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Don Quixote and Sancho Panza on Madrid's Plaza de Espana (all illustrations free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)

“MADRID IN DEPTH”

Including side trips to the Palace of **El Escorial** and the wonderful old town of **Toledo**

11 days, Tuesday, February 18, to Friday, February 28, 2020

Spain's capital is one of Europe's most dynamic and exciting cities, as it features spectacular architecture, fabulous art galleries such as the Prado and the Queen Sofia, bursting with wonderful creations by ancient and modern masters such as Velazques, Goya, and Picasso, and delicious food! We will explore this metropolis on foot, by coach, and occasionally by subway from our base in a fine first-class (4-star) hotel, situated in the pulsating heart of the city, on the Gran Via Boulevard, within easy walking distance of all the attractions of the city's historical city centre. This tour, whose participants should be able and willing to walk quite a bit, will be escorted by historian Jacques R. Pauwels, PhD, author of books such as 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places' (London, 2009), who will lecture on the history of Madrid and Spain in general.

Tour cost based on double occupancy from Toronto including return flight and all airport taxes/fees: \$3,495
“Land only,” from Madrid Airport on February 19 and back on February 28: \$2,570
Supplement for single use of a double room: \$775

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Tuesday, February 18: Evening departure from Toronto on Air Canada's *non-stop* flight to Madrid. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Wednesday February 19: Late-morning arrival at Madrid Airport. A private coach will be waiting to take on an introductory panoramic tour of the Spanish capital, with sights such as the bullring, Retiro Park, the monumental Alcala Gate, Cybele Fountain and Square, Bernabeu Stadium (home of the world-famous soccer team, Real Madrid), Columbus Square with the monument to the discovery of the America.

Around noon we check into a fine first-class/four-star hotel, the Catalonia Gran Via (<https://www.cataloniahotels.com/en/hotel/catalonia-gran-via>). Our hotel occupies a renovated building of the early 20th century and is very centrally located on the Gran Via Boulevard, lined with shops, hotels and restaurants, movie theatres, tall office buildings, etc. and reminiscent of the “Grands Boulevards” of Paris.

Check in, and free time to settle in and get some rest after your overnight flight. In late afternoon, leisurely walking tour along the Gran Via to famous Plaza de Espana, surrounded by the city’s first skyscrapers, built in the 1950s, and featuring a monument to one of Spain’s greatest writers, Cervantes, his hero, Don Quijote, and the latter’s sidekick, Sancho Panza; his lady friend, Dulcinea, is honoured with a separate statue. Welcome drink (Sangria, anyone?) and first group dinner in our hotel.

Day 3 - Thursday, February 20: After breakfast, walking tour of Madrid’s historical centre, with monuments and sights such as the magnificent Royal Palace, Alundena Cathedral, Plaza Oriente, he Royal Theatre, Plaza de la Villa with the old city hall and some medieval and Renaissance buildings, the baroque Church of San Miguel, the adjoining San Miguel Market, We finish at the city’s main square and focus of social life, delightful Plaza Mayor. You may want to stay here for a lunch of tapas in one of the many bars and taverns. Afternoon at leisure. This evening, before our dinner in a typical restaurant, you are invited to attend the first of a number of lectures on the history of Spain.



< *Plaza Mayor*

Day 4 - Friday, February 21: Morning in the Prado, “widely considered to be one of the world's finest collections of European art, based on the former Spanish Royal Collection, and the single best collection of Spanish art; it is one of the most visited sites in the world, and it is considered one of the greatest art museums in the world” (Wikipedia), We will start with a guided tour, focusing on the most famous works of the great Spanish masters, such as Velázquez, Goya, and El Greco, and afterwards you can stay as long as you

want to enjoy the many other treasures of the permanent collection. (For more on the Prado, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museo_del_Prado.) To return to the hotel on your own, we recommend walking via Plaza de la Puerta del Sol. In the middle of this large and busy square, King Carlos III on his high horse looks up at the imposing Casa de Correos (Post Office) and down on Spain’s the “kilometer 0” plaque on the pavement; the square also features the statue of The Bear and the Strawberry Tree, symbol of the city since the Middle Ages. From here it is a short walk via Preciados, one of the most famous shopping streets of the capital, to the Gran Vía and our hotel.

Day 5 - Saturday, February 22: Morning excursion to El Escorial, a UNESCO World Heritage Site described as a huge 16th-century monastery built on an exceptionally beautiful site in an austere architectural style, where King Philip II of Spain, then the most powerful monarch in Europe, retreated to spend the last years of his reign (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/318>). Return to Madrid via the scenic route: we cross the capital’s Moncloa District, continue along the banks of the Manzanares River, cross the Parque del Oeste (Park of the West) with the Egyptian Temple of Debod, and visit the Royal Chapel of San Antonio de la Florida with its magnificent frescoes created by Goya, who is buried here (<https://www.esmadrid.com/en/tourist-information/ermita-de-san-antonio-de-la-florida>).

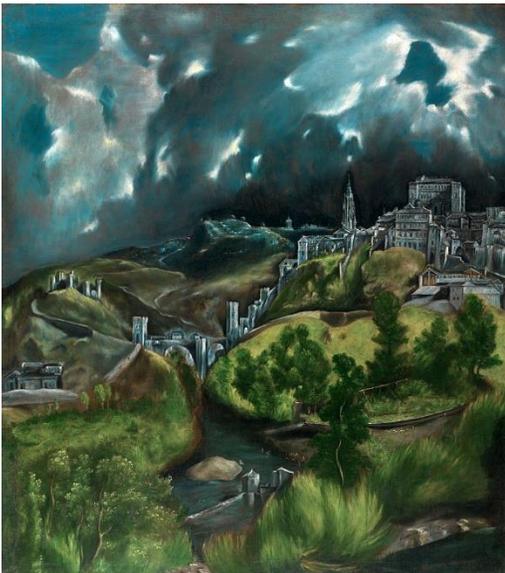
El Escorial >



Day 6 - Sunday, February 23: This morning we visit the Queen Sofia National Art Museum (<https://www.museoreinasofia.es/en>), Spain's national museum of 20th-century art, with creations by the likes of Dali, Miro, Chillida, Gris, and Tàpies; international artists represented here include Braque, Calder, Ernst, Kandinsky, Klee, Fernand Léger, and Magritte. But the absolute highlight is of course Picasso's masterpiece, 'Guernica'. Afterwards you should cross the street and visit Madrid's historic Atocha Railway station, which features a stunning covered tropical botanical garden (http://www.madridtourist.info/atocha_station.html).

And on the way back to the hotel you may want to check out the city's famous El Rastro flea market, located on and near Plaza de Cascorro (http://www.madridtourist.info/rastro_market.html). Rest of the day at leisure. Please note that this weekend a few interesting *options* may be available, e.g. a Flamenco show (with or without dinner), a classical music concert, and/or a home game of Real Madrid or Atletico Madrid, the city's two soccer teams that are ranked among the world's very best.

Day 7 - Monday, February 24: Full-day excursion to Toledo, one of the most beautiful and historically important cities in Spain, a UNESCO heritage site. Toledo was founded by the Romans, and during the Middle Ages it was a centre of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian learning. Toledo was widely expected to become the capital of Spain, but King Philip II surprisingly opted for Madrid! Upon arrival, we first tour the city's spectacular site, high on a hill overlooking a scenic meander of the Tagus River, then enjoy a leisurely walking tour of the historical city centre, with sights such as the fabulous Cathedral, the Church of San Tomé with El Greco's famous painting, 'The Burial of the Count of Orgaz', and the former synagogues of Transito and Santa Maria la Blanca. Return to Madrid in late afternoon. This evening, dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.



< *View of Toledo, by El Greco*

Day 8 - Tuesday, February 25: After breakfast, we head for the fabulous Archaeological Museum, bursting with treasures ranging from the Stone Ages (including a replica of the Altamira Cave), the ancient Iberian civilization (above all the bust of the "Lady of Elche"), and statues, mosaics, jewels, glassware, musical instruments, furniture, and all sorts of other artefacts associated with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Visigoths and Muslims who all left their mark on the history of the country. Afterwards you may stay in the area, the very upscale Salamanca District, famous for its fine shops and excellent restaurants, and/or take a stroll in the nearby Retiro Park.

Day 9 - Wednesday, February 26: This morning we head for the third museum of the trio that is described as Madrid's "Golden Triangle of Art," the Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Gallery. Wikipedia describes it as the perfect complement to the collections of the Prado and the Queen Sofia, with masterpieces by ancient and modern artists such as Van Eyck, Dürer, Caravaggio, Rubens, Rembrandt, Monet, Renoir, Degas, Van Gogh, and Picasso (<https://www.museothyssen.org/en>).

Day 10 - Thursday, February 27: Your last day in Madrid is entirely at leisure, except for this evening's final group dinner in a typical restaurant.

Day 11 - Friday, February 28: After breakfast, transfer to Madrid Airport and non-stop return flight to Toronto with Air Canada, departing around noon and arriving in mid-afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TOUR MAY BE COMBINED WITH OUR “MALLORCA” TOUR OF FEBRUARY 9 TO 19, 2020.

Included in the tour price are:

- Return Air Canada flight from Toronto to Madrid, including all airport taxes, fuel surcharges, and security fees;
- Accommodation in the centrally located four-star/first-class Hotel Catalonia Gran Via, based on double occupancy - the supplement for single use of a *double* room is \$775;
- Airport transfers;
- Meals: a delicious buffet breakfast daily and a total of *four* full-course dinners or lunch;
- Sightseeing, visits, and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, including admissions;
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.
- Airport lounge pass for air-inclusive booking made more than 90 days prior to departure.

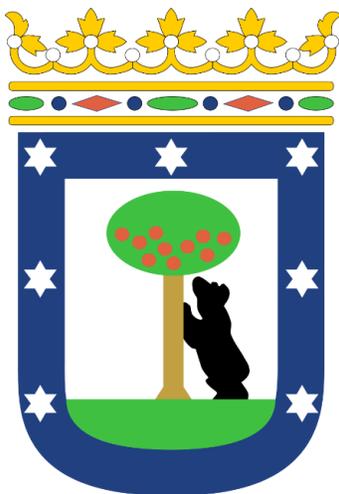
Not included are:

- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Meals other than those mentioned above;
- Beverages with dinners;
- Travel Insurance, available on an individual basis; please call for rates.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS ABOUT MADRID:

See the article “Best Books to Read Before Visiting Madrid,”

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/spain/articles/best-books-to-read-before-visiting-madrid>



Madrid's coat of arms, featuring the famous 'Bear and the Strawberry Tree'

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control,

including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.
8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT *GROUP* AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in **almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection.**

It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the "Madrid in Depth" tour of February 18 – 28, 2020.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

I wish to book on group flights _____ OR land only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

Address _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin (2 beds) _____ double (1 bed) _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.

We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance. Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____

Other _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ **(Signature)(s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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