

THE SPLENDOURS OF MADRID

29 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2026

FROM
£3,365
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Tania Illingworth


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



Madrid is one of the most exciting cities in Europe, renowned not just for its architectural masterpieces and vibrant way of life, but more importantly for its magnificent art collections housed in its museums and private residences. This tour explores the city and its unique artistic treasures. Staying in a charming hotel in the heart of the city, within the Golden Triangle of Art, our visits will include the majestic 18th-century Royal Palace built by the Bourbon Royal Family. We will see highlights of the world-class art collection at the Prado – and some of the lesser-known but equally fine art collections – at the Palacio Liria, the newly-renovated Museo Sorolla and also the Museo Lazaro Galdiano. There will be the opportunity for those who wish to visit the Thyssen Bornemisza and the Reina Sofia Museums as well. In addition, we will have a day excursion to the historic city of Toledo to enjoy its diverse cultural heritage and relationship with the artist El Greco. Temperatures at this time of year should be warm and balmy.

There will be the option to attend a performance at the Teatro Real, Madrid's opera house (subject to performance schedule).



5-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

29 September London / Madrid

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) Iberia IB 714 departing London Heathrow at 10.50 hrs arriving Madrid at 14.15 hrs.

Upon arrival, group transfer into the centre of Madrid. Guided walking tour of Historic Centre of Madrid (Madrid de los Austrias) including the intact 17th-century Plaza Mayor, Mercado San Miguel. Transfer to the 5* NH Collection Madrid Paseo del Prado Hotel where four nights are spent. Located in the Plaza de las Cortes the hotel is ideal to explore the city. Walk to dinner at a nearby restaurant.

30 September Madrid

Leave, on foot, for a guided visit to the Prado Museum. Founded in the early 19th century, the museum was built under instructions of King Carlos III and as such opened in 1819. Very recently, the prestigious Spanish architect, Rafael Moneo, has enlarged the old building by adding a new wing with additional rooms and a fantastic 15th-century cloister. The Prado, with around 9,000 paintings, is one of the world's most important art collections and boasts names such as Bosch, Titian, El Greco, Rubens, Velázquez, Goya and Madrazo.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Continue by coach for a short walking tour of the Plaza de Oriente followed by a guided visit to the Palacio Real. This imposing granite and Colmenar stone building was commissioned by the Bourbon King Felipe V and took almost thirty years to build. The elaborate interiors, created by Tiepolo, Velázquez and Bayeu among others, are an example of sumptuous extravagance and the Bourbon taste, housing a rich and varied collection of fine paintings, furniture, tapestries, glass, porcelain, armour and clocks. Return to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

1 October Madrid & Toledo

This morning depart by coach for the historic city of Toledo. Dating from ancient times the city was later ruled by the Romans, Visigoths and Moors before El Cid captured it, making it capital of Castille. Long a centre of learning, the city became even more important until the Inquisition decimated its talented and mixed-religious population. For a brief time in the 16th century it was also capital of Spain. On arrival visit the majestic 13th – 15th century-Cathedral, with its Apostle series by El Greco and cloister garden. Continue to the Church of

Santo Tomé, which houses one of El Greco's most acclaimed paintings *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz*.

After lunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Synagogue of El Transito and of Santa Maria La Blanca. Return to Madrid. Dinner under own arrangements.





Museo del Prado

2 October Madrid

Depart by coach for a guided visit to the Palacio de Liria, official residence of the Dukes of Alba, one of Spain's richest and most prominent noble families. This, the largest private home in Madrid, displays the family's superlative paintings and decorative arts, including works by Rembrandt, Velazquez, Goya and Botticelli, and a unique porcelain collection. Continue for a visit to the simple late-18th century neo-classical Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida, where the artist Francisco de Goya painted an exceptional series of secular frescoes. The church also houses Goya's remains and a collection of the artist's drawings, engravings and personal possessions. (This visit is subject to confirmation as the Ermita is currently closed for restoration.)

Lunch at a local restaurant. Free afternoon with the option to visit the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum (5 mins walk from hotel) famed for its wealth of Impressionist paintings or the Reina Sofia Museum (15

mins walk from hotel) famed for 20th-century art with works by Dali, Picasso and Miro. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

3 October Madrid / London

Check out and depart by coach to visit the Museo Sorolla (subject to confirmation as the museum is currently closed for restoration). The gallery is in the beautiful house where the Valencian painter Joaquín Sorolla lived for many years. It gives a fascinating insight into the life of the artist and the development of his work that tended towards Impressionism. Continue for a guided visit to the Lazaro Galdiano Museum, former residence of publisher Jose Lazaro Galdiano which houses his extensive art collection including works by Goya, El Greco and Bosch.

Lunch at a local restaurant
Group transfer to Madrid Airport.
Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) Iberia IB 725 departing Madrid at 17.45 hrs arriving London Heathrow at 19.10 hrs.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£3,365
Single Supplement	£680

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 4 lunches; 2 dinners
- Group transfers and transportation as per the itinerary
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals
- Porterage
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Gratuities to driver/s
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Meals 'under own arrangements'
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 01/08/2025



Paseo a orillas del mar by Joaquín Sorolla



Royal Palace of Madrid



YOUR TOUR LEADER

Tania Illingworth (nee Tolstoy) has a degree in Russian Language & Literature, with Byzantine Art. Tania is one of our most long-standing, experienced and popular tour leaders and has led tours widely throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe. Tania's interests are history, architecture and the arts. She speaks Spanish and French.

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