



## ***Itinerary For a Five Day Art Study Tour to Madrid. Prepared For The Art & Design Department.***

***Dates: To Be Confirmed***



*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 tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The expert tour guide can run the tour 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.*

# ACCOMODATION

## **The Hotel Mediodia\*\***

*Tortosa, 10, Madrid, 28045 Spain*

*Tel. 0034 914299579.*

Our hotel is located in the very heart of Madrid, directly next to the Reina Sofia Museum & at the bottom of Madrid's 'Museum Mile'. The Puerta del Sol & the central Placa Major are within a 25 minute walk & the Retiro Park is located on the other side of the street, with its boating lake & pleasant walks. Accommodation is usually in twin & triple rooms, all with en-suite bathroom facilities, televisions, desks & reading lamps. The hotel staff are particularly friendly & helpful & we have found the Hotel Mediodia to be very popular with our groups & party leaders.

# DAY ONE

06.00	Join coach at School.
06.15	Depart School. Transfer to Local Airport.
08.00	Check in at Local Airport.
11.00	Depart Local Airport on Easyjet Flight 2203.
14.05	E.T.A. Madrid Barajas Airport.
<i>(Note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of UK time)</i>	
15.00	Coach transfer to Hotel Mediodia.
15.45	E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia. Check-in & allocate room keys.

Students will have time to rest & relax after the transfer from the U.K, perhaps enjoying a cold drink or ice-cream at the outdoor café outside the hotel.

16.45	Walk to Placa del Sol.
17.15	<b><u>Exploration of The Placa del Sol.</u></b>

Students will have time to explore this central square in the very heart of the city. There are street entertainers, shoppers, locals having a late afternoon stroll & tourists vying to have their photos taken in front of the statue of the bear taking honey from a tree – the symbol of the city.

19.00	<b><u>Dinner at FrescCo Restaurant.</u></b>
20.15	Return walk to Hotel Mediodia.
20.45	E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

## DAY TWO

08.00 Breakfast.

09.45 **Visit to The Queen Sofia Gallery.**

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.

12.00 Lunch.

13.15 Walk to The Prado Gallery.

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.

18.30 **Dinner at Fresco Restaurant.**

20.00 Walk to Hotel Mediodia.

20.30 E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

## DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast.

09.00 Depart hotel. Coach transfer to Cuenca.

11.00 **Day's Visit to The City of Cuenca & Museum of Abstract Art.**

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.

16.30 Return transfer to Madrid.

18.30 **Dinner at Fresco Restaurant, Madrid.**

20.00 Return walk to Hotel Mediodia.

20.30 E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

# DAY FOUR

08.00 Breakfast.

09.30 Depart hotel. Coach transfer to Toledo.

10.45 **Day's Visit to The City of Toledo.**

Behind the city walls of Toledo lies the historic remains from the Romans, the Visigoths & a melting pot of Christian, Muslim & Jewish cultures that co-habited during the Middle Ages.

El Greco lived in this city in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century & his works are closely linked with the city. After painting altarpieces & religious portraits for many of the churches in Toledo, El Greco finally died here in 1614.

The city is famous for its sword-making, using the technique of mixing blackened steel with gold wire. The ancient streets are lined with some of the traditional sword & armour shops.

11.45 **Visit to Toledo Cathedral.**

The splendour of Toledo's enormous cathedral reflects its history as the spiritual heart of the Spanish church. Work on the cathedral began in 1226 & took 300 years to complete. This explains the mixture of styles employed in the construction of the cathedral; French Gothic, with its flying buttresses similar to Notre Dame in Paris, Spanish decorative styles & Moorish windows & doorways. Inside the cathedral is an El Greco fresco above the alterpiece as well as works by Titian & Goya.

12.45 Lunch.

14.00 **Visit to The El Greco Museum.**

Opened in 1911, the El Greco Museum celebrates that life & work of this famous Spanish artist who spent much of his life in Toledo.

The museum comprises a 16th Century house which recreates the home of the artist & a 20th Century building which forms the actual museum. Many of the artist's later works are particularly well represented. There are also works by other 17th Century Spanish artists as well as local furniture & pottery.

16.00 **Visit to The Victorio Macho Museum.**

One of the greats of Spanish sculpture, Macho's style was influenced by Art deco & he died in Toledo in 1966. His home & workshop have been converted into a museum to his memory & we will spend the later afternoon exploring the life & work of this local sculptor.

17.45 Return coach transfer to Madrid.

19.00	<b><u>Dinner at Frescco Restaurant.</u></b>
20.30	Return walk to Hotel Mediodia.
21.00	E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

## DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast, hotel check-out & loading of suitcases into hotel storage room.

09.15 Walk to Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum.

10.00 **Visit to The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum.**

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.

12.00 Lunch.

13.00 Metro transfer to the Sorolla Museum.

13.30 **Visit to The Joaquin Sorolla Museum.**

This grand Madrilenian building was the former house of the artist Sorolla & was converted into a museum to his honour after the death of his widow. The interior remains furnished as it was during the life of the artist & the large studio displays canvases on the walls while the upstairs rooms also display his paintings & temporary exhibitions.

15.00 Metro transfer to Hotel Mediodia.

15.30 Collect suitcases from Hotel Mediodia & prepare for transfer to U.K.

16.00 Coach transfer to Barajas Airport.

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

20.00 Depart Madrid Barajas Airport on Easyjet flight 2204.

20.10 E.T.A. Gatwick Airport.

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



21.00 Coach transfer to School.

**22.00 E.T.A. School.**

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