EXPAND your HORIZONS

YOUNG ALUMNI TRIP
8 DAYS
Madrid, Seville, Cordoba, Granada, Barcelona

SEPTEMBER 2 - 8, 2018
From $1695

DISCOVER SPAIN

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of Maryland Young Alumni?

The UMD young alumni travel program offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed hassle-free tours of the world.

Choose from four exciting destinations, travel with young alumni and friends of peer institutions, ages 20 – 35. These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and allow a connection back to the University of Maryland. They are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 40 years of experience in the young professional travel market. In this brochure you will find detailed itineraries, travel dates, pricing and how to book.

If you have any questions about our young alumni travel program, please contact us by emailing Angela Dimopoulos at adimop@umd.edu or call 301-405-7938 or 800-336-8627.

Sincerely,

Amy Eichhorst
Executive Director
University of Maryland Alumni Association

8-day base land package: $1,695
Rates are based on two people sharing one room. Single supplements $395.

*Special Alumni Land price per person. Airfare priced separately for greater flexibility. Please call AESU Alumni World Travel for great low airfares from most U.S. cities. Airport/Departure taxes are additional and subject to change.
WHAT DO I GET?

**COVERAGE**
When you book your Young Alumni trip, the necessities of travel are taken care of. These include:
- Superior Tourist Class Hotels
- All Land Transportation
- Daily Breakfast
- Special Cultural Dinners
- Knowledgeable Tour Director
- Behind-the-Scenes Tours
(See more in the inclusions on page 4)

**EDUCATIONAL & ADVENTUROUS**
Whether you can’t wait to immerse yourself in the amazing scenery of lively Spain and enjoy its delicious delicacies or you’re more inclined to soak up every bit of ‘Game of Thrones’ magic you can, the tour provides a beautiful balance of historical education and complete sensory and cultural immersion into the vivacious life of this country.

**THE VERDICT?**
Don’t miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime to explore the places you have been dreaming of or reading about in your text books. Make new best friends from around the world and create memories that will keep this journey alive forever.

It’s not rocket science. Group travel is a safer way to explore the world. This trip provides you with an exciting approach to learning and taking in all the history and culture around you. Open your mind, see the world and have the most fun you’ve ever had.

**GO-EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS**

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DISCOVER SPAIN
8 DAYS

ABOUT THE TRIP:
For over 20 years, George R.R. Martin’s Song of Ice and Fire books have transported us to exotic locales without leaving the library. Then the HBO TV series, Game of Thrones, showed us where to find these destinations in our own world. The stairs of the Great Sept, the fighting pits of Meereen, the Water Gardens of Dorne; they’re all real locations and they’re waiting for you in Spain!

Discover Spain combines the best of Spain with exhilarating Game of Thrones filming locations. AESU will highlight our favorite GOT scenes within Spain’s best known cities and take you to the hidden towns, forever changed by the GOT franchise. AESU organizes all the details so you can focus on immersing yourself in the scenery of Westeros and Essos and the beauty and culture of Spain.

Experience the Spanish style of living in Madrid and the culture of Seville. Taste the cuisine of Granada and marvel at the architecture of Barcelona, all the while imagining yourself adventuring through Dorne, Braavos, King’s Landing, Meereen and more.

HIGHLIGHTS:

GAME OF THRONES FILMING LOCATIONS
The Long Bridge of Volantis * The Stairs of the Sept of Baelor * The Citadel * Water Gardens of Dorne * Daznak’s Pit * The Streets of Braavos * The Dragon Pit * High Garden and the Reach * The Gardens of Quarth*... AND MUCH MORE

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:
(Not included in package price)
• Osuna Excursion
• Braavos Market
• Mediterranean Sailing Trip

NOTE: Alhambra Palace tickets are in high demand and the number of daily visitors is restricted. Group tickets are therefore subject to availability and entrance cannot be guaranteed. A walking tour of Granada, including tapas brunch, will be provided as an alternate if tickets are not available.

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.

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DISCOVER SPAIN

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - TRAVEL TO MADRID
Take off on your overnight flight to indescribable Madrid and start a one-of-a-kind, European adventure, where you’ll see the real-life cities and architecture that inspired the most exotic imagery in the Game of Thrones universe.
Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 - MADRID
Use this free afternoon in Spain’s capital to explore Retiro Park and Madrid’s colorful plazas. Visit the Puerta del Sol and the Cervantes monument, perfect photo ops. Tonight meet fellow travelers at our orientation and savor local specialties at a traditional, Spanish tapas dinner.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 - MADRID - SEVILLE
This morning we travel south by train to Seville where the Moorish architecture will inspire us as it did the Game of Thrones producers. On our city tour, we will visit places that evoke the striking landscapes of Dorne and the imposing architecture of Kings Landing. We’ll explore ancient Roman fortresses and medieval palaces, all the while imagining ourselves feeding Daenerys’ dragons in the ruins of Italica or challenging the Thirteen in the gardens of the Alcazar.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 - SEVILLE
This morning adopt the Spanish pace of living. Enjoy a free day of exploring at to fully embrace the culture of Seville. You can also join us for an optional tour to the small town of Osuna, a town that was home to the Game of Thrones cast and crew during season 5. We will visit Osuna’s renaissance bull ring, the filming location for the Daznak’s Pit scenes. Grab lunch at Casa Curro, the favorite restaurant of the GOT cast. Then return to Seville to continue the afternoon at your leisure.
Meals: Breakfast
Options: Osuna Excursion

DAY 5 - SEVILLE - CORDOBA - GRANADA
Today, join us on a morning trip to Cordoba, the Andalusian equivalent of Volantis. Follow in the footsteps of Tyrion and Varys by crossing the Guadalquivir River by way of the Roman Bridge of Cordoba, which doubles as the Long Bridge of Volantis. Then climb the Torre del Oro and channel Samwell Tarley exploring the High Tower of Oldtown. This evening, a quick train ride takes us through the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the hilltop city of Granada.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 - GRANADA - BARCELONA
After breakfast, join us for a guided tour through Granada’s historical sites, followed by a trip to the Alhambra. Be dazzled by the reflecting pools and carved walls that inspired the Dornish Water Gardens. Tonight we board a high-speed train to Barcelona. With the blue Mediterranean by our side, we zigzag along the Costa Brava and in just over 5 hours we make our way to Barcelona, the ‘city of dreams’. Upon arrival, join us for a late night dinner at a local, Catalan restaurant.
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7 - BARCELONA
Use your free day in Barcelona to see Gaudi’s art nouveau cathedral, the Picasso Museum, and the flower markets of Las Ramblas or take the funicular up to Montjuich for a panoramic view of the harbor. You can also join our final optional excursion. It begins with one last GOT adventure in Girona, the city where the Braavos market scenes are filmed. Deliberate over season 7 rumors on the stairs that Jaime rode up to challenge the High Sparrow or relive Arya’s flight from the Waif in the winding, medieval streets. Then we return to Barcelona and enjoy a relaxing lunch aboard a private sailboat, enjoying the Spanish sun while the Mediterranean coastline passes by. Use the rest of your free afternoon for some last minute souvenir shopping and then see an authentic Flamenco show with us as a farewell to our Spanish, GOT adventure.
Meals: Breakfast
Options: Girona and Sailing Excursion

DAY 8 - US DEPARTURE
It’s not good bye, just hasta luego! Today we fly home with memories to last a lifetime or at least until the next season premier.
Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

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TO ESSOS AND BACK
INSIDE THE WORLD OF GAME OF THRONES

Game of Thrones set designers and producers have their work cut out for them. Bringing George RR Martin’s fantastical landscapes and architecture to life is no small feat. The scenery and ancient architecture throughout Spain served as an unbelievable source of inspiration for the filming crew.

Spain’s culture, style, and atmosphere seamlessly melt into the fantasy, excitement, and storytelling the Game of Thrones franchise is known for. Spain’s culture is waiting to be experienced and, lucky for us, many Game of Thrones filming locations are ready to be explored! Join us on this trip to see these historical sights first hand and let your imagination run wild as we explore the Roman, Moorish, Medieval and Renaissance locations that inspired the Game of Thrones cast and crew.

ALCÁZAR

The Alcázar of Seville is a stunning example of Moorish architecture. The mudéjar buildings displayed against a backdrop of palm trees create the perfect setting for the secrecy and drama of Dorne, Westeros’ southernmost territory. The Alcázar’s grandeur is easily recognizable to Game of Thrones fans, as little of the original design was changed to accommodate filming. The castle’s spectacular grounds created the Water Gardens of Dorne but its interior was witness to some of history’s greatest moments. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella hosted Columbus in the ‘House of Trade’ after his journey to the Americas. Charles V was married here and portions of the palace are still used as a royal residence. When you stroll through the Alcázar’s gardens and palaces, it’s easy to see why the Game of Thrones producers were inspired to use this location exactly as it is.

RUINS OF ITALICA

The city of Italica was a center of Roman culture 2000 years ago. Today its scenic ruins in the south of Spain attract tourists from around the world. Italica may not be as famous as its Italian counterparts like Pompeii but don’t let its inconspicuous nature fool you. The Emperor Trajan was born here and the city was built to impress Rome’s grandeur upon its Spanish citizens. Although the population of the ancient city was modest, about 6,000 people, the buildings were magnificent and their ruins are still a sight to behold. Rumors say that the sandy remains of Italica’s amphitheater, the third largest amphitheater in ancient Rome, will be featured in the eagerly anticipated season 7 as King’s Landing’s Dragonpit.

GIRONA

The medieval city of Girona is sprinkled with locations Game of Thrones fans will recognize. Arya’s blind fight scene was filmed at the base of Girona’s Saint Mary Cathedral. The Cathedral’s gothic architecture wasn’t featured in Arya’s Braavos scenes but it will dazzle you. Watch your step as you twist and turn through the alleyways that Arya sprinted down during her flight from the waif. Charles V was married here and portions of the palace are still used as a royal residence. When you stroll through the Girona’s gardens and palaces, it’s easy to see why the Game of Thrones producers were inspired to use this location exactly as it is.

BULLRING OF OSUNA

Daenerys’ escape from the Sons of the Harpy was one of the most memorable scenes from season 5. With a little help from CGI, the Osuna’s renaissance-style bullring was transformed into Daznak’s Pit in Meereen. It was built in 1904 by the same architect who built Seville’s Plaza de España and it seats 5,000 people. The bullring is still functioning today, so you can get tickets to a fight or simply admire the architecture and indulge your imagination when the seats are empty. Upon seeing the sun glint off of the stone walls and hearing the crowds of enthralled spectators, you’ll find it’s easy to visualize the Mother of Dragons being surrounded by the sons of the Harpy and rescued by Drogon.
The Alhambra was originally scouted as a filming location for GOT but it ultimately lost to the Alcazar. The Alcazar’s smaller crowds made scheduling filming times easier. Because of the similar architectural styles, a visit to the Alhambra invites the imagination to envision Dorne’s Sunspear or the gardens of Qarth. The mudéjar architecture can be attributed to the Moorish Sultans who lived here during the 1300s. Before that, the site was home to a Roman fortress. Then during the Renaissance, the Alhambra became the center for the royal court of Ferdinand and Isabella. Their influence is evidenced by the Christian style buildings and gardens that can be found throughout the palace. Tour this magnificent palace and marvel at the foresight, engineering, and artistic skill that made the Alhambra’s wonders like the Court of Lions and the Hall of the Abencerrajes possible.

The Giralda Bell Tower is one of the most ancient buildings in Seville and likely served as inspiration for the tower at the Citadel, where Samwell Tarly learns the secrets and histories of the Seven Kingdoms. Originally a mosque, it stands at 320 feet tall. The tower is one of the largest church towers in the world and it demonstrates all of the different cultures that have influenced Seville. Its Moorish, Renaissance, medieval influences demonstrate the cultural blend that defines Spain. Climb the stairs to the top, enjoy the panoramic view of Seville and imagine releasing ravens to fly to the far reaches of Westeros.

The Roman Bridge of Cordoba was originally built in is the early 1st century BC, though most of what we see today was built by the Moors during the 8th century or rebuilt during the 17th century. Its design is an unmistakable inspiration for the Long bridge of Volantis, featured during Tyrion and Varys’ venture eastward to meet the Mother of Dragons. The bridge is a main crossing point for the Guadalquivir River and was a vital player in the city of Cordoba’s medieval battles. Each of the bridge has its own fortifications. The north end features the Gate of the Bridge, built in the 1570s, and the southern end hosts the Calahorra Tower, which was built in the 12th century and boasts an intricate Moorish design.
BEFORE YOU GO

HOW DO I BOOK?
Booking your trip is easy! To make your reservation click the “CHECK AVAILABILITY” button on any trip page to book your trip online, or you can call us at 1.800-638-7640 if you have any questions.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT? A VISA?
Travel to EUROPE: If you are an American or Canadian citizen, you only need a Passport. The easiest way to get a passport is through your local post office, County Court House, or Passport Agency. When applying, be sure to take with you your genuine birth certificate, which includes the registrant’s signature and a raised seal, two recent photographs that are 2″ x 2″, full face view, black/white or color; and ID like your Driver’s License. You may need a Visa for our tours if you are not an American or Canadian citizen. If you are a citizen of another country you must contact the appropriate consulates for each nation on the itinerary, and you must obtain these visas on your own.
Travel BEYOND Europe: Check on Visa requirements (incl. American or Canadian citizens) with the respective consulate or embassy. Some countries may charge for a tourist visa on entry or a departure tax on leaving the country.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED?
We recommend $50-$80 per day, depending on your spending habits. That money covers items of a personal nature, laundry, beverages with meals (except for coffee/tea at breakfast, water at dinner, and occasionally a glass of wine), meals not included on tour, and expenses for free-time activities (metro tickets, taxis, entrance fees). This amount does not include money for souvenir/gift shopping. We strongly recommend bringing a credit card (Visa, American Express, and Mastercard are the most widely accepted) as well as an ATM card. Check with your bank prior to departure to ensure your ATM card is usable overseas.

SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?
We highly recommend travel insurance. (Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate.) If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or click on this link:
https://www.tripassure.com/main/?welcome=AESU3922MD

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?
Check with your doctor or the CDC (wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) to find out if vaccinations are required. If you suffer from any form of illness, be sure to have an adequate supply of medicines before departing on your trip. You must advise us of any important medical condition you may have, before departure.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?
The easiest way to make your tour stressful is to over pack! See more details in Planning & Packing section on your trip’s Toolbox pages. Download our suggested packing list.

WHAT ABOUT PACKING DOCUMENTS?
Never pack your passport! Always keep it with you. The same goes for cash and credit cards. Pack 2 extra passport photos if possible (in the event that you lose your passport) photo copies of your passport’s personal data pages, your flight itinerary and e-ticket information, a listing of your credit card, and copies of any personal IDs. This info will be extremely valuable should you lose any actual documents. Always keep actual documents on your person, and never in your checked suitcase.

PLANING YOUR TRIP

WHAT ARE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?
We stay in superior tourist class hotels, 3-star or 4-star, all with private bath/shower. Our hotels have been especially selected for their European atmosphere, friendly hospitality, cleanliness and location. TOUR ROOMING POLICY: If you are traveling alone and do not want a single room, we will attempt to arrange for a 2-share room. If this is not possible, we will make arrangements for a single room and charge the applicable single supplement.
You’ll be furnished a complete hotel address list with your final documents. Properties are subject to change and any substitutions would be the equivalent of those listed. Single supplement only applies if single accommodations are requested. For independent hotel reservations such as pre/post nights, etc. and certain special tours always a single supplement is always applied. Please check your itinerary.

I DON’T HAVE A ROOMMATE, WHAT DO I DO?
Going solo is not a problem with AESU. Many of our participants don’t have a travel companion when booking a trip. If you’re traveling alone, we will attempt to arrange for you to share a room (same gender) at NO EXTRA COST. Our hotels are superior tourist class, ALL with private bath/shower. If you prefer to stay in a single room, our reservations agent can make arrangements for a single at the applicable single supplement rate.

I KNOW SOME MEALS ARE INCLUDED, BUT WHAT ABOUT SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?
Tours include breakfast daily, lunches & dinner as per itinerary. If you are a vegetarian, or have special dietary needs, please inform your tour director as soon as you arrive. All included meals are pre-paid, so a substitute meal is always up to the goodwill of the establishment. We cannot guarantee that all special requests will be granted, but, in the past, most restaurants have been cooperative. Please keep in mind that substitute meals may not be as varied as they are at home.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?
Check with your doctor or the CDC (wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) to find out if vaccinations are required. If you suffer from any form of illness, be sure to have an adequate supply of medicines before departing on your trip. You must advise us of any important medical condition you may have, before departure.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOES AESU SUPPORT ECO TRAVEL?
Every traveler shares a common responsibility to preserve our planet’s environment and respect its people. AESU enthusiastically endorses ASTA’s 10 Commandments, which effectively reaffirm that responsibility. Let’s live by these Commandments, to ensure our world’s beauty is preserved for our generation and for generations to come. Thank you for the opportunity to travel together and to discover our remarkable world in a responsible manner. Over a decade ago AESU founded “TRAVEL FOR GOOD” — many years before large travel companies became active in environmental travel.

Link to US State Department Travel Website
http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html

FOR MORE FAQ’s VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.ALUMNIWORLDTRAVEL.COM/2018/UMD.HTML
BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested $4-5 per day for tour director, $2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary. CANCELLATION POLICY EUROPE: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to $300, cancellation between 60-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 40%. Cancellation within 16 days of departure or a “no-show” at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION. AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. FLIGHT DELAYS – ALL AIRPORTS: In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline’s website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract. RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU’s control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU’s liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner’s risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.