

*Cultural Capitals of*

# Spain

MADRID & BARCELONA



ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM



**USASK  
ALUMNI**

May 27 – June 5, 2025  
Other dates available upon request

## **Dear Alumni, Family and Friends,**

Experience the culture-rich cities of Madrid and Barcelona on this marvelous, eight-night immersion in art, architecture, history and cuisine!

Begin in Madrid with an exploration of great Spanish artists. See works by Diego Velazquez, El Greco, Francisco de Goya and more during a private tour of the world-class Prado Museum. Then, visit the grand Royal Palace in Madrid to view opulent rooms, lavish decorations and an extensive collection of art. In UNESCO-inscribed Toledo, see historic sites, such as the magnificent Puerta de la Bisagra and the Gothic Cathedral. Cap off your visit with a viewing of an El Greco masterpiece painted around 1586.

In Barcelona, walk the Gothic quarter along medieval streets and bridges to see historic landmarks. Then, experience the surreal works of Antoni Gaudí, including the enchanting Parc Güell and the famous La Sagrada Família basilica. Plus, visit the extraordinary, Art Nouveau campus of Hospital of Sant Pau and choose from included, enriching excursions to Casa Amatller or the Jewish Quarter.

Along the way, learn to cook delicious, rustic Catalan dishes during a hands-on culinary class and enjoy independent exploration in both Madrid and Barcelona.

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers. Cultural Capitals of Spain is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, so guarantee your spot by making your reservation today!

Sincerely,



Dawn Warren  
USask Alumni Travel Program  
University of Saskatchewan Alumni Travel

Please contact AHI Travel at 1-800-323-7373 with questions regarding this tour. If you have questions regarding the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Travel Program or you no longer wish to receive Alumni Travel Program information, please contact USask Alumni at 1-800-699-1907 or local 306-966-5186 or email [alumni.office@usask.ca](mailto:alumni.office@usask.ca).

### **UNESCO World Heritage**

1. **Historic City of Toledo,**  
Toledo
2. **Works of Antoni Gaudí,**  
Barcelona
3. **Hospital de Sant Pau,**  
Barcelona



*Detail of mosaic ceiling,  
Hospital de Sant Pau*







# A World of Discovery



Immerse yourself in the cultural meccas of Madrid and Barcelona on this trip brimming with renowned art, medieval architecture, rich history and tantalizing Catalan cuisine! Admire amazing masterpieces by renowned Spanish artists, including Diego Velázquez and Francisco Goya. Explore Barcelona's Gothic quarter and Toledo's notable landmarks. Plus, experience Modernism up close with visits to see Antoni Gaudí's iconic works!

*Top: Parc Güell, Barcelona*

*Above: Velázquez statue at Prado Museum entrance, Madrid*

*Cover: La Sagrada Família, Barcelona*

*Mail panel: Plaza de Zocodover, Toledo | Plaza Mayor, Madrid*

## Inspiring Moments



- Relish a private tour of the masterpieces at **Madrid's Prado Museum**.
- Walk in the footsteps of Spanish royalty at the opulent **Royal Palace** in Madrid.
- Be awed by Toledo's artistic beauty and view an **El Greco masterpiece**.
- Stroll **Barcelona's Gothic quarter**, with remains of the city's Roman wall.
- Marvel at Antoni Gaudí's surreal, iconic architectural gems, including **Parc Güell** and **La Sagrada Família**.
- Visit the Art Nouveau campus of **Sant Pau Recinte Modernista** in Barcelona.
- Learn to make Catalan specialties in a hands-on **gastronomic experience**.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®



The Royal Palace and Almudena Cathedral, Madrid

### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Madrid, Spain. 🚗

### Day 2 | Madrid, Spain

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the Hotel Wellington & Spa Madrid.

**Enrichment:** *Contemporary Spain.*

This evening, enjoy a Welcome Reception at the hotel followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 3 | Madrid

**Madrid's Art & Architecture.** Set out on a panoramic tour of Madrid with a stop at the Plaza Mayor, the esplanade in the city center considered a symbol of Madrid. Then, relish a private visit to the acclaimed Prado Museum, holding pieces by prominent artists, including Velázquez, El Greco, Goya and Bosch.

Savor a group lunch at a local restaurant.

**Palacio Royal.** After lunch, visit the grand Royal Palace, the official residence of the Spanish royal family in Madrid and the location for state ceremonies and important events. Completed in 1764, the Baroque-style palace is one of the largest in Europe, with more than 3,400 rooms.

### Day 4 | Toledo | Madrid

**Toledo.** Tour this UNESCO-inscribed city to see notable sites, such as the magnificent Puerta de Bisagra and the Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca. Explore the vast interior of the Gothic Cathedral of Toledo, and then visit the Church of Santo Tome to view El Greco's enormous masterpiece, "The Burial of the Count of Orgaz," painted around 1586.

Enjoy a group lunch at the Parador de Toledo.

### Day 5 | Madrid

**Free Time:** Relish a full day to explore Madrid at leisure. Consider day trips to Segovia or Avila, or visit other renowned art museums in Madrid.

### Day 6 | Madrid | Barcelona

After an early breakfast, transfer 🚗 to the station to board your direct train to Barcelona. Arrive and enjoy some free time and lunch on your own before joining the walking tour.

**Barcelona's Gothic Quarter.** Take a guided tour of the labyrinth of narrow streets in the Barri Gòtic, old city, where medieval Barcelona flourished. Stroll Carrer del Bisbe, where the Neo-Gothic Bishop's Bridge, Ponte del Bisbe, connects government buildings. Also, see the Plaça de Sant Jaume, the current seat of local and regional government; the Plaça del Rei, the historic powerhouse of medieval Catalonia; the 13th-century Cathedral of Barcelona; and remnants of the city's Roman walls.

Check in to the Renaissance Barcelona Hotel and join your group later for dinner in the hotel.

Puerta de Bisagra, Toledo







Left: Barcelona Cathedral in the Gothic Quarter  
Above: Hospital de Sant Pau and Avinguda Gaudí leading to La Sagrada Família

## Day 7 | Barcelona

**Enrichment: Modernism & the Architecture of Gaudí.**

### Gaudí's Barcelona & Catalan Modernism.

Today, experience the UNESCO-inscribed, surreal works of Antoni Gaudí. The Spanish architect was a leading exponent of the Art Nouveau movement in Europe, characterized by intense ornamentation and organic lines. On a walking tour, visit Gaudí's playful Parc Güell to see architectural elements of colorful mosaics, organic shapes and imaginative structures, such as serpentine benches and the dragon stairway and fountain.

Savor lunch at Can Cortada, an atmospheric Catalan farmhouse restaurant.

### Hospital de Sant Pau & La Sagrada Família.

After lunch, visit the extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage site, the Art Nouveau campus of the former hospital, Sant Pau Recinte

Plaça Reial, Gothic Quarter, Barcelona



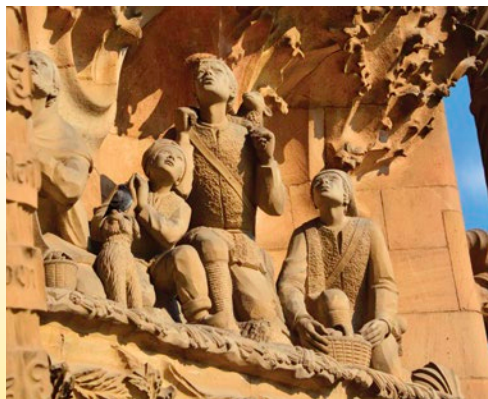
Modernista, Hospital de Sant Pau, regarded for its singular beauty and sensitivity to design. Finish the day with a walk along the Avinguda Gaudí, one of the city's most historic avenues, to see Gaudí's most famous work: La Sagrada Família. The still unfinished, magical, surprising and sometimes controversial basilica has become the symbol of Barcelona.

## Day 8 | Barcelona

**PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **Casa Amatller.** Walk the Passeig de Gràcia and take in prime examples of the Modernist movement in Barcelona before visiting Casa Amatller House Museum to discover the elements of Catalan Modernist architecture.
- **Barcelona's Jewish History.** Explore the history of the Catalan Jews with a walk through Barcelona's old Jewish Quarter. Visit Casa Adret, an enchanting 13th-century palace-house that is now a Jewish cultural and research center called Mozaika's Hub.

Detail, La Sagrada Família





## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 4 nights in Madrid, Spain, at the deluxe Hotel Wellington & Spa Madrid.
- 4 nights in Barcelona, Spain, at the first-class Renaissance Barcelona Hotel.

### Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All train and deluxe motor coaches transfers in the Land Program.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **PYJ | Personalize Your Journey |** A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

### **AHI Connects | Barcelona Cook & Taste.**

Join a cooking class, with lunch, and learn to prepare rustic, traditional Catalan dishes.

**Free Time:** Enjoy lunch and time at leisure.

#### Day 9 | In Transit



**Enrichment:** *The History of Catalonia & Barcelona.*

**Elective | Montserrat & Penedès Wine Region.** Travel to the monastery at Montserrat to admire the stunning views from atop the mountainside. Visit the Basilica, which houses the serene image of the Virgin of Montserrat, the patron saint of Catalonia. Continue to Penedès, Catalonia's premier wine producing region known for its reds, whites and famous Cava sparkling wine. Indulge in lunch and a wine tasting before returning to Barcelona.



**Free Time:** Or, opt out of the Elective Activity and enjoy the full day at leisure in Barcelona.


Share highlights of your trip during the Farewell Reception and Dinner this evening.


#### Day 10 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer  to the Barcelona airport for the return flight  to your gateway city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

 Flights and  transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

 PYJ experiences are included.

 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

#### Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

#### Excursions on this itinerary require:

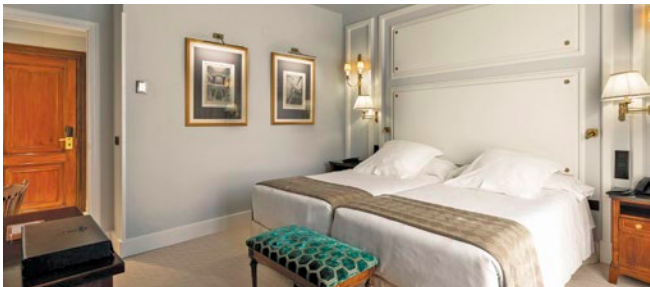
- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Cooking class, Barcelona



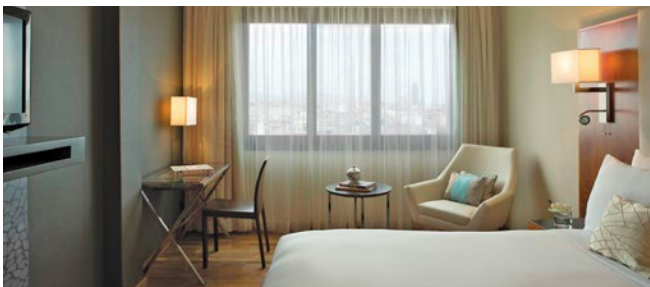
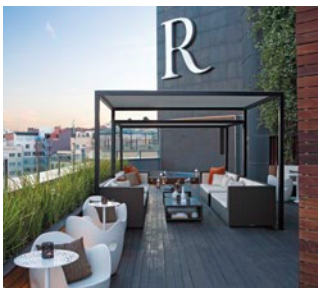


## Accommodations



### Hotel Wellington & Spa Madrid | Madrid ●●●●●

The Wellington Hotel & Spa is an elegant, historic hotel located in the heart of Madrid. Tastefully decorated rooms feature linen sheets and marble bathrooms, and there are six on-site restaurants and a luxurious lobby bar. Health and wellness facilities include a spa, steam, sauna, fitness room and pool.



### Renaissance Barcelona Hotel | Barcelona ●●●●●

The Renaissance Barcelona Hotel is ideally located in the city center within walking distance to iconic sites and upscale shopping and dining. With a sophisticated blend of Modernist, Gaudí-inspired design, it features a Mediterranean restaurant, a stylish rooftop bar with a view, and a spa and fitness center.

# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **800-323-7373** or  
visit **usask.ahitravel.com**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates †

**May 27 – June 5, 2025**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**May 28 – June 5, 2025**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

Full Price	\$5,140
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Special Savings	\$750
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<b>Early Booking Special Price*</b>	<b>\$4,390</b>
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\*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

VAT in the amount of \$395 per person is included in the above prices. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,395 (limited availability).

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://usask.ahitravel.com/destinations/1894A?schoold=225>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

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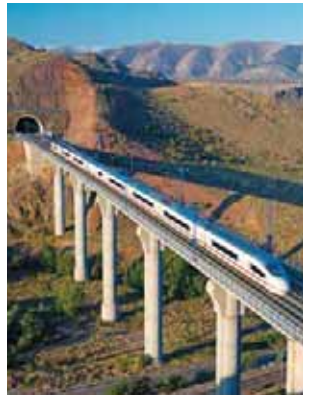
Cibeles Fountain, Madrid



Detail, Parc Güell



Passeig de Gràcia, Barcelona



High-speed train

## AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Bishop's Bridge, Gothic Quarter, Barcelona



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**Experience the cultural wonders of Madrid and Barcelona!**

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



**Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.**

