



# **INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND MOROCCO 2019 TOUR**

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## **Day One | Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

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Meet the group tonight at 6:30pm for your welcome dinner at your hotel in Madrid, Spain.

*Accommodation | Hotel Ganivet*

## **Day Two | Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

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This morning after breakfast there will be a half day sightseeing in Madrid.

As Spain's central capital, Madrid is a city of elegant boulevards and expansive, manicured parks such as the Buen Retiro. It is renowned for its rich repositories of European art, including the Prado Museum's works by Goya, Velázquez and other Spanish masters. The heart of old Hapsburg Madrid is the portico-lined Plaza Mayor, and nearby is the baroque Royal Palace and Armory, displaying historic weaponry.

Your afternoon is free.

## **Day Three | Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

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Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure.

## **Day Four | Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

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This morning you will meet your Spanish police colleagues and have the opportunity to discuss and compare their methods of dealing with major crime and issues such as terrorism.

Your afternoon and evening are free.

## **Day Five | Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

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Depart Madrid mid-morning for the short drive to Salamanca. Salamanca, in north-western Spain, is the capital of Salamanca province, part of the Castile and León region. With a history dating back to the Celtic era, it is known for its ornate sandstone architecture and for the Universidad de Salamanca. Founded in the 1100s and a key intellectual centre in the 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the university continues to add to the city's vibrancy with its international student population.

There will be time to walk around this city and have lunch, before continuing on and crossing the border into Portugal and the city of Coimbra.

Coimbra, a riverfront city in central Portugal and the country's former capital, is home to a preserved medieval old town and the historic University of Coimbra. Built on the grounds of a former palace, the university is famed for its baroque library, the Biblioteca Joanina, and its 18<sup>th</sup> century bell tower. In the city's old town lies the 12<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque cathedral Se` Velha.

Accommodation | Tivoli Coimbra Geral

## **Day Six | Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

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This morning after breakfast we head for Lisbon capital city of Portugal. En route will stop in the famous town Fatima.

In the summer of 1916, Lucia dos Santos, the youngest of a family of seven children, began shepherding her family's flock along with three of her friends, Teresa Matias and her sister Maria Rosa, and Maria Justino. During this time, an angelic figure appeared before the girls three different times as they were praying the rosary in the fields, but did not speak to them. Lucia's mother dismissed the incident as "childish nonsense".

You will now see hundreds of pilgrims who come here to pray and ask to be healed from various ailments from Our Lady of Fatima.

Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in the world, and the oldest in Western Europe, predating other modern European capitals such as London, Paris and Rome by centuries. Julius Caesar made it a municipium called Felicitas Julia, adding to the name Olissipo. Ruled by a series of Germanic tribes from the 5<sup>th</sup> century, it was captured by the Moors in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. In 1147, the Crusaders under Afonso Henriques reconquered the city and since then it has been a major political, economic and cultural centre of Portugal. Unlike most capital cities, Lisbon's status as the capital of Portugal has never been granted or confirmed officially – by statute or in written form. Its position as the capital has formed through constitutional convention, making its position as de facto capital a part of the Constitution of Portugal.

Accommodation | Holiday Inn Express Av Liberdade

### **Day Seven | Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

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This morning after breakfast there will be a sightseeing tour of this famous city.

### **Day Eight | Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

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Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure

### **Day Nine | Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

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Depart Lisbon today – firstly stopping in Sintra and then continuing on to Evora, where you will stay for the next two nights.

Sintra is a resort town in the foothills of Portugal's Sintra Mountains, near Lisbon. A long-time royal sanctuary, its forested terrain is studded with pastel coloured villas and palaces. The Moorish and Manueline style Sintra National Palace is distinguished by dramatic twin chimneys and elaborate tilework. The hilltop 19th century Pena National Palace is known for a whimsical design and sweeping views.

Accommodation | Hotel Dom Fernando

### **Day Ten | Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

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Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure.

### **Day Eleven | Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

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Depart Evora this morning for the drive to Seville.

Seville is the capital of southern Spain's Andalusia region. It's famous for flamenco dancing, particularly in its Triana neighbourhood. Major landmarks include the ornate Alcázar castle complex, built during the Moorish Almohad dynasty, and the 18th-century Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza bullring.

The Gothic Seville Cathedral is the site of Christopher Columbus's tomb and a minaret turned bell tower, the Giralda.

Accommodation | Hotel Don Paco

## **Day Twelve | Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

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Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure.

## **Day Thirteen | Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

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Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure.

## **Day Fourteen | Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

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Farewell Seville this morning as you head west to Granada.

Granada is a city in southern Spain's Andalusia region, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. It's known for grand examples of medieval architecture dating to the Moorish occupation, especially the Alhambra. This sprawling hilltop fortress complex encompasses royal palaces, serene patios, and reflecting pools from the Nasrid dynasty, as well as the fountains and orchards of the Generalife gardens.

Afternoon at leisure.

Accommodation: Hotel Carmen Barcelo

## **Day Fifteen | Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

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This morning after breakfast you will meet your guide for a morning of sightseeing and the spectacular Alhambra will be on the agenda.

Afternoon is free.

## **Day Sixteen | Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure.

## **Day Seventeen | Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Farewell Granada this morning as we head southwest to Gibraltar. Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory and headland, on Spain's south coast. It is dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar, a 426-metre-high limestone ridge. First settled by the Moors in the Middle Ages and later ruled by Spain, the outpost was ceded to the British in 1713. Layers of fortifications include the remains of a 14<sup>th</sup> century Moorish castle and the 18<sup>th</sup> century Great Siege Tunnels, which were expanded in WWII.

Arriving there before lunch time, you will have time to explore the city and of course, "do the Rock".

*Accommodation | Aura Hotel Algeciras*

## **Day Eighteen | Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Departing Gibraltar (Algerias) today by ferry, you will cruise the Mediterranean Sea to Morocco and the city of Tangier.

Guarding the Strait of Gibraltar, Tangier has for centuries been Europe's gateway to Africa. Its blend of cultures and influences is unique in Morocco – for much of its history it wasn't even governed by Morocco.

Tangier has always carried a slightly seedy allure, in part due to its time as a semi-independent international zone that attracted eccentric foreigners, artists and spies.

Contemporary Tangier could hardly be more different. Investment has flowed in and the white city gleams with an air of confidence. The corniche bustles, entrepreneurs in the new business district have replaced the hustlers, and a new marina is under construction, along with the new TGV train line to Casablanca. Tangier's cultural life is buzzing in a way it hasn't done since the 1950s.

*Accommodation | El Minzah Hotel*

## **Day Nineteen | Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

This morning after breakfast you will meet your guide for a morning sightseeing tour of this amazing city.

This afternoon we will depart for Chefchaouen.

Chefchaouen is situated in the Rif Mountains. It is known for the striking, blue washed buildings in the old town, with leather and weaving workshops lining its steep and cobbled lanes.

*Accommodation | Casa Hassan Chefchaouen Hotel*

## **Day Twenty | Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

This morning there will be a half day city tour. We will walk to the Kasbah then into the cobbled main square, Plaza Uta el Hamman. The 15<sup>th</sup> century grand mosque has a distinctive octagonal minaret and the town offers handicrafts not available anywhere else.

Your afternoon is free.

## **Day Twenty One | Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Depart this morning for Fes, with stops en-route at Bellota Village perched on a hill overlooking green, lush valleys – then to Volubilis and Meknes.

Volubilis is the largest of the Roman colonies established in Morocco between the 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD. You will have a comprehensive tour of this World Heritage site.

Meknes is an imperial city which served as the capital of Morocco in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century for the Sultan Moulay Ismail. Despite his reputation as a ruthless warrior, the Sultan was also a builder and during his 65 year reign he developed Meknes into a majestic capital with more than 50 palaces and 15 miles of exterior walls. Meknes is a World Heritage site and you will have a comprehensive tour of the city's highlights.

*Accommodation | Riad Maison Bleue Fes*

## **Day Twenty Two | Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

After breakfast you will have a full day tour of Fes. This is the oldest city in Morocco, founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, it is said to be the most complete medieval city of the Arab world. It has preserved all its medieval aspects and way of life.

You will go for a guided tour inside Fes el Bali (old Fes), through food and spice markets, handcraft quarters, auction squares and colourful stores. You will see the local communal bakeries, artisan workshops, historical fountains, mosques and sanctuaries. You will also see the traditional weavers and the famous tanneries. You will go inside the 14<sup>th</sup> century Medersa to admire its intricate architecture and will also see the University of al-Qarawlyyin – the oldest university in history, founded in 857.

## **Day Twenty Three | Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure.

## **Day Twenty Four | Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

This morning after breakfast you will head to Merzouga via the Middle Atlas Mountains and on to Erfoud.

Travelling south across the fertile plains beyond Fez and into the Atlas Mountains, you will discover a totally different landscape than what you have seen so far. You will stop in a cedar forest and the Swiss-looking town of Ifrane, which is next to a modern ski resort. The road continues via Azrou, a typical Berber town which is closer to the forest home of the Barbary apes.

Stopping for a break in the town of Midelt situated at over 5000 feet between the High Atlas and Middle Atlas Mountains, you will have the opportunity to see this amazing landscape.

There will be picture stops along the magnificent gorges of the Ziz Valley and you will pass sky-scraping palm trees and mud-made fortified villages before reaching our Kasbah-style hotel in Erfoud this afternoon.

*Accommodation* | The Kasbah Chergui Hotel

## **Day Twenty Five | Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

Today you will start your discovery of some of the Moroccan Sahara Desert. You will drive south to the town of Rissani, built over the remains of the legendary caravan city known as Sijilmasa. Once a commercial point in the Trans-Sahara trade routes, Sijilmasa was like a harbour in an ocean of sand. Today the ruins of the medieval city lay protected by the World Heritage Monuments Fund. You will visit some of the Ksars, old earth-made fortified villages where local communities still live.

This afternoon you will take 4x4 cars to be driven into the desert lands to the sand dunes of Merzouga, where you will set out on a camel ride over the beautiful high sand dunes of the Sahara Desert. In this enormous silence you will watch the sun set of the desert as you ride your camels towards your camp site.

Your desert camp staff will welcome you for a unique experience in the emptiness of the Moroccan Sahara Desert.

*Accommodation* | The Gold Sand Camp

## **Day Twenty Six | Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Wake up early to enjoy the scene of the sun rising over the sand dunes, before having breakfast and leaving the Sahara Desert towards Ouarzazate.

Your drive will take you across a series of luxuriant oases, where you will see the remains of medieval Khetarra irrigation systems as well as local agricultural activities. You will stop in Tineghir, a stunning oasis at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains and then drive along a magnificent valley to the 984-foot Todra Gorge, home to many rare species of wildlife.

In the afternoon you will begin your journey along the “Route of A Thousand Kasbahs”. This region of earth-made fortresses with elaborately decorated facades is unique to this part of south Morocco. Continuing on through the “Valley of Roses”, you will arrive in Ouarzazate.

*Accommodation* | Kenzi Azghor Hotel

## **Day Twenty Seven | Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

This morning you will start your tour with a visit to the Kasbah Taourirt which was the capital of this local dynasty in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the French Foreign Legion built their base.

## **Day Twenty Seven | Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May (Continued...)**

Continue across this spectacular barren region where major films studios have been built, before arriving into the UNESCO protected village of Ait Ben Haddou.

This amazing area has attracted many film producers who have made films and TV series such as Game of Thrones, Kingdom of Heaven, Gladiator and Babel.

This afternoon, continue on to your next stop – Marrakech.

*Accommodation | Meridian N'Fis Hotel*

## **Day Twenty Eight | Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

This morning after breakfast you will start your full day tour of Marrakech.

This city is considered one of Morocco's most cosmopolitan cities and boasts a spectacular location, surrounded by farmlands and snow-capped mountains, including the highest peak in Africa rising to 14,000 feet.

There will be so much to take in today – but as you start your walk through the ancient walled medina you will get a feel for why this city is seen by so many people. 12<sup>th</sup> century mosques, the Kasbah, the ornate Saadian necropolis – the food markets, bakeries and narrow alleyways – the Badil Palace and on to see the pulpit of the Koutoubia mosque, built in 1137 in the city of Cordoba. You will see the Jewish quarter and the historical synagogue built in 1492 by Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain.

Before your tour today has finished you will stroll the city square – the place which has made Marrakech so famous Jemaa el Fnaa, where hundreds of locals and tourists come to watch jugglers, dancers, fortune tellers, musicians and of course the amazing food stalls!

## **Day Twenty Nine | Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Today is a free day to enjoy at your own leisure.

### **Day Thirty | Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

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A relaxed start to the day before heading to Essaouria.

This short drive will take you through many small towns and large Argan forests. Argan oil is the key product of this area and you will have the opportunity to see how the oil is made and the various ways in which it is used.

\*\*There is the possibility you will see the famous “goat tree” en-route. You won’t believe your eyes.

*Accommodation | Dar Loussia Hotel*

### **Day Thirty One | Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

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This morning there will be a half day city tour where you will see the impressive fortifications, consisting of an amazing mix of Portuguese and Berber military architecture. Explore the souks and the walled harbour.

Your afternoon is free.

### **Day Thirty Two | Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

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After breakfast this morning we set off down the coast road where you will enjoy some stunning views throughout. You will arrive at Oualidia, a beautiful coastal town known for its fabulous beach and breeding oyster lagoons – then on to our final stop, the city of Casablanca.

This evening you will say good bye to your travelling companions at a farewell dinner at Rick’s Café American - the name of the establishment made famous in the movie Casablanca.

*Accommodation | Hyatt Regency Casablanca*

### **Day Thirty Three | Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

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After breakfast depart Casablanca at your own leisure.

# INCLUSIONS

All accommodation in centrally located hotels

Full breakfast each day

Sightseeing in all major cities with private guide as per itinerary

Welcome dinner in Madrid

Police activities in Madrid

Touring in air-conditioned deluxe motor coach

Ferry from Gibraltar to Tangier

Dinner in Tangier

Professional guide for entire Morocco portion of trip

Local guides in all major Morocco cities

Dinner at hotel in Erfoud

Lunch in Fez

Dinner in Marrakech

Farewell dinner at Rick's Café in Casablanca

# COST

**\$7870**