

Proposed Itinerary Crafted Especially For

St. Gregory the Great Parish

Choir Pilgrimage

Patrick Godon, Director of Music

"Best of Spain"

10 days Journey

March 13 – 22, 2015

Madrid  Toledo  El Escorial  Avila  Zaragoza  Barcelona

INCLUSIONS:

- Airlines: Round-trip economy class airfare via Iberia Airlines: Chicago/Madrid-Barcelona/Chicago.
- U.S. Departure tax; Customs user fee; security tax and all airport departure taxes.
- Meeting and assistance upon departure from Chicago O'Hare International Airport.
- **Accommodation:** Eight (8) nights accommodations in twin-rooms with private facilities in first-class hotels throughout.
- Meals: Buffet breakfast daily plus six (6) dinners including a farewell dinner in Barcelona.
- **Coach Transportation:** Local modern deluxe motorcoach transportation, upon arrival and available for the entire tour.
- **Tour Management:** One full-time, multi-lingual Tour Manager will be on each motorcoach throughout the entire tour, including arrival and departure transfers. Peter's Way Manager and Overseas office staff are easily available 24 hours daily to render assistance whenever needed.
- **Excursions:** All sightseeing, conducted by licensed, professional, English-speaking guides as outlined in the day-by-day Tour itinerary.
- Entrance fees to all sights, as per itinerary included.
- Portage of one piece of luggage, per person, at hotels throughout.
- **Performance Arrangements:** Coordination of all venues.
- **Tour brochures:** Special promotional brochures of your choir journey printed free for distribution by you.
- Peter's Way travel documents, travel wallet, luggage tags, name badge and backpack.
- **Liability Insurance:** Three million dollar Peter's Way Tours Inc. Liability Insurance coverage.
- **Upon group materialization, schedule a special presentation by Peter's Way Tours** for all of your prospective participants, both choir and pilgrims, explaining the details of your tour.

EXCLUSIONS:

- Health, trip cancellation/interruption or baggage insurance. All are strongly recommended. Peter's Way offers a comprehensive policy at additional cost. Passport & visa costs, if any.
- **U.S. Passports must be valid for at least three (3) months subsequent to return date.**
- Gratuities to the tour manager/guide and driver.
- Items of a personal nature (hotel extras, laundry, phone calls, etc.).
- Meals not specified in the program.

A Special Invitation to friends and families of the

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We are holding confirmed 90 seats via Iberia Airlines from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport:

Departure City	Arrival City	Airline/Flight	Departure Date/Time	Arrival Date/Time
Chicago ORD	Madrid MAD	Iberia Airlines #6274	March 13 - 4:40 pm	March 14 - 7:40 am
Barcelona BCN	Madrid MAD	Iberia Airlines #2723	March 22 - 8:40 am	March 22 - 10:10 am
Madrid MAD	Chicago ORD	Iberia Airlines #6275	March 22 - 11:40 am	March 22 - 2:00 pm

Please note: Flight itinerary subject to change without notice.

- I T I N E R A R Y -

Day 1, March 13, Friday: Depart USA

Afternoon: Depart Chicago O'Hare International Airport on our overseas journey when the Iberia Airlines jet lifts into the evening sky on our overnight flight to Madrid.
 Complimentary meals and beverage will be served aloft. (D,B)

Day 2, March 14, Saturday: Arrive Madrid

Morning: Arrive at Madrid International Airport and proceed through Passport Control, claim our luggage, and our Peter's Way Tour Manager/guide will meet us upon our exit from Customs. Board our bus and soon, we will be on our way to Madrid. As our Madrid hotel rooms are unlikely to be ready, we will be taken on an orientation tour of Madrid's most outstanding attractions, like the Puerta del Sol, the magnificent fountains of Neptune and Cibeles, the stately Alcala Gate, the busy Gran Via, the Plaza de Espana. Independent lunch.

Afternoon: Check-in at hotel at hotel Ganivet. Balance of the day is at leisure.
 Evening: Buffet dinner and overnight at the hotel in Madrid. (D)



Day 3, March 15, Sunday: Prado Museum & the Royal Palace - Evening/Mass at the Basilica of St. Miguel, following by concert

Morning: Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Begin our day with a visit to the Prado Museum, justly famous as one of the world's richest for its spectacular collection of paintings including the incomparable works of El Greco, Velázquez, Murillo, Goya and others. And don't forget that, thanks to the extraordinary taste and acquisitiveness of Charles V, Philip II, and Philip IV, the Prado is also rich in the works of Italian and Flemish masters - Titian, Raphael, Botticelli, Fra Angelico, Veronese, Tintoretto, Rubens, Van Dyck and Breughel, and a fine collection of Bosch Paintings. Continue on to visit the Royal Palace, built for Spain's royalty in the 18th century. *(The Royal Palace can be closed unexpectedly for official celebration).* King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sophia continue to use it today for many state functions. The surrounding area is one of the most beautiful palatial complexes in all Europe and includes the Plaza de Oriente, the Sabatini Gardens and the Campo del Moro. Independent lunch.



Afternoon: Return to the hotel to freshen-up.

Evening: Early evening, **we will be transferred to the Basilica of San Miguel, a surprising 18th century construction, typically Italian Baroque in style, with a convex front embellished with statues.**

6:00pm. - 6:30pm. Rehearsal:

7:00pm. Sung Mass by St. Gregory the Great Parish Choir, followed by 30minute concert presentation.

Evening: Buffet dinner and overnight at the hotel in Madrid. (B,D)

Day 4, March 16, Monday: AM/At leisure - PM/Excursion to visit Toledo

Morning: Leisurely buffet breakfast at hotel.

Morning at leisure.

Afternoon: 1:30pm. Leave on our excursion to visit Toledo. Toledo is like a living national monument, depicting all the elements of Spanish civilization in hand-carved, sun-mellowed stone. Set on a hill overlooking the Tagus River, this ancient city is a fascinating architectural blend of Christian and Moorish elements, especially rich in buildings of the late 15th and 16th centuries. Upon arrival we visit the Jewish Quarter. Without a doubt, it is the eastern part of the Jewish Quarter that attracts most tourists. Visit Santa Maria La Blanca Synagogue, and the Iglesia de Santo Tomé church, where one of El Greco's most famous paintings resides, "El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz" (The Burial of the Count of Orgaz). Continue to visit the 13th century Cathedral. Somber but elaborate, it is blazing with jeweled chalices, gorgeous ecclesiastical vestments, hundreds of historic tapestries, 750 stained-glass windows and art by Tintoretto, Titian, Murillo, El Greco, Velasquez and Goya. Taking the Travesía de los Descalzos, we reach the Plaza del Conde where the Fuensalida Palace



is located, view the Palace on the outside. Built by the first Fuensalida Count, Don Pedro López de Ayala, it is today the seat of the Regional Government. Pass by the Paseo de San Cristóbal Boulevard.

Evening: **7:30 pm. Sung Mass, by St. Gregory the Great Parish Choir at Santo Tomás Church in Toledo.** Independent dinner.

Evening: Overnight at the hotel in Madrid. (B)

Day 5, March 17, Tuesday: Excursion to El Escorial & Avila

Morning: Buffet breakfast at hotel.

This morning leave Madrid to visit the world famous El Escorial Monastery dating from the 16th century, more properly, San Lorenzo del Escorial, the burial place of Spanish kings and queens. Philip II, as a memorial, built this monastery to his father, Charles V. A vast rectangular building, it was conceived and executed with a monotonous magnificence. The Church itself is in the shape of a Greek cross, and contains a famous cross, created by Benvenuto Cellini. **We also visit the Centro Integrado de Musica (20 minute recital is requested).** Independent lunch.



Afternoon: After lunch, we continue to Avila, City of Kings and of Saints, completely encircled by 11th Century walls. The city walls are the symbolical emblem of the city. They contribute to the defining image of the warring and monastic center that Avila was and has been able to maintain throughout the years. It constitutes a unique symbol that encloses within its walls mysticism and history, art and heroic chivalry. This is the birthplace of St. Teresa, one of the greatest mystics and Doctor of the Church. Upon arrival, we visit St. Vincent's Church. Erected in the 11th century in honor of its martyr, it is one of the monumental complexes of Avila. Continue to visit the Cathedral, which contains many of relics of St. Teresa; We also visit the crypt of the Convento of La Santa, built on the site of the house where she was born and home to the most comprehensive museum dedicated to her life. Continue on to visit the convent of La Encarnación where St. Teresa became a Carmelite, including the Chapel of Transverberation, meaning "Stigmata of the Heart".



Evening: Early evening, continue to Sigüenza to check-in at the Parador Castle. Dinner and overnight at the Parador de Sigüenza. (B,D)

Day 6, March 18, Wednesday: Sigüenza - Zaragoza - Evening/Concert Presentation

Morning: Buffet breakfast at hotel.

This morning, leave for Zaragoza. Arrive Zaragoza in time for the **10:45am. Scheduled Mass, sung by St. Gregory the Great Parish Choir.** After Mass, we visit the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillars, one of the most visited pilgrimage spots in the entire country, because Our Lady visited Zaragoza before her Assumption into Heaven. Tradition holds that Our Lady, while still alive, appeared to St. James at the Ebro River to encourage him in his evangelization. As a sign of her protection, Mary left him the pillar with her statue. The pillar, which still emits an extraordinary



fragrance, can be venerated in the church. Its cupola boasts murals painted by Goya, and the church museum houses a large collection of religious art.

Independent lunch.

Afternoon: Check-in at hotel in Zaragoza. Freshen-up.

Late afternoon, we will be transferred to the village of Alfajarín to visit the Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel (Iglesia parroquial de San Miquel Arcangel). Possible evening Mass and concert presented by St. Gregory the Great Parish Choir.

Evening: Dinner at a restaurant in the village of Alfajarín.

Overnight at the hotel in Zaragoza.

(B,D)

Day 7, March 19, Thursday: Zaragoza - Montserrat - Barcelona

Morning: Buffet breakfast at hotel.

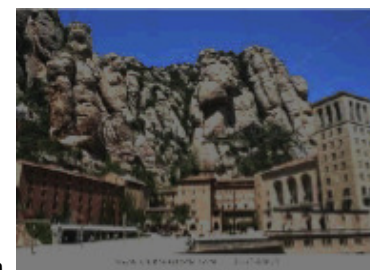
This morning, we leave Zaragoza for Barcelona. En-route we stop to visit the Benedictine Abbey of Montserrat. At 11:00 am. Arrive at Monistrol and take the "Caremalera train" to visit Montserrat Monastery. For over a thousand years pilgrims from everywhere in Europe have made their way to the Benedictine Shrine of the Cherished Black Madonna, said to have been carved by St. Luke. Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat and the Benedictine Monastery standing 2,379 feet above sea level, surrounded by jagged peaks and massive rock formations that present a fantastic primeval appearance.

At 1:00pm. Witness the Escolania boy choir singing the Virolai (hymn dedicated to the Virgin of Montserrat). While in Montserrat, St. Gregory will present few selection dedicated to Our Lady of Montserrat.

Late afternoon, leave Montserrat to Barcelona for hotel check-in.

Evening: Dinner and overnight at hotel in Barcelona.

(B,D)



Day 8, March 20, Friday: Parc Guell & Barcelona Highlights - Afternoon Panoramic Cruise on the Mediterranean Sea

Morning: Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Begin our day with a visit to Parc Güell. The intention was to build a garden city of 60 dwellings to demonstrate Gaudi's ideas on town planning. The architect's death reduced the project to the construction of two houses, a few covered walks, a long seat and the park entrance, which includes a mosaic made from everyday materials in brilliant colors. Continue on to visit to Montjuich Hill, the site of the 1992 Olympics, and enjoy a spectacular view of Barcelona and its port area.

Continue to the Gothic Quarter to visit the magnificent Cathedral, the Church of Santa Maria del Mar, and the exterior of the Palau de la Generalitat, the Town Hall, the small streets that lead to the Plaza Real, Avenue Paseo de Garcia, and Las Ramblas. Independent lunch.

Afternoon: **This afternoon, we will be transferred to Barcelona Pier for one-hour panoramic cruise on the Mediterranean.**



Balance of the day is at leisure.
 Independent dinner.
 Evening: Overnight at hotel in Barcelona. (B)

Day 9, March 21, Saturday: AM/At Leisure in Barcelona - PM/La Sagrada Familia and Sung Vigil Mass at the Cathedral in Barcelona

Morning: Leisurely buffet breakfast at hotel.

Morning at leisure.

Afternoon: Early afternoon, we visit the art deco works of native Antonio Gaudi (1852 - 1926), Sagrada Familia (Church of the Holy Family). Due to Gaudi's untimely death, the Church on which he had first started to work in 1884 was left incomplete in 1926. The design was begun in conventional Neo-Gothic. He completed the crypt, the famous Nativity facade with its four tall spires and the porch laden with naturalistic sculpture. The work was restarted in 1940, however, at a great disadvantage. Gaudi had left no plans and no one was able to imitate his free interpretation of Gothic motifs. The Church has become a symbolic monument for Barcelona, visited by more people than any other site. **(20**



minutes recital at Sagrada Familia, presented by St. Gregory the Great Parish Choir.

Then, we continue to the magnificent Cathedral of Barcelona (Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia).

4:00pm - 5:00pm (rehearsal)

Evening: **7:00pm: Sung vigil Mass by St. Gregory the Great Church Choir at the Cathedral, followed by 30 minute concert.**

Farewell dinner this evening will be held at a local restaurant.

Overnight at the hotel in Barcelona. (B,D)



Day 10, March 22, Sunday: Return to the USA

Morning: After breakfast, we will be transferred to Barcelona Airport for our return flight to the USA.

