

**Art and Culture Andalucía**  
**Madrid From Goya to Now**

**28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**



*Madrid historic centre*

**This is a wonderful opportunity to see Madrid on and off the beaten track. We stay at a delightful hotel in the cultural heart of Madrid, famous for its exceptional range of first-class museums, as well as for its vibrant restaurants and bars. In addition, we visit less well-known and private collections that most visitors do not find.**

**You need make no more decisions than you want to – we know just where to eat and how best to travel around. The hotel provides breakfast and lunch time snacks and a number of restaurant meals are included in the price, as this is the best moment to discuss the art you have seen with like-minded art enthusiasts.**

**Join us for an uplifting long weekend in late spring, an ideal time to visit Madrid.**

*“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.”*

**Pablo Picasso.**

## Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Hotel Catalonia las Cortes. Meet in the lobby at 14.30. Afternoon 15.00-18.00. The Prado Museum**

This guided tour will take you on a journey to some of the greatest Spanish paintings in the Prado. We will first look at El Greco and Velazquez in order to establish the heritage which Goya understood and sometimes emulated. We will then focus on Goya's paintings of friends, family and war and end with the extraordinary Black Paintings. You will then have some time to explore the remarkable collection of 19<sup>th</sup> Century paintings.



*Goya. Clothed Maja. 1800-1805. Prado Museum.*

### Evening 18.00-20.00

We take taxis to the Royal Chapel of St Anthony of La Florida. Goya's burial place, where he executed breathtakingly beautiful frescoes, this little-known gem of a Neoclassical church was built at the end of the eighteenth century and declared a national monument in 1905.

We will then eat at Casa Mingo which is close by. Opened in 1888, as you walk in you immediately feel you have stepped back in time. Noisy and filled with locals, it is a fun place to go on the first night

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Meet in the lobby at 09.00. Morning 09.30 – 11.30. Archaeological Museum of Madrid**

Optional guided visit to the Medieval section, with its excellent examples of the material culture of the Islamic kingdom that thrived for nearly 800 years. This mutated into a unique hybrid style called Mudéjar during the latter stages of the reconquest, before being replaced by the Christian culture of the Spanish Golden Age. The Islamic 'total work of art' approach to the built environment resurfaced in Spain after the Inquisition closed in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and can be seen to re-emerge, for example, in Gaudi's architecture.

### 12.00 – 14.00 Sorolla's house and garden

Sorolla (1863-1923) was one of the most revered artists of his day. His works have recently been seen in the Garden Show at the Royal Academy and in the hugely successful 2019 exhibition at the National Gallery. This is a unique visit (non-guided) to the house where he lived towards the end of his life with his wife Clotilde, where his vibrant works will transport you back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



*Joaquín Sorolla. Walk on the Beach 1909. Sorolla House Museum, Madrid.*

### 14.30 Lunch.

The late afternoon is free for exploring a more contemporary art scene in Madrid. Details to be confirmed closer to the date.

**Evening 21.00** We enjoy a live Flamenco show at the Cardomomo club, just five minutes' walk from the hotel. Intimate and 'authentic' it attracts some of the best singers and dancers. Choose whether to eat beforehand or order a meal or tapas at the show.

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Meet in the lobby at 09.30. Morning 10.00-13.00 The Reina Sofia,**

This is Spain's Museum of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century art and was inaugurated in 1992. It is dedicated almost exclusively to Spanish art and has some of the great masterpieces such as Picasso's Guernica, which we will look at in detail. Artists such as Miró and Tàpies and sculptors such as Gonzalez and Gargallo can be found amongst works by Max Ernst, Salvador Dalí, Henry Moore and Alexander Calder, to name a few. After the guided tour you will have a moment to explore alone.



*Pablo Picasso. Guernica. 1937. Reina Sofia*

**13.30 Lunch at The Circulo de Bellas Artes.** Founded in 1888, this is the hub of the Arts Scene in Madrid. It occupies a superb building designed by Antonio Palacios in 1926, declared a national artistic monument in 1981. With concerts, lectures, exhibitions and films, it has it all - and Picasso took classes there. The café, with chandeliers, impressive ceilings and statues, was inaugurated in 1926 and is called La Pecera.



*Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum.*

### 17.00 – 18.30. Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection

With nearly 1,000 works on display, the collection offers an extraordinary overview of art from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. We will start at the Spanish Golden Age and wend our way through to the twentieth century.

**Evening.** For your evening meal we will provide recommendations for a selection of restaurants near the hotel, or you may choose to explore further afield.

## Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May

**Meet in hotel lobby at 09.00. Taxis to Palacio Liria, Casa de Alba, for guided tour.**

The Liria Palace is a Neo-classical building, designed by Lutyens, and is the home of the Dukes of Alba. It contains a remarkable private collection of European art and has just recently been opened to the public.

After the tour we will return to the hotel for a light lunch, with plenty of time to catch taxis back to Madrid airport for your flight home.

### Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is Managing Director of Art & Culture Travel. She was formerly Head of the Department of Art History at Westminster School, Chief Examiner in Art History at Cambridge International Examinations, and an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. Ian Cockburn is a director of Art & Culture Travel and has an MA from the Courtauld Institute in medieval Spanish art history. Both are lecturers accredited by The Arts Society.

**Fees (minimum 12 people/maximum 20 people): £1,410 per person, shared room.**

The fee covers three nights' double accommodation at the 4-star Hotel Catalonia Las Cortes, including breakfasts and some light lunches at the hotel; all teaching and guiding over four days; all taxi journeys around Madrid; all museum and other entry fees; Friday evening meal, Saturday lunch, Sunday lunch at the Bellas Artes, and Saturday night entry to the Cardomomo Flamenco Club.

**Hotel Catalonia Las Cortes.** Del Prado, 6, Madrid historic centre. A former 18<sup>th</sup> century palace, now modernised, this four-star hotel is very near the Prado and other key museums. It is located in a picturesque and quiet street near Plaza Santa Ana, with plenty of nearby restaurants and bars. The hotel is smart and very comfortable, with friendly staff, a very fine breakfast, and free snacks for a light lunch.

**Fitness:** Please note a suitable level of fitness and mobility is required for walking and for visiting galleries.

**Not included in the fees:** Flights, transfers from and to the airport in Madrid, travel and medical insurance, refreshments at the Flamenco show, Saturday and Sunday evening meals. Single room supplement: £180.

**Note:** Itinerary subject to change if circumstances require.

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