TALE OF THREE ANDALUSIAN CITIES
Seville, Cordoba, Granada

April 26-May 6, 2015
Dear Sightseeing Sooner,

Next April, join us and discover the enduring intellectual and cultural legacy of Andalusia, one of the most inviting regions in all of Spain.

The Iberian Peninsula and northern Africa have witnessed a rich tapestry of civilizations, from the Carthaginians and Greeks to the Normans, Romans, and Byzantines. Among the most vibrant and accomplished of these inhabitants were the Muslims of Morocco, the Moors. At a time when most of Europe was shrouded in the Dark Ages, they forged an empire that, at its height in the tenth century, stretched from Spain and Portugal in the north to Libya in the east and Senegal and Ghana in the south.

The period when Moorish kings ruled the province of Andalusia in southern Spain—or Al-Andalus, as they called it—was a rare moment in history when members of the three great monotheistic faiths worked side by side to build a sophisticated society. Often referred to as “Moorish,” this civilization was in fact a hybrid of three powerful cultural forces: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. From this new civilization a river of culture flowed throughout the rest of Europe: new knowledge of medicine, architecture, and mathematics, and even ancient Greek texts by such masters as Aristotle—works that had disappeared from Europe centuries before, but had been carefully preserved by the Moors.

Our journey focuses on the three greatest cities of Al-Andalus: Seville, Cordoba, and Granada. We begin our exploration of this storied civilization in the Guadalquivir River valley. In Seville, discover the Jewish Quarter and the Cathedral, behind which stands the Alcazar, the majestic palace of the Moorish kings which richly displays the genius and elegance of the era’s art and architecture. In Cordoba, find one of Europe’s greatest architectural treasures, La Mezquita, the fabulous eighth-century mosque that became the city’s cathedral after the Christian Reconquest of Spain. In Granada, stroll through the Moors’ richest treasure of all, the Alhambra. Crowning a hill above the city, the Alhambra is an Arabian Nights palace of lush gardens, serene courtyards, and intimate chambers—a masterpiece of Moorish design. And throughout our journey, we will pause frequently to admire exquisite gardens, to sample the olives, nuts, and fruits for which the region is justly famous, and to relax and enjoy the vibrant contemporary culture that surrounds us.

Join us on this custom-made journey through time to Andalusia’s great centers of civilization and evocative ancient cities.

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk
Director of Alumni Programs
Our journey is accompanied by an expert lecturer and experienced local guides who will introduce you to the culture and history of this fascinating region. Through a series of lectures and informal discussions, they will enhance your understanding and appreciation of the sites we visit and help put into context the things you are seeing. As this brochure goes to print, the lecturer has not yet been confirmed, but all of our speakers are chosen for their knowledge, experience, and approachability.

**ITINERARY**

**Sunday, April 26, 2015**
**USA**
Fly from the U.S. to Seville, Spain.

**Monday, April 27**
**SEVILLE, Spain**
Arrive in Seville, the sophisticated heart of Andalusia, known for its splendid Moorish architecture, grand churches, and rich artistic legacy. Transfer to the Hotel Alfonso XIII, your home for the next three nights. (D)

**Tuesday, April 28**
**SEVILLE**
In the morning explore the Alcazar, the oldest royal palace still in use in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Tour the striking palaces, appreciating the intricate architectural details, and walk through the charming Murillo Gardens. Next, travel to the historic Barrio Santa Cruz, a neighborhood of narrow, labyrinthine streets and alleys dating back to when it was the old judería, or Jewish Quarter, during medieval times. Visit the Casa de Pilatos, considered the prototype of an Andalusian palace, mixing Italian Renaissance and Mudéjar styles. In the afternoon visit the Museum of Fine Arts, housing one of the most important collections in Spain that dates from the medieval period to the early 20th century. (B)

**Wednesday, April 29**
**SEVILLE**
This morning tour Seville’s large and fanciful Gothic Cathedral—the largest Gothic cathedral in the world that is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the burial site of Christopher Columbus. See the Cathedral’s main points of interest, including the Capilla Mayor and La Giralda—the intricately detailed bell tower that is the city’s most well-known symbol. Also visit the Baroque Hospital de la Caridad and its chapel, founded in 1674. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. (B)

**Thursday, April 30**
**SEVILLE | CARMONA | ECIJA | CORDOBA**
Drive to Carmona this morning, a picturesque town founded by the Carthaginians in the third century B.C., later becoming an important site during the Roman and Moorish periods. Located midway between Seville and Cordoba in a valley of low hills is Ecija, where we will stop to view the town’s brilliantly colored Baroque churches and 18th-century houses. Continue to Cordoba and check into the Hotel Hospes Palacio del Bailio. (B, L)

**Friday, May 1**
**CORDOBA**
In the 8th century the Moors conquered Cordoba and erected some 300 mosques and innumerable palaces and public
The interior of La Mezquita with its iconic red-and-white-striped arches, Cordoba

buildings. Enjoy a morning visit to the magnificent La Mezquita (“the mosque”) that contains within it the city’s Cathedral. The mosque is regarded as one of the most accomplished monuments of Moorish architecture, and its arcaded hypostyle hall with 856 columns and red-and-white-striped double arches are particularly memorable. Also walk the Jewish Quarter, where the narrow streets have a distinctly Moorish flair to them, and visit the 14th-century synagogue. Spend the afternoon at leisure. (B)

Saturday, May 2

CORDOBA

This morning tour the medieval Alcazar, which features fine mosaics and its popular Courtyard of the Moriscos. The gardens formed part of the Moorish design for the area around the mosque and are good examples of Moorish Andalusian garden design, with effective use of water. Also visit the excellent Archaeological Museum, featuring treasures from Cordoba’s heritage including prehistoric crafts, Roman statues and mosaics, as well as artifacts of Roman, Iberian, and Visigoth origin. The museum is housed in a stately Renaissance mansion. (B, L)

Sunday, May 3

CORDOBA | UBEDA | BAEZA | GRANADA

Travel today to Granada, stopping en route in Ubeda to explore the town’s many Renaissance buildings and squares and the Church of El Salvador, a masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance architecture. Continue to Baeza, once a prosperous Moorish city and now a quaint town set among olive groves. Arrive at the Hotel Alhambra Palace in Granada. (B)

Monday, May 4

GRANADA

Granada exemplifies the best of Moorish art, architecture, and culture. Tour the Alhambra, a network of lavishly decorated palaces and irrigated gardens begun in the 13th century by the caliphs of the Nasrid dynasty. After the Christian reconquest, the Alhambra’s mosque was replaced with a church and additional structures were built. The complex is an architectural marvel of lacy arches, filigreed ceilings, slender columns, intricate stucco work, and romantic courtyards adorned with lovely fountains. Also stroll through the splendid Generalife Gardens, adjacent to the Alhambra, a soothing landscape of pathways, patios, pools, fountains, trees, and flowers of every imaginable hue. In the afternoon visit the cavernous Granada Cathedral, with Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque elements, and the Royal Chapel. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, May 5

GRANADA | MALAGA

Enjoy the morning at leisure to further explore Granada on your own, especially El Albayzin, the oldest part of the city that archaeological excavations have shown to have been occupied continuously from as early as the Roman period. Stroll the narrow streets and small squares, and see the Moorish- and Andalusian-style houses, the Casa de la Reina (the remains of an aristocratic residence), the Corral del Carbon, and the church of San Sebastian. In the afternoon we transfer to Malaga and visit the Picasso Museum, then check into the Hotel Molina Lario. (B)

Wednesday, May 6

MALAGA | FLY TO USA

Check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for flights to the U.S. (B)
RANGE

$5,895 per person, double occupancy
$1,295 single supplement

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

Included
- 3 nights in Seville at the Hotel Alfonso XIII (or similar)
- 3 nights in Cordoba at the Hotel Hospes Palacio del Bailio (or similar)
- 2 nights in Granada at the Hotel Alhambra Palace (or similar)
- 1 night in Malaga at the Hotel Molina Lario (or similar)
- All tours and excursions
- Welcome dinner
- Breakfast daily; lunch during full-day excursions
- Transportation in deluxe, air-conditioned coaches
- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by expert study leader
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Airport transfers and baggage handling abroad on the designated arrival and departure dates
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff

Not Included
- Airfare
- Visa and passport fees (if applicable)
- Trip cancellation and baggage insurance
- Personal expenses (such as laundry, telephone, and Internet)
- Gratuities other than those specified

Air Reservations
Airfare is not included in the rates. To make your air reservations, please contact your preferred airline, travel agent, or the Travel Dynamics International air desk toll-free at 1-877-711-9896 Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (EST).

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a $300 per person administrative fee. In addition, cancellations received 61-90 days will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations, and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Travel Dynamics International Ltd.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Travel Dynamics International Ltd. and the tour's sponsoring organization. Travel Dynamics International Ltd. and the tour's sponsoring organization act solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the traveler's safety, or the health or other safety of others. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereby. No suit shall be maintainable against the carrier for any losses, accidents, damages to person, property, personal injury (including death or other types of bodily injury) of the traveler, unless written notice of the claim, with full particulars, is delivered to the carrier within six months from the day when such incident occurred. In no event shall any such suit or any claim against the carrier for any losses, accidents, damages to person, property, personal injury (including death or other types of bodily injury) of the traveler be maintainable unless such suit is commenced within one year from the day when the incident causing such losses, accidents, damages to person, property, personal injury (including death or other types of bodily injury) of the traveler occurs, notwithstanding any provision of law of any state or country to the contrary. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be brought within the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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For further information about this program, please contact
The University of Oklahoma Alumni Association at (405) 325-1710.
For reservations or information, please contact
Travel Dynamics International at (800) 257-5767.