



A Six-Day Getaway: Madrid

Alumni Program



Over forty-eight million tourists visit Spain each year, making it one of the three most visited countries in the world. To travel to Spain is to experience sun, superb food and great hospitality and yet it is also to discover the country's rich heritage of monuments and sights, the imprint of the different civilizations that once made it their home, journey through its singular and breathtaking countryside, delight in the stunning yet starkly contrasted scenery, study the customs of its peoples and towns, and share in their local fiestas and traditions.

ROUND-TRIP AIR TRANSPORTATION: Round-trip flights from New York (JFK) Airport on the services of Delta Airlines or similar carrier.

FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel accommodations for five nights, at the centrally located first-class NH Nacional or similar including hotel tax and service charge.

SUPERB CUISINE: Seven meals including buffet breakfast each day and two dinners.

WELCOME RECEPTION: Welcome to the Madrid cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres.

SIGHTSEEING TOUR PROGRAM: A half day city tour of Madrid including the Prado Museum and a full day tour to Salamanca including entrances to the cathedral and the university as well as optional tours available for purchase in Madrid.

MEETING ROOMS: We have a meeting room available for one hours use on two separate days.

COMPLIMENTARY PLACES: We have complimentary places for faculty on all our group departures.

PROFESSIONAL TOUR MANAGER: Services of a professional tour manager daily on the program upon arrival in Madrid through departure.

FIRST CLASS MOTORCOACHES: First class motorcoaches and experienced drivers for all transfers, tours, and guided excursions

LUGGAGE HANDLING AND TRANSFERS: Round-trip airport to hotel transfers in each city including luggage handling for one checked bag per person.

LOCAL TAXES AND SERVICE CHARGES: These charges are on all included features and all applicable entrance fees and admission charges.

MARKETING PACKAGE: To assist in getting the message out we will provide brochures, e-brochures, Web PDFs and Alumni brochure placement costs.

FUNDRAISING: All our group departures offer fundraising amounts for every paying passenger.

EXPERIENCE AND ADVICE: ABC Destinations holds over 45 years of experience in the travel industry offering assistance and advice in group travel programs.

FOR PRICING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ABC DESTINATIONS AT 1-800-227-5858



Day 1: Depart the U.S

From New York (JFK) for Spain.

Day 2: Madrid

Welcome to Madrid. This city is strategically located at the geographical center of the Iberian Peninsula, 646 meters above sea level. Madrid's old town is exemplary among major European cities, and blends harmoniously with the most modern and convenient of urban infrastructure. A cosmopolitan city, a business center, headquarters for the Public Administration, Government, Spanish Parliament and the home of the Spanish Royal Family, Madrid also plays a major role in both the banking and industrial sectors. Upon arrival, proceed to baggage claim and after clearing customs you will be met by the ABC Destinations Tours representative and transfer from the airport to central Madrid and our hotel, your home for the next five nights. Tonight includes a welcome cocktail party with a variety of Spanish hors d'oeuvres. (Breakfast)

Day 3: Madrid/Salamanca/Madrid

After breakfast we depart for our full day tour to Salamanca. University City par excellence, birthplace of the first book of Castilian grammar, an ensemble of monuments with the World Heritage designation... Salamanca is art and culture first hand. A unique destination you will love to discover or to come back to, thanks to its stunning buildings and wonderful atmosphere. Salamanca has always been known as the city of thought and culture. Its history and heritage fully justify this title. Get ready, because in this city in inland Spain, just over two hours by coach from Madrid, you will find outstanding artistic heritage that is hard to beat. The only thing you need is time to stroll unhurriedly around the city and to discover its wealth of monuments. Our city experience begins with a walking tour including stops at the Old Cathedral, the New Cathedral, the University, the Casa de las Conchas (House of Shells), La Clerecia and much more. (Breakfast)

Day 4: Madrid

After breakfast we start the morning with a tour of the city visiting the Prado Museum, one of the largest museums in the world. The Prado Museum is renowned as being the largest art gallery in the world. The museum also exhibits sculptures, drawings, coins, and other works of arts, but it is undoubtedly its large collection of paintings which has given it fame worldwide. It houses more than 8,600 paintings, of which they exhibit less than 2,000 because of lack of space available. Many museums throughout the world have less artistic riches in their halls than the Prado Museum has in storage. In addition, you will see important squares such as the Plaza de España, Plaza de Independence, and the Plaza de Cibeles, followed by Madrid's Town Hall in Plaza de la Villa and the world renowned old quarter. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 5: Madrid/Optional Tour to Avila & Segovia/Madrid

Today, we have an optional tour to the Castilian villages of Avila & Segovia. The extensive history of Avila begins with the primitive Celtiberian settlement of the Vetones, around 700 B.C. The first wall was built with the arrival of the Romans in the third century B.C., making Avila a strategic point of defense. Following several centuries of decadence, the city was repopulated and rebuilt in the 11th century. The legend says that Raimundo de Borgoña, son-in-law of King Alfonso VI, was in charge of supervising the reconstruction of the wall on top of the ruins of the ancient Roman fortress. The peak period of the city would come in the 16th century, when wool manufacture would allow its economic take-off. During this boom, many civil and religious buildings were built in the city, which still stand in the historic quarter. The wall is the symbol of the city and it is one of the best kept, medieval walled enclosures in Europe. Its two and a half kilometer perimeter is marked by almost 2,500 crenellations, a hundred towers, six gates and three openings. We will visit: the San Vicenta Basilic and continue with a walking round trip through the streets of the city. Continuing on, we visit the medieval village of Segovia. Having been a trading center under the Roman Empire, Segovia reached its period of greatest splendor during the Middle Ages, on becoming the court residence of the Trastamaras, as well as an important center of livestock and textile activity. It was during this period that a great many of the local Romanesque buildings were built, a rich heritage that has come down to us today. The Roman aqueduct in Azoguejo square, serves as the main entrance to the historic quarter of Segovia. This engineering gem, built under the Roman Empire (1st century AD), carried water to the elevated city from some 15 Km away. Its 163 arches and its height, some 29 m at its highest point, are supported by blocks of stone from the Sierra de Guadarrama mountains that are completely plaster, lead and mortar free. Here we will take a walk into the past viewing the medieval Jewish quarter. See the streets, houses and yards where men, women, and children led their lives. This is where generations of Jews trod, leaving footprints which still resound in our ears, in our language and in our culture. We will also visit the Cathedral and the Roman Aqueduct, one of the best preserved Roman monuments in Spain. (Breakfast)

Day 6: Madrid/Optional Tour to Toledo/Madrid

Today enjoy a day at leisure to experience this great city. Strolling through Madrid is a great way to see the extravagant Royal Palace, the 16th-century Puerta del Sol (Sun's Gate) marking the center of Spain, the old Moorish quarter of Moreria, and much more. Sample traditional Paella and tapas while watching flamenco and a glass of "vino tinto". The day is yours to do as you like, or take an optional tour to the region of "La Mancha", land of hills dominated by vineyards and windmills, made famous by the legend of Don Quixote and the Imperial city of Toledo. Toledo is also a city linked to deep popular traditions, as the procession of the Most Holy Corpus Christi, a festival declared of International Tourist Interest, demonstrates every year. The city of Toledo has its origins in Toletum, the name the Romans gave to this settlement on the banks of the River Tagus after its conquest in 190 BC. The city maintained its importance for centuries and, in the Visigothic era, became the capital of Hispania (6th C.). The arrival of the Arabs in the 8th century, together with the presence of Christians and Jews, made Toledo the "city of the three cultures". This was one of the Toledo's most splendid periods when, among other important events, the Toledo School of Translators was founded. Later, when Carlos V came to the throne in 1519, the city became an imperial capital. The way that Christians, Arabs, and Jews lived side by side for centuries has been reflected in the form of a great artistic and cultural legacy. The maze of streets making up the historic center of Toledo is only bounded by walls in which many gates were opened. Here we will visit many of the city's sights including, the Gothic Cathedral, the church of Saint Tome, with its masterwork of El Greco "The Burial of Count Orgaz". Travel to the narrow street of Samuel Levi to visit the Museum "Casa del Greco" which occupies part of the Samuel ha-Levi Abulafial's old house, an important Jewish minister of Pedro the First. Continuing after lunch (not included) we visit the nearby Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes. Tonight there will be a farewell dinner. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 7: Madrid/USA

Depart to the Madrid Airport for your return flight to USA. (Breakfast)

Please note: Though rare, it may be necessary to substitute hotels and adjust itineraries due to local conditions. Every attempt has been made to produce this information accurately. We reserve the right to correct errors.

2011 DEPARTURE DATES: MAR 30-APR 5, APR 6-12, 13-19, 20-26 NOV 2-8, 9-15, 16-22, 23-29

2012 DEPARTURE DATES: OCT 31-NOV 6, NOV 7-13

