

12-DAY PROGRAM



GLA GROUP TRAVEL SAMPLE ITINERARY

EXAMPLE ITINERARY ONLY: DURATION, DATES, COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES ARE CUSTOMIZABLE



SPAIN: Cultural Crossroads & Lessons for Today

Uncover the history of a cultural crossroads where three major faiths have converged throughout history and explore how these principles can be applied to today's global social and political conflicts

OVERVIEW

Embark on an educational journey through Spain! Our itinerary unfolds a tapestry of history and religious co-existence, weaving through the iconic cities of Toledo, Cordoba and Granada. Experience these unique cultural hubs and learn about the ways in which Jews, Christians and Muslims have coexisted over the centuries through peacetimes and conflict. Sharpen your Spanish skills through language immersion and formal instruction; practice with passionate native speakers and take part in daily life in Spain.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Learn to make paella in a traditionally cooking class
- ★ Tour the Alhambra
- ★ Take in a flamenco show and learn some moves
- ★ Zipline over the Tajo and soak in relaxing Arab baths
- ★ Take part in daily Spanish classes & learn through cultural exploration

THIS ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- **12 days/11 nights of accommodation**
- 10 language hours
- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- 2 expert GLA staff members
- Medical & evacuation insurance
- 12-20 students (price is per student)

DAILY BREAKDOWN



DAY 1: ¡BIENVENIDOS A ESPAÑA!

Welcome to Spain! GLA staff will be waiting to greet you when you land in Madrid (MAD). Together we'll travel to our first destination, Toledo, about an hour from the airport. Get settled into your rooms and after our first Spanish lunch together we'll head out on our first adventure!

Divide into groups for a supervised scavenger hunt around town. Practice your Spanish as you enlist the help of locals in order to locate the items on your list and get your first look at this historic center of Spain.



DAYS 2 - 6: TOLEDO: SPANISH CLASSES & CULTURAL IMMERSION

Toledo, the historic first capital of Spain, remains one of the country's most magnificent and historically rich cities to this day. It was known as the 'city of three cultures' in the Middle Ages, a place where Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities peacefully coexisted. While each religious community maintained its distinct practices and beliefs, they upheld a spirit of collaboration and mutual influence, fostering an atmosphere of coexistence that set ancient Spain apart as a beacon of pluralism in the annals of history.

Horseshoe-arched mosques, Sephardic synagogues and one of Spain's finest Gothic cathedrals all stand together in a small area within the labyrinth walled and cobblestone city. This history of unique cultural symbiosis makes Toledo the perfect location from which to soak up the region's rich culture and immerse yourself in the Spanish language.



This week, take part in daily Spanish classes taught by qualified, native-speaker teachers. Classes will be held in a formal classroom setting with experiential excursions designed to bring context to our language lessons and other program learning objectives.

These include:

- ❖ Learning to make mazapan, a traditional sweet from Toledo
- ❖ Meandering through local markets—a perfect opportunity to put your bargaining skills to the test!
- ❖ Exploring the Toledo Cathedral, a structure widely considered to be the magnum opus of High Gothic cathedrals in Spain
- ❖ Ziplining over the Tajo river while enjoying the medieval landscape of Old Town Toledo





- ❖ Soaking in traditional Arab baths and learning about the different cultures that have shaped Spain's cultural landscape
- ❖ Discovering Toledo's history as a leader in sword making and steel production and how this industry impacted the course of the city's development
- ❖ Special access to the city beneath the surface with tours through tunnels, caves and catacombs

Through these hands-on experiences, we will dive deep into the Spanish language, the region's role in global history and its former success as an interfaith mecca. Take time to reflect together on how these historic events relate to current global issues today.



DAY 7: TOLEDO→CORDOBA

After breakfast, we'll travel via private bus to the city of Cordoba. Envision yourself transported in time on bustling historic streets of the Jewish Quarter and inside the Mosque-Cathedral, La Mezquita, a testament to beautiful Moorish architecture; stand in awe under the classic red and white arches. In the tenth century, Cordoba grew to be the second largest city in Europe, known for its religious education and prized goods such as jewelry, brocades and woven goods - we'll see and experience how these continue to be hand crafted today. In the 11th century, Spanish defeated the Moorish reign and over time Cordoba slid back in prominence, but the impressive architecture remained a space that was utilized by multiple religions over time.



After digging into the iconic Moorish city and the historical monuments, we'll head back to our Cordoba Home Base for the night and prepare for dinner. After a delicious meal, discuss and debate the significance of what we've observed today and how the history of this unique place informs current global issues.

DAY 8: CORDOBA→GRANADA



We'll kick off the day with a GLA leadership workshop, then head to Granada by private bus, arriving just in time for lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we'll meet a local expert who will teach us about the three main cultures of the Mediterranean. In the evening, tickle your tastebuds with a tapas tour- experience the city where some believe tapas were born as we sample our way through cobblestone streets and embrace being a (temporary) citizen of Andalusia.

DAYS 9 - 10: EXPLORING GRANADA

Over the next two days we'll step back in time to when Granada was the muslim capital of the Zirid kingdom, and try to comprehend how hundreds of years saw this city play an



important role in the conquest of monarchs. Hit the streets and explore Alcaiceria, San Jeronimo monastery, and the Cathedral. We'll also visit Albaicin, the quintessential Andalusian neighborhood that evokes Arabic architecture and other ancient Mediterranean cities. Walk along steep hills dotted with traditional houses, including courtyards with interior orchards and gardens

Besides tapas, we'll taste a bit of history by trying several samples of Moroccan cuisine, easily found in the streets of Granada today. We'll also participate in a cooking class taught in Spanish, where we'll learn to prepare (and eat!) our own paella.

Gather to reflect on our experiences so far and digest what we have learned about the different cultures in Spain. What can we take away from the unique history of this region? How can ancient philosophies apply to modern-day frictions? How do modern-day conflicts mirror those in this region hundreds of years ago?

DAY 11: ALHAMBRA & FLAMENCO

In the morning we'll enjoy a guided tour through the Alhambra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Spain's most visited locations. After we've explored this 13th century palace from top to bottom, we'll rest up before our special farewell meal: a traditional flamenco show and dinner! Go beyond a touristic flamenco experience: we'll hear about the complex history related to this art and its significance in Spanish culture, and also get to learn a few steps in a flamenco dance class.

DAY 12: DEPARTURES

Before you know it, our journey must come to an end. Head to the airport today with memories and knowledge that will stay with you for a lifetime. Staff will assist the group with checking in and accompany them until they have safely departed for their gates at the **Granada Airport**.



TRAVELING TO SPAIN

GLA Home Bases | Stay in small hotels in each city; rooms are gender-segregated and typically 2 - 4 per room.

Food | Food is an integral part of life in Spain, and long, shared meals hold strong significance in tradition and culture. From diverse tapas (small, shared plates) to incredible seafood, the culinary experiences you'll have in Spain will be memorable and unique to each area.

Climate | The local area can get very hot during the central hours of the day with slightly lower temperatures at night. Spain also has much longer days in the summer months, with sunset occurring late in the evening around 9:30 pm.

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 group's daily experience to the desired degree. 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

GLA 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.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their unique role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture 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. Students may get hot, dirt, and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can be transformative to both the community and themselves. 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 staff.

Flexibility & Program Changes

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 or various cultural celebrations and holidays. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, and willing to embrace the experience when plans

change. GLA will communicate adjustments to group leaders with advance notice whenever possible and work together with custom group leaders to reschedule or replace activities if needed.

Mentorship & Health

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 all participants should be physically and mentally healthy. Each student and staff member will undergo a self-reported medical screening process that includes a physician sign-off to ensure that our program can safely accommodate everyone's physical and mental health needs.