
Travel with The Met

September 20–30, 2017

Hidden Gems of Portugal & Spain: Alentejo & Extremadura
With Ronda Kasl



THE
MET

Hidden Gems of Portugal & Spain: Alentejo & Extremadura

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

The peaceful landscapes of the Iberian Peninsula belie their passionate history of ancient invaders, crusading knights, and intrepid explorers. On this unique journey to lesser-known towns in the Alentejo region of Portugal and her Spanish neighbor, Extremadura, hilltop fortresses, medieval villages, classical ruins, and ornate palaces will reveal diverse cultural influences, from Celtic to Roman to Moorish to French.

Begin in Lisbon, which beguiles with its elegant palaces and characteristic Manueline architecture. Continue to Alentejo, known as the country's bread basket, traveling through olive groves, vineyards, and cork forests dotted with castle towns. With special access, admire rarely seen frescoes, savor local wines and olive oils, and stay in stunning hotels.

Crossing the border into Spain, the "World Heritage Triangle" of Mérida, Cáceres, and Guadalupe offers well-preserved Roman ruins, storybook castles, and regal palaces. View the impressive collections of the Palacio de los Golfines de Abajo in Cáceres, where we will also enjoy two-starred Michelin cuisine and stay in a historic *parador*.

I am delighted to be leading this exceptional program for The Met. Please join me as we explore the common heritage of two regions that are rarely combined in one itinerary.

Sincerely,
Ronda Kasl
Curator of Colonial Latin American Art
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Traveling with you

Ronda Kasl

Ronda Kasl is Curator of Latin American Art in the American Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she oversees the growth of a new collection area and the planning of related exhibitions. As a specialist in the art of Spain and Spanish America, she lectures widely and is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Sacred Spain: Art and Belief in the Spanish World* (2009) and *The Making of Hispano-Flemish Style: Art, Commerce and Politics in Fifteenth-Century Castile* (2014). Dr. Kasl holds degrees in art and art history from the University of Tulsa and the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

Trip Highlights

- Discover Lisbon's cultural treasures, including the National Museum of Ancient Art and the Gulbenkian Museum, on guided visits
- Tour lesser-known UNESCO World Heritage Sites including Évora and Elvas in Portugal and the "World Heritage Triangle" of Mérida, Cáceres, and Guadalupe in Spain
- Discover megalithic sites and Moorish strongholds in Alentejo, admire spectacular views from forgotten hilltop towns, and enjoy a private lunch at a vineyard with its owner
- Marvel at the collections in Cáceres' Palacio de los Golfines de Abajo on a private visit
- View the altarpiece by Zurbarán *in situ* at the Church of the Candelaria in Zafra



Altarpiece by Zurbarán, Church of the Candelaria, Zafra



Photos clockwise from top right: *Saint Vincent, Patron Saint of Lisbon*. Frei Carlos (Portuguese, active second quarter 16th century). Oil on wood. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Muriel Stokes, 1958 [58.145.2]; regional map; Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, Lisbon, photo by Joel Santos; *Fado* singer and musicians, Lisbon; Trujillo, photo by koukat. Front cover: Jerónimos Monastery, Lisbon, photo by mbell1975. Back cover: *Panel*. 17th–18th century. Portuguese. Silk. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund, 1935 [35.30] (top); Castelo de Vide, Alentejo (bottom).

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Royal Monastery of Santa Maria, Guadalupe, photo by Jose Ignacio Soto

U.S. Departure

Wednesday, September 20

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Lisbon.

Lisbon, Portugal

Thursday, September 21

Arrive in Lisbon and transfer to the impressive Pousada de Lisboa, where rooms are reserved for early arrival. In the afternoon, discover the outstanding Tile Museum in the Madre de Deus Convent, renowned for its blue-and-white glazed panels; and the Gulbenkian Museum, a meticulously curated collection of masterpieces brought from the Hermitage in the 1920s. Gather for a welcome dinner. D

Lisbon

Friday, September 22

Drive along the Tagus river to the Jerónimos Monastery, whose elaborate maritime motifs make it a stunning example of Manueline architecture. Lunch is at the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, a state-of-the-art medical research facility overlooking the spot where the great Portuguese navigators set sail. At the National Museum of Ancient Art, highlights include paintings by Hieronymus Bosch, Albrecht Dürer, and other European masters, as well as the Belém Monstrance, wrought from gold brought home by Vasco da Gama. The balance of the day is at leisure, perhaps to ride a *tuk-tuk* to the hilltop Castelo de São Jorge, or visit the newly opened Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology. This evening, you may wish to experience a performance of *fado*, a powerfully emotional style of Portuguese music. B, L

Lisbon / Évora, Portugal

Saturday, September 23

Depart for the Alentejo countryside, known as the nation's bread basket for its bounty of breads, cheeses, smoked meats, olive oils, and wines. Inside the medieval walls of Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, discover a 2nd-century Roman temple dedicated to Diana and the shocking Bones Chapel. Check into Convento do Espinheiro Hotel & Spa, a former monastery, for three nights. B, L, D

Alentejo, Portugal

Sunday, September 24–Monday, September 25

Discover Viana do Alentejo, Vila Nova de Baronia, Alvito, and other less-visited small towns that are home to hidden frescoes inaccessible to the general public. At the wine-producing estate of Quinta Dona Maria, enjoy a private visit and lunch with the owner in this palatial 18th-century home. Portugal is the world's largest producer of cork, and we will walk through a forest of cork trees to marvel at the Almendres Megalithic Site, dating to the 6th millennium B.C. Spend a

morning amid the white-walled streets of medieval Monsaraz. A tour of this hilltop village's Old Town includes a performance of traditional *Cante Alentejano* singing. Enjoy a late afternoon Alentejo wine, cheese, and olive oil tasting, including the hotel's own oil made from the harvest of its orchards. 2B, 2L

Évora / Cáceres, Spain

Tuesday, September 26

Drive to Elvas, a spectacular, UNESCO-listed garrison town surrounded by massive star-shaped fortifications. Cross the border into Spanish Extremadura for lunch at Atrio, a two-star Michelin restaurant in Cáceres, birthplace of many famous Spanish conquistadors. On a guided city tour, see vestiges of Roman, Arab, Jewish, and Christian settlements. A private visit is planned to the Palacio de los Golfines de Abajo, to see its splendid European art collection. Check into the Palacio de Oquendo for two nights. B, L, D



Madre de Deus Convent, Lisbon, photo by Tai Pan

More Travels with The Met

Dutch & Flemish Landscapes: Round-trip Amsterdam Aboard *AmaPrima* April 19–27, 2017

Discovering the Caucasus: Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan May 22–June 2, 2017

Waterways of the Tsars: Moscow to St. Petersburg Aboard *Volga Dream* June 8–17, 2017

The Majestic Rhine: Amsterdam to Basel Aboard *AmaKristina* June 9–17, 2017

For details please go to metmuseum.org/travel

Guadalupe / Trujillo, Spain

Wednesday, September 27

At the magnificent Royal Monastery of Santa María, home of the famous *Virgin of Guadalupe*, discover six centuries of architectural styles and important paintings by Francisco de Zurbarán. Continue to Trujillo and walk through Plaza Mayor, one of Spain's most spectacular plazas. See the city's storybook 10th-century Moorish castle and 13th-century Santa María La Mayor Church, whose altarpiece stuns with 25 brilliantly colored 15th-century Flemish-style paintings. B, L

Mérida / Zafra, Spain

Thursday, September 28

On an archaeological tour of UNESCO-listed Mérida, capital of Extremadura, see the well-conserved Roman theater. Visit the Rafael Moneo-designed National Museum of Roman Art, which has one of the best collections of mosaics and mural paintings in Europe. Continue south to the gleaming white town of Zafra for a two-night stay. B, D

Zafra

Friday, September 29

Discover Zafra, an important meeting place for artisan guilds and social and religious institutions throughout the centuries. Stroll the porticoed Plaza Grande, surrounded by 15th-century buildings, and admire the Zurbarán altarpiece at the 16th-century Church of the Candelaria. Tonight's festive farewell dinner is at a local winery. B, D

Seville, Spain / U.S. Return

Saturday, September 30

Depart for the nearby Seville airport and the flights home. B

An optional postlude in Seville is offered from September 30 to October 2.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.



Roman theater, Mérida, Spain

Program Rate

\$8,950 per person double occupancy

\$1,195 single supplement

Rate Includes

- Ten nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine/beer at lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service charges and portorage

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than wine/beer at lunches and dinners; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations

Pousada de Lisboa

In a former Ministry building, transformed into a boutique hotel.

Convento do Espinheiro Hotel & Spa

Housed in a centuries-old convent.

Palacio de Oquendo

Located in a stunning 16th-century stone palace.

Parador de Zafra

Former residence of the Dukes of Feria.



Parador de Zafra

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To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single (at a supplement of \$1,195)

I wish to share a room with _____

Optional Postlude

I/We wish to join the optional postlude in Seville

Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

Form of payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

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The Metropolitan
Museum of Art

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New York, NY 10028

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