

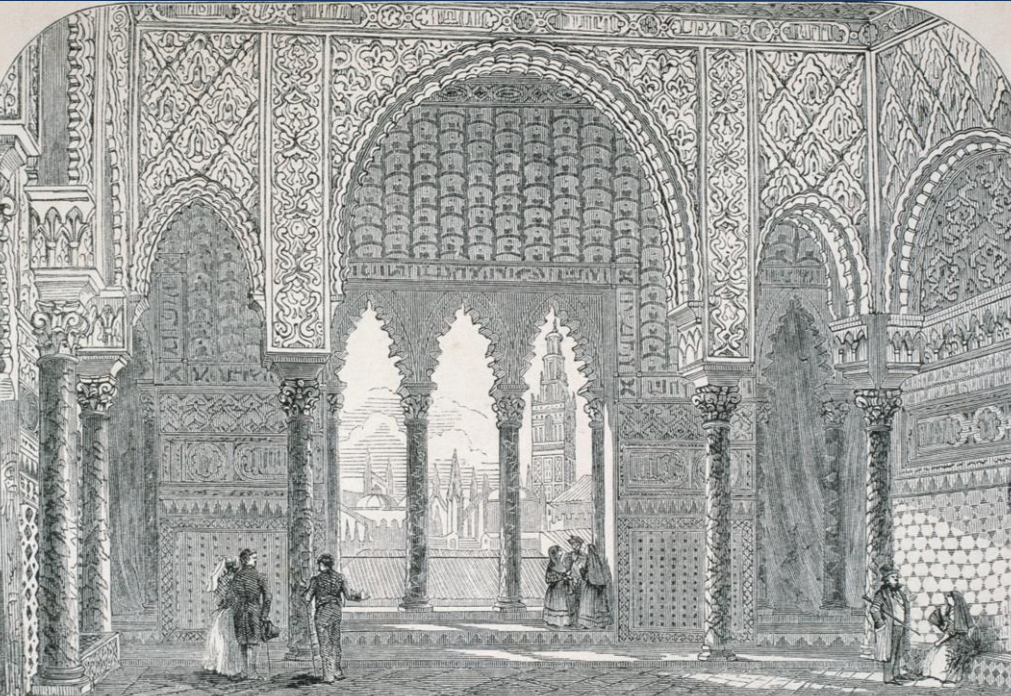
Massachusetts Historical Society

Founded 1791

SPAIN ANDALUSIA AND MADRID

*with Dennis Fiori, President, Massachusetts Historical Society
and Peter Lauritzen, Guest Lecturer*

October 24 – November 7, 2016



Spain: Andalusia and Madrid with Dennis Fiori and Peter Lauritzen October 24 – November 7, 2016

This fourteen day tour was specially planned by our Guest Lecturer to cover the principal highlights of Spanish history and art. Beginning in Seville, the most beautiful city of Andalusia, our visits introduce the legendary Moorish architecture and culture of southern Spain reflecting seven centuries of occupation by the forces of Islam. The Islamic conquest of Spain began in 711 with the invasion of the Berber chieftain Tarik who left his name in Gibraltar. Successive rulers created a Caliphate based on Cordoba whose great mosque, today the city's Christian Cathedral, reflects a power and influence, still legendary in the Muslim world. With the Christian conquest of Toledo another wave of Muslim invaders from Morocco came to occupy the Iberian Peninsula. They, in turn were replaced by more severely fundamentalist tribes whose great minaret still rises over what was once their great Mosque in Seville and today is the largest gothic cathedral in Europe and the burial place of San Fernando Rey, king of Castile whose conquest of Seville and capture of Cordoba opened the final chapter in the *Reconquista*, Spain's epic century's long struggle against Islam. The final Muslim redoubt became the mountain fast Kingdom of Granada whose exquisite Moorish palaces, pavilions and gardens still survive and whose ornate architecture inspired Christian kings of Spain to emulation in the magical Alcazar of Seville, even today the oldest Royal Palace still in use anywhere in Europe. The final act of the *Reconquista* unfolded in Granada with the capture in 1492 of the legendary Alhambra fortress, just above our cliff side luxury hotel, giving us a chance to explore, not only a magical and mysterious palace in the footsteps of Washington Irving, but to visit the tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella whose marriage created modern Spain and whose extraordinary foresight made Christopher Columbus their protégé. It was the great Boston historian, the partly blind William H. Prescott who wrote the history of their epoch-making reign before composing his classic accounts of the Conquests of Mexico and Peru. His papers reside at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The sacristy of the Chapel of the Kings in Granada contains the treasures of Flemish art collected by Queen Isabella that open the three centuries long history of Spanish royal patronage of the arts that we examine in Madrid's Prado Museum. But before our arrival in Madrid, we stay two nights in Salamanca, Ferdinand and Isabella's university city with its ornate buildings of exquisite golden stone. Nearby we find the amazing fortress walls of mediaeval Avila and we visit the fairy tale Alcazar of Segovia where Isabella was first proclaimed Queen of Castile. In Madrid we begin at the Prado with their grandson and great-grandson's patronage of Titian and the amassing of the strange masterpieces of Hieronymous Bosch, through Philip II's rejection of El Greco sending him to work for the archbishops of Toledo, Primate of Spain. His son, Philip III, was the distinguished patron of Rubens while Velazquez worked in turn exclusively for Philip IV who likewise collected works by Zurbaran and Murillo.

The successors of the Habsburgs, who had created El Escorial and made Madrid Spain's capital, built the Royal Palace of today's Spanish kings and brought Tiepolo and Mengs to decorate it while the last generation of the ancient regime were patrons of Goya's strange and exciting art. Excursions from our centrally located hotel in Madrid, bring us to visit Toledo and the masterpieces of El Greco and to La Granja to visit the royal mountain retreat of the first Bourbon king of Spain while El Escorial, both monastery, royal retreat and dynastic mausoleum, speaks of Philip II's overseas empire on which the sun never set and his devotion to the Church of Rome whose liturgies and processions are still a vital part of Spanish culture and art. Prescott would spend the last years of his life writing an unfinished account of the riches of Spain under Philip II. Our time in Spain will give us ample opportunity to digest this rich cultural history as well as to sample its traditional yet distinctive cuisine while visiting the palaces and houses of some of Spain's noblest historic families.

Program

(subject to amendment)

Monday, October 24

Leave the US for Madrid

SEVILLE

Tuesday, October 25

D

Arrive at Madrid-Barajas airport with connecting flight or train to **Seville**

Arrive Seville airport, transfer to The Hotel Alfonso XIII, C/San Fernando 2, 41004 Seville www.hotel-alfonsoxiii-seville.com for a three night stay

Drinks reception, with an introduction to the tour by our Guest Lecturer Peter Lauritzen

Walk to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Alcazar for a private night visit

Return to the hotel for dinner

SEVILLE

Wednesday, October 26

B, L

Return to the Alcazar on foot to visit the Royal Apartments and the magnificent gardens

Continue to the Cathedral, the largest Gothic church in the world

Walk through the Barrio Santa Cruz, with its beautiful patios of orange trees and winding cobbled streets

Visit Hospital de los Venerables and see the collection of paintings including works by Zurbaran, Murillo, and Velasquez

Lunch at Corral de Agua restaurant or similar

Take a horse carriage ride through the Maria Luisa Park, see the Plaza de España with its tile decoration representing the different regions in Spain

Return to the hotel

Evening reception at Casa Pilatos private home and foundation of the Duchess of Medinaceli

Dinner independently

SEVILLE

Thursday, October 27

B, L

Drive to the Basilica of La Macarena

Continue to the Museum de Bellas Artes for a visit to the interesting painting gallery with masterpieces by Pacheco, Murillo and Zurbaran housed in a 17th century convent

Walk to Restaurant Alabardero for lunch

Continue on foot to the Hospital de La Caridad, with its marvelous collection of paintings by Murillo, Leal and Roldán

Return to the hotel for the rest of the afternoon at leisure

Dinner independently

Leave by taxi for a Flamenco performance

SEVILLE

Friday, October 28

B, L, D

Leave Seville by coach (with luggage) and drive to Cordoba
En route stop at Medina al Zahra to see the Islamic gardens
Arrive in Cordoba at the Roman bridge, cross on foot to visit World Heritage monument the Mezquita, Great Mosque and Cathedral with its forest of columns and courtyard of orange trees
Lunch at restaurant El Churrasco
Continue by coach to the Alhambra Palace Hotel, Plaza Arquitecto Garcia de Paredes 1, 18009 Granada Spain www.h-alhambrapalace.es
Dinner at the hotel
Private night visit to the Alhambra (subject to confirmation)

GRANADA

Saturday, October 29

B, L,

Return to the Alhambra and visit the magnificent Generalife gardens which have undergone major restoration in recent years
Continue for the town center and visit the Cathedral with the tombs of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in the Royal Chapel
Continue, by coach, to the Albaicin quarter
Lunch at restaurant Mirador de Morayma
Continue to La Cartuja a Carthusian monastery, and fine example of Spanish Baroque architecture
Return to the hotel
Dinner independently

GRANADA

Sunday, October 30

B, D

Leave by coach (with luggage) for Granada Airport
Lunch time flight to Madrid-Barajas airport
Independent lunch
Drive to Avila to see the mediaeval walls surrounding the town
Visit the Church of San Vincente and continue by coach to Salamanca
Stay at the Hotel Palacio de Castellanos San Pablo, 58-64 , Salamanca for two nights www.nh-hotels.com/Palacio-Castellanos
Dinner in a restaurant

SALAMANCA

Monday, October 31

B, L

Leave on foot and visit the Cathedral Vieja, the University, Casa de Conchas, Clerecia and the Church of La Purisima
Private visit to the Palacio de Monterrey (subject to confirmation)
Lunch at restaurant Chez Victor, followed by coffee in the Plaza Mayor
Afternoon at leisure
Dinner independently

SALAMANCA

Tuesday, November 1

B, L, D

Drive to Segovia to visit the mediaeval Alcazar and the Cathedral
See the aqueduct followed by lunch at the Parador
Continue to La Granja de San Ildefonso to visit the Royal Palace including the Tapestry museum and the gardens
Continue to Madrid to stay at the Westin Palace www.westinpalacemadrid.com, Plaza de las Cortes, 7, Madrid for a six night stay
Dinner at Botin, Madrid's oldest restaurant

MADRID

Wednesday, November 2

B, L

Walk to the Prado to see the Flemish and Italian collections
Drive out of the city to the Royal Seat of San Lorenzo de El Escorial
Lunch on arrival
Visit the Monastery
Return to the hotel for the rest of the afternoon at leisure
Drinks reception at a private home of an Ambassador to see their Old Masters drawing collection (subject to confirmation)
Dinner independently

MADRID

Thursday, November 3

B, L

Drive to Toledo to visit the masterpieces of El Greco in the Hospice of Sta Cruz,
Continue to the Cathedral including the Treasury and Sacristy (including El Greco masterpieces Despolio & Apostolados)
Walk to the Church of San Tomé to see El Greco's Burial of Count Orgaz
Continue to San Juan de los Reyes
Lunch privately at the Palacio de Galiana (by kind arrangement)
Return to Madrid
Return to the hotel for the rest of the afternoon at leisure
Dinner independently

MADRID

Friday, November 4

B, L

Visit the Royal Palace of Madrid
Lunch at Café del Oriente
Visit the Royal Chapel of St. Antonio de la Florida to see the frescoes by Goya portraying the miracles of Saint Anthony of Padua
Continue to the Collection of Dukes of Alba at Palacio Liria (subject to confirmation, by kind arrangement with the Foundation of Casa de Alba)
Return to the hotel for time at leisure
Dinner independently

MADRID

Saturday, November 5

B, L

Return to the Prado to see the Spanish masterpieces

Lunch at the Ritz

Visit the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza

Return to the hotel for time at leisure

Dinner independently

MADRID

Sunday, November 6

B, L, D

Visit the Museum of Decorative Arts

Continue to the Lazaro Galdiano collection and the House of Sorolla

Lunch in a restaurant

Visit the Reina Sofia Museum

Return to the hotel for time at leisure

Dinner at a private home by special arrangement

MADRID

Monday November 7

B

Depart for Madrid airport by private coach or transfer

The Ultimate Travel Company - Tour Conditions

The tour has been designed for the members of the Massachusetts Historical Society by Specialtours at The Ultimate Travel Company. The cost of \$ 10,990 per person in double occupancy and \$ 1,590 supplement for single occupancy is based on a minimum of 15 persons and includes:

Accommodation in the Hotel Alfonso X111 (3 nights), The Alhambra Palace, Granada (2 nights), the Hotel Palacio de Castellanos San Pablo, Salamanca (2 nights), and the Westin Palace, Madrid (6 nights). Transportation by coach, throughout the tour including arrival and departure transfers. Meals: breakfast, 12 lunches and 5 dinners with wine, water and coffee. Entrances to museums and galleries including guiding. Portage at the hotels, taxes and gratuities, and a Specialtours / Ultimate Travel Company Tour Manager.

The cost does not include: Flights from USA to Seville and Madrid to the USA, any meals indicated independent, personal extras and a tax deductible donation of \$500 per person. Checks, made payable to the Massachusetts Historical Society, should be sent to the Development Department of the Society by January 18, 2016.

Deposit and Payment: A **non-refundable deposit** of \$750 per person is required by January 8, 2016. The balance is required by August 25, 2016.

Passport: All clients are personally responsible for ensuring that they have a valid passport. Please check that the passport is valid 3 months beyond the tour starting date of October 25, 2016.

Cancellation: You may cancel your tour at any time, provided that the cancellation is made by the person who signed the booking form and is communicated in writing. As this incurs administration costs, we will retain the deposit and in addition will apply cancellation charges as follows: More than 60 days, the deposit; more than 45 days, 50%; more than 25 days, 75%; 24 days or less, 100%. Cancellation insurance is strongly advised.

Liability: We do not exclude or limit any liability to our clients which may arise from proven negligence by any person employed directly by us or by our suppliers and subcontractors, servants or agents of the same whilst acting in the course of their employment (other than air and sea carriers performing any domestic internal or international carriage of whatever kind) in respect of death, bodily injury or illness. Such liabilities shall be subject to English law and all proceedings shall be within the exclusive domain of the English courts. We shall endeavor to afford general assistance to our clients in the event of illness, injury or death during the period of the tour. We accept responsibility for ensuring that all parts of the tour are supplied as described and that all services shall reach a reasonable standard. These obligations and responsibilities shall be limited to where international conventions in respect of air or sea carriers apply. Naturally we cannot assume responsibility for loss or expense due to war, riots, strikes, terrorist activities or natural disaster.

Alterations by Specialtours (The Ultimate Travel Limited): We will do our utmost to provide the tour arrangements that have been confirmed, but we must retain the right to modify or cancel any tour, flight schedule, accommodation or arrangement should unforeseen circumstances amounting to 'force majeure' arise. In such circumstance we will inform you as soon as possible, and, should the change be such that it alters the nature of the tour, we will give you the choice of an alternative tour or a full refund of all monies paid. In recognition we will absorb all financial loss, except personal expenditure, consequent upon cancellation due to 'force majeure'. We shall not cancel any tour for reason of political tension or natural disaster unless specifically recommended to do so by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office or the US Department of State.

Tour Cancellation: The price of a tour is based on a varying minimum number of passengers travelling. If the minimum number is not reached, at least 8 weeks prior to the scheduled departure date we will either cancel the tour and offer a full refund, or we may propose a supplementary charge which, subject to passengers agreement, will enable the tour to operate.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend you take out adequate travel insurance. Particular care should be taken to ensure you have adequate cover, in particular for trip cancellation and medical emergency repatriation. In the event that you do **not** have travel insurance, you understand that by signing the registration form with **The Ultimate Travel Company**, you will not under any circumstances hold them responsible for any personal expenditure that would have been covered by a normal fully inclusive Travel Insurance Policy.

Fitness to travel: Whilst we do not impose any age limitations on joining a tour, participants must be reasonably fit. The very nature of the sightseeing involved in our tours (and the difficulties of direct access by coach in various places) means that a considerable amount of walking and standing is unavoidable on almost all tours. We regret that our tours are not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking, may require wheelchair assistance at any time, or are unable to keep pace with the group. If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a tour, please make this known to us before you book and we will advise you accordingly. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason. **Baggage & Personal Effects:** These remain your responsibility and risk at all times.

Air Travel: Air fare from the USA to Seville and from Madrid to the USA is not included in the tour price. Flights can be arranged through your preferred local Travel Agent. Please do not commit to non-refundable travel arrangements until you have been notified by The Ultimate Travel Company that the tour has been confirmed.

Spain: Andalusia and Madrid

October 24 – November 7, 2016 - BOOKING FORM:

TOUR COST: \$10,990 per person in a double room (based on a minimum of 15 persons).
\$1,590 supplement for a double room for single occupancy.
\$500 per person tax-deductible contribution sent directly to the Massachusetts
Historical Society
(Once both payments have been received your reservation will be processed)

Name/s:

Address:
.....

Email:

Telephone

Rooming request: ☐ King/Queen ☐ Twin (2 separate beds)
☐ Double room for single occupancy

Travel Insurance: Yes, I have insurance with.....

Policy no.....

Or No, ☐ I do not have travel insurance (see tour conditions)

The booking conditions regarding the holiday have been read and accepted by me on behalf of all persons named on this booking form by whom I am duly authorized to make this agreement.

Signature:..... **Date:**

To confirm your reservation, please remit the sum of \$ 750 (one person) or \$ 1500 (two persons) to: The Ultimate Travel Company Limited, and return this form by fax, post or email to: Verity Smith: The Ultimate Travel Company, 25 - 27 Vanston Place, London SW6 1AZ, UK
Fax: 01144 207 386 8652 Tel: 01144 207 386 4642 Email: verity@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

Payment can be made by **bank transfer** or **credit card** (VISA or MasterCard). USD checks are not accepted.

Please debit \$ to MasterCard / VISA

Credit Card No: ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ **Expiry date:** __ / __

Card Holder Signature:..... **Date:**.....

OR by Bank Transfer to: The Ultimate Travel Company Limited,
Account Number: SIGFUL USD 1 (00256572)
Royal Bank of Scotland plc. (Drummonds Branch)
49 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DX
Swift Code / BIC: RBOS GB 2L
IBAN Code: GB87 RBOS 1663 0000 256572
Ref: MHS / S132

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