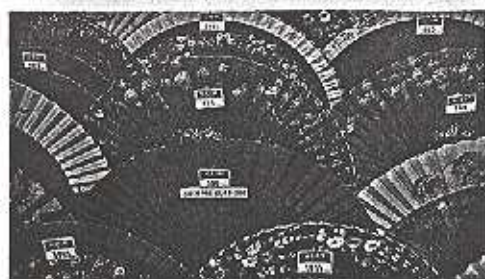


Paris and Madrid

Spain • France

Extension to England



Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 6 overnight stays (9 with extension) in hotels with private bathrooms; plus 1 night couchette accommodation
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- 4 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides (6 with extension)
- 8 visits to special attractions (10 with extension)
- 2 EF walking tours (3 with extension)

Highlights: Prado; Palacio Real; Toledo Cathedral; Church of Santo Tomé; Eiffel Tower; Champs-Élysées; Louvre; Notre Dame Cathedral; Versailles

With extension: St. Paul's Cathedral; Hampton Court

Optional: Flamenco Evening; El Escorial, Valley of the Fallen and Segovia; Chartres and the Loire Valley



Learn before you go
www.ef-tours.com/pbsfrance
www.ef-tours.com/pbsspain



Parisian cabaret Au Lapin Agile was named for the building's painting of an agile rabbit.

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Spain • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Madrid

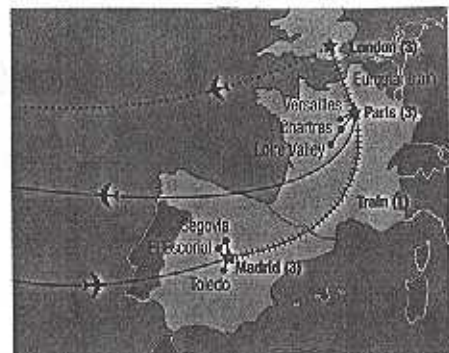
Arrival in Madrid • Touch down in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital. After clearing customs you are greeted by your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

EF walking tour of Madrid • Meet at the Puerta del Sol for our EF walking tour of Madrid. Here Madrileños once battled Napoleon. Walk through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to public executions.

Visit to the Prado • You'll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with many works that once belonged to the Spanish monarchy. Look for the self-portrait of Velázquez in *Las Meninas*, marvel at how scandalous Goya's *Naked Maja* must have been for 18th-century Spain and keep an eye out for the unflattering but true-to-life portraits that Goya painted for the royal court.

Day 3 Madrid

Guided sightseeing of Madrid • Your local guide introduces you to the sights of Madrid on a panoramic tour of the city. Continue with a visit to the extravagant Palacio Real (Royal Palace), built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 extravagant rooms, including one encased in porcelain. Marvel at the splendor of the marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible collection of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.



Number of overnight stays in parentheses.

Optional Flamenco Evening • Encounter the drama, rhythm and heartbeat of Spain at an optional Flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, Flamenco dance is a passionate blend of intricate heelwork and clapping, accompanied by songs and guitar.

Day 4 Madrid

Optional excursion to El Escorial, the Valley of the Fallen and Segovia • Journey into the Castilian countryside. First stop is the enormous and lavish palace of El Escorial, known to Spaniards as "the eighth wonder of the world." Built by a thankful Philip II after defeating the French in 1557, this royal city houses the tombs of 23 of Spain's monarchs, including Philip's father, Charles V. This enormous Renaissance palace consists of 16 courtyards, 2,673 windows, 1,250 doors, 86 staircases and 88 fountains. Then visit the *Valle de los Caídos* (Valley of the Fallen), a spectacular mountain basilica commemorating the thousands who died in the Spanish Civil War. Here, with the Guadarrama Mountains serving as a backdrop, Franco lies buried. It's then on to the beautiful medieval city of Segovia, where Isabella was declared queen in 1474. Tour the 14th-century Alcázar fortress, where Christopher Columbus made out his will. See, too, the town's golden cathedral and Roman aqueduct; daring from the first century, it was used until 1983. (Lunch is included.)

Free time in Madrid • Alternatively, you'll have free time to become better acquainted with Madrid on your own. You might wish to visit museums, view the city's many monuments and churches, walk through outdoor plazas or sample *tapas* at a café.

Day 5 Toledo • Night Train

Guided excursion to Toledo • Embark on a journey to the former Spanish capital of Toledo, where Muslims, Jews and Christians once peacefully coexisted. Notice the influence of all three cultures as you tour the 12th-century St. Mary's Synagogue. Designed to be a mosque, but then used as a synagogue, it was finally converted into a church. You'll also visit the cathedral that dominates Toledo's skyline before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomé. Here you'll view *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz* (The Burial of Count Orgaz), one of El Greco's supreme achievements. Then, make a final stop at a local damascene workshop. Damascene is an intricate Muslim craft originated in Damascus and made famous in Toledo.

Overnight train to Paris • Board an overnight train bound for Paris.

Day 6 Night Train • Paris

Morning arrival in Paris • Arrive this morning in Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light.

EF walking tour of Paris • Join our walking tour of the chic Opéra district and the haute couture boutiques of Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré. Stroll

through Place de la Concorde, the city's largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. The next Louis was not so lucky—he was beheaded here during the Revolution, along with Marie Antoinette. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to Place Vendôme, a vast square wrapped in 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. (The exact walking route may vary depending on your hotel location and other activities.)

Visit to the Louvre • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You'll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as paintings by European masters, including the *Mona Lisa*.

Day 7 Paris

Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine: from the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, to the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to Lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral • Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to her former glory. Hugo's novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1831), helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings. Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804.

Guided visit to Versailles • Step back into *le grand siècle* as you experience the opulence of Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Built to be the envy of all Europe, France's most extravagant chateau continually threatened to bankrupt the national treasury. Here the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. Stroll through the elegantly landscaped gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre. You'll also tour the State Apartments of the King himself and walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors, where France, Spain and England officially recognized the independence of the United States in 1783, and where the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI, was signed. You'll also witness the ornate decor of the Queen's State Apartments, furnished for Marie Antoinette. (Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace.) On Mondays and other

Felipe III sits astride his stallion as the centerpiece of Plaza Mayor.



days when Versailles is closed you'll instead take in the regal splendor of Château de Fontainebleau, a 12th-century royal residence that was a favored hunting palace for Napoleon and other rulers of France.

Day 8 Paris

Optional excursion to the Loire Valley • Journey through the French countryside to the magnificent Loire Valley, Playground of the Kings. Our first stop is Chartres, home to Europe's grandest Gothic cathedral (13th century) and the world's finest stained-glass windows. Then visit the spectacular Château de Chenonceau on the banks of the River Cher, an architecturally breathtaking estate with a romantic history. Finally, stop at Chambord, the largest of all the Loire Valley châteaux. Here many of Molière's plays were performed for the first time.

Free time in Paris • Or, enjoy free time for your own explorations of Paris. You might wish to visit the Musée d'Orsay, the Picasso Museum or the futuristic exhibits of the Pompidou Centre. Other possibilities are a visit to the Sacré-Coeur, where you can watch artists at work in the streets of Montmartre below or a stroll through the Latin Quarter. Or simply observe the timeless Parisian tradition of people-watching over a cup of *café au lait* at a sidewalk café.

Day 9 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 9 Paris • London

Transfer via the Eurostar from Paris to London • In Paris, board the high-speed Eurostar, an 18-car train that runs through the tunnel connecting continental Europe with Britain. Completed in May of 1994, the Channel Tunnel provides travelers with easy access to and from the continent. Enjoy state-of-the-art technology as you glide under the English Channel to England.

Arrival in London • Welcome to London, Europe's largest city.

Day 10 London

EF walking tour of London • Stroll through the heart of London on our EF walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. These shallow waters gave the city its name, which derives from *Llyn-Dyn*, Celtic for "city of the lake." Walk along the Strand and see the spot from which all distances to London are measured. Enter Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson's Column, a symbol of Britain's once unrivaled naval power. Continue on to Leicester Square, where duelists once fought to the death. Then saunter through London's tiny Chinatown. Your walk ends at chic Covent Garden, where street performers ("*bushes*") amuse the lively crowds. (The exact walking route may vary, depending on your hotel location and the day's other activities.)

Guided sightseeing of London • Your guided tour takes you past the major landmarks of England's regal capital. Snap a photo of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Pass Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Hyde Park, the "lungs of London." If the Royal Standard flag at Buckingham Palace is flown at full mast, the queen is in residence. On your tour through the City of London, the metropolis' one-square-mile historic center, you'll learn about London's Great Fire of 1666 and visit St. Paul's Cathedral.

Day 11 London

Guided visit to Hampton Court • In 1514 Cardinal Wolsey built Hampton Court, a splendid Renaissance palace of grandeur unprecedented in England. In fact, it was so grand that King Henry VIII deemed it too opulent for a cardinal and appropriated the estate for himself. As you walk amidst the booming echoes of the medieval Great Hall, listen for the voices of former residents—many people consider this to be Britain's most haunted house. The palace's renowned Astronomical Clock shows the hour, day, month, phase of the moon and time of high tide at London Bridge. Hampton Court boasts one of the best outdoor mazes ever designed. Try to find your way to the middle of the hedgerow labyrinth—and out again.

Day 12 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

Discover the Global Classroom

