



MADRID & BARCELONA DAILY ITINERARY
OCTOBER 1-9, 2017

DAY 1/OCTOBER 1 - NY~MADRID: We depart **New York's JFK International Airport** aboard our non-stop transatlantic flight to Madrid.

DAY 2/OCTOBER 2 - MADRID, SPAIN: Upon arrival at **The Madrid Airport**, we will be met by our Tour Escort, who will help us transfer to the private motorcoach for the drive to our hotel where we will check-in for 4 nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure to familiarize ourselves with our surroundings. **Dinner** and overnight at our hotel.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DINNERS INCLUDE A PORTION OF WINE & MINERAL WATER

PLEASE NOTE: ALL LUNCHESES ARE ON OUR OWN, EXCEPT FOR THE AVILA DAY.

DAY 3/OCTOBER 3 - MADRID: After **breakfast** at our hotel, our guided morning sightseeing tour will first take us along some of Madrid's beautiful main avenues and boulevards to see many of the city's most important landmarks and its monumental fountains (*including the Cibeles and Neptuno*), as well as the always busy main square - *La Plaza Mayor* - which was built during the Habsburg Period. Next, we will travel to the Old Town to visit one of the world's great museums - *The Prado* - which houses one of the best collections of classical painters anywhere! In the afternoon, we are off to tour the Valle de los Caidos (*Valley of the Fallen*) located in the Cuelgamuros Valley in the Sierra de Guadarrama. This huge complex was erected between 1940 and 1958, and commemorates all those who died on both sides during the Spanish Civil War. We will return to our hotel in Madrid for **dinner** and overnight.

DAY 4/OCTOBER 4 - ÁVILA: After **breakfast**, we will take a full-day guided sightseeing tour in and around the walled-city of Ávila, where St. Teresa of Ávila founded the Carmelite Order. Our tour includes the Basilica de San Vincente, the Real Monasterio de Santo Tomas, and the Convento de Santa Teresa (*where we can view relics of the saint, including her preserved finger*). We will make a **luncheon stop** at a local restaurant. Then, we will enjoy a walk along the mighty walls surrounding the city of Ávila known as *Las Murallas de Ávila*. We will also have some free time in Ávila prior to returning to our hotel in Madrid. **Dinner** and overnight.

DAY 5/OCTOBER 5 - TOLEDO: After **breakfast**, we will head south to the Central Plain of Spain to visit Toledo, the provincial capital and royal residence during the Middle Ages. During this period, Muslims, Jews, and Christians peacefully lived and flourished here in this great cultural and architectural center. As our tour winds its way through Toledo's narrow streets, we will be able to experience the history and romance of this city. Our guided tour includes many of the city's great monuments, including the Spanish-Gothic La Catedral, the Church of Santo Tome (to see *El Greco's* most renowned work "*The Burial of Count Orgaz*"), and the Sinagoga de Santa Maria La Blanca (Spain's oldest synagogue). Tonight, we will have a **special Flamenco Show**. **Dinner** is at the hotel at **8:00 pm**. At **9:30 pm**, we will be transferred to the **show that will include 1 drink**. You will all return to the hotel. Overnight.

DAY 6/OCTOBER 6 - MADRID~ZARAGOZA~BARCELONA: After **breakfast**, please check out, paying any incidentals you may have incurred. We will say *adios* to Madrid and head east to Barcelona. En route, we will stop in the city of Zaragoza, which is probably best known for its association with the famous painter, Francisco José de Goya. We will have the chance to stroll the main square - *Plaza del Pilar* - where the city's citizens gather for important events and festivals, and where we will see the Basilica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, La Seo (*La Catedral del Salvador*), and La Lonja (*the Old Market*). We continue through the Catalan countryside to Barcelona where we will check into our hotel for the **remainder of the trip**. **Dinner** and overnight.

DAY 7/OCTOBER 7 - BARCELONA: After **breakfast**, our guided morning sightseeing tour of Barcelona will first take us to the Barri Gòtic (*Gothic Quarter*) which extends from the port to the cathedral and from the Ramblas as far as the Via Laietana. It is the oldest part of the city and acquired its distinctive character chiefly during the Gothic period when Barcelona, Genoa, and Venice were the most important merchant cities in the Mediterranean and possessed untold riches. Among the city's most famous landmarks that we will see are the "Ensanche" quarter, La Familia Sagrada, and the Iglesia Mayor de Santa Maria. We will also have an inside visit of the Catedral de la Santa Cruz y Santa Eulalia, where we will view the secluded Gothic cloister where thirteen white geese are kept. The afternoon is at leisure. **Dinner** and overnight.

DAY 8/OCTOBER 8 - BARCELONA: After **breakfast**, the entire day is at leisure for exploring on our own, shopping for that last-minute gift, or just relaxing. **Dinner** and overnight.

DAY 9/OCTOBER 9 - BARCELONA~NY: After **breakfast**, please check out, paying any incidentals you may have incurred. We will transfer to **The Barcelona Airport** for our return non-stop flight to **JFK International Airport**.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL SCHEDULING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE