
GEEO ITINERARY

Spain, Portugal, and Morocco with Bill Howe

Day 1: Madrid Arrive in Madrid at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The nearest airport is Madrid's **Adolfo Suarez-Barajas Airport (MAD)**.

Consider arriving at least a day or two early to explore Madrid, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can arrange extra hotel nights in Madrid before the program begins.

See our optional activities list further down on this page for our suggestions on what to see in Madrid. Please note that if you plan to visit popular sites in Madrid and want to avoid waiting in line, it is best to reserve tickets in advance. For example, we highly recommend pre-booking a visit to the Prado Museum.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting

Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

Joining Instructions

Metro: Take the pink Line 8 to Nuevos Ministerios station (17-22 minutes). Transfer to Line C3 toward Aranjuez and ride to Sol station (4-5 minutes). Exit at "Carmen" and walk west on Calle del Carmen. Hotel Europa is directly across the street—approximately 1 minute from the station.

Taxi: A taxi from the airport takes approximately 20 minutes and costs around €40 EUR with no traffic. During peak hours, expect 45+ minutes and €50+ EUR.

Accommodation: Hotel Europa (*or similar*)

** To confirm the hotel that your group will be using, please reach out to us or check your service voucher.*

Day 2: Madrid/Porto Travel to Porto, with a quick stop along the way in Salamanca.

Get ready for a full travel day. During the journey from Madrid to Porto, take a quick lunch stop in charming Salamanca. Arrive in Porto by the early evening.

Approximate travel time: 2.5-3 hrs by local train, 3.5-4 hrs by private vehicle

Accommodation: Ibis Porto Centro São Bento (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Porto Enjoy an orientation walk of Porto followed by free time to explore. In the evening, visit a port wine cellar and raise a glass to the day.

Enjoy an orientation walk of Porto followed by free time to explore. Opt to take a cruise down the Douro River, head down Allies Avenue to see the French-inspired buildings, Bargain at the Bolhão Market, or wander

the city's World Heritage-listed Ribeira district. Other options include a visit to São Francisco Church, the Palácio de Bolsa, or the Clérigos Tower for a panoramic view of the city.

Finish off the day with a tour of the cellars of the region's famed export, Port wine. Learn about the art of Port making and the processes that render its rich taste. Indulge in a tasting and raise a glass to a day well spent. Saúde!

Accommodation: Ibis Porto Centro São Bento (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4: Porto/Lisbon Travel to Lisbon and get to know the area on an orientation walk, followed by free time in the afternoon and evening.

Journey to Portugal's capital city, Lisbon. Upon arrival, take in your surroundings on an orientation walk, and have the rest of your day free to explore Lisbon.

Approximate travel time: 3.5 hrs by train

Accommodation: Hotel Roma Lisbon (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5: Lisbon Enjoy a free day in Lisbon, with a Fado night and traditional Portuguese dinner in the evening.

Most of the day is free for exploration. See our optional activities section further below for our suggestions on what to do with your time. Pre-book a Lisbon Food tour with us, or opt to take a day trip to Sintra in the foothills of the surrounding mountains.

In the evening, enjoy a Fado (Portuguese folk music) performance and traditional Portuguese dinner in one of Lisbon's oldest neighborhoods.

Accommodation: Hotel Roma Lisbon (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 6: Lisbon/Évora Travel to Évora and tour the Chapel of Bones. Free time in the afternoon.

Travel from Lisbon to Évora in the heart of the Alentejo region. Enjoy a tour to the haunting but mesmerizing Capela dos Ossos, or Chapel of Bones. Built in the 1500s by a Franciscan monk, the walls of the chapel are covered with human skeletons as a *memento mori*—a reminder that life is fleeting.

With free time in the afternoon, you may opt to visit Diana's Temple, one of the best preserved Roman temples in the Iberian Peninsula.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle

Accommodation: Hotel Ibis Evora (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Évora/Seville Visit the small fishing village of Olhão before continuing to Seville for an orientation walk.

Travel to the Algarve coast to see the small fishing village of Olhão. Enjoy free time to explore its bustling fish market, active waterfront, and whitewashed alleyways. Afterward, continue to Seville and enjoy an orientation walk on arrival.

Approximate travel time: 5 hrs by private vehicle (with stops)

Accommodation: Cool Sevilla Hotel (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Seville Spend free time in Seville exploring Moorish monuments, parks, and gardens, and then enjoy a flamenco performance in the evening.

Spend a day enjoying Seville and learning about its Moorish influence.

Opt to explore the interiors and gardens of the Alcázar, a magnificent palace dating from Moorish times. (Please note that if you wish to visit the Alcázar of Seville, we recommend reserving tickets in advance.) Or visit the heart of Seville, the Santa Cruz quarter—a charming area with winding alleys, picturesque lime-washed houses, flowery patios, and small squares. Seville is also home to the world's largest gothic cathedral, where you can climb the adjoining tower for great views of the city. Other attractions include the Museo Arqueológico, the Casa de Pilates, and the Parque de María Luisa, which has a maze of paths, garden beds, fountains, and shaded lawns.

In the evening, enjoy a flamenco performance with your group. Be swept away by the flamenco's passion, fire, and grit!

Accommodation: Cool Sevilla Hotel (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9: Seville/Chefchaouen Cross from Europe to Africa by ferry and enjoy a guided tour of Tangier. Continue on to Chefchaouen for the evening.

Cross from Europe to Africa by ferry, and then spend some time in Tangier for a guided tour. With culture, cuisine, and language influences coming from North Africa, Spain, Portugal, and France, this bustling port city is a unique and fascinating melting pot. Visit the Kasbah, grand souk, petit souk, and the old medina. Marvel at the panoramic views of Gibraltar, Tarifa, and the meeting point of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

Continue to Chefchaouen for the evening. The djellaba, the traditional hooded garment worn by the men and women of North Africa, was created here. Chefchaouen is a great place to check out many of Morocco's ancient crafts, or wander around the medina's winding streets lined with blue-painted houses.

Approximate travel time: 3.5 hrs by local bus, 1 hr by ferry, 4 hrs by private vehicle

Accommodation: Puerta Azul Chefchaouen (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10: Chefchaouen Enjoy a free day in Chefchaouen to explore.

Enjoy a free day in Chefchaouen to explore the city, painted in different shades of blue. The city is spectacular on its own, but with the surrounding mountains, it's a sight to behold. Take in the view from the mountains by pre-booking the Rif Valley Mountains Hike. At sunset, opt to visit the Spanish Mosque for a stunning panoramic view of the city.

Accommodation: Puerta Azul Chefchaouen (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11: Chefchaouen/Fès After lunch, take a guided tour of the ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis before continuing on to Fès.

In Chefchaouen, enjoy a traditional Moroccan lunch at AFER Association, a G Adventures-supported organization that benefits rural women and children with disabilities. The association provides vital services, including literacy and vocational training, health services, disability assistance, and the operation of a local ambulance. AFER's training center hosts culinary programs, and each year it graduates 30 students, many of whom go on to work in the project. Through this work, AFER creates

sustainable employment, fosters community cohesion, and showcases Moroccan culture to travelers. During your visit, enjoy a traditional home-cooked Moroccan meal, featuring classic dishes such as vegetable tagine or roasted chicken with onion sauce, and meet some of the women who are part of this important community program. This experience not only supports livelihoods but also celebrates Moroccan heritage and rural resilience.

Continue to the Roman ruins of Volubilis, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and take a guided tour of the best-preserved Roman ruins in this part of Northern Africa. Peer into old bathhouses, marvel at the still-present mosaic floors, and gaze up at towering marble pillars. Hear stories about life in this Roman city that will leave you in awe of just how far their empire stretched.

After, continue to the imperial city of Fès, the heart of arts and culture in Morocco. Enjoy a brief orientation walk with your tour leader upon arrival.

Approximate travel time: 5.5 hrs by private vehicle (with stops)

Accommodation: Hotel Mounia Fes (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 12: Fès Explore the labyrinth of streets within the famous Fès medina with a local guide. Take in a view of one of the ancient tanneries from above and marvel at the myriad of colors and processes. Enjoy free time in the afternoon.

Enjoy a half-day medina walking tour, with free time in the afternoon to explore more of the city. The Fès medina is the world's largest medieval medina and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See buildings that date back to the 9th century, and some of the approximately 350 mosques in the medina that are still in use today. Explore the artisan quarters, sample treats from the carts, and view Fès's famous leather tannery from the balcony of a leather shop, where you can observe the men hard at work treating and dyeing the different hides.

Only certified local guides are allowed to act as guides in the medina, so your tour leader cannot accompany you to the medina during your free time.

Accommodation: Hotel Mounia Fes (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13: Fès/Marrakech Transfer to Marrakech via Casablanca, stopping for lunch and some time to explore.

Depart Fès for Marrakech, stopping along the way in Casablanca for lunch and some time to explore the seaside city known for its colonial and art-deco buildings. Visit the spectacular Hassan II mosque and learn more about this masterpiece with the world's tallest minaret. If you wish to experience the mosque from inside, it must be done via the guided tours that run several times a day.

Continue to Marrakech, arriving in time to start exploring the city.

Approximate travel time: 5-6 hrs by private vehicle (with stops)

Accommodation: Hotel Oudaya Marrakech (*or similar*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14: Marrakech Enjoy a medina tour with a local guide followed by free time. Opt to visit Djemaa el Fna Square in the evening to see the musicians and street performers that gather there.

Enjoy a tour of Marrakech's medina with a local guide. Head into the maze of tiny streets and alleyways of the ancient medina and shop to your heart's content. Search out spices, traditional jalabas and slippers, or the famous Moroccan lanterns. Visit the Saadian Tombs, a complex of sepulchers and

mausoleums that house the remains of Saadian Sultan Ahmed Al Mansour Ed Dahb. The tombs were sealed off until their re-discovery in 1917. Tour the grounds of the Bahia Palace, marvelling at the intricate decoration, and experience the sights and sounds of the bustling Jemaa el-Fnaa square.

You will have free time in the afternoon to explore on your own.

Opt to visit Djemaa el Fna Square in the evening to see the gathering of musicians and street performers.

Accommodation: Hotel Oudaya Marrakech (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast

Depart Marrakech at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Marrakech at any time. The nearest airport is **Marrakesh Menara Airport (RAK)**. If your departure flight is out of Casablanca, affordable transfer options include a 3.5-hour train that runs a few times a day or direct flights from Marrakech to Casablanca; [contact us](#) for more information. If you wish to extend your stay in Marrakech, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Want more adventure? Book two or more [GEEO programs](#) in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off the lesser-value program(s) (up to three programs per year).

If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, [let us know](#). We can help you find a trip from our partner tour's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any of their tours, and you would still receive GEEO's fast and attentive customer service.

Meals included: Breakfast

***Itinerary Disclaimer:** *While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*