

American Celebration of Music in Spain

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Madrid, Spain

Day 2

Madrid (D)

Arrive in Madrid. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach
If time permits, take an introductory panoramic tour prior to hotel check-in
Welcome Dinner

Madrid stands in the foothills of the Sierra de Guadarrama, right in the center of the Iberian Peninsula. It is a very hospitable city, known for the quality of its light and climate. Madrid became the capital of Spain in the 16th century when Spain ruled a vast empire. Its attractions include three internationally famous art galleries, a royal palace, grand public squares and many museums filled with treasures of Spain's

Day 3

Madrid (B,D)

A morning guided tour of Madrid includes seeing Plaza Mayor (site of executions, tournaments, weddings, bullfights and Inquisition trials), Plaza de España, Retiro Park, and the incomparable Prado Museum
Enjoy an afternoon clinic/exchange

Day 4

Madrid / Aranjuez (B,D)

Half-day excursion to Aranjuez to visit the Palace (built in 1561 by King Philip II as a royal summer residence) and Chincon (made famous in *Around the World in 80 Days*) to see a typical Spanish village
Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

Day 5

Madrid / Toledo (B,D)

Full-day excursion to Toledo. Enjoy a guided tour including a visit of the magnificent Cathedral (with the El Greco paintings and other valuable relics), and the Church of St. Tomé (El Greco's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*)
Return to Madrid for dinner/overnight

Toledo is one of the great jewels of Spain! It stands out dramatically against the often luminously blue Castilian sky, a golden city rising from a granite eminence, encircled by a steep ravine filled by the green waters of the Tagus. It is as spectacular as it is rich in history, buildings. Art at every corner has a tale to be told, every aspect reflecting a brilliant period of Spanish history when the cultures of east and west flourished and fused. One is constantly aware of this imprint of Christian, Jewish and Moorish cultures which productively co-existed during the Middle Ages

Day 6

Madrid / El Escorial (B,D)

Half-day excursion to El Escorial, the magnificent palace and monastery built by Phillip II
Visit the Royal Apartments and the Basilica. A few miles away, view the



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Valley of the Fallen
Return to Madrid for afternoon at leisure
For choirs only: noon recital at El Escorial

Day 7 **Madrid / Avila / Segovia** **(B,D)**

Full-day excursion to Avila and Segovia. Avila, the birthplace of St. Teresa, has city walls that are complete and form one of Europe's most striking examples of medieval fortifications. Visit the Cathedral
Transfer to Segovia to visit the famous Roman Aqueduct (still operating), the Old Town and the Alcázar
Return to Madrid for a performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain
Farewell Dinner

Day 8 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Madrid's International Airport for the return flight
Arrive home in the evening of the same day

***This is a very flexible itinerary.** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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