



Madrid

Aranjuez, Toledo, Segovia and Avila



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRAVEL AFFILIATE

Madrid Royal Palace

12th - 18th October 2022 - 7 days from *£2,135pp

Madrid is a vast, modern city but at its core you'll find a maze of narrow atmospheric streets flanked with medieval buildings with beautiful architecture together with world class art galleries, fascinating museums and wonderful restaurants. This tour will take you to the highlights in Madrid, the stunning Royal Palace in the town of Aranjuez, the outlying cities of Toledo, Segovia and Avila – all World Heritage UNESCO Sites and the famous palace of San Lorenzo de El Escorial.



Toledo



Segovia, aqueduct

This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel

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*Based on 2 people sharing a twin room.

An initial deposit of £300.00 per person, cheques made payable to Travel Editions Group Ltd.

Itinerary

Day 1 We will transfer from Dorking to London Gatwick by private coach for our flight with EasyJet to Madrid. On arrival a city orientation tour will be included before we transfer and check in to Hotel Emperador. This evening we will have a Welcome drink followed by dinner at the hotel included.

Day 2 Our day will start with a visit to the Prado Museum where we will have a guided tour. In Spain's premier art gallery, you will find one of world's finest collections of European art, ranging from the 12th to the early 19th centuries, and based on the former Spanish Royal Collection. Featuring such artistic luminaries as Francisco de Goya, Titian, Peter Paul Rubens and Hieronymus Bosch, the best-known work being Las Meninas by Diego Velázquez, the leading artist of the Spanish Golden Age.

We will have free time for lunch (not included) before a visit to the Hermitage of San Antonio De La Florida. This neoclassical chapel is best known for its ceiling and dome frescoes by Francisco Goya. It is also his final burial place. Our last visit of the day will be to the Royal Palace and Gardens with guided tour included. Former home to the Kings of Spain from Charles III to Alfonso XIII, today the palace is no longer the royal family's home but continues to be their official residence. Highlights include the Royal Armoury collection and the Painting Gallery which is home to a large number of wonderful artistic treasures. Dinner at a local tapas restaurant included this evening.

Day 3 Today we will transfer to the city of Toledo (World Heritage UNESCO site) for a full day guided tour. Toledo has the most breath-taking setting and is full of incomparable sights. Known as the "city of the three cultures", because Christians, Arabs and Jews lived together there for centuries, behind its walls Toledo preserves an artistic and cultural legacy in the form of churches, palaces, fortresses, mosques and synagogues. Visits will be included to the Santa Cruz museum featuring Archaeology and Decorative and Fine Arts; exterior of the Alcazar Fortress; the Cathedral ranked among the greatest Gothic structures in Europe with its spectacular baroque high altar and two paintings by El Greco; the Church of Santo Tome; the Mosque of El Cristo de la Luz; the Synagogue of El Transito considered the oldest synagogue building in Europe still standing



Royal Palace of Aranjuez



and Museum of El Greco celebrating the famous mannerist painter El Greco. Dinner at the hotel is included this evening.

Day 4 Departing Madrid after breakfast we will transfer to the town of Aranjuez where we will have a guided tour of the Royal Palace and Gardens. The renaissance, French-influenced Palace has an elaborate facade and a lavishly decorated interior, including a wonderful porcelain room and it is surrounded by vast, stunning gardens.

There will be free time for lunch (not included) before transferring to Chinchon. Surrounded by vineyards and olive groves Chinchon is famous for its medieval Plaza where we will have a guided walk. An early evening wine tasting and dinner will be included at a local restaurant before returning to Madrid.

Day 5 Our morning will start with a visit to Museum Thyssen-Bornemisza with guided tour included. Occupying a Neo-Classical mansion from 1806, this museum is said to house the world's most important private art collection. Assembled by Baron Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza and his son Hans Heinrich, it illustrates the history of Western art from the primitive Flemish and Italian painters, to 20th century Pop Art. Lunch at leisure (not included) followed by an afternoon visit to Museum Reina Sofia with guided tour included. A museum of contemporary and modern art with permanent collection which cover Abstract, Pop, and Minimal Art movements. The highlight is the 20th century's most famous painting, Picasso's "Guernica" and "Woman in Blue" also by Picasso. Miró and Dali are two other influential artists well represented in the collection.

This evening we will have dinner included followed by a traditional Flamenco Show.

Day 6 Our first visit today will be to the city of Segovia (World Heritage UNESCO Site) where we will have a guided tour including visits to the Roman churches, the magnificent Roman aqueduct, the cathedral and plaza and the Alcazar. Perched on a ridge and backed by mountains Segovia is a spectacular city packed full of outstanding architecture. Free time for lunch (not included) before transferring to Avila, sometimes called the 'Town of Stones and Saints', as it is claimed to be one of the towns with the highest number of Romanesque and Gothic churches. Here we

will view the magnificent medieval walls. Return to Madrid and dinner included at the hotel this evening.

Day 7 We will check out of the hotel after breakfast and our final visit will be to San Lorenzo de El Escorial where we will have a guided tour. Located 30 miles northwest of Madrid in the foothills of the Sierra de Guadarrama, El Escorial was built as a monument to commemorate the Spanish victory over the French in the battle of Saint Quentin on 10 August 1557. Today, a UNESCO World Heritage Site El Escorial is the historical residence of the King of Spain and unique in the fact that today it functions as a monastery, royal palace, museum and school. We will have a Farewell Lunch (included) before transferring to Madrid Airport for our return flight with British Airways to London Heathrow. On arrival we will transfer by private coach to Dorking.

Please note: Itinerary and flights are subject to change

Provisional flight details

EasyJet

Dep: Gatwick 12.10 / Arr: Madrid 15.45

British Airways

Dep: Madrid 17.50 / Arr: Heathrow 19.20

Where you stay

Four-star Hotel Emperador

With a privileged location in the heart of the city Hotel Emperador has a rooftop terrace with swimming pool & bar. There is a gym and hair salon and free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. All rooms are elegantly designed and have en suite facilities, air-conditioning, hairdryer, safe, TV, coffee/tea maker & mini bar. Full details can be found at: <https://www.emperadorhotel.com/en/> **Single bedded rooms on request.**

Included in the price

- UK Airport transfers
- Return economy flights
- Six night's accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Dinner daily and one lunch including one glass of wine
- Welcome drink on Day 1
- Tour itinerary and entrance fees as specified
- Gratuities
- Local guides as specified
- UK Tour Manager throughout

Not included

Holiday insurance, double bedded room for sole use supplement £420.00, drinks and meals not specified, optional excursions, portage and all items of a personal nature.

