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# Spain Coach Tour & Danube River Cruise with Flights

## 18 days from \$4999

**per person twin share. 18 Day Spain with Danube River Cruise**

Experience the best of Spain & cruise the Danube onboard the new deluxe Monarch Empress **from ~~\$6,669~~ - \$4,999\* (Air, Land & Cruise)**

**Lead Price Travel Dates:** 08 June '17

**Promo Valid for Departures:** May - Oct 2017 at slightly higher prices.

## The Deal

If you're looking to experience the highlights of Spain as well as the Danube River, here's your chance! Begin with a tour of Madrid including a visit to the Prado Museum, where you can admire works of art by renowned artists such as El Greco, Velazquez and Ribera. Continue to Toledo, the "Museum City", and visit the famous monuments of St. Tome Church and Santa Maria la Blanca, then head to Cordoba to visit the amazing Mosque of the Caliphs and see the Roman Bridge.

In Seville, marvel at the Cathedral of Seville, the largest Gothic church in the world, view the Giralda Tower and visit the Barrio Santa Cruz (the old Jewish quarter) and the burial site of Christopher Columbus.

Visit the Moorish Alhambra Palace of Granada, with its famous Lion Courtyard, then head north through the groves of olives, almonds, lemons and oranges to the garden city of Valencia. Here, explore the City Gates, City Hall and the Cathedral. Finally, journey along the coast line of Catalunya to

Barcelona, and view the cathedral, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia and the site of the 1992 Olympic Stadium.

Embark on our new *MS Monarch Empress*, built by Gate 1 Travel in 2016 to discover the magic of Europe's waterways! Only river cruising offers the unique opportunity to visit Europe's historic cities and charming, less-travelled villages as you sail the world's most beautiful waterways.

Enjoy city tours of Regensburg, Vienna and Bratislava, that emphasise the local history, architecture and old world charm, plus enjoy time in Budapest. Tour the historic Benedictine Abbey in Melk and visit Passau or opt to join an optional full day tour to beautiful Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart. All your meals are included on board, plus unlimited wine and beer with dinner, and you'll have the luxury of being looked after by the Europe's best crew as you complete your magnificent European journey on a deluxe Danube River cruise!

### **Package Includes**

- Return airfares All Australian Capital Cities to Madrid & Budapest.  
Intra-flight Barcelona-Munich
- 16 nights First Class & Deluxe accommodations
  - 2 nights Madrid
  - 1 night Cordoba
  - 2 nights Seville
  - 1 night Granada
  - 1 night Valencia
  - 2 nights Barcelona
  - 7 nights outside cabin aboard the new 2016 Deluxe 5\* MS Monarch Empress
- River port charges of \$190 per person
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges including Barcelona city taxes
- Cruise & hotel portorage
- All transfers
- 34 meals: 15 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 13 dinners with wine
- Sightseeing & shore excursions per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring during excursions

## How to Book

- **Book phone 1300 813391** by **31 October 2016** to **save \$1670 per person** on our lowest published prices



### **DAY 1, Thursday - Depart for Spain**

Depart for Spain

### **DAY 2, Friday - Arrive in Madrid**

Welcome to Madrid! Capital of Spain since 1562, this lively city is the birthplace to many of the world's greatest writers, painters and artists. Arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Balance of the day is at leisure. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Drink with your Tour

Manager and fellow travelers followed by an orientation and a Welcome Dinner

**Overnight:** Madrid

**Meals:** Dinner

### **DAY 3, Saturday - Madrid City Tour**

Enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of Madrid. Drive along the Gran Via through the Opera District, Plaza de Colon, and view the Royal Palace. Pass through Puerta del Sol Plaza and Plaza de España with its monument to the author Cervantes. The tour will end at the Prado Museum, where you will be able to admire works of art by famous artists such as El Greco, Velázquez, and Ribera. Afternoon and evening at leisure to enjoy a walk in Retiro park, visit museums or join the *optional* tour to El Escorial, the combination monastery-palace-mausoleum erected by King Phillip II as a memorial to his father. It has since become an enduring legacy to Spain and burial place of Kings and Queens

**Optional:** Half Day Escorial Tour (PM)

**Overnight:** Madrid

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 4, Sunday - Toledo Sightseeing En Route to Cordoba**

This morning, travel to nearby Toledo, the former capital city of Spain that still retains its medieval atmosphere and charm, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a walking tour among the most famous monuments, visiting the St. Tome Church with its El Greco masterpiece and Santa Maria la Blanca Synagogue with its beautiful Moorish architecture, the oldest synagogue in Europe still standing. Also admire its famous handcrafted work, the *Damasquinado*. Continue south to Andalusia via the region of La Mancha, legendary home of Don Quixote, featuring panoramic views of its famous windmills. Arrive in the former Roman city of Cordoba for dinner

**Overnight:** Cordoba

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 5, Monday - Cordoba City Tour, Travel to Seville**

Cordoba, due to its strategic location, was once an important port city. Visit the astonishing Mezquita de Cordoba, one of the largest mosques in the world, transformed into a soaring cathedral in the 16th century. A walking tour of the city reveals the ancient Jewish Quarter with its labyrinth of winding narrow streets, shady flower filled courtyards and picturesque squares; visit the beautifully restored 14th century Synagogue on Calle de los Judios. Afterwards, you proceed to Seville, capital of Andalusia. After dinner, opportunity to attend an *optional* Flamenco Show in this city known as the birthplace of Flamenco

**Optional:** Evening Flamenco Show (PM)

**Overnight:** Seville

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 6, Tuesday - Seville City Tour**

A morning tour of Seville begins with a visit to the Cathedral of Seville, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world and home to the burial site of Christopher Columbus. Built on the site of the former great Mosque, its original minaret, the Giralda Bell Tower, still stands. Admire the beautiful Plaza de España and the fragrant gardens of Maria Luisa Park by the Guadalquivir River before visiting the quaint Barrio Santa Cruz. Explore the narrow winding streets and the beautiful plazas of the Old Quarter. Afternoon at leisure to explore Seville's shops, museums and cafes

**Overnight:** Seville

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 7, Wednesday - Travel to Granada, Visit Alhambra Palace\***

Morning drive to Granada. Here, your sightseeing of Moorish Granada is highlighted by a visit to the magnificent 13th century Alhambra Palace, one of Spain's most celebrated monuments, dramatically perched atop Assabica Hill overlooking the entire city. This imposing hilltop fortress, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the world's finest examples of Moorish art and architecture. During the reign of the Moors, the Alhambra served as the summer residence of the royal family. Walk along the lanes of the serene Generalife Gardens with its beautifully designed courtyards, waterfalls and ponds and views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Dinner together at a local restaurant

**Overnight:** Granada

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 8, Thursday - Travel to Valencia**

Today head north through the groves of olives, almonds, lemons and oranges to the garden city of Valencia. Upon arrival, enjoy an orientation tour of the huge Arts and Science City designed by contemporary artist Santiago Calatrava, with its extraordinary avant-garde architecture that includes impressive buildings such as the Hemisfèric and Oceanogràfic. The rest of the day is yours to discover Valencia independently. Tonight, dinner together

**Overnight:** Valencia

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 9, Friday - Valencia City Tour, Travel to Barcelona, Barcelona City Tour**

This morning, tour the city of Valencia. Discover this treasure trove of Roman and Arabic architecture before continuing to the City Gates, City Hall and Gothic Cathedral. Depart Valencia and drive along the coastline of Catalunya to Barcelona. This afternoon's tour

of Barcelona begins with a panoramic tour of the old Harbor, Plaza de España and Plaza Catalunya. You will also have a chance to pass by Gaudi's iconic Sagrada Familia, a colossal church that is legendary and still unfinished. Ascend Montjuic Hill, home to the Olympic Stadium built for the 1992 Olympics. Tonight, a dinner at a local restaurant is a perfect way to end your tour

**Overnight:** Barcelona

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 10, Saturday - Full Day in Barcelona**

Today enjoy a full day at leisure in Barcelona. Perhaps revisit some of the city's extraordinary sights or spend time at the shops and galleries

**Overnight:** Barcelona

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 11, Sunday - Depart Spain, Fly to Munich and Transfer to Regensburg for Cruise Embarkation**

Bid farewell to your tour manager in Spain and transfer to the Barcelona airport for your flight to Munich. Arrive in Munich and transfer to the port in Regensburg. The group transfer will operate at approximately 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm. The port is a 1.5 hour drive from the Munich airport. Embarkation begins at 3 pm. After arrival formalities, meet your Gate 1 cruise directors and relax on board. Tonight, a gala Welcome Dinner sets the mood for your delightful river cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 12, Monday - Regensburg City Tour**

This morning, explore Regensburg, one of Germany's largest and best preserved medieval cities, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The guided walking tour highlights the city's stunning architecture as you view the Old Town Hall, Dom St. Peter and the Porta Praetoria, gateway to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. Marvel at beautiful churches and one of the oldest stone bridges crossing the Danube. Return to the boat for lunch or spend the afternoon at leisure discovering the delights of Regensburg on your own. At 3:00 pm, the ship will set sail for Passau

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 13, Tuesday - Morning in Passau**

Dock this morning in 2500-year-old Passau, known for its pastel patrician houses, cafes, cobblestone lanes and riverfront promenade. Passau is a Bavarian town with a mix of Roman, Italian Baroque and Gothic architecture. Explore Passau independently in the morning, or, join the *optional* full day tour to picturesque Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart

and setting for the *Sound of Music*. The walking tour will include some of Salzburg's most historic sites including the Mirabell Palace, the Abbey, Salzburg Cathedral, and St. Peter's Cemetery. After lunch at a local restaurant, there will be time to discover Salzburg on your own before returning to the ship. If you choose to remain on the boat, continue sailing during lunch and relax on board this afternoon. In the early evening, all passengers will rejoin the ship and continue sailing for Melk

**Optional:** Full Day Tour of Salzburg

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 14, Wednesday - Melk Abbey**

Disembark in Melk this morning for a guided tour of the historic Benedictine Abbey, considered one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in Europe. View the Abbot's chambers, the Kaiser's walk and the lavish library. Then, return to the ship and continue cruising through the scenic Wachau Valley on the way to Vienna, the Imperial city legendary for its opulence and elegance. Tonight, perhaps take the opportunity to attend an evening of Viennese culture in the "City of Music" at an *optional* concert performance of the classical masterpieces of Mozart and Strauss, two of Vienna's most famous citizens

**Optional:** Classical Viennese Concert (PM)

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 15, Thursday - Vienna City Tour**

This sparkling city on the Danube has captivated travelers for years with its elegant shops, world-class museums, and beautiful gardens. Drive along the famed Ringstrasse, Vienna's main boulevard lined with magnificent Baroque palaces, parks and monuments. View the lavish Hofburg Palace, and the impressive Vienna Opera House. Continue to majestic St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Parliament building. Enjoy the afternoon at a café sampling the famous Viennese Sacher Torte, or, join the *optional* afternoon tour to the Imperial Schonbrunn Palace, once summer residence of the Hapsburgs. Visit the opulent baroque apartments and stroll through the world-famous manicured gardens. Set sail for Bratislava this evening

**Optional:** Schonbrunn Palace Tour (PM)

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 16, Friday - Bratislava City Tour**

This morning, enjoy the tranquil scenery as the boat sails along the scenic Danube. At noon, arrive in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, a mix of modern and Baroque architecture.

This capital city is among the youngest in Europe, yet retains a rich history dating back more than 2000 years. Walk along the cobblestone lanes of the historic town center; view St. Martin's Cathedral, coronation site of the Kings of Hungary, the 13th century Old Town Hall and the Franciscan church. Time to explore this colorful city on your own before returning to the ship for dinner as you sail for stunning Budapest

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 17, Saturday - Budapest City Tour**

Your morning tour begins on the Pest side of the river, view the Parliament, City Park and Heroes Square. Cross to Buda to see the Royal Palace, Matthias Church and the graceful medieval architecture along the cobble streets. Explore the city's wonderful shops and cafes this afternoon on your own. Tonight, enjoy a lavish Captain's Dinner on board

**Overnight:** River Cruise

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 18, Sunday - Depart Hungary**

This morning, disembark and transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Disembarkation will end at 9:30 am

**Meals:** Breakfast

## MS Monarch Empress



Sail the Danube in comfort and style on the all new Monarch Empress by Gate 1 Travel.

[Ship Profile](#)

Hotel Miguel Angel by BlueBay, Madrid



This deluxe hotel is located in the center of Madrid, in the Paseo de la Castellana, near the financial and shopping areas of the city.

#### **Hotel Details**

### Hotel Macia Alfaros, Cordoba



This first class hotel is situated close to the Town Hall and the main shopping areas.

#### **Hotel Details**

### NH Collection Sevilla, Seville



This first class hotel is located in the business district of Seville.

**Hotel Details**

Carmen Hotel, Granada



This first class hotel is situated in the heart of Granada.

**Hotel Details**

Primus Hotel Valencia, Valencia



This first class hotel is located less than half a mile from Valencia's impressive City of Arts and Sciences.

**Hotel Details**

Ayre Hotel Caspe, Barcelona



This first class hotel is located in the Eixample district of Barcelona.

