

It's Spring..... It's Spain!

The air is fragrant with the sweet smell of flowers..... Madrid, Toledo, Avila, Segovia.....Museums, Royal Palaces, Paella Cooking Classes, Sangria, Tapas, Wine Tasting, Ancient Walled Cities, Street Markets, History..... All wrapped in enchantment and romance..... and it's just for you!



Join WMFE for this
"Exciting Getaway to Spain".
Best of all, YOU will be helping;
a real triumvirate of winning combinations,
YOU, WMFE and SPAIN...!

April 16 returning 24 April, 2010

Escorted from Orlando by Jose Fajardo



YOUR ITINERARY

- 16 Apr.** With spring heavy in the Florida air, you will board your overnight flight from Orlando to Spain (sorry it's a connection!) and the start of your "Exciting Romantic" week in **Madrid**, filled with delicious experiences!
- 17 Apr.** Just outside your aircraft window this morning, you will awake with the skyline of **Madrid** silhouetted against the rising Spanish morning sun. (** Note, those not using our air arrangements must arrive in Madrid no later than 9:00AM on the 17th April and be at the Delta baggage claim area in Madrid nor can you depart earlier than 12:30PM on the 24th April from Madrid in order to use the transfers provided in the package.) Madrid is the heart and "heart beat" of Spain. After you have cleared the customary arrival formalities, you will be welcomed to Madrid by your local driver/guide who will escort you along with your luggage to your awaiting motor coach. Because check-in at your hotel is later in the day, you'll be taken on an orientation drive around Madrid's City Center. Madrid, the Capitol of Spain, is the largest city in the country. During your ride you pass many of the sights you will visit during your stay or places you might want to investigate on your own. By the end of the week when your Madrid venture is over, you will be an official "Madrileños"! By now your room should be ready. After check-in, settle in to your room, rest, or explore the city on your own. Be sure to get back early enough to freshen up before you meet your fellow travelers for a Welcome drink and reception followed by dinner at your hotel. (FYI Hotel Senator Gran Via, is located in the heart of Madrid, right on the Gran Vía. You can catch the subway, a bus or a taxi right outside the hotel's main entrance. The hotel is only five minutes away from the Atocha Train Station, the Puerta del Sol and one of the city's main shopping districts, Preciados Street)
- HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA**
Welcome drink and reception, Dinner

18 Apr. After your sumptuous hot buffet breakfast, you will be off on your motor coach for your first immersion into **Madrid's** native culture. Your trip today will take you to the El Rastro Flea Market. El Rastro is a series of winding streets passing through what is the oldest residential part of Madrid and it is on this grid of randomly networked streets that the market is located. Although there is a main street dedicated to Market stalls (predominately clothing) the side streets contain the real treasures. At the Top of the hill, which is the starting point, streets to the left contain art and handicrafts; with the narrow alleys to the right, antiques and second hand goods. Found treasures abound with your every step. Throughout the market, shops located in this area, open their doors and in some cases, their goods spill out onto the street. This is particularly true of the antiques and second hand goods area. So sharpen your bartering skills, prices are not fixed so you will need this phrase to start the process: ¿Cuanto cuesta? - kwan-to kwes-tah - How much is it? Loaded with your new found treasures, your awaiting motor coach will take you back to your hotel. The balance of the afternoon and evening is free for you and your fellow travelers to investigate this bustling city; find great Tapas for a light dinner or simply rest for tomorrow is an exciting day to ancient Toledo.

HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA

Hot Buffet Breakfast

19 Apr. Fortify yourself with a hearty breakfast, for today you will be free to explore Madrid on your own or perhaps enjoy an optional tour to Toledo.

Toledo Optional Tour: You will visit Toledo and soak up more than 2000 years of its history. **Toledo** is one of Spain's cities with the greatest wealth of monuments. Toledo has its origins in Toletum, the name the Romans gave to this settlement on the banks of the River Tagus after its conquest in 190 BC. The city maintained its importance for centuries and in the Visigoth era became the capital of Hispania (6th C.). The arrival of the Arabs in the 8th century, together with the presence of Christians and Jews, made Toledo the "city of the three cultures". This great diversity of artistic styles makes Toledo's old quarter, which is the ancient capitol of La Mancha, to be designated a real open-air museum, and lead it to be declared a World Heritage Site. Here you will visit the Toledo Cathedral. The Cathedral is ranked among the greatest Gothic structures in Europe. Inside, the Cathedral contains important masterpieces including a spectacular baroque high altar and two paintings by El Greco. Next you will see the Puerto Del Sol which was built in the 13th century by the Knights Hospitaller as an access point into the city through the outer curtain walls. Next you will view San Martin and Al Cantara Bridges reflecting the Moorish history of Toledo before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomé for a visit to this 12th century church. Here you will see some of El Greco's most famous painting on display. **Lunch** will be in a typical café in Toledo. Our last site to visit today in Toledo will be to the Synagogue of Santa María La Blanca which is in the heart of the old Jewish quarter of the city and was built at the end of the 12th century. It was given its current name when it was converted into a church by the Order of Calatrava at the beginning of the 15th century; it now serves purely as a monument today. After an exhilarating day in Toledo, you will return to your hotel for a time to relax and perhaps enjoy a night on the town to experience Madrid's sizzling night life first hand.

HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA

Hot Buffet Breakfast

Toledo Optional Tour Participants: Lunch

20 Apr. After breakfast, you will be off on your motor coach, to visit the Royal Palace and the Prado Museum in **Madrid**. The Royal Palace is one of the top attractions in Madrid. It is the official residence for the Royal family, but these days they only use it for state ceremonies. Otherwise known in Spanish as the Palacio Real, the Royal Palace was built during the 18th and 19th centuries and is the largest Palace in Europe, housing more than 2800 rooms. It replaced the former medieval Alcázar, which was burnt to the ground in 1794. The present day Royal Palace of Madrid was decorated to the tastes of Charles III, and is extremely lavish inside. Next you will visit the Prado. The Prado Museum is renowned as being the largest art gallery in the world. It exhibits sculptures, drawings, coins and other works of arts, but it is its large collection of paintings which has given it fame worldwide. It houses more than 8,600 paintings, less than 2000 are exhibited because of lack of available space. Many museums throughout the world have less artistic riches in their halls than the Prado has in storage. At the Prado you will see works by Goya, Velazquez, Bosch, Murillo, Dali, Rubens, Picasso, Sorolla, Gaudi, and Miro to name a few. After your guided visit to the Palace and the audio guided tour of the Prado, you will stop for a typical lunch at a Madrid Tapas and dine like the locals before returning to your hotel. The balance of your afternoon is free to perhaps revisit the Prado or shop in some of the shops and boutiques nearby.

HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA

Hot Buffet Breakfast, Lunch

21 Apr. Today after breakfast you will have another day to revisit the Prado on your own or just explore this magical capitol. For others, an optional full day tour could be in store to **Avila** and **Segovia**. **Avila and Seville Optional Tour:** Your first stop will be in Avila, a World Heritage Site. Behind the 3rd century Roman walls of this capital of Castile-León, a priceless compound is concealed, made up of Renaissance churches and palaces. Avila city, the birthplace of Santa Teresa de Jesús, has a number of religious buildings, inside and outside the walled enclosure that are related to the life of this mystic. Avila dates back to around 700 BC when it was first settled by the primitive Celtiberians of the Vetones. Avila's Roman wall is one of the best kept walled medieval enclosures in Europe. Next you will visit the Cathedral sanctuary which is integrated into the city wall, and forms part of the city's defensive fortifications. Your next stop will be to visit Obrador De La Flor De Castilla which is a famous Patisserie in Avila that creates the famous "Yemas De Santa Teresa" and "Huevo Hilado". These "egg yolk confections were made famous because they were a favorite of the Saint Teresa. Here you will be able to see how they are made and to taste these typical Avila sweet delicacies. With your appetite whetted, lunch won't be too much later, but first a stop and a visit to the Santa Teresa Convent. This visit to the Convent will help you to understand and appreciate the life of this Saint who loved worldly pleasures and the sweet delicacies you tasted earlier. Give thanks for her "sweet tooth"! At last your next stop will be lunch at the Hosteria De Bracamón. After lunch, your next stop on this whirlwind day is a visit to Segovia to see the Roman Aqueduct and visit the Alcazar. Segovia is Spain and Castile at its best and also is a World Heritage Site. With its twisting alleyways, Segovia has the highest concentration of Romanesque churches in all of Europe. Pedestrian streets, where no cars are allowed, are filled with delicious aromas around every corner. On the north-west extreme of the wall, you will visit the famous Alcazar castle. It was the source of inspiration to Walt Disney, and where Queen Isabel promised Columbus the financial backing he needed to discover America. On the south-east extreme, you will see the world renowned Roman Aqueduct, the largest and best preserved of its kind anywhere. As you say farewell to Segovia, you will see the tallest building in Segovia, the 16th-century Cathedral, disappearing from your view. But before your return to Madrid, you will make one last stop at the Vinedos De Nieva for a wine tasting before returning home to Madrid. The balance of the evening is free.

HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA

Hot Buffet Breakfast

Avila and Segovia Optional Tour Participants: Lunch, Huevo Hilado and Yemas De Santa Teresa tasting, Wine Tasting

- 22 Apr.** For those wishing to relax, you will have another day free in Madrid!
El Escorial Optional Tour: This morning, you will again travel outside of Madrid to visit **El Escorial**. El Escorial is a historical residence of the kings and queens of Spain, dating back to the 1500's. It is one of the Spanish royal sites and functions as a monastery, royal palace, museum, and school. El Escorial comprises two architectural complexes of great historical and cultural significance: El Real Monasterio de El Escorial itself and La Granjilla de La Fresneda, a royal hunting lodge and monastic retreat nearby. The Monastery of El Escorial is considered one of the modern wonders of the world and on November 2, 1984, UNESCO declared it Monument of Worldwide interest. You will continue on to the Valley of the Fallen for a visit to this monument mausoleum, a cave carved from the mountain, housing the many fallen during the Spanish Revolution. After your tour to the Valley of the Fallen is completed, you will wend your way back to Madrid where the balance of the afternoon and evening are free for you to explore the many nooks and crannies of this exciting city. Rest up, for tomorrow is sure to be a real treat, Paella cooking class and Sangria making class!
HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA
Hot Buffet Breakfast
- 23 Apr.** Today will be the last day to shop before you return home or you may try your hand at an optional cooking class! This evening farewell dinner is sure to be one that you won't soon forget! Your motor coach will take you an elegant Madrid restaurant where you can compare note and bathe in the wonderful week you have had in Madrid. Tonight's dinner will cap a perfect mixture and flavors of Spain and of your week filled new experiences, wrapped in romance!
- Madrid Cooking Class Optional Tour:** After your hearty breakfast, you'll be taken to participate in a real, "roll up your sleeves" cooking class extravaganza for Paella and Tapas in **Madrid!** Tasting is permitted!! Later you will be taught how to make your own Sangria too! This afternoon is free to rest or to do last minute shopping.
HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA
Hot Buffet Breakfast, Farewell Dinner
Madrid Optional Cooking Classes Participants: Tastings
- 24 Apr.** Breakfast today will be bitter sweet knowing you must leave for home! Your motor coach will be at your hotel to take you along with your luggage, to the airport and your flight back to **Orlando**. Because of your new found **WMFE** friends to share your experience in Spain, your memories will never end!
HOTEL: SENATOR GRAN VIA
Hot Buffet Breakfast

YOUR BASIC PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airport transfers based on arrival and departure criteria stated in the itinerary as stated in "air fare is additional" section.
- Madrid airport baggage handling based 1 checked bag per person for motor coach driver only
- Accommodations 7 nights at THE SENATOR GRAN VIA a 4 Star centrally located hotel in Madrid with private bath
- Hotel Taxes and Service charges
- Baggage handling at the hotel for 1 checked bag per person
- 10 meals with tips, coffee and tea included
7 Hot Buffet Breakfasts; 1 Lunches, 1 Welcome Dinner and Reception with (2) drinks and hors d'oeuvres; 2 Dinners

Sightseeing per itinerary to include: 3 hours orientation tour upon arrival in Madrid; 4 hour El Rastro Flea Market tour; 5 and a half hour tour with entrances to The Royal Palace in Madrid and Prado Museum (guided tour in the Prado is a headphone guided system and is included and allows you to see at your own pace.)

- English speaking guide on all days with sightseeing
- Private Motor coach through out for all planned activities
- Escort from WMFE
- +^\$150.00 tax deductible donation to WMFE is included in the total cost of the trip (A full brochure with total costing will be sent via e-mail upon request.)

OPTIONAL TOURS:

1. 8 hour tour to **Toledo** with entrance to the Cathedral, Santa Tome, Santa Maria Blanca, a visit to Puerto Del Sol, and a view of San Martin and Alacantara Bridges and **lunch** (exclusive of tips) in a private motor coach and an English speaking guide.
2. 10 hour tour to **Avila and Segovia** with a demonstration and tasting at the Obrador De La Flor De Castilla Pastesserie in Avila, entrance to The Cathedral and Museum in Avila, visit to Santa Teresa Convent (museum entrance not included) Avila; in Segovia entrance to the Alcazar and a view of the Aqueduct with **lunch** (exclusive of tips) in a private motor coach and an English speaking guide.
3. 5 hours tout to **Escorial** with entrance for El Escorial Monastery including the royal apartments and entrance into the Valley of the Fallen via private motor coach and an English speaking guide.
4. 4 Hour Cooking Class in **Madrid cooking** for Tapas, Paella, and how to make Sangria class with **tastings** via private motor coach and an English speaking guide and cooking instructor with translations.

All optional tours require a minimum participation of 15 passengers to operate.

HOW TO BOOK: For this exciting "Spring.....in Spain" package with **WMFE** to Madrid, please call Harriot Roberts, CTC at Let's Travel at 407 425-5387; or e-mail her at harriot@travelagentonline.com. If you are out of the area, please call 1-800-465-2126.