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## CULTURAL & GASTRONOMICAL TOUR OF SPAIN

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 5, 2023



### The Organizers...

#### on-tour

**on-tour** is a 100% Canadian owned and operated meeting management and group travel company. Operating worldwide programs to exceptional destinations with specific themes since 2000, the company prides itself in offering unique, quality programs that differentiate us from other travel providers to such diverse and intriguing areas as **South America (Brazil, Chile/Argentina, Ecuador/Peru), Africa (Kenya/Tanzania, Morocco, South Africa, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro climb), India, Bhutan, China, Japan, South East Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos & Bali), Malaysia/Singapore, New Zealand and Europe (Eastern Europe, Iceland, Spain).**

We explore these fascinating destinations and cultures through expert and qualified local guides in a convivial group of your peers ensuring that you return home with unforgettable memories from unique experiences that you will remember for a lifetime. More information, including recent testimonials, about the company can be found at [www.on-tour.ca](http://www.on-tour.ca) The company is a licensed retail travel organization under The Travel Industry Act of Ontario thereby affording complete protection of all monies paid prior to departure. (TICO registration no. 50009110). For more information on the company, please contact 416-231-8466 or [on-tour.ca@outlook.com](mailto:on-tour.ca@outlook.com)

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Contact us at - tel: 416-231-8466; toll free: 1-855-362-8687; fax: 1-888-612-1459; e: [on-tour.ca@outlook.com](mailto:on-tour.ca@outlook.com)

**Dr. Rachel Kassner – Charlottetown, P.E.I.>**

**Dr. Rachel Kassner** (Group Leader) was born and raised in PEI where she first started practicing medicine. She then spent 16 years practicing in Toronto, and then returned to Charlottetown in 2002 to continue her practice as a Family Physician before retiring in 2020, and since then has continued to do locums and work in the Provincial Cough & Fever Clinic. She is the former head of the Department of Family Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, is Past President and Past Chair of the Medical Society of PEI.

This is Rachel & Joel's eleventh venture with on-Tour having previously led CME programs to Ecuador, the Galapagos and Peru, Kenya, Tanzania & Zanzibar, South East Asia, Brazil, Spain, South Africa, China, New Zealand, Eastern Europe and Iceland. Dr. Kassner will be accompanied by her husband, Joel Palter.



Tours led by Rachel & Joel will include several physicians and their partners who will spend some time visiting medical establishments in Spain in addition to the cultural and gourmet activities on this trip.

Rache & Joel may be contacted at – tel:1-902-892-9992, e: [jrpalter@gmail.com](mailto:jrpalter@gmail.com)

**Exclusive winery visits organized by Fernando Garcia, LaVinia Restaurant, Toronto...**

Fernando Garcia is **Executive Chef and Owner of LaVinia** restaurant in Toronto (consistently ranked as one of the top Spanish restaurants in Toronto on Trip Advisor). Born in Spain and educated at one of the finest cooking schools in Lausanne, Switzerland, Fernando was the Executive Chef at fine dining establishments in California, Vancouver and Piatto in Mississauga (home of the bi-weekly Halton Peel Doctors educational dinner meetings) before opening LaVinia at 2350 Lake Shore Blvd West Toronto in 2013, specializing in fine Spanish cuisine and offering several celebrated Spanish wines through his exclusive connections with vineyards in Spain.  
[www.laviniarestaurant.com](http://www.laviniarestaurant.com)



**Just a couple of the testimonials from our latest September 2022 Spain Gourmet CME Program**

“Fun, food, fellowship, culture, history, knowledge, perspectives, some ailments & mishaps — all packed in 12 days. Thanks everyone for enriching Kitty & my life! This is by far the most magical CME trip we've ever had for the past 3 decades! 😊😊”

Dr. Wing Lim, Sherwood Park, AB – Co-founder of Physician Empowerment - **Spain Gourmet tour, 2022**

“This is my first Doctors-on-Tour trip. It was worth every penny. So well organized. Every detail was addressed to perfection. Our tour escort, Yolanda, couldn't have been better. She was knowledgeable, patient, kind, happy. She went the extra mile on more than one occasion. We were blessed to have had her. An outstanding, memorable experience”

Dr. Maureen Lush, Oakville, On. – **Spain Gourmet tour, 2022**

## The Destination... Spain

Stretching sun-drenched and untamed to the south of the wild and majestic Pyrenees, this passionate nation works a mysterious magic. Spain is littered with hundreds of glittering beaches; flamenco bailaors (dancers) swirl in flounces of colour; and toreros (bullfighters) strut their stuff in the bullrings. Holidaymakers gather around great pans of steaming paella pitchers of sangria.

Beyond these clichéd images, a vast, unexpected panorama unfolds before you. Emerald green mountains seem to slide into the wild blue Atlantic in the north. Proud, solitary castles and medieval towns are strewn across the interior. White villages glitter in inland Andalucía. Rugged mountain ranges such as the Sierra Nevada are draped across the country. And, the Celtic music of Cantabria, Asturias & Galicia reminds one of the misty lands of Brittany, Scotland and Ireland.

From its Roman relics to Muslim palaces, baroque cathedrals to Modernista constructions, Spain is a treasure chest of artistic and architectural marvels across a matchless cultural palette. More than 30 years of democracy and rapid economic development have spurred Spain's cities to bedeck themselves with sparkling new ornaments. An army of local and international architects have left a slew of daring signature buildings in Barcelona, Bilbao and Madrid, to name a few. Up and down the country, a zest for life creates an intense, hedonistic vibe in its effervescent cities. Indeed, if there is one thing Spaniards love, it is to eat, drink and be merry, whether gobbling up tapas over fine wine in Madrid and the south, or its elaborate Basque Country equivalent, pintxos, over cider in the north.

This 12 day itinerary shows you the highlights of Central and Southern Spain as you visit many of its most famous centers – **Barcelona**, the cosmopolitan capital of Catalonia; **Zaragoza**, with its history of co-habited Muslim, Roman & Jewish cultures and, the capital, **Madrid** including its world famous Prado museum. Then head into Andalusia in southern Spain, the most history-rich and evocative of Spain's provinces - **Granada**, with its breathtaking Alhambra palace and Arab-flavoured street life; the old city of **Cordoba**, seeing its Jewish Quarter and Grand Mosque and **Seville**, the old Moorish capital and current capital of Andalusia with its colossal Gothic cathedral and resplendent Mudéjar palaces. Finally, head north through Andalusia, past the Sierra Morena mountains into the region of Extremadura where your tour finishes in the former Spanish capital, and now UNESCO town, of Toledo.

And combine all this with visits to exclusive local bodegas courtesy of **Fernando Garcia**, Executive Chef and Owner of LaVinia Restaurant, Toronto as you sample one of the country's finest assets, its superior wine collections, as well as experiencing the different gastronomical flavors of the region, including **hands-on cooking classes**. Spanish cuisine is famous the world over because it is flavoursome, healthy, traditional, creative and varied, and also because of its popular restaurants and fine dining, as demonstrated by the international recognition of its chefs. Key ingredients include olive oil, Iberian ham –a source of national pride– and Spanish wine. Rioja produces the most famous Spanish wine, but you will discover other options throughout your journey through Spain.

A rich tapestry of experiences that will leave you hungry, and thirsty, for more....

Further information can be found at –

<http://www.spain.info/> - Spain Tourist Board

<https://www.spain.info/en/query/regional-cuisine-spain/> - Spanish cuisine by region

<https://www.spain.info/en/gastronomic-products/> - Glossary of Spanish food



## Tour highlights...

- Marvel at Gaudi's Barcelona, the astonishing architectural legacy that came to define a city
- Explore Madrid's golden mile of art including the world famous Prado Museum
- Walk the narrow medieval streets of Toledo, La Ciudad Imperial (Imperial City)
- Immerse yourself in the history of the exotic and expansive Alhambra Palace in Granada
- Visit Cordoba, the old Moorish capital of the Caliphate, and its Mezquita (Great Mosque) and the Alcazar
- Imagine the explorations of Christopher Columbus at his tomb in the Cathedral of Seville, Europe's largest Gothic cathedral
- Enjoy a flamenco show and feel the passion of this famous dance
- Savour finest local cuisine in gourmet restaurants and learn how to make it yourself through a hands on cooking class
- Sample exquisite Spanish wines on exclusive vineyard tours

## The itinerary...

### DAY 1 – Sep 23 (Sat) : Depart Toronto

International overnight flight from Toronto, Canada to Barcelona, Spain.

### DAY 2 – Sep 24 : Barcelona (L, D)

**Barcelona**, is without doubt one of Europe's most exciting cities. It is a place of extraordinary architectural dazzle, achieved by what has been called both Catalan Art Nouveau and Modernisme, by architects Gaudi, Domenech I Montaner and Puig Cadafalch. Monumental sculptures by local masters like Joan Miró adorn public spaces and museums house extraordinary treasures ranging from works of the ancient Romans to those of Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí. Barcelona is a city further enhanced by brightly coloured outdoor markets, a magnificent Mediterranean port, and a plentiful array of stylish restaurants. Needless to say, the nightlife is exceptional.



Arrive in Barcelona in the morning after your transatlantic flight and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the morning will be at leisure to recuperate from your transatlantic flight.

Lunch at the hotel.

In the afternoon, indulge in an afternoon shopping tour to a variety of establishments - patisseries, delicatessens, outlets specializing in interior design, ceramics, porcelain, glass, etc...an experience that enables you to enjoy some of Barcelona's most inspiring areas on foot as you familiarize yourself with the city while witnessing the vibrancy of its everyday life.

In the evening, commence your culinary adventure with a welcome dinner at **El Asador de Aranda** restaurant to enjoy the best of Catalan cuisine.

Overnight in Barcelona.

*In Catalonia good eating is a matter of priority for most. **Catalan cuisine**, which has been subject to so many influences, is sophisticated, flavoursome and varied. Fish and seafood are always fresh, and sausages and meats are of the best quality. This cuisine features delectable cold dishes like *exqueixada* (desalted cod salad), *escalivada* (roast aubergines, onions and red peppers) and *xató* (curly endive lettuce, cod and anchovies). Most popular dishes in Catalan gastronomy are *butifarra* (Catalan sausage with beans), *longaniza* (local spiced sausage) and *fuet* (a delicious type of salami). In addition, Catalonia is one of Spain's great wine-growing regions and where its most popular beverage is the champagne-like cava (sparkling wine).*

### DAY 3 – Sep 25 : Barcelona (B)

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning, enjoy a half day city tour. Start with a visit to the most emblematic places of city, Catalunya Square, where all the biggest most popular events happen. Follow along the famous Ramblas street, with its characteristic market of flowers and birds in the morning and then walk around the Gothic Quarter, where you will see amongst other things the Plaza Sant Jaume (seat of the Town Hall and the regional government headquarters), Casa Milà “La Pedrera” house and visit inside the Cathedral. Afterwards, experience Modernist art, so synonymous with Barcelona, which arrived via the hands of the famous Catalan Architect, Antoni Gaudi at the beginning of the XXth century and which has forever marked the appearance of city to modern-day Barcelona - visit La Sagrada Familia (Holy Family church), and marvel at the astonishing interior, where the ceiling reaches seventy meters high, and see its richly and symbolically decorations.



Afternoon and evening at leisure to explore this fascinating city independently.

Overnight in Barcelona.

### DAY 4 – Sep 26 : Barcelona - Zaragoza (B, L)

*Zaragoza is a liberal and welcoming city, the result of the influence of the four cultures that have marked its character. Founded by the low Iberian under the name of Salduie in the confluence of the rivers Ebro, Huerva and Gállego, it would later be Roman (Cesaraugusta), the Royal Arabic capital (Sarakosta) and Christian capital of the Kingdom of Aragón, which, in its maximum splendour, comprised the territories of the current Aragón, Catalonia, Valencia, the Balearic islands, the island of Sicily, the dukedom of Naples and the Greek dukedoms of Athens and Neopatria, and which would be key in the foundation of the current concept of Spain. The so-called "casco viejo" (historic city centre), contains most of the history of Zaragoza.*



*The buildings, palaces and churches reflect the different styles and the exchange among cultures. In the Square of El Pilar, you will find the Gothic cathedral of La Seo and the Basilica of El Pilar, one of the main places of worship to Virgin Mary of the Christianity, with frescoes by Francisco de Goya. The Arab palace of the Aljafería, current headquarters of the Aragonese Parliament, is one of the best exponents of Muslim art outside of Andalusia.*

Breakfast at hotel.

Free time before the group departs mid morning for **Zaragoza**.

En route, stop at **Carinera** to visit a local winery, **Solar de Urbezo**, for a tour of the facility and sampling of a collection of their varieties.

The winery was founded in 1995 by Santiago Gracia Ysiegas. His vocation was to elaborate grapes from the vineyards of the Gracia-Campillo family, striving for a total guarantee of purity and quality in their wines. The winery is located in Carinena, in the region of Aragon, 45 km from Zaragoza and cultivates Grenache, Carignen, Tempranillo, Merlot, Cabernet-Sauvignon, Syrah and Chardonnay grapes that ensure, together with the climate and soil, complex and well-balanced wines of a distinct character. The culture of wine growing in Carinena is one of the most ancient in Spain; it goes back to the 3rd century, when the Romans inhabited this land. The cultivation of grapes was maintained throughout time and still constitutes an essential part in the way of life, economy and historical heritage of the area.

[www.solardeurbezo.es](http://www.solardeurbezo.es)

Lunch will be at **La Rebotica**, a reference point for typical Aragonese cuisine in this small town.

***The Region of Aragon** has inherited its rich gastronomy from the different cultures which have passed through the region over the centuries. It knows how to exploit its local products and today its cuisine is described as classical. The great geographical diversity of this region has given rise to top quality products which are as varied as the land's topography.*

*In this rural and mountainous region, lambs are raised on the slopes of the Pyrenees, making lamb and pork dishes famous. Roast lamb dishes like Asado de Ternasco, (lamb which is cooked with garlic, salt and bacon fat) along with pork dishes are very popular. Among them: Magras con tomate, roasted pork leg and Almojábanas de Cerdo. Cured ham from Teruel and Huesca are used often. In fact, Teruel ham is one of the most representative products of Aragon's gastronomy. It was the first ham in Spain to get PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) in 1983. PDO identifies a product that originates in a particular geographic region, and whose characteristics (flavour, colour and texture) and quality are due to factors specific to that region. The Turuel ham is cured for a minimum of 14 months, and must have a bright red color and a smooth, juicy flavor and its logo must be around the hoof to discern whether it is original or not.*

*Among the cheeses, Tronchon is notable. This type of cheese takes its name from the town of Tronchón (Teruel, Aragon). The paste is whitish in color and has a smooth rind which is usually engraved with floral or symbolic motifs or letters. Another favourite cheese hailing from Huescan in Aragon is Benasque. This hard cheese is made from cow's milk and it's aged from 3 to 6 months in cellars. Underneath its washed rind, the texture is compact and buttery, yet crumbly, melting in the mouth.*

*The Aragonese region also produces a great variety of fruit, vegetables and pulses, including the thistle and borage which, due to their increasing popularity, are often seen on the menus of top restaurants, haricot beans, onions from Fuentes, asparagus from the banks of the River Ebro and the oils from Lower Aragon, whose excellent quality is due to the olive used in their preparation. The fruit grown in Aragon is admired throughout the rest of mainland Spain: pears, apples, cherries, plums, peaches.*

In the afternoon, continue to **Zaragoza** for a tour of this historic city where you will see The University of Zaragoza, Imperial Aragon Canal, the River Ebro, and the Misericordia Bullring before visiting the Basilic of Our Lady of El Pilar - the emblematic symbol of the city, dedicated to the Virgin of El Pilar, Spain's patron virgin, where in the walls you will see several frescoes painted by Goya. And finally, La Seo (the old cathedral).

Evening at leisure to explore the busy nightlife of Zaragoza.

Overnight in Zaragoza.



### DAY 5 – Sep 27 : Zaragoza - Madrid (B, D)

*Europe's third largest city, and Spain's capital, **Madrid** stands at the very centre of Spain – geographically, culturally and politically. Madrid not only offers the culture and good times of a sophisticated, modern city but it also retains the charm and elegance of its early years. The power and glory of Madrid is reflected in its parks, plazas, boulevards and in the pride and panache of today's Madrilenos. For all its international veneer, however, the city remains thoroughly Spanish, and Old Madrid has been designed on a human scale rather than a monumental scale. Among the splendid attractions of Madrid are the Prado Museum; home to masterworks of Goya, Velazquez and El Greco; the 19<sup>th</sup> century Villahermosa Palace now the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum; the Reina Sofia Art Centre showcasing more than 300 modern works by Dali, Miro & Picasso among others; the 18<sup>th</sup> century Royal Palace on the lovely Plaza de Oriente; the bustling Puerta del Sol with its many shops, restaurants and tapas bars and Retiro Park for strolling while admiring local artists and buskers.*

Breakfast at hotel.

In the morning depart for **Madrid** with a stop en route in charming town of **Medinaceli** declared a Historic-Artistic Ensemble, in the province of Soria.

Free time for independent lunch and visit.

**Medinaceli's** historic quarter has the Property of Cultural Interest designation and there are traces of the Romans, Arabs and Christians in the village and its surroundings. Among its many attractions, the Roman arch from the 2nd and 3rd centuries, the only one with three arcades that is preserved in Spain; the 16<sup>th</sup> century Gothic era collegiate church and the Convent of Santa Isabel, funded in 1528 by Clarist nuns. Highlights among the civil buildings include the magnificent palace of the Dukes of Medinaceli, from the 17th century with its interior houses of Roman mosaics; and to the north, the remains of an old Arab castle.







Mid afternoon, continue through the landscapes of Castilla-Leon to Madrid, to Spain's cosmopolitan capital, Madrid.

Dinner will be at **Restaurant Palacio de Cibeles**. The restaurant is located on the white facade of the palace in the historic centre of Madrid and features traditional Spanish cuisine updated by Chef Adolfo Muñoz of the emblematic Adolfo restaurant in Toledo (which you will also visit later in the tour). The restaurant has been awarded two Repsol suns, a national prize for gastronomy.

Overnight in Madrid.

*Madrid is a melting pot for cuisine from all over the peninsula. **Traditional Madrid dishes** include the cocido adrilène (a type of stew). Callos or tripe is another of the typical dishes identified with local cuisine. Also, the humble and savory sopa de ajo (garlic soup) and caracoles (snails). Typical desserts are barquillos (rolled wafers) or buñuelos (fritters filled with custard, cream, chocolate, etc.).*

#### **DAY 6 – Sep 28 : Madrid (B, L)**

Breakfast at hotel.

Mid-morning, commence your city tour to visit panoramically some of the city's main avenues including Gran Vía and Castellana Avenue where monumental fountains are located which have become famous as venues where soccer fans (in this soccer crazy city...) have celebrated important victories (Cibeles for Real Madrid and Neptuno for Atletico Madrid).



Following this, explore the world famous **Prado Museum**. Opened in November 1819 the Prado Museum (Museo Nacional del Prado) was created with the double aim of showing the works of art that belonged to the Spanish Crown and demonstrate to the rest of Europe that Spanish art was of equal merit of any other national school. It features one of the world's finest collections of European art, from the 12<sup>th</sup> century to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, based on the former Spanish Royal Collection and not only houses the largest collection of Velazquez and Goya masterpieces, but other genial artists can be found such as Rembrandt, El Greco, Rubens, Titian, Hieronymus Bosch, Tintoretto, Caravaggio, Van Dyck and Albrecht Durer. Although founded as a museum of paintings and sculpture, it also contains important collections of more than 8,000 drawings, 5,000 prints, 1,000 coins and medals and almost 2,000 decorative objects and works of art. Sculpture is represented by more than 1,000 works and by a smaller number of sculptural fragments. The painting collection comprises about 7,800 paintings of which only about 900 are at public display, mainly because the museum's lack of space for it. A recently opened wing enlarged the display area by about 400 paintings, and it is currently used mainly for temporary expositions. El Prado is one of the most visited sites in Madrid, and it is considered to be among the greatest museums of art in the world. [www.museodelprado.es](http://www.museodelprado.es)



Lunch will be at **Las Cuevas del Duque** (The Duke's Caves). This unique restaurant is located in the caves of an 18-century building that originally serviced the Alba manor house as food cellars and goods warehouse. During the Spanish Civil War, the building was badly damaged, but The Duke's Caves were renovated and became a restaurant in 1960 and for six decades it has been a reference for lovers of history and classical culinary art in the capital. The specialty is Iberians with knife-cut ham and roasts of Segovia-style lamb and suckling pig but its menu features a variety of creative recipes and culinary specialties, where differentiated quality agri-food products prevail.



In the afternoon, continue your city tour see some of its most emblematic sites. During the different historical periods, the city grew from the old town known as Madrid of the Habsburgs (the Dynasty from the XV to XVIII century), where Madrid became the capital of a huge Empire. Visit the charming corner of the downtown area seeing places such as the Plaza Mayor, Plaza de la Villa and more.

Then visit the impressive **Royal Palace**, former residence of the Spanish Kings (which today still remains in use for important official ceremonies) beautifully furnished and decorated, and admire the official Reception rooms, Museum area, Royal Chapel, Throne room and the private rooms of King Carlos III and Queen Isabel II.



Evening at leisure.

Overnight in Madrid.

**DAY 7 – Sep 29 : Madrid – Granada (B, L)**



*Granada has a beautiful, scenic setting with the snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountain range towering in the background. It was an important Islamic kingdom in middle age but it reached its maximum splendor in XIVth century, when the city was the capital of the Islamic kingdom Nasrid, the last Islamic kingdom in the peninsula and a very sophisticated royal family, promoting the development of literature, art and science. In 1492 finally, it passed to the Crown of Castile, transforming the city.*

*Nothing typifies Granada like the Alhambra, the hilltop 13th-century fortress palace of the Nasrid kings, and its cypress tree-studded Generalife gardens. Sense the presence of sultans and courtesans of an earlier era roaming the halls and patios intricately embellished with cedarwood, stucco and geometric mosaics. A fascinating district in Granada is the Alcaiceria close to the Cathedral, a neighbourhood of narrow streets and alleyways decorated with Moorish-styled arches. It was originally the site of the Great Bazaar of Granada in medieval times but was burnt down in 1843. Today it is home to a number of craft and souvenir shops selling ceramics, silks, jewellery and spices. The Albaicin is an old Arab Quarter made up of a labyrinth of narrow streets and a walk through this neighbourhood with its ancient Spanish/Muslim architecture will take you back to historical times on a trip to Spain. The city is situated on the banks of the River Darro with its 5 bridges and a stroll will be rewarded with a wonderful array of distinguished Arab houses, ancient churches and mosques, lovely plazas convents as well as many pleasant bars and restaurants.*

Breakfast at hotel. This morning, leave Toledo and continue south through Castilla-La-Mancha into Andalusia, the most history-rich and evocative of Spain's autonomous regions with a great diversity of landscapes - mountain ranges, countryside and its coasts on both the Mediterranean and Atlantic. Home of flamenco, sherry, and the country's most spectacular festivities and bullfights it also offers three of the grandest cities in all of Europe: Seville, Granada, and Córdoba.

Arrive in Granada and check in to the hotel.

Lunch will be at **Restaurant El Coso**. Located in the Plaza de Toros de Granada, the restaurant building dates back to 1928, and each dish is a unique experience of Mediterranean flavours and aromas.

After lunch, you will have a free time to commence your exploration of this historic city independently.

**Andalusia cuisine** reflects the melting pot of cultures evident in the region. The Romans taught the Andalusians how to cultivate wheat and vines and used the fish from the seas to produce the best "garum" in the empire. The Arabs taught the Andalusians how to grow fruit and vegetables. They used irrigation systems and improved the cultivation of olive trees and the production of oil and of all the Spanish regions, this region uses the most olive oil in its cuisine.

Bordering the Mediterranean and Atlantic, its seas provide many types of fish including sole, sea bass, white sea bream, red snapper, snapper, hake, red mullet, sardines, anchovies, plaice, king prawns, octopus and crayfish and typically imaginative dishes include red tuna cooked with onions and melva fish stew. The Andalusian market garden has an abundance of varied products as the southern aspect of the region allows for the harvesting of 5 plantings of most fruit and vegetables per year, which means that strawberries, eggplant, artichokes, tomatoes, leeks, and a cornucopia of fruit and veg are available year-round. The most famous cold soup, Gazpacho, is from this region and other cold soups include poleá, zoque, salmorejo and almorejo (an almond soup). Other notable dishes include paellas, fried fish (often called *pescaíto frito*), gambas (shrimp), oxtail stew, Andalusian tripe, the *jamonés* (hams) of Jabugo, Valle de los Pedroches and Trevélez. Typical drinks in the area include anise, wine and sherry.



In the evening, experience a Flamenco show at **Las Cuevas "Los Tarantos"** located within a former cave home in the Sacromonte neighborhood of Granada. Founded in 1972 by Don Jose and Dona Concepcion Martin Quesada Maya Maya, the cave was transformed into a special venue for Zambra style flamenco, typical of the region of Granada.

Overnight in Granada.

**Flamenco** is a form of popular artistic expression representing a long-standing tradition that appears on the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The art form combines vocal music, dance and musical accompaniment rooted fundamentally in Andalusia and other regions like Murcia and Extremadura. This cultural expressive vehicle dating back to the 18th century is the most emblematic of Andalusian folklore and the most renowned form of artistic expression in Spain. Flamenco has become a true identity for numerous communities, such as the gypsy ethnic group, where it is transmitted from generation to generation through dynasties of artists, families, flamenco clubs, numerous important festivals, schools and flamenco tablaos, whose numbers are growing each year.

Flamenco artists are able to express a multitude of different feelings through the medium of vocal music (*cante*) and dancing (*baile*). *Cante* can not only be accompanied by the flamenco guitar, but also by castanets, a percussion box known as "el cajón", hand-clapping and heel-clicking, whose rhythms are broken down into diverse "palos" or varieties (*toná, soleá, seguiriya, fandango, sevillanas, etc.*) based on factors, such as the song's character or origin. *Baile*, in turn, has a complex technique and its interpretation varies according to the individual performer.

**DAY 8 – Sep 30 : Granada (B, D)**

Breakfast at hotel.

In the morning, visit the **Alhambra Palace\*\***, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which overlooks the city from the top of a hill. Granada's Cathedral. It has an extensive series of beautiful palaces and gardens dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It has been a fortress, a palace and a city within a city. Its architecture is dazzling. In the centre of the **Alhambra** is the immensely large Palace of Charles V, a magnificent example of Spanish Renaissance architecture. This complex was the residences of the Kings of Granada. Adjacent to the Alhambra is the **Generalife, the "Garden of Paradise"** and a series of beautifully laid-out gardens containing courtyards, archways, pathways, pools, fountains, waterfalls and flowers.

\*\* tickets to the Alhambra Palace are strictly capacity controlled and must be purchased well in advance. They cannot be purchased on a group basis as specific individual names are required and there is therefore always the possibility that they may not be available at the time of an individual traveler's registration with us – **another reason to book early !**.



Independent lunch.

In the afternoon, city tour visiting the **Cathedral** and the **Royal Chapel**. Its stunning interior contains some wonderful sculptures and interesting glass windows.

The Chapel, is the burial place of many Catholic Monarchs who were the unifiers of the different peninsula kingdoms in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, including Queen Isabella (who encouraged Christopher Columbus to sail across the Atlantic). Dating back to 1506, it was constructed in Gothic style, when Renaissance style building had been going on in Castile for some time. It is famous for its mosaics and includes works by Doménico Fancelli and Spanish Masters such as Gil de Hontañón, Juan de Badajoz el Viejo and Lorenzo Vázquez.



Dinner will be at **Restaurant Mirador de Morayma** located in a traditional country house in Granada's ancient Moorish quarter, the Albayzín. This elegant restaurant has a breathtaking view of the Alhambra and features an exquisitely mastered variety of traditional Granadian cuisine, as well as a wide range of wines, including the owner's own ecological wine produced at Alquería de Morayma, a country estate in the Alpujarra region.

Overnight in Granada.

**DAY 9 - Oct 1 : Granada - Cordoba – Seville (B, L)**

**Cordoba** has been the centre of several civilizations, Roman, Arabic and Christian which have all left their mark on the city. It became a city of great importance, when originally founded by the Romans, but reached its zenith under the rule of the Moorish Muslims, especially between the 9th and 10th centuries, when it became the capital of the Caliphate and, at which time, it was the most populated city in the world with close to 1 million inhabitants. It therefore has many archaeological sites from each period of occupation including the Alcazar (fortress) built by the Christians in 1328, the remains of a Roman wall, a temple, forum, amphitheatre and, from the Moors occupation, The Great Mosque of Cordoba.



Cordoba's medieval quarter is called "La Judería" (The Jewry) as it was once the home of the Jewish community. It is now a labyrinth of winding, narrow streets, shady courtyards and picturesque squares. It also has several interesting museums including the Centro Flamenco Fosforito, probably the best flamenco museum in Andalusia and the Museo de Bellas Artes (Museum of Fine Arts), the main art gallery of Cordoba mainly exhibiting paintings by local masters.

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning, continue north west through Andalusia to the old Caliphate capital of **Cordoba**.

Lunch will be at **Bodegas Mezquita Céspedes** located at the foot of the Mezquita, in the heart of Córdoba's Jewish Quarter specializing in traditional Cordoban cuisine.



In the afternoon, enjoy a city tour of Cordoba starting at the **Great Mosque of Cordoba**, also known as the Mezquita. It is one of the world's largest and greatest Islamic buildings and is a symbol of the importance and sophistication of the Islamic period as it related to Cordoba at a time when it was Western Europe's largest and most cultural city. Its sober external appearance of the building is a huge contrast with the fabulous spectacle inside, a world of 850 columns and arches, in granite and marble, combining many colors. Following the conquest of Cordoba by the Christians, the Mezquita was used as a cathedral which took 250 years to complete and because of this, shows off a range of architectural styles including Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque.

Then walk through the old **Jewish quarter** (La Judería) with its narrow streets and small squares and see the nearby Roman bridge which is still in use. Finish in the **Alcazar**, a royal residence of Christian medieval kings from 1328 and where Ryes Catolicos lived and organized all battles for the expulsion of Muslims in the peninsula, in 15th century. This fortress, includes a castle with battlements and attractive gardens.



After the tour, continue west through Andalucía with its landscapes of the endless olive trees to your final base of the tour, Seville.

Evening at leisure. Overnight in Seville.

#### DAY 10 - Oct 2 : Seville (B, D)



Sevilla is Andalucía's most self-assured, and most sophisticated city - the hometown of the passionate Carmen and the lusty Don Juan and probably the most ornately decorated city in Spain. No country does baroque like the Spanish, and no city does Spanish baroque like Sevilla, where the style represents the hybrid offspring of Moorish decoration and the Catholic insistence on turning every abstract curlicue of Islam into a Christian angel's wing.

It is a city of undeniable monumentality hosting 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Real Alcázar Palace, the largest Gothic Cathedral in Europe and the General Archive of the Indies. La Giralda, the tower attached to the cathedral, is a city icon affording a spectacular viewpoint of the city with its courtyards of orange trees, typical in Andalusia, and a bird's eye view of the Cathedral itself.

As the first major city in the heart of Andalucía to return to Spanish hands, Sevilla has a markedly Christian countenance, and the city is studded with churches and former convents funded by the riches that flowed into the city from its 16th to 18th century trade monopoly with the New World when it became the port and location of all institutions that controlled all trade with America. Today, it is the beautiful capital of Andalusia, famous for the liveliness of its celebrations, the grandeur of its processions, flower-filled balconies and patios.

**Sevilla cuisine** is influenced by North Africa as evidenced in the honey-sweetened pastries and the abundant dates, almonds, saffron, and lemons. Gazpacho was made here with almonds and garlic long before tomatoes arrived from the New World, and breads are still baked in ancient ovens.

Breakfast at hotel.

Free time to start to explore this delightful walking city independently.

In the afternoon, enjoy a city tour, starting at the **Cathedral** - the third largest in the world after the Vatican and St. Paul's in London, built on the site of a 12th Century mosque, the minarets of which still exist. It is also an art gallery as it contains well-known works by artists such as Goya, Murillo and others. Inside the cathedral is the monumental tomb of Christopher Columbus supposedly containing his bones brought here from Cuba in 1898. The main chapel has possibly the largest altar in the world with a gold leaf design of the story of Jesus. The **General Archive of the Indies** is one of the most important document collections about the conquest of the New World. It is housed in a 16th Century building and has 80 million pages of documents! This is open to the public with exhibits including maps and documents relating to Spain's Colonial days. It is a story about Spain's discoveries, explorations and conquests with letters written by Christopher Columbus on display. Marvel at the views of the city from the cathedral's tower, **La Giralda**.



Then, a walk in the **Quarter of Santa Cruz**, a colorful maze of alleys, small squares and nice gardens and a visit to **María Luisa Park** and **Plaza de España** (Square of Spain) before visiting the Alcazar Palace.

The **Alcazar Palace** was built in the 1300's but expanded and reconstructed many times over the centuries. Today, it is still used as a Royal Palace with many rooms, magnificent halls and courtyards all hidden behind the walls. The Alcazar is divided into sections dating through a succession of eras which include Moorish (11th-12th Century), Gothic (13th Century), Mudejar (14th Century), and Renaissance (15th-16th Century). The heart of the Alcazar is the Mudejar Palace with its Mudejar architecture (the Mudejars were the Moors who stayed on in Spain after the Christians took over the region). There are also extensive gardens which are exotic in style with both Moorish and Renaissance influences.

Finish off the tour with a one hour boat cruise on the Guadalquivir River. Starting from the Torre del Oro, and reaching the Club Náutico and the Puente de la Barqueta, you will be able to admire the different bridges of the city and the pavilions of the Expo of 1929 and 1992, among other highlights of the city.





Dinner at **Casa Manolo Leon Guadalquivir** located across the river from the Jardines del Guadalquivir in the heart of the neighborhood of San Lorenzo in a 19th century Andalusian manor house. The restaurant was opened in 1999 by brothers Agustín and Manolo León and offers traditional Andalusian cuisine with an avant-garde touch.

Overnight in Seville.

#### DAY 11 - Oct 3 : Seville – Merida – Toledo (B, L)



*Mérida, the capital of the Extremadura region, is a destination that brings the old Roman Empire back to life. Emerita Augusta, as it was previously known, was founded as a Roman colony in 25 BC under the order of the emperor Augustus and was one of the most important in Roman Hispania, endowed with all the comforts of a large Roman city.*

*Today, this World Heritage City still boasts a Roman theatre which is over 2,000 years old and is still in use. As well as the city's highlight, the Ampitheatre, a short walk through the town will reveal numerous other landmarks that serve as a reminder of the town's past: a temple, the circus, the thermal baths, aqueducts, arches... Quiet streets, squares that invite you to take a break, the banks of the Guadiana river with green spaces where you can go for a walk, visits to landmarks such as the Arab Citadel and gastronomy that makes you want to linger over lunch are some of the reasons to visit this laid back, provincial town.*

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning depart Seville and head north through Andalucia, past the Sierra Morena mountains into Extremadura, a region of contrasts with exceptional monumental sites, varied natural landscapes (which are a favourite with birdwatchers and also home to plentiful wildlife such as deer, otters and even lynxes) and its famous wild black pigs, which feed on acorns and go on to become the famous "Jamón Ibérico" (Iberian ham), the most highly-prized of Spain's cured hams.

Close to **Merida**, make a **visit to a local vineyard**. *Tempranillo* has traditionally been the favorite grape variety of the region as it responds well to the regional terroir and Extremadura's vineyards are also home to local white varieties such as *Cayetana*.

Lunch will be just outside the town at the **Parador de Mérida**.

***Extremadura cuisine** is quite simple in nature and offers a different product in each subregion with the crops and livestock which can be found in the varied landscapes of the region (dry plains, luxuriant pastures, mountains, marshes, meadows and fields) influencing the local dishes. One of its main influences over the centuries has been the convents, which surprised illustrious visitors seeking rest, peace and good food in the monasteries and abbeys with many culinary delights. Yuste, Guadalupe, Alcántara and other refuges gave hospitality to high-ranking noblemen, serving them delicacies which satisfied even the very demanding taste of the emperor Carlos V.*



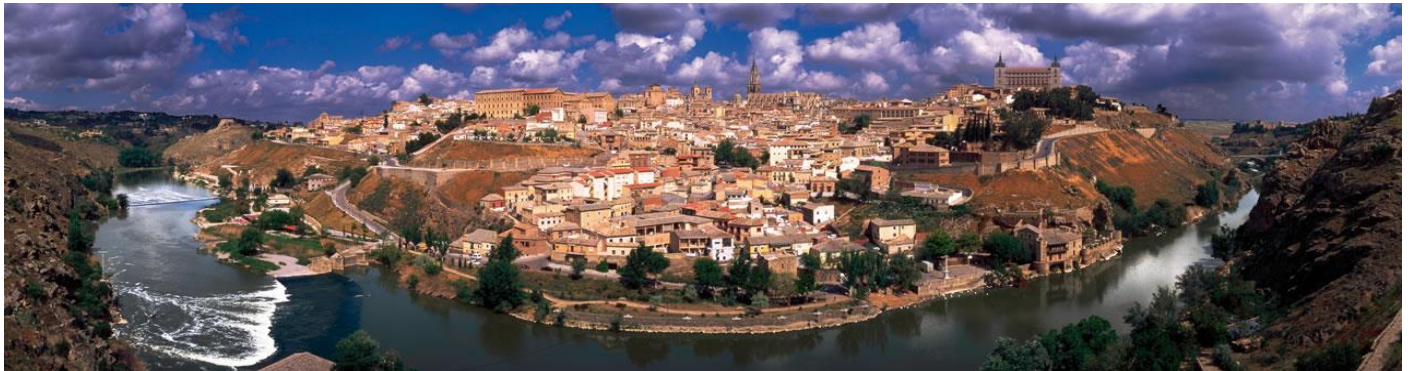
In the afternoon, enjoy a short city tour of Merida where you will visit the major well preserved archeological sites including the **Roman Theatre, Amphitheatre** and **The Roman Circus**. The monumental Roman Theatre was built between the years 16 and 15 BCE and, at the height of its splendour, it could hold up to 6,000 spectators. With its excellent acoustic conditions, it is still in use each summer as the venue for a major theatre festival. Meanwhile, the Roman Amphitheatre was inaugurated in 8 BCE and could seat up to 15,000 people over three terraced areas. The purpose of this structure was leisure, with spectacles featuring contests between gladiators, wild animals and, on occasion, between the gladiators and the animals.



Afterwards drive east into **Castilla-La-Mancha** region, a land famous for its arts and crafts, for the unique monuments to be seen in its towns and cities, and for being the setting for the adventures of the famous literary hero Don Quixote of La Mancha, to the former Spanish capital, and now UNESCO town, of **Toledo**.

Overnight in Toledo.

**DAY 12 – Oct 4 : Toledo (B, D)**



*The saying goes that if you only had one day to spend in Spain, it should be spent in **Toledo** and the city is known as La Ciudad Imperial (Imperial City) for a reason; this is Iberia's Rome with a cultural array of mosques, synagogues, churches and museums, plus the added high of a lofty setting, perched on a rocky ridge above Río Tajo. Like the Middle East grafted onto Catholic Spain, Toledo's labyrinth of narrow streets, plazas and inner patios is reminiscent of the medinas (towns) of Damascus or Fez. Yet from Toledo's heart rises the Gothic grandeur of the cathedral and the grim composure of the Alcázar fortress. The artistic legacy bequeathed by the city's former inhabitants of Romans, Jews and Muslims is reflected in this intriguing mosaic of architecture, as well as in its cultural values.*

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning, soak in the atmosphere of the historic citadel of Toledo as you tour its many sites and relics – the **Cathedral**, one of the finest in Europe, with stained glass windows, intricate woodwork and wrought-iron grilles, plus a sacristy that doubles as a fine arts museum; the **Iglesia de Santo Tome** where you can see El Greco's greatest masterpiece, "The Burial of the Count Orgaz"; and the dazzling Moorish-designed **Synagogue Sta Maria la Blanca**. Wander around the narrow streets, taking time to relax at the main square, Plaza de Zocodover, before touring outside the walls where it is important to capture the city's dramatic profile, as immortalized on the canvases of El Greco.



In the afternoon, escape the confines of the walled city to visit **Viñedos Cigarral Santa María** by Adolfo. Take a tour of the vineyard, learn about the wine making process and taste the family's Pago del Alma wine. Afterwards, participate in a **cooking class** to introduce you to the diverse cuisine of the area and finish off the day with an exquisite dinner sampling the best of Castilla-La Mancha cuisine.

<https://cigarralsantamaria.com/>

*In **Castilla-La Mancha**, the culinary habits reflect the origin of foods eaten by shepherds and peasants. Wheat and grains are a dominant product and ingredient. They are used in bread, soups, gazpacho manchego, crumbs, porridge, etc. The cuisine is quite diverse and includes delicious meats, fresh trout and another local delicacy, river crabs and one of the most abundant ingredients is garlic. Popular dishes are mountain rabbit, hare, migas (fried breadcrumbs), morteruelo (pork liver pate), pistos asadillo (roast peppers and tomatoes with garlic) and gazpacho manchego. Sweets include turrón (nougat) and yemas (small egg-yolk cakes). Two products in particular symbolise the gastronomy of the area: manchego cheese and Valdepenas wine.*

Overnight in Toledo.



**DAY 13 - Oct 5 (Thu) : Toledo – Toronto (B)**

Breakfast at hotel.

Take the short drive this morning north to Madrid, and Madrid airport, for your return flight back to Canada (arrival in Toronto same day, Oct 5)

## The hotel bases...

Location	Hotel
Barcelona (2 nights)	Hotel Barcelona Center (4*) <a href="https://www.hotelescenter.es/en/hotel-barcelona-center/">https://www.hotelescenter.es/en/hotel-barcelona-center/</a>
Zaragoza (1 night)	NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza (4*) <a href="http://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-gran-hotel-de-zaragoza">http://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-gran-hotel-de-zaragoza</a>
Madrid (2 nights)	Hotel Riu Plaza de España (4*) <a href="https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/spain/madrid/hotel-riu-plaza-espana/">https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/spain/madrid/hotel-riu-plaza-espana/</a>
Granada (2 nights)	Nh Collection Granada Victoria (4*) <a href="https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-collection-granada-victoria">https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-collection-granada-victoria</a>
Seville (2 nights)	Hotel Inglaterra (4*) <a href="https://www.hotelinglaterra.es/en/">https://www.hotelinglaterra.es/en/</a>
Toledo (2 nights)	Hotel Eugenia de Montijo Autograph Collection (4*) <a href="https://www.fontecruzhoteles.com/es/hotel-eugenia-de-montijo/">https://www.fontecruzhoteles.com/es/hotel-eugenia-de-montijo/</a>

As detailed above, your accommodation will be in 4 star hotels – in the unlikely event that a hotel needs to be substituted it will be of a similar standard.

## **SAMPLE MENU**

### **CULTURAL & GASTRONOMICAL TOUR OF SPAIN**

#### **SAMPLE MENU FROM A PREVIOUS PROGRAM**

#### **REST. ASADOR DE ARANDA BARCELONA**

#### **SEPTEMBER 27th - DINNER**

Assorted entrances at the center of table:

Morcilla de Burgos (Black pudding)

Croquetas caseras (Home-made croquettes)

Pimientos con bonito del norte (Red peppers with tuna)

Jamón de Jabugo (Jabugo cured ham)

Escalibada de verduras con anchoas (Roast vegetables with anchovies)

\*\*\*\*\*

Lechazo asado en horno de leña (Roast baby lam in wood-fired oven)

Chuletillas a la brasa (Roast lamb chops)

Ensalada (Salad)

\*\*\*\*\*

Hojaldre de la casa (Home-made millefeuille)

Orujo y rosquillas (Liquor and ring-shaped pastries)

\*\*\*\*\*

Vino tinto Ribera del Duero (Red wine from Ribera del Duero region)

Agua mineral (Mineral water)

Café (Coffee)

Copa de Cava (Glass of Cava sparkling wine)

**The price... Cdn \$7,995 / person  
(Early Booking Price valid until June 19, 2023 – save \$500/person)**

<b>Pricing (exc. Insurance) / per person - Cdn\$</b>	<b>Including Air (from Toronto)</b>
Per person (double occupancy)	
- registrations up to June 19, 2023	<b>\$ 7,995</b>
- registrations after June 19, 2023	\$ 8,495
Single supplement	\$ 1,780
Single share matching fee (A)	\$ 300 **
Transportation / hotel taxes and fees	\$ 715

(A) Single share matching fee – can't find a traveling partner but don't want to pay the single supplement? We will keep our eyes open for similar clients and try and find you a compatible person to share a room with. However, if we are unable to find you a suitable companion the single supplement will be payable.

Upgrades are available to **Premium Economy** for the international flights (see our registration form for details).

**Connecting flights** from other Canadian cities available upon request (supplement applies).

#### **REPEAT CUSTOMER DISCOUNT**

If you are one of our many repeat clients, having travelled with Doctors-on-Tour on one of our previous educational tours, you are eligible for our Repeat Customer Discount. Simply deduct \$100 /person for each separate tour that you have travelled with the company on up to a maximum of \$300 /person (ie travelled on one previous tour, deduct \$100; two tours, \$200; three or more tours, \$300). **Please note, this discount is subject to the payment (s) for the tour being made by cheque.** The discount is to be made from the final balance payment with the deposit amount being paid in full.

#### **CANADIAN \$ PRICING !**

Please note, unlike many programs offered by other companies which are quoted in US\$ (and are also usually land only prices excluding air fare), **our prices remain in Canadian\$** - and, with a premium now of around 40% (at May 2023) when paying in US\$, this makes a significant difference.

**BOOKING FORM** - may be downloaded at <http://on-tour.yolasite.com> or accessed via the direct link below -

<https://fs22.formsite.com/Doctorsontour/SPA2309GourmetTourForm/index.html>

## Inclusions and Exclusions...

### Inclusions -

- International flights from Toronto to Barcelona, Spain and from Seville, Spain to Toronto
- Private, modern, air-conditioned coach transportation (including bottled water)
- All meet and greet services and arrival and departure transfers
- 4 star hotel accommodation
- 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 dinners (featuring the different cuisine types of the region, including **cooking class**)
- Drinks (wine, soft drinks) included with all lunches and dinners (except meals in hotels)
- Comprehensive daily itineraries including escorted tours of local cultural sites and museums, attractions and shows.
- All admission fees (except those specifically noted above)
- Tours of local bodegas (wineries) highlighting the different grapes of the regions, including **wine tasting**
- Fully escorted program including services of local English speaking cultural guides
- Porterage (at hotels)
- Hosting by our Group Leader, Dr. Rachel Kassner and her husband, Joel Palter

### Exclusions -

- Any meals or activities not mentioned above
- Beverages (with the exception of wine and soft drinks with all lunches and dinners as stated above)
- Gratuities for local tour escort / guides and drivers
- Airport departure taxes
- Travel insurance – please note, **travel insurance (including medical and trip interruption coverage) is highly recommended** for this tour. Coverage is available through Doctors-on-Tour with Manulife Insurance – please check for further details in our brochure (page 26)
- All items of a personal nature such as telephone / internet usage, laundry services etc

**THIS PROGRAM HAS LIMITED CAPACITY AND, AFTER THE SUCCESS OF OUR PREVIOUS SPAIN PROGRAMS, WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A HIGH LEVEL OF PRE-REGISTRATIONS FROM CLIENTS AND ARE EXPECTING IT TO BECOME FULLY SUBSCRIBED QUICKLY.**

**WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND REGISTERING (WITH A DEPOSIT OF \$500 PER PERSON, PLUS APPLICABLE TRAVEL INSURANCE PREMIUM) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION.**

**REGISTER BY JUNE 19, 2023 AND SAVE \$1,000/COUPLE !!**



## Misc information you need to know...

### Travel documentation and visas

An entry visa is not required for Canadian citizens for entry into Spain but your passport must have an expiry date no earlier than 3 months after your scheduled departure date from the country.

Citizens of other countries should check their requirements at <https://cibtvisas.ca/>

### Mandatory vaccinations

None

## Travel insurance information... Coverage available through Manulife Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance to protect you against the unexpected due to, in particular, limited provincial health care coverage afforded to Canadians while traveling overseas and the cancellation provisions inherent in your booking. We offer the following insurance coverage options through Manulife Insurance, one of Canada's leading insurance providers –

### NON-MEDICAL INCLUSIVE PLAN

There are **significant inherent cancellation penalties** associated with your booking as detailed in our booking terms and conditions and this insurance package provides coverage for cancellation penalties if you should have to cancel due to medical, or other listed, reasons either relating to yourself or a member of your immediate family. It also covers you for trip interruption costs short notice return flight home etc) for medical reasons again, either relating to yourself or an immediate family member as well as flight and travel accident and baggage insurance.

### ALL INCLUSIVE PLAN

This plan provides coverage for all the components in the Non-medical Inclusive plan, plus unlimited health coverage while in the destination

### **"Cancel for any reason (CFAR)" coverage - NEW and at no additional cost !!**

So long as you **purchase either of the two insurance policies above at the same time as your tour booking**, you are automatically entitled to this added benefit of CFAR coverage whereby, if you need to cancel your tour booking up to 14 days or more before departure **for any reason**, your policy will refund you up to a maximum of 50% of the cancellation penalties incurred. This is excellent peace of mind coverage to protect you against (50% of the) cancellation penalties incurred in a situation where the reason for cancellation is not one of the regular covered risks in your policy (ie it is essentially "change of mind" insurance).

### PREMIUM PROTECTION PLAN ("PPP")

As a third option, Manulife is now also offering a new enhanced travel insurance policy, their **Premium Protection Plan ("PPP")**. This is Manulife's most comprehensive coverage, providing all the same types of coverage as the All-Inclusive plan (above) but with higher covered amounts in most areas. It is also a simplified policy in so much that, whereas the All-Inclusive plan and Non-medical Inclusive plan (above, and as is the case with most insurance company travel policies) have a list of specific covered events, the **PPP offers cancellation coverage for any unexpected and unforeseen event** (ie., any event, situation or circumstance that is beyond your control that prevents you from travelling) with only a few exclusions that apply.

An overview of the PPP may be found by clicking [here](#)

A comparison of the enhanced benefits provided by the PPP compared to Manulife's regular All Inclusive plan may be found by clicking [here](#)

A major benefit of the PPP is that coverage for reimbursement of inherent cancellation penalties under the **Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)" coverage is increased to 80%** of the cancellation penalties incurred for all cancellation **up to 7 days or more before departure**.

Please note, the PPP is only available to clients under the age of 75 (at the date of purchase of the insurance coverage) and **must be purchased at the same time as the travel tour booking is made** (72 hour grace period).

A detailed overview of coverage benefits and limitations of each insurance policy that we offer through Manulife may be found at -

<https://www.igoinured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E>

Manulife's insurance premiums (dependent upon your age at the time of purchasing insurance and your total tour costs) are below -

Total insurable costs (\$/person)	NON-MEDICAL INCLUSIVE								ALL-INCLUSIVE							
	Age>	0-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	0-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84
4000 - 4500	406	406	454	487	536	743	1,040	1,040	474	474	581	669	878	999	1,472	1,472
4500 - 5000	440	440	494	534	590	817	1,135	1,135	508	508	622	716	932	1,060	1,567	1,567
5000 - 5500	474	474	535	582	644	892	1,229	1,229	542	542	662	763	986	1,121	1,661	1,661
5500 - 6000	507	507	575	629	698	966	1,324	1,324	575	575	703	810	1,040	1,181	1,756	1,756
6000 - 6500	541	541	616	676	752	1,040	1,418	1,418	609	609	743	858	1,094	1,242	1,850	1,850
6500 - 7000	575	575	656	723	806	1,114	1,513	1,513	643	643	784	905	1,148	1,303	1,945	1,945
7000 - 7500	609	609	697	771	860	1,189	1,607	1,607	677	677	824	952	1,202	1,364	2,039	2,039
7500 - 8000	642	642	737	818	914	1,263	1,702	1,702	710	710	865	999	1,256	1,424	2,134	2,134
8000 - 8500	676	676	778	865	968	1,337	1,796	1,796	744	744	905	1,047	1,310	1,485	2,228	2,228
8500 - 9000	710	710	818	912	1,022	1,411	1,891	1,891	778	778	946	1,094	1,364	1,546	2,323	2,323
9000 - 9500	744	744	859	960	1,076	1,486	1,985	1,985	812	812	986	1,141	1,418	1,607	2,417	2,417
9500 - 10000	777	777	899	1,007	1,130	1,560	2,080	2,080	845	845	1,027	1,188	1,472	1,667	2,512	2,512
10000 - 10500	811	811	940	1,054	1,184	1,634	2,174	2,174	879	879	1,067	1,236	1,526	1,728	2,606	2,606
10500 - 11000	845	845	980	1,101	1,238	1,708	2,269	2,269	913	913	1,108	1,283	1,580	1,789	2,701	2,701
11000 - 11500	879	879	1,021	1,149	1,292	1,783	2,363	2,363	947	947	1,148	1,330	1,634	1,850	2,795	2,795
11500 - 12000	912	912	1,061	1,196	1,346	1,857	2,458	2,458	980	980	1,189	1,377	1,688	1,910	2,890	2,890
12000 - 12500	946	946	1,102	1,243	1,400	1,931	2,552	2,552	1,014	1,014	1,229	1,425	1,742	1,971	2,984	2,984
12500 - 13000	980	980	1,142	1,290	1,454	2,005	2,647	2,647	1,048	1,048	1,270	1,472	1,796	2,032	3,079	3,079
13000 - 13500	1,014	1,014	1,183	1,338	1,508	2,080	2,741	2,741	1,082	1,082	1,310	1,519	1,850	2,093	3,173	3,173
13500 - 14000	1,047	1,047	1,223	1,385	1,562	2,154	2,836	2,836	1,115	1,115	1,351	1,566	1,904	2,153	3,268	3,268
14000 - 14500	1,081	1,081	1,264	1,432	1,616	2,228	2,930	2,930	1,149	1,149	1,391	1,614	1,958	2,214	3,362	3,362
14500 - 15000	1,115	1,115	1,304	1,479	1,670	2,302	3,025	3,025	1,183	1,183	1,432	1,661	2,012	2,275	3,457	3,457

Total insurable costs (\$/person)	PREMIUM PROTECTION PLAN (PPP)			
	Age>	0-69	70-74	75+
4000 - 4500	675	1,296		Coverage not available if age 75 or over at the date of purchasing insurance
4500 - 5000	750	1,440		
5000 - 5500	825	1,584		
5500 - 6000	900	1,728		
6000 - 6500	975	1,872		
6500 - 7000	1,050	2,016		
7000 - 7500	1,125	2,160		
7500 - 8000	1,200	2,304		
8000 - 8500	1,275	2,448		
8500 - 9000	1,350	2,592		
9000 - 9500	1,425	2,736		
9500 - 10000	1,500	2,880		
10000 - 10500	1,575	3,024		
10500 - 11000	1,650	3,168		
11000 - 11500	1,725	3,312		
11500 - 12000	1,800	3,456		
12000 - 12500	1,875	3,600		
12500 - 13000	1,950	3,744		
13000 - 13500	2,025	3,888		
13500 - 14000	2,100	4,032		
14000 - 14500	2,175	4,176		
14500 - 15000	2,250	4,320		

**For residents of Ontario**, simply accept your choice of insurance (Non-medical Inclusive, All-Inclusive or Premium Protection coverage) on our *online* registration form and we will apply the premium above on your invoice confirmation (if using our *pdf* registration form, enter the applicable premium from the above table when completing the registration form)

**For residents of Canadian provinces other than Ontario**, insurance regulations state that travel insurance should be taken out directly with Manulife Insurance, albeit through a direct web link hosted on our web site, ie you should purchase your travel insurance policy by simply following the link below to take advantage of our preferred rates with Manulife) via our company's exclusive Manulife link:

<https://www.igoinsured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E>

### **Non-Canadian residents**

For residents of countries outside of Canada (including the USA), insurance regulations allow us to sell "**Trip Cancellation**" insurance (this policy includes both trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage but not medical coverage). Hence it is not possible for non-Canadian residents to purchase either the All Inclusive or Premium Protection plans from Manulife. We do find that many of our overseas clients already have medical insurance through other channels and therefore, if this is the case, you may purchase "Trip Cancellation" coverage by following the link below to purchase the "Trip Cancellation" insurance policy (taking advantage of our preferred rates with Manulife) via our company's exclusive Manulife link:

<https://www.igoinsured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E>

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **Travel insurance that may be available through your credit card**

When considering any of the travel insurance policies above, if you believe you may have coverage through your **credit card** we would strongly advise checking with the credit card company the actual coverage afforded to ensure it covers medical, trip cancellation and trip interruption as not all of these items are covered (or may only offer limited coverage as to trip duration or insured \$amount in the event of a claim - sometimes as low as only \$1,000 per person) by all kinds of cards. Also, most coverage through credit card benefits does not include Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage.

## Testimonials

"A thoroughly enjoyable week – well organized tours and great company!  
Dagnija Kalnins, Port Credit – Los Cabos, Mexico, 2003

"Great hotel facilities, excellent service – an extremely enjoyable, and educational, week  
Doug Wooster, Toronto – Chile, 2005

"Great company, well organized and interesting tours and great food (and wine....!) – Fantastic trip!"  
Ray Martin, Toronto – Argentina, 2006

"Thanks for planning such an amazing trip. Our congenial group enjoyed so many rich experiences together and collected memories to last a lifetime. Each day was an adventure!  
Andrea Maurice – Vietnam / Cambodia, 2007

"I want to express our appreciation for a wonderful trip. The tour operator and the guides were excellent and everything went very smoothly.... this was a tremendous trip which we will need to review again over the coming days to catalogue and appreciate all the places we visited and the marvelous things we saw.. Thanks again for all the hard work in putting the trip together with the memorable result that was achieved...  
Rudy Hyles, Mississauga – Ecuador & The Galapagos, 2008

"Wonderful people! Wonderful places!"  
Phil McGuire, Ottawa – Peru, 2009

"The organization and accommodation were both excellent. We were always looked after with consideration and provided with a wide variety of interesting activities and experiences. The guides were most helpful and informative. A wonderful tour!"  
Michael Dales, Toronto - Ecuador & The Galapagos, 2009

"I do not have words to express my appreciation and admiration for the your hospitality and service provided by your company and your partners on the ground in India"  
Sudhir Pandya – Northern India, 2009

"We thoroughly enjoyed the recent trip to East Africa.  
All lodges were excellent. The event was a huge success. A lifetime highlight"  
John Bright - Kenya & Tanzania – March, 2010

"A wonderful trip. It was amazing to see so many different animals co-existing on the beautiful African plains. The Kenyan and Tanzanian people we met were gracious and welcoming.  
Our host/trip manager was excellent - very bright, knowledgeable, good problem solver, great people skills - a delightful man who really made our trip memorable. Our guide/driver was also excellent - very knowledgeable, an excellent driver and keen to make our safari experience a good one. We had lots of fun and learned a lot from him.  
I loved the parks and reserves - the Serengeti and Ngorongoro are absolutely amazing".  
Andrea Maurice, Toronto – Kenya & Tanzania – March, 2010

"The guides throughout the trip were superb, well informed with excellent local knowledge and willing to discuss any topic!  
A fantastic tour!"  
Linda Stirk, Toronto - Ecuador & The Galapagos (and Peru), 2010

"We had a great visit to the Falls. Stefani was a very helpful guide. The hotel and facilities were fabulous. The tour overall was an exciting experience. Thanks to you both and Ian for the hard work and planning.  
Hirsch and Indra Rastogi, Ancaster – Brazil, 2011

"In addition to exploring the fantastic sights of Northern India, our group experienced unique visits to the SOS Children's village in Jaipur and the Mother Teresa charity Mission in Agra" - Serge Puksa, Northern India, 2011

"We found this tour to be a wonderful adventure... even more than we had anticipated. The planning and attention to detail on the ground ensured we had a comprehensive introduction to the many wonders of Ecuador. I will definitely consider participating in another tour and will be certain to share details with my colleagues"

Alison Kelford, Oakville - Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2011

The trip surpassed all my expectations. The country itself was far more interesting than I thought and the tour itself was very well organized. The wineries were a treat and our travelling companions were lots of fun. I would be happy to do another trip!

Steven Traplin, Guelph – **Spain Gourmet tour, 2011**

We have had an excellent trip. Accommodation and food were first rate. We were greatly impressed by the excellent organization and professionalism of all the locations we visited. Our guides, coach driver and boat drivers were exceptional. Thanks for a great experience in Ecuador!

John Maase, Brockville - Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2011

Our guide was excellent, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Cooking classes were good and the hotels were excellent

Barbara Flanagan, Charlottetown – Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia, 2012

"Spain greatly surpassed my expectations, offering wonderful gastronomic experiences, lavished with outstanding wines and extremely hospitable people with a culture and history that is as rich as deep. Fernando Garcia, through his many connections, was able to allow us access to exclusive vineyards, where we were submerged in to the local cuisine and regaled with their finest wines".

Peter Bloch, Oakville – **Spain Gourmet tour, 2012**

"A quick personal note to tell you how much we enjoyed our trip to Spain & Portugal. The whole agenda was well planned and well carried out. The winery visits and dinners were amazing, we learned so much about the history and making of Port."

Blair Fraser, Guelph – **Spain & Portugal, 2012**

"What an amazing trip this was ! Your company did such a fantastic job – well organized with wonderful support staff – everything left on time, great food, weather & traveling companions – and (our guide) Gonzalo was the best ! Thank you very much for such an unforgettable adventure".

Jack & Lore Brown, London - Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2012

"I have been fortunate to enjoy four trips with on-tour since 2009 - to Ecuador, Vietnam/Cambodia/Laos, India and Bali. All these tours were wonderful. Well-organized, excellent accommodations, top notch guides, and really great leaders of the tours. You should seriously consider taking one of these exotic trips. Beats lying on a beach!"

Linda Rapson, Toronto – 2013

"Fantastic experience! Every detail to perfection."

Les Marien, Orangeville, On. - **Spain Gourmet, 2013**

"The experience was fantastic. Thoroughly enjoyed ourselves"

Pat Stansberry, Sherwood Park, AB - Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2013

"Had a great time! Very well organized"

Yusuf Januwala, Ipswich, Queensland, Australia - Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2013

"Our guide was amazing - so professional and knowledgeable. Great itinerary - Well done !"

Susan Smith, Frederickton, N.B - South Africa, 2014

"We had a wonderful trip. Places we stayed during the tour were all very nice and every one had a good time. Your local tour manager was wonderful, extremely helpful and very well organized. Thanks again for all your help"

Kumar Banerjee, Vancouver, B.C. - South India, 2014

"The trip was amazing, beyond my wildest expectations!!"

Kathy Hoegler, Guelph, On. - South India, 2014

"We felt the tour is one of the best tours we have been on. We keep missing the great Chilean wines and Argentinian beef. Right sized group and great company. Our guides were good and I enjoyed learning about the country from their comments".

Eduardo Aenlle, Fallbrook, California - Chile, Argentina and Patagonia Cruise, 2014

It was an amazing trip thru Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos. It exceeded all our expectations. Peter and Mary (Bloch) were gracious hosts. Their thirst for adventure and generosity of spirit added so much to our trip. The group we traveled with were a great bunch and we hope to cross paths in the future.

Tom Stark, Timaru, New Zealand - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2014

A brief note from Hillary and me to thank you for the flawless organization. The guides were superb and the choice of events, above and beyond the usual tourist musts. These were a lot of fun, while adding to our understanding of local cultures.

Alan Barkun, Montreal, Qc. - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2014

"Macchu Picchu and Galapagos were the highlights. Wonderful guides, very well organized and enjoyable. Tour leader did a great job !"

Michael Garner, Montreal, QC - Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2014

"Our guide was absolutely fabulous - she took superb care of us and added so much to the trip through her knowledge of New Zealand history, flora and fauna. Peter and Mary (Bloch) were wonderful medical leaders - calm, helpful, interesting and vivacious- kudos to them."

Peter & Louise Bobeckho, Toronto, On. - New Zealand, 2015

"I really enjoyed this tour - Rajasthan and Agra are beautiful. Our tour escort, Kumar, has great people skills, and has been very attentive to everyone's needs - Himanshu has been an excellent guide and is very knowledgeable. We would love to return to India on your South India program"

Rajalaxmi Wong, North Bay, On. - North India, 2015

"The trip to South Africa was awesome - I would rank it up there with my favorite so far with Doctors on Tour. The people in our group were wonderful - it was a total joy and I can see now why South Africa is one of your favorite destinations"

Dyana Driscoll, Toronto, On.- South Africa, 2015

"Bob and I enjoyed the time shared with each of you in Bali,  
My expectations for the tour were met and exceeded .It really was a small window into the Balinese culture.

To our group leaders, Thanks! Hope this isn't our last tour.

You all were interesting and gracious, Terima Kasih. Salamats Jalan"

Bob & Evelyn Lawler, Gibsonia, PA - Bali 2015

"This was the best trip I have ever attended"

Jim Spence, Richmond Hill, On. - Spain Gourmet, 2015

"Thank you for your excellent guidance during our trip to Ecuador. the trip was very good, and the logistics and handling of the group were excellent"

David Spence, London, On - Ecuador (including the Galapagos and Amazon), 2015

"This was the best trip I have ever attended"

Jim Spence, Richmond Hill, On. - **Spain Gourmet, 2015**

"I found the trip to Spain to be a great combination of site-seeing, and amazing gourmet meals and wines selected by an internationally famous chef. We visited several famous vineyards and were able to sample their wines. The tour was very well organized with time to explore cities on our own, as well as tours of architectural wonders. I strongly recommend this tour as a great experience"

John Cocker, Stouffville, On - **Spain Gourmet, 2015**

"We had a fabulous experience, enjoying a fun group of travelers and loving the beautiful art and history of Spain. The warm, friendly and family culture feeling of Spain was memorable and a testimony to the connections of Chef Fernando Garcia".

Gerry Mittler, Vancouver, BC - **Spain Gourmet, September 2015**

"The trip was exceptional in every way. Our guide was more than just a tour guide - the knowledge she shared was detailed and interesting - what an ambassador for her country! The high level of care that she offered was above and beyond anything that we have ever experienced. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this trip! Thank you!"  
Les Marien, Orangeville, On - New Zealand, 2016

"The tour guides in each country were excellent. Fabulous trip!  
Gail Neild, Woodbridge, On. – Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2016

"An enjoyable and enlightening tour"  
Brian Davies, Sarnia, On. - China, 2016

"A great exposure to Balinese culture and the spiritual aspects behind their healing philosophy"  
Karyn Klapecki, Toronto, On. - Bali, 2016

"I am in withdrawal, eating salad. Good for the body, not as good for the soul as the food last week! What an awesome group of people to get to know! We felt truly blessed to enjoy Spain with all of you.

Wendy Reimer, Breslau, ON – **Spain Gourmet, 2016**

"An extremely interesting, informative and invigorating tour. I'm glad that we were able to see and experience so much".  
Paula Chalmers, Vancouver, B.C. - South Africa, 2017

"Myanmar was very well organized and our guide was excellent - the best I have ever had! The sites and activities in Bhutan were very enjoyable"  
Brenda Cholin, North Battleford, SK - Myanmar & Bhutan, 2017

"It was an incredible tour - we saw so much !"  
Mo Meghji, Kitchener, On. - Argentina & Chile, including Patagonia cruise, 2017

"This was a very good tour. The progress that the country has made over the years has been very significant. However, China still has multiple levels of Red Tape, both public and private that will not change ever, so it must be accepted. Overall a 9.5 out of 10 !"  
Ted Erb, Waterloo, On. - China, 2017

"Everything was excellent! We had a wonderful time. Hotels were superb. Thank you again for the well organized, all details worked out, great trip!"  
Andrea Cordas, Burlington, On. – South India, 2017

"It was our first trip with your company. John and I loved it. The itinerary was perfect. Busy days followed by quieter ones. Lorna and Ashley were lovely and so capable! The coordination was superb. Thank you. We had the trip of a lifetime!"  
John Gapski, Mississauga, On. – Ecuador & Galapagos, 2017

"We really enjoyed traveling with an interesting group of professionals which gave us the opportunity to visit places where the public normally does not have easy entry. Excellent pre-departure information and the tour was well-balanced with a mixture of historic and social highlights, while travelling through very different landscapes and areas of the country. The children's' song and dance performance at SOS children's village in Cape Town was touching. Our local tour guide was outstanding [5+++] and provided excellent context for the political, economic and social aspects of SA. He was calm, professional, responded quickly to everyone's needs and was very proud of his country".  
Helle & Tony Tosine, Toronto, On. – South Africa, 2017

We enjoyed our trip very much. The hotels we stayed in were superb, the itinerary was great and the guides, both in Bhutan and in Myanmar, were fabulous. Overall it was a wonderful, memorable trip. Thank you very much!  
Sabine Ernsting, Adelaide, South Australia - Bhutan & Myanmar, 2018



So many highlights – favorites include Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, Kapama Game Reserve – because of excellent game rangers and trackers – saw the big 5 and so much more. Our local escort – excellent!!! Bus drivers also excellent. Coaches comfortable – great bonus to be able to charge cell phones inside buses. Bottom line – Awesome experience!!”

Cinda Lee, Toronto, ON - South Africa, 2018

“I found this to be a very well organized trip. It exceeded my expectations. I'd like to repeat it, but I'll join your other trips instead. Too much to see and to learn in this world.”

Kas Tuters, Toronto, ON – Bali, 2018

“I totally loved Singapore and Malaysia. The local escorts were honestly a ten star. There was nothing they would not do for us”.

Dyana Driscoll, Toronto, On. – Malaysia & Singapore, 2018

“This was an exceptional trip – thanks again! Everything was perfectly well orchestrated. It feels like we have been travelling for more than two weeks. We have learned so much. We will definitely recommend this trip to our friends. We have seen so many things. We have had exceptional guides. The group we travelled with was fantastic! Again, an amazing adventure!”

Collette Deslandres-Leduc, Montreal, Qc. – Ecuador and Peru, 2018

“Good guides, amazing sightseeing, loved the Patagonia cruise”

Chantal Breton, Kirkland, Qc. - Argentina & Chile, including Patagonia cruise, 2019

“Thanks for sending along (the song that you wrote about Bali) and for everything else. your stories, tips, enthusiasm, quiet presence and good company. This trip was certainly quite special. Please also pass on my thanks to Bonnie. Take good care”

Louise Lefort, Ottawa, On. – Bali, 2019

“This was an excellent unique tour combining both the cruise and a varied land component with spectacular sights ! Great group and local tour escort and cruise staff!”

Evelyn Brett, Toronto, On. – Iceland circumnavigation cruise and land, 2019

“Peter & Mary Bloch did an excellent job leading the group. The guides and others were very helpful and excellent - Amit 5\*, plus Sheva and team. I thoroughly loved the trip. It exceeded my expectations. The people are so sweet and lots of smiles! This is a great place to visit.”

Vickie Carducci, Kilworthy, On. - Northern India, 2019

“Malaysia was exhilarating! We had a wonderful, adventurous time, especially in the Borneo Rainforest. The local guides (Malek and Hirzan) were very friendly and helpful, very well versed in the history of Malaysia and we learnt a lot. The canopy walk was breathtakingly hair-raising. The tour was very well organized and the optional stay in Singapore was very relaxing. We look forward to more of your tours in the future”.

Shiraz Walji, Calgary, AB - Malaysia & Singapore, 2019

“Our guide was excellent! Really enjoyed Singapore.”

Trevor George Lewis, North York, On – Malaysia & Singapore, 2019

“Fantastic trip – well organized, packed with loads of things to do and see – but did not feel ‘superficial’. Just loved the opportunity to do and see so much. The group was fantastic – made new friends. Ian was a great tour leader”

Lorraine Manzig, Toronto, ON – Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2019

“Your tours are great. Thanks for the experience!”

Ikenna Ezeilo, Lethbridge, On. – South East Asia, 2020

“Thank you for making this first post pandemic trip for Val and I a special one”.

Les Marien, Orangeville, On. - Iceland circumnavigation cruise and land, 2022

"We are having a fantastic time.

Great group - have made many new friends.

We are ecstatic to be here.

(our local tour escort) Malik is a kind and patient person who gives 110% of himself - he truly goes above and beyond to make sure everyone is happy.

Thank you. Thank you Thank you."

Lorraine Manzig and Kevin Sliwowicz, Toronto, On. - Malaysia & Singapore, 2022

"Excellent guidance and interesting sites. Sahara desert trip was fantastic - really enjoyed the drive out over the dunes - camel ride excellent! Felt safe at all times, including in the cities. Overall, a very good cultural experience leading to a great appreciation of this beautiful country".

Les Marien, Orangeville, On. - Morocco, 2022

### **And the comments from our latest (September 2022) Spain Gourmet tour...**

"Fun, food, fellowship, culture, history, knowledge, perspectives — all packed in 12 days. Thanks everyone for enriching Kitty & my life! This is by far the most magical trip we've ever had for the past 3 decades! 😊😊"

Wing Lim, Sherwood Park, AB – **Spain Gourmet tour, 2022**

"I really enjoyed the Spain trip. Great group. Amazing sites. Peter and Mary were fabulous hosts and always helpful. Wonderful experience"

Catherine Lipsey, Oakville, On. - **Spain Gourmet tour, 2022**

"This is my first on-Tour trip. It was worth every penny. So well organized. Every detail was addressed to perfection. Our tour escort, Yolanda, couldn't have been better. She was knowledgeable, patient, kind, happy. She went the extra mile on more than one occasion. We were blessed to have had her. An outstanding, memorable experience"

Maureen Lush, Oakville, On. – **Spain Gourmet tour, 2022**

"A great experience! Thank you for Yolanda – great local tour escort! Such a well-run tour. Amazing!"

Shantha Nadarajah, Brampton, On. – **Spain Gourmet tour, 2022**

"Outstanding tour – so well organized and so smoothly coordinated. A very cordial group of affable guests on this tour. We packed more than imaginable into 12 days! It was everything advertised, culture, food, wine. We made many great friends! Thank you!"

Bryan Callaghan, Ottawa, On. – **Spain Gourmet tour, 2022**

"Thank you - well done! The group was excellent. Enjoyed thoroughly"

Oswaldo Papini, Woodbridge, On. – **Spain Gourmet Tour, 2022**

**And about your Group Leaders, Dr. Rachel Kassner and Joel Palter (Charlottetown, P.E.I.)**

“Dr. Kassner was excellent – very responsible, personable and organized”  
Rick Black, Hamilton, On. – Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2012

“Hi Rachel, this was a magnificent trip for sure!  
I really appreciated you and your family’s easy going style of travel. Thank you for consulting with the group on certain decisions 🍷...  
Take care, hugs to all”  
Alice Desilets, Moncton, NB - China, 2017

“This was a really good travelling group. Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration during this trip. It was greatly appreciated”  
Pat Barry, Burlington, On. – China 2017

“Rachel – you’re the best! Thanks for being the team mother”.  
Chris Callery, Waterford, On. – Eastern Europe 2019

We enjoyed our experience in Iceland. Rachel and Joel (Kassner) do a great job as group leaders.  
John Britt, Winston Salem, NC - Iceland circumnavigation cruise and land, 2022



Doctors-on- Tour – Ecuadorian Amazon



Doctors-on-Tour - India



Doctors-on-Tour – Spain



Doctors-on-Tour - Chile & Argentina

## The fine print...

Please take the time to read and understand the Terms and Conditions of booking set out below prior to booking a tour with us.

The Terms & Conditions contained herein are the terms under which on-Tour (being an operating brand of Britcan International Consulting (B.I.C.) Inc. and together, for the purposes of these Terms & Conditions, being referred to collectively as OT/BIC) accepts reservations. Our liabilities are limited. When you make a payment of deposit and/or final payment, it is also an acknowledgement of receipt and acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

**1. RESERVATIONS & DEPOSIT:** Early reservations are recommended to guarantee your reservation as several of the accommodation providers with which we make arrangements on your behalf have limited capacity. All services are strictly on a request basis, both for air travel and land requirements and subject to availability of seats and hotel/lodge/camp rooms and cruise cabins. A guaranteed non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person (\$700 per person for programs which include a cruise component, \$1,000 per person for Iceland cruises), together with the applicable travel insurance premium, is required with your reservation request. Tour extensions and, where applicable, seat upgrades in aircraft cabin categories higher than economy, are also subject to additional non-refundable deposits as detailed in each specific program's brochure. Reservations made for travel within 95 days (105 days for programs which include a cruise component) of the travel date will require full payment at the time of reservation. Certain non-standard arrangements may require higher deposit and the same will be advised to you at the time of booking. Please be aware that some airfares (outside of our group air blocks) require full payment at time of booking and will be advised to you accordingly at the time of your booking confirmation.

**2. FINAL AND/OR BALANCE DUE PAYMENT:** Guaranteed payment of all balances due is no later than 95 days (105 days for programs which include a cruise component) prior to departure date. If payment of the balance due is not received by the stipulated date, we reserve the right to cancel your reservation without refund of deposit.

**3. CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS:** Visa & MasterCard credit cards are accepted as form of payment. We do accept any other kinds of cards, including either American Express or Diners Club. Your online authorization by way of our Online Registration Form acts as your approval for the credit card provided as part of your registration to be charged for both the initial deposit (and travel insurance premium, where applicable) as well as the future balance payments on the date they become due, together with any other charges due relating to the booking that have been requested by you in writing (including by current or future electronic mail communication). For registrations that are not received via our Online Registration Form, but instead are forwarded to OT/BIC by mailing, faxing or e-mailing a scanned completed copy of our (non-online) Registration Form, your signature on such (non-online) Registration Form verifies your approval for your credit card to be charged. No services will be provided without receipt of either the authorized Online Registration Form or the duly signed (non-online) Registration Form. Third party payments may have restrictions.

**4. CANCELLATIONS & CHANGES:** The deposit amounts (for both the main tour and any optional extensions reserved) are 100% non-refundable and non-transferable. Cancellation penalties for bookings cancelled by the client after the final balance due date (95 days before departure; 105 days before departure for programs which include a cruise component) are as follows: 95 – 61 (105 - 61 days for programs which include a cruise component) days before departure – 25% of total price paid; 60 – 31 days – 50% of total price paid; 30 days or less – 100%. (Notwithstanding the foregoing, any domestic Canada flight purchased as an additional service to the advertised package is 100% non-refundable irrespective of the date of cancellation). If payments are not received by their due dates, we reserve the right to cancel the booking without further notice. Bookings are non-transferable. There will be no refund for unused land arrangements after departure from North America. In the event of the cancellation by OT/BIC of any or all components of the travel services offered herein, OT/BIC will offer either a refund, or future travel credit, depending on the situation with our supplier partners subject to any specific penalties relating to airline seats that would be out of our control and would obviously be dependent upon the air ticket conditions. Irrespective of whether a tour booking is cancelled by the client or if any or all components of the travel services are cancelled by DOT/OT/BIC, airfares may be subject to different rules and cancellation fees including some airfares may be fully non-refundable once the booking is confirmed regardless of when it was made including upgraded air cabin classes (ie premium economy, business and first class cabins) which are subject to different rules and cancellation fees based on the individual fare class in which the seats are purchased.

**5. TRAVEL INSURANCE:** To protect against cancellation charges, we strongly recommend purchasing Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption Insurance. In the event of illness, medical and hospital expenses are the traveler's responsibility and no refunds will be made, partial or total, for the purchased tour. We strongly urge that you purchase either the Non-Medical Inclusive insurance (ie Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption Insurance), All Inclusive insurance (Non-Medical coverage plus health coverage), or the Premium Protection Plan insurance package (All Inclusive coverage with higher coverage limits) offered by OT/BIC through Manulife Insurance. COVID-19 is currently viewed as a pre-existing situation by all insurance companies, including Manulife Insurance, and therefore is an exclusion under those policies that include health insurance, ie All Inclusive and Premium Protection Plan insurance packages. For coverage relating to COVID-19 health claims while on your tour, Manulife offers separate coverage, ie COVID-19 Pandemic Travel Insurance. Some countries may require proof of medical insurance, including specifically for COVID-19.

**6. TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION, VISA & OTHER IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS:** A Canadian citizen must be in possession of a passport that must remain valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of conclusion of their journey for all destinations offered with the exception of New Zealand, Spain/Portugal and countries on our Eastern Europe program where the passport must remain valid for a minimum of 3 months from the date of conclusion of their journey. Tour participants must also ensure that they comply with all visa and health requirements of countries they intend to visit.

For Canadian citizens, a tourist entry visa (or, in some cases, a reciprocity fee) is required for entry into the following destinations offered by OT/BIC -

- Bhutan, Brasil, China, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Tanzania, Vietnam (tourist entry visa, or a visa pre-approval letter in some cases, must be obtained prior to departure from Canada), Cambodia, Laos, Zambia (tourist entry visa may be obtained upon arrival in the destination)
- A tourist entry visa is not required for entry into Argentina, Bali (Indonesia), Chile, Ecuador, Iceland, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and any country on our Eastern Europe program.

Non Canadian citizens may have different requirements. It is the passenger's responsibility to ensure that all his or her passport, visa and mandatory health vaccination requirements for entry into the country are met and the cancellation penalties referred to above will apply if a passenger is not allowed into the destination country (or determines in advance of departure that he will not be allowed into the destination country) due to lack of proper documentation including, but not limited to, passport, visa, customs, health or currency provisions required by the destination country thus preventing him from participate in the tour.

Final tour documents consisting of detailed tour itinerary, vouchers, and airline tickets will be forwarded approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure subject to receipt of final payment.

**7. PRICING POLICY:** Accommodations and services at the destination are contracted in local currencies and/or US Dollars. Due to frequent fluctuations in currency exchange (as well as other factors beyond our control including, but not limited to, fuel costs, transportation taxes and airport and local surcharges), prices are subject to change with or without notice and surcharges may apply for which we would endeavor to inform you as soon as possible. However, once we have received your final payment we would either waive any price increase or allow you to cancel your booking without penalty.

**8. UNUSED PORTION OF THE TOUR:** No refund will be made for any unused accommodations, missed meals, transportation segments, cruise portions, sightseeing tours or any other service. Such unused items are neither refundable nor exchangeable.

**9. ACCOMMODATIONS:** We use a variety of accommodations on our programs with many of our properties specifically chosen to reflect the local style and culture of the region. Our rating system reflects the majority of the accommodations throughout each program but some variety can occur. Ratings are based not only on room quality but also on facilities and location. Accommodation ratings in overseas destinations outside of Canada are an arbitrary measure and their definition from country to country can differ slightly as well as not always being consistent between individual properties in that particular destination nor are they necessarily comparable to an equivalent rating in North America. Rooms are assigned by the respective supplier(s) on a run-of-the-house basis, in category (ies) as specified in the itinerary and the right is reserved to substitute properties/hotels/lodges/camps/cruise/ships as conditions warrant such change for reasons beyond our control. Accommodations on twin occupancy basis, is provided at the properties/hotels/lodges/camps/cruise ships as specified or similar. Single room supplements apply to persons occupying sole use of a room/cabin but travelling with other passengers on the same tour and sharing transport cost on transfers, game drives, coach tours, sightseeing and excursions. Quoted single room rate does not necessarily mean single occupancy of a double room, as several of the establishments offered have especially designed single occupancy units.

**10. SINGLE PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TOGETHER:** If you are travelling with a companion and each paying separately the regular each of two double sharing accommodation rate and your companion decides to cancel, the remaining travelling passenger will be responsible for either finding a replacement travelling companion to take the cancelled passenger's place or must pay the single supplement and travel on a single basis.

#### **11. AGE & HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:**

**Minimum Age:** The minimum age for the majority of our tours is 12 at the time of travel.

**Maximum Age:** We have no upper age limit for our tours though we inform you that our tours may include some components for which group members need to be in good physical condition in order to be able to participate. We will provide details on mandatory and recommended health requirements but it is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain proper and detailed medical advice at least 6 weeks prior to travel for the latest health requirements and recommendations for your destination and how they impact your own personal health situation.

**12. MEALS & BEVERAGES:** Meals as included on our itineraries are either buffet meals and/or table d'hôte. Meals ordered through room service are not included and must be paid directly to the establishment. Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and bottled water are included only where indicated on the itinerary. Unless specifically mentioned in your itinerary, all drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) are to be purchased and paid directly to the establishments.

**13. OPTIONAL TOURS & EXCURSIONS AND TOUR EXTENSIONS:** It is our intent to operate any optional tours & excursions and tour extensions on a private group basis. However, should the number of participants be of an insufficient level, we reserve the right to either -

- (1) add a surcharge to the previously stated selling price to be able to still offer the extension on a private basis or
- (2) operate any individual tour on a shared basis with other non-group participants or
- (3) cancel the tour and provide a full refund of all monies paid.

No refunds can be provided for cancellation of any tour by the client while in the destination.

**14. SPECIAL REQUESTS:** While we will make every effort to accommodate special requests, eg., room/cabin locations, adjoining rooms, non-smoking rooms, bed preferences, special dietary meal requests, these cannot be guaranteed and OT/BIC cannot be held responsible if such requests cannot be fulfilled. Requests for upgrading rooms/cabins are subject to additional charges. Any deviations to the standard program arrival and departure flight dates should be notified to us by separate e-mail at the time of booking and are subject to availability and also any applicable flight class supplement.

**15. SEATING ASSIGNMENT ON FLIGHTS:** Our air arrangements are made via group contracts with the airlines and are therefore subject to more restrictive airline Terms & Conditions and policies than seats purchased individually from airline web sites. If you have a particular seat request, we will do our best to fulfill it subject to the policies of the airlines. Certain airlines assign group seating automatically for which the specific location within the group block is out of our control and to which the airlines do not provide access for us to change specific seat locations; and several airlines do not allow for specific advance seat assignment at all in which case specific seats will be assigned at airport check-in.

**16. DOCUMENT DELIVERY:** Your travel documents will be sent to you approximately 3 weeks prior to departure. For bookings received within 3 weeks of departure, express delivery of documents will require a courier delivery fee of \$30 to cover extra handling and processing. Additional courier charges will apply for all residents outside of Canada, irrespective of when the booking is made.

**17. CONSUMER PROTECTION:** OT/BIC are licensed under the Ontario Government Ministry of Consumer & Corporate Relations, Travel Industry Act 1974, Registration No. 50009110. The Act is administered by the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO), the government regulated body which is responsible for enforcing and monitoring the Travel Industry Act, including the protection of advance monies paid to its registrants by consumers. More information about TICO is available at <http://www.tico.on.ca/>

**18. NOTICE TO TRAVELLERS:** Canadians enjoy a living standard which is among the highest in the world. In other countries, the uninterrupted supply of water and electricity, local health conditions, levels of security and standards of food and beverages may sometimes differ from those enjoyed at home. Illness or inconvenience resulting from the services provided or omitted at the destination are outside the reasonable control of OT/BIC who bear no responsibility for such illness or inconvenience. OT/BIC cannot accept responsibility for the behavior of other guests/groups nor the unlikely event of the withdrawal of services or facilities due to local cultural and political events, or strikes.

#### **19. ACCEPTANCE OF RISK:**

You acknowledge that participation in overseas travel involves a degree of personal risk and that you may be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. You acknowledge that you are choosing to travel at a time where you may be exposed to epidemics and/or pandemics including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 virus. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure your safety and may require you to follow additional safety protocols on your trip.

We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in each destination, including our local destination supplier partners, assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However, it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information, including applicable health and safety risks and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we accept no liability in relation to these additional risks.

**20. FORCE MAJEURE:** OT/BIC shall not be liable for any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, delays or loss of enjoyment, of any nature or kind whatsoever, resulting from events beyond our or a supplier's reasonable control, including but not limited to acts of God; war; civil commotion or insurrection; riot; blockade or embargo; fire; explosion; breakdown; union dispute, strike, lockout or other labor disputes or disruptions; earthquake; epidemic, pandemic or other health emergency; flood; windstorm or other extreme weather event; lack or failure of courses of supply; passage of any law, order, proclamation, regulation, restraint, ordinance, demand, requisition or requirement or any other act of any government authority, whether or not foreseeable, which would make it dangerous or not viable for a trip to commence or continue.

**21. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES:** OT/BIC makes arrangements with a network of third party suppliers, i.e., airlines, tour operators, ground handlers, accommodation providers, cruise companies, activity providers, coach and transfer companies, car rental companies, tour and local guides, government agencies, and other independent contractors and individuals to provide you with the travel services and other services you purchase. Although we take care in selecting these third party suppliers, we have no control over them and, therefore, cannot be responsible for their acts or omissions. In the unlikely event that a particular hotel / lodge / cruise ship described in this brochure is not available we reserve the right to provide an alternate hotel / lodge / cruise ship of the equivalent standard. We also reserve the right to substitute another airline if the particular airline described in this brochure is not available.

The travel services provided by OT/BIC are subject to the applicable provincial Travel Industry Acts and Regulations and are subject to the conditions imposed by our third party suppliers and their liability is limited by their tariffs, conditions of carriage, tickets and vouchers and international conventions and agreements.

OT/BIC shall not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, or to property, resulting from any delay, substitution or deficiency of quality of equipment or service, or any act, omission, negligence or commission of any party supplying any of the services or accommodation herein, its agents, servants, employees, subcontractors or for any claims for such loss, damage, or injury, whether physical or mental, arising therefrom, or from any cause that arises by reason of actions of parties other than OT/BIC. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to OT/BIC. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as members of the tours. OT/BIC can assume no responsibility for lost tickets or coupons. The liability of OT/BIC for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, arising from its own acts, omissions or negligence, is limited to the price of the services purchased.

**22. SEVERABILITY:** In the event that any term or condition contained in these Terms & Conditions is unenforceable or void by operation of law or as being against public policy or for any other reason then such term or condition shall be deemed to be severed from this contract or amended accordingly only to such extent necessary to allow all remaining terms and conditions to survive and continue as binding.

**23. PRIVACY POLICY:** Any personal information that we collect about you will be handled in accordance with our Privacy Policy and may be used for any purpose associated with the operation of a trip. In making this booking you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons such as our agents, service providers or other suppliers to enable us to operate the trip or, if permitted by any relevant e-marketing spam laws, to send you marketing material in relation to our events and special offers.