The Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and University of Rochester Travel Club are pleased to invite alumni, friends, and family to join us on an exclusive art, architecture and Spanish cuisine adventure to Madrid and Barcelona. Our program blends contemporary Spain with historical, as in most countries the old and new are inextricably linked but perhaps more so in Spain where regional differences run deep and have created something truly unusual. We begin in the capital of Madrid, discovering the Art Walk with its master-packed museums. Explore Old Madrid’s historical alleyes and wander through its imperial palace. Hop on a high-speed train and discover the miraculously wonderful Barcelona, where our adventures will take us to Richard Meier’s Museu d’Art Contemporani, Fundació Joan Miro, and the breathtaking 1929 Mies van der Rohe Pavilion for the World’s Fair. We will also get up close to and inside some of the masterworks of Modernist genius Antoni Gaudi. Take a scenic drive along the coast to Figures and the beautiful coastal villages of Cadaques to visit the museum and home of Salvador Dali. Throughout the program, we will enjoy wonderful Spanish and Catalan cuisine.

Tour Highlights

- Take a private guided tour of the Prado Museum
- Discover Madrid’s Old Town and Royal Palace
- Walk through Barcelona’s Gothic quarter and take a guided tour of the Picasso Museum
- Learn about Barcelona’s iconic contemporary architecture
- Visit Fundació Joan Miro, showcasing modern and contemporary art
- Stop by La Caixa Forum, Barcelona’s finest cultural center
- Take a day trip to Costa Brava to visit the Dali Museum and Home
- Marvel at Gaudi’s astonishing architecture at Sagrada Familia, Park Guell, and Casa la Pedrera

ACCOMMODATIONS

Madrid: 3 nights
Hesperia Madrid Hotel
Barcelona: 4 nights
Yurbban Trafalgar Hotel

For more information or detailed itinerary please contact:
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The Memorial Art Gallery’s tour operator, Distant Horizons, is a California Seller of Travel (CST #2046776-40) and a participant in the California Travel Restitution Fund. Information regarding the rights of California residents to make a claim may be found at tcrcinfo.org. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. Distant Horizons has a trust account.
Our program begins in Madrid, where we will concentrate on the Paseo del Arte (Art Walk), where our first stop will be the Prado Museum. Take a private guided tour of the masterpieces on display here. Next, take in the Reina Sofia Museum whose new building displays its modern and contemporary pieces, including Picasso's Guernica. We end the Art Walk with a visit to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum which contains a renowned collection of old masters and works of the 19th- and 20th-century works. The collection also includes non-Iberians, among them Hopper, O'Keeffe, Kirchner, and Kandinsky.

Begin discovering Old Madrid with a local art historian. We start at the heart of Madrid since the 17th-century, Puerta de Sol. Walk through cobblestone plazas and picturesque squares surrounded by wonderfully preserved 17th-century Madrid-style baroque architecture. Visit the Royal Palace, home to the Kings of Spain from Charles III to Alfonso XIII.

Take a high-speed train to Barcelona where we begin exploring Barcelona’s oldest and most romantic quarter, Barrio Gothic. Take a guided tour of the Picasso Museum, which displays much of Picasso’s early sketches, oils, and school-boy caricatures and drawings. Continue on for a walking tour of the Gothic Quarter, comprised of tiny plazas, cobblestone streets, narrow alleyways displaying a variety of architectural styles.

Visit Fundació Joan Miró, a gift from artist Joan Miró to his native city. It remains one of Barcelona’s most exciting showcases of modern and contemporary art. Continue on to Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya, a major repository of Catalan art, including a mammoth collection which covers the Gothic period to the 20th-century. Stop by the Mies van de Rohe Pavilion, designed by the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe as the German National Pavilion for the 1929 Barcelona International Exhibition.

Take a day trip north to discover Figueres and Cadaques, two cities that were home to Salvador Dali. In Figueres, Dali’s hometown, we visit the Dali-Theater Museum which features bizarre Dali favorites. Continue to the coast to Cadaques and Port Lligat, where Dali built his private retreat, Casa-Museu Salvador Dali.

Return to Barcelona and discover some of Gaudi’s most celebrated works, including, Casa la Pedrera, Sagrada Familia, and Park Guell.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MEDIUM. The trip will spend considerable time in museums and will require being able to be on your feet for extended periods of times. The program will be using trains and a few buses to get around, and this sometimes involves walking for 10 minutes or more and using stairs. The trip is not suitable for those who have mobility problems.