



## Day 1:

Depart from home city.

## Day 2: City Tour and Orientation

Upon arrival in Madrid, get acquainted with Spain's capital on a **motorcoach overview tour** highlighting some of the city's landmarks. The tour will take you by **Gran Vía**, a lively street full of shops, hotels, and movie theaters, as well as the **Palacio Real**, the **Paseo de Prado**, the **Banco de España**, and the **Puerta del Sol**. See the **Puerta de Alcalá**, an impressive gate commissioned by Carlos III that once served as the gateway to eastern Madrid, and now stands in the busy **Plaza de Independencia**.

Your Focus Director will familiarize your group with the area around your hotel and share practical information about Madrid such as banking, mail services, phone, personal security, and health care. Check into your hotel and enjoy free time until dinner.

Enjoy lively Spanish conversation over a late night **meal of traditional tapas**. A popular cuisine with locals, tapas offer a variety of flavors that will satisfy any appetite.

## Day 3: Old Madrid

Set off for **Plaza Cánovas del Castillo** and the **Museo del Prado** – a prestigious art museum holding original works of the world's most famous artists. Don't miss the sections reserved for Spanish painters Goya and El Greco! Embrace Madrileño culture at beautiful **Parque del Retiro**, the park adjacent to the Prado containing outdoor cafes, street performers, outdoor theaters, and fortune tellers.

Walk down the **Paseo del Prado** to **Centro de Arte Reina Sofía** – a modern art museum with an emphasis on Spanish artists Dalí, Picasso (including his famous *Guernica*), and Miró. End your day by riding the metro to the city's most popular meeting space for younger crowds, **Puerta del Sol**.

## Day 4: Monasterio Scenarrio

### **E** *El Escorial*

Begin your day with a guided tour of the **Real Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial**. This immense palace was at first an austere monastery until Felipe II transformed it into one of the modern wonders of the world. A highlight of El Escorial is the **Panteón de los Reyes**, a large tomb designed in gold and housing the bodies of nearly every Spanish monarch since Carlos I. The property also boasts a Basilica, a very unique library, museums of art collections and historic tapestries, and a small but luxurious palace built for a prince.

Leave for airport and fly to Barcelona.

## Day 5: ¡Benvingut a Barcelona!

Barcelona is the capital of the region of Catalunya. With their own language, history, and culture, the people of Barcelona have a fiercely independent spirit.

Walk through the **Barri Gòtic** and take in the medieval sights of the old city. The Gothic Quarter is home to the **Palau Reial** – the royal palace where Columbus was received by Fernando and Isabel on his return from the new world. Walk through the **Catedral de la Seu**, the **Plaça Sant Jaume**, and the **Plaça del Rei**, the oldest square in the Gothic Quarter. Stop in at the **Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat** to see extensive remains of the Roman City of Barcino.

### **I** *Flamenco Flair*

In the afternoon, let a Flamenco dance lesson be your inspiration as you follow the rhythm of the castanets and sway to the music! Comprised of cante, dancing, and guitar, Flamenco is the art of expressing the soul.

## Day 6: Modern Barcelona

In the morning, head towards the **Plaça de Catalunya**, the heart of the modern city. Our guided tour will follow the traces of the remarkable architect Gaudí throughout town. Known for his highly individualistic designs, Gaudí's unique style of Art Nouveau is apparent in the very extraordinary yet still unfinished **Sagrada Família**.

Continue on your Gaudí-inspired tour as you head up to **Park Güell**. Built 100 years ago, the park features many elements from religious mysticism and ancient poetry. Gaudí's design includes large, multi-colored mosaic walls and statues, such as an oversized iguana and dragon, and a massive sea serpent bench.

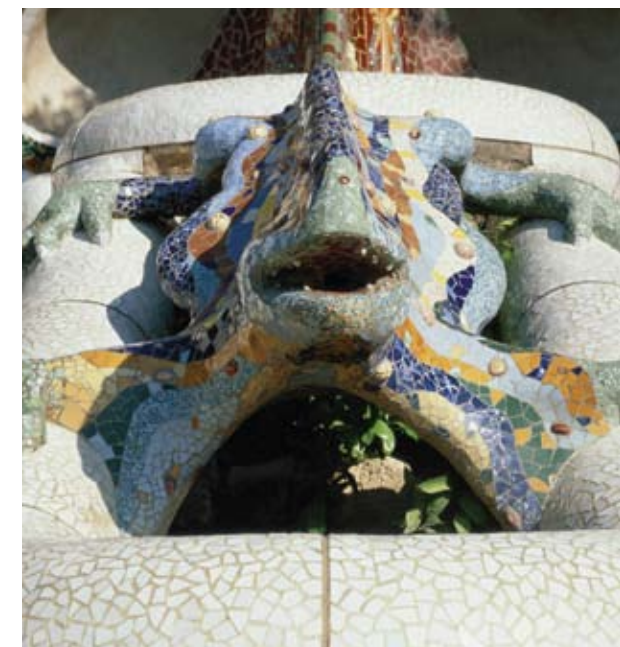
In the afternoon, visit **Museu Picasso** and gain some insight into the formative years of Picasso through more than 3,500 pieces of his work.



Fountain in Madrid's Retiro Park



Students pose in front of the modern business district



Vibrant colors and detailed mosaic of Gaudí's Parc Güell

7\*, 8, OR 9 DAY PROGRAM

### Landmarks

Gran Vía  
 Palacio Real  
 Paseo de Prado  
 Banco de España  
 Puerta del Sol  
 Puerta de Alcalá  
 Plaza de Independencia  
 Barri Gòtic  
 Palau Reial  
 Catedral de la Seu  
 Plaça de Catalunya  
 Parc Güell  
 Sagrada Família  
 Las Ramblas

### Museums and Galleries

Museo del Prado  
 Centro de Arte Reina Sofía  
 Museu d'Història de la Ciutat  
 Museu Picasso

### Interactive Insights

Flamenco Flair  
 Paella Party

### Eye-opening Excursions

El Escorial  
 La Costa Brava (program extension)

\* SPRING BREAK OPTION

### Paella Party

Dine on your creation of one of Spain's most popular national dishes during a Paella cooking lesson! Dig deep into the roots of Spanish culture as you find out about the different ingredients that each region has to add to the layers of the dish.

Take the remainder of the day to explore the beauties of Barcelona and close with a farewell dinner of true Spanish cuisine.

### Day 7: ¡Adiós!

Reflect on the fun and the flavors of your Spanish experience

Coach transfer to airport for flight home.

### Choose to extend your program with the following options:

#### Day 8 Program: La Costa Brava

In the morning, board your bus and head to **La Costa Brava**. Spend your day relaxing on this famous stretch of beaches. La Costa Brava is known for its steep and rocky cliffs which dip into the Mediterranean Sea. In the afternoon, enjoy some free time back in Barcelona. This is an ideal time to enjoy another taste of tapas or to join in the lively street life so typical of Spain.

#### Day 9 Program: Extra day in Barcelona and La Costa Brava

An extra day in Barcelona with your expert Focus Director allows extra time to discover unique Spanish treasures in a market, revisit a favorite museum, or strike up conversations with city locals. Cheer for the matador as he takes on the toro at a **traditional Spanish bullfight**, or attend a game of **fútbol** and experience firsthand the infectious passion locals have for the sport.

**Note:** *This itinerary may be modified depending on your travel dates, arrival and departure times, national holidays, and hours of operation in the host country. Prices vary depending on departure city and duration of program.*



Atocha Station features a lavish indoor garden in addition to transportation services



Madrid's renowned Plaza de Cibeles