

MADRID

PAINTINGS AND PALACES



Monday 30 October - Friday 03 November 2023

Madrid is a cosmopolitan city with a compact city centre. Foremost amongst its many museums is the Prado with one of the most remarkable art collections in the world, including works by Velázquez, El Greco and Goya in addition to the collections by Flemish and Italian painters. The Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection of 800 pieces spanning the 14th to 20th centuries is displayed in the Palacio de Villahermosa. Other noteworthy visits include the Bourbon Palacio Real (Royal Palace), built by Phillip V after the previous fortress was destroyed by fire in 1734 and the Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida, a small church renowned for its Goya frescoes.

Within easy reach of Madrid is El Escorial, the vast and impressive royal mausoleum, monastery and royal retreat built under the orders of Philip II in 1562. An embodiment of Spanish history, the palace houses royal monuments and the walls are hung with a collection of rich tapestries based on models by artists such as Goya and Rubens. Our tour will also include a visit to Toledo, the former capital of Spain, where the influence of successive occupations by Arabs, Jews and Christians can be seen in the varied architecture of this city, which was home to the painter El Greco.

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER 2023

Independent arrangements to London Stansted.

We will check in for our flight with Ryanair to Madrid, due to depart at 09.45 and arrive at 13.15 (*please note that flights are not included within the tour price and the schedule may be subject to change*). On arrival we will be met by our local coach and specialist guide for the transfer the 4 star **Hotel Liabeny**, where we will check in for 4 nights' bed and buffet breakfast accommodation.

After some time to freshen up we will embark on an **orientation tour** on foot with our guide, to include a visit to the **Palacio Real** (Royal Palace). The vast and lavish Royal Palace was built by Phillip V after the previous fortress was destroyed by fire in 1734. Construction lasted 26 years, spanning the reign of two Bourbon monarchs, and the décor reflects the tastes of Carlos III and Carlos IV.

A marble staircase in the entrance hall, with a rococo ceiling with allegorical scenes painted by Giaquinto, leads to the main floor. The Dining Room was decorated in 1879 with ceiling paintings and superb tapestries, whilst the walls of the Porcelain Room were entirely covered with porcelain in green and white from the Buen Retiro factory on the orders of Carlos III. The royal family used the palace until the abdication of Alfonso XIII in 1931. The present king, Felipe VI, lives in the more modest Zarzuela Palace outside Madrid, but the Royal Palace is still used for state occasions. We will return to our hotel where a **welcome drink** will be served, followed by **dinner** in the hotel restaurant.

TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our guide and transfer by coach to the **Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum**, which houses works of art collected by the Thyssen-Bornemisza family over two generations. The largest and most important part was acquired by Spain in July 1993 and the main collection, approximately 800 works, is presented here in the Palacio de Villahermosa. Completed in the early 19th century, the Palacio is a fine example of Madrid's neoclassical architecture. The collection spans the 14th to 20th centuries and is arranged chronologically through the galleries. There will be free time to take lunch.

This afternoon we will visit the **Museo del Prado**, one of the world's most important art galleries. The original gallery opened in 1819 under Ferdinand VII, on the initiative of his wife, Isabel de Braganza, in a neo-classical building designed by Juan de Villanueva and built under Carlos III in 1785. Its contents represent the royal collection of paintings put together by the Habsburg and Bourbon monarchs in Spain during the 16th, 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. As Velázquez and Goya were the official court painters, a substantial number of their masterpieces are to be found in the Prado. Architect Rafael Moneo's stunning extension to the museum has dramatically increased the exhibition space and at the same time embraces the restored cloister of the adjacent Church of the Jerónimos.

We will attend an early evening **Flamenco performance**. Flamenco is a traditional Spanish artistic expression that fuses elements of song, dance and musicianship. Following the show we will return to the hotel, and the remainder of the evening will be at leisure.

WEDNESDAY 01 NOVEMBER 2023

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our guide. This morning we will have the opportunity to try **huesos de santos** (Saint's bones), a marzipan-based delicacy traditionally eaten on All Saints' Day. We will travel by coach to **Toledo** where we will begin with a **walking tour** of the city. Toledo was the old capital of Spain and the city's historic centre has been successively occupied by Arabs, Jews and Christians. The influence of this rich and varied history is combined in the architecture of the city and can be seen in the maze of narrow streets leading from the Jewish quarter to church towers built like Moorish minarets. This was the home of El Greco and we will see some of his works in the **Cathedral and Church of Santo Tomé**, although the greatest collection of his work can be seen at the Prado in Madrid. We will also visit the **Monasterio de San Juan de los Reyes** and the **Synagogue El Tránsito**.

During the day there will be free time for lunch. At the end of the afternoon we will return by coach to our hotel in Madrid for an evening at leisure.

THURSDAY 02 NOVEMBER 2023

After breakfast at the hotel we will continue with a morning of further visits in central Madrid with our guide. We will transfer by coach to the **Museo Nacional de Artes Decorativas**. Founded in 1912, the museum's collection contains over 15,000 objects displayed throughout 60 rooms focusing on decorative settings, including both luxury and everyday pieces, from the 15th-19th century. Highlights include textiles, Spanish carpets, furniture, magnificent ceramics from Talavera, Toledo and Alcora, jewellery and precious metalwork, as well as an outstanding collection of oriental art containing objects from the last two imperial Chinese dynasties. There will be free time to take lunch.

This afternoon we will visit the **Sorolla Museum**, in the house where the painter, Joaquin Sorolla, worked and lived. Sorolla often selected subject matter based on a social or historical theme and is also renowned for his portraiture. Following our visit we will return to the hotel by coach, and the remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure.

This evening we will **dine together** in a beautifully restored 17th century inn, the **Posada de la Villa**, which is very popular with the Madrileños. Located in

the Old Town, the restaurant specialises in traditional Castilian food. Transport to and from the restaurant will either be by small coach or taxi.

FRIDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2023

After breakfast at the hotel we will travel by coach to **El Escorial**. The vast and impressive royal mausoleum, monastery and royal retreat is an embodiment of Spanish history, and was built under the orders of Philip II in 1562. The basilica, which occupies the central part of the monastery, has 43 altars, each graced by paintings and with ceilings frescoed by Lucas Jordan. A **farewell tapas lunch** will be served in a typical local restaurant on the outskirts of El Escorial.

We will transfer by coach to Madrid Airport for our return flight with Ryanair to London Stansted, due to depart at 18.10 and arrive at 19.40 (*please note that flights are not included within the tour price and the schedule may be subject to change*).

Independent onward travel arrangements.

Please note as this tour has been planned many months in advance the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.



El Escorial

Heritage
GROUP TRAVEL

Charlotte House, 12 Charlotte Street
Bath, BA1 2NE
Tel: 01225 466620
www.grouptravel.co.uk



MADRID

TOUR PRICE

£1,160 per person sharing a twin/double room
£155 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Madrid

Welcome drink on the evening of arrival

Dinner in the hotel restaurant on the first evening

Pastries on the morning of 01/11/23

Dinner in a local restaurant on the final evening

Farewell tapas lunch in a local restaurant

The services of a local specialist guide throughout

All coach transfers in Spain as per the itinerary

All booking and entrance fees as per the itinerary

VOX audio headsets throughout

Porterage

Gratuities

HOTEL DETAILS

Hotel Liabeny (4 star)

C/Salud 3, 28013, Madrid

www.liabeny.es

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote. *Please ensure that any policy has adequate cover for COVID-19 related issues.*

YOUR FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3707. All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate.

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We hope to use the following Ryanair flights:

30/10 - London Stansted / Madrid - 09.45 (13.15) FR 5998

03/11 - Madrid / London Stansted - 18.10 (19.40) FR 2329

All flights are subject to schedule change by the airline.

The tour price shown **excludes** airfares as these can vary on a daily basis. Heritage Group Travel can book flights on your behalf and will pass on the airfare cost price plus an administration fee of £10 per person. We anticipate flights to be in the region of £350 per person but should fares excessively exceed this amount we will contact you. In the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you would prefer to make your own travel arrangements. We ask you **not** to book your flights until you have received written confirmation that your booking has been accepted and that the tour will be going ahead.

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport: visas are not required for travel to Spain. Other Nationals should contact the Spanish Embassy to confirm current visa requirements.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 25 participants

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit of **£500 per person**, to **Heritage Group Travel**, as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 12 May 2023**. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details, flight ticket and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by **Monday 07 August 2023**.