

American Celebration of Music in Spain

Tour #2 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Depart for Spain

Depart via scheduled air service to Madrid, Spain

Day 2

Madrid

(D)

Arrive in Madrid

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of Madrid's highlights including Plaza Mayor (site of tournaments, bullfights and Inquisition trials), Plaza de Cibeles, Plaza de España, etc

If time permits, take an introductory panoramic tour prior to hotel check-in
Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Madrid 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 history

Day 3

Madrid

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Today, we see many of Madrid's remarkable landmarks including Buen Retiro Park (founded in 1631), the immense Royal Palace and entrance to the Prado Museum which hosts one of the finest art collections in the world including important Spanish paintings, classical statues purchased from Italy, medieval religious treasures and even some Romanesque frescoes

Lunch, on own

Afternoon clinic or school exchange

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Madrid / Aranjuez

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day excursion to Aranjuez to visit the Palace (built in 1561 by King Philip II as a royal summer residence). Continue to Chinchon (made famous in *Around the World in 80 Days*) to see a typical Spanish village

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5

Madrid / Toledo

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Full-day excursion to Toledo. 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. This historic city is a notable place of pilgrimage. "Holy Toledo" isn't just a popular expression



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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*)

Lunch, on own

Return to Madrid for dinner and overnight

Day 6 **Madrid / El Escorial** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

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

For choirs only: noon recital at El Escorial

A few miles away, view the Valley of the Fallen

Lunch, on own

Return to Madrid for afternoon at leisure

Evening dinner and overnight

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

Breakfast at the hotel

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. While here, we visit the Cathedral

Transfer to Segovia to see the famous Roman Aqueduct (still operating), the Old Town and visit the Alcázar

Lunch, on own

Return to Madrid

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

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

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Madrid's airport for the return flight

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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