Spain & Portugal: A Cultural and Historical Immersion
Tentative Dates: September 22-October 2, 2018
Number of Participants: 20 minimum
Travel Arrangements through Milne Educational Tours (dba Milne Travel)
(Itinerary Subject to Change)

Departure (9/22)
International flight from BTV to Madrid

Day 1 (9/23)
Arrive in the Spanish capital city of Madrid (Time TBD upon flight confirmation).
Transfer to hotel with a brief tour of the city to allow you to get your bearings.
The remainder of the day at leisure to rest after the flight.
Welcome Dinner early this evening.
Overnight: MADRID (-/-/D)

Day 2 (9/24) MADRID
Depart for a guided sightseeing tour including the Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, Plaza de Cibeles. Visit to the world famous Prado Museum included.
We will eat lunch at a restaurant specialising in the traditional Spanish specialty of paella. See a demonstration of how this popular dish is prepared.
The rest of the afternoon free for individual sightseeing.
In the evening enjoy a lecture by local University Professor.
Overnight: MADRID (B/L/-)

Day 3 (9/25) CUIDAD REAL, CORDOBA
Depart hotel this morning for Cordoba traveling through the region of La Mancha, the fabled heartlands forever linked in the popular imagination with Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. It’s a land also famous for its arts and crafts, unique monuments, wine and religious festivals.
En route make a stop in the Valdepeñas wine region which is situated in the province of Ciudad Real and covers an area of 30,000 hectares. It consists of 47 vineyards (Bodegas), which produce 50 million litres of wine annually. A visit will be made to one of the bodegas including lunch.

Continue our journey south to Cordoba.

Cordoba is a city with an enormous cultural and historical legacy. Its strategic position, near the River Guadalquivir, which was formerly navigable, has made it a melting pot of cultures of the different people who settled there. Both Moorish and Christian influences can be noted in the impressive architectural heritage that remains.

Approximate arrival in Cordoba around 5pm. Check in hotel.

Overnight: CORDOBA (B/L/-)

Day 4 (9/26) CORDOBA
This morning there will be a sightseeing tour of the old city of Cordoba. This will include the famous cathedral/mosque, known as the ‘Mezquita’, the Jewish Quarter, Alacazar, the workshop of a silversmith and also a leather workshop to see the traditional embossing techniques.

Afternoon at leisure.

Dinner in local restaurant.

Overnight: CORDOBA (B/-/D)

Day 5 (9/27) MORA PASS, GRANADA, SEVILLE
Depart Cordoba for Granada this morning and travel through a rural, rolling landscape strongly characterised by olive groves and wheat-fields. This region is also noted for the production of Montilla, the province’s rival to the sherry wines of Jerez.

On arrival in Granada, visit the famous Alhambra Palace where we will see the fortress of Alcazaba, Charle’s V’s Palace, the subterranean bath house and the beautiful Generalife water gardens.

This afternoon there will also be some free time to explore Granada independently before departing for Seville later this afternoon and hotel check-in.

Overnight: SEVILLE (B/-/D)

Day 6 (9/28) SEVILLE
Today there will be a half day guided tour of Seville including the Cathedral & Giralda, the Alcazar and Barrio Santa Cruz, the former Jewish quarter.

The rest of the day will be at leisure for independent sightseeing in Seville.
This evening attend a Flamenco dinner/show

Overnight: **SEVILLE** (B/-/D)

**DAY 7 (9/29) JEREZ, FARO**
Depart Seville this morning and travel to Jerez.

In Jerez you will visit a leading wine cellar to see the blending process which is responsible for the continuing perfection of quality sherry wine. Afterwards enjoy a tasting of a selection of different types of sherry in the unique atmosphere of the bodega.

Tapas lunch included at the bodega.

Continue across the border into Portugal and check in to hotel in Faro later this afternoon.

Overnight: **FARO** (B/L/-)

**Day 8 (9/30) ALENTEJO, EVORA, LISBON**
Depart Faro this morning and travel through the region known as the Alentejo, Portugal’s richest agricultural region.

Lunch will be included in the historic and attractive town of Evora, a World Heritage site since 1986 and an old Roman settlement.

This afternoon we’ll visit Companhia das Lezirias, a state-run agriculture and forestry company on 20,000 hectares, producing rice, wine, cork and livestock as well being a reputed horse breeder.

Finally, we’ll cross the Tagus River and arrive in Portugal’s capital. Check in to hotel.

Overnight: **LISBON** (B/L/-)

**Day 9 (10/1) LISBON**
This morning take a panoramic guided sightseeing tour of Lisbon including the Belem Tower. This is an elegant Manueline fortress built in the river Tagus, Monument of the Discoveries Jeronimos Monastery and St. George’s Castle around which lies the historic Alfama district, the old Arab quarter of the city with its winding narrow streets and tightly packed houses.

The tour will finish at Time Out market with an opportunity to purchase lunch.

Afternoon at leisure.

Dinner tonight at Casa do Alentejo restaurant.
Overnight: **LISBON** (B/-/D)

**Day 10 (10/2) FLIGHT FROM LISBON AIRPORT TO US**

Depart for the airport

**Based on the following hotels or similar:**
- Principe Pio Hotel, Madrid
- NH Hotel Guadalquivir, Cordoba
- Ayre Hotel, Seville
- Hotel Faro, Faro
- HF Fenix Urban Hotel, Lisbon

**Price of trip:**
- $3750, per person, double occupancy based on 20 minimum;
- $785 single supplement.

Note: If you are a single person who would like to request a roommate to avoid the single supplement, please choose that option on the registration form. **We will do our best to fulfill this request but cannot guarantee it.**

**Price Includes**

- 9 nights’ hotel accommodation 3 / 4 star hotels
- Buffet breakfasts (9) daily at hotel, 4 lunches, 6 dinners (including 1 glass wine/beer with dinners)
- Coach transportation(with A/C & WC) including road tolls and parking fees as per itinerary
- Entrances to Prado Museum, Mezquita Cordoba, Alcazar Cordoba, Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens, Seville Cathedral & Giralda, Alcazar Seville, Jeronimos Monastery & Belem Tower Lisbon
- Lecture by local University Professor
- Cookery demonstration (Madrid)
- Vineyard visit and wine tasting (Valdepeñas)
- Sherry Bodega and tasting (Jerez)
- Companhia das Lezirias state run farm (Alentejo)
- Guided tours of Madrid, Cordoba, Seville, Lisbon
- 1 Flamenco Show (Seville)
- English speaking guide to accompany group throughout (in country)
- Porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Taxes, service charges for all included services
- 2 Bottles of water per person per day on coach
- Whisper headsets for the entire tour duration

**Price Does Not Include:**

- International airfare (to be arranged through Milne Educational Tours)
- Travel insurance (required and will need to be purchased through Milne Travel)
• Personal Expenses e.g. tel call, bar bills/room service, laundry etc.
• Customary gratuities for hotel staff