in collaboration with **1st4Travel, UK** bring you

Spain & Morocco Apr 18th to May 4th

Seventeen Day tour of the two beautiful countries with stops at:

Madrid, Caceres, Seville, Cordoba, Granada, Toledo, and Costa Del Sol in Spain

and Casablanca, Marrakech, Rabat, Meknes, Fez and Tangier in Morocco



Tour Highlights:

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through the enchanting lands of Spain and Morocco and experience the Vibrant Tapestry of these fascinating countries. The seventeen-day adventure explores the rich history, captivating culture, and breathtaking landscapes of these mesmerizing locations. Our meticulously crafted itinerary will take you through a diverse range of destinations, ensuring an unforgettable travel experience while giving glimpses in the history of the 800 years of Islamic rule in Spain and relics of the Roman, the Gothic, and the Renaissance periods.

Marvel at Renaissance and Baroque buildings and superbly designed Parks and Plazas of **Madrid**. Admire the Cathedral, the second largest in the world, in **Seville**. Go back to the time of the Caliphate in **Cordoba** and **Granada,** see Cordoba Mosque as a remnant of that era. Witness **Toledo** where the three cultures of Christian, Islamic and Jewish co-existed for a long time. Relax on the beaches of **Costa Del Sol**.

In Morocco be enchanted with the beauty of the Imperial cities of **Marrakech**, **Meknes,** and **Fez**. Admire the ancient Monuments, Mausoleums, Castles, Mosques and Synagogues along with numerous other tourist attractions throughout Morocco. In **Casablanca**, and **Rabat** the two modern cosmopolitan cities, admire the new post-colonial architecture along with the traditional buildings and beautifully laid out avenues. Morocco is a haven for shoppers with shopping souks at ever destination.

Getting there: Our journey to Spain and Morocco will begin from one of the four US Airports: New York, Chicago, Washington DC, or Atlanta on Thursday, April 18th, 2024. We will get to Madrid, Spain on Friday 19th.

Welcome to Madrid! Upon arrival at the Madrid International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel, where you will be welcomed with a drink. After checking into the hotel, you can retire to your room to rest.

Day 3 (Sat. Apr 20) : Madrid







Today you will explore the medieval origins of Madrid with a tour of the city; see the Arabic Fortress at the Barrio de la Morería, the court of the Hapsburgs with Philip II, its Renaissance and Baroque buildings in the Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, and the Plaza de la Villa. Discover the Madrid of the Bourbons and the urban design of Charles III, the Royal Palace, the Cibeles and Neptuno Fountains, and Alcalá Gate. Admire the buildings from the 19th century such as the elegant Plaza de Oriente and Prado Museum. Get to know modern-day Madrid with the Gran vía, Paseo de la Castellana, Barrio de la Castellana, Barrio de Salamanca, Plaza de Castilla, Parque del Oeste, Las Ventas Bullring, shopping districts, and the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. The tour will make a stop along the way at the Hard Rock Café for refreshments. Spend the afternoon at leisure. Stroll through the Madrid of the Austrias and discover the most curious legends and stories. Later join your fellow travelers for an authentic Tapas Dinner at a local restaurant that will give you unforgettable memories in Madrid.

Day 4 (Sun. Apr 21): Caceres



After an early breakfast, and checking out of the hotel, you will depart for Caceres, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to the city's fascinating blend of Roman, Islamic, Northern Gothic, and Italian Renaissance architecture. Considered by many as the most beautiful city in Spain. You will walk through the Plaza Mayor and explore the Old Town with its famous Medieval Quarter. Afterwards, continue your journey to Cordoba, where we will spend the night.

Day 5 (Mon. Apr 22): Cordoba



After breakfast, you will head on a tour of Cordoba, once the capital of the Caliphate. You will visit the very impressive Cordoba Mosque (entrance included), which has been converted into a Cathedral, and other sites that will ease your mind and spirit as you stroll through the winding streets of the Jewish Quarter. In the afternoon, after a short two-hour ride, you will reach Seville. Where you will check into a hotel for overnight stay.

Day 6 (Tue. Apr 23): Seville



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. From there, you will head on a morning panoramic city tour visiting the exterior of the Cathedral (the second largest in the Catholic world after St. Peters in Rome), the Santa Cruz Quarter (a natural scenario of "Carmen" and precisely where the myth of "Don Juan" developed), Maria Luisa Park, and Plaza de Espana. Enjoy the afternoon on a one-hour boat ride on the Guadalquivir, the mythical and legendary river and the only navigable one in Spain. From the boat, we may see Seville, with its elegant bridges such as San Tecmo or Triana, the Giralda, the Bullring, the popular neighbourhood of Triana, or the towers of the Plaza de Espana. You may also discover Seville more avant-garde, reflected in the constructions made on Expo 92, such as the modern bridges of the Cartuja and the Alamillo, the most emblematic pavilions of the Island of the Cartuja or the Theater of the Maestranza. In the evening we will return to our hotel for overnight stay.

Day 7 (Wed. Apr 24): Ronda



In the morning enjoy breakfast and drive south as you pass several traditional and scenic villages in the region. Arrive in the historic mountaintop city of Ronda, where you will get some free time to explore this town of Celtic origin and discover the marvelous view of the valley and mountain range. We continue our journey with an authentic Olive Oil Experience at a local Almazara, LA Organic. Walk through their olive tree fields and taste their organic olive oil production. In the afternoon you will continue to the Costa del Sol on the Mediterranean Coast in Spain where you will spend a night in the hotel.

Day 8 (Thur. Apr 25): Tarifa -Strait of Gibraltar-Tangier



In the morning you will drive along the picturesque tourist route of the Costa del Sol. Arrive in Tarifa where a ferry boat will be used for a short and fascinating crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar towards Africa. Upon arriving in Tangier, you will disembark the boat, clear customs, and drive south to Casablanca. Spend some time at leisure before reaching your hotel for overnight stay. Enjoy your dinner.

Day 9 (Fri. Apr 26): Casablanca



Casablanca, the city made famous by a Hollywood movie, is the current industrial and economic capital of Morocco, and the most populated city housing 10% of the country's population. After breakfast at the hotel, you will embark on a panoramic city tour passing through the most fascinating sections of the city such as the Anfa Boulevard, United Nations Square, residential areas, and the Hassan II Grand Mosque, (entrance included). Afternoon is free to rest or shop at the souks. In the evening you will have dinner at a local restaurant, after which you will return to your hotel.

Day 10 (Sat. Apr 27): Marrakech



After breakfast at the hotel, you will board the bus and depart towards Marrakech. Marrakech is the capital of the South, located within an extensive oasis between the Atlas Mountains and the pre-desert area. Enjoy city sightseeing with a visit to the Koutoubia Tower, twin tower of the Giralda in Seville, Saadien's Tombs, and Bahia Palace. Walk around the medina and souks

and experience the magic of Jma El Fna Square, which is packed with fortune tellers, snake tamers, acrobats, and dancers, which make the center of the city an open-air theatre that requires the participation of the audience. Do not forget to bring your camera! Later in the evening you will enjoy your dinner and retire for the night at a hotel.

Day 11 (Sun. Apr 28): Rabat - Meknes



In the morning you will depart early for Rabat, the capital of Morocco. In this fascinating city, you will discover the exterior of the Royal Palace, the Mohamed V Mausoleum, and the Hassan Tower. Continue your journey to the Imperial City of Meknes, where you will visit the Walls of Bab El Mansour and the Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail. From there you will arrive in Fez and enjoy your dinner and check into a hotel for overnight stay.

Day 12 (Mon. Apr 29): Fez



Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Head on an early morning city tour to discover the most ancient and monumental of the Imperial Cities as you visit the most fascinating points: the 7 Gates of the Royal Palace, the Jewish Quarters or Mellah, and the Gate of Bab Bou Jealous. Head on a walking tour of the “Medina” (Old City), declared a World Heritage Site. In the afternoon you will be free to explore the city on your own. In the evening you will dine at a local restaurant before going back to the hotel.

Day 13 (Tue. Apr 30): Journey back to Spain

After breakfast at the hotel, you will depart for Tangier. Here, you will get transferred to the pier to board the ferry. Head back across the Strait of Gibraltar as you reach Spain. From there you will drive towards the Costa del Sol.
Overnight in Costa Del Sol.

Day 14 (Thur. May 1): Costa del Sol



Costa del Sol means “Coast of the Sun” in Spanish. It is a long stretch of Mediterranean Coastline on the Southern Tip of Spain. It has long been a haven for beach bums. The soft sand, sun and the turquoise water is a perfect combination that has made Costa del Sol one of the most popular beach resorts in the world. Today you have a free day to spend as you like. We will spend another night in the hotel.

Day 15 (Fri. May 2): Granada



After a delicious breakfast, you will depart for the city of Granada to explore the fascinating monumental environment of the last stronghold of the Moorish Kingdoms up until 1492. Visit the world-famous Alhambra complex and Generalife Gardens which have inspired many authors with their sound and sights, such as the "Tales of the Alhambra" by W. Irving. Spend the afternoon at leisure or you may choose to take an optional tour of the Albaicin for $50 extra, see the details below. In the evening there will be a most authentic Gipsy Flamenco show inclusive of dinner. After dinner you will go to a hotel for an overnight stay.

Optional: Tour of the Albaicín- an Experience Through Arabian Granada - USD 50 per person.
Head on a journey from Islam to Christianity where we will display the exciting transformation of the mythical city. Walkthrough the Albaicín, recognized as a World Heritage Site, to explore the history of Granada, from Islam to Christianity, without forgetting the mark that was left by the Jewish people. We will discover the city from its imposing viewpoints, we will see old mosques converted into churches, old palaces, artisan workshops, we will visit one of the old Moorish houses, and we will get the opportunity to try the celebrated Arab pastry with tea and a sweet in a typical Granada teashop. Finish this tour of contrasts in the Royal Chapel, a jewel of the late Gothic architecture, built by the Catholic Monarchs, as the final point and apogee of the Arab legacy of Granada.

Day 16 (Sat. May 3): Toledo



In the morning you will drive north toward Castilla and reach the imperial city of Toledo, a World Heritage City surrounded by the Tagus River, where the three cultures of Christian, Moorish and Jewish co-exist. The Spanish art, history, and spirituality of this entire town is a National Monument. Embark on a short, guided tour of this historical town through the narrow streets. From there you will visit the famous "Damasquinado" (gold and silver inlaying in iron) factory. Then you will continue to Madrid where you will enjoy farewell market experience with dinner before being dropped at your hotel.

Day 17 (Sun. May 4): Flight back to USA

After breakfast, you will check out of the hotel and board a couch that will take us to the Madrid International Airport. We will take our flights back to New York, or Washington, or Chicago or Atlanta. We will go back with lots of golden memories and will have made a lot of friends on the journey.

Please Note: This is the first cut at the itinerary, it is likely to change slightly. Changes that can be expected are slight changes in the dates, inclusion of information about the hotels once we book them, inclusion of information regarding our international flights, again once we know which Airlines or flights, we are likely to take.