PARADORES & POUSADAS
HISTORIC LODGINGS OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL
May 9-23, 2019

15 days for $5,178 total price from Houston
($4,495 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 Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Rice University
Dear Rice alumni, parents, and friends,

Join us on an exclusive 15-day journey to discover the best of the Iberian Peninsula. Enjoy captivating sights, excellent cuisine, and memorable experiences while traveling overland from Lisbon to Madrid. Along the way, stay in intimate lodgings of Portugal’s *pousadas* and Spain’s *paradores*: medieval monasteries, historic fortresses, and stately palaces.

Begin with an exploration of Lisbon, including iconic Belém Tower, and the National Palace of Queluz. Next, visit the Alentejo region, staying in one of Portugal’s finest *pousadas* in charming Evora – a UNESCO World Heritage site. Crossing into Spain, see Mérida, with its outstanding Roman ruins. Enjoy visits to Seville, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cordoba, and Granada’s extraordinary Alhambra and Generalife Gardens. Explore Toledo, Spain’s medieval capital, before concluding in sophisticated Madrid. For those wishing to visit Spain’s bustling cultural and commercial capital, an optional four-day/three-night post-tour Barcelona extension is available.

With space for only 24 Rice-affiliated guests in total, and over half of those already booked via pre-registrations, we expect this tour to sell out quickly. Book today and secure your place on this remarkable journey through Spain and Portugal!

Warm regards,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Programs
Office of Alumni Relations

---

**RICE UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM – PARADORES & POUSADAS**

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______ ($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Paradores & Pousadas departing May 9, 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: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls – MS 520, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892. You may also call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, e-mail travelingowls@rice.edu, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210.

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) _______________________

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 Paradores & Pousadas, May 9-23, 2019, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

Method of Payment

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Cover photo: On Day 11, we visit Granada’s Alhambra, the Moors “pearl set in emeralds.”

**Historic Lodgings of Spain & Portugal**

15 days for $5,178 total price from Houston
($4,495 air & land inclusive plus $683 airline taxes and fees)

You’re invited on a distinctive small group journey through the Iberian Peninsula to the intimate lodgings of Spain’s paradores and Portugal’s pousadas: medieval monasteries, historic fortresses, and stately palaces, each reflecting the spirit of its region. We feel the spell of Iberia’s rich Roman and Moorish past – and the pull of its vibrant contemporary life.

**Small Group Tour Highlights**

Eight nights’ accommodations in distinguished historic lodgings • National Palace of Queluz, Portugal • Lisbon sightseeing, including Belém • Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage site • Roman ruins at Mérida • Moorish Toledo • Tour of Cordoba, a UNESCO World Heritage site • Seville and its renowned Catédral • Granada’s Alhambra and Generalle Gardens • Three-night stay in sophisticated Madrid • Madrid sightseeing, including Prado, Plaza Mayor, and Royal Palace

**Day Itinerary Hotel Rating**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Itinerary</th>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Depart U.S. for Lisbon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Corinthia Hotel Lisbon</td>
<td>Deluxe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Evora</td>
<td>Pousada dos Loios</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Carmona</td>
<td>Parador de Carmona</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Ronda</td>
<td>Parador de Ronda</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Úbeda</td>
<td>Parador de Úbeda</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>Wellington Hotel</td>
<td>Deluxe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Depart Madrid for U.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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/Queluz This morning’s city tour includes the Jerónimos Monastery, a masterpiece of Manueline architecture; iconic Belém Tower; and the Monument to the Discoveries commemorating Portugal’s storied explorers. Then we visit the National Palace of Queluz, the former residence of Portuguese royalty now used for state occasions. After returning to Lisbon, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore as we wish. B

**Day 4:** Lisbon/Evora Leaving Lisbon this morning, we travel through the rolling hills of the agricultural Alentejo district, with its bountiful fields of wheat, fragrant vineyards, and stands of olive and cork trees. After stopping for lunch in the fortified hilltop town of Monsaraz (pop. 150), late afternoon we arrive in Evora, capital of the Alentejo and site of our pousada, considered Portugal’s finest. B,L,D

**Day 5:** Evora Our morning walking tour of Evora introduces us to the many charms of this architectural gem – a university town, prosperous regional capital, and UNESCO World Heritage site thanks to the many relics of its Roman and Moorish heritage. We sample Alentejo wines at a local winery and then the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy this “Golden Age” city as we wish. B,D

**Day 6:** Evora/Mérida, Spain/Carmona Today we travel east through countryside peppered with the ruins of fortresses and castles to the Spanish border town of Mérida. Once the capital of ancient Lusitania (Latin for the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal), Mérida boasts outstanding Roman ruins. There’s time to explore and eat lunch on our own before we continue on to Carmona and our parador, a restored 14th-century Arab fortress. B,D

**Day 7:** Carmona/Seville This morning we visit splendid Seville, Moorish capital of Spain’s Andalusia region and city of beauty and romance. This is the
place that inspired Carmen and Don Giovanni; where fragrant orange trees and flower-bedecked balconies delight the senses; and home of the renowned Catédral, the world's largest Gothic building. After a tour that includes the Alcázar palace and the Arab quarter, the afternoon is free to explore independently. We return to Carmona late afternoon and dine at our parador this evening. B,D

Day 8: Carmona/Cordoba Today's visit to this cultural gem promises to be special indeed. First the capital of Roman Spain, then of Moorish Spain, Cordoba features some of the country's most important monuments, including the Old Quarter built around the magnificent Mezquita mosque. It was here that the Moors ruled from the 8th to the 11th centuries and fostered a culture of learning and religious harmony known the world over. Cordoba also is home to Andalusia's only synagogue to survive the expulsion of Spain's Jews in the 15th century. After touring these and other highlights we have free time to explore on our own. Late this afternoon we return to our parador, where we dine tonight. B,D

Day 9: Carmona/Ronda Leaving Carmona this morning we travel south to tiny Ronda, one of Spain's oldest and most aristocratic towns. It's set high in the mountains with whitewashed houses clinging improbably to the edge of El Tajo Gorge – 500 feet deep and 300 feet wide. B,D

Day 10: Ronda This morning we take a walking tour of Ronda. We return to our parador, Ronda's original town hall, for a special tapas lunch, then the rest of the day is free for independent exploration. B,L

Day 11: Ronda/Granada/Úbeda Continuing our journey, we travel today to Granada, the former stronghold of Moorish Spain set in the foothills of the snowcapped Sierra Nevada. The city's undisputed highlight is the Alhambra, the extraordinary palace of Spain's last Moorish rulers. Sprawled across a hilltop above the Darro River, the Alhambra commands breathtaking views of the city below, as we see on our afternoon tour of this splendid citadel. We also visit the Granadian-style Generalife, the palace's acclaimed gardens. Late afternoon we travel north to Úbeda and our next parador, where we dine tonight. B,D

Day 12: Úbeda/Toledo/Madrid A highlight is in store today as we visit Toledo, capital of medieval

---

**Post-Tour Extension**

**May 23-26, 2019**

**Barcelona — On Your Own**

4 days/3 nights for $795 total price

Single Supplement: $355

Enjoy this bustling seaport, Spain’s cultural and commercial capital, with its medieval Gothic Quarter and popular Ramblas waterfront promenade.

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- Air transportation Madrid/Barcelona, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
- 3 nights’ accommodations at Hotel Avenida Palace (Superior First Class)
- 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
- Transfers to/from airport
Spain. Declared a Spanish National Landmark, the city is little changed visually from its 16th-century days as a subject for the artist El Greco. Toledo boasts an incomparable hilltop setting overlooking the Castillian plains and surrounded on three sides by the Tagus River. After lunch on our own we see Toledo’s most important sights on our guided tour, including the massive Gothic Cathedral begun in 1226 and not finished until 1493. Then we continue on to Madrid, arriving late afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own; perhaps to dine late as the Madrileños do. B

Day 13: Madrid Our morning tour of this monumental and dignified capital city includes vast Plaza Mayor, in the heart of Old Madrid; the Moorish medieval district; and opulent 18th-century Palacio Real (Royal Palace), with its 2,800 rooms. Then we sample some of Madrid’s specialties over a lunch of tapas. Our tour ends at the Prado, one of the world’s greatest museums, displaying treasures by Spanish masters Goya, El Greco, and Velazquez. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration in this cosmopolitan city. Well known for its “foodie” culture, Madrid offers a bounty of restaurants for dinner on our own tonight. B,L

Day 14: Madrid A free day to enjoy the Spanish capital as we wish. Tonight we bid “Adios” to Spain and our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner. B,D

Day 15: Depart for U.S. We transfer to the airport this morning for our connecting flight to the U.S. B
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 written 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 the Office of Alumni Relations and Rice University, 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 our 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. The Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, 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, the Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 assignments 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 nonrefundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., the Office of Alumni Relations, and Rice University shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.