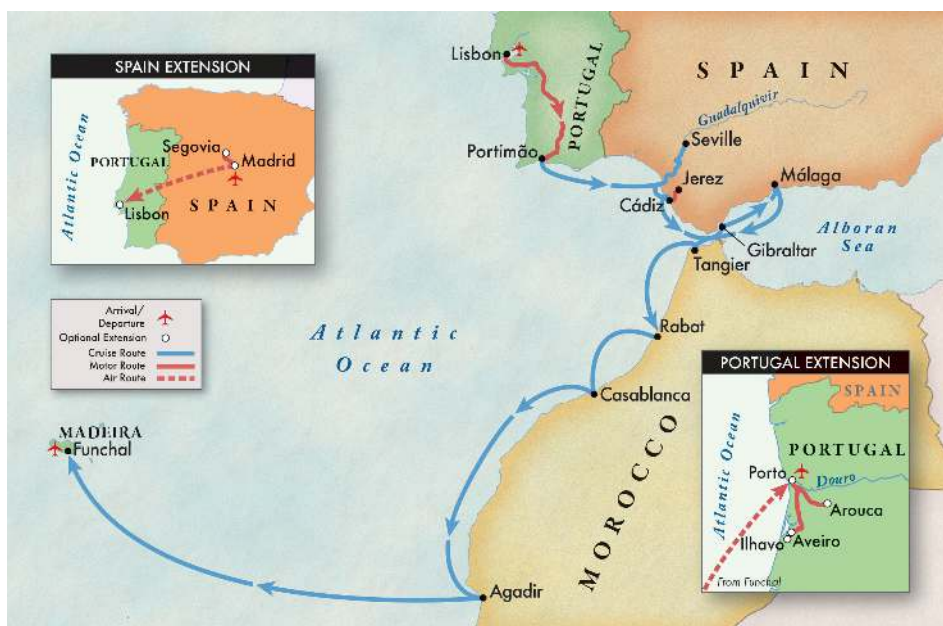
Discover the highlights of the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco. In Portugal, recapture the magic of the Age of Exploration in Lisbon, then board the privately owned, **98-passenger M/V *Corinthian*** for a cruise along the Iberian coast. Explore elegant Seville, the Rock of Gibraltar, and sun-kissed Málaga. Then, cross the Strait of Gibraltar to Morocco, and discover Casablanca, Rabat, and Agadir. Finally, cap off your adventure on Madeira, the “Floating Garden of the Atlantic.”

IT'S INCLUDED

- 17 nights accommodation, including 12 nights aboard the privately owned 98-passenger M/V *Corinthian*
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges, unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- 45 meals: 17 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 14 dinners—including 2 Home-Hosted Lunches—plus all onboard house beer, wine, and soft drinks
- 20 guided tours (with personal headsets) and cultural experiences
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- All port charges
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.

Coastlines of Portugal, Spain & Morocco



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Depart U.S.
2-4	Lisbon, Portugal
5	Portimão • Embark ship
6	Seville, Spain
7	Cádiz • Jerez de la Frontera
8	Gibraltar
9	Málaga
10-11	Tangier, Morocco • Tetouan
12	Casablanca
13	Rabat
14	Safi
15	Agadir
16-18	Madeira, Portugal • Disembark ship
19	Return to U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderate

Pacing: 18 days, with 12 nights aboard the M/V *Corinthian*, one three-night hotel stay, and one two-night hotel stay

Physical Requirements: Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day, including activities with several sets of stairs and days with possible rough seas requiring good agility, balance, and strength

Flight time: Travel time will be 8-19 hours and will most likely have one connection

View all physical requirements at www.oattravel.com/rlc

IBERIA & MOROCCO: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

Unbeatable Value: Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry. Plus, all port charges included.

People-to-People Experiences: Discover what makes Andalusian horses so special during a training demonstration; visit an olive oil mill near Seville for a fresh-pressed taste of this iconic Spanish export; and learn about Málaga's Holy Week traditions when you see examples of the enormous thrones that are paraded through the streets.

O.A.T. Exclusives: Spend **A Day in the Life** of a rural Moroccan village near Safi, where you'll pitch in with daily tasks on the farm, and share a meal at the family table. And enjoy a **Home-Hosted Lunch** with a Spanish family in Málaga for an unfiltered view of what life is like on the Costa del Sol.

PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Portugal: Aveiro & Porto

POST-TRIP: 6 nights from **\$1,695**

ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Lisbon** before your main adventure from **\$330** per room, per night

Coastlines of Portugal, Spain & Morocco

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly from the U.S. to Lisbon, Portugal.

Day 2 Arrive Lisbon, Portugal

- Destination: Lisbon
- Accommodations: Altis Grand Hotel or similar

Morning/Afternoon: Arrive in Lisbon today—refer to your personal itinerary for specific arrival times. You'll be greeted at the airport by an O.A.T. representative who will assist you with your transfer to your hotel.

There, you'll meet your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers—including those who arrived early in Lisbon before their adventure. Your Trip Experience Leader will lead you on an orientation walk of the neighborhood surrounding the hotel.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will point out restaurants that may suit your interests during your orientation walk.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 3 Explore Lisbon

- Destination: Lisbon
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Altis Grand Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll begin the day with a Welcome Briefing at the hotel, where our Trip Experience Leader will give us a preview of the discoveries that await us over the coming days, as well as any changes to our planned itinerary that may need to occur.

Then, we'll meet our local guide and board our private motorcoach for a panoramic tour of Lisbon. Built on seven hills, Lisbon has been Portugal's capital since the 13th century, and the area around the steepest hill, Sao Jorge, was first settled by Phoenicians in the twelfth century BC. They were followed by Carthaginians, Romans, several Germanic tribes, and Visigoths. In AD 714, the Moors captured Lisbon, and held it for the next 400 years.

Portuguese explorers began colonizing parts of Africa and Asia at the beginning of the 15th century. Vasco da Gama set sail for India from Lisbon in 1497, and the city became a center for successful voyages of discovery throughout the East and the New World for the next 300 years. The immense riches brought back by these explorers and navigators ushered in a period of building and expansion that gave birth to the new Manueline architectural style, with its ornately carved decorative motifs.

You'll see the best example of this style of architecture in the historic section of Belem, where sailors used to be blessed before their long voyages to the unknown. Here, you'll see the ornate Belem Tower (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the Monument of the Discoveries, the massive stone sculpture

depicting 33 legendary Portuguese explorers and artists, including Magellan and Henry the Navigator.

We'll also view Ajuda Palace, the last royal palace to be built in Portugal. Construction on the palace took place over nearly a century, and was interrupted throughout by political unrest, war, natural disaster, and other crises. The royal residence fell into a long period of disrepair following the overthrow of Portugal's monarchy in 1910 before finally being designated as a protected item of architectural heritage in 1992. Today, Ajuda Palace's unique blend of Baroque and Neoclassical architecture makes it one of Lisbon's more notable buildings.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can help suggest local options.

Afternoon: You'll have a free afternoon to explore independently before dinner. You may choose to explore the city by its historic, famed trams—a fun and practical way to navigate this city of hills.

Dinner: Enjoy an included Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 4 Explore Lisbon

- Destination: Lisbon
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Altis Grand Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll head back into the city this morning for another included tour of Lisbon. Today's discoveries begin at the National Tile Museum, dedicated to the history of *azulejos*, the distinctive blue-and-white painted

ceramic tiles that typify so much Portuguese architectural design. The museum's collection features a number of fine examples of this distinctive aesthetic, and its exhibits will explain the important role that these tiles play in Portuguese culture.

Next, we'll discover Parque das Nações, a redeveloped area on the Tagus River which hosted the World Oceans Exposition in 1998. We'll end our morning tour in Alfama, the oldest section of Lisbon. The narrow, cobblestone streets are full of impossibly small alleys, an abundance of stairs, and dead ends, making for an intriguing urban walking experience. The architectural style and layout of Alfama is very characteristic of old Lisbon, giving visitors an up-close look at what life typically looked like centuries ago.

Lunch: Included at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: The rest of the day is free to explore independently. If you'd like, you can choose to remain in the city, where your Trip Experience Leader will lead you on an elective discovery walk, or recommend sites of interest for you to discover on your own. Our private motorcoach will be available if you would prefer to return to the hotel.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can suggest a restaurant.

Evening: Return to the hotel after dinner, where the evening is at leisure.

Day 5 Portimao • Embark ship • Welcome Dinner

- Destination: Portimao
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll check out of our hotel and transfer by private motorcoach to Portimao on Portugal's southern coast, where we'll board our 98-passenger small ship, our home for the next twelve nights. The ship is staffed by a friendly, English-speaking crew who will be eager to welcome you aboard and show you to your room. The lounge is equipped with cozy couches and chairs, and the adjacent bar serves complimentary house beer, house wine, and soft drinks throughout the day. A topside Sun Deck features ample deck chairs for admiring the scenery. Complimentary wireless Internet is available in all cabins and common areas—the front desk staff will be happy to provide you with an access code.

We'll meet the crew and our captain once we board, and they will lead a safety briefing before we set sail for Spain.

Lunch: Included onboard the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: As our ship makes its way toward Seville, our Trip Experience Leader will present the first in a nightly series of Port Talks, in which we'll learn about the discoveries we can expect to make tomorrow.

Dinner: Enjoy an included Welcome Dinner served onboard in the ship's dining room. As with all the dinners during your cruise, the dress code is relaxed and smart casual, and you are free to sit at whichever table you please. You'll be offered a choice of appetizer, soup, entrée, and dessert—including regional options—and complimentary house beer, house wine, and soft drinks. Half-portions are available upon request.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 6 Explore Seville, Spain • Visit Olive Oil farm

- Destination: Seville
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Your small ship docks in Seville this morning. While larger vessels are forced to dock elsewhere—and travelers must arrive by bus transfer—your discoveries will begin when you step off your small ship and right into the heart of this Spanish gem, enjoying an included walking tour with a local guide.

Located on the banks of the Guadalquivir River, Seville is fabled to have been settled by Hercules, and its wealth of magnificent monuments and buildings attest to its long and storied history. Founded by the Tartessians, the city was later settled by the Romans, and two of Rome's great emperors, Trajan and Hadrian, were born here. Seville was occupied by the Moors from AD 711 until 1248, and many of its most fascinating monuments date to that period. Today, Seville occupies a special place in Spanish culture, with its fiestas, bougainvillea, and strolling musicians. The fourth-largest city in Spain, Seville is also renowned as the birthplace of *flamenco* and Don Juan.

We'll discover the highlights of the city with our local guide, including Seville's crown jewel: The Alcazar, official Seville residence of Spanish royalty. The palace is located in the city center and was designed and built by the Moors. It is a perfect example of Mudejar architecture, and is the oldest royal residence still in use in Europe. Together with the cathedral and the Archive of the Indies, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. Today, it is one of the most famous monuments in Seville.

Our guide will also lead us on a walk through the Barrio de Santa Cruz—originally the medieval city’s Jewish quarter—famous for its maze of narrow streets that wind around whitewashed homes, sizable mansions, and airy plazas. As we stroll, our guide will help us mingle with the locals to learn more about what daily life is like in Seville.

Next, we’ll drive to a private, family-owned olive farm, where, before an included lunch, you’ll learn firsthand from the family about the production of olive oil and gain a sense of just how important it is to the Mediterranean diet. Spain is, of course, known for its production of what ancient Romans named “liquid gold,” and Seville is one of the top producers in the country. Vendors take care in choosing the best oils from local farms around the city and on its outskirts, in which olives are meticulously picked by hand.

Lunch: We’ll enjoy an included lunch this afternoon.

Afternoon: We’ll return to the ship after lunch, where you’ll have a few hours to rest or explore independently. Your Trip Experience Leader can offer suggestions on how to best spend your free time.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship’s dining room.

Evening: Enjoy some special onboard entertainment this evening when a local *flamenco* group joins us for a demonstration of this iconic Spanish musical performance. We’ll be treated to a show, and have a chance to ask questions of the performers to learn more about *flamenco* and their passion for this tradition.

Day 7 Cádiz • Explore Jerez de la Frontera • Andalusian horse show • Winery visit

- Destination: Cádiz
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Served onboard in the ship’s dining room.

Morning: Our ship calls upon the port of Cadiz this morning, where we’ll board our private motorcoach and drive into the Andalusian heartland to visit the city of Jerez de la Frontera (commonly referred to as “Jerez” for short).

Jerez is a lesser-traveled city, often overlooked by American travelers in favor of nearby Seville or Cordoba. But, as we’ll see during an included panoramic tour, Jerez is well worth the visit, regarded throughout Spain for its love of horses, *flamenco*, sherry, and all things Andalusian. We’ll see the sights of the city on a motorcoach tour, including the Old Town, cathedral, and alcazar. And, because Jerez is relatively undiscovered by tourists compared to its flashier neighbors, we’ll have more opportunity to connect closely with the locals, for an authentic look at Andalusian culture.

After our tour, we’ll get a closer look at a local cultural tradition when we take in an Andalusian horse show. Andalusian horses are known as some of the finest in the world, and we’ll get an up close look at what their training entails—and the skills that these horses possess—during an included equestrian performance.

We’ll also visit a local winery to learn more about the wines that are produced here—most notably, the Jerez region is famous for its sherry, a fortified wine made from white grapes. In fact, under Spanish law, only wines grown in this region may legally be designated as sherry—the name itself is an anglicization of “Jerez”.

Lunch: We'll enjoy an included lunch together.

Afternoon: We'll return to the ship in Cadiz, where the afternoon is free to spend as you please. Shuttles are available to take you into the city if you'd like to explore independently.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 8 Explore Gibraltar

- Destination: Gibraltar
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Served onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Today, the ship anchors in Gibraltar, located at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula. This British territory spans an area of 2.6 square miles and boasts a population of just over 30,000 people. The city sits at the foot of an almost 1,400-foot high promontory, creating a distinctive surrounding landscape.

We'll explore the city this morning on an included tour led by a local guide. Your first stop is Europa Point, the southernmost part of the city. This outlook provides unparalleled views of the area, and when the weather is clear, you can actually see North Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar.

Then, you'll ascend to nearby St. Michael's Cave, perched 980 feet above the sea, to witness its dramatic stalactites and stalagmites. You may even catch a glimpse of Barbary macaque monkeys along the way—Gibraltar is the only European colony home to this species. This natural, limestone wonder was once used as a hospital during World War II—today, it's a performance venue. You'll have the opportunity

to have a quick look inside before you continue on to discover another site connected to World War II: a network of underground military tunnels excavated in rock by the British. We'll explore the tunnels, where informative audio guides will be available to explain the tunnels' significance during the war. The network essentially acted as an underground city, housing a bakery as well as tunnels large enough to transport motor vehicles.

Finally, we'll drive around the rock of Gibraltar, stopping at Casemates Square, located downtown. Lined with countless pubs, shops, and restaurants, this is the primary square of the city and a common meeting place among locals.

Lunch: Served onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Your afternoon is free to explore independently. Shuttles are available to take you to and from the city for independent exploration.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 9 Explore Málaga • Home-Hosted Lunch

- Destination: Málaga
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Exclusive O.A.T. Activity: This afternoon, we'll split into even smaller groups to enjoy a **Home-Hosted Lunch** with a local family. This exclusive activity offers the opportunity for authentic cultural exchange as we share a meal with a typical Malaga household, learning about what daily life is like in this Mediterranean city. Read more about this activity below.

Breakfast: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: We'll dock in the port of Malaga this morning, which we'll explore today during an included tour. Located on Spain's sun-kissed Costa del Sol, Malaga has all the charms of a Mediterranean port coupled with historic elegance and a burgeoning art and cultural scene that now rivals Madrid.

We'll take in the highlights of the city during an included walking tour with a local guide. We'll see relics left behind by some of Malaga's earliest inhabitants as we discover Roman ruins, including the 2,000-year-old Roman theater.

Next, we'll learn about a local religious tradition when we visit one of Malaga's *cofradias*—a religious fraternity which comes together to celebrate Spain's *Semana Santa* (holy week) with a grand procession of enormous, elaborate floats, topped with a heavy ornament. These floats can weigh as much as seven tons, requiring more than 200 bearers to carry their weight through the streets during the holy week procession. We'll learn more about this tradition, and about the devotion that drives them to participate in this creative and physical challenge each year.

Lunch: After our tour, we'll split into smaller groups and drive to the homes of local families for a **Home-Hosted Lunch**. Get a taste of typical Spanish life as you join a local family in their home for an intimate visit and a freshly cooked meal, accompanied by wine. Together, you'll improvise a way to share conversation and learn more about one another—this usually involves the international language of hand signals and smiles. During this exclusive O.A.T. activity, you'll enjoy an authentic and unique interpersonal exchange and come away with a deeper understanding of the local culture.

Afternoon: The rest of the afternoon is free to explore independently. Buses are available if you'd like to return to the ship; otherwise, you might choose to join your Trip Experience Leader on an elective discovery walk to see even more of Malaga. If you'd prefer to explore independently, your Trip Experience Leader can offer suggestions to make the most of your free time.

We'll return to the ship later this afternoon for a Port Talk before dinner.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish as our ship sails across the Strait of Gibraltar toward Morocco.

Day 10 Explore Tangier, Morocco • Visit the Darna Association

- Destination: Tangier
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: We'll discover another continent today as we awake to find our ship docked in Tangier, Morocco. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Spain and neighboring France scuffled over ownership of Morocco, valuing its strategic position. Eventually, France succeeded in making Morocco its protectorate, with Spain maintaining fringe coastal territories. It wasn't until 1956 that Morocco gained its independence—and vestiges of French influence remain to this day.

We'll get an introduction to Tangier's cultural tapestry on a panoramic tour with a local guide, discovering city highlights such as trendy Boulevard Pasteur, a café-lined main

street that runs through the heart of the city. Our tour concludes with a walk through the Old Medina. Discover the vitality of this old walled-city and find inspiration just as beat poets, writers, and artists have during the middle of the last century. Then, stroll through a traditional *souk* (market). As you mingle with locals among the various stalls containing aromatic spices, colorful produce, and exotic butchery, you may choose to pick up a handicraft or two to remind you of this multi-sensory experience. Occasionally, vendors may try to barter with you on prices. This is a common cultural practice throughout the country as well as continent. Feel free to check with your Trip Experience Leader on shopping tips, should you want any.

After our tour, we'll visit the nearby Darna Association, a local organization dedicated to the empowerment of Moroccan women. The name Darna translates to "our house," and that's precisely what this organization is designed to be: a safe haven for women who have been cast out of their communities or otherwise disenfranchised by Morocco's patriarchal culture. Darna empowers both women and girls from impoverished, rural communities by providing trainings, education, and employment opportunities. By supporting women and girls through these endeavors, Darna hopes to combat gender inequality and poverty within the lives of these individuals and in Morocco as a whole.

Lunch: We'll enjoy an included lunch at the Darna Association.

Afternoon: The afternoon is free to explore Tangier independently. Buses are available to return you to the ship; otherwise, your Trip Experience Leader will offer to lead you on a discovery walk, or make suggestions for independent discovery.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 11 Explore Tetouan

- Destination: Tetouan
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: We'll drive by private motorcoach to the city of Tetouan. During an included tour with a local guide, we'll immerse ourselves in Tetouan's rich mix of cultures and traditions—Roman, Andalusian, European—and discover why the well-preserved city is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Founded in the 15th century by Andalusian refugees, this labyrinth of squares, *souks* (markets), and beaches still maintains its old-world charm. We'll have the chance to appreciate the city's extravagant architecture on a walking tour. Then, we'll witness the fusion of cultures that so defines the area on a visit to the bustling *medina*, where we'll see vendors selling handmade carpets, jewelry, and leather, and savor the aroma of delectable local dishes wafting from food carts. We'll also spend some time observing the craftsmanship of local artisans, including weaving, embroidery, metalworking, and woodcarving. We'll drive back to Tangier for lunch after our tour.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: We'll begin sailing toward Casablanca in the mid-afternoon.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship's restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 12 Explore Casablanca • Quartier Habous street food experience

- Destination: Casablanca
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Activity Note: Proper protocols must be observed during our visit to the Hassan II Mosque. Travelers with exposed legs and upper arms will need to cover them, regardless of gender. You will also need to remove your shoes while visiting the mosque.

Breakfast: Served onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Our ship docks in Casablanca early this morning. We'll set off after breakfast to explore this city that was made famous on the silver screen and learn more about the country's history. While the French controlled Morocco in the first half of the 20th century, perhaps their longest lasting legacy here is the architecture. Today, Neo-Moorish and Art Nouveau buildings from this era are interspersed throughout the downtown area, as are some fascinating and beautiful Art Deco structures. After Morocco gained its independence in 1956 though, the styles changed considerably as Casablanca sought to leave its colonial past behind. During today's explorations, we'll get a glimpse into this past as we see the juxtaposition of architectural styles.

We begin our city tour at Casablanca's crowning glory: the resplendent Hassan II Mosque. Built overlooking the sea, this architectural gem boasts one of the tallest minarets in the world and a stunning prayer room featuring a tiled

roof, intricate cedar wood carvings, and marble columns. This is the only mosque in Morocco that non-Muslims are allowed to enter, and we'll do just that, admiring its marble columns, intricately designed dome, and mosaic tiles. While here, you may even hear the call to prayer emanating from the towering minaret.

Then, we'll head over to one of the most picturesque districts of Casablanca, *Quartier Habous*. Also known as the "new medina," the area was developed by the French in the 1930s and incorporated traditional Moroccan elements into the architecture here with souks covering the entirety of the neighborhood. Renowned for its authentic street food, we'll get to sample a few popular Moroccan snacks and witness a market demonstration as we wander through the stalls and mingle with locals and vendors selling everything from fresh produce, nuts, and dates to spices, olives, and argan oil.

After our visit, we'll return to our ship for lunch.

Lunch: Onboard our ship.

Afternoon: Enjoy some time to relax aboard ship this afternoon. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend activities to enjoy during your free time.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 13 Explore Rabat

- Destination: Rabat
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Board a motorcoach this morning and drive northeast along the coast to discover the city of Rabat, which is Morocco's capital city and also the seat of its royal family. The city is a blend of the new town—built under the French protectorate from 1912 to the 1930s—and the historic sections of the city, which date back to the 12th century.

We'll get a sense of the city's imperial grandeur when we walk along the outside of the Royal Palace. Surrounded by a guarded enclosure, the present palace was built in 1864 over the ruins of an older royal palace. The architectural complex with large gardens and interior courtyards houses the seat of government, and includes a mosque, guard barracks, and a royal college. As we stroll, we'll also see the outside of the Mohammed V Mausoleum, an architectural marvel that it is the final resting place of several members of the royal family.

This morning's discoveries conclude at the Kasbah Oudeya, a citadel originally built in the twelfth century. Many of the winding lanes are fringed with whitewashed homes intensely accented with a vibrant hue of blue. As we continue our exploration of the kasbah, we will make our way to the Andalusian gardens, which offer a shady retreat with its varying plant-life, such as oleanders, orange, lemon and banana trees. Our Trip Experience Leader will keep an eye out for opportunities to mingle with the locals—the ambiance of this tranquil setting makes it a popular place for people to go on dates, or simply relax among the lush flora.

The gardens are also home to the National Jewelry Museum, a collection of clothing and accessories from Morocco's past and present housed in a building that was the residence of a prince in the 17th century. Museum exhibits showcase various jewels, outfits, and textiles from all walks of Moroccan life, including the star attraction: the Bismoun Necklace,

an accessory made of perforated shell beads that, at an age of more than 140,000 years, is likely the oldest surviving piece of jewelry in the world.

After our tour, we'll drive to a local restaurant for lunch.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: We'll return to Casablanca this afternoon, where we'll board our ship and set sail for Safi, our next destination. Our Trip Experience Leader will tell us what to expect during a Port Talk before dinner.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: The evening is free to enjoy the ship's amenities as we make our way to Safi.

Day 14 Safi • *A Day in the Life of a local village*

- Destination: Safi
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Exclusive O.A.T. Activities: Today we will enjoy special cultural discoveries during our ***A Day in the Life*** experience at a village near the port city of Safi. We'll meet a local family and spend the morning helping them out with typical daily tasks before joining them for a shared meal. Read more about these activities below.

Breakfast: Included onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: We'll dock in the port city of Safi this morning, where we'll drive by minibus to a village on the outskirts of the city for ***A Day in the Life*** experience with a local family.

When we arrive at the village, we'll meet our host family and take a quick walk through their house and gardens, getting a sense of what a typical family's life is like in this region of

Northern Morocco. We'll get to know each other over tea and a light snack, featuring fresh bread and olive oil, while our hosts tell us about the history of their village and the local area.

Then, we'll spend some time enjoying hands-on activities to help us truly understand what daily life is like. We'll have a number of tasks to choose from, such as helping to prepare a meal in the kitchen.

Lunch: Our experience includes a shared meal with the family, featuring some of the cuisine that we helped to prepare earlier in the day. Enjoy another opportunity to sample home-cooked Moroccan cuisine, and intimate conversation about local culture and daily life.

Afternoon: We'll bid our hosts farewell and drive back to Safi, where our ship awaits us in its berth. Shuttle buses are available if you'd prefer to spend a few hours exploring the city independently—your Trip Experience Leader can suggest activities.

Dinner: Included onboard in the ship's dining room. We'll begin sailing toward Agadir as we dine.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 15 Explore Agadir

- Destination: Agadir
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Served onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: We pull ashore in Agadir this morning, where we'll board our motorcoach and drive to the *kasbah* of Agadir Oufella, the ruins of a hilltop citadel overlooking the city from a panoramic hilltop vantage point. As we explore the site, we'll learn how much of

the city, including the *kasbah*, was destroyed by an earthquake in the 1960s. The *kasbah*, many sections of which have been restored to their original condition, offers insights into the region's history, where a fort that was originally built to fend off Portuguese colonizers transformed into a flourishing trade hub over the years.

After exploring the *kasbah*, we'll descend back to the city via cable car, enjoying panoramic views of the city and Atlantic coast below as we approach the ground. We'll then drive to Souk El Had, Agadir's main marketplace. Here, among the market's approximately 6,000 stalls, you'll find a dizzying array of goods for sale, including clothes, carpets, fresh produce, musical instruments, and other traditional Moroccan wares. Our Trip Experience Leader will help us navigate the lanes, and to mingle with the shoppers and merchants who come here to do their daily business.

We'll return to the ship after our exploration of the market concludes.

Lunch: Served onboard the ship.

Afternoon: The afternoon is free to spend as you prefer. Buses are available to bring you to and from the city if you'd like to continue exploring independently; or you may relax aboard the ship. We'll lift anchor and begin our Atlantic crossing to Madeira around dinner time. Our Trip Experience Leader will join us for a Port Talk.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: The night is free to rest or enjoy the ship's amenities.

Day 16 Day at sea

- Destination: At sea
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: We'll spend a full day at sea, as we make our way west across the open Atlantic toward the island of Madeira. Soak up the fresh sea air, and enjoy the ship's amenities.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Free to relax on the ship. Perhaps you'll play games with your fellow travelers, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for more information about upcoming discoveries.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: Free to spend independently on the ship.

Day 17 Disembark ship in Funchal, Madeira • Explore Funchal

- Destination: Funchal
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel Melia Madeira Mare or similar

Breakfast: Served onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: We'll bid our final farewells to our ship's friendly crew as we disembark in Funchal, the capital of Madeira, this morning.

On land, we'll meet our local guide who will accompany us on our walking tour of Madeira. Home to a little more than 100,000 residents (almost half of the entire population of Madeira), this bustling capital features wide 20th-century boulevards, quaint squares, premier shopping, a variety of museums, colorful galleries, and a range of local eateries.

Established in 1424, the first settlers chose the name "Funchal" because of the abundance of wild fennel growing on its shores.

For centuries, the city was a considered an important maritime port, due to its geographic location, and today, it is one of the leading island destinations in Europe. During our city tour, we'll see landmarks such as the Funchal Cathedral, the old town, and the *Mercado dos Lavradores* (farmer's market).

We'll also visit one of the oldest wineries on the island, which produces unique regional varieties. This archipelago boasts an extensive history of wine-making, harkening back to the Age of Exploration (roughly from the end of the 15th century) when it was a standard port of call for ships bound for the New World or East Indies. Due to the long transit times, the wines would be exposed to excessive heat which altered the flavor. Today, Madeira's traditional wine-making process incorporates oxidization through heat and aging. As a result, these varieties can remain good for centuries.

Another distinctive aspect of this local wine is the mountainous volcanic terrain, which presents challenges to cultivation. To work around this issue, vines are planted on man-made terraces of basaltic bedrock known as *poios*. These terraces prevent soil washouts during heavy rains, as well as increase airflow. Today, we'll have the opportunity to learn about these unique cultivation methods, and of course, sample a range of wines produced here.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: The rest of the day is yours to explore independently. Your Trip Experience Leader is happy to help you plan activities. Perhaps you'd like to visit the Botanical Gardens of Madeira or the Monte Palace Tropical Garden, both of which are close by. Alternatively, you may wish to head toward

Our Lady of Monte church, where you can take a ride on a wicker toboggan sled down the mountain. Wicker toboggan sleds have been used for many years as a means of transport from the village of Monte to the town of Funchal. Typically, the toboggans are pushed and steered by two runners wearing traditional white costumes and straw hats.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 18 *Levada* walk • Farewell Dinner

- Destination: Funchal
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Melia Madeira Mare or similar

Breakfast: Included at the hotel.

Morning: This morning we'll depart for a walk along a *levada*, a system of irrigation channels that transport water through the mountainous terrain—primarily from the west and northwest to the drier southeast. Designed in the 16th century, these life-giving channels were tunneled by hand out of rock and span more than 1,000 miles. Centuries ago, the channels were not only used for agricultural purposes, but women also used them to wash clothes. Today, they still supply water to the southern region, as well as hydroelectric power.

The *levadas* cut through lush areas of the island, many of which follow the curvature of mountains or even go right through them—in fact, over 15 miles of tunnels had to be dug to make this possible. Due to their off-the-beaten-path locations, *levada* walks are popular among locals and visitors alike. During our walk this morning, we'll have the opportunity to spot various flora and fauna, before boarding sturdy 4x4 vehicles to take

us off the beaten path in search of the tiny mountain villages that dot the countryside. As we go, we'll learn about the importance of these irrigation channels and how they helped shape Madeira throughout the centuries.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a café or restaurant.

Afternoon: The afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Check with your Trip Experience Leader for ideas on how to spend your final afternoon in Madeira. Perhaps you'd like to spend some time reminiscing with your fellow travelers before our Farewell Dinner this evening, or venture one last time to the old town of Funchal to experience its coastal culture.

Dinner: Tonight, we'll toast to our discoveries with a group Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 19 Return to U.S. or begin post-trip extension

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: Included at the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or begin your *Portugal: Aveiro & Porto* post-trip extension.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

6 nights in *Portugal: Aveiro & Porto*

Day 1 Fly to Porto, Portugal •
Overland to Aveiro

Day 2 Explore Aveiro • Visit
Aveiro Salt Pans

Day 3 Visit Costa Nova • Discover
Ilhavo Codfish Museum • Vista Alegre
porcelain factory

Day 4 Overland to Porto • Explore Porto

Day 5 Visit Arouca monastery • Arouca
suspension bridge

Day 6 Douro River cruise • Gaia
wine-tasting

Day 7 Return to U.S.

POST-TRIP

Portugal: Aveiro & Porto

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Air transportation from Funchal to Porto
 - » 6 nights accommodation
 - » 12 meals: 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
 - » 7 guided tours and cultural experiences
 - » Services of a local Trip Experience Leader
 - » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
 - » All transfers
- Please note:** Travelers purchasing their own international flights will be responsible for additional internal flight costs.

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Discover even more of Portugal on this optional extension to two of its most unique cities. Venture to the canals of Aveiro, where we'll learn about its maritime and economic riches, including its renowned sea salt pans. Then explore the coastal city of Porto, a historic bastion of Portugal's rich culture and robust vintages. Get the best views of Porto during a cruise on the Douro River, enjoy a visit to the Gaia wine cellars, stroll the compact lanes of the Ribeira neighborhood, and more.

Day 1 Fly to Porto, Portugal • Overland to Aveiro

- Destination: Aveiro
- Accommodations: Melia Ria Hotel & Spa or similar

Morning: We'll check out of our hotel in Funchal and transfer to the airport for our flight to Porto. Upon arrival, we'll transfer by private motorcoach to our hotel in Aveiro, about an hour's drive away. After checking in to the hotel and getting settled in, our Trip Experience Leader will lead us on an orientation walk of the neighborhood.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a café or restaurant.

Afternoon: The afternoon is free to rest or explore independently.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 2 Explore Aveiro • Visit Aveiro Salt Pans

- Destination: Aveiro
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Melia Ria Hotel & Spa or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll start the day with a discovery walk through Aveiro alongside our Trip Experience Leader. Known for its network of canals, Aveiro is located on the edge of an extensive lagoon system, which has contributed to its prosperity over the centuries. The canals

are traversed by *moliceiros*, colorful boats that once were used for seaweed-harvesting but now provide canal cruises for visitors and locals alike. We'll stroll along the canals, taking in the sights and the Art Nouveau architecture that line the waterfront.

After our tour, we'll have a few hours free to explore independently.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a restaurant or café.

Afternoon: The early afternoon is free to explore at leisure. Perhaps experience a local tradition for yourself with a canal cruise in a *moliceiro*.

Later, we'll gather together and depart for the Aveiro Salt Pans, one of the few that still operates in the area. A salt pan is a shallow depression in the ground in which salt water evaporates and leaves a deposit of salt. Locals have been harvesting fine, powder-white sea salt here for more than a thousand years. While industrial salt production has lessened the demand for Aveiro's home-grown *flor de sal*, the Portuguese tradition lives on in a handful of *salinas* here. We'll watch the workers scrape the fresh salt into pails and pile it in glittering pyramids, and we'll have the chance to ask them about their work, before returning to the city, where we'll have a few free hours before dinner.

Dinner: Included at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 3 Visit Costa Nova • Discover Ilhavo Codfish Museum • Vista Alegre porcelain factory

- Destination: Aveiro
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Melia Ria Hotel & Spa or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today we'll drive to nearby Costa Nova, located on a strip of land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Aveiro Lagoon. This picturesque coastal community is notable for its *palheiros*, colorful half-timbered houses painted with vibrant stripes. We'll spend about 45 minutes admiring the coastal scenery of this off-the-beaten-path beach town.

Then we'll drive to Ilhavo, where we'll visit the Codfish Aquarium & Museum, where we'll observe and learn about this regionally important fish species. Cod is a popular source of food here, with its mild flavor and dense, flaky flesh, and can be found in a variety of local dishes. Along with the fish itself, you'll learn about traditional fishing methods, including the preferred boats used for fishing excursions, for example.

Next, we'll drive to the Vista Alegre factory this morning, a prominent Portuguese porcelain manufacturer. Since 1824, this factory has been producing world-renowned ceramics from dinner sets to home decor. During our tour, we'll come to learn the significance of this art form in Portuguese society and the vital economic role the factory plays in the area.

Lunch: Included at the porcelain factory.

Afternoon: We'll return to Aveiro after lunch, where the rest of the day is free to explore at leisure.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 4 Overland to Porto • Explore Porto

- Destination: Porto
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Porto Royal Bridges or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll check out of our hotel and begin our private motorcoach transfer to Porto, Portugal's second-largest city. One of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities, Porto has always been a key player for Portugal, launching countless vessels in the age of the great navigations and then acting as the epicenter of the port wine trade. The Ribeira, the oldest part of the city, still reveals glimpses of 2,000 years of history along its medieval streets, while architectural gems beckon throughout the entire city, from the Neoclassical Palácio da Bolsa to the ornately Gothic São Francisco. Whether ducking into the country's oldest bookstore, the 19th-century Livraria Lello, or marveling at the beauty of the Iberian Peninsula's largest synagogue, visitors often find that Porto's allure remains undimmed by time.

As our motorcoach enters Porto, we'll acquaint ourselves with the city on a panoramic drive, then set out on a walking tour through the city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As we stroll along the historic streets, we'll see the city's medieval walls, Baroque churches, Romanesque Cathedral, and more.

After our tour, we'll check in to our hotel, and have the afternoon free to explore independently.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a café or restaurant.

Afternoon: Free to explore at your leisure. You might pay a visit to Praça da Liberdade, the lively square that's the heart and soul of the old town. From here, an avenue of well-tended flowerbeds and mosaic sidewalks leads up to the Town Hall.

Dinner: We'll gather back together for a culinary tour of Porto, featuring a sampling of the many culinary delights the city has to offer, ranging from fresh fish to stews, rice, and meat dishes.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 5 Visit Arouca monastery • Arouca suspension bridge

- Destination: Porto
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Porto Royal Bridges or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll drive by private motorcoach to the city of Arouca, where our discoveries begin with a visit to Arouca Monastery, classified as a national monument. Before it closed down in 1886, this monastery was one of the most prominent women's monasteries in the region. Upon arrival, we'll tour the grounds and sample some sweets, whose secret recipe is known only to the nuns of the convent.

Then, we'll continue our journey, passing through the village of Alvarenga, a typical countryside village which served as a valuable source of wolframite (a mineral used in the production of tungsten) to both the Axis and Allies in World War II.

Next, we'll set off to traverse the length of the record-breaking Arouca Bridge and Geopark—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—from a bird's-eye perspective. Upon arrival by bus around noon, we'll cross the 1,700-foot-long suspension bridge, hanging over the cascading rapids of the Paiva River, and enjoy views of the Aguieiras Waterfall, Paiva walkways, and Paiva Gorge.

After crossing the bridge and taking in the scenery, we'll drive back to Arouca for lunch.

Lunch: Enjoy an included light lunch at a local restaurant in Arouca.

Afternoon: We'll return to Porto after lunch, where the rest of the afternoon is free to explore independently until dinner.

Dinner: Included at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 6 Douro River cruise • Gaia wine-tasting

- Destination: Porto
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Porto Royal Bridges or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: The day begins with a ride along the Douro River in a traditional boat used to transport barrels of port wine. We'll enjoy a unique vantage point to take in the sights of Porto as we cruise beneath the river's many bridges.

We'll also learn about how the Douro Valley has been instrumental in the production of the region's famous port wine. In fact, the Douro Valley is the oldest demarcated wine region in the world—only wines made from Douro grapes and produced within the boundaries of

the roughly 1,000 square mile demarcated area may legally be called "port." With its fertile schist soil, guarded from the humid winds of the Atlantic by the Marão and Montemuro mountains, the Douro valley offers a unique, dry climate, ideally suited for growing the grapes used in port wine.

Then, we'll learn more about port wine when we visit Vila Nova de Gaia (or simply, Gaia), home to some of the area's finest port wine cellars. On a tour of the cellar, we'll learn about the nuances of port production—including fermentation, fortification with grape brandy, aging, and storage—and enjoy the opportunity to taste a few wines for ourselves.

We'll then return to Porto, where the rest of the day is free to explore at leisure.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a café or restaurant.

Afternoon: You might choose to spend your final afternoon in Porto on an elective discovery walk alongside your Trip Experience Leader. Or, you can enjoy self-paced discoveries during your time at leisure.

Dinner: We'll gather together one last time for an included Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 7 Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

YOUR M/V CORINTHIAN SMALL SHIP

Explore aboard our privately owned, 98-passenger small ship

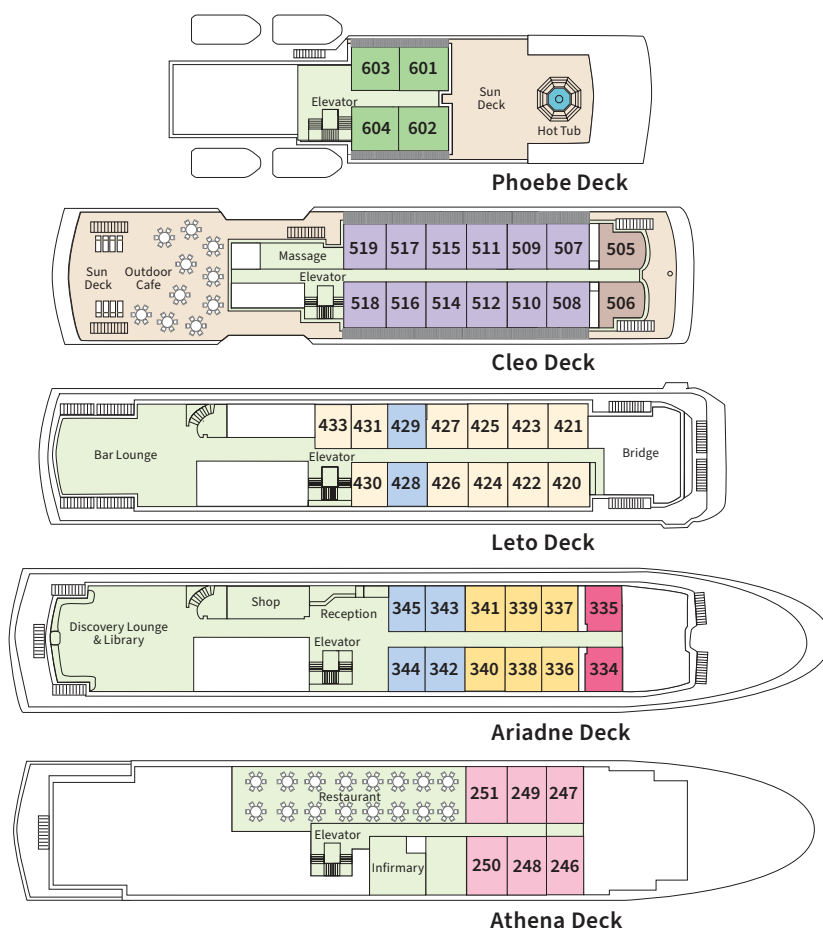
Discover the coastal wonders of the world aboard the M/V *Corinthian*. This ocean cruising vessel—which 95% of travelers rated excellent—was acquired in 2014 and refurbished in 2015 with your tastes in mind. The ship holds four groups of 20–25 travelers (with an average of 22), each with its own local Trip Experience Leader, and charts courses throughout Europe—including the British Isles, Spain, Portugal, and France—and Antarctica.



SHIPBOARD FEATURES

- **Restaurant with single, open seating:** Savor regionally inspired dishes or American favorites during all buffets and table-service meals.
- **Two lounges:** Relax with old friends and new, and participate in onboard discussions and lectures.
- **Complimentary beverages:** Enjoy house beer and house wine—as well as soft drinks—at any time of day while onboard.
- **Complimentary wireless Internet access:** Connect online in cabins and common areas.
Please note: Connectivity may be limited at certain points throughout your cruise.
- **Outdoor common areas:** Relish coastal views from your seat in the outdoor café, Sun Deck, or hot tub.
- **English-speaking crew:** Enjoy dedicated attention from our international staff throughout your voyage. Plus, all shipboard announcements are made in English for your convenience.
- **Zodiac crafts:** These onboard crafts are available to take you to shore in the most remote ports.
- **Elevator service:** An elevator serves all five passenger decks.

M/V CORINTHIAN



CABIN CATEGORIES	
PHS	Penthouse cabin with private balcony – 305 sq. ft.
VS	Cabin with private balcony – 255-270 sq. ft.
AA	Cabin with forward windows – 250 sq. ft.
A	Cabin with window – 215-225 sq. ft.
B	Cabin with window – 215 sq. ft.
C	Cabin with window – 215-250 sq. ft.
D	Cabin with porthole – 250 sq. ft.
E	Cabin with window (partially obstructed) – 225 sq. ft.
F	Cabin with window (partially obstructed) – 215 sq. ft.
G	Cabin with porthole – 250 sq. ft.

Registry: Malta

Length: 290 ft.

Beam: 50 ft.

Draft: 12 ft.

Cabin Size: 215 sq ft. minimum

Number of Cabins: 50

Passenger Capacity: 98

Entered Service: 1990

Refurbished in: 2015

International crew: 55-65

Passenger Decks: 5

Group Size: 25 travelers, maximum, with 1 Trip Experience Leader

Elevator service to all passenger decks

This ship complies with the latest international and U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations and is outfitted with the most current navigational and communications technology. It has retractable fin stabilizers to help reduce discomfort during rough seas.

CABIN FEATURES

- Each of the ship's 49 cabins is at least 215 sq. ft.
- All outside-facing with portholes, a window (some with partially obstructed views), or a balcony
- Queen-size bed (convertible to two twins)
- Complimentary wireless Internet access, sitting area, closet, flat-screen TV, DVD/CD player, telephone, mini-refrigerator, safe
- Private bath with shower, hair dryer, and toiletries



Cabin on the Ariadne deck

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this vacation.

- **Main trip:** You’ll need 2 blank passport pages.
- **Optional extension:** No additional blank pages needed beyond the 2 for the main trip.

Visas Required

We’ll be sending you information with detailed instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure. In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.

- **Europe (Portugal, Spain):** Starting in 2025, U.S. citizens will be required to fill out an online European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) visa-waiver to enter countries in the European Union. There is no confirmed start date for the ETIAS at the time of printing. The ETIAS will be valid for 3 years.
- **Morocco:** No visa required.

Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Is This Adventure Right for You?

Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure. We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

GROUP SIZE

- This adventure has a maximum group size of 25 travelers with a local Trip Experience Leader exclusive to O.A.T.

PACING

- 18 days, with 12 nights aboard a small ship, one 3-night hotel stay, and one 2-night hotel stay.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6–8 hours of physical activities each day
- Good agility, balance, and strength are required for possible rough seas
- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, and stairs
- Gangway incline can be steep when docked at a pier
- Travel by 98-passenger small ship and 45-seat coach
- You must be cleared by a country's local port authorities before disembarking
- Weather conditions and tides may require adjustments to your itinerary

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 52–95°F during cruising season; June–August are warmest months

Steps to Take Before Your Trip

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **www.cdc.gov/travel** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

Medication Suggestions

- An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to “Find International Travel Information”, select “Country Information”, then enter the country into the search bar; if you don't see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Health” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.

- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don't push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

- Tap water in Spain and Portugal is safe to drink, but is processed differently than in the U.S. so it can still upset your stomach or feel “heavy”. Therefore, we suggest drinking bottle water instead. Tap water aboard ship is safe to drink.
- Tap water is not safe to drink in Morocco.
- If you prefer bottled water is usually for sale in hotels, food shops, and restaurants.
- Another alternative is to bring a reusable water bottle from home, which you can fill up on the ship or in your hotel before you set out for the day.

Food

- We've carefully chosen the restaurants for your group meals. Your Trip Experience Leader can suggest restaurants for the meal you take on your own.
- Be very careful with food sold from vendors on the street, and with uncooked foods.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and the commission fee for cashing them is quite high.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip;** you will need euros and dirham instead. Most banks will only exchange money for their customers, so we recommend that you change some money before your trip. (Once on the trip you can use ATMs and/or exchange offices.)

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

Euro Countries: European Euro (€)

Morocco: Moroccan Dirham (DH)

How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way to obtain local currency is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars. Depending on the bank, conversion fees may apply, so please check with your bank for the applicable values.

You may be able to exchange cash at some hotels and money exchange offices, however they do not typically offer good exchange rates and can be difficult to find. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2014) are best.

Please note that many banks in Europe will only exchange money for their own customers. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$10 each time you use a foreign ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although Discover and American Express cards are accepted in some countries outside the U.S., they are not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

Portugal: Visa and MasterCard credit cards are fairly common in Portugal, but may not be accepted for small purchases or in the markets. American Express is not commonly accepted.

Spain: Visa and MasterCard credit cards are fairly common in Spain, but may not be accepted for small purchases or in the markets. American Express is not commonly accepted.

Morocco: Credit cards are accepted at many locations in tourist cities and for major purchases, but may incur a surcharge (usually about 5%). Most locations, especially smaller “Mom & Pop” shops or restaurants, are cash only.

Chip Cards

Many countries have adopted credit cards that have an embedded computer chip. These cards are inserted into the reader instead of swiped. The card owner then authorizes the purchase using a PIN instead of signing.

Though this technology is common in the U.S., occasionally there are machines in other countries that can't read U.S. cards or the machine can read the card, but asks for a PIN. This doesn't happen often, and is nothing to worry about. You can usually resolve the situation by asking the

cashier to let you sign. (If you don't speak the language, just mime signing on your hand.) If you are not able to sign for a purchase, such as at an automated ticket booth, you can use another form of payment, such as a debit card that has a PIN.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

On Board Ship: Two Separate Bills Will be Issued

- **Shipboard account:** This bill is for any on board purchases (drinks, souvenirs, etc.). You can pay this bill by cash or credit/debit card only. For cash, we accept U.S. dollars or Euros (on itineraries in Europe). For credit/debit cards, we accept MasterCard and Visa. Other forms of payment, such as checks, Discover, or American Express are not accepted.
- **Optional tour account:** This bill is for any optional tours taken during the trip and is calculated in U.S. dollars. You can pay for this bill by credit/debit card only; other forms of payments such as cash and checks are not accepted. For more information on optional tours—including which cards we accept for payment—see the “Preparing for Your Trip” chapter.

Please note: Payments made by credit card may take up to three months to process. We ask that you use a credit card that will not expire until three months after your trip ends. Because our headquarters are in Boston, the charges may appear to be from Boston or might be labeled as “OPT Boston” (depending on your credit card company).

Exchange Services

Due to international banking laws, we are not able to exchange money onboard the ship. If you need to obtain local currency, please see the “How to Exchange Money” section for helpful tips and information.

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader

is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*

- **Shipboard Crew:** We recommend a flat tip of \$16–\$18 U.S. per traveler, per day. You'll give this tip once—at the end of your cruise—and it will be pooled among the entire crew. ***Policy Update:*** *Due to international banking laws, we are no longer able to process crew tips on a credit card; crew tips can only be in the form of cash.*
- **Housekeeping staff at hotels:** \$1–2 per room, per night
- **Waiters:** When dining as a group, your tip is included—there is no need for you to leave an additional tip. When dining on your own, check your bill for a service charge. If a service charge is not included in your bill, we suggest you leave about 10% of the check.
- **Taxi drivers:** The practice of tipping taxi drivers varies from city to city. In some cities it is expected and in others it is discretionary. Your Trip Experience Leader can advise you what the practice is in each area that you visit.

Please Note: Your tour price includes gratuities on the main trip and optional extensions for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters that may assist you during the scheduled activities on your adventure. All tips are quoted in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars. Please do not use personal or traveler's checks for tips.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Personalization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Personalization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our Personalization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Personalization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **U.S. Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have an O.A.T. Representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the Representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time. If you are flying domestically before your international flight, the representative will be stationed at the check-in counter for your departing international flight, not at the domestic arrival gate.
- **U.S. Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, an O.A.T. Representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our Representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: www.rome2rio.com

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)

- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as “OPT Boston”.
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you’re on the trip. But if you’d like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner).

Communicating with Home from Abroad

To ensure you are available during your trip to friends and relatives at home, you will receive two copies of your hotel list, including phone numbers, with your Final Documents. One copy is for you to bring, and one to leave behind with friends or relatives in case they need to contact you during the trip.

Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

Calling Apps

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype, FaceTime, or WhatsApp. We recommend you use WhatsApp to communicate with home while abroad and with your Trip Experience Leader while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan’s data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

Internet

Wi-Fi is readily available in some restaurants, cafes, and hotels. Some businesses will offer free Wi-Fi, and some will charge for the service; charges vary. Cafes and chain restaurants are good places to look for free Wi-Fi, although it is expected that you'll buy a drink while you're in the café. Many hotels will also have a computer in the lobby or in the business center that travelers can use; there may or may not be a fee.

How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

Portugal: +351

Morocco: +212

Spain: +34

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on bag per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by international airline. The current industry standard is 50 lbs for checked luggage and 15 lbs for carry-ons .
Size Restrictions	Standard airline size: checked luggage should not exceed 62 linear inches (length+ width + depth) and carry-on should not exceed 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	A suitcase with wheels.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as the main trip.	
REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS	
One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person: Due to the space limitations on our coaches in Portugal, you'll be limited to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional luggage or portage fees (which would be at your own cost). Most airlines now charge to check more than one suitcase per person for flights to Europe and other international flights. Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.	

Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.

- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the *FAQ* section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

Your Luggage

Checked Luggage

One suitcase per person. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Our staff in Iberia do not recommend duffel bags as they slow down the loading/unloading/delivery of luggage. In Portugal, hotels do not offer portage service before 7am. If your returning flight is early enough that your airport transfer is before 7 am, you will be responsible for bringing your own luggage from your room to the motorcoach, where the driver will load it

Carry-on Bag

You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.

Locks

For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Dress in layers:** As you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions, our list suggests several layers of clothing. Plan to dress in layers to keep warm at night, and adjust to changing conditions during the day. A few of our hotels are not heated, so indoor temperatures are about the same.
- **Quick-dry fabrics:** If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight. You can buy clothing designed especially for travel, with features like wrinkle-resistant fabric or built-in sun protection.
- **Footwear:** You'll be on your feet and walking a lot, so choose your footwear carefully. You can find especially supportive shoes designed for walking.

Style Hints and Dress Codes

Generally, Portugal and Spain are informal countries. Even in the fanciest hotels and restaurants men don't need a jacket and tie—though you won't feel out of place wearing them. Morocco is a majority Muslim nation, but isn't as conservative as others in the region. Many of the locals—especially the young—look to Europe for fashion trends. As a result, you will see some people

in shorts, sleeveless tops, etc. And it is O.K. for you to wear them too, as long as you don't mind that you might get occasional stares. But you'll get a better response if you dress modestly. This means:

- **Covered shoulders and no low-cut necklines.** Local men tend to wear collared shirts or polo shirts rather than T-shirts. For women consider a loose, billowy top that covers you from the sun. Or bring a large scarf or shawl that you can drape over your bare shoulders when needed.
- **Shorts or skirts to the knee or below.** Mid-calf or capri pants are a popular choice for women travelers. (It is perfectly acceptable for women to wear pants; you are not required to wear a skirt or a dress.) Just make sure to bring at least one pair of longer pants for hiking.
- **Context matters.** Generally in places of worship or in someone's home it is better to cover up your shoulders and legs. When touring in large cities or enjoying outdoors activities, you can relax the rules a bit.
- **Women don't need to cover their hair**, except *perhaps* in a mosque, where it is considered a sign of respect. Each mosque has different rules, so if one requires it, your Trip Experience Leader will warn you beforehand. Mosques that require headscarves will have extras to lend or rent, so you don't need to bring one with you.

And lastly, dress on our trip is functional and casual; there are no formal evenings.

Suggested Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

And don't forget a reusable water bottle—you'll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts in a breathable fabric, like cotton or cotton-blend. Polo shirts are more versatile than T-shirts.
- ☐ Trousers and/or jeans: Comfortable and loose fitting is best. Avoid tight fits.
- ☐ Walking shorts: Cut long for modesty. See the “Style Hints” section on the previous page for more details.
- ☐ Optional: Travel skirt.
- ☐ Shoes and socks: We recommend you wear sturdy walking shoes or supportive sports shoes for our daytime shore excursions.

- ☐ Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Light sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket (air conditioning can be cold in museums, motor coaches, etc).
- ☐ Underwear and sleepwear
- ☐ Swimsuit

Seasonal Clothing Recommendations

For late spring or summer departures, add these items to your list:

- ☐ Light cotton garment, which are more comfortable than synthetic fabrics.
- ☐ A light windbreaker or sweater for layering

For fall and winter departures, add these items to your list:

- ☐ A light coat and sweaters or sweatshirts to layer.

Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Our hotels will provide the basics like soap and shampoo, but if you are sensitive to fragrances or new products, you may wish to bring your preferred brands. Most hotels do not provide a washcloth, so you may wish to pack one.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses; sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen, SPF 15 or stronger
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Light folding umbrella
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial “water-free” hand cleanser
- ☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger

Medicines & First Aid Gear

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, antibiotic cream, or allergy medication.
- ☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- ☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes. (Applies more to the extensions than the main trip.)

Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

Voltage

Electricity in Portugal and Spain is 230 volts while in Morocco it is 220–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner’s guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Plugs

The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you’ll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Even though you’ll only need two types of adapters for this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

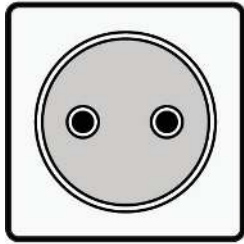
Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

Portugal: C and/or F

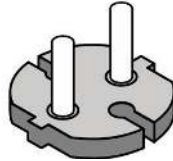
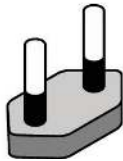
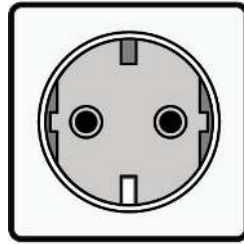
Spain: C and/or F

Morocco: C or E

Type C



Type F



Availability

Barring the occasional and unpredictable power outage, electricity is as readily available on this adventure as it is in the U.S.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Lisbon, Portugal: Lisbon is one of the warmest European capitals. Spring and summer months are usually sunny with maximum temperatures close to or above 86 degrees and lows between 59 and 68 degrees. Autumn and winter are typically rainy and windy with some sunny days; the temperature rarely falls below 41 degrees, usually staying at an average of 50. On average, there are 100 days with rain per year. Lisbon's climate is strongly influenced by the Gulf Stream.

Seville, Spain: Seville has a Mediterranean climate, with average temperatures of 79 degrees in the summer and 54 degrees in the winter, experiencing mild winds during spring and summer. Winters are also mild. It rains only slightly during the autumn (average annual rainfall: 514 inches). Highs in the summer can be in the 90s or higher.

Malaga, Spain: Plenty of warm sunshine and cloudless skies are the norm on the Costa del Sol. However, there are seasonal variations worth noting. In autumn and early winter the normally balmy weather may be interrupted by chilly winds from the mountains, as well as light showers. Heavier rains may pass through in the peak winter months of January and February. By March, and certainly during April and May, daytime temperatures remain quite warm; nights are cooler. Between June and September, hot days with low humidity are only occasionally broken by cooler evenings. Temperatures can reach well into the 80s.

Morocco: Morocco experiences a wide range of climates, from the arid climes of the Sahara, to the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. Inland, and especially in the Sahara, temperatures are frequently very hot during the day, depending on the season. Nights are cooler, and can even be cold from November through March. The coldest months are December-February when temperatures in the mountain areas can drop to near freezing, and snow is possible. There is little cloud cover and almost no rain in this desert region. In Marrakesh, the weather is pleasant year round, thanks to cool breezes blowing off the Atlas Mountains. Further north in Rabat, along Morocco's Atlantic coast, the weather is very mild, with cool temperatures and moderate clouds.

Sandstorms: A sandstorm is when a strong wind picks up loose sand particles and carries them over a distance; typically this phenomenon occurs in desert regions. Sandstorms are usually expected in April-May and September-October, but can occur at any time of year, and if severe can affect our itinerary. Should a sandstorm occur please listen to and follow all instructions for your own safety.

Madeira: This Atlantic island has a year-round subtropical climate. For North Americans, its weather most closely parallels that of coastal California, though Madeira is more humid. The island rarely gets extremely hot, thanks to the cool mountain air that wafts down from the interior peaks. Most of the rainfall occurs in autumn and winter. Showers can be heavy, but usually are not prolonged. Whatever time of year you go, be aware that it is always much cooler up in the mountains, and that the north coast may be windier than the south.

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	LISBON, PORTUGAL			SEVILLE, SPAIN		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	58 to 47	85 to 72	3.8	61 to 41	87 to 59	2.6
FEB	61 to 49	84 to 68	3.6	64 to 46	87 to 57	2.1
MAR	65 to 51	83 to 61	2.0	70 to 47	84 to 47	1.5
APR	67 to 53	83 to 61	2.5	73 to 50	86 to 48	2.2
MAY	71 to 56	82 to 57	2.2	80 to 56	85 to 42	1.3
JUN	77 to 61	83 to 54	0.7	88 to 62	83 to 37	0.5
JUL	82 to 64	80 to 48	0.2	96 to 67	77 to 31	0.1
AUG	82 to 65	80 to 48	0.3	95 to 67	77 to 32	0.2
SEP	80 to 63	82 to 51	1.1	89 to 64	80 to 35	0.9
OCT	72 to 58	84 to 62	3.1	78 to 56	83 to 46	2.4
NOV	64 to 53	86 to 71	4.2	68 to 49	87 to 56	3.3
DEC	59 to 49	86 to 75	4.8	62 to 44	87 to 61	3.7

MONTH	MALAGA, SPAIN			TANGIER, MOROCCO		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	62 to 45	81 to 61	3.2	61 to 47	87 to 70	4.1
FEB	64 to 46	81 to 59	2.2	62 to 49	87 to 70	3.9
MAR	66 to 48	80 to 55	1.9	64 to 50	86 to 68	2.8
APR	70 to 51	81 to 55	1.6	66 to 52	87 to 67	2.4
MAY	75 to 56	78 to 52	1.0	70 to 56	87 to 65	1.5
JUN	81 to 63	74 to 52	0.5	76 to 61	86 to 62	0.6
JUL	86 to 68	73 to 54	0.1	83 to 66	84 to 57	0.1
AUG	87 to 69	74 to 56	0.2	83 to 67	85 to 59	0.1
SEP	82 to 65	77 to 58	0.6	81 to 66	85 to 60	0.6
OCT	75 to 58	81 to 60	2.2	73 to 60	85 to 64	2.6
NOV	68 to 52	83 to 63	3.7	67 to 54	87 to 68	5.3
DEC	63 to 47	82 to 62	3.5	63 to 50	86 to 70	5.1

MONTH	CASABLANCA, MOROCCO			FUNCHAL (MADEIRA), PORTUGAL		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	62 to 47	91 to 71	2.2	67 to 56	76 to 70	12
FEB	63 to 50	91 to 72	2.1	67 to 55	77 to 69	10
MAR	64 to 51	91 to 71	2.0	68 to 56	75 to 67	9
APR	66 to 53	91 to 72	1.5	68 to 57	74 to 66	8
MAY	69 to 58	89 to 71	0.8	70 to 59	75 to 66	6
JUN	73 to 64	89 to 74	0.2	73 to 62	76 to 66	3
JUL	77 to 68	89 to 74	--	76 to 65	74 to 64	1
AUG	78 to 68	91 to 74	--	78 to 67	74 to 65	2
SEP	77 to 66	91 to 73	0.2	79 to 67	76 to 67	6
OCT	72 to 60	90 to 71	1.3	76 to 64	76 to 68	9
NOV	68 to 54	89 to 73	2.6	72 to 61	76 to 69	10
DEC	64 to 50	91 to 73	2.9	69 to 58	76 to 69	13

ABOARD YOUR SHIP: CABIN FEATURES, DINING & SERVICES ON BOARD

M/V Corinthian & M/V Clio

Cabin Amenities

Your cabin amenities include a private bathroom with shower, hairdryer, TV, in room heating, internal telephones and a mini-refrigerator. Each cabin is appointed with a sitting area, plus the decks and dining rooms are spacious and attractively decorated, providing welcoming locations for relaxing with your traveling companions.

Cabin Assignments

You will receive confirmation of your deck and/or cabin category upfront in writing; it will be on your invoice and online in My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner. However, your cabin number may not be assigned until you arrive onboard the ship. (This is normal procedure for many small ships.) If there's no cabin number on your invoice or online, you can presume it will be assigned later and communicated to you when you board.

Dining

All meals are taken in the onboard restaurant, which acts as the ship's dining room. Meals will be a mix of regional specialties and familiar American standards, and will feature a variety of entrée options including vegetarian. Complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks are served with lunch and dinner. A selection of fine wines is also available for purchase, starting at approximately \$20–30 per bottle (prices vary according to vintage). Travelers may also bring a bottle of their own favorite wine to dinner to enjoy at their table. Should you care to avail yourself of this service, there will be a corkage fee of approximately \$10 per bottle, charged to your cabin account.

If you require a special diet, please request this in advance, you may do so by contacting one of our Travel Counselors. Dining times will vary according to the scheduled daily activities. In keeping with regional custom, dinner may be served at a later hour (around 7:00 pm) than Americans may be accustomed to.

Electricity

Cabins are equipped with 110-volt outlets that are designed to fit American plugs. In your bathroom you will find a dual 110/220-volt outlet, for use with electric shavers. While your bathroom does come equipped with a hairdryer, please do not use any other appliances that heat up, such as hair irons or curlers—they tend to short out.

Getting Ashore

Getting from ship to shore during an ocean-going voyage is not the same experience as on a river cruise—it requires more balance and agility, plus there are more formalities.

- **Balance and agility are needed:** You'll either walk down a gangway—which can be steep, wet, and slippery—or be shuttled to land in a small boat (a process known as “tendering”). We'll use the gangway most of the time, but tenders will be used when the ship cannot dock closely enough for the gangway to reach the shore. Tenders can differ in size, and some of them maybe open with no covering. From time to time we will use the ship's own fleet of Zodiacs—which are small but sturdy open-air boats holding 8-10 people each—as tenders. To get into one of the Zodiacs, you'll need to go down a steep staircase, and then crew members will assist you as you step from the *M/V Corinthian* or *M/V Clio* into the Zodiac.
- **Clothing note:** Since tenders in general (and the Zodiacs in particular) are small open-air boats, they are more susceptible to being splashed by water. You might want to bring a rain jacket or waterproof cover (like a poncho) to protect your clothing while transferring from ship to shore.
- **Expect formalities on arrival in port:** When the *M/V Corinthian* or *M/V Clio* arrives in a new port, she'll need to be cleared by the local port authorities before you can leave the ship. In some cases, the wait will be as short as 30 minutes, but other times it may take up to 2 hours. Your crew will do all they can to make the wait as short as possible and to minimize the inconvenience to you. (For example, you will be asked to leave your passport with the front desk when you first embark on the ship. That way, it is on hand if the port authorities ask to see it.) However, the procedure can be complex and may take a while to complete. Typically the authorities work directly with the crew, but they do retain the right to speak with you as well.

Headsets

On European cruises, complimentary headsets (often called “whisper receivers”) will be provided on most included and optional tours, so that you can hear better over ambient noise. If you use a hearing aid or have a strong preference for a particular type of headphones, we highly encourage you to bring your own headphones/ear buds with you. The plug size is usually the same as that used by smartphones, computer jacks, etc. Headsets will also be available during the pre- and post-trip extensions in Europe, but not on the transfer day to/from the main trip. On cruises to the Middle East, South America, or Antarctica whispers may not be available or may only be available in certain locations—your Trip Experience Leader will let you know onsite.

Internet Access and Email

Limited wireless Internet service (WiFi) is available for free onboard. If you want to use it, you'll need to bring your own device—a laptop, tablet, smartphone, etc.—because the ship does not rent or loan these devices. Instructions on how to connect will be available at Reception. Please keep in mind that our WiFi access onboard is subject to the challenges of travel: ship location, signal availability, and usage volume onboard will affect connectivity and speed. You should expect that there will be times when the Internet is either slow or not available, and that these disruptions can be brief or longer lasting.

Laundry Services

There is laundry service available on board, but no dry cleaning. Prices are per piece of clothing and will be provided to you on board.

Medical Services

There is always a doctor onboard, as well as all of the basic First Aid supplies. All physician's fees will be payable directly to the doctor. All specific medicines are the responsibility of each traveler.

Recreational Facilities

Our ship features a library, a lounge with a bar, a dining room, and a sun deck. The bar is open from approximately 11 am to 11 pm, and features both complimentary drinks (soft drinks, house beer, house wine, and non-alcoholic cocktails/beer) and drinks for purchase (spirits, alcoholic cocktails, bottled beers, and a selection of wines).

Bicycles

We're pleased to offer complimentary bicycle rentals onboard your ship for use during free time, including all of the necessary safety gear, such as a helmet, brightly-colored safety vest, and a lock. Because there is a limited supply of bicycles available, they will be offered on a first-come first-served basis. For more information or if you are interested in using one of the bicycles, please speak to the Front Desk staff or Hotel Manager onboard your ship.

Shipboard Payments

Payment for shipboard expenses can be made by cash or credit/debit card only. For cash, we accept U.S. dollars or Euros (on itineraries in Europe). For credit/debit cards, we accept MasterCard and Visa. Other forms of payment, such as checks, Discover, or American Express are not accepted.

Ship-to-Shore Communications

The ship has satellite telephone connections which allows you to call anywhere in accordance with the current local tariffs. You can purchase phone cards at the reception desk for \$10, which will give you 15-30 minutes' worth call time to the U.S. (depending on which state you are calling).

Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited on board, with the exception of a designated outdoor deck area reserved for smokers.

Wheelchairs

The ship is not built to accommodate wheelchairs.

Lost & Found

Any lost or forgotten items found on board the ship will be held for 90 days from disembarkation. After 90 days, all unclaimed items will be discarded or donated.

Ship Specifications

M/V Corinthian

- **History:** Built in 1990; purchased in 2014
- **Size:** 290x50 ft
- **Capacity:** 98 passengers, 56 crew members
- **Layout:** 49 cabins, 5 decks; Elevator-yes

M/V Clio

- **History:** Built in 1998; purchased in 2015
- **Size:** 328x46 ft
- **Capacity:** 89 passengers, 60 crew members
- **Layout:** 45 cabins, 5 decks; Elevator-yes

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

Spanish, Portuguese, and Moroccan Culture

Spanish Culture

In 1983, the artist Joan Miró created an image for the Spanish Tourist Board that is still used today—a bold red orb encircled by a black shadow, with a vivid yellow penumbra, a star, and the stylized text “España.” Beneath this, the slogan read “Everything under the sun.” It is one of the few bits of advertising that truly captures its subject, for Spain boasts a culture that is strikingly bold, colorful, and lit up by diversity. Phoenicians, Romans, Moors, Jews, Arabs, Goths and many other people have left their imprint here, giving each region a unique cultural identity. In some cases, that identity is very distinct from the mainstream culture, most notably in Galicia, Catalonia, and the Basque Country, which are autonomous communities with their own languages and traditions.

Beyond the regionalism, there is a unifying national identity that is bound up with a deep love of country, a sense of personal honor, and a shared value around sociability that Spaniards are very proud of. That pride is sometimes mistaken by outsiders as haughtiness. But once you get acquainted with a Spaniard, you will usually find that they are informal, candid, and unafraid to show their emotions. Spaniards love to converse and will stick around long after a meal, chatting for hours. This period has a name: *la sobremesa*, which means “over the table.” So don't rush off after your lunch...enjoy a coffee or a digestif, and enjoy the good company.

One reason the *sobremesa* exists has to do with the organization of the typical Spanish day. Spain has some of the longest working hours in Europe—from 9am to 8pm. But there is also a two- to three-hour break in the afternoon, the *siesta*. Once upon a time the *siesta* was a practical way for workers to avoid the midday heat, and recharge their batteries with a little nap. Nowadays, most people do not nap, especially if they work too far from home to commute back for a snooze. Instead, they may linger longer at the table after lunch with colleagues or friends.

Many shops close during the *siesta*, but this is offset by the fact that they remain open late at night. Spain in general is a late-night culture. Most people do not eat dinner until 9pm at the earliest, and it's not unusual to see entire families, children included, socializing in the cafes and plazas until midnight or later. Recently, there has been debate as to whether Spain's traditional

working hours make sense. On the other hand, in an age when stress and isolation are serious threats to one's mental and physical health, a forced break to slow down, relax and enjoy some human connection may not be a bad thing.

Among the things Spaniards are proud of is their country's artistic heritage, and here again, we are talking about diversity. You will see it in the striking architecture—from Roman ruins to Mudéjar palaces to Gothic cathedrals and the modernist masterpieces of Antoni Gaudí. Besides contemporary pop music, you are likely to hear Spanish classical guitar, and the flamenco music that arose from the *cante jondo* (deep song) of Andalusia's gypsies. Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes gave us the first modern novel in 1605 with *Don Quixote*, and others following in his footsteps include the avant-garde Federico Garcia Lorca, Miguel Delibes (a multi-time Nobel nominee), and the contemporary Javier Marías.

As for visual arts, beyond the Golden Age giants like Goya, El Greco, and Velázquez, Spain's modernist pantheon includes Pablo Picasso, Juan Gris, Salvador Dalí, Miquel Barceló, and of course, Joan Miró, who was spot-on about that “everything under the sun” thing.

Portuguese Culture

Portuguese culture is shot through with the influences of the Celtic, Lusitanian, Phoenician, Germanic, Visigoth, Viking, Sephardic Jewish, and Moorish people who settled here. Set at Europe's westernmost point, Portugal developed its own easygoing ways, and you'll notice that the pace of life here is more relaxed than in many other parts of Europe. It is one of the most charming aspects of traveling here.

Most visitors find the Portuguese people to be gracious, courteous and helpful—if a little reserved. Part of that stems from the value they place on modesty and humility. They are careful not to boast, be too loud, or cause offense. The Portuguese are arguably more conservative than their neighbors. They tend to uphold and revere old traditions, and religious and family ties are very strong here. As you come to appreciate those things, you'll also begin to feel the Portuguese people's real warmth.

António de Oliveira Salazar, Portugal's onetime dictator from 1926 to 1968, once described the nation's culture in terms of the “Three Fs:” *fado* (the searingly sad folk song), *Fátima* (the Catholic shrine where a miraculous vision is said to have occurred), and *futebol* (soccer). He was being facetious, but there is no denying that the Portuguese people hold these things very dear.

Take *fado*, for instance. This uniquely Portuguese style of folk music is on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Translating to “destiny” or “fate,” *fado* is mournful, and yet, passionate. The songs are often about homesickness, the sea, lost love and longing—things that would be familiar to many a Portuguese seafarer, of which there are many. It is the musical expression of an important concept called *saudade*, a word connoting longing, melancholy, and nostalgia for something lost. But *saudade* is also bittersweet, tinged with beautiful memories. The Portuguese writer Manuel de Melo called it “a pleasure you suffer, an ailment you enjoy.”

Some very devout people do make pilgrimages (*romarias*) to religious sites like Fátima, but overall, strict religious observance is on the decline in this predominantly Catholic culture. But that is a matter of church attendance and involvement with the organized church. Religion is still interwoven with the larger culture. Most towns are physically centered around a church, which is the nucleus of social events such as the annual village festa (festival). Most people have strong attachments to their hometowns and tend to remain there, or visit often. Grandparents are often involved in helping to care for children when the parents work, and especially in smaller towns (where homes tend to be larger), they often live with their children as part of the extended family.

As for *futebol* (soccer), Portugal's obsession with the sport borders on the religious, and some of the greatest players in the world (like Luís Figo, Eusébio, and Cristiano Ronaldo) hailed from Portugal, and are national heroes. When a big match is on, the whole country seems to stop to cheer their favorite of the so-called "Three Greatest" teams: F.C. Porto, Sporting C.P., and S.L. Benfica. Head to a local tavern, watch the game with the locals, and you are sure to get swept up in the excitement.

If sports are not your thing, you will surely find many other cultural diversions...Portugal has experienced a renaissance, with many talented young designers, artists, musicians, architects, chefs, and entrepreneurs flocking to cities like Lisbon, Porto, and Guimarães—all of which have been named European Capitals of Culture since the advent of this century.

Moroccan Culture

For the adventurous soul, the challenges of traveling in Morocco—in addition to the country's beauty and history—make it a uniquely rewarding destination. You should be prepared for dust and large crowds in Fez's medina and in Marrakesh. In addition, poverty and beggars can be distressing for some travelers. During the holiday of Ramadan, we may need to make adjustments to our itinerary due to holiday hours and some restaurants may be closed.

Islam is the predominant religion in Morocco, so an understanding of the religion will assist your discoveries. Practicing Muslims are expected to pray five times daily: dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset, and evening. The exact time is listed in the local newspaper each day. The call to prayer, called the *ezan*, is sung or broadcast from minaret towers to remind the faithful that it is time to pray. Friday is the Muslim Sabbath day, so some businesses will be closed or have limited hours.

When visiting a mosque, it is polite to be modestly dressed (no bare shoulders, no short skirts or shorts). You will be asked to remove your shoes before entering. In most mosques, women visitors are not required to cover their hair, but in others you may be asked to do so. Typically, a mosque that requires special dress for female visitors will have pieces to lend or rent.

The biggest religious holiday is Ramadan, a month-long celebration that is meant to teach the values of restraint and charity. To participate, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk. The fast is strict and includes no eating, drinking alcohol, cigarette-smoking, or gum-chewing during daylight hours. But as the sun starts to set, everyone rushes home so they can celebrate *iftar*—the joyous breaking of the fast. Suddenly the evening comes alive with music, eating, and shopping. The festivities often continue well into the night. The mosques and some streets are decorated with lanterns, special meals are prepared, and nighttime social events and festivals are planned.

If you'll be visiting Morocco during Ramadan, what does this mean for you? Visitors are not required to fast, but out of respect you shouldn't eat, drink, or smoke openly. (It is OK to eat indoors, but you wouldn't sit outside with food.) Expect that some restaurants will be closed and others may not serve alcohol, but your Trip Experience Leader will be on hand to advise you of places to eat. Also, it is important to keep in mind that many of the people you meet will be participating in the fast, so they might not be their usual selves. It helps to have a bit of patience.

Ramadan follows a lunar calendar, so its dates change significantly from year to year.

Getting Around in Portugal

Taxi: Portuguese taxis are a convenient but expensive method of transportation for long rides. If you are just going across town, prices are more reasonable. Officially metered taxis are ivory colored or black with green tops.

Trains: Portugal's railway system is not extensive, but it does operate between major cities. On all train fares, passengers 65 and older will be given half-rate fares upon presentation of passport.

Remember to purchase your ticket prior to boarding the train. Once on board, you may be asked to show your ticket. If you do not have one, you will be charged a hefty fine! Tickets are not sold on the train.

Casino Estoril

One of the most famous casinos in Europe is in Estoril, about a thirty-minute taxi ride from Lisbon (cab fare costing about twenty euros). But before you set off, be sure to bring your passport with you, as it is required for entrance.

Hotel Courtesy in Spain

Like in many other European nations, manners are more formal in Spain than the U.S. Hotel staff will likely address you as "señor" or "señora" and may be caught off guard if you ask a question without greeting them with a quick "hello" or "good day" first. Local staff (and other visiting Europeans) will generally make an effort to be quiet in hallways and common rooms, which are normally used for reading, relaxing, or quiet conversation. For this reason, eating and drinking in any common rooms other than the bar or restaurant is frowned on. If you have any laundry to dry, please keep it inside your room (and not on the balcony).

Getting Around in Spain

Taxi: Taxis are widely available in the area.

Bus: Generally less expensive than both taxi and train travel, bus travel in Spain has increased in recent years.

Trains: Spain has an extensive railway network linking all major towns and cities, and rail travel in Spain is generally comfortable, reliable and often cheaper than many other European countries. Trains are modern and many are high-speed.

Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing people in most countries is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. Be especially polite if you want to photograph children or older women. If you want to shoot a great portrait, show interest in your subject and try to have a bit of social interaction first. Then use sign language to inquire if a picture is OK.

Please do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

In museums or at archaeological sites, there may be restrictions on using your flash. Please obey any signs or directions by staff; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Don't be overly nervous or suspicious, but keep your eyes open. If you are venturing out after dark, go with one or two other people.

Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room. Most hotels will offer use of a hotel safe at the front desk or an electronic in-room safe (for which you can set your own personal number). Please utilize this.

Pickpockets may create a sudden distraction. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt. If an encounter with a local turns out to be long and complicated and involves money or your valuables, be very careful.

Portuguese Cuisine

Start with rich farms and Europe's oldest vineyards, add in the bounties of the Atlantic and Mediterranean, season with some Moorish spice, and that is a good beginning for Portugal's unique cuisine. Then, you can ramp it up with a variety of novel ingredients that Portuguese explorers brought home during the 15th-century: African vanilla and cinnamon...potatoes from South America...*piri piri* chilies from Brazil (used in a popular chicken dish)...and citrus from the Orient. Here are a few things Portuguese chefs do with all that variety:

- **Caldo verde:** A classic soup of kale, potatoes, onions, and garlic simmered with olive oil in a clay pot. It is often served with cornbread and sometimes made with ham or sausage.
- **Feijoadà à transmontana:** A bean stew with cabbage and sausages. It is often served confit-style in a dish called *rojões*, which features white wine and cumin.
- **Francesinha:** A hefty sandwich of thickly sliced bread stuffed with bacon or pork belly, sliced roasted pork, sausage, beefsteak, fried egg, and cheese.

- **Aletria:** A sweet noodle pudding made with *vermicelli* (angel hair) pasta, milk, sugar, egg yolks, cinnamon, and lemon or orange zest.
- **Cataplana:** Fish and cod cooked with red and green peppers, tomatoes, garlic, wine, and paprika.
- **Pastel de Nata:** A egg custard pastry, iconic to Portugal. Traditionally dusted with a topping of cinnamon.
- **Bacalhau à Brás:** A dish of salted shredded cod, mixed with thin fried potatoes, onions, and egg.

Spanish Cuisine

The 21st century's culinary firmament is lit by a galaxy of superstar chefs from Spain. Among them are the legendary Ferran Adrià (whose former restaurant, El Bulli, launched the “molecular gastronomy” trend), Carme Ruscalleda (the only female chef to be awarded five Michelin stars), octogenarian Juan Mari Arzak (the father of the “New Basque” cuisine), and Jose Andrés, (credited with bringing small plate dining to America). Even if you do not dine in one of their restaurants, they have influenced Spanish chefs in even the humblest establishments, where you might find traditional classics like these:

- **Gambas al ajillo:** Shrimp cooked with Garlic and Chilies
- **Gazpacho:** A chilled soup that hails from Andalusia
- **Jamón Iberico:** A Spanish ham that is dry-cured and hung on the rafters of local bars and restaurants
- **Txangurro:** A baked spider crab stuffed with onions, tomatoes, leeks, brandy, and parsley, topped with breadcrumbs.
- **Pastel Vasco:** A slice of vanilla custard cream with a crunchy crust.

Moroccan Cuisine

Moroccan cooking blends Berber, Arabic, African, Spanish, and French traditions to create a culinary canon that is at once complex and delicate. Sweet and sour dishes were introduced by the Arabs, who borrowed them from Persia. Many breads were introduced by sub-Saharan African cultures. And there is a strong tradition of preserving and pickling fruits and vegetables, a contribution of Morocco's Jewish communities. Some dishes you might find while exploring Morocco include:

- **B'ssara:** A rich soup of dried broad beans swirled with olive oil, sprinkled with cumin, and enjoyed with warm bread.
- **Briouats:** A vegetarian option, *briouats* are crunchy, triangular pockets of *warqa* (phyllo dough) filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables. (There are also sweet varieties.)

- **Bstilla:** A sweet dinner consisting of a flaky casserole of phyllo pastry layered with pigeon or chicken; and flavored with almonds scented with orange flower water, saffron, and cinnamon and dusted with confectioners' sugar.
- **Kefta:** A dish of spiced beef or lamb meatballs simmered with tomatoes and poached eggs.
- **Chermoula:** A popular street food, **chermoula** is a sauce stuffed into grilled sardines and vegetables. The sauce contains a mix of spices, olive oil, fresh coriander, and lemon juice.
- **Babbouche:** A soup of snails in the shell swimming in a garlicky broth.
- **Kaab el ghazal:** Or Gazelle's ankles, a dessert of thin, sugary crescents filled with almonds and orange blossom water.
- **Roze bil heleeb:** A dessert of creamy rice custard topped with shredded coconut and almonds or pistachios, flavored with cinnamon and orange blossom.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

Portugal

Among the recommended buys in Portugal are Atlantis crystal, Vista Alegre porcelain, pottery, tiles, and gold and silver-filigree jewelry. Other local handicrafts include lace, woodwork, cork products, ceramics, embroidered goods, hand-loomed carpets, hand-knit sweaters, crocheted shawls, brass, copper and pewter ware, and baskets.

Europe Tax-Free Shopping: Many stores in Portuguese cities have adopted the "Europe Tax-Free Shopping" (ETS) system, which allows foreign shoppers to easily recover the Value Added Tax (IVA)—which can be anywhere from 6%–23% depending on the item. Stores that participate in the ETS system will clearly display an ETS sign at the entrance. If you make a purchase, ask the shopkeeper for a tax-free form. When you depart Europe, you show the airport customs official

your purchases and tax-free forms. You will then receive a cash refund or a credit to your credit card, approximately four weeks following your return to the U.S., for the total amount of your tax-free allowance.

Spain

Leather goods, from supple suede gloves and elegant calf handbags to wineskins that require careful curing (botas), are excellent purchases. Other good buys are shoes, from classical calf pumps to provincial cloth espadrilles; porcelain by Lladro and pottery by regional craftsmen; and wool rugs made by tapestry makers or simple cotton-rag throws.

Siesta: Throughout Spain, most stores and offices close between 1:30 pm and 5 pm. Then they reopen until 7:30 pm (many close even later). Restaurants generally remain open during siesta. In the larger cities you may find that big department stores will stay open from 10am – 10pm.

Value Added Tax: Known in Spain as the IVA, Value Added Tax is levied on most articles, services, and meals. The IVA ranges from 7% to 21% (luxury items, cars). Depending on how much you spend on certain goods, you may be eligible for a partial refund of this tax. Ask the shopkeeper or salesperson about the VAT at time of purchase. Be sure to save all receipts and forms for Customs.

Morocco

Morocco offers many fine craft items at good prices. Traditional souvenirs include gold and silver jewelry, wood carvings, cotton goods, tapestries, carpets, leather goods, pottery, copperware, brassware, basketry, fine inlaid woodwork, and spices.

Bargaining: Some shops have fixed prices. In the open-air markets prices are usually flexible and negotiating is normal. The only rule is that if you make an offer, you should be prepared to buy at that price. Bring a mix of small bills so that you can pay in exact change. Moroccans enjoy negotiating over prices, and they expect it of their customers.

Many shops in Morocco are closed on Fridays. If they are open, they may close from mid-day prayer until early afternoon.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, **www.cbp.gov** has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your

responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.

- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Portugal

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** Portugal contains 35,556 square miles, including the Azores and Madeira islands. The Madeira island group occupies 305 square miles. The main island of Madeira is 35 miles long and about 13 miles across at its widest point.
- **Capital:** Lisbon
- **Language:** Portuguese
- **Geography:** Portugal's mainland terrain is mountainous, pastoral, and earthy. Its interior moors and flatlands are circumscribed by 500 miles of gorgeous coastline with long stretches of sandy beaches. Madeira consists of two inhabited islands, Madeira and Porto Santo, and two groups of uninhabited islands. The largest island is Madeira. It is volcanic and mountainous, with its highest peaks in the interior rising to over 6,000 feet. The island contains nearly 100 miles of coastline, but no beaches (except one tiny one at Prainha near the eastern tip of the island). The north coast is untamed and less populated; the western end is forested and cool; and the eastern tip consists of barren reddish rock that extends into the blue sea.
- **Population:** 10,421,117 (Estimate)
- **Religion:** Roman Catholic, 81%, Christian and other, 19%
- **Time Zone:** Portugal is ahead of U.S. Eastern Time by five hours; Central Time by six hours; Mountain Time by seven hours; Pacific Time by eight hours.

National Holidays: Portugal

In addition to the holidays listed below, Portugal celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Corpus Christi. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

04/25 Liberty Day

05/01 Labor Day

06/10 Portugal Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/05 Republic Implantation

11/01 All Saints' Day

12/01 Restoration of Independence

12/08 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12/25 Christmas Day

Portugal: A Brief History

Portugal's earliest tribes occupied the Tagus valley, the Alentejo and Estremadura as far back as 8,000 BC. Later, Neolithic clans built hilltop forts called castros in northern Portugal, and around 700 BC these were occupied by Celtic Lusitanians. They were fierce, which led the Carthaginians (who had settled on the south coast) to recruit them around 200 BC to fight off the Romans. The Celtic Lusitanians proved their worth—while it only took Rome seven years to conquer Gaul, it took them nearly 200 to subdue Iberia. By the time that was accomplished, Rome had colonies in Lisbon, Evora, Santarem, and Beja.

Christianity reached Portugal near the end of the 1st century, and by the 3rd century, bishoprics had been founded at Lisbon, Braga, and other towns. As Visigothic invaders crossed the Pyrenees, they made their way to Portugal. But since they ruled from Toledo, their influence was not strong. This made it easy for the Moors, who arrived soon after 711 AD. Portugal's Moors settled mainly in the south, and brought many agrarian reforms as well as a love of culture. They established Muslim supremacy, but allowed Christians and Jews to worship, work, own property, and freely engage in business. Though their cities were grander and larger in Spain, they still left an enduring impact on Portuguese culture.

The Christian Reconquest had some early victories in Portugal, taking Porto back from the Moors by 868 and Coimbra by 1064. Meanwhile, a small kingdom was coalescing around the old Roman settlement of Portus Cale. It was controlled by the kings of Leon and Castile until 1139, when Afonso Henriques won a battle and proclaimed himself King of Portucale. The Algarve was reconquered in 1264, the capital was moved from Coimbra to Lisbon, and Portugal's land boundaries have since remained almost unchanged.

But Portugal's imperial ambitions had no boundaries. In 1415, King John conquered the North African trading post of Ceuta. Under his son Prince Henry the Navigator, advances were made in shipbuilding, navigation, and cartography; and Portuguese *caravels* sailed the coast of Africa. Madeira and the Azores were colonized, and over the next century, explorers like Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama expanded the empire from Africa to India and southeast Asia, and to Brazil.

In 1580, Spain invaded Portugal and held it for 60 years. Although the Portuguese independence was restored in 1640, Portugal kept fighting back frequent Spanish raids to take over again for about 28 years. By that time, Dutch, English, and French competitors had surpassed Portugal's colonial might. The country's fortunes mostly waned over the next centuries. Portugal was able to end a five-year occupation by Napoleonic forces with the help of Britain. But that alliance did Portugal no good when the 1890 British Ultimatum was delivered, requiring Portugal to give up its claim to land between Mozambique and Angola. Still, Portugal fought in World War I on the Allied side.

A weak postwar governments led to a military coup in 1926, in which Antonio Oliveira Salazar became a Finances Minister, before progressing to dictator in 1933, ruling for almost 40 years. He kept Portugal neutral in World War II, but granted naval and air bases to the Allies after 1943. Portugal joined NATO as a founding member in 1949, but did not gain admission to the United Nations until 1955. Salazar suffered a stroke in 1968 and died in 1970. In 1974, a socialist military coup ended the Salazar era. It was called the "carnation revolution" since civilians placed flowers in the rifles of the military. Directly afterwards, most of Portugal's former colonies were granted their independence. With EU membership in 1986, Portugal entered the European mainstream.

Since the debt crisis of 2008, Portugal's economy has made progress. The government deficit has fallen, as has unemployment. But some of this has been achieved by austerity measures that have hit the young, teachers, health care workers, and others. The future will call for the same kind of resolve and innovation that drove Portugal's golden Age of Discovery so long ago.

Spain

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** The mainland occupies approximately 195,364.5 square miles. Off Spain's east coast in the Mediterranean are the Balearic Islands (1,936 square miles), the largest of which is Majorca. Sixty miles west of Africa are the Canary Islands (2,808 square miles).
- **Capital:** Madrid
- **Languages:** Spanish, Basque, Catalan, and Galician. In resort areas, many people also speak English, French, and German.
- **Geography:** Spain's topography consists of a broad central plateau that slopes to the south and east, crossed by a series of mountain ranges and river valleys. It is a land of both towering peaks and endless beaches, as well as fertile landscapes and high, dry plains. Principal rivers are the Ebro in the northeast, the Tajo in the central region, and the Guadalquivir in the south.
- **Population:** 47,325,360 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 67.8%, atheist 9.1%, other 2.2%, non-believer 18.4%, unspecified 2.5%
- **Time Zone:** Spain is six hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time.

National Holidays: Spain

In addition to the holidays listed below, Spain celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/06 Epiphany

05/01 Labor Day

08/15 Assumption of Mary

10/12 Hispanic Day

11/01 All Saints Day

12/06 Constitution Day

12/08 Immaculate Conception

12/25 Christmas

Spain: A Brief History

Spain has been continuously inhabited for 1.2 million years, but the bulk of our knowledge about Spain's earliest people begins around 1100 BC, when Phoenicians established trading colonies along the southern coast. These attracted the Greeks; and around the same time, Celts descended in the north, establishing hill villages known as *castros*, many of which still stand in Galicia and northern Portugal.

The Romans arrived in Spain around 206 BC, but had to defeat the Carthaginians for it. Afterwards, the Romans still had a fight on their hands: The Iberian tribes resisted for 200 years. Today, in places like Mérida, Córdoba, Segovia, and Tarragona, you can see remnants of Roman roads, bridges, aqueducts, temples, and amphitheaters. Towards the end of their dominion, the Romans also brought Christianity. But Pax Romana crumbled as Visigoths and Franks swept over the Pyrenees.

The civilized heights of Rome were not equaled until the Moors arrived from North Africa around 711 AD. The enlightened Islamic civilization they established was called Al-Andalus, and it lasted for nearly 800 years. Islamic cities such as Córdoba, Seville, and Granada flourished. Throughout Al-Andalus, Christians, and Jews lived under some restrictions, but were free to worship, work, own property, and trade. When the rest of Europe was struggling through the Dark Ages, the city of Córdoba became a beacon of enlightenment with a celebrated university, palaces, gardens, observatories, libraries, street lamps, and running water. Mathematics, astronomy, literature, music, and architecture flourished.

Córdoba's star began to dim in the 11th century as the caliphate broke into dozens of small kingdoms. Infighting opened a crack for northern Christians to pry open, and the Christian Reconquest pushed south. The last stronghold of the Moors, Granada, fell to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1491. They instituted a 300-year campaign of terror, the Spanish Inquisition, which sought to root out heretics through the confiscation of property, imprisonment, torture, and execution. It required Muslims and Jews to convert to Christianity or leave Spain, thereby ending a source of valuable cultural contributions.

But Spain's fortunes continued to rise. In 1492, Christopher Columbus opened up the New World to Spain's imperial ambitions. Spain amassed tremendous wealth and a vast empire through Columbus' conquest of the Caribbean, as well as the conquest of Mexico by Cortes (1519–21) and Peru by Pizarro (1532–33). In 1588, Philip II sent his Armada to invade England, but its defeat cost Spain its supremacy. After centuries of dwindling losses, Spain's overseas empire ended with Cuban independence in 1898.

Spain remained neutral during World War I, but was unable to avoid the upheavals that arose in its aftermath. Civil war erupted in 1936, pitting right-wing Nationalists under Francisco Franco against socialist, communist, and centrist Republicans. Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy supported Franco with planes, weapons, and 92,000 troops, making Spain a testing ground for WWII. Franco declared the war over in 1939, but there was no peace. In the ensuing years, his regime killed 100,000 intellectuals, teachers, and dissenters. After World War II (which Spain sat out), a UN-sponsored boycott plunged the nation into "years of hunger." They didn't wane until the 1950s, when U.S. aid and tourism infused the economy. When Franco died in 1975, Juan Carlos I took the throne and Spain transitioned to democracy.

When the 2008 global economic crisis plunged Spain's economy, the conservative government enacted harsh austerity measures. Youth unemployment reached 60%, and by 2017 over 87,000 workers left Spain, creating a brain drain. Recently, the government rolled out a "Return Plan" to lure them back. Also in 2017, a referendum in Catalonia backed separation from Spain. Madrid imposed direct rule, though polls show that 68% of Spaniards prefer dialogue with Catalonia.

Morocco

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 172,414 square miles
- **Capital:** Rabat
- **Languages:** Arabic and Berber are the official languages; French and Spanish are also spoken.
- **Location:** Morocco is bordered by Algeria in the east, Mauritania in the south, the Atlantic Ocean in the west, and Spain in the north.
- **Geography:** Morocco's landscape varies from coastal lands near the Atlantic Ocean to mountainous regions to the Sahara Desert.
- **Population:** 37,984,655 (Estimate)
- **Religions:** Muslim 99%, Other 1%
- **Time zone:** Morocco is on Central European Time, six hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is 5am in Washington D.C., it is 11am in Rabat. Morocco does not observe Daylight Savings, therefore Morocco is only 5 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time when Daylight Savings is in effect.

National Holidays: Morocco

In addition to the holidays listed below, Morocco celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/11 Anniversary of the Independence Manifesto

05/01 Labour Day/May Day

07/30 Feast of the Throne

08/14 Anniversary of the Recovery Oued Ed-Dahab

08/20 Anniversary of the Revolution of the King and the People

08/21 Youth Day

Morocco: A Brief History

Morocco is unique for having been occupied by one group of people for all of its recorded history—people who have rarely been subjugated by outside forces. The Berbers or Imazighen (men of the land) have endured for millennia. They are not a homogenous group, but comprise various tribes who share some ethnic lineage. Nor were all Berbers nomads despite the stereotype. Most Berbers were farmers, but connected to fellow Berber traders and horsemen who developed semi-permanent encampments as they forged trade routes.

The Berbers often frustrated Roman attempts to govern them, though their rebellion was not always violent but often based on shrewd alliances and gamesmanship. Most Berbers continued to practice their traditional, animist religions. They also borrowed from other African and Egyptian religions, and as the millennium turned, many Berbers were Christian or Jewish.

In the 7th century AD, the Ummayyad Arabs conquered the Middle East in less than a decade, but needed 70 years to subdue Morocco's Berbers. They brought the Arab language, architecture, civil codes, and mostly, the new religion of Islam. Its ideals resonated with traditional Berber values and its adoption was widespread, rapid, and willing. But the Arabs were never able to unify the region politically. Though they enlisted Berber vassals to lead their conquest of Iberia, the sprawling caliphate proved difficult to manage, paving the way for Arab-Berber dynasties such as the Almoravids, Almohads, and Nasrids, who presided over Moorish Iberia, called al-Andalus. These dynasties have ruled Morocco continuously from the 8th century to the present.

When the Moors were expelled from al-Andalus in 1492, Muslim and Jewish refugees brought their cultures back to Morocco, enriching the Imperial Cities of Fez, Marrakesh, Rabat, and Meknes. Rulers rose and fell for 140 years and in the 1630s, the Alaouite family overthrew the Saadis, establishing a line that rules to this day. In the late 1800s, Morocco's strategic location and natural resources attracted France, which took control by 1912. Spain hung onto a small protectorate on the coast, Tangier was made an international zone, and Rabat became the capital. When Berbers rebelled in 1926, it took 25,000 Spanish-French troops to subdue them.

During WWII, Morocco was ruled by Vichy France, which was a Nazi puppet. But independent-minded Casablanca provided crucial support for the Allied North African campaign. *After the war in 1944*, Morocco demanded freedom, and France was eventually pressured to grant it.

Mohammed V returned from exile in 1955; Morocco won its independence in 1956; Mohammed V crowned himself king in 1957; and handed power to his son, Hassan II, in 1961. Hassan II earned the people's affection in 1975 when he led the Green March into the Western Sahara to force Spain to hand over the province. More than 350,000 volunteers marched that day, but the dispute between Morocco and the western separatist Polisario Front still simmers.

Mohammed VI took the throne in 1999, and advanced many liberal policies including women's rights. In 2002, he married Salma Bennani, a computer science engineer, and many believed it symbolized the acceptance of modern roles. In 2004, the government imposed changes to family law geared toward lifting the gender inequality and protecting children. During the Arab Spring of 2011, Mohammed VI reacted with a deftness that eluded other leaders, announcing constitutional reforms, ceding more power to parliament, and making Berber an official state language. But Mohammed VI has increasingly been criticized for repressing freedom of speech, and the nation still struggles with poverty, unemployment, and corruption in the justice system.

Events that Shaped the 20th Century:

Morocco's Battle Against Colonialism

Situated at the entrance of the Mediterranean, with the Atlantic to the west and the Strait of Gibraltar to the north, Morocco has historically been a strategic location to control.

France had always shown an interest in fully conquering Morocco for centuries, interested in the land for its access to the Atlantic and Mediterranean, as well as its border with French-controlled Algeria. While France had slowly been taking over Morocco from the Algerian border and had their increasing military influence recognized by most world powers following the signing of the Treaty of Algeciras, France wanted more. And, on March 19, 1907, the assassination of Émile Mauchamp, a French doctor, in Marrakesh by an anti-French occupation mob, was just the reason they needed.

After snapping up more towns along the Algerian border, including Bechar and Oujda, France began their assault in earnest. The Moroccan people, incensed by the encroachment of the French and the disregard for their own sovereignty, responded by killing nine European laborers. Surprising the French, the Moroccans then managed to take back Casablanca. On August 5th, 1907, France retaliated and bombed Casablanca, destroying the city and killing thousands of Moroccans. France pushed into the region of Chaouia, a campaign that lasted 7 years, ending in France's control over the region. France also encroached from the east, using their Algerian border to facilitate their invasion.

The tribes of Morocco, instead of banding together against France, split their allegiance, with the sultan of Morocco, Abd al-Aziz bin Hassan, doing little to oppose France. The people of Fez however, called for war and instead supported the sultan's older brother, Abd al-Hafid. This devolved into a brief civil war, with Sultan al-Aziz gathering an army before marching to Marrakesh to confront his older brother's forces. The Sultan's army was ambushed in the Battle of Marrakesh, and Sultan al-Aziz was forced to flee back behind French lines in Casablanca, where he later announced his abdication.

Sultan al-Hafid took power and nothing changed. The French were still encroaching on Moroccan sovereignty, with their campaign in the region of Chaouia. By 1911, a rebellion broke out against Sultan al-Hafid and he was besieged at his palace in Fez, forcing him to call upon the French to protect him. The French forces used this opportunity to take Fez.

Following the rebellion, Sultan al-Hafid, under duress, signed the Treaty of Fez, recognizing French control of certain areas of Morocco and giving the French Resident-General absolute power over both internal and external affairs. In the aftermath of the failed rebellion in Fez, France had managed to maneuver themselves into the position of power they had wanted from the start.

The Moroccan people reacted violently in a series of riots that became known later as the Bloody Days of Fez. During the riots, many Moroccan soldiers, under French commanders, joined the riots, attacking their commanders before moving to the European and Jewish quarters of Fez. Believing the Jewish populace to be helping the rioters, the French commander ordered the Jewish quarter be shelled. According to the Moroccan historian, Mohammed Kenbib, 66 Europeans, 42 Moroccan Jews and some 600 Moroccan Muslims were killed over the course of the two days of rioting.

After signing the treaty and retreating to Rabat, Sultan al-Hafid abdicated in favor of his youngest brother, Yusef.

The French Colonial Administrator, Hubert Lyautey, worked to maintain Morocco's independent culture, focusing instead on colonial education and urbanization, rather than the traditional assimilation route taken by France in Algeria and Tunisia. He worked closely with the Sultan, allowing the sovereign to retain cultural, practical, and religious power in Morocco.

When World War I and World War II swept through Europe, France recruited from the Moroccan infantry, with thousands of Moroccans making up the Moroccan Brigade, fighting for the French with little to no recognition.

Following World War II, Sultan Mohammed V, who succeeded his father, Sultan Yusef, in 1927, called for Moroccan Independence. Becoming the face of Morocco's independence movement, Sultan Mohammed V aligned himself with a series of nationalist movements and call for Morocco to join the Arab League. Demonstrating in front of huge crowds, he appealed for independence in several momentous speeches, including the Tangier Speech.

On August 20th, 1953, Sultan Mohammed V was forced out of Morocco by French authorities, exiled to Corsica, and later Madagascar, with his immediate family. In his place, France installed Mohammed Ben Arafa, Sultan Mohammed V's first cousin once removed. The "French Sultan" was not recognized by the Moroccan people, and, in response, the nationalist movement bombed the central market in Casablanca on Christmas Eve 1953.

Supported by Libya, the National Liberation Front in Algeria, and Egypt, the nationalist movement managed to put pressure on the French and forced them to renegotiate Sultan Mohammed V's exile in 1955. Upon the Sultan's return, he managed to negotiate Morocco's independence and French Morocco became the Kingdom of Morocco with Mohammed V established as King on August 14th, 1957.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

Portugal

A Concise History of Portugal by David Birmingham (2018, History) This condensed, illustrated history offers an introduction to Portugal's people, culture, and evolving role in contemporary Europe.

A Small Death in Lisbon and ***The Company of Strangers*** by Robert Wilson (1999 and 2001, Fiction) Both these political thrillers are set in Portugal with flashbacks to World War II, when the supposedly neutral nation was a hotbed of espionage.

Baltasar and Blimunda by Jose Saramago (1998, Historical Fiction) Written by the winner of the 1998 Noble Prize for Literature, this historic romance offers detailed insight into what life was like in Portugal in the late 18th century. Set in 1711, in the midst of the terrors of the Inquisition and the plague, it follows a seemingly mismatched couple as they discover the wonders of love.

The Portuguese: The Land and Its People by Marian Kaplan (1991, History) A travel guide and history book all in one that takes you from the Moorish Invasion to the Age of Discovery to modern times.

Spain

A Million Steps by Kurt Koontz (2013, Travel Narrative) Follow the author as he walks the Camino de Santiago—a pilgrimage route in Spain that stretches more than 400 miles—a journey that is both physical and spiritual.

Sister Queens: The Noble, Tragic Lives of Katherine of Aragon and Juana, Queen of Castile by Julia Fox (2011, biography). The daughters of Ferdinand and Isabella each lost positions of power—one to the whims of England's Henry VIII, and the other to madness.

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (2005, Fiction) A mix of mystery, romance, and hauntings abound in this international bestseller, set in 1950s Barcelona.

The Last Jew by Noah Gordon (2000, Historical Fiction) A sweeping tale of survival during the Spanish Inquisition.

Traveler's Tales: Spain edited by Lucy McCauley (1995, Anthology) Incisive, lyrical musings on all aspects of Spain, written by luminaries such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Calvin Trillin, and Barbara Kingsolver.

Morocco

In the Country of Others by Leïla Slimani (2020, Historical Fiction). Set in French-colonized Morocco following World War II, Mathilde settles into life in Morocco with her husband, Amine. Mathilde, a proud Frenchwoman, struggles with the unfamiliar sociality expectations as her husband, a soldier turned farmer, faces opposition as a Moroccan man married to a French woman. This award-winning novel views an interracial love story through the lenses of Morocco's fight for independence from French colonialism.

The Last Storytellers by Richard Hamilton (2011, Anthology) Wander through Marrakech's legendary Jmaa el Fna square, and among the snake charmers, musicians, jugglers and hawkers, you may occasionally notice a storyteller holding court. As the tradition of publicly recounting folktales or fables slowly dies, Hamilton has here collected the best of these engaging stories.

Horses of God by Mahi Binebine (2010, Literary Fiction). On May 16th, 2003, Casablanca suffered the deadliest attack in Morocco's history with fourteen suicide bombers killing forty-three people and over a hundred people were injured in the attacks. *Horses of God* views the attacks, perpetuated by young adults from the shantytowns of Sidi Moumen, from one of the suicide bombers looking back on his life after death. Starting from childhood, Binebine raises four young boys through poverty and violence to a desperate bid for purpose in religious extremism.

The Caliph's House, A Year in Casablanca by Tahir Shah (2006, Memoir). An entertaining account of the transformation of a ruined palace in Casablanca. Shah is a marvelous storyteller, interweaving Moroccan customs, history, black humor, and portraits of neighbors into one work.

Dreams of Trespass, Tales of a Harem Girlhood by Fatima Mernissi (1994, Memoir). This memoir captures the true story of Mernissi's life growing up in a Fez harem during World War II. The harem was not an exotic seraglio of concubines but rather a part of the house where all the women of a family are secluded.) A coming of age story with vivid and often hilarious detail.

Suggested Films & Videos

Portugal

Porto (2016, Drama) An American expatriate and a French woman spend one intense night together in the titular Portuguese city. Years later, they try to make sense of their connection, the transience of joy, and haphazard nature of life. Filmed in 35, 16 and Super 8 mm, this film sees Porto through a novel and striking lens.

Night Train to Lisbon (2013, Drama) A Swiss schoolteacher (Jeremy Irons) prevents the suicide of a young Portuguese woman, who then disappears. Soon thereafter, he visits a bookshop where he discovers a puzzling memoir written during the Salazar era. Consumed by the idea that he may not be living his life to the fullest, he travels to Lisbon to unravel the mysteries.

No Reservations: Lisbon (2012, Season 8, Episode 4) Emmy award-winning chef and social critic Anthony Bourdain visited Lisbon just as it was on the verge of becoming a travel sensation. Enjoy his witty commentary, local encounters, and mouth-watering presentations of Lisbon's culinary pleasures.

Amália (2008, Documentary) This biopic tells the story of Amália Rodrigues, Portugal's Queen of Fado.

Lisbon Story (1994, Drama) A straightforward tale of a German sound engineer who falls in love with Lisbon. Director Wim Wenders takes you through a city that he obviously loves, offering the beauty of old houses, narrow streets, the sounds of the city, a haunting soundtrack, and the lives lived in Portugal's capital.

Spain

Pain and Glory (2019, Drama) Antonio Banderas earned a Best Actor nomination for his portrayal of a legendary director flashing back through his past, and facing a present filled with loss, memory, physical ailments, and imagination. This thinly-veiled autobiographical sketch from director Pedro Almodovar is a rueful reflection on creativity, wrapped up with warmth, humor, and vivid glimpses of life in late 20th-century Spain.

Ocho Apellidos Vascos (released in the U.S. as *Spanish Affair*, 2014, Comedy) Two of Spain's most disparate cultures collide as a jilted bride from the Basque Country goes to Seville, where a skillful Andalusian ladies man is frustrated by his inability to woo her. A fun and warm-hearted look at the differences between northern and southern Spain.

The Way (2010, Drama) A grieving father (Martin Sheen) honors his lost son's desire to finish the journey of a lifetime by competing the historical pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. Along the way, he meets other trekkers with their own stories to tell.

Pan's Labyrinth (2006, Fantasy) From director Guillermo del Toro. Following Spain's bloody civil war, young Ofelia enters a world of unimaginable cruelty when she moves in with her new stepfather, a brutal military officer. Armed only with her imagination, Ofelia discovers a labyrinth and a faun who offers her a path to saving herself and her mother. The lines between fantasy and reality begin to blur, and before Ofelia can turn back, she's at the center of a ferocious battle between good and evil.

All About My Mother (1999, Comedy) When her 17-year-old son is tragically killed in a car accident, Manuela sets out to reconnect with her son's father and ends up forging new connections with an outrageous transvestite, a pregnant nun, and her son's favorite actress. This 1999 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film is another from director Pedro Almodovar, whose other acclaimed works include *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Volver*.

Morocco

Changing Times (2004, Comedy/Drama) A French engineer (Gérard Depardieu) contrives a job in Tangier in order to reconnect with a lost lover of thirty years (Catherine Deneuve.) Various other characters and subplots cast an interesting light on modern urban Moroccan life.

Le Grand Voyage (2004, Drama). Driving his dad to Mecca for the Islamic pilgrimage is not what Reda, a French-Moroccan teenager, had planned. But plans change in this emotional road trip that explores the generational and cultural divide experienced by the many Moroccan immigrants. In French and Arabic with subtitles.

Ali Zaoua: Prince of the Streets (2000, Crime Drama). Four homeless young boys in Casablanca dream of a better life. When their leader is killed by a rival gang, the three remaining boys are determined to give him a proper funeral, but are faced with the rival gang and their own uncertainties as they try to gather the resources needed.

Hideous Kinky (1999, Drama) Kate Winslet plays a free-spirited, single British mother who decamps with her daughters to Morocco to find herself. Optimistic despite financial and personal setbacks, she remains dangerously oblivious to the needs of her children. A thoughtful look at Morocco's 1970s hippie mystique, and its reality.

The Sheltering Sky (1990, Adventure/Drama) An unhappy American couple ventures deep into the North African desert in the hopes of rekindling their relationship. The farther they go, the more the chasm between them widens. Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, starring Debra Winger and John Malkovich, and featuring Paul Bowles, who wrote the book.

Useful Websites

Overseas Adventure Travel

www.oattravel.com

Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions

www.oattravel.com/faq

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

History & Culture

en.wikipedia.org

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App, Skype, or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

TripWhistle

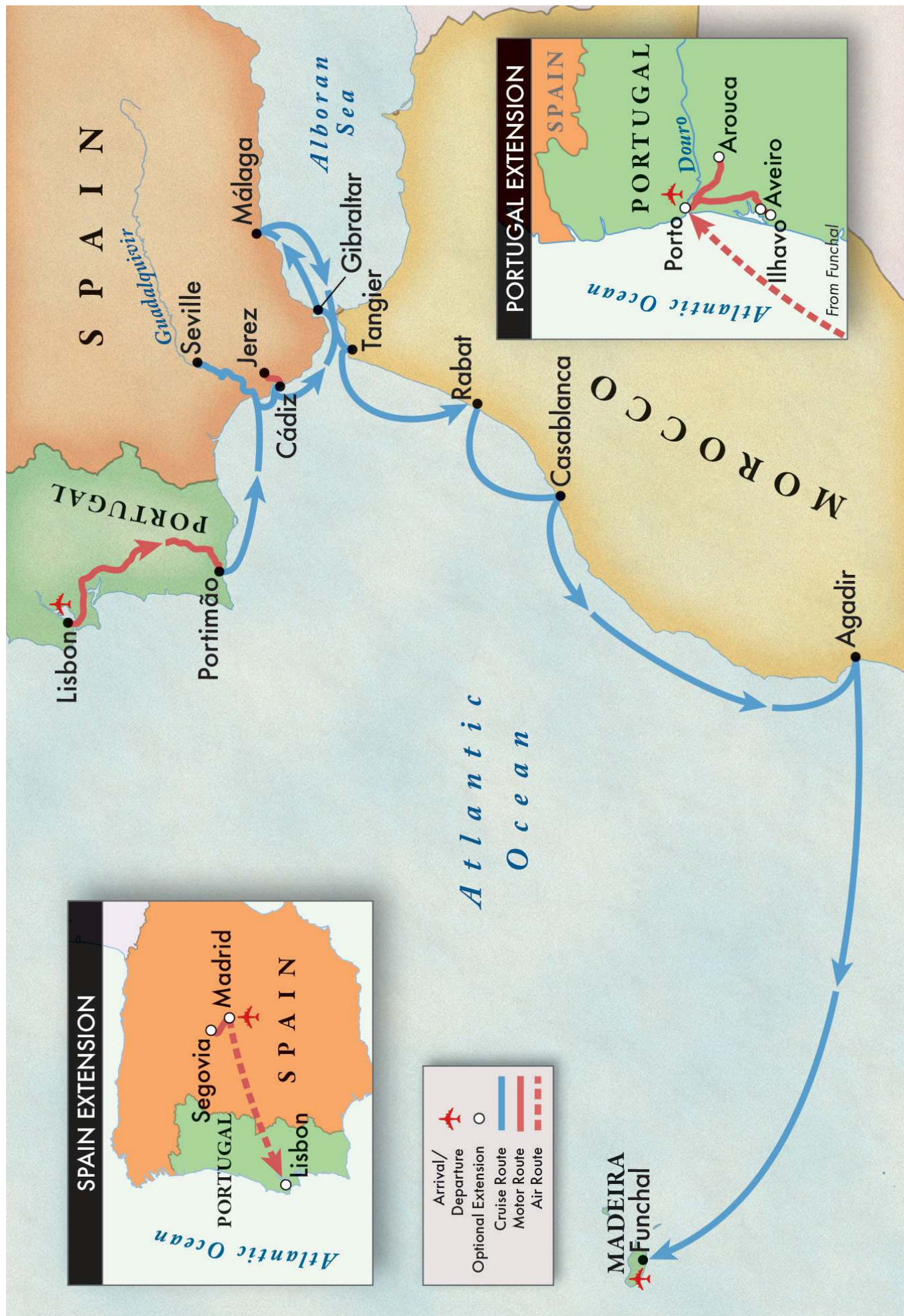
Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Chirpey

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more



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