



# VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

## ACROSS SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

WITH PARADORES & POUSADAS

September 15-October 1, 2019

**17 days for \$5,478 total price from Washington, DC**  
(\$4,795 air & land inclusive plus \$683 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by  
Odysseys Unlimited,  
six-time honoree  
Travel & Leisure's World's  
Best Tour Operators award.

**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

# VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

## Dear VMFA Members,

Join VMFA on an unforgettable 17-day journey replete with majestic cathedrals, lush and varied natural scenery, spectacular artwork, and the sumptuous wine and cuisine of Spain and Portugal. In a small group, we discover the charm, romance, and enduring traditions of northern Portugal and Spain, staying in intimate, historic *paradores* and *pousadas*.

Our travels begin in Europe's second-oldest capital, Lisbon, and continue to the birthplace of port wine, Oporto. Crossing into northern Spain, we visit beautiful Santiago de Compostela, the last stop on the renowned Way of St. James pilgrimage route. From there, we continue through "Green Spain" to elegant Santander and historic León, revitalized Bilbao, and the storied Basque Country. After absorbing the Pyrenees' scenery, we conclude our explorations in vibrant Barcelona. For those who wish to extend their stay in Barcelona, an optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension is available. Registration is underway.

Space on this program is limited to 24 VMFA members. We expect it will fill quickly; your early reservations are encouraged.

Sincerely,



Adele "Hutch" Livingston  
Coordinator of Member Travel

## VMFA RESERVATION FORM: ACROSS SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) on **Across Spain and Portugal** departing **September 15, 2019**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or you may fax your reservation to 617-454-9199.**

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/We request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

**Post-Tour "Barcelona – On Your Own" Extension:** Please sign me/us up

**Please Note:** The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Across Spain and Portugal, September 15-October 1, 2019**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**  Check  American Express  Discover  MasterCard  VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

# ACROSS SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

## With Paradores & Pousadas

**17 days for \$5,478 total price from Washington, DC**  
 (\$4,795 air & land inclusive plus \$683 airline taxes and fees)

**F**ortified cities and tiny fishing villages, rugged Atlantic coastline and commanding Pyrenees peaks, iconic shrines to both religion and fine art, and intimate lodgings in historic paradores and pousadas – it all awaits on this singular small group journey from Lisbon across the north of Spain, ending in vibrant Barcelona.



**Day 1: Depart U.S. for Lisbon, Portugal**

**Day 2: Arrive Lisbon** We arrive in the Portuguese capital and transfer to our hotel. As guests' arrival times vary, we have no group activities planned during the day. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner. *D*

**Day 3: Lisbon** A morning tour introduces us to the city on the River Tagus; the afternoon is free for independent exploration. *B*

**Day 4: Lisbon/Oporto** Leaving Lisbon we head north, stopping in the small fortified town of Obidos and in the seaside village of Nazare. Mid-afternoon we reach our *pousada* in lovely Oporto, Portugal's second largest city and a UNESCO site. *B,D*

**Day 5: Oporto** Highlights of our city tour include colorful Bolhao Market, the historic city center, Baroque Clerigos Church, and the sophisticated Foz oceanfront district. We enjoy an hour-long cruise on the Douro River. Our tour ends with a visit to a port lodge for a tasting of the fortified wine exclusive to the region. *B,D*

**Day 6: Oporto/Santiago de Compostela, Spain** En route to Santiago, we stop in the old Galician town of Pontevedra. We continue on to Santiago, capital of Spain's northwest Galicia region, arriving mid-afternoon at our *parador*, where we dine tonight. *B,D*

**Day 7: Santiago de Compostela** Last stop on the celebrated pilgrimage route of the Way of St. James (*Camino de Santiago*) and presumed repository of the remains of St. James the Apostle, Santiago de Compostela also ranks among Spain's most beautiful and visited cities. We discover this important cultural and educational capital on today's tour, featuring the Cathedral housing the silver crypt believed to hold the remains of St. James. From here we enter Plaza de Obradoiro, the monumental square surrounded by Santiago's most important buildings. This afternoon is free for independent exploration in this eminently walkable and lovely UNESCO World Heritage city with historic buildings lining its winding, narrow streets. *B,D*

### Small Group Tour Highlights

Lisbon touring • Douro River cruise and port wine tasting  
 • Pilgrimage site of Santiago de Compostela • Stops along religious route of Way of St. James • Bilbao's Guggenheim and Fine Arts museums • Full-day excursion along rugged, beautiful Basque coastline • Two nights in Pyrenees Mountains region • Three-night stay in vibrant Barcelona • Barcelona touring • Unique itinerary through Northern Spain • Stays in distinguished historic lodgings

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Lisbon		
2-3	Lisbon	Corinthia Hotel Lisbon	Deluxe
4-5	Oporto	Pousada do Porto	First Class
6-7	Santiago de Compostela	Parador de Santiago de Compostela	First Class
8	León	Hotel Conde Luna	First Class
9-11	Bilbao	Melia Bilbao	Sup. First Class
12-13	Bielsa	Parador de Bielsa	First Class
14-16	Barcelona	Hotel Avenida Palace	Sup. First Class
17	Depart Barcelona for U.S.		

*Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.*

Cover photo: On Day 7 we visit Santiago's 11<sup>th</sup>-century cathedral.



*We spend two nights in the rural Pyrenees.*

**Day 8: Santiago/León** Leaving Santiago this morning, we travel east to vibrant León, another stop on the Way of St. James pilgrimage route and known for its religious festivals and Easter Week processions. Upon arrival, we encounter the city's impressive historical and architectural heritage as we visit the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Leon Cathedral, one of Spain's most beautiful with its sculpture-covered façade and impressive stained glass windows; and Casa Botines, a Modernist structure by architect Antoni Gaudí. We reach our hotel early this evening and dine there tonight. *B,D*

**Day 9: León/Bilbao** Today we stop in the elegant port city and Cantabrian capital of Santander for a tour and lunch. Then we travel on to Bilbao, the industrial port city almost magically transformed by the construction of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in 1997. *B,L*

**Day 10: Bilbao** This morning's tour begins in Bilbao's medieval Old City, with a charming mix of narrow cobblestone streets and inviting squares. We see the Catedral de Santiago (c. 1379), once a stop on the pilgrimage route; monumental Plaza Nueva; and busy seaside La Ribera market. Then we take a guided tour of the Guggenheim and its contemporary art collection. Designed by architect Frank Gehry, the jaw-dropping structure of limestone, titanium, and glass has drawn acclaim, attention, and visitors to this popular, revitalized city. Our last stop is Bilbao's Fine Arts Museum, with a rich collection of Spanish and Basque artworks. *B,D*

**Day 11: Bilbao/Basque Country** A day-long excursion begins with a poignant stop: Gernika (Guernica), heart of the Basque region and the town razed by Nazi bombing in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War that was immortalized in the namesake

painting by Picasso. Then we pass through a countryside historically home to the Basque people of Spain's Atlantic Coast and western Pyrenees. At the seaside village of Bakio, we follow a coastal road of wild beauty to the islet of San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, with its hermitage to St. John the Baptist. We stop in the key fishing town of Bermeo then continue on to the medieval fishing village of Mundaka, where we enjoy magnificent views of the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve of streams and a salt marsh surrounded by sheer cliffs. *B,L*

**Day 12: Bilbao/Pamplona/Bielsa** We travel today to the Pyrenees town of Bielsa, stopping en route in famed Pamplona, known for its annual Running of the Bulls tradition. *B,D*

## Post-Tour Extension

October 1-3, 2019

### BARCELONA – ON YOUR OWN

3 days/2 nights  
for \$395 total price

Single Supplement: \$255

*Discover more of this lively,  
spirited city.*

### Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Hotel Avenida Palace (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

“TRAVEL IS COMPOST  
FOR THE MIND.”

– MARTHA GELLHORN

**Day 13: Bielsa** Fresh mountain air and stunning scenery are on tap as we visit Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Touring by coach and on foot, we see the limestone Pyrenees chain, its lush valleys dotted with clear blue streams and beech, fir, and pine trees. *B,D*

**Day 14: Bielsa/Barcelona** We travel today by coach to the world-class city of Barcelona, arriving mid-afternoon. After a brief orientation walking tour, we are free for dinner on our own in this most gastronomic of cities. *B*

**Day 15: Barcelona** This morning’s city tour features Barri Gòtic (Gothic Quarter), a maze of medieval



Lisbon’s Belem Tower

streets; and Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian mall that attracts locals and visitors alike, day and night. We pay homage to Barcelona’s native son, flamboyant artist Antoni Gaudí, visiting his fanciful Parc Guell and the landmark Sagrada Família, his surreal – and unfinished – cathedral. Following a *tapas* lunch, the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. *B,L*

**Day 16: Barcelona** Our Gaudí tour continues this morning at Casa Mila, whose curving stone face inspired the nickname “La Pedrera” (stone quarry). Now housing a cultural center, Casa Mila is a UNESCO site. This afternoon is at leisure; tonight we bid *¡adiós!* to Spain, and to our fellow travelers, at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

**Day 17: Depart for U.S.** We transfer to the airport this morning for our connecting flights to the U.S. *B*

## Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 15 nights’ accommodations: 9 nights in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels; 6 nights in First Class *paradores* and *pousadas*
- 28 meals: 15 breakfasts; 3 lunches; 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



We visit Bilbao’s iconic Guggenheim Museum.

## Tour Departs: September 15, 2019

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York	\$5,278
Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$5,478
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Tampa	\$5,578
Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,678
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,495

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$683, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,395. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,595 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,495 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade prices are in addition to the costs above.

**Please note: This trip involves considerable walking up hills or stairs, and on uneven or cobblestone streets. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.**

**For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765**

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

**For further information, contact VMFA Member Travel at**

**804-340-1519**

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

**Not Included in Tour Price:** Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

**Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes:** If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

**Responsibility** The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

**Health and Medical Issues** We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and VMFA assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

**Air Transportation – Important Information:** Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in.** Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



VMFA Member Travel  
200 N. Boulevard  
Richmond, VA 23220-4007

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JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE VMFA  
TOUR TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL!

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