

MOROCCO & THE SOUTH

The lands on either side of the Straits of Gibraltar have blossomed and been scarred by centuries of conflict between Berber, Moorish, Jewish and Christian civilisations. *Today they are an example of tolerance and peace.*

Day 1: April 10th: MARRAKECH Our tour commences today on arrival at Marrakech International Airport. Transfer to our hotel inside the Casbah for Welcome Drinks & Dinner. **[D]**

Day 2: April 11th: MARRAKECH This morning we commence our exploration of this fascinating city, one of the four former Imperial capitals of Morocco. Outside the red or ochre walls which give the city its nickname 'the ochre city', there is a modern Western city with boulevards echoing the period of French control of Morocco. Then we explore the old city where the 12th century Koutoubia mosque's 77 metre minaret dominates the city skyline. We end at the Djemaa El Fna – the vast square in the heart of the old city. Hawkers, snake charmers, buskers... enjoy. **[B]**

Day 3: April 12th: MARRAKECH A lazy morning for further exploring or to enjoy this oasis, with the snow-capped Atlas Mountains as a backdrop. This afternoon our sightseeing tour takes us through the labyrinthine souks and medinas. Bargain for fabric and jewellery. **[B]**

Day 4: April 13th: FES Moroccan Rail is certainly the best in North Africa, and today we take our first class seats in an air-conditioned carriage for a journey from the desert landscape of Marrakech through the fertile coastal farmland, the vineyards and orchards of Meknes to another of Morocco's former imperial capitals, Fes. **[B,D]**

Day 5: April 14th: FES Fes was founded around 900AD and its medina – old city – is UNESCO heritage listed. Our sightseeing begins at the historic and beautiful Blue Gate this morning, and takes us to the very heart. Fes is considered the spiritual capital of Morocco: it has madressas – universities – that are 1,000 years old and a synagogue dating from the 17th century. **[B]**

Day 6: April 15th: FES A day to visit the souks and bargain for local leather goods and jewellery. The Medina al Bali, with many kilometres of winding pathways and thousands of shops, is one of the largest pedestrian-only urban areas on Earth. Be sure you have the hotel name written in Arabic to show to any teenager when you get lost. For a 20 dirham coin (\$2) he will escort you home to the hotel. **[B]**

Day 7: April 16th: TANGIER On Moroccan Rail again today, back through the vineyards of Meknes to the most northerly point of Morocco – Tangier, on the Straits of Gibraltar, located at the mouth of the Mediterranean. Its colourful history since its foundation by Carthage (5th century BC), makes Tangier a truly cosmopolitan port city. **[B,D]**

Day 8: April 17th: TANGIER For the first half of the 20th century Tangier was an international zone partitioned between France, Spain and Britain. It is said to have been a hangout for spies, drug runners and international intrigue, and also the original setting for Rick, Ilsa and Sam in "Casablanca".

The Hollywood moguls felt that the word Casablanca was more mellifluous (would you go to a movie called "Tangier?"). Our city sightseeing takes in the medina and the harbour. **[B]**

Day 9: April 18th: TANGIER A day in the souk for shopping and to visit the area where mosques, synagogues and churches rub shoulders happily. In the afternoon take a stroll along the sandy beach or the harbour-front or pay an art pilgrim's visit to the ruins of the Grand Hotel Vila de France, loved and painted by Delacroix and Henri Matisse. **[B]**

Day 10: April 19th: GRANADA Our intercontinental journey takes 35 minutes today on our ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar to Spain. Spain's rail system is amongst the best in Europe. We take our first journey – Algeciras to Granada, the jewel of Andalusia. **[B,D]**

Day 11: April 20th: GRANADA Andalusia was under Moorish (Muslim) control from the 8th century until the expulsion of both Moors and Jews by the Christian monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. Perhaps the greatest gift to the world from this period is the UNESCO listed Alhambra, with its inspiring Moorish architecture, beautiful squares, gardens & fountains. It is the focus of our city sightseeing today. **[B]**

Day 12: April 21st: GRANADA Today, we enjoy the magnificent Generalife Gardens. Then in the afternoon, wander the timeless streets to absorb the unique history of Granada. The Gothic Catholic cathedral containing the tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Grand Via and the Hospital Real should be included in your strolling. **[B]**

Day 13: April 22nd: SEVILLE We take the high speed ATR train today and stop for a visit of Cordoba on the way. Our city sightseeing tour to Cordoba includes the UNESCO listed historic centre of Cordoba, shaped successively by the Romans, Arabs, Jews and Christians. The Moorish Catholic cathedral was formerly and obviously, a mosque until the expulsion of the Moors in 1492. Later, our ATR delivers us to Seville. **[B,D]**

Day 14: April 23rd: SEVILLE A Moorish city, Seville was conquered by the Christian king Ferdinand III in 1248. The Moorish architecture still dominates the city. The two centuries following Columbus' voyages were the Golden Age of Seville as all trade from the Americas passed through Seville. Buildings from this era – the cathedral and the Plaza de Espana – feature in today's city sightseeing. **[B]**

Day 15: April 24th: SEVILLE We visit the Islamic Alcazar Palace this morning and the remainder of the day is free for shopping. **[B]**

Day 16: April 25th: MADRID The high speed AVE train takes us to Spain's new (since 1561) capital, Madrid. Located in the borderlands between the



OF SPAIN

historic enemies Aragon and Castille – joined with the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella – Madrid was favoured by Philip II who moved his court here. **[B,D]**

Day 17: April 26th: MADRID Our city sightseeing tour introduces us to historic palaces and glass skyscrapers, Real Madrid's soccer stadium and an active bullfighting ring. It is a sprawling city of almost 7 million, a modern European capital. **[B]**

Day 18: April 27th: MADRID One of the world's great art galleries is the Prado in Madrid. Spain controlled Italy and the Netherlands long enough to gather a magnificent collection of Flemish and Italian Renaissance art. **[B]**

Day 19: April 28th: BARCELONA Our high speed AVE train delivers us quickly to Spain's second largest city Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia. It was founded by the Romans, and has a proud spirit of independence from the rest of Spain. Catalan is the first language; Spanish the second. **[B]**

Day 20: April 29th: BARCELONA This morning's sightseeing begins with visits to the Mirador de Colon and the Placa Reial and winds up at Antoni Gaudi's unfinished masterpiece, La Sagrada Família cathedral. **[B]**

Day 21: April 30th: BARCELONA Barcelona lends itself to aimless wandering and people watching, and La Rambla ranks with Paris' Champs Elysees as the best place in Europe to do it. Later, take the funicular to the top of Montjuïc for a fine view of Barcelona and its harbour. Farewell Dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

Day 22: May 1st: FAREWELL Our tour ends after breakfast this morning. **[B]**



FACT BOX:
DURATION: 22 DAYS
DEPARTURE:
 APRIL 10th, 2018
\$AU 13,950 per person twin share
Single room supplement \$2,000
COST INCLUDES:
 4 star hotels with buffet breakfasts, other meals as indicated, airport transfers, all entrances & sightseeing, tips for local guides.
DEPOSIT: \$2,500 with booking, final payment 3 months before travel.

HIGHLIGHTS

EXPLORE CULTURAL CAPITALS OF MOROCCO & THE SOUTH OF SPAIN 3 NIGHTS EACH IN:

- Marrakech
- Fes
- Tangier
- Granada
- Seville
- Madrid
- Barcelona

INCLUDED DAY VISIT TO:

- Cordoba

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First class rail travel in reserved seats
- Quality 4 star city centre hotels with buffet breakfasts
- 7 dinners
- Full luggage handling
- Local expert guides
- Full time Tour Director who is the Tour Company Principal

For detailed Booking Conditions please visit www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au



BOOKING CONDITIONS

Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) is an accredited travel agent (ATAS #12982). We are members of IATA (Licence #968366100 and the Concorde Independent Agents' Network.

Costs: All costs in this brochure are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on airfares, and land transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at July 27th, 2017. Exchange rate fluctuations in the price of any service provided, beyond the control of Great Trains of Europe Tours, may be passed on to travellers, right up to the date of departure. Please note that some city taxes or bed taxes cannot be pre-paid by agents, and must be paid by the tour member at check-out.

A deposit of \$2,500 per person will guarantee a place on your chosen tour (unless already filled, in which case you will be advised of your place on the waiting list. With a maximum tour size of 25 travellers, tours often fill early).

Full final payment is due 90 days before commencement of the tour. Please make payment by cheque to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" or by bank transfer as follows: Heritage Bank, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34. Great Trains of Europe Tours currently does not accept payment by credit card.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation at any time after the deposit is paid will result in the forfeiture of the deposit. Any booking cancelled between 90 days and 45 days before departure will incur a 50% cancellation charge on land content and up to 100% on airfares, depending on the airfare used. Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge. Travel insurance will cover cancellation because of illness, death in the family etc. Travel insurance is therefore considered mandatory.

Travel Insurance: A condition of joining a Great Trains of Europe tour is either the purchase of travel insurance through Great Trains of Europe Tours, or documentary evidence of a sufficient level of travel insurance purchased elsewhere.

European Rail Travel: The standard of rail travel in Europe ranges from small and basic local trains to luxury High Speed International trains. On rare occasions European rail companies may change timetables, classes of travel available or rolling stock within the period of validity of a travel brochure. Descriptions of trains & routes provided in this brochure are accurate at the time of printing and provided in good faith. It is not possible to request rail seating either facing or with back to the direction of travel. Many European trains change direction during a journey.

Baggage allowance: Porterage of one suitcase per person is included in tour cost.

Coaches: When itineraries take us away from rail routes and coaches must be used, a seating rotation system applies.

Hotels: European hotel rooms – even in 4 or 5 star hotels – are often smaller than in Australian hotels. Single rooms, particularly, can be very small. Should a traveller who has requested a single room wish to have a quote for the cost of single occupancy of a double room, please ask. Tea and coffee making facilities are rare in European hotels, as are in-room security safes. In some European countries, government environmental agencies restrict the use of air-conditioning in hotels to the summer months.

Travellers sharing a room on a twin share basis will be asked their preferences re a double bed or twin beds, but no guarantee can be given that your request will be met. Hotel star ratings, where provided, are those of the country in which the hotel is situated, and vary from country to country.

Other Important Advice: All tours will proceed if a minimum of 12 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure. In the highly unlikely (unprecedented) event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be offered either (i) a full refund of all monies paid, (ii) a modified cost structure for a smaller group, or

(iii) a place on an alternative Great Trains of Europe Tour. Each tour is sold as a package and there can be no refund for any element of the tour (eg. a meal or an excursion) not utilised by the traveller by her / his own choice. Tour costs have built into them the costs associated with researching tours, communicating with overseas suppliers, brochure preparation and marketing. Great Trains of Europe Tours does not claim or imply that some of the inclusions in our tours may or may not be available at a lower price direct from the overseas supplier. Travellers are reminded, however, that purchases made direct with overseas suppliers are generally not covered by Australian Travel Agents licensing protections or the Australian Travel Compensation Fund. Most photographs used in this brochure were taken by the Tour Leader on past tours, but some have been provided by hotels, rail companies or Tourism Boards. Photographs are indicative only and we cannot guarantee that a traveller on a Great Trains of Europe tour will personally see all of the places depicted in them.

Great Trains of Europe Tours reserves the right to decline any reservation or booking request, and may at the Tour Directors discretion terminate any person's involvement in the tour due to disruptive or anti-social behaviour.

Great Trains of Europe Tours does not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or other events which are beyond our direct control such as, but not limited to war, terrorism, civil disturbance, industrial action, acts of government or of God, or mechanical failure such as aircraft, trains or coaches.

Great Trains of Europe Tours cannot be held responsible for changes to provision of services by local European suppliers, but we will do all in our power to provide an alternative service of equal standard to that advertised, or make a cash refund of the difference on the spot.

Contract: The contract between the traveller and Great Trains of Europe Tours, entered into by your signing the Booking form, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

"Life is a collection of experiences. Let Stan be your guide"

Noel and Alwynne Towler, Brisbane

(8 time tour members on the Great Trains of Europe Tours)



P: 0488 423 848

E: greattrains@bigpond.com

PO Box 4553 TOOWOOMBA EAST 4350, Qld AUSTRALIA

W: www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au

ABN 75 325 010 987 ATAS # A12982 IATA # 96 8 36610



Great Trains of Europe Tours **BOOKING FORM**

One form per person, please.

Tour Name: _____ Departure Date: _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

Full name (as in passport): _____

Address: _____

Passport No: _____ Date of Issue: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

MEDICAL / DIET

Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?

YES NO If you answered YES, please outline briefly: _____

Are you able to walk 500 metres and climb 25 stairs without assistance? YES NO

NEXT OF KIN {to be contacted in event of an emergency}

Name: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____ Mobile: _____

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please provide me with travel insurance. I have a pre-existing medical condition.

{NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance}

I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin, sharing with _____

Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.

Single Room Single occupancy of double sized room {surcharge} Non-smoking Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

Pre-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

Post-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

FLIGHTS

I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. or I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD

I enclose a cheque, payable to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" for \$ _____ or

I have deposited \$ _____ in the "Great Trains of Europe Tours" account at Heritage Bank, 400 Ruthven St, Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows.

BSB 638 – 060 Account Number 11109734 Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature _____ Date _____



www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au

Phone 0488 423 848 Fax 07 4613 4728

Email greattrains@bigpond.com

Postal PO Box 4553 TOOWOOMBA EAST 4350, AUSTRALIA

ABN 75 325 010 987 Travel Licence # 3217475 IATA # 96836610