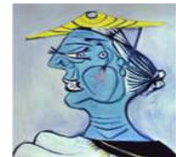




Sample Itinerary for a Four Day Art Study Tour to Madrid.

Dates: To Be Decided.



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the holiday itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit will be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The director is able to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.

ACCOMMODATION



The Hotel Ibis**

Carretara A-2, CC La Dehesa, 28805 Alcala de Henares, Spain. Tel. +34 918796850.

The Hotel Ibis is located in the outskirts of Madrid, close to the shopping centre & swimming pool of Alcala de Henares. The sights & attractions of central Madrid are within a half-hour coach or metro transfer. Accommodation is in twin rooms, all with en-suite bathroom facilities, televisions, desks & reading lamps. There is a conference room & bar area in the reception. The hotel staff are particularly friendly & helpful & we have found the Hotel Ibis to be very popular with our groups & party leaders.

DAY ONE

- 04.45 Join coach at School for transfer to local Airport.
- 05.00 Depart School. Transfer to local Airport.
- 06.30 E.T.A. local Airport. Commence check in.
- 08.30 Depart local Airport on Ryanair Flight FR5994.
- 12.00 E.T.A. Aeropuerto de Barajas, Madrid.
(Continental Time is 1 Hour in Advance of U.K. Time).
- 13.00 Coach transfer to Hotel Ibis, Alcala de Henares, Madrid.
- 14.00 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

On arrival at our hotel we will have a short meeting to allocate rooms and keys. We will then rest in the hotel before visiting the centre of Madrid in the later afternoon.

- 15.30 Coach transfer to Placa del Sol, central Madrid.
- 16.30 **Walk of the Old Austrian Heart of Madrid.**

In 1561, Madrid was the capitol of the Hapsburg Empire and the architecture around the Puerta del Sol and the Placa Mayor still reflect a very Austrian style to this day. We will explore this central area of the city, with its Flemish inspired buildings of red brick and grey stone, slate-tiled towers and Renaissance doorways.

Pupils will enjoy some free time to explore the Placa Major, where public executions were commonplace. There are many interesting tapas bars & shops amongst the many narrow streets around this central square. After visiting the area around the central square of Sol, we will walk the short distance to the Royal Palace.

- 17.30 **Shopping Time in the Placa del Sol**

Pupils may like to visit some of the many shops around the central area of Sol or to have some tapas & a drink in one of the many bars & cafes nearby. This area of Madrid is famous for its designer clothes boutiques & pupils studying textiles will have the opportunity to view some of the local smaller shops where the fashions are often very different from those found in the U.K.

18.00 **Dinner at FrescCo Restaurant, Placa del Sol, Madrid.**

20.00 Return coach transfer to Hotel Ibis, Alcala de Henares,
Madrid.

21.00 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY TWO

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Coach transfer to central Madrid.

10.30 **Visit to The Queen Sofia Centre of Art**

This leading exhibition space & gallery is another of the essential stops on an art visit to Madrid. The highlight of the museum is Picasso's greatest picture - Guernica - although there are many other works by Picasso & Joan Miro.

The museum was a vast former hospital & is the Madrilenian version of Paris' Pompidou Centre.

12.30 Lunch.

13.30 Walk to The Prado Museum.

14.00 **Visit to The Prado Museum.**

The Prado holds one of the oldest & greatest art collections in the world. There is a total of 7,000 paintings, of which 1500 are on permanent display. There is a fine collection of Flemish art as well as the Spanish greats - works by Velazquez, Goya & El Greco.

There is also a fine collection of Renaissance works including works by Titian. We will spend the afternoon in this enormous museum & pupils will be given works to concentrate on in order to focus their visit & get the most out of the collection.

16.00 **Visit to The Retiro Park - Madrid's central park.**

The Retiro Park is a mixture of formal gardens and wide open spaces. Many of the city's smaller museums are dotted around the edge of the park & there is a popular boating lake in the centre.

18.00 Dinner in central Madrid.

19.30

Coach transfer to Hotel Ibis.

20.00

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY THREE

- 07.30 Breakfast.
- 08.00 Depart hotel. Coach transfer to Cuenca.
- 10.30 **Day's Visit to The City of Cuenca**

Our journey from Madrid to the New Castile city of Cuenca is very interesting, with rocky, craggy countryside which is some of the most dramatic in the whole of Spain. The city of Cuenca itself is extraordinary, with the whole city enclosed by the deep gorges of the Huecar & Jucar rivers & balconied houses literally hanging over the clifftops.

We will visit the old area of Cuenca, which stands on a high ridge, before entering the cathedral to admire the Gothic architecture. The highlight of our visit to Cuenca will be the Museum of Abstract Art, which is located in the most dramatic of the *Casas Golgadas* ('hanging houses' of the 15th century with cantilevered balconies which literally hang from the cliff face - not for the faint-hearted!) The gallery was established in the 1960's by Fernando Zobel, a leading member of Spain's 'abstract generation'. The gallery displays many paintings & sculptures by a variety of abstract Spanish artists & also hosts some of the best art exhibitions to be shown in provincial Spain.

After visiting the Museum of Abstract Art, we will enjoy some free time to soak up the atmosphere of Cuenca. Pupils may enjoy walking along the gorge of the Huecar River to look up at the 'hanging houses' high above the river.

Please note that there is a supplement for the optional visit to Cuenca to cover the cost of the day's coach hire.

- 17.00 Return transfer to Madrid.
- 19.30 Dinner at Fresco Restaurant, Las Fuentes, Madrid.
- 21.00 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Alcala de Henares, Madrid.

DAY FOUR

08.30 Breakfast & loading of suitcases into coach.
Check out of Hotel Ibis.

10.00 Coach transfer to The Bernabeu Stadium.

11.00 **Visit to the Football Stadium of Reial Madrid.**

Reial Madrid are probably Europe's most successful football club and have accumulated many trophies over the years, both domestically and in Europe. The team has boasted some of the world's best & most expensive players including Ronaldo, Luis Figo & David Beckham. We will visit the club's impressive stadium before visiting the museum & trophy room, sited in the west stand of the stadium. Before departing, we will have the opportunity to purchase authentic football shirts & souvenirs from the club shop. Some participants choose to have a photograph taken with lifesize photographs of the players. This visit is popular even for those students who do not have a great interest in football as the team is so important to the city & the average Madrilenos.

12.45 Lunch by Bernabeu Stadium.

13.30 **Visit to The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza**

Located within an ancient palace, this museum contains the greatest private art trove after that of the British Royal Family: 700 paintings collected by father and son German industrial magnates.

The collection includes medieval to eighteenth century works on the top floor, seventeenth century Dutch & Rococo art on the first floor as well as Neo-classicist, Fauvist & Expressionist paintings. The ground level has surrealist works, pop art & avant-garde.

The museum has had no expense spared on its design, with stucco walls, marble floors and a great cafeteria-restaurant.

16.00 Coach transfer to Barajas Airport.

17.00 E.T.A. Barajas Airport. Commence check-in.

19.10 Depart Madrid on Ryanair flight 5997.

20.35

(Continental time is 1 hour in advance of U.K. time).

E.T.A. local Airport.

21.35

Coach transfer to School.

22.30

E.T.A. School.

Please note that we make hotel & airline bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The airline timings and airports contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of airports and flight timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.