

Spain through its Music: Madrid to Galicia

This 8-night tour delves into the heart & soul of Spain through music, dance, art and architecture.

September 8-16, 2024

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What to expect

We begin in the energised city of **Madrid** with a welcome dinner at the oldest restaurant in Europe, *Restaurante Botín*, offering some of Madrid's best traditional cuisine and setting the tone to look both back and forward at this culture and place. Letting music and art tell the stories, we visit the Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* and Picasso's *Guernica*, take in Flamenco Uncovered and learn to play flamenco percussion, explore the elevated views of this capital city in a roof-top architecture tour along Gran Via, understand Sephardic music in **Toledo**, and revel in the piano music of famous Spanish composers.

We leave the metropole for the more remote and verdant corner of **Galicia** where we stay in one of Spain's exquisite Parador hotels in **Baiona** on the Atlantic coast. We are welcomed into the small town of **Mougas** to share an evening of music, food and spirits with the locals. Bagpipes, "witches brew", the local *muiñeira* dance take us through an evening to remember.

We finish our journey in **Santiago de Compostela**, the final destination of the pilgrims who have travelled on Caminos across Spain to reach this spiritual centre. We end with a celebratory dinner, music and our final stay at one of the oldest and most luxurious Paradors in Spain.

Highlights

- Private tour & dinner at the world's oldest restaurant
- Guided collection highlights visit of the Prado Museum
- Flamenco Uncovered with dancer & guitarist at one of Madrid's best Flamenco Tablaos
- Flamenco Dance and Percussion Workshop with professional dancers
- Sephardic & Spanish folk music: a private concert and conversation
- Visit to luthier's workshop for Spanish classical & flamenco guitar
- Paella lunch, Gourmet Tapas Tour, signature cocktails & paired wines
- Picasso's *Guernica*, guided visit at Reina Sofia Museum
- An Architect's Rooftop Tour of Madrid
- Private piano recital of Spanish Composers at Madrid's Literary Club
- A short, scenic walk along the Portuguese Camino de Santiago
- Sunset dinner overlooking the Cies Islands at Parador Medieval Fortress
- A Locals' Welcome: Galician fiesta by the sea in Mougas
- Santiago de Compostela's Cathedral & pilgrim's destination: A guided tour
- Farewell Dinner at the 15th-century Parador overlooking the Cathedral

About your hosts

A word from your co-host, Suzanne Savaria, professor and co-director of The Artist as Citizen Initiative at Portland State University, Portland Oregon:

I first visited Spain in 1982 and fell in love with the country, the people and the culture. Forty plus years later I'm still enchanted and continue to explore and learn more each time I visit. I will be your host and share my knowledge of this beautiful place. We'll have unique experiences together and time to explore on our own.

On this trip, we'll take in the massive contrast of thriving Madrid in the center of Spain to one of the more remote regions in Galicia. I believe that music defines and unites us as people, and this trip highlights the power of music and the arts to share histories and stories.

Join me, Suzanne Savaria and Insider's Travel owner, Joanna Wivell on this one-of-a-kind adventure. Joanna and I met on one of my early Faculty-Led trips in Spain with Portland State University students. On a warm Madrid evening, after a glass of wine and manchego cheese, we contemplated creating a trip together bringing our specialities to the experience. Joanna brings a broad and deep knowledge of Spain after living in Madrid for 19 years and creating off-the-beaten track experiences for travelers. I bring years of immersive and academic experience and study in music, culture and the arts from all corners of Spain. Together we have created this journey to leave you feeling a deep sense of place.

A word from your other co-host, Joanna Wivell

What a treat to be co-hosting this tour with Suzanne following that conversation in Gonzalez wine bar all those years ago... Music is what pulled me to Spain. Even when I didn't really understand what flamenco was, I knew it resonated when I heard it. And when I got here I realised this was a place that felt enormously familiar. I just had to learn the language to get up to speed. This led to 19 years living in Madrid where I started making content for the lifestyle channel, Canal Estilo - interviewing my flamenco heroes amongst others. Then on to work for Fox Entertainment during their launch in Spain and the National Geographic Channel. Travel through Asia and South America made me realise I like to get down to the nuts and bolts of where I am and most importantly get to know its people. It didn't take me long to work out I need to be doing this in my beloved Spain - whether having lunch with the Pepe the wine-maker or chatting to Ana backstage at the Flamenco club but then making sure our guests got a feel for that - I love connecting people to people and people to places and of course introducing them to excellent food, wine and landscapes so they leave excited and touched by this larger than life culture. Looking forward to seeing you and looking after you in September!



Trip Itinerary

Day 1. Sunday, September 8th

6:30 pm - We meet in the lobby for a short walk over to Restaurante Botin, the world's oldest restaurant, founded in 1725, in the hands of just two families in all of that time. We take a privately guided visit, followed by dinner including suckling pig, roasted in the original oven.

*HOTEL: Hotel Villa Real, Madrid, 5**

Day 2. Monday, September 9th

10:30 am - 12:30 pm - We meet our Art Historian and guide, Teresa de la Vega and enjoy a guided tour of the Prado Museum: one of the world's most renowned art museums, housing the royal art collection, and today with over 19,000 works of art. We enjoy a guided visit of the collection highlights such as Velázquez's Las Meninas, Van der Weyden's Descent from the Cross, Goya's 3rd of May of 1808 and Bosch's Garden of Earthly Delights.

Free afternoon - Recommendations for lunch

6:00 pm - We meet in reception and walk over to Las Carboneras Tablao for Flamenco Uncovered: a conversation with lead flamenco dancer and her guitarist to learn about the rhythms, roots and spontaneity of flamenco before putting our knowledge to the test as we watch the Carboneras show with three dancers, two singers and two guitarists.

After the show we enjoy tapas en route back to the hotel, stopping at three contrasting tapas bars with local specialities and paired Spanish wines, learning about tapas bar etiquette as we go.

*HOTEL: Hotel Villa Real, Madrid, 5**

Day 3. Tuesday, September 10th

9:30 am - Holy Toledo! We take our private bus and join our guide, Adolfo Ferrero, in Toledo to explore its layers of history that link back to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths on a fascinating walking tour through this ancient city visiting one of Spain's most important Gothic cathedrals, the El Greco masterpiece of the Burial of Count Orgaz and the Transito synagogue.

1:30 pm - We enjoy lunch at Hacienda del Cardenal. The former residence of Cardenal Lorenzana at the end of the 18th century, with the walled gardens forming part of the muslim city wall.

We are joined by Ana Alcaide, an instrumentalist, singer and composer from Toledo, who carries out research on ancient traditions and cultures. In a private concert, Ana will share her love and talent on the nyckelharpa, a traditional Swedish instrument that dates back to the Middle Ages. Much of her music is inspired by the journey of the Sephardic Jews and her city. Rooted in ancient traditions yet resolutely modern, her compositions deftly blend musical styles from different cultures.

5:00 pm - We travel back to Madrid. A free evening with recommendations for regional and tapas at a nearby favourite close to the hotel.

*HOTEL: Hotel Villa Real, Madrid, 5**

Day 4. Wednesday, September 11th

11:00 am - We visit one of Madrid's most established guitar makers to understand the difference between the classical and the flamenco guitar and how they are made with a privileged peek into their workshop.

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - We've learned about it and now it's time to embrace it more closely at world-class flamenco school Amor de Dios. We take a workshop with professional flamenco couple Natalia Velázquez and Antonio Sánchez as we learn to play the cajón sound box and basic hand and feet movements.

Paella lunch nearby at El Ventorrillo del Murciano known for its excellent rice dishes.

Time for a siesta.

5.30pm - We meet in reception and take a short walk over to the Reina Sofia Museum with our art historian to see Picasso's Guernica and other masterpieces by Miró and Dalí. Picasso's Guernica powerfully highlights the tragedy of war and human suffering and has become a symbol of peace and an example of art activism around the world.

Light early evening aperitif and wine in the striking Nubel designed by the french architect Jean Nouvel as part of extension made to the museum in 2016 with furnishings especially created for the space designed by Paula Rosales.

*HOTEL: Hotel Villa Real, Madrid, 5**

Day 5. Thursday, September 12th

10:00 am - We visit Madrid through the eyes of an Architect and learn about its history from the rooftops of Gran Vía, finishing at the Fine Arts' Circle for an aperitif and lunch.

Siesta time.

5:00 pm - We take a short walk to Madrid's literary club the Ateneo where Suzanne will give us a piano recital and workshop with works from the Spanish contemporary composers: Albeniz, Granados and De Falla celebrating music that captures the sounds and spirit of various regions throughout the Iberian Peninsula.

We say farewell to Madrid by visiting the legendary Museo Chicote for pre-dinner cocktails and then on to one of Madrid's landmark contemporary restaurants. A late night secret to finish for those who want to stay up!

*HOTEL: Hotel Villa Real, Madrid, 5**

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Day 6. Friday, September 13th

10:00 am - We leave the bustling heartlands of the Metropole and head north and unwind as we cross the meseta and emerge in verdant Galicia. A picnic lunch on the train.

4:00 pm - We arrive in Vigo in the afternoon. Our driver takes us to the Parador de Baiona, a walled medieval fortress with spectacular views onto the Atlantic. Time to relax and enjoy the cliff-top pool. Our first chance to sample Galician fare with regional wines.

Dinner looking onto the Bay and view of the Cies Islands.

*HOTEL: Parador de Baiona, 4**

Day 7. Saturday, September 14th

10:00 am: Baiona marks the last stage of the Coastal Way of the Portuguese Camino. We take a short hike along the coast to experience a small portion of one of these legendary pilgrimages across Spain. We drive back to the hotel for lunch and time to relax before the evening.

7:00 pm - We take a 20-minute drive to Mougas, a small coastal town with a giant heart. Locals welcome us into the community centre for an evening you won't soon forget. We'll have a private concert featuring the gaita - Galicia's version of the bagpipe, followed by Galician specialities, wines, dancing and more music. We'll taste the "witches brew" and dance the Muñiera as the sun sets over the Atlantic.

*HOTEL: Parador de Baiona, 4**

Day 8. Sunday, September 15th

11:00 am - After a leisurely brunch, we drive to Santiago de Compostela for a quick refreshment stop before our guided tour.

1:00 pm - We are met by our guide in the Plaza de Obradoiro and gain insight into the stories and histories of this important place for both catholicism and pilgrims around the world. Whether it is a spiritual, intellectual or purely physical journey, Santiago de Compostela is an arrival and end point. We'll explore the cathedral and the old town of Santiago as we enjoy our last day together.

2:30 pm - Free time for a late lunch, a wander or a rest.

7:00 pm - We meet in the patio of the Parador for recital of Galician songs before a farewell dinner in our private dining room overlooking the Obradoiro square.

*HOTEL: Parador de Santiago de Compostela, 5**

Day 9 Monday, September 16th

Breakfast

Say our goodbyes, end of the tour.

End of tour

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September 8 - 16, 2024

Price per person: \$5690 / €5080 / 4390£

Single Room Supplement: \$1075 / €960 / 800£

Deposit: \$560 / €560 / 450£

Included:

- 5 nights at Hotel Villa Real, Madrid, 5*
- 2 nights at Parador de Baiona, 4*
- 1 night at Parador de Santiago de Compostela, 5*
- All transport by train & luxury coach
- Tour hosts
- Breakfast daily, 7 dinners, 4 lunches
- Visits & activities as specified
- All applicable taxes
- Not included: Airfare & flights, any meals not mentioned above, travel insurance, gratuities for guides.

To book your place please fill out this booking form:

<https://share.hsforms.com/1be9RvoD1THmfssVhJSkgJQ3zf5i>

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