



Madrid & Barcelona

A Custom-designed Adventure for the Spence School

March 14 - 21, 2009

The beauty of Spain is legendary: the sweep of Mediterranean beaches and contrasting rugged mountains, the cosmopolitan cities and tiny hilltop villages where time seems to have stood still. Experience the diversity, color and passion that is Spain in this journey to two of her most exciting cities in the company of the Spence School Choir.

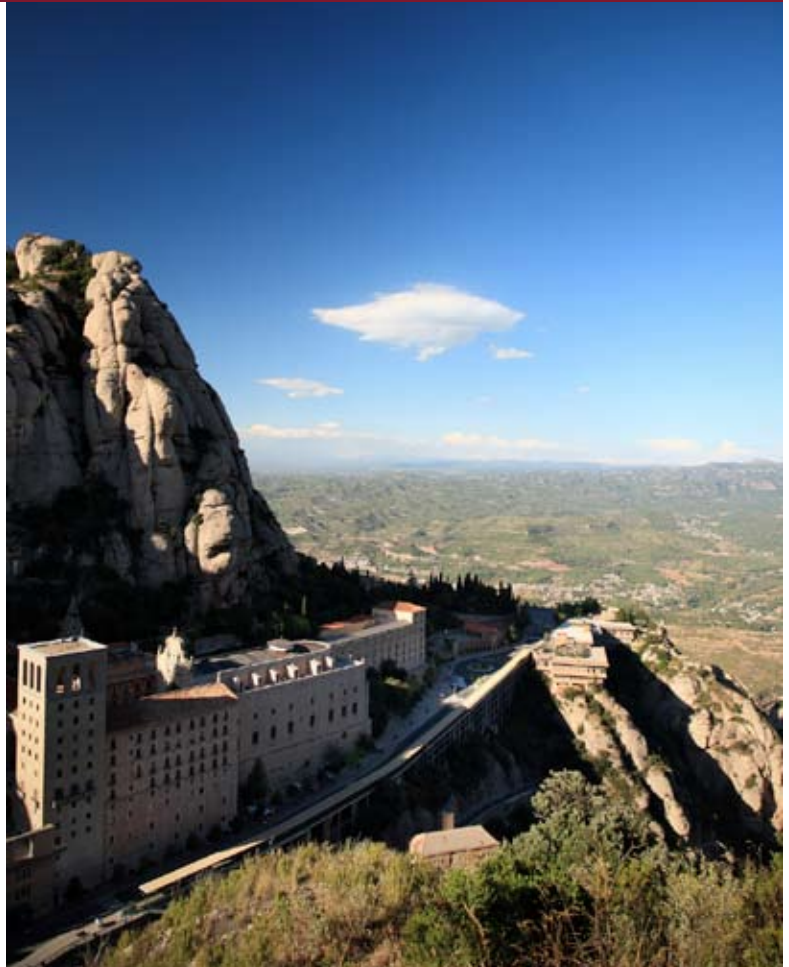
We begin in Madrid. We'll visit her museums, take an excursion or two and still have time to sit and share tapas with the Madrilenos. Then it's on to Barcelona, possibly Spain's most visually striking city. As Rose Macaulay wrote four decades ago, "...it gives an impression of tempestuous, surging, irrepressible life and brio." We'll spend our days exploring the Barri Gotic, the very heart of Barcelona, her outstanding museums and architecture.

And along the way, we'll have the opportunity to perform for the local people. We will be performing in the Cathedral of Nuestra Senora de Almodena in Madrid the church of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona and at the Monastery of Montserrat, home of the Escolania, the world-renowned boy's choir school. There may also be other venues to be determined.

This spring join the Spence School and Discover Europe on an unforgettable European adventure to experience the beauty, art and culture that is irresistible Spain.



El Escorial



The Monastery of Montserrat

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy, is:

New York, JFK departure:	\$3290
Land Only (no airfare included):	\$2590
Single supplement:	\$480

Inclusions:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip air from New York to Madrid, returning from Barcelona and internal flight Madrid-Barcelona. All customs fees, fuel surcharges and airport taxes.
- Hotels:** 6 nights' accommodation in superior tourist-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily and 3 dinners.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout. Local guides in Madrid and Barcelona. Spence School chaperones.
- Performances:** Three choir performances.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites as specified in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Comprehensive travel insurance including cancellation coverage.





Saturday, March 14th

Evening departure from New York, JFK Airport aboard Iberia Airlines' direct overnight flight to Madrid.

Overnight: Flight

Sunday, March 15th

Morning arrival in Madrid, where your tour guide will meet your flight and escort you to our city-center hotel. This morning there will be a panoramic sightseeing tour of Madrid with a local guide which will conclude at the Paseo del Arte, the Art Walk, a rejuvenated route joining Madrid's three largest art galleries, the Prado, the Reina Sofia and the Thyssen-Bornemisza. Our local guide will give us an introduction to the masterpieces on display at the Prado. There will be free time for lunch and to rest and relax before a rehearsal at the Cathedral of Nuestra Senora de la Almudena. We will perform during the evening service and then have dinner at a local restaurant. **(D)**

Overnight: Madrid

Monday, March 16th

A free day in Madrid. Those who so desire can continue on the Art Walk, or you may prefer to visit to the Royal Palace or the Basilica of San Francisco el Grande, or enjoy the sunshine and atmosphere in the social heart of Madrid, the Plaza Mayor. This evening why not sample some tapas. Your tour guide will have plenty of ideas and suggestions. **(B)**

Overnight: Madrid

Tuesday, March 17th

Today we make a full day excursion to some of the most spectacular sights in Spain just outside Madrid. We'll begin at El Escorial, the massive palace built for Philip II, and continue to the Valley of the Fallen, a monument to those who died in the Spanish Civil War. At the elegant city of Segovia we'll see its famous Roman aqueduct before free time to explore. Upon our return to Madrid, we'll have dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Madrid

Wednesday, March 18th

It's a short journey this morning south to the beautiful city of Toledo, where our local guide will take us through the splendid cathedral, the tiny church of Santo Tome to view El Greco's huge painting *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, and the graceful and simple Synagogue del Transito where Islamic, Gothic and Hebrew geometric motifs are harmoniously blended together. After free time for lunch we'll return to Madrid Airport to board our short flight to Barcelona. This evening transfers are included to a private residence where you are guests for dinner. **(B)**

Overnight: Barcelona



Madrid's Prado Museum

Thursday, March 19th

This morning we board our bus for a panoramic sightseeing tour of this vibrant and cosmopolitan city. From the Old City to the ancient harbor, from the chic commercial center-the "Eixample"-to the city's world-famous museums, this city is endlessly fascinating. We'll pass by some of Gaudi's greatest buildings and explore the Port Olimpic and Olympic Village, built for the 1992 Games. The afternoon is free to explore the Barri Gotic (its cathedral, medieval streets, and churches) or make your own discoveries-perhaps a visit to the Picasso Museum or the Museu de Arte de Catalunya, one of the most important collections of Romanesque art in the world. This evening there is another concert performance at the fabulous Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona. **(B)**

Overnight: Barcelona



Gaudi's Sagrada Familia

Friday, March 20th

The first part of the morning is free in Barcelona to visit the Maritime Museum or to take the George Orwell walking tour, based on his novel *Homage to Catalonia*. Just before lunchtime we set off for an excursion up into the mountains north of the city to visit the Monastery of Montserrat, famous for its children's choir. At 1.15 pm, after the Escolania (the resident boy's choir) has performed, we will have the opportunity to make a choral offering to the Virgin. In the afternoon we'll ride the funicular railway to the top of the mountain for some of the most spectacular views in Catalonia. We'll return to Barcelona to enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D)**

Overnight: Barcelona

Saturday, March 21st

Morning transport to Barcelona Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Overnight: Home

Key to included meals: **B** = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

