

## Spain 2026 Sample Itinerary

Experience the history and culture of **Madrid** and surrounding medieval cities on this 10-day historical and linguistic adventure in and around the capital of Spain. This immersive trip will take place in the heart of Madrid's medieval plazas, architecturally rich boulevards, and cultural and artistic centers. During our visit we will stay in a central hotel. Each day we will venture out to explore diverse facets of the Spanish capital—art history at several world-renowned museums; bargaining opportunities at local markets; guided tours of gothic, roman, and renaissance cathedrals and many other historical monuments; gastronomic and culinary enterprises; and local leisure activities at World Heritage nature sites.

Peppered throughout our stay there will be several full-day trips outside of Madrid to surrounding cities: In **Toledo**, the most well-preserved medieval city in Europe, local chefs will lead us through a traditional Spanish cooking class; in **Segovia**, we will learn about the first-century Roman aqueducts and enter the interior of the 12th-century mudéjar castle; and in **Salamanca**, a university-centered city, we will learn about the history of its architecturally diverse Plaza Mayor and cathedrals. On our final night in Madrid we will visit a historic Spanish *tablao* (flamenco hall) where we will dine on a traditional Spanish spread while watching a live flamenco show.

**Day 1** : Depart from USA

**Day 2:** Arrive in Madrid, meet your ACIS Tour Manager at the Barajas Airport, and start exploring the capital of Spain!

**Day 3:** Madrid's rich heritage comes alive on your guided tour of classic Spanish boulevards, grand plazas, and the diverse architecture of modern-day Madrid. Highlights include the Plaza de España with its statue of Don Quixote, the Plaza de Cibeles, la Puerta del Sol, the Plaza Mayor, and the famous bullring Las Ventas. Then visit the Prado Museum with a guided tour of the museum's most historic works. Here, an art history expert provides bilingual commentary on the artwork of Velázquez, Goya, Raphael, Rubens, and Bosch, among other key artists.

**Day 4:** Venture back in time to medieval Spain on a day journey to the city of **Toledo**, once the Spanish capital. With a local guide, view the treasures of the Gothic Cathedral, the Mudéjar-style Medieval Synagogue (the oldest synagogue in Europe), and the

Church of Santo Tomé. Then dive into Spain's rich gastronomy during a Spanish cooking class led by professional chefs. Work in teams to create traditional dishes before dining on the tasty results with spectacular views of the Toledo skyline. Please note: Lunch is included instead of dinner today.

**Day 5:** This morning you will have a guided tour of the Reina Sofía museum. Afterwards, enjoy free time for lunch and then a visit to the Palacio Real (Royal Palace) followed by leisure time in the Retiro Park and Plaza Mayor.

**Day 6:** Today you will explore the renowned Mercado de San Miguel. In the afternoon take a ride on the teleférico (sky gondola) across the Madrid skyline before visiting the Templo de Debod at sunset.

**Day 7:** In the morning, journey to the ancient city of **Segovia** where your tour manager will show you its impressive 2,000-year-old Roman aqueducts and the enchanting Alcázar fortress. Explore the interior of the Alcázar, the city's main square, and the cathedral before returning to Madrid for dinner.

**Day 8:** Today we dive deep into *la gastronomía de España!* Visit el Rastro market mid-morning, enjoy churros con chocolate at Chocolatería San Ginés. Then peruse the Thyssen Museum this afternoon. Tonight you will visit a *tablaó* where you will dine on a traditional Spanish spread while watching a live flamenco show.

**Day 9:** Today is a full-day excursion to the university city of **Salamanca** to learn about its rich architectural history. You will have afternoon free time following the morning tour to explore and have lunch before returning to Madrid for your final evening abroad.

**Day 10:** Depart for USA