

Orange Community Master Chorale & Master Chorale of Saddleback Valley American Celebration of Music in Spain

Custom Tour #2 (9 nights/11 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Madrid, Spain

Day 2

Madrid

(D)

Arrive in Madrid

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Take an Orientation & Panoramic tour of Madrid which includes seeing the Plaza Mayor, Plaza de Cibeles, and the Buen Retiro Park

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Madrid, Europe's highest-lying capital, stands in the foothills of the Sierra de Guadarrama, right in the center of the Iberian Peninsula. It is a very hospitable city, known for the quality of its light and climate. Madrid became the capital of Spain in the 16th century when Spain ruled a vast empire. Its attractions include three internationally famous art galleries, a royal palace, grand public squares and many museums filled with the treasures of Spain's history

Day 3

Madrid

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

A guided tour of Madrid includes seeing Plaza de España, , Royal Palace and entrance to the Prado Museum. The Museum hosts one of the finest art collections in the world including important Spanish paintings, classical statues purchased from Italy, and medieval religious treasures and even some Romanesque frescoes

Lunch, on own

Continued afternoon sightseeing

Performance in Madrid as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 4

Toledo

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Toledo

Lunch, on own

Half-day guided sightseeing tour of Toledo. Visit the magnificent Cathedral (with the El Greco paintings and other valuable relics), and the Church of St. Tomé (El Greco's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*)

Dinner included, and overnight

Toledo is one of the great jewels of Spain! It stands out dramatically against the often luminously blue Castilian sky, a golden city rising from a granite eminence, encircled by a steep ravine filled by the green waters of the Tagus. Art at every corner has a tale to be told, every aspect reflecting a brilliant period of Spanish history when the cultures of east



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and west flourished and fused. One is constantly aware of this imprint of Christian, Jewish and Moorish cultures which productively co-existed during the Middle Ages

Day 5 **Talavera de la Reina / Toledo** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel
Morning excursion to the town of Talavera de la Reina. This town is the regional center of pottery in the province of Toledo. Enjoy a stage by stage demonstration of the process of making pottery
Lunch, on own
Afternoon at leisure
Performance in Toledo as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain*
Dinner included, and overnight

Day 6 **Valencia** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Valencia
Lunch, on own
Enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour of Valencia. See the Palacio de la Generalidad and Lonja (Silk Exchange). Northwest of the Cathedral, in Calle de Caballeros, stands the Palacio de la Generalidad, built between 1510 and 1579 to house the parliament of the kingdom of Valencia and now occupied by the Diputación Provincial
Dinner included, and overnight

Valencia, lies close to the Mediterranean on the right bank of the Río Turia. Described in an ancient saying as "a piece of heaven fallen to earth", Valencia is a typically southern town with its bustling streets and the brightly colored azulejo domes of its many churches. The climate is unusually mild and predominantly dry. During the Civil War, in 1936-37, it was the seat of the Republican government, and it was the last Republican stronghold to fall to Franco on March 30, 1939, two days after Madrid

Day 7 **Valencia** **(B,L,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel
Morning time at leisure in Valencia
Paella lunch cooking class, included
Afternoon time at leisure in Valencia
Performance in Valencia as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain*
Dinner included, and overnight

Day 8 **Tarragona / Barcelona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Barcelona via Tarragona
Excursion to Tarragona. Sightseeing in Tarragona includes visits to the, Archeological Promenade and Amphitheatre. Also see the Roman Mosaics. Set in a cliff over the beach, this ancient amphitheatre was the site where gladiators and wild beasts fought until death for the amusement of the crowds
Lunch, on own
Continue to Barcelona
Enjoy a panoramic tour of Barcelona's highlights including Gothic Quarter, Plaça del Rei, Roman City, Plaça Reial, Port Vell, etc



Dinner included, and overnight

Barcelona was originally founded by the Phoenicians. Although it belongs to Spain, it is the capital of Catalonia, and is a more dynamic city than ever, hosting the 1992 World Olympic Games. It is a large industrial center with a very busy port; it's also a university town, and important cultural center with an opera-house and many museums, theaters and concert halls

Day 9 **Barcelona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

A guided tour includes the Eixample Quarter, location of many of Barcelona's best Modernista buildings. Travel down the Passeig de Gràcia, a luxurious street adorned with elegant wrought iron street lamps which contains the finest examples of Modernist architecture in Barcelona. Also visit the La Sagrada Familia, Europe's most unconventional church, yet uncompleted

Lunch, on own

Recital at La Sagrada Familia*

Mass Participation at La Sagrada Familia*

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 10 **Montserrat / Barcelona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day sightseeing to Montserrat to visit the monastery. The monastery, with its church and the various subsidiary buildings, is a little city on its own. The monastery complex proper is reached by way of the Plaza de la Cruz (Catalan Plaça de la Creu), which is flanked by a restaurant, souvenir shops, a post office, and a bureau de change

Recital at Montserrat Monastery*

Lunch, on own

Return to Barcelona

Performance in Barcelona as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain*

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Montserrat is a special rock formation in Catalonia. According to tradition, this is the most important and mysterious mountain in Catalonia. The Montserrat mountain is located approximately 50 km north-west of Barcelona and forms the separation between the comarcas Anoia, Bages and Baix Llobregat. On the mountain is the sanctuary and the Benedictine Montserrat monastery ("Monasterio de Montserrat"). Every year this abbey (dedicated to the Virgin of Montserrat) and mountain attracts many tourists, including Catholic pilgrims, walkers and rock climbers

Day 11 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Barcelona Airport for return flight home

****Subject to confirmation***

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

