

American Celebration of Music in Spain

Standard Tour #6 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

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

Day 2

Barcelona

(D)

Arrive in Barcelona. 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

Barcelona was originally founded by the Phoenicians. Although it belongs to Spain, it is the capital of Catalonia, and is a more dynamic city than ever, hosting the 1992 World Olympic Games. It is a large industrial center with a very busy port; it's also a university town, and important cultural center with an opera-house and many museums, theaters and concert halls

Day 3

Barcelona

(B,D)

A morning guided tour includes the Gothic Quarter to see its Cathedral, the Plaça del Rei, and the Roman City. Next, go to the Eixample Quarter, location of many of Barcelona's best Modernista buildings. Travel down the Passeig de Gràcia, a luxurious street adorned with elegant wrought-iron street lamps which contains the finest examples of Modernist architecture in Barcelona. Then visit the La Sagrada Familia, Europe's most unconventional church, yet uncompleted

Afternoon exchange

Day 4

Barcelona / Montserrat

(B,D)

Half-day sightseeing to Montserrat to visit the monastery. The monastery, with its church and the various subsidiary buildings, is a little city on its own. The monastery complex proper is reached by way of the Plaza de la Cruz (Catalan Plaça de la Creu), which is flanked by a restaurant, souvenir shops, a post office, payphones and a bureau de change. Hear Escolania, one of Europe's oldest boys choir sing the 11 am Mass in the monastery

Afternoon guided tour to Montjuïc (the Mountain of the Jews) for a great view overlooking the city. Visit the Poble Espanyol (Spanish village), built for the 1929 exhibition to illustrate regional styles in Spanish architecture

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

Day 5

Barcelona / Tarragona / Valencia

(B,D)

Transfer to Valencia via Tarragona. Sightseeing in Tarragona includes visits to the, Archeological Promenade and Amphitheatre. Set in a cliff over the beach, this ancient amphitheatre was the site where gladiators and wild beasts fought until death for the amusement of the crowds

Continue to Valencia for dinner and overnight



Valencia, lies close to the Mediterranean on the right bank of the Río Turia. Described in an ancient saying as "a piece of heaven fallen to earth", Valencia is a typically southern town with its bustling streets and the brightly colored azulejo domes of its many churches. The climate is unusually mild and predominantly dry. During the Civil War, in 1936-37, it was the seat of the Republican government, and it was the last Republican stronghold to fall to Franco on March 30, 1939, two days after Madrid

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

Half-day sightseeing includes entrance to the Palacio de la Generalidad and Lonja (Silk Exchange). Northwest of the Cathedral, in Calle de Caballeros, stands the Palacio de la Generalidad (Audiencia), built between 1510 and 1579 to house the parliament of the kingdom of Valencia and now occupied by the Diputación Provincial. Particularly notable among the rooms of the palace are, on the first floor, the Salón de Cortes, with a coffered ceiling and an azulejo frieze, and the Sala Dorada, with a superb artesonado ceiling

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

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

Transfer to Madrid. An afternoon 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

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

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 / Toledo** **(B,D)**

Full-day excursion to Toledo. 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)

Return to Madrid for dinner and overnight

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 and overnight

Day 10 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to Madrid's International Airport for 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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