



Suggested Itinerary For a Five Day Languages Study Tour to Madrid. Prepared For The Modern Languages 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 is able to 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.

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMODATION



The Hotel Ibis**

Calle Antonio Suarez, 8, 28802 Alcala de Henares, Spain. Tel. +34610231961.

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

05.45 Join coach at School for transfer to Local Airport.

06.00 Depart School. Transfer to Local Airport.

07.30 Check in at Local Airport.

09.30 Depart Local Airport on Easyjet Flight 5477.

13.00 E.T.A. Madrid Barajas Airport.

(Note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of UK time)

14.00 Coach transfer to Hotel Mediodia, central Madrid.

15.00 E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

On arrival at our hotel we will have a short meeting to allocate rooms and keys. We will then rest in the hotel & settle into rooms.

17.00 **Guided 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.

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

20.00 Walk to Hotel Mediodia.

20.30 E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

DAY TWO

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 **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. We will enjoy some recreational time in the park watching the street entertainers & resting near to the central boating lake.

11.00 **Visit to the Madrid National Cathedral.**

Pupils will enjoy visiting Spain's most holy cathedral, where Royal weddings have been blessed & where the Spanish Royal Family attend Mass most Sundays.

12.30 Lunch in The Austrian Quarter.

14.30 Walk to The Prado Museum.

15.00 **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.

17.00 Walk to Puerta del Sol, Central Madrid.

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.

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

20.00 Walk to Hotel Mediodia.

20.30 E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Walk to Queen Sofia Centre of Art.

09.30 **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.

12.00 Lunch.

13.00 Coach transfer to Toledo.

14.00 **Afternoon 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 16th 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.

15.30 **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 altarpiece as well as works by Titian & Goya.

18.30 **Dinner at Fresco Restaurant.**

20.00 Return transfer to hotel.

20.30 E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

DAY FOUR

08.30 Breakfast.

09.20 Walk to El Corte Ingles Department Store, Alcala de Henares.

10.00 **Exploration of The El Corte Ingles Commercial Centre**

Students will enjoy exploring the large local commercial centre, exploring the department store & perhaps practicing the Spanish they have learnt in the classroom.

11.15 Depart Hotel Ibis. Coach transfer to Parc de Attracciones Themepark, Madrid.

12.00 **Full Day Visit to The Warner Themepark, Madrid.**

We will spend the day at Madrid's best themepark which has some of the most popular rides in Europe. There are parades, rollercoasters & one of the highest vertical drops on the continent. We will meet regularly & will have lunch together at 13.00.

20.00 **Dinner at Polo de Alcala Restaurant.**

21.30 Return transfer to Hotel Mediodia.

22.00 E.T.A. Hotel Mediodia.

DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast, storage of suitcases in hotel luggage room & check out of Hotel Ibis.

10.00 **Morning Visit to The Placa del Sol**

Pupils will enjoy some final time to purchase souvenirs & explore the Austrian Quarter on the final morning.

12.00 Lunch.

13.30 E.T.A. Hotel. Load suitcases into coach.

14.00 Coach transfer to The Bernabeu Stadium.

15.00 **Visit to the Football Stadium of Real Madrid.**

Real 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.

16.45 Coach transfer to Barajas Airport.

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

20.30 Depart Madrid Barajas Airport on Easyjet Flight 5480.

21.50 E.T.A. Local Airport.

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

23.00 Coach transfer to School.

00.00 **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 hotel, airports and flight timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.