



MADRID TO BARCELONA



*Educational
Tours*

→ *Discover the Global Classroom*

10 or 12 DAYS

Madrid to Barcelona

Spain



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Amazing art and architecture abound as you discover some of Spain's most impressive sights.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 5 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
 - Madrid • Segovia • Burgos
 - San Sebastián • Barcelona
- 2 sightseeing tours led by your tour director:
 - Bilbao • Pamplona
- 1 walking tour: Barcelona
- 1 orientation tour: Madrid
- 8 visits to special attractions:
 - Prado • Royal Palace • Segovia Alcázar
 - Segovia Cathedral • Burgos Cathedral
 - Guggenheim Museum • Monte Igueldo
 - Parque Guell

OPTIONAL:

Madrid Flamenco Evening • Toledo excursion

EXTENSION:

 All of the above, plus:

- 1 visit to a special attraction:
 - Dalí Museum

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Spain • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Madrid

Arrival in Madrid • Touch down in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital. After clearing customs you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Madrid orientation tour • Your tour director shows you Madrid. Travel back in time to Spain's Golden Age, when painters like Goya and Velázquez ruled and the Royal Court reigned. Get acquainted with the center of Iberia and its biggest draw—the friendly *madrileños* who inhabit the cafés, *tascas* and flea markets that pack the city—and discover what makes Pedro Almodóvar want to immortalize the Madrid scene in his films.

Visit to the Prado • You'll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with works collected by the Spanish monarchy. One of the museum's most famous paintings is *Las Meninas* by Velázquez. You'll also find Goya's paired canvases *The Clothed Maja* and *The Naked Maja*, along with works by Bosch, El Greco and many others.

Day 3 Madrid

Guided sightseeing of Madrid • Your sightseeing adventure begins with a panoramic tour of Spain's capital city. At the Puerta del Sol, the center of Madrid, pass through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This grand square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to royal weddings to public executions. Continue to the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Next, you will explore this magnificent palace, built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 rooms, including one with extravagant ceramic walls. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible variety of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

Optional Flamenco Evening • To better understand the soul of Spain, choose to attend an optional flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco dance is a passionate display of complex heelwork, dramatic poses and flamboyant costume, accompanied by song and guitar playing. You will marvel at the intricate rhythms created by a dancer's steps and by the use of percussive elements such as castanets (wooden finger symbols) and clapping. (A beverage is included.)

Day 4 Madrid

Optional excursion to Toledo • This half-day optional excursion will take you to the former Spanish capital of Toledo, where Muslims, Jews and Christians peacefully coexisted for centuries after the arrival of the Moors in the early 8th century. Visit the cathedral that dominates Toledo's skyline before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomás. Here, you'll view *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz* (*The Burial of the Count Orgaz*), one of El Greco's supreme achievements. Then, step inside one of Toledo's synagogues and finish off your excursion with a stop at a local damascene workshop. Damascene is an intricate Muslim craft originating in Damascus and made famous in Toledo.

Free time in Madrid • Enjoy time to become better acquainted with Madrid on your own. You might wish to visit museums, view the city's many monuments and churches, walk through outdoor plazas or sample *tapas* at a café. You can also ask your tour director for fun suggestions.

Day 5 Segovia • Burgos

Transfer via guided sightseeing of Segovia • Together with your local guide, explore the beautiful medieval city of Segovia, where Isabella was declared queen in 1474. Tour the 14th-century Alcázar fortress, where Christopher Columbus made out his will. See, too, the town's golden cathedral and Roman aqueduct. Dating from the 1st century, it was used until 1983.

Arrival in Burgos • Continue on to Burgos, a town renowned for its connections with El Cid (whose name means "the lord" in Arabic). This legendary leader, who spent most of his life in Burgos (and was ultimately buried here), freed Valencia from the Moors in the 11th century.

Guided sightseeing of Burgos • Pass by the impressive medieval architecture of this town, which pilgrims traversed on their way to Santiago during the Middle Ages. The Arco de Santa María, Burgos' last surviving medieval gate, once ushered visitors through the city's walls. Today, it is adorned with a statue of El Cid as well as a statue of Emperador Karl V. Ferdinand and Isabella welcoming Columbus back to Spain—after his second journey to the New World—at the 15th-century Casa del Córdón.

Visit to the cathedral of Burgos • Enjoy a visit to the cathedral of Burgos, the town's premier landmark. This Gothic structure with its stone spires dates back to the 13th-century. The cathedral houses El Cid's tomb and a painting of Mary Magdalene by Leonardo da Vinci.

Day 6 Burgos • Bilbao

Transfer to Bilbao • Journey to the heart of the Basque Country (or Euskadi, as the natives call it) to Bilbao, a city nestled at the foot of the Pyrenees. Tonight, savor a traditional pintxos dinner, which is the Basque region's form of tapas, small appetizer-like plates featuring a wide array of meat, vegetables, bread and cheese.

Tour director-led sightseeing of Bilbao • See what Bilbao has to offer as your tour director shows you around. Stroll through the rustic streets of the *casco viejo* (old town) to the Catedral Basílica de Santiago, Bilbao's Gothic cathedral. You may even have time for some *churros y chocolate* (fried pastries and hot chocolate, a Spanish favorite) at a local café.

Visit the Guggenheim Museum • Visit Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum of modern and contemporary art. Designed by American Frank Gehry, the building is an internationally renowned architectural masterpiece. Its fanciful walls of titanium, limestone and glass surround a vast collection of 20th-century art, including works by Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock.

Day 7 San Sebastián

Excursion to San Sebastián • From the top of Monte Igueldo, take in the beautiful scenery of San Sebastián, a town sandwiched between the mountains and the sea. Stroll down Playa de la Concha and through the town's old quarter, where Isabel II spent her vacations. (Napoleon III and Bismarck both spent time in San Sebastián as well.) While in the Old Town, look for numbers on the balconies above—these used to be ringside seats for bullfights. (Please note: Depending on weather conditions, groups may visit Monte Urgull instead of Monte Igueldo for views of San Sebastián.)

Day 8 San Sebastián • Barcelona

Tour director-led sightseeing of Pamplona • Travel through Pamplona, a town best known for its annual Fiesta de San Fermín and especially its highlight, the running of the bulls. This dangerous but exciting tradition is said to have started in the 13th century as a way to move the animals through the town to be sold at the market. Ernest Hemingway set his novel *The Sun Also Rises* amid the bullfights of Pamplona.

Transfer to Barcelona • Follow the Costa Brava to Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of Catalonia. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Barcelona played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain's monarchy in 1931, and was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939.

Day 9 Barcelona

Guided sightseeing of Barcelona • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still-unfinished La Sagrada Família (the Church of the Holy Family), where you will make a photo stop. This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You will also see some of Gaudí's other works during our panoramic bus tour of Paseo de Gracia, one of Spain's

Pack your camera and remember the best moments of your tour!



most cosmopolitan streets. Check out Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España, a bustling six-street intersection that boasts the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, a fountain that puts on a fabulous show of water, lights and music on the weekends. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place. Here, you will see the former stadium and the Olympic Rings. Continue to the Plaza de Colon, a square built in honor of Christopher Columbus ("Columbus" is *Colon* in Spanish). Finish your tour in the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city and home to the stunning Barcelona Cathedral, built in the Mediterranean Gothic style.

Visit to Parque Guell • You'll also visit Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. The beautifully landscaped park is decorated with playful Modernist mosaics. Visit the Room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu, where Gaudí lived from 1906 to 1926.

Walking tour of Barcelona • Barcelona, known as "La Gran Encisera" (the Great Enchantress) has inspired countless artists—Miró, Picasso and Dalí all lived or studied here at the beginning of their careers. Experience the spirit and romance of Barcelona on a walking tour. Your tour director takes you down Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian boulevard that W. Somerset Maugham called "the most beautiful street in the world." Wander among the newspaper kiosks, flower and bird stalls, and performers, from human statues to street musicians to fortune tellers. Restaurants, cafés and hotels abound, as do tourists and locals alike.

Day 10 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 10 Barcelona

Full day excursion to Figueras • Join a full-day excursion to Figueras, a fascinating Catalan city on the exquisite Costa Brava. You'll visit the Museu Dalí, the most visited museum in Spain after the Prado and a true delight for everyone who appreciates absurdity, fantasy and participation. Converted from an old theater in 1974, Salvador Dalí created the museum as a repository for some of his most bizarre works. Don't miss the living room designed as "The Face of Mae West," with the famous red sofa as her lips.

Free time in Tossa del Mar • Enjoy free time in Tossa de Mar. Visit the Vila Vela or old town, known for its city walls, which were particularly effective in protecting the town from pirates in the 16th century. Wander along the narrow, cobbled streets, past stone cottages, to Vila Nova or new town. Here, you'll find many boutiques and enough restaurants to satisfy everyone. Art lovers will want to check out the many small art galleries and the Museo Municipal, considered Spain's first modern art museum. Marc Chagall, Picasso and Salvador Dalí were once visitors to the Costa Brava, and today, visitors can see their works in the Museo Municipal or pick up reproductions at one of the many art galleries. You may also want to take some time to relax on one of the beautiful beaches or to visit the lighthouse for spectacular city views.

Day 11 Barcelona

Free day in Barcelona • Enjoy a free day of exploring. Barcelona is an art lover's dream city. Picasso enthusiasts can get their fill with a visit to the Picasso Museum, which houses more than 3,500 pieces of art. The permanent exhibits explore the artist's relationship with the city of Barcelona. You can see the works of another of Barcelona's famous artists, Joan Miró, at the Miró Foundation. Whether you are a lifelong admirer of his work or just discovering his art, some of the pieces in this gallery are sure to surprise you. Alternatively, you can visit La Pedrera, a residential building built by one of Barcelona's most famous artists, Antoni Gaudí. The building's stone façade was created without the use of straight lines, and the fantastical roof looks as if it is supporting warriors in a forest.

Day 12 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to Barcelona, where you'll check in at the airport for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.



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Itinerary subject to change.

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