

American Celebration of Music in Spain

Standard Tour #3 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service, including full meal, beverage service and in-flight entertainment. The destination is Madrid, Spain.

Day 2 Madrid / Toledo

Arrive in Madrid. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer to Toledo. Check into hotel. Welcome Dinner.

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 3 Toledo / Seville

Visit the magnificent Cathedral (with the El Greco paintings and other valuable relics), the Church of St. Tomé (El Greco's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*) and the El Greco House and Museum. Afternoon transfer to Seville for dinner/overnight.

Seville ranks as one of the world's great tourist centers. Don Juan romanced and Figaro barbered in Seville; today, gypsies still sing age-old ballads, flamenco dancers whirl to the melodies of the guitar and matadors tease rushing bulls.

Day 4 Seville

A morning guided tour of Seville includes Maria Luise Park (Plaza de España), viewing the Gold Tower, and entrance to the Giralda and Cathedral and also to the Alcazar, one of the most famous buildings in all of Spain. Afternoon at leisure. **Performance Seville as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain.**

Day 5 Seville / Granada

Morning transfer to Granada. En route, weather permitting, stop along the beautiful Costa del Sol for some beach time.

Granada has everything: prestigious and exceedingly beautiful Moorish buildings, luminous skies and a luxuriantly green setting. It was built on three hills at the center of a wide plain that looks out to the snow-capped Sierra Nevada on the horizon.

Day 6 Granada

An afternoon guided tour includes the Alhambra (Red Castle) which includes the Nasrid Palace, exquisite gardens, Emperor Charles V's Palace etc. Visit also Generalife (summer palace of the kings of Granada). **Performance in Granada as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain.**



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Day 7 Granada / Madrid

Morning at leisure in Granada. Afternoon transfer back to Madrid.

Madrid, Europe's highest-lying capital, 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 the treasures of Spain's history.



Day 8 Madrid

A morning guided tour of Madrid includes Plaza Mayor, Plaza de España, Retiro Park, and entrance to the Royal Palace and the incomparable Prado Museum. ***Performance in Madrid as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain.***



Day 9 Madrid

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 Valley of the Fallen. ***Choirs only: possible noon recital at El Escorial.*** Return to Madrid for afternoon at leisure. Evening Farewell Dinner.



Day 10 Depart for home

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