

SPAIN

MADRID Y EL NORTE 10 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

Prométour offers model itineraries you can customize to your liking. Start your planning from this basic itinerary! Whatever your personal, educational or professional interests, Prométour offers you a personalized service throughout all stages of the trip planning process. With the help of your own experienced Tour Project Manager, you will be accompanied every step of the way, ensuring the utmost in quality customer service and attention.

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DAY 1: TRAVEL TO SPAIN

- Fly through the night to Madrid

DAY 2: MADRID

- **¡Bienvenidos a España!** Your Spanish Prométour Tour Director will greet you at the airport and remain with you for the duration of your tour
- Transfer by private motorcoach to your centrally located hotel to leave your bags
- While in Spain, travel as the locals do, by foot and by metro
- Follow your Prométour Tour Project Manager to exchange some money, and then take a walk through Old Madrid. Explore the 16th and 17th Century narrow streets around the famous Plaza Mayor, said to be "the most elegant square on the continent"

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- Freshen up at your hotel before heading out this evening
- Tonight, go to the **San Miguel Market** to explore the tapas bars built into the retaining wall of the plaza. Tapas are a must try on any trip to Spain
- Overnight accommodation in Madrid

DAY 3: MADRID

- This morning after breakfast, visit the **Prado Museum**. Built in 1785, The Prado is considered one of the three "great" museums of the world. There are paintings by Velazquez, El Greco and Goya, as well as paintings and sculptures from every culture and period
- Later, visit the **Royal Palace** an immense 18th Century palace twice the size of Buckingham Palace and one of the most beautiful in Europe
- Explore the romantic Campo del Moro gardens of the Royal Palace, which boast two striking, enormous fountains: Los Tritones and Las Conchas and the Gardens of Sabatini
- This evening enjoy dinner with your group, followed by overnight accommodation in Madrid

DAY 4: EL ESCORIAL / SEGOVIA / BURGOS

- This morning after breakfast, head to the **Monastery of El Escorial**, listed by UNESCO as a world patrimonial treasure
- En route, stop by the **Valle de los Caidos** (The Valley of the Fallen), a memorial to the victims of the Spanish Civil War
- Enter El Escorial, resting place of Spain's royal families. Visit the library, which houses some bibliographic treasures, the Pantheon of the Kings, and Bourbon Palace
- Continue to Segovia and enjoy some free time
- This afternoon, take a guided tour of the city, visit the Alcazar; its Moorish Fortress, see the Roman Aqueduct and the Cathedral
- Drive to Burgos, home of the 11th Century hero El Cid
- Upon arrival, check into your centrally located hotel to freshen up
- Dinner at a local restaurant, followed by overnight accommodation in Burgos

DAY 5: BURGOS / BILBAO / SANTANDER

- This morning after breakfast, take a city tour of Burgos. See its flamboyant Gothic Cathedral that took almost 3 centuries to build
- After lunch, continue on to **Bilbao** in northern Spain, and **take a guided visit** of the world renowned **Guggenheim Museum**
- Late afternoon, head to Santander, the capital of Cantabria. It is a modern, cosmopolitan city with wide waterfront boulevards, leafy parks and crowded beaches
- Practice your Spanish over dinner with your group and your Prométour Tour Director, later take an evening stroll to soak in the local culture
- Overnight accommodation in Santander

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DAY 6: SANTILLANA DEL MAR / SANTANDER

- This morning after breakfast, partake in a city tour of Santillana del Mar, a well-preserved historic town with a rich heritage located on the enchanting Cantabrian coast
- Visit the **Museo de la Inquisición y de la Tortura El Solar**. Be prepared to see various instruments of torture, punishment and death, used during the Spanish Inquisition

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- Head back to Santander for an afternoon of sun, sand and surf
- This evening enjoy a typical Paella supper in Santander
- Overnight accommodation in Santander

DAY 7: VALLADOLID / MADRID

- This morning after breakfast, depart for Valladolid
- Embark on a visual journey through the aristocratic houses and religious buildings of Valladolid
- Enter the **Museo Casa de Cervantes**, where the author of **Don Quixote** lived with his family between 1603 and 1606. It was in this house that the writer gave his masterpiece its finishing touches
- Visit the Museo de Colón dedicated to Christopher Columbus and his voyages to the New World.
 It is located in the residence where the Genoese navigator spent the last years of his life. Nowadays the palace exhibits various pieces and documents related to the discovery of America
- Late afternoon, board your private motorcoach to return to Madrid
- Dinner with your group and your Prométour Tour Director at a local, authentic restaurant
- Overnight accommodation in Madrid

DAY 8: DAY EXCURSION TO TOLEDO

- This morning after breakfast, board your private motorcoach for **Toledo**, **Spain's medieval capital**
- Visit a **traditional sword workshop** where you will learn how the metal is forged into elaborate weaponry
- Head to the city center to meet your local guide
- Enter Toledo's monumental **Cathedral**, the spiritual heart of the Spanish Church
- Visit the Church of Santo Tomé to admire one of El Greco's masterpieces: The Burial of the Count of Orgaz
- Explore the city; consider a stop at the **Pasteleria Santo Tomé** to taste the locally made marzipan pastries. The origin of marzipan in Toledo dates back to the nuns of the San Clement convent at a time of famine when Arabs besieged the city
- Enjoy some free time within the fortified walls
- Return to Madrid for dinner and overnight accommodation

DAY 9: MADRID

- This morning after breakfast, take a guided visit of the **Reina Sofia Museum** featuring an outstanding exhibit of modern and contemporary art, where you'll find **Picasso's** famous Guernica
- See one of Spain's most beautiful bullrings, the **Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas**. Visit its **Museo Taurino** and have a closer look at the tools of the bullfighter's trade
- Consider doing some last minute souvenir shopping
- This evening, gather together with your group for a special evening, a Spanish dinner accompanied by an expressive **Flamenco show**
- Overnight accommodation in Madrid

DAY 10: MADRID / USA

- This morning after breakfast board your private motorcoach for the airport
- Say a fond "Hasta Luego" to your Prométour Tour Director, and board your flight for home

¡Buen Viaje!