

# ART TREASURES OF SPAIN

*with Elizabeth Floyd*

April 25–May 4, 2025





The Garden of Earthly Delights (detail) by Hieronymus Bosch (1490-1500) at the Prado Museum Madrid

Dear Students and Friends,

Join me in April 2025 as we immerse ourselves in the art, history and culture of Madrid and Barcelona. We will spend five days in Madrid, where we will visit several magnificent museums with an art historian guide, sample tapas and paellas with local wines, sketch en plein aire together, and have ample free time to stroll through the bustling Spain. In Toledo, we'll step back in time to the medieval walled city, where we'll have a chance to behold El Greco's *The Burial of Count Orgaz* in situ. We'll take the high-speed train north to effervescent Barcelona, with its dynamic energy, sunny disposition, and constant boundary-pushing. In both cities, we'll spend our days up close to masterpieces by Velázquez, Rubens, Goya, El Greco, Picasso, Gaudí and Miró in the cities where they lived and worked, joined by art historian guides. We'll discuss the historical context in which the Spanish masters created and learn about the tools and techniques they employed.

The itinerary for our trip has been prepared in close consultation with International Seminar Design, Inc., a tour operator based in Washington DC that has decades of experience organizing bespoke art tours.

In both cities, enjoy four-star accommodation within walking distance of museums, boutiques and restaurants. In Madrid, we'll stay at the NH Collection Gran Via. In Barcelona, we'll stay at the Hotel Colón, located adjacent to the pedestrian district and Gothic Quarter. While each day is planned with visits and excursions, you will still have ample opportunity to make your own special discoveries and enjoy necessary respite from time to time. This one-of-a-kind, exclusive opportunity is not to be missed!

*Liz Floyd*

## Tour Highlights

- Visit the Prado, Reina Sofía, Thyssen-Bornemisza, Picasso Museum, Miró Foundation, and other acclaimed museums of Madrid and Barcelona accompanied by art historian guides
- Spend a day in the medieval city of Toledo and have a chance to behold some of El Greco's most famous works
- Behold Antoni Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, La Basilica de Sagrada Familia, as well as other Gaudí works now celebrated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Sample the unique cuisines of Madrid and Barcelona accompanied by luscious Spanish wines
- Stay in four-star hotels in Madrid and Barcelona within close proximity to museums, restaurants and boutiques.

Friday, April 25

## Departures

Depart the USA for Madrid on independent overnight flights.

Saturday, April 26

## Welcome to Madrid

Upon arrival at the Madrid Airport (MAD), transfer independently to the lovely four-star Hotel NH Collection Gran Via, centrally located in the bustling Plaza Mayor. Check in as rooms become available. (*Check-in is not guaranteed until 3:00pm.*) Gather in the late afternoon for a guided walking tour of Madrid's historic district surrounding the Plaza Mayor. Celebrate the group's first evening together at a popular local restaurant for dinner before returning to the hotel to retire for the evening.

*NH Collection Madrid Gran Via (Dinner)*

Sunday, April 27

## Highlights of the Prado

Walk to the incomparable Prado Museum for a guided visit covering the highlights of one of the world's greatest art collections. View the museum's extensive selection of Spanish masterpieces including those of Velázquez, El Greco, and Goya. Take the remainder of the day to have lunch and independently explore the Prado and the city on your own.

Gather for a casual tapas dinner together within walking distance of the hotel.

*NH Collection Madrid Gran Via (Breakfast, Dinner)*

Monday, April 28

## Reina Sofia Museum

The morning is at leisure to recharge or independently explore Madrid. Gather this afternoon for a guided tour of the Reina Sofia Museum, Spain's national museum of 20th-century art containing excellent collections of Spain's two greatest 20th-century masters, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí, including Picasso's painting *Guernica*.

Late this afternoon, join Liz on a sketching outing at the Plaza Mayor, followed by dinner together.

*NH Collection Madrid Gran Via (Breakfast, Dinner)*

Tuesday, April 29

## Medieval Toledo

Today is dedicated to touring Toledo, the famous "city of three cultures" and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which has maintained the exact same layout it had in the Middle Ages.

Take a walking tour through Toledo's narrow cobblestone streets and visit the city's famous sights including the Church of St. Tomé with its famous masterpiece by El Greco, the Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca built in the Mudéjar style in the 12th century, and the Monastery of San Juan de los Reyes, a late Flamboyant Gothic masterpiece by Juan Guas. Pause for lunch together, then continue to the Museum of Santa Cruz, a 16th-century building that was originally an important hospital but converted to a museum of fine arts, archaeology, and industrial arts in the 19th century. Admire the museum's excellent selection of 16th- and 17th- century paintings from Toledo as well as works by El Greco.

Return to Madrid in the late afternoon.

*NH Collection Madrid Gran Via (Breakfast, Lunch)*



Photos (from top): Plaza Mayor, Madrid (Yuni Martin);  
*Burial of the Count of Orgaz* by El Greco (1586-1588)  
at the Church of Santo Tome;  
Castilla La Mancha, Toledo (Rafesmar)

Wednesday, April 30

## Sorolla and Thyssen-Bornemisza

Drive to Madrid's Museo Sorolla, situated within what was once the home of the famous Valencian Impressionist. The building was converted into a museum but remains furnished as it was during Sorolla's life, including his large well-lit studio with the walls covered with canvasses. See the artist's different stylistic and thematic periods in the display of his numerous paintings on social criticism, family portraits, works depicting typical local customs, and self-portraits. In addition, admire the sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, old photographs, important archive containing his private correspondence, and works by other artists such as Benlliure, Rodin, and Bloy. Time will also be provided to stroll through the gardens surrounding the building, which were designed by the painter himself. Then stop at the San Antonio de la Florida Chapel best known for its ceiling and dome frescoes by Francisco Goya.

Sit down to a relaxing lunch together between museum visits.

Continue to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum. Spanning seven centuries with almost 1,000 paintings by a vast array of artists such as Duccio, Van Eyck, Carpaccio, Dürer, Caravaggio, Rubens, Sargent, Monet, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Kirchner, Mondrian, Klee, and Hopper, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum offers a comprehensive overview of European and Spanish art from the 13th to 20th century spanning various styles ranging from Renaissance and Rococo to Romanticism and Pop. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

*NH Collection Madrid Gran Via (Breakfast, Lunch)*

Thursday, May 1

## Madrid to Barcelona

Travel via high-speed train to Barcelona this morning (2.5 hours). Upon arrival, be introduced to Gaudí's Barcelona with a guided tour of Park Güell, designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí for entrepreneur Eusebi Güell as a housing development for affluent Catalan families. While this aim was never achieved, the space is now a public park for the people of Barcelona and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. Continue to the beautiful Basilica of the Sagrada Familia, a monumental church project assumed by Gaudí in 1883. Gaudí spent the last twelve years of his life working exclusively on this project but did not live to see its completion.

Late this afternoon, check in at the four-star Hotel Colón, ideally located in the city's Gothic Quarter and within close walking distance to restaurants, shops, and Las Ramblas, the bustling pedestrian-only corridor.

Sit down to dinner together in a restaurant near our hotel to celebrate our first evening in Barcelona.

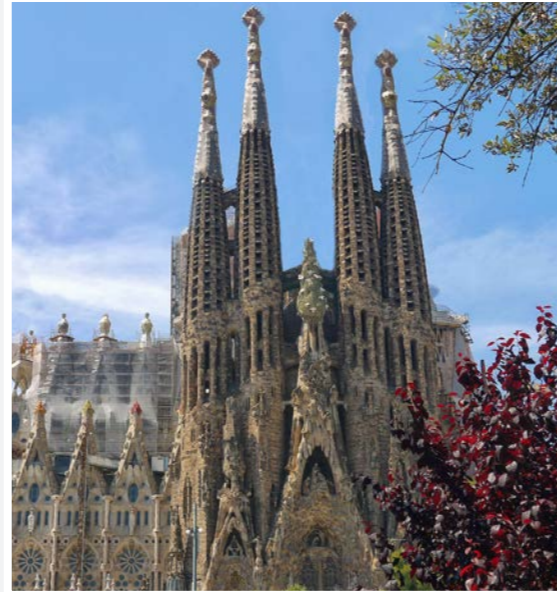
*Hotel Colón, Barcelona (Breakfast, Dinner)*

Friday, May 2

## Treasures of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter

Set out with our guide, an expert in the art and architecture of Barcelona, for a walking tour of Barcelona's central historic district, learning about the city's fascinating history and architecture through the centuries. Walk around Las Ramblas, the Gothic Quarter, and enter architecturally astounding cathedrals such as the Barcelona Cathedral and the Basílica of Santa Maria del Mar.

Enjoy a guided tour of the Picasso Museum, housing one of the most extensive collections of artworks by Picasso in the district that was his home in Barcelona.



Photos (from top): Sorolla Museum (YOYU);  
Sagrada Família, Barcelona;  
*The Disinherited Ones* by Pablo Picasso (1903) at the Picasso Museum

Enjoy lunch together near the Picasso Museum.  
The afternoon and evening are independent to enjoy Barcelona.

*Hotel Colón, Barcelona (Breakfast, Lunch)*

**Saturday, May 3**

## Jewels of Montjuïc

Travel by motorcoach to Montjuïc, the historic mountain overlooking the port of Barcelona. Visit the National Museum of Catalan Art, a beautiful museum containing hundreds of works of Catalan art from the medieval age to the 19th century, with a brilliant 1990s redesign by architect Gae Aulenti that still feels fresh today. Continue to the Miró Foundation to experience Miró's works in dialogue with cutting-edge contemporary art. At the Barcelona Pavilion, the German Pavilion for the 1929 International Exposition in Barcelona designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Have the option to stay in Montjuïc and return independently by cable car or return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

This evening, gather for a gourmet farewell dinner at one of Barcelona's best restaurants.

*Hotel Colón, Barcelona (Breakfast, Dinner)*

**Sunday, May 4**

## Return to the United States

Transfer independently to the Barcelona Airport.

*(Breakfast)*



Park Güell Entrance Confection (Andrew Moore)

## Accommodations

### NH Collection Madrid Gran Vía

The elegant NH Collection Madrid Gran Vía hotel is situated at the heart of one of Madrid's most famous thoroughfares, the Gran Vía, lined with shops, coffee houses, book stores, restaurants, and a few legendary cocktail bars. The four-star hotel is itself one of the landmark buildings on the Gran Vía, housed in a beautifully restored century-old neo-baroque building, and features an unrivaled view of the city from the rooftop restaurant and terrace.



### Hotel Colón, Barcelona

The four-star Hotel Colón boasts an unbeatable location in the center of historic Barcelona, with unrivaled views of the Cathedral of Barcelona directly across the street. Over its more than 60 years of history, the hotel has hosted cultural and artistic luminaries such as Tennessee Williams, Sofía Loren, Ernest Hemingway, and Santiago Calatrava. Its most famous and loved guest was Joan Miró, who made the hotel his home in Barcelona during the '60s and the beginning of the '70s.



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## TOUR COST:

Land Package ..... \$6,295  
Single Supplement ..... \$1,695

*\*Tour Price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** Moderate, good overall mobility required.

**DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT:** A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on December 18, 2024 and must be paid by check, bank wire, or ACH transfer to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check/wire/ACH transfer only.

**FLIGHTS:** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS:** 5 nights accommodations at the NH Collection Gran Via Hotel, Madrid; 3 nights accommodations at the Hotel Colón, Barcelona (or similar); breakfast daily at the hotels, 3 lunches, 5 dinners, 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private coach; reserved seat on high-speed train between Madrid and Barcelona; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; leadership of Liz Floyd; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local guides; gratuities for local guides, drivers, and waitstaff at included meals; bottled water on coach; service charges and taxes.

**TOUR EXCLUSIONS:** Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portorage; airport transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; entry or departure fees levied by local governments; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

**CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:** Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before December 18, 2024: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between December 19, 2024 and March 13, 2025: full refund minus \$3,150 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after March 14, 2025: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour.

If the tour is canceled by ISDI due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be provided to you by ISDI upon receipt of your registration.

## FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

International Seminar Design, Inc.

Tel: 202-244-1448

Email: [info@isditravel.com](mailto:info@isditravel.com)

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A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour

## 3 WAYS TO REGISTER

### REGISTER ONLINE AT:

<https://www.elizabethfloyd.com/the-art-tour>

### REGISTER BY PHONE AT:

202-244-1448, ext. 1

### COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL, EMAIL, OR FAX TO:

International Seminar Design, Inc.  
5614 Connecticut Avenue NW, #295  
Washington, DC 20015-2604

Email: [info@isditravel.com](mailto:info@isditravel.com) | Fax: (202) 244-1808

Name (Participant 1)

Name (Participant 2)

Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime Telephone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address (Participant 1)

E-mail Address (Participant 2)

#### ROOMING OPTIONS: *(please select)*

- Double Occupancy; I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_
- Single Supplement (\$1,695)
- I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

#### DEPOSIT (\$1,000 PER PERSON):

\_\_\_\_\_ # of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

- Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Check *Make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.*

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yy)

CVV Code

Name as it appears on credit card

Billing Zip Code (if different from above)