



WashU

**SPANISH**

# Total Solar Eclipse

ADVENTURE

August 7–14, 2026

PRE-TOUR  
EXTENSION TO

*Madrid, Toledo,  
Ávila, Segovia*

August 3–8, 2026

# Dear Washington University Alumni and Friends,

Join WashU alumni and friends on an extraordinary adventure to witness the mesmerizing total solar eclipse on August 12, 2026, set against the stunning backdrop of the Mediterranean off the coast of Spain's island of Mallorca! During this eclipse, viewers will experience the unparalleled thrill of seeing totality with the Sun so low on the horizon that its silhouetted disk will be distorted into an oval by atmospheric refraction. The unique celestial geometry will create dramatic atmospheric effects not seen when totality is high overhead.

Our journey begins on August 7 with an overnight flight from the U.S. to the vibrant city of Barcelona, Spain. Upon arrival, we'll settle into the luxurious Grand Central Hotel and explore the heart of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, its historic streets, and hidden gems. Our first evening will culminate in a delightful tapas welcome dinner.

Over the next two days, we'll immerse ourselves in Barcelona's rich culture and architectural wonders, from Antonio Gaudí's iconic masterpieces like Casa Batlló and La Pedrera to the awe-inspiring La Sagrada Família and the enchanting Parque Güell. On a special visit, we'll dine under the stars at the Fabra Observatory and observe the night skies of Barcelona through a large vintage telescope. Enjoy a free day to explore Barcelona's many treasures at your own pace.

On August 11, we fly to the idyllic island of Mallorca. The next day, we'll visit the charming village of Valldemossa, nestled in the breathtaking Tramuntana mountains. As evening falls, we'll set sail from Port de Sollér, ready to witness the awe-inspiring total solar eclipse from the deck of our vessel. Experience the magic of totality as the sun sets, casting an otherworldly glow over the sea. We'll celebrate this unforgettable moment with a special eclipse dinner under the stars. The following day, enjoy leisure time in Palma de Mallorca.

Finally, on August 14, we'll return to the U.S. with cherished memories of this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Join us on this captivating journey and be part of an extraordinary celestial event! For those wishing to extend their time in Spain, a pre-tour to Madrid, Toledo, and Segovia is offered.

Sincerely,

David Webb  
Director, Travel Program & Education  
Washington University in St. Louis



*Lighthouse of Cap de Formentor, Mallorca*



## Study Leader

### Mark Alford

PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

[HTTPS://PHYSICS.WUSTL.EDU/PEOPLE/MARK-G-ALFORD](https://physics.wustl.edu/people/mark-g-alford)

Mark Alford is the former chair of the physics department at Washington University in Saint Louis. He grew up in the UK and studied physics at Oxford University. After receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard University, he held research positions at U.C. Santa Barbara, Cornell University, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and M.I.T., and then a lectureship at Glasgow University. Since 2003 he has been a member of the physics faculty at WashU, where he was department chair from 2012 to 2022.

Prof. Alford's research operates at the intersection of astrophysics, nuclear physics, and particle physics, focusing on the theory of ultra dense matter in neutron stars. Prof. Alford also teaches a course on Physics of Sustainable Energy, introducing non-science students to the methods of physics. He developed this course as an expression of his interest in communicating key concepts of physics to the broadest possible audience.



## Highlights

**WITNESS** the total solar eclipse from a cruise off the coast of Mallorca on the Balearic Sea.

**DISCOVER** Gaudí's masterpieces.

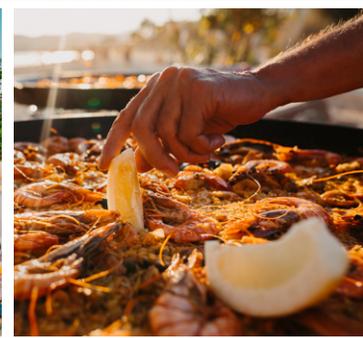
**EXPLORE** the charming village of Valldemossa nestled in the Tramuntana Mountains of Mallorca.

**DINE** under the stars at the Fabra Observatory in Barcelona.

**VISIT** the impressive Palma Cathedral and tour the historic Old Town with its medieval churches and art museums.

**ENJOY** a free day to explore the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Palma at your own pace.





## Itinerary

### **DAY 1 • Friday, August 7: U.S. to Barcelona, Spain**

We depart from our home city for an overnight flight to Barcelona, Spain. (MEALS ALOFT)

### **DAY 2 • Saturday, August 8: Arrive in Barcelona**

Upon arrival in Barcelona, we'll transfer from the airport to our hotel. We will gather for a walking tour of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, exploring historic streets, squares, hidden corners, and century-old buildings. In the evening, enjoy a tapas welcome dinner. GALLERY HOTEL (D)

### **DAY 3 • Sunday, August 9: Barcelona**

After breakfast, we set off on a morning tour along the elegant Paseo de Gràcia, marveling at the iconic works of the renowned architect Antonio Gaudí, including Casa Batlló and La Pedrera (Casa Milà). Next, we'll explore La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona's breathtaking cathedral, and the enchanting Park Güell, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll dine under the stars at the Fabra Observatory in Barcelona tonight. After dinner, we'll step into the observatory's grand dome, where the early 20th-century modernist hall and the historic 1904 meridian telescope—one of Europe's largest and oldest—await to reveal the wonders of the night sky. GALLERY HOTEL (B, D)

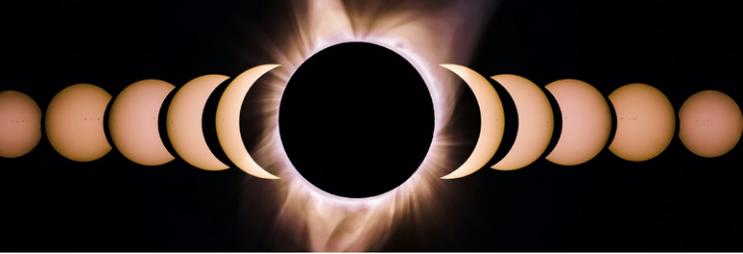
### **DAY 4 • Monday, August 10: Barcelona**

Enjoy a free day to explore Barcelona at your own pace. Discover the many fascinating parts of this vibrant city on the Mediterranean coastline of Spain. Lunch and dinner will be on your own. GALLERY HOTEL (B)

### **DAY 5 • Tuesday, August 11: Barcelona to Palma de Mallorca**

After breakfast, we travel by plane to Mallorca, the largest island in the Balearic Islands, part of Spain. The island features an array of landscapes, from the rugged Serra de Tramuntana mountain range to the serene plains of Es Pla and the picturesque coves and beaches that dot the coastline. On arrival we'll tour Palma de Mallorca, including a visit to the Cathedral Santa Maria of Palma, renowned for its magnificent architecture and rose window, which includes a combination of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque elements. INNSIDE PALMA BOSQUE HOTEL (B, L)

*Top left: Fabra Observatory Bottom left: Park Güell / Paella in Mallorca  
Right: Casa Milà (La Pedrera) / Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma, Mallorca*



Top left: Total Solar Eclipse Phases Bottom left: Palma de Mallorca Right: Port de Sóller

## DAY 6 • Wednesday, August 12: Palma de Mallorca / Valldemossa / Port de Sóller (Eclipse Day)

This morning, we depart for Valldemossa, a village steeped in old-world charm, nestled in an idyllic valley amid the Tramuntana mountains. Its ancient blonde stone houses contrast vividly with the surrounding green forests of olive, oak, and almond trees, and the blue sky above. In the early evening, embark on a cruise from the Port de Sóller. Aboard our vessel just before sunset, we'll experience a breathtaking solar eclipse. Totality will last for 94 seconds, beginning at 8:31:32 p.m., with the sun positioned  $21\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  above the horizon. Sunset (8:50 p.m.) will occur with a partial eclipse in progress. We will partake in a celebratory eclipse group dinner thereafter. INNSIDE PALMA BOSQUE HOTEL (B, L, D)

## DAY 7 • Thursday, August 13: Palma de Mallorca

Today, enjoy free time to explore the beautiful island of Palma de Mallorca. You may choose to explore the Gothic-style Bellver Castle, relax on one of the stunning beaches, or discover the trendy Santa Catalina district. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner. INNSIDE PALMA BOSQUE HOTEL (B, D)

## DAY 8 • Friday, August 14: Palma de Mallorca to U.S.

After breakfast, we transfer to the Palma de Mallorca airport for connecting flights home to the U.S., arriving the same day. (B)

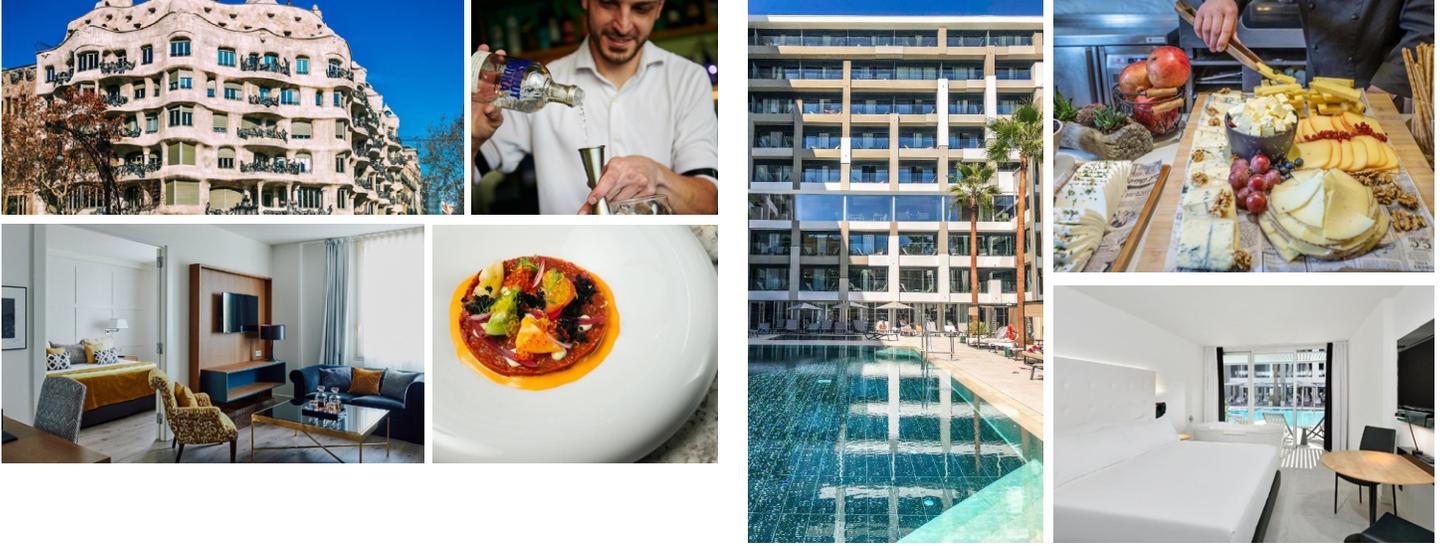


## Pre-Tour Extension

### AUGUST 3-8: Madrid, Toledo, Ávila, Segovia

Experience the best of Madrid and its surrounding cities of Toledo and Segovia with our Pre-Tour extension. Your journey begins with an arrival transfer in Madrid, followed by a half-day tour that includes the city's iconic landmarks such as Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, and the Royal Palace. Step back in time with a full-day excursion to enchanting Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Next, we tour Ávila, a city known for its medieval walls, cobblestone streets, churches, and cuisine. We'll also explore Segovia, famed for its Roman aqueduct and fairy-tale Alcázar. At the end of our pre-tour, we will take a high-speed train to Barcelona to begin the main tour.

Our base for exploration in Madrid will be the five-star Meliá Madrid Princesa (4 nights), an epitome of luxury and modern sophistication. Located in the heart of the city, our hotel combines contemporary elegance with stunning views and upscale amenities, offering easy access to attractions like the Malasagna, Príncipe Pío and Plaza España.. This pre-tour extension may be shared with passengers from the University of Virginia and other non-profit organizations. The extension price includes all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 1 dinner, group transfers, portorage, local guides, entrance fees, tips to local guides, hotel staff, waiters, servers, and drivers, and a high-speed train ticket from Madrid to Barcelona. The extension price is based upon a minimum of 10 participants.



## Accommodations

### Gallery Hotel

Located in the heart of Barcelona, the Gallery Hotel offers a blend of modern comfort and stylish elegance. Situated just steps away from Paseo de Gràcia and the iconic La Pedrera, the hotel's prime location allows easy access to Barcelona's top attractions, shopping districts, and vibrant nightlife. The Gallery Hotel features well-appointed rooms and suites with contemporary décor and modern amenities, including free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, minibars, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel also boasts two iconic dining spaces. The elegant restaurant Sintonia features a courtyard patio surrounded by gardens and offers delectable Mediterranean cuisine. The rooftop bar with pool, The Top, serves world cuisine and expertly crafted cocktails, providing stunning views of the city skyline.

### INNSiDE Palma Bosque Hotel

INNSiDE by Meliá Palma Bosque is a stylish and modern hotel located in the vibrant city of Palma de Mallorca. Known for its contemporary design and exceptional service, this hotel offers a perfect blend of comfort and luxury. Conveniently located near Palma's city center, the hotel offers easy access to major attractions, shopping areas, and nightlife. The beautiful Palma Cathedral and the scenic Palma Marina are just a short distance away, making it easy to explore the city's rich cultural heritage and vibrant atmosphere. The hotel features sleek and spacious rooms with a modern aesthetic, equipped with all the necessary amenities for a comfortable stay. Each room includes free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, minibars, and rainfall showers. The on-site restaurant, Syndeo, offers a diverse menu of international and local dishes, prepared with fresh, high-quality ingredients.

## What to Expect

This exclusive Total Solar Eclipse Tour to Spain is designed for Washington University in St. Louis Alumni and Friends who are interested in observing a total solar eclipse and exploring the history and culture of Barcelona and Mallorca. Please note that some accommodations, the eclipse viewing vessel, and the Fabra Observatory will be shared by University of Virginia Alumni, and other educational affinity groups. However, Washington University will have its own tour director, buses, and lecture space. As this is an astronomical event of international interest, hotels may be full of other eclipse travelers and independent travel groups from around the globe. In Madrid, expect temperatures ranging from 70°F (21°C) to 90°F (32°C); Barcelona typically has temperatures of 72°F (22°C) and 86°F (30°C), and Mallorca's average August temperatures are 75°F (24°C) to 88°F (31°C). Travel is by private coach, boat, and plane with a high-speed train on the Pre-Tour extension. Since some travel in Mallorca will be relatively remote, everyone must be flexible with time schedules and willing to explore spectacular natural areas and small towns. Program participants requiring extraordinary assistance must be accompanied by someone

who can and will provide all required assistance. To help you choose the trip best suited for you and to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of our tour, we describe this trip as moderately active.

Totality on August 12, 2026, will be relatively brief all across Spain, and from Port de Sóller on Mallorca, it will last 1m34s. The partial eclipse begins at 7:38 p.m. local time (Sun 12° high). Mid-eclipse follows at 8:31:32 p.m. with the Sun 2½° above the western horizon. We will provide an optimal viewing location in Mallorca to experience this phenomenon. Please keep in mind that because viewing the total solar eclipse will be weather-dependent, there is always a chance that passengers will not be able to view it or view it only for a short time. Neither Royal Adventures nor Washington University guarantees the viewing of the total solar eclipse. Keep in mind that unexpected schedule changes could affect the program. Your Tour Director will keep you informed of any planned activities changes. A sense of humor, flexibility, and patience will be greatly appreciated during this program, especially on Eclipse Day.



## Program Rates

### Main Program

Double Occupancy (per person).....	\$7,895
Single Occupancy (per person) .....	\$10,695

*(limited availability)*

### Optional Upgrade to Bay View Room in Mallorca 3 nights, at INNSiDE Hotel Mallorca

Double Occupancy (per person).....	\$90
Single Occupancy (per person) .....	\$180

### Optional Pre-tour Extension to Madrid, Toledo, Ávila, Segovia

*(double occupancy, land only)*

Double Occupancy (per person).....	\$3,150
Single Occupancy (per person) .....	\$3,995

### Sample Roundtrip Coach Airfare

St.Louis > Barcelona > Palma de Mallorca > St. Louis .....	\$1,499
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*Note: International airfare from St. Louis, MO to Barcelona is not included. Estimated airfare is based on coach fares in August 2024 and is subject to change. A recommended flight itinerary will be made available to registered passengers departing and returning from St. Louis.*

### Air Arrangements

Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. is the preferred provider for airline arrangements for this trip and can help with international air arrangements for this trip and can be reached toll-free at 800-447-3560. You are welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

### Program Cost Includes

On-tour flight from Barcelona to Palma de Mallorca, subject to increases, see below • Accommodations • Meals as specified in the trip itinerary • Tour director on main program • Local guides throughout the tour • All land transportation during the tour • All entrance fees • Airport transfers for those using or meeting group flights • Baggage handling • Basic gratuities to guides and drivers • Pre-departure materials • Leadership • Coordination and administration.

### Program Cost Does Not Include

U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, email, fax, or telephone calls • Alcoholic beverages except those mentioned above • Dishes or beverages not included with meals • Room service • Passport, visa, or ETIAS fees • Private transfers • Medical expenses • COVID testing or quarantine expenses • Travel or evacuation insurance • Optional extensions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Airport taxes and/or security fees • Fuel surcharges • Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the land program cost), airport taxes, security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included. • The price of the trip is based on the exchange rate with the Euro as of June 2024. If there is a significant change in the Euro in relation to the U.S. dollar, the price may need to be adjusted. • Tip to the Tour Director is not included and is at the passengers' discretion.

# Terms & Conditions

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT:** Reserving your space on this program requires a \$1,000 deposit per person plus \$200 per person for the pre-trip extension, if applicable. A second deposit of \$2,000 per person will be due on or before June 16, 2025 (or \$3,000 due when booking after that date). The initial deposit may be charged to a credit card, and the second deposit, as well as the final payment, must be paid by check. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due May 9, 2026, and must be paid by check. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour is exclusively designed for Washington University Alumni and Friends on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 18 passengers for the main tour and 10 passengers for the extension. Should the minimum not be met, we reserve the right to levy a small group surcharge.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Royal Adventures. Cancellations within seven days of booking, full refund. No refunds after seven days from booking date. No refunds of any deposits or payments are made on or after May 9, 2026, regardless of booking date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations or other trip features.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance as the cancellation penalty in this brochure will apply. Trip cancellation insurance can be purchased through WashU's recommended provider Meyer and Associates; [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more. Most insurance plans need to be purchased within 14 days of paying the initial deposit in order to waive pre-existing medical conditions as well as to purchase "Cancel for Any Reason" insurance.

**QUESTIONS:** Please call or email Royal Adventures at (925) 820-6260 ext 119 or 1-800-453-4754 ext 119 or [madison@royaladventures.com](mailto:madison@royaladventures.com).

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Royal Adventures (CST #2009579-40), its owners and employees, act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and the Washington University in St. Louis (hereinafter "WashU") and Royal Adventures and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability therefor. The WashU and Royal Adventures assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or other irregularity that may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not

accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, quarantine, force majeure, animal or insect bites, injury caused by improper viewing of the eclipse or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. The WashU and Royal Adventures reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants. The WashU and/or Royal Adventures shall not be deemed to be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, and shall not provide any refund, by reason of delay in performance, or by non-performance, of any of our obligations hereunder to the extent that any such delay or non-performance is due to any Force Majeure Event. A Force Majeure Event, in relation to this tour, shall mean any circumstances beyond our control, including, but without limitation, to acts of God, explosion, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, sickness, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, government intervention or other unforeseeable events. Limitations on travel arising from COVID-19 shall be considered a Force Majeure Event. If this tour is affected by a Force Majeure Event, the WashU and Royal Adventures shall be entitled to, and may in their sole and absolute discretion, vary, cancel, or postpone any itinerary or arrangement in relation to this trip. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to substitute for another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs, exchange rates, and fuel charges and is subject to change. Any tariff, sales tax, security surcharge, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Neither the WashU nor Royal Adventures accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket, or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the trip. The air ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. I will not hold Royal Adventures or the WashU and/or its employees or agents responsible for any expense or loss caused by my/our failure to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Neither Royal Adventures nor the WashU make any guarantees as to the viewing of the total solar eclipse. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release, assumption of risk, hold-harmless agreement with a binding arbitration clause.



**SPANISH**

# Total Solar Eclipse

**ADVENTURE August 7–14, 2026**



PRE-TOUR EXTENSION TO  
*Madrid, Toledo,  
Ávila, Segovia*  
**August 3–8, 2026**



**TO REGISTER ONLINE:** Scan or click-on this QR Code or go to <https://royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/washu-spain-eclipse/book>

**TO REGISTER BY MAIL OR FAX:** Fill out the following form

## Reservation Form

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) on the **Mallorca, Spain Total Solar Eclipse** program plus \$200 per person for the optional Madrid pre-tour extension, if applicable.

I/We understand that a second deposit of \$2,000 per person by check only will be due **June 16, 2025**, and that final payment by check only is due **May 9, 2026**.

Please authorize credit card payment or make a check payable to **Royal Adventures**, and send, along with completed reservation form to: Royal Adventures, 9 Crow Canyon Ct. #205, San Ramon, CA 94583, or Fax to 925-855-1909.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AS ON PASSPORT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL(S) \_\_\_\_\_

### Bay view room Mallorca

I/We request an upgrade to an bay view room at the INNSiDE Palma Bosque Hotel in Mallorca. (\$90 per person, double occupancy or \$180 dollars, single occupancy.)

### Optional Extension

I/We wish to join the Madrid optional pre-tour extension, August 3–8, 2026.

### Payment Options

Pay by check made out to "Royal Adventures"

Please charge the deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_  AMEX  Visa  MasterCard  Discover Card

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. CODE \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have carefully read the Program Cost, Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and of my party named above.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_