

GREAT TRAINS OF EUROPE  
*Tours*

# MOROCCO & THE SOUTH OF SPAIN

*March/April* 2021 & 2022

Travel 1st Class on the Great Trains of Morocco & Spain  
• All stops 3 nights • Quality 4 star hotels • Fully escorted by Australian historian



# MOROCCO & THE SOUTH OF SPAIN



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: MARRAKECH** Our tour commences today on arrival at Marrakech International Airport. Transfer to our hotel inside the Casbah. Welcome drinks and dinner in the hotel. **[D]**.

**DAY 2: 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: MARRAKECH** A day trip through olive and Argan groves today to the Atlantic coast and the harbour town of Essaouira, with its 17th century Portuguese fort. The old medina is a UNESCO listed world heritage site. **[B]**

**DAY 4: 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: 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. Fes is considered the spiritual capital of Morocco: it has madressas - universities – that are a thousand years old, and a synagogue dating from the 17th century. **[B]**

**DAY 6: 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 (not if) you get lost. For a 20 dirham coin (\$2) he will escort you home to the hotel. **[B]**

**DAY 7: 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. Its location at the mouth of the Mediterranean and its colourful history since its foundation by Carthage in the 5th century BC, make Tangier a truly cosmopolitan port city. **[B,D]**

**DAY 8: 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 and 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]**

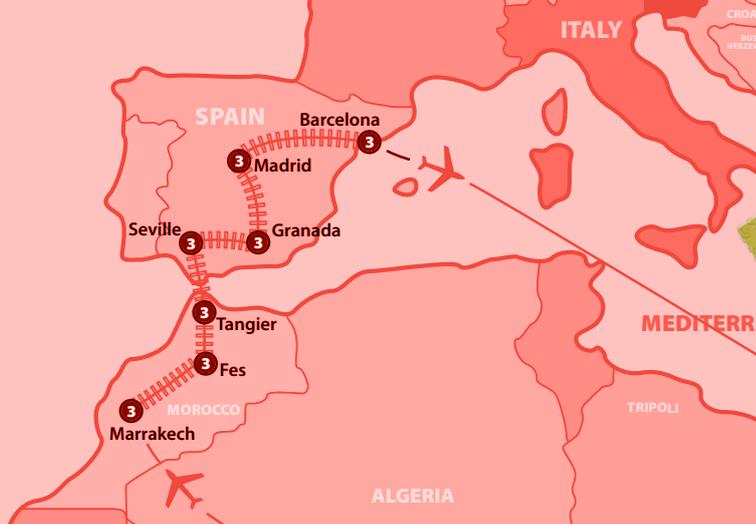
**DAY 9: TANGIER** A visit today to one of Morocco's true gems: the blue city of Chefchaouen, a Berber stronghold high in the Rif Mountains, founded by Moorish exiles from Spain in the 1490's. Enjoy lunch or coffee in the tranquil main square. Back to Tangier this evening. **[B]**

**DAY 10: SEVILLE** Our intercontinental journey takes 35 minutes today on our ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar to Spain. We arrive in the historic city of Seville (probably the setting for more operas than any other city). **[B,D]**

**DAY 11: SEVILLE** A Moorish city, Seville was conquered by the Catholic 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 the city. Buildings from this era – the cathedral and the Plaza de Espana – feature in today's city sightseeing. **[B]**

**DAY 12: SEVILLE** We visit the Islamic Alcazar Palace this morning and the remainder of the day is free for shopping. **[B]**

**DAY 13: GRANADA** We take the high speed ATR train today, and stop over for a visit to Cordoba on the way to Granada. Our city sightseeing tour of Cordoba includes the UNESCO listed historic centre of Cordoba, shaped successively by the Romans, Arabs, Jews and Christians. The Moorish Catholic



**FACT BOX:**  
**DURATION:** 22 DAYS  
**DEPARTURES:**  
 April 6th, 2021  
 March 20th, 2022

**COST:** \$15,950 per person twin share, single supplement \$2,500. 4 star hotels with buffet breakfasts, other meals as indicated, airport transfers, all entrances and sightseeing, tips for local guides.

**DEPOSIT:** \$2,500 with booking, final payment 3 months before travel.



cathedral was formerly, and obviously, a mosque until the expulsion of the Moors in 1492. Later, our ATR delivers us to Granada where our luggage awaits our arrival. **[B,D]**

**DAY 14: GRANADA** Andalusia was under Moorish (Muslim) control from the 8th century until the expulsion of both Moors and Jews by the Catholic 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 and beautiful squares, gardens and fountains. It is the focus of our city sightseeing today. **[B]**

**DAY 15: 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 16: MADRID** As our luggage is taken on ahead, the high speed AVE train takes us to Spain's new (since 1561) capital, Madrid. Located in the borderlands between the historic enemies Aragon and Castille - joined with the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella - Madrid was favoured by Philip II who moved his court there. **[B,D]**

**DAY 17: 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: 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: BARCELONA** Our high speed AVE train delivers us quickly to Spain's second largest city Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, where our luggage awaits. 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: BARCELONA** This morning's sightseeing begins with visits to the Mirador de Colon and the Placa Reial and winds up at Antoni Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, La Sagrada Família cathedral. **[B]**

**DAY 21: 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 harbor. Farewell Dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

**DAY 22: FAREWELL** Our tour ends after breakfast this morning. **[B]**

## HIGHLIGHTS

**EXPLORE THE CULTURAL CAPITALS OF MOROCCO AND THE SOUTH OF SPAIN WITH 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 Leader who is the Tour Company Principal



*Stan Klan*

Your Tour Director is Mr Stan Klan of Toowoomba, Qld, a published Australian historian and the Principal of Great Trains of Europe Tours. Stan has more than 30 years' experience in history teaching and tour guiding.

# BOOKING CONDITIONS



**TOUR OPERATOR:** Great Trains of Europe Tours (ABN 75 325 010 987) is an ATAS accredited Travel Agent (#A12982). We are members of IATA (Licence #96836610).

**COSTS:** Costs are expressed in Australian dollars and are based on and transport and accommodation costs, and Australian dollar exchange rates effective as at January 4th 2020.

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.

A deposit of \$2,500 per person will guarantee a place (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

BSB 638-060 Account Number 111 097 34

Payment by credit card attracts a 1.5% surcharge.

**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.

Bookings cancelled within 45 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge.

**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.

**BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE:** A baggage allowance of 20kgs per person applies to all tour members.

**HOTELS:** 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:** The tour will proceed if a minimum of 15 travellers have paid deposits by 90 days before scheduled departure. In the highly unlikely event that there are insufficient travellers for a tour, you will be given a choice of (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.

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.

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

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Queensland AUSTRALIA 4350**



**[www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au](http://www.greattrainsofeurope.com.au)**

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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