

Horticultural Society of Maryland & Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland

An Andalusian Odyssey

Palaces and Gardens of Portugal and Southern Spain

September 11 – September 24, 2025

Extension to Barcelona - Sept 24 – 27, 2025



LISBON

Tour at A Glance Portugal/Spain

Price- US \$6,595.00 (USD) per person, double occupancy

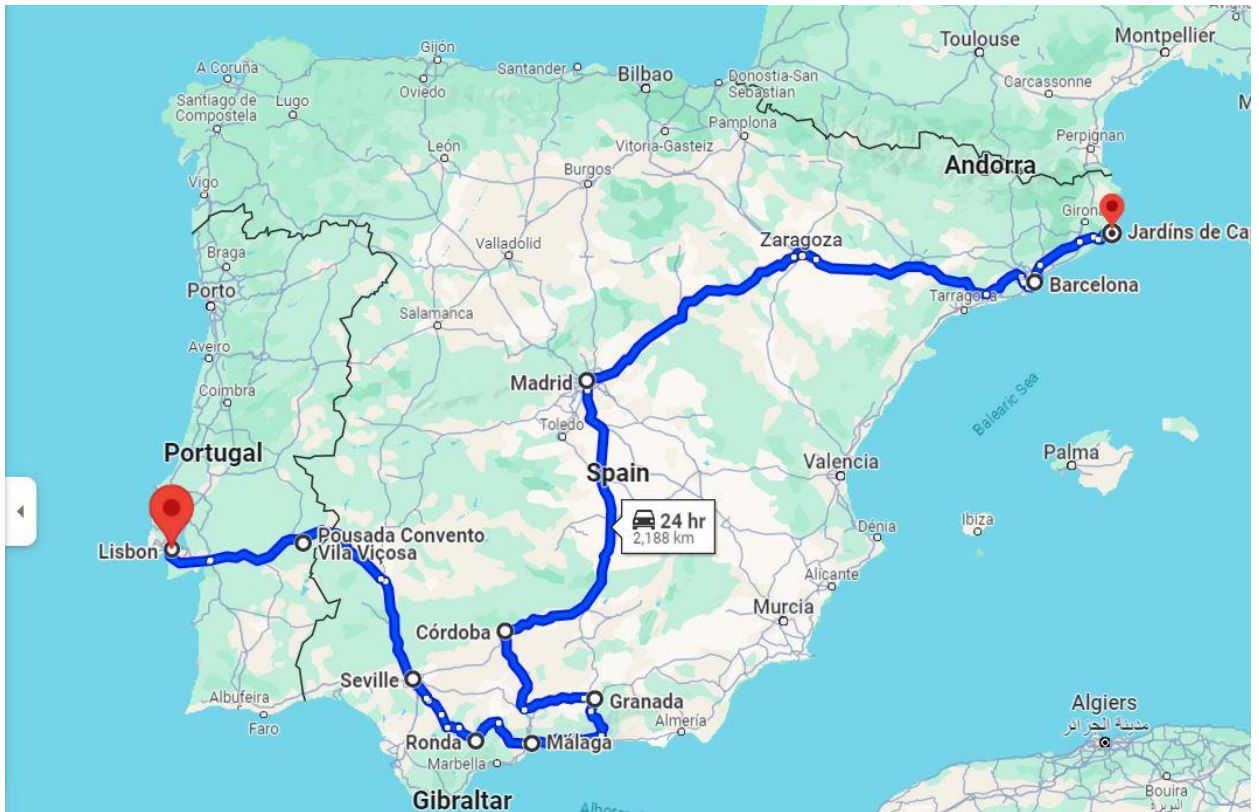
\$1,800.00 (USD) per person, single occupancy

Cost Includes

- 13 nights' hotel accommodation (4/5 star)
- Breakfast daily at hotel, 4 lunches (including Tuk Tuk food tour), 6 dinners (including 1 one flamenco dinner)
- Coach services for the itinerary as specified
- Entrances to all gardens and attractions listed
- Tuk Tuk food tour of Lisbon
- Winery tour and tasting (Balchoa winery)
- Flamenco evening
- Bodega Tio Pepe sherry tour and tasting
- Guided tours of Evora, Cordoba, Toledo
- Services of local Portuguese/Spanish tour manager throughout
- Local taxes and service charges for included services
- Porterage 1 piece of luggage per person
- Whisper headsets included throughout

Not Included

- International Air fare
- Personal Expenses
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Travel Insurance



An Andalusian Odyssey: Tour of famous Palaces, Countryside, and Gardens

14 Days touring the Andalusia region of Spain, including Seville, Granada, Cordoba, Madrid, plus the Alentejo region of Portugal

Below is the full itinerary (Barcelona extension follows):

Day 1 – Thursday 11th September

Arrive at Lisbon Airport and make your way independently to your hotel. The rest of the day will be free to explore this vibrant city.

Highlights of Lisbon include the Belem Tower, Monument of the Discoveries, Jeronimos Monastery, and St George’s Castle around which lies the historic Alfama district, the old Arab quarter of the city with its winding narrow streets and tightly packed houses. In the evening, join the group at the hotel for our “welcome” dinner.

Overnight: Lisbon Dinner



Day 2 – Friday 12th September

This morning enjoy a food tour of Lisbon by Tuk Tuk, small electrically powered vehicles ideal for manoeuvring through Lisbon's narrow streets and steep hills. The tour will feature both traditional and modern cuisine visiting a number of typical examples of traditional "tascas" and local restaurants.

Visit Alfama one of Lisbon's oldest neighbourhoods, a place full of history where you can see and feel the presence of

its Moorish past. Ascend the hill for the beautiful view of Senhora do Monte Belvedere. Baixa is considered one of the trendiest area in Lisbon, a meeting point of artists, students and avant-garde personalities in the heart of this European capital.

Rest of the day at leisure to explore Lisbon independently.

Overnight: Lisbon Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3 - Saturday 13th September

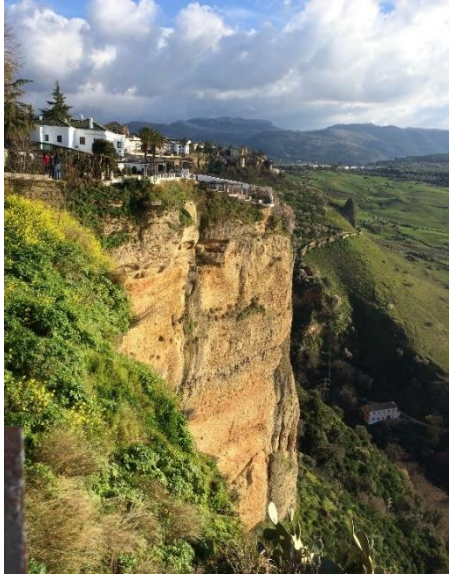
Depart Lisbon this morning and drive south including a visit to a private garden (TBA).

Afterwards there will be a visit to the Palacio Bacalhoa. Over the centuries, the architecture, the decor and the gardens of the Palace have been influenced by various owners, who drew inspiration from their travels across Europe, Africa and the Orient to transform the property into a rare gem.

The visit will include a tour of the 15th century palace and the Jardim do Buxo (maze garden), the vineyards of the famous Quinta da Bacalhoa Red and Lake House (caso do Prazer). This will be following by a visit to the winery museum and an opportunity to taste the wines.

Depart afterwards for the Alentejo region, the beautiful rural interior of Portugal, characterised by gently rolling hills and historic fortified towns. Check in to our Pousada accommodation this evening in Vila Vicosa.

Overnight: Convento Vila Viçosa Breakfast, dinner



Day 4 - Sunday 14th September

Depart your hotel this morning and drive to the UNESCO world heritage town of Evora, an ancient settlement in the heart of the Alentejo. On arrival there will be a guided tour of the historic city center including the ruined Temple of Diana and Evora cathedral.

After an included lunch in the town centre depart for Spain and check in to your hotel in Seville for a two-night.

Overnight: Seville Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 – Monday 15th September

Today our tour of Seville will start with a visit to the famous palace and gardens of the Real (Royal) Alcazar, one of the oldest royal palaces in Europe still in use today. This extensive complex of buildings represents one of the most complete examples of the evolution of architectural styles throughout European medieval and modern history, amalgamating influences starting from the Arabic period, late Middle Ages right through to the Renaissance, Baroque and the XIX century.

Continue for a visit to the palace and garden at La Casa de Pilatos, another fine example of the Spanish Mudéjar style. The internal courtyards are famous for their immaculately kept gardens decorated with intricately patterned ceramic tiles.

The last visit of the day will be to Seville Cathedral, the world's largest Gothic cathedral, built between 1434 and 1517 with its iconic Moorish bell tower (Giralda), the monumental tomb of Christopher Columbus, and the Capilla Mayor with an astonishing gold altarpiece.

This evening enjoy a Flamenco Evening with dinner. The Flamenco is a traditional Spanish artform originating in the southern regions of Spain and made up of three parts: guitar playing ("guitarra"), song ("cante"), and dance ("baile").

Overnight: Seville Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 – Tuesday 16th September

Depart Seville this morning and drive south continuing through the Andalusia region of Spain.

Stop in the historic town of Jerez de la Frontera, birthplace of the popular fortified wine that takes its name from the town, sherry being an Anglicization of Jerez.

There will be a visit to one of the town's best known sherry producers, the Bodega Tio Pepe, a spectacular winery located right in the historic centre of Jerez. Explore its breathtaking Andalusian courtyards, trellis-lined streets and incredible wine cellars, over a hundred years old, where the finest sherry wines and brandies are aged.

Leave Jerez and travel to Ronda, passing by the whitewashed hilltop villages of Arcos de la Frontera and Grazalema. Ronda spectacularly straddles a gorge with the old and new parts of the town connected by a narrow bridge.

Upon arrival in Ronda visit Ronda's bullring and its museum. The bullring is one of the oldest in Spain, and also one of the most impressive.

Later visit Casa del Rey Moro, or House of the Moorish King, an 18th century building in Ronda, Spain. "Moorish" style hanging gardens are on display, designed by French landscape gardener Jean Claude Forestier in 1912. These hanging gardens were declared a Site of Cultural Interest in 1943 and are hugely popular amongst visitors.

Before checking into your Parador explore Alameda del Tajo Park designed in the early 19th century which offers some of the most incredible views of the gorge and the surrounding valleys of Ronda from its many balconies. The park contains many interesting varieties of plants and trees along with the popular Vicente Espinel Theater.

Overnight: Parador de Ronda Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 – Wednesday 17th September

Depart Ronda this morning after breakfast and head to Malaga. First we visit the Botanic Gardens of Malaga La Concepcion. A natural oasis in the city and the best-preserved subtropical landscape garden in Europe. Afterwards lunch is included in the historic center of Malaga.

Continue this afternoon to visit the Jardin de la Alpujarra, a mediterranean mountain garden situated on the southern slopes of the mighty Sierra Nevada, combining a range of bright flowering plants set against a back-drop of exotic trees and shrubs. (subject to availability)

Proceed to Granada one of the most charming cities in Spain, with its varied architecture reflecting both its Christian and Moorish past.

Overnight: Granada Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8 – Thursday 18th September

Today the tour of Granada will start with a visit to the mighty Alhambra Palace, a large palace and fortress complex that was once a Moorish stronghold. From its commanding position overlooking the city, the sheer scale of the construction cannot fail to impress. Also visit the Generalife, a summer palace with interconnecting gardens, terraces and patios cooled by pools and fountains.

After a break for lunch (on your own) continue your tour of the city with a visit to the Royal Chapel containing the tombs Isabella and Ferdinand. The royal couple chose Granada as their final resting place following their reconquest of Spain from the Moors and the capturing of this great city.

This afternoon visit a typical Carmen garden in the Albaicin district of Granada. A Carmen is a house with a garden planted with fruits and vines, normally separated from the street by a high wall. Typical Carmen

plants are grape vines, pomegranate, lemon, orange, apricot, plum, peach, pear or apple trees. There are also many scented flowers in the Carmens such as jasmine, rose, carnation, and honeysuckle.

Overnight: Granada Breakfast

Day 9 – Friday 19th September

Depart Granada this morning after breakfast for the journey to Cordoba, an ancient city founded by the Romans and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The city contains a mixture of the diverse cultures that have settled it throughout history (Roman, Muslim, Jewish, and Christian).

Upon arrival visit the Alcazar de los Reyes Christianos, a medieval fortress built in the 8th century set among magnificent gardens, including the garden known as the Avenue of the Monarchs which features statues of all the monarchs who had connections with the palace-fortress.

Later visit the Palacio de Viana A stunning Renaissance palace with 12 beautiful, plant-filled patios.

Overnight: Cordoba Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 – Saturday 20th September

This morning there will be a guided visit to the Mezquita Cathedral (and former Mosque). One of the world's greatest works of Islamic architecture, dating back to 900AD, it is built on a vast scale with 850 columns supporting the great hall decorated with intricate carvings and Islamic calligraphy.

Rest of day at leisure to explore Cordoba independently.

Overnight: Cordoba Breakfast

Day 11 – Sunday 21st September

Depart Cordoba and proceed to Consuegra where upon arrival visit Calderico ridge, a rocky outcrop which rises above the plain of La Mancha. This is the site of Consuegra castle and home to twelve of the thirteen windmills that originally stood here, and which are inextricably linked with Cervantes' immortal novel 'Don Quixote.' Lunch included today nearby.

Continue afterward to Toledo, known as the "Imperial City" and the "City of the Three Cultures. Toledo has an extensive cultural and monumental heritage and has been declared a World Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1986. On arrival there will be a guided city tour including a visit to the Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo, one of the three 13th century High Gothic cathedrals in Spain. This will be followed by some free time before continuing to Madrid for a three-night stay.

Overnight: Madrid Breakfast, Lunch

Day 12 Monday 22nd September

This morning visit Madrid's Royal Palace the largest in Western Europe and one of the largest in the world. With over 135,000 square metres and 3,418 rooms, it has witnessed centuries of Spanish history.

Continue for a visit to the Prado Museum, one of the world's leading art galleries with works by Velázquez, Goya, El Greco, Titian, Rubens, and Hieronymus Bosch.

Afterward continue to the nearby Botanical Garden containing more than 5,000 species of plants and trees, with the garden organized into three tiered terraces, according to the classifications of Linnaeus. Founded in the mid-18th century the original aim was to create a beautiful garden but also to research botany and to instruct people about plants.

Overnight: Madrid Breakfast

Day 13 – Tuesday 23rd September

Today there will be an excursion to visit the city of Segovia one of the most beautiful destinations in Spain. See the remarkably well-preserved monumental Roman aqueduct built during the 1st century A.D. to supply water to the city from the Frio River.

Also visit the Alcazar, a majestic looking medieval castle fortress. Rising out on a rocky crag above the confluence of two rivers near the Guadarrama mountains, it is one of the most distinctive castle-palaces in Spain. After an included lunch return to Madrid with the rest of the day at leisure.

Farewell Dinner tonight.

Overnight: Madrid Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 – Wednesday 24th September

After breakfast transfer to the airport. Or, continue on to Barcelona.

Hotels:

- Portobay Hotel Liberdade Hotel, Lisbon
- Pousada Convento Vila Vicosa, Vila Vicosa
- Hotel Hospes Rey de Baeza, Seville
- Parador de Ronda, Ronda
- NH Collection Victoria, Granada
- NH Califa, Cordoba
- NH Principe de Vergara, Madrid

Extension to Barcelona:

Day 1: Wednesday 24th September

Transfer to Madrid train station and board a direct train to Barcelona. (about 3 hours)

On arrival in Barcelona there will be a guided sightseeing tour of the historic centre featuring the Gothic Quarter and Las Ramblas, a pedestrianised thoroughfare that runs through the heart of the city from Plaza Catalunya in the north to Port Vell in the south. Here you will find flower stalls, kiosks hawking souvenirs and markets dotted among the eateries. Street performers give the area a lively atmosphere.

Dinner in local restaurant.

Overnight: Barcelona Dinner



Day 2: Thursday 25th September

This morning start your tour of Barcelona with a visit to the Sagrada Família, an iconic landmark of the city and the largest unfinished Catholic church in the world, designed by famous Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí.

Continue for a visit to the Barcelona Botanical Garden with a total size of 35 acres, where you can see a representative selection of the flora from different regions with Mediterranean climates. This beautiful park between the Castell de Montjuïc and the Olympic stadium provides a tranquil space for you to discover the diverse flora from around the world, all in one location.

The final visit of the day is to Park Guell, another of Gaudi's creations. The park is full of trees and shrubs and as you stroll through you'll see unusual and colourful sculptures, mosaics, walkways and tiling. You can also expect to see fabulous views of Barcelona as the whole grounds are built on a hill overlooking the city.

Overnight: Barcelona Breakfast

Day 3: Friday 26th September

This morning depart for a visit to the stunning Jardines de Cap Roig, located in the middle of the Costa Brava combining botany, history, landscape and art. In 1927 Russian colonel Nicolai Woevodsky, an architect, and English aristocrat and garden enthusiast Dorothy Webster, started creating their dream garden and the result is superb. Here you will find more than 1000 plant species from all regions of the Mediterranean.

The garden hugs the top of the cliff overlooking the beautiful El Golfet beach and cove below. The combination of beautiful garden, fabulous views and the attractive medieval-style castle that sits in the gardens makes this a truly memorable visit.

Continue afterwards to the Castell de Peralada, a 14th century medieval fortress flanked by two imposing towers and surrounded by around 20 acres of gardens designed by François DuVillers.

Enjoy lunch in the castle restaurant followed by a tour of the Castle, Cellar & Gardens, finish with a wine tasting of the delicious local wines.

Overnight: Barcelona Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Saturday 27th September

Transfers to Barcelona Airport for flights home.

Cost Includes

- 3 nights' hotel accommodation - 4 star
- Breakfasts daily, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Coach transportation for the itinerary outlined
- Train journey from Madrid to Barcelona - standard class, one way
- Half day tour of Barcelona historic centre
- Entrance to Sagrada Familia, Barcelona Botanical Garden, Parc Guell, Jardines de Cap Roig, Castell Peralada
- Wine tasting and tour at Castell Peralada
- Local guides in Barcelona - 1 half day, 2 full days
- Hotel portorage - 1 piece of luggage per person
- City taxes and service charges on included items

Not Included

- Gratuities to drivers and guides
- Airfares
- Travel Insurance

Other Information

Payments: Tour deposits and payments may be made by Visa/MasterCard. Credit card payments are subject to a 3% processing fee. Payments may also be paid through TransferWise online. A \$50 contribution each to the Federated Garden Clubs of MD and Horticultural Society of MD, both tax exempt charitable organizations, are included in the price. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

Tour Organizer: A past Director of Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Claire Jones has planned garden trips to England, Wales, Portugal, France, and Scotland, and is an avid garden traveler with a library of over 100,000 images of gardens around the world. A photographer, landscape designer, and garden blogger at TheGardenDiaries, Claire loves to travel anywhere there are gardens and interesting sights. Contact Claire at jonesb1@comcast.net or 443-927-6285.

Tour Company

The travel company providing this tour is Pathfinders/STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK. Claire Jones acts only as your contact with Pathfinders/STITA.

Additional Information

Please contact Claire Jones at jonesb1@comcast.com or 443-927-6285 with any questions regarding this tour. This is a non-smoking tour. No smoking is permitted on the coach, group activities, or at meals. Each participant is required to fill out and sign the attached tour conditions within 30 days of acceptance.

Special Requests

Tour members are requested to inform the tour manager at the time of booking of any special medical, dietary, or other requests. I will do my best to accommodate all requests but cannot guarantee that such requests will be met.

Baggage

Porterage of one piece of luggage per person is included in the tour. As space is often limited, we strongly suggest that you limit luggage to one suitcase and one 'carry on' size bag.

Price for Main tour

The tour is set at a minimum of 15 and maximum of 25 participants. Prices are in Euros as follows:

Per person sharing a twin room or double room: 6,106 Euros or \$6,595.00

Single Individual Room: 1,666 Euros or \$1,800.00

At the current exchange rate as of July, 5, 2024 of about \$1.08

Please note: The price may change depending on the Currency Exchange rate at the time when final payment is made. Once the price for the tour is paid in full, the price will not be adjusted due to any later change in exchange rates, tariffs or taxes. No refunds will be granted for any accommodation, services or events which are not used, or which are canceled.

A website through WeTravel will be available for payments online.

Travel Protection Insurance is highly recommended and is not provided under this agreement. Cancel for any Reason (CAFR) travel insurance should be considered – it was of great benefit for those that had non-refundable airfare for trips cancelled due to travel restrictions in 2020. Medical insurance coverage is also recommended; health insurance does not always extend to non-U.S. travel.

Price for Barcelona Extension

The extension tour is set at a minimum of 10 people. Prices are in euros as follows:

Per person sharing a twin room or double room: 1,754 Euros \$1,895.00

Single Individual Room: 450 Euros or \$486.00

At the current exchange rate as of July, 5, 2024 of about \$1.08

Please note: The price may change depending on the Currency Exchange rate at the time when final payment is made. Once the price for the tour is paid in full, the price will not be adjusted due to any later change in exchange rates, tariffs or taxes. No refunds will be granted for any accommodation, services or events which are not used, or which are canceled. A website through WeTravel will be available for payments online.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The travel company providing this tour is Pathfinders/STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK ("Pathfinders"). The person organizing this tour is Claire Jones. She is not an agent or employee of Pathfinders; she acts only as your contact with Pathfinders. By placing your deposit for this tour, you agree that you have read and agree to these Terms and Conditions. You further agree that this is a release of any claim that you may have against Pathfinders, as well as Claire Jones, Claire Jones Landscapes LLC (collectively "Claire Jones"), and tour co-sponsor organizations (Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland), arising out of this tour.

By participating in this trip, participant acknowledges and provides consent that images from the trip may include those of participants and could be used for future trip promotion, shared on social media, shared by other tour participants, as well as other use.

DEPOSIT: Tour reservations are processed in the order received. You will be notified if your reservation has been received and accepted. A deposit of \$200 is required to secure your reservation. It will be refunded to you when your tour commences. It will be refunded to you if the minimum number of participants is not met. It will be refunded to you if you cancel, and your spot is filled from a waiting list. In all other cases, your deposit is non-refundable.

CANCELLATIONS: Each tour will proceed if the minimum of 15 reservations has been met. If not met, the tour may be canceled. **Please do not book any nonrefundable airfare until your tour has been confirmed.**

Tours may be canceled if natural disasters, pandemics, terrorism, or any other circumstance makes it unsafe for travel. Neither Pathfinders nor Claire Jones or the tour co-sponsors be responsible for refunds to you for a canceled tour. For that reason, you should consider purchasing travel or cancellation insurance.

CHANGES TO ITINERARY: Pathfinders and Claire Jones strive to operate according to the published itinerary. Unforeseen circumstances may require adjustments to the itinerary. We may make changes, without penalty, to the published itinerary, which are necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of tour participants. Some venues might be closed on certain days which would be out of our control.

MEDICAL ISSUES: Tour participants must be physically and mentally fit, and able to participate and cooperate with other tour members and the tour escort. At times, this tour is physically demanding, involving walking several miles over the day, getting in and out of a bus, traveling over cobblestones, and moving luggage. You acknowledge that you are fit to participate in this tour, and you do so at your own risk.

Participants in the tour are solely responsible for compliance with requisite vaccinations, passports, paperwork, all other compliance issues with respect to all countries, states, regions, other, that are included in the tour. Countries and locations outside the U.S. may have specific COVID and/or other health and/or health insurance requirements, subject to changes both prior to and during the trip.

RISKS & HAZARDS: You agree that you are willing to accept the risks and uncertainty involved in taking a trip such as this, including transportation, terrorism, war, theft, illness, acts of government, pandemics, forces of nature, animal misbehavior, and damage to person or property. Cancellation of a tour from such a risk is not refundable. You accept and assume full responsibility for any and all risks from this tour.

DISPUTES: Any dispute concerning this trip shall be resolved by binding arbitration, submitted to and decided under the rules and procedures promulgated by the American Arbitration Association, with each party paying an equal share of the costs of such arbitration. Any in-person hearing shall be held in the State of Maryland.

Spain/Portugal Garden Tour 2025 September 11 -September 24, 2025

Traveler Information	
Full traveler name (matching passport)	
Date of birth	
Passport issuer	
Passport number	
Passport expiration	
Street Address, city, state, and zip	
Barcelona Ext? If so, single or double?	
Email	
Home phone	
Cell	
Emergency Contact	
Emergency notification phone	
Type of room requested For main tour	
If double, name of roommate	
How did you hear about this tour?	

To Reserve a Space, a \$200 Deposit made out to Claire Jones is required, which will be refunded to you at the start of the trip. If you cancel, the deposit will be retained, unless another participant is found to take your place. Mail deposit to Claire Jones, 4 Bellclare Cir, Sparks, MD 21152

Airfare is not included in the price of this tour. Each participant will need to make their own airline reservation to arrive in Lisbon and depart from Madrid/Barcelona. If you want to arrive earlier and/or leave later, arrangements can be made with Pathfinders to stay extra nights or you may do this on your own. Please *Do Not* make your airline reservations until you are notified by email that the tour will proceed.

Important Dates: 10% Due January 1, 2025 to Pathfinders at 877-753-6386- Toll free number, +5 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. Final Payment Due by July 1, 2025 to Pathfinders at 877-753-6386. A website will be set up to make payments easier with due dates and you will receive the link by email.

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS

I agree to the Terms and Conditions set forth above. I assume all of the risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury, illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may incur in connection with this tour. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless Pathfinders, its employees, officers, and agents, Claire Jones and Claire Jones Landscapes LLC, as well as tour co-sponsors Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, from any injury, damages or loss due to my participation in and travel to and from this tour.

Participant signature & date: _____

Print Name: _____