

MADRID

PAINTINGS AND PALACES



Monday 08 - Friday 12 May 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 08 MAY 2023

We will transfer by coach from our local pick up point to London Heathrow airport where we will check in for our scheduled flight with British Airways to Madrid, due to depart at 12.05 and arrive in Madrid at 15.35 local time. We will be met on arrival by our guide and will enjoy a short **orientation tour** of the city by coach, driving past the historic Bullring. The famous Plaza Toros Las Ventas was completed in 1929. Designed to a Neo-Moorish style, this impressive building has an ancient appearance with its red brick and decorative ceramic tiles, and has been home to bullfighting in Spain since its inauguration in 1931. We will continue to our hotel, the 4 star **Hotel Liabeny**, to check in for 4 nights' bed and buffet breakfast accommodation. A **welcome drink** will be served, followed by **dinner** in the hotel restaurant.

TUESDAY 09 MAY 2023

After breakfast at the hotel we will enjoy a full day of visits in Madrid with our specialist guide. We will transfer by coach to 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. There will be free time for lunch.

This afternoon we will transfer by coach to the **old town** for a **walking tour**, followed by 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. Following the visit we will return to the hotel on foot, and the remainder of the afternoon and evening will be at leisure.

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2023

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our guide and 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 11 MAY 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 **Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida**, a small church renowned for its Goya frescoes, which was built during the reign of Carlos IV on the former pastureland of La Florida.

We will also 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.

There will be free time for lunch.

This afternoon we will continue 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. 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 12 MAY 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 British Airways flight to London Heathrow airport, due to depart at 19.35 and arrive at 20.55. Our local coach will be on hand for the homeward journey to our original pick-up point.

As this tour has been planned many months in advance, and due to the various Covid-19 related measures and restrictions that may be in place at the time of your visit, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.



El Escorial

Heritage
GROUP TRAVEL

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The Arts Society Hampstead Heath

MADRID

TOUR PRICE

£1,475 per person sharing a twin/double room

£165 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

Return UK airport transfers to/from London Heathrow
Return scheduled British Airways flights
(Heathrow/Madrid)
4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Madrid
Welcome drink on the evening of arrival
Dinner in the hotel restaurant on the first evening
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 Madrid 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.

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.

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We anticipate using the following British Airways flights to operate the tour:

08/05/23 - Heathrow/Madrid - 12.05 (15.35)

12/05/23 - Madrid/Heathrow - 19.35 (20.55)

Please note that flight seats cannot be booked until we are in receipt of client deposits.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

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

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.

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 04 November 2022**. 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 13 February 2023**.