

American Celebration of Music in Spain

Standard Tour #3 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

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

Day 2

Madrid / Toledo (D)

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 (B,D)

Visit 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*)

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 (B,D)

A morning guided tour of Seville includes Maria Luise Park (Plaza de España), viewing the Gold Tower, and entrance to the Giralda and Cathedral
Afternoon at leisure

Performance Seville as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

Day 5

Seville / Costa del Sol / Granada (B,D)

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



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Day 6 **Granada** **(B,D)**

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

Day 7 **Granada / Madrid** **(B,D)**

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** **(B,D)**

A morning guided tour of Madrid includes Plaza Mayor, Plaza de España, Retiro Park, and the incomparable Prado Museum

Performance in Madrid as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

Day 9 **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 Valley of the Fallen

For choirs only: noon recital at El Escorial

Return to Madrid for afternoon at leisure
Evening Farewell Dinner

Day 10 **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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