



Art in Madrid

The Great Galleries

10–14 March 2027 (MN 291)

5 days

Lecturer: Dr Akemi Luisa Herráez
Vossbrink

Includes a private visit to the Prado, plus the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection and the Reina Sofia, home to Picasso's *Guernica*.

Lesser-known places include the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and the Lázaro Galdiano Museum.

Also visit the recently opened Galería de las Colecciones Reales, showcasing the finest works from Spain's royal collections.

While the Museo del Prado alone might justify a visit to Madrid – and this tour has two sessions there, including a private out-of-hours visit – the city has other excellent collections that reinforce its reputation as one of the great art centres of Europe.

This city of Velázquez and Goya has been enormously enhanced over the years by the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection and the Reina Sofia Museum. Both these and the Prado boast superb facilities and exhibiting spaces thanks to the work of architects Jean Nouvel (Reina Sofia), Manuel Baquero and Francesc Plá (Thyssen) and Rafael Moneo (Prado) converting them into world-class galleries. Our stints at the 'big three' are interspersed with less-visited collections.

The great Spanish painters – including El Greco, Murillo, Velázquez, Goya and Picasso – are of course magnificently represented on the tour, but the collecting mania of the Habsburgs and Bourbons and their subjects has resulted in a wide range of artistic riches which will surprise and delight. There is a large number of outstanding paintings by Titian and Rubens, for example, and the Prado has by far the largest holding of the bizarre creations of Hieronymus Bosch.

Itinerary

Day 1. Fly at c. 9.15am from London Heathrow to Madrid (Iberia Airlines). Begin at the recently-refurbished Sorolla museum, in the charming house of the eponymous Impressionist painter. Settle into the hotel before dinner.



Madrid, San Francisco El Grande, 20th-century watercolour.

Day 2. Begin with a visit to the Royal Collections Gallery, a major new museum in Madrid with works by El Greco, Caravaggio, Goya, Titian and Bosch. Then visit the church of San Antonio de la Florida, with fine Goya frescoes. In the afternoon we make our first visit to the Prado Museum, which is among the world's greatest art galleries, concentrating on the Spanish school.

Day 3. Return to the Prado for a private out-of-hours visit, this time primarily to see the Italian and Netherlandish schools. Continue to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, housed in the 18th-century Palacio de Villahermosa, one of the world's largest private art collections until its purchase by the Spanish state in 1993. The Museo de América has an impressive collection of pre-Columbian and colonial artworks and archaeological artefacts from the Americas.

Day 4. Morning visits to the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and the Lázaro Galdiano Museum, with works by Goya, Zurbarán, Ribera, Murillo, and El Greco. The afternoon is free with time to catch temporary exhibitions or a visit to the 18th-century Royal Palace.

Day 5. Walk via Herzog & de Meuron's CaixaForum to the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, one of the greatest modern art museums and home to Picasso's *Guernica*, plus works by Miró, Dalí and Tàpies. Fly to London Heathrow, arriving c. 6.15pm.

Art in Madrid
continued

Lecturer

Dr Akemi Luisa Herráez Vossbrink. Art Historian who has worked on both Spanish and viceregal Latin American art during her academic and professional career. In 2021 she completed her doctoral thesis on the Spanish painter Francisco de Zurbarán and his reception in the Americas. She has published on this topic in articles and exhibition catalogues. She has worked at several English and American museums including The J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles), The National Gallery (London), The Meadows Museum (Dallas) and The Wallace Collection (London).

Practicalities

Included: private coach for transfers and excursions; accommodation as described below; breakfasts and 3 dinners with wine or beer, soft drinks, water, coffee or tea; all admissions; all tips for waiters and drivers; all taxes; the services of the lecturer and tour manager.

Accommodation. NH Collection Palacio de Tepa, Madrid (nh-collection.com): a small and excellently located 5-star hotel. Rooms are comfortable and décor is contemporary. *Single rooms are doubles for sole use.*

How strenuous? The tour involves a lot of walking and standing in museums (which can be more tiring than moving around). A good level of fitness is essential. You will be on your feet for lengthy stretches of time.

Group size: between 9 and 19 participants.