

PROGRAM ITINERARY

October 3 Depart Nashville for Barcelona
Friday

October 4 Arrive in Barcelona, meet our guide and take a chartered coach to the hotel. Spend the afternoon experiencing the fantastic Modernist architecture of Barcelona's master builder, Antoni Gaudi. First, tour the towering **Sagrada Familia church**, then visit the **Casa Mila**, a splendid apartment building. Spend free time exploring other Modernist buildings in the area before returning to the hotel.

October 5 Take a walking tour of the **Barri Gotic** (Gothic Quarter), the oldest part of Barcelona, visiting the ornate **Barcelona Cathedral** and the **Picasso Museum**. End the day with a visit to the **Christopher Columbus Monument** followed by a stroll up the tree-lined boulevard known as **Las Ramblas**.

October 6 Depart Barcelona for a full-day excursion to historic **Carcassonne, France**. This city is an outstanding example of a medieval fortified town. Its massive walls encircle the castle, city buildings, and a fine Gothic cathedral. Take a walking tour of the city and its castle and cathedral. Explore the ancient streets, visiting the interesting shops. Spend the night in Carcassonne.

October 7 Depart Carcassonne for Zaragoza. Check into the hotel and then take a walking tour to see the sights around **Plaza del Pilar and Plaza a Seo**, including **La Seo Cathedral, Basilica de Nuestra Senora Del Pilar, the remains of the Roman walls**, and the **Mercado de Lanuza (the central market)**. Spend the night in Zaragoza.

October 8 Depart Zaragoza for Madrid. Take a coach tour to see Madrid's major sights and broad boulevards. Check into our hotel and go on a walking tour of the neighborhood.

October 9 Take a walking tour of old Madrid starting at **Puerta del Sol**, the busy square that marks the original eastern entrance to the city, proceeding through the splendid **Plaza Mayor** surrounded by beautiful buildings with arcades, and ending at the **Royal Palace** for a tour of one of the greatest palaces of Europe. End the day with a walk through **Campo del Moro**, a beautiful park near the Royal Palace.

October 10 Leave Barcelona for a full-day excursion to the historic city of Toledo. In the Middle Ages, Toledo was a melting pot of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish cultures which are reflected in the city's art and architecture. During the walking tour of the old city, visit the **Toledo Cathedral with El Greco's *The Denuding of Christ*** in its sacristy, the **Sinagoga del Transito**, a former 14th century synagogue with an elaborate Mudejar interior, the **Church of Santo Tome** with its El Greco masterpiece, *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, and the **El Greco House and Museum** containing an important collection of his works. In the afternoon, take time to enjoy the winding streets of old Toledo before returning to Madrid.

October 11 Spend the morning touring one of the world's great art museums, **the Prado**. This museum contains works by the Spanish masters such as Velazquez and Goya as well as works by El Greco, Rubens, Hieronymus Bosch, Caravaggio, and many others. In the afternoon, visit the **Reina Sofia**, Madrid's modern art museum, to view works by Salvador Dali, Miro, and Picasso. The most important work in the collection is Picasso's *Guernica* which protests the 1937 air attack on the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. End the day with a relaxing stroll the beautiful in **Retiro Gardens**, Madrid's most popular park.

October 12 Depart Madrid for the USA.
Sunday