

# Madrid and Paris

**ITINERARY NIGHTS:** Madrid (3), Night Train (1), Paris (3)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Madrid City Tour • Prado Museum • Toledo City Tour • Ávila City Tour • Segovia • Valley of the Fallen • El Escorial • Paris City Tour • the Louvre • Palace of Versailles • Bateau Mouche

**OPTIONS:** Flamenco Performance • Chartres Cathedral Tour



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**DAY 1** Board your flight to Madrid.

**DAY 2 MADRID** ¡Bienvenido a España! A TSA Tours representative will meet you at the airport and transfer your group to the hotel. Get acquainted with Spain's lively capital city this afternoon.

**DAY 3 MADRID** Your adventure begins on a **Madrid City Tour**. You'll see the Plaza de España, the statue of Cervantes, the Royal Palace, and Plaza Mayor. Later visit the magnificent **Prado Museum**. Don't miss seeing Goya's *Majas* and the *Three Graces* by Rubens.

**DAY 4 MADRID** Venture to the historical walled city of **Toledo**, where the influences of Christian, Jewish and Moorish cultures can still be seen in the architecture and the art of the city. See the masterpieces by El Greco in the **Cathedral**. Also see the Old Synagogue, the Church of Santo Tomé, the Royal Palace, and visit a **sword workshop**. The city is renowned for its damascene ware—black steel inlaid with gold, silver and copper thread. Near Toledo you will see the famous Castilian windmills immortalized in Miguel de Cervantes epic tale of

*Don Quixote*. **Option:** Attend a fun and fiery Flamenco Performance this evening.

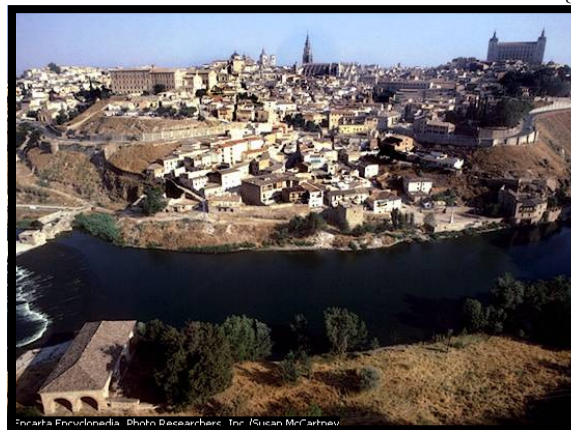
**DAY 5 NIGHT TRAIN** Journey into the ancient walled city of **Ávila** to visit the magnificent cathedral. Then

tour the historic Castilian city of **Segovia** and its Roman ruins, including an aqueduct built in the 1st century. Almost 2,000 years old, this amazing aqueduct is still in operation. Then see the *Valle de los Caídos*, the **Valley of the Fallen**. Located in the Guadarrama Mountains, this monument was built to honor those slain in the Spanish Civil War. Continue on to see **El Escorial**, site of the monastery of San Lorenzo el Real. Construction began in 1563 and the monastery was completed in just 21 years, an amazing feat considering that there are almost 1,200 doors and 2,600 windows! Then board your night train with comfortable couchettes, bound for Paris, France.

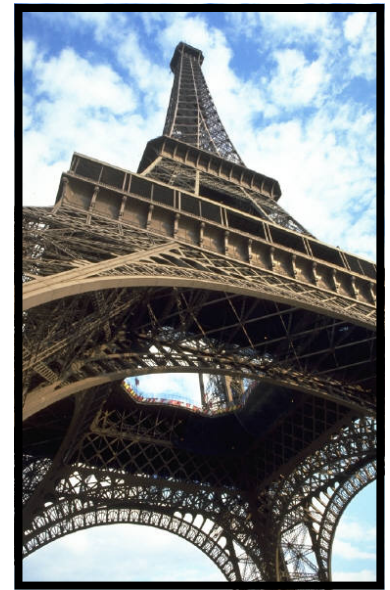
**DAY 6 PARIS** *Bon jour. Bienvenue à Paris!* On today's **Paris City Tour** you will see the magnificent Arc de Triomphe on the Champs-Élysées, the majestic Eiffel Tower, the Trocadero, Les Invalides, Palais du Luxembourg, the Pantheon and the historic Latin Quarter. Continue to the Ile de

la Cité to see the Conciergerie and the Palais de Justice, and visit the Gothic masterpiece, Notre Dame. Then on to the Jardin des Tuileries and the stunning Place de la Concorde with its 3,300 year old Obélisque from Luxor. Later, tour the **Louvre**. Originally constructed in 1200 as a fortress, the Louvre later served as the royal palace of monarchs such as Louis XIII and was a favorite haunt of Alexandre Dumas' *Musketeers*. Today it is the largest museum on earth. From I.M. Pei's modern pyramids to the ancient Egyptian sarcophaguses, the sheer magnitude of the Louvre is astounding. Highlights of the vast collection include Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, and the lovely *Venus de Milo*.

**DAY 7 PARIS** Discover more of this magical city on your own, or take advantage of the **optional** excursion to Chartres to view its fabulous Gothic cathedral. The cathedral's sublime architecture is surpassed only by the sensational stained glass windows which cover over 25,000 square feet and depict over 5,000 figures. The picturesque streets of Old Chartres evoke the bustling



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activity of a medieval city of merchants and craftsmen.

**DAY 8 PARIS** Travel to the glorious **Palace of Versailles**, home of Louis XIV. The Sun King remodeled this former hunting lodge into one of the most impressive buildings in the world. See the fabulous formal galleries like the Hall of Mirrors, where the Treaty of Versailles was signed, ending World War I. Then stroll through the splendid formal gardens with the famous Apollo fountain, and see Marie Antoinette's *Petit Hameau*. Tonight, enjoy a **Bateaux Mouches Cruise** on the Seine. View the monuments of France from a unique perspective as you take in the brilliance of Paris after nightfall. Sail past the Eiffel Tower, the Trocadero, the Grand Palais, the Petit Palais, the Palais du Tokyo, the Alexandre III Bridge, the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in Paris, and the Petit Pont, the smallest bridge in the city. Glide between the Ile de la Cité and the Ile St.-Louis, and be sure to make a wish under the Pont Marie.

**DAY 9 DEPART** Jet home with new knowledge about two cultures and wonderful memories of your adventures in Spain and France.

*For more information, please contact:*