SPAIN & PORTUGAL: COAST TO COAST ADVENTURE

Lisbon, Málaga & Barcelona

12-DAY PROGRAM





HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the tiled hills of Lisbon on an iconic Tram 28 scavenger hunt through historic quarters
- Paint your own traditional ceramic keepsake during a hands-on azulejo tile workshop with a local artisan
- Take a paddleboarding class on Málaga's beaches and explore the works of Picasso in his hometown
- Take part in a Spanish cooking class, mastering local flavors like tapas and paella
- Travel to Barcelona where you'll visit Sagrada Familia and Park Güell, ending your adventure by swimming in the Mediterranean Sea

ACTIVITY LEVEL

- Medium

2027 PROGRAM DATES

- June 23 - July 02

GET IN TOUCH!

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Portugal and Spain await! Experience coastal charm, world-famous art & rich culture on an epic journey from Lisbon to Málaga and Barcelona.

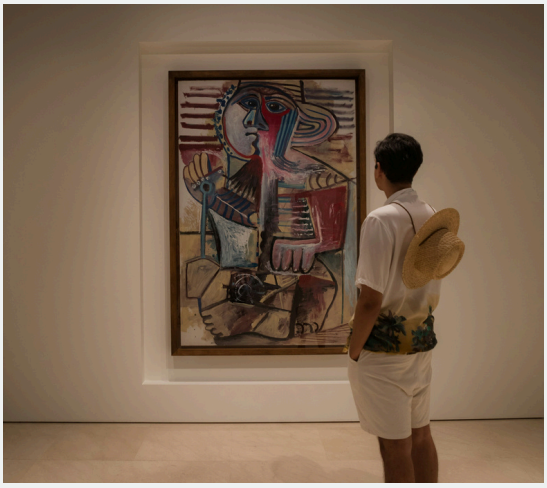
OVERVIEW

On this program, you'll dive into the vibrant cultural heartbeat of the Iberian Peninsula — a region that celebrates life through sun-drenched coastlines, rich history, soulful music and world-class food. Over 10 unforgettable days, you'll explore three of Southern Europe's most captivating cities: the tiled hills and maritime charm of Lisbon, the seaside warmth of Málaga and the artistic energy of Barcelona. From painting traditional azulejo tiles and discovering masterpieces by Picasso in his hometown to exploring Gaudí's architectural wonders and paddling along the Mediterranean coast, you'll experience the unique spirit and rhythm that make Portugal and Spain truly unforgettable.

Certified B Corporation









ITINERARY

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO PORTUGAL!

Welcome to Portugal! GLA staff will be waiting to greet you when you land at Lisbon Humberto Delgado Airport (LIS). Together, we'll travel to our Lisbon Home Base, get settled into your rooms, and start getting to know your fellow travelers.

We'll have our first Portuguese welcome dinner together and then get some rest as we have a full day ahead of activities tomorrow!

DAY 2: SCAVENGER HUNT IN LISBON

Dive into your first full day in Lisbon by setting team expectations and introducing core GLA leadership themes during program orientation. In the afternoon, gear up for an exciting Tram 28 scavenger hunt—navigating Lisbon's historic quarters aboard the iconic yellow tram as you work in teams to solve clues, practice basic Portuguese, explore winding alleys, and discover hidden plazas before gathering for an evening group reflection.

DAY 3: TILE PAINTING WORKSHOP & EXPLORING

Connect with centuries of local culture during a hands-on azulejo tile painting workshop guided by a local artisan, learning traditional techniques and crafting your own ceramic keepsake to take home. Afterward, spend time exploring the historic heart of the city at a relaxed pace—wandering through the charming streets of Baixa and Chiado, picking up unique souvenirs, and sampling local treats. As evening falls, step inside an authentic casa de fado for a memorable dinner paired with a live performance of soulful Fado music, experiencing the emotional heartbeat of Portuguese culture before your journey south to Spain tomorrow.

DAYS 4-5: ON TO SUNNY MÁLAGA & BEACH TIME!

Say goodbye to Portugal as we board a short flight across the border into southern Spain's sunny Costa del Sol! Upon landing in Málaga, check into your new Home Base and head straight to the Mediterranean shore for well-deserved beach time swimming, playing games in the sand and soaking in the sun-soaked energy of Andalusia. The following day, discover the rich flavors of Spain during a hands-on cooking class, learning to prepare traditional regional dishes and enjoying the delicious meal together. Afterward, set off on a lively city scavenger hunt through historic plazas, vibrant streets, and along the scenic waterfront as you work in teams to solve clues, practice your Spanish and explore Málaga's historic center before gathering for evening leadership reflections.

DAY 6: PICASSO MUSEUM & PADDLE BOARDING CLASS

Immerse yourself in artistic genius and coastal adventure on your final full day in Málaga! In the morning, visit the world-renowned Picasso Museum, exploring the life, inspiration and early masterpieces of Málaga's most iconic artist inside a beautifully restored Renaissance palace. Afterward, trade art history for the ocean swell as you gear up for a high-energy stand-up paddleboarding class along the coast. Guided by expert local instructors, you'll master your balance and paddle along the shoreline before spending the rest of the afternoon unwinding with beach time. End the day with a coastal dinner and an inspiring leadership reflection.









DAY 7: BARCELONA & THE SAGRADA FAMILIA

Board a quick flight across Spain to Catalonia's energetic coastal capital, Barcelona! Upon arrival, check into your final Home Base, unpack, and settle into your new surroundings. In the afternoon, marvel at one of the world's most iconic architectural wonders during a guided tour of Antoni Gaudí's masterwork, the Sagrada Família. Walk through its breathtaking, forest-like interior while learning about its fascinating century-long construction history and symbolism. Wrap up your day with a vibrant dinner and an evening reflections.

DAYS 8-9: PARK GÜELL & EXPLORING THE GOTHIC QUARTER

Continue exploring Gaudí's incredible legacy with a morning visit to the colorful, dreamlike Park Güell, wandering through its mosaic-covered terraces, vibrant staircases, and winding pathways while taking in sweeping views of Barcelona and the Mediterranean below. Afterward, head straight to Barcelona's golden shores for well-deserved beach time on Barcelona's golden shores!

On the following day, set out on an exciting guided bike tour through Barcelona's lively neighborhoods, cruising past historic streets, modernist landmarks, and the bustling waterfront. In the afternoon, explore the narrow cobblestone alleys of the historic Gothic Quarter (El Gòtic) to pick up unique souvenirs and sample local treats. As our journey comes to a close, gather for our final GLA leadership sessions and reflection activities—looking back on our growth across Portugal and Spain, celebrating our shared accomplishments and enjoying a festive farewell dinner together.

DAY 10: DEPARTURE DAY

Before we know it, our Iberian adventure has come to an end! GLA staff will accompany students to the airport in Barcelona and assist with checking in for their flights home. As you settle into your seat for the journey back, reflect on the incredible memories, new lifelong friendships, and boosted confidence that will benefit you for life—thinking back on everything you saw, the people you met, and the iconic places you explored across Portugal and Spain. We'll see you on your next adventure!

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Tuition:** $4,999
- **Ages:** 14 - 18
- **Student-to-Staff Ratio:** 6-to-1
- **Accommodations:** Enclosed Compound, Youth Hostel
- **Arrival and Departure Airport**
  - Lisbon (LIS) Arrival
  - Barcelona (BCN) Departure

GLA HOME BASE

Your GLA Home Base is your "home away from home" throughout your time in Spain and Portugal, and has spaces set aside and reserved exclusively for GLA students and staff.

Students will sleep in gender-segregated rooms and have shared bathrooms with showers. The group will stay at hostels or hotel blocks and rooms will be shared by 2-6 students.

GLA HOME BASE OVERVIEW

- Pool
  - Home Base 1: Lisbon - No
  - Home Base 2: Málaga - No
  - Home Base 3: Barcelona - No
- Air conditioning
  - Home Base 1: Lisbon - Yes
  - Home Base 2: Málaga - Yes
  - Home Base 3: Barcelona - Yes
- Remote
  - Home Base 1: Lisbon - No
  - Home Base 2: Málaga - No
  - Home Base 3: Barcelona - No

FOOD

Food is an integral part of life in Spain and Portugal, where long, shared meals hold deep cultural significance. From diverse tapas in Málaga and fresh Atlantic seafood along Lisbon's coast to iconic regional specialties like paella, the culinary experiences you'll share with your group will be both memorable and unique to each region you visit.

CLIMATE

The local area can get very hot during the midday hours, with slightly lower temperatures at night. Spain and Portugal also experience much longer daylight hours during the summer months, with sunset occurring around 9:30 PM, giving us plenty of sunshine to make the most of our days along the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts!

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times
USA TODAY
NBC NEWS
The Boston Globe
seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

BE PRESENT | Our mission at GLA is "to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it." To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The environment may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their experience can transform their perspective. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

NO TOLERANCE | GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

COMMUNITY-LED EXPERIENCES | GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

MENTORSHIP | GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At Global Leadership Adventures, we welcome age-eligible teens who are excited about the opportunity to travel to apply for our programs. To ensure a safe and meaningful experience for everyone in the group, we follow essential eligibility criteria. While out intent is not to be exclusionary, it's important to note that GLA programs are not therapeutic programs and are not able to support struggling teens seeking behavior or mental health outcomes.

Applications are carefully considered and screened to align with these criteria. It is not uncommon for GLA to require supporting documentation or information in the application screening process to confirm eligibility or suitability for program participation. Failure to disclose full medical history may also result in the application not being accepted, additional fees, and/or removal from the program. Please discuss with our team for any further clarification or concerns and visit **https://www.experiencegla.com/policies/essential-eligibility-criteria/** to view the full essential eligibility criteria list.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

CONTACT US | Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

ENROLL NOW | We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill up early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at **www.experiencegla.com/enroll.**