



***College Study Tours***

# **20th- and 21st-Century Art and Culture**

Designed by Dr. Kayla Walker Edin | 16 days | May 2019





## College Study Tours

# 20th- and 21st-Century Art and Culture

### Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; Full-time Tour Director;  
Air-conditioned motorcoaches and internal transportation;  
Superior tourist-class hotels with private bathrooms; Breakfast  
daily.

#### Sightseeing:

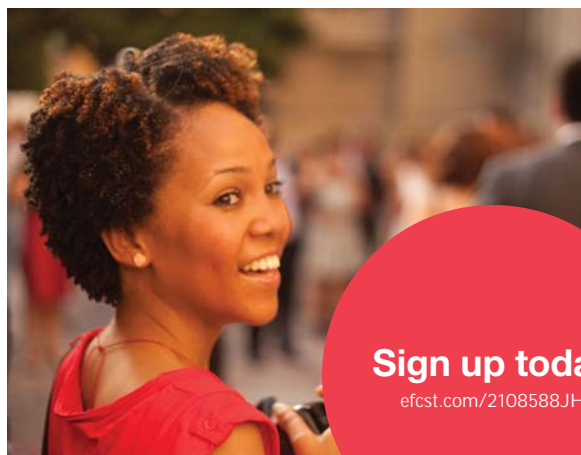
Madrid  
Toledo  
Barcelona  
Florence  
Assisi  
Ancient Rome  
The Vatican  
Delphi  
Athens

#### Academic visits and entrances:

Prado Museum; Royal Palace, Madrid; Cathedral, Toledo;  
Santo Tome & Synagogue, Toledo; Park Guell;  
Sagrada Familia; Picasso Museum, Barcelona;  
Flamenco evening, Barcelona; Duomo, Florence;  
Uffizi, Florence; Accademia, Florence;  
Cooking Lesson, Florence; Basilica, Assisi; Colosseum;  
Colosseum underground; Roman Forum; Vatican;  
Sistine Chapel; Delphi Site & Archaeological Museum;  
Acropolis

#### Overnight stays:

Madrid, (3)  
Barcelona, (2)  
Florence, (3)  
Rome, (3)  
Delphi, (1)  
Athens, (2)



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## Your itinerary

### Day 1: Board your overnight flight to Madrid!

### Day 2: Madrid

#### Arrive in Madrid

At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital, a Mecca for art-lovers, the world-stage for bullfighting and home to the world's most famous soccer team! The city was elevated to capital status in 1561 at the instigation of Phillip II, and the lavishly opulent Palacio Real, built in 1738, is now an uninhabited but fascinating monument to Spain's much-revered monarchy.

#### Walking tour of Madrid

Meet in Puerta del Sol at the statue of the bear and the strawberry tree; Madrid's emblem, which stands just meters from the site of kilometer zero from where all distances in Spain are measured. Puerta del Sol acts as the hub for demonstrations and New Year's Eve celebrations. In the nearby 17th-century Plaza Mayor you can imagine the duels, hangings, festivities, bullfights and theater this space has staged.

#### Visit the Prado Museum

Explore the Museo del Prado which houses an astonishing 3,000 paintings collected by Spanish royalty. This massive building is constantly expanding in order to accommodate its impressive catalogue of Velazquez and Goya. It also boasts fine pieces by El Greco, Botticelli and many Flemish artists.

#### Dinner is included this evening.

Overnight in Madrid

### 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.

#### Free time in Madrid

Enjoy 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.

Overnight in Madrid

### Day 4: Madrid

#### Half-day 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 in Madrid

### Day 5: Madrid | Barcelona

#### Travel by train to Barcelona

Board Spain's high-speed train, dubbed the AVE-Alta Velocidad Española. The first AVE train was inaugurated in 1992 with the completion of the Madrid-Sevilla line. The train will reach a maximum speed of more than 180 miles per hour before arriving in Barcelona, your destination for the evening.

#### Arrive in Barcelona

Follow the long sandy beaches along the low-rise Costa Brava towards Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city. As the capital of fiercely nationalistic Cataluña, Barcelona was the hotbed of resistance under the rule of General Franco and celebrates its unique identity through its language, its increasingly influential government, and on the global stage as host to the unforgettable 1992 Olympic Games.

#### Walking tour of Barcelona

Absorb the colorful and dynamic atmosphere of Barcelona during your walking tour down Las Ramblas; a mile-long tree-lined pedestrian boulevard which runs from the pulsating Plaza de Catalunya down to the towering monument of Christopher Columbus pointing out to sea. Flower stalls, mime artists, puppeteers, diners and waiters all vie for your attention. You will also see the thrice-burned-down Gran Teatro de Liceu, the nostalgic Café de l'Opera, and still have a chance to savor the splendid La Boqueria food market.

#### Visit the Picasso Museum

Visit one of Barcelona's most popular museums which occupies five former medieval palaces in a secluded area on the edge of the Gothic quarter. The buildings were converted, in part, by Picasso to house some 2,500 of his paintings, engravings, and drawings. It now stands as the most significant collection of his work in Spain and includes some of his most formative work from 1895 to 1904. *(Please note that due to the size of this museum reservations can be difficult. If the group is unable to go to the museum an interactive workshop will be booked instead for the students to learn about Picasso's work)*

#### Tapas dinner is included this evening.

Overnight in Barcelona

### Day 6: Barcelona

#### Guided sightseeing of Barcelona

Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still unfinished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family). This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You'll also stroll the narrow lanes of the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city. Continue on to Gaudí's masterpiece, the fantasyland of Parc Guell, complete with a bright mosaic lizard fountain and the longest bench in the world. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place.

#### Guided visit of La Sagrada Familia

Enter into this amazing skeleton of a cathedral. Gaudí began this church in 1882, and it remains unfinished. Construction still continues and completion is slated for the mid-21st century, yet no one knows if the finished product will be what Gaudí intended. Take your time to explore this bizarre masterpiece by wandering around the base, marveling at the enormous statues of saints or climbing one of the many towers for a spectacular view of the city.

### Free time in Barcelona

Explore the Mediterranean charm of Barcelona. You might choose to ride the funicular to take the cable car across the water to the old maritime district of Barceloneta, or on the same theme you could visit the excellent Museu Maritim, housed in the royal shipyards and also the largest civilian gothic building in the world. There is an excellent aquarium in the revitalized old port, while the beautiful Palau de la Musica Catalana offers an exquisite architectural insight into Barcelona's passion for the musical arts.

### Flamenco evening

The name itself evokes the emotions and traditions of Spain. Flamenco is a unique art form combining guitar playing, singing, chanting, dancing, heelwork and handclapping. (Keep in mind that the guitar is a Spanish invention, dating back to the 1500's.) There are two main types of song: one lively and cheerful (cante chico) and the other sad and haunting (cante jondo). *(A soft drink is included.)*

Overnight in Barcelona

## Day 7: Barcelona | Florence

### Fly to Florence

Set deep in the heart of Tuscany is one of Italy's jewels. The city of Florence has delighted visitors for centuries with its remarkable architecture. Whether sitting by the River Arno, strolling the beautifully housed streets or viewing the Renaissance masterpieces that fill the city's churches and museums, one can only be astonished by the feeling of true beauty.

### Guided sightseeing of Florence

Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided tour. See Giotto's Bell Tower and the imposing marble cathedral in the Piazza del Duomo. Stand before Ghiberti's legendary *Gates of Paradise* (so dubbed by Michelangelo), and pass the classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria. Here you can see where Michelangelo's *David* originally stood.

### Visit the Duomo

Visit the Duomo, which was commissioned in 1296 by the city's fathers. Arnolfo di Cambio was given the assignment to erect a cathedral "with the most high and sumptuous magnificence" so that it would be "impossible to make it either better or more beautiful with the industry and power of man." The Duomo was not completed until 122 years later in 1418 after Filippo Brunelleschi developed the idea of double-shelled construction to build the Cathedral's dome.

### Dinner is included this evening.

Overnight in Florence

## Day 8: Florence

### Guided visit to the Uffizi

Originally created as offices (uffizi) for Cosimo de Medici, the building became a gallery in the 17th century. Today it houses one of the finest collections of Renaissance work anywhere in the world. The three-sided gallery is a treasure-chest of pieces in a perfectly-lit opulent setting, truly a gallery of special taste.

### Guided visit to the Accademia

This simple building, located on Via Ricasoli, houses one of the world's true masterpieces in Michelangelo's statue of *David*. Elsewhere, you can see unfinished works by the great artist along with other Renaissance treasures. Make sure to visit the 'workroom' and learn more of the skills required to bring images out of marble.

### Florence cooking lesson and dinner

Get true hands-on experience with Tuscan cuisine as you are trained in the art by a local chef. Learn to make traditional antipastos, a primo piatto, a secondo piatto, and a dessert. Be sure to take notes as you learn the tricks of the trade before dining on sumptuous creations!

Overnight in Florence

## Day 9: Florence

### Free time in Florence

You might take a moment to soak in the cobblestone birthplace of the Renaissance with a cup of cappuccino in one of the small cafes throughout the city. Maybe you would prefer to peruse the luxurious shops of the Ponte Vecchio, or take a stroll up through the Boboli Gardens to Forte di Belvedere, where you might chance on a sculpture exhibition as you take in the spectacular panorama of Florence.

Overnight in Florence

## Day 10: Florence | Rome

### Travel via Assisi to Rome

As you head south into Umbria you will pass the city of Perugia. Shortly afterwards stop in Assisi, birthplace of both St. Francis and St. Clare.

### Guided sightseeing of Assisi

A local guide shows you the city, nestled between Mount Subasio and fields of olive groves, which draws millions of tourists every year with its religious significance and some of Italy's finest early Renaissance art. At the Basilica of St. Francis, follow the life of one of Italy's most beloved saints through Giotto's artful frescoes.

### Dinner is included this evening.

Overnight in Rome

## Day 11: Rome

### Guided sightseeing of ancient Rome

Your guided sightseeing of Rome takes you into the ancient Roman Forum, once the heart of the Roman Empire. Originally built by Julius Caesar as an answer to the overcrowding in the older forums, it was "discovered" during Mussolini's reign when he ordered that the Via dei Fori Imperiali be created to link the Colosseum and the Piazza Venezia. Next, visit the Colosseum, where gladiators once battled for their lives in front of 50,000 spectators. Then, you will have the unique opportunity to stand where gladiators once stood by going underneath the Colosseum itself *(pending confirmation)*.



### Free time in Rome

Take an opportunity to sit on the grassy banks of the Circus Maximus and imagine what it was like to watch chariot races there. Rome also has some of the most fashionable shops to be found anywhere; a trip along the Via del Corso confirms this. If not, just find a café, order a soda and watch the noise and bustle of this fascinating city go by.

Overnight in Rome

### Day 12: Rome

#### Guided sightseeing of the Vatican

The world's largest dome is located in the world's smallest country. See both as you tour St. Peter's Basilica, erected in Vatican City on the site where the saint was martyred. Enter the basilica under the watchful eyes of the brightly dressed Swiss Guard. Inside, admire Michelangelo's *Pietà* and try to find the artist's signature (it is the only sculpture he ever signed). Then continue on to the Vatican Museum, where elaborate galleries packed with one artistic masterpiece after another lead you directly to the Sistine Chapel. Between 1508 and 1512, Michelangelo painted some of the world's finest pictorial images on the Chapel's ceiling. This was his first attempt at working in fresco, which he did by standing up and craning backwards from a scaffold.

#### Explore the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona

Enjoy time in Piazza di Spagna. Climb the staircase to view the city below, or take the time to wander through one of Rome's most popular shopping areas. Alternatively, snag a moment to relax amongst the hustle and bustle of the city while enjoying a traditional Italian treat- gelato. You should also make sure to wander over to the famed Trevi Fountain and toss in a coin to ensure your return to Rome.

Overnight in Rome

### Day 13: Rome | Delphi

#### Fly to Athens and transfer to Delphi

On the slopes of Mount Parnassus lies Delphi, home of the mystical Oracle. For centuries, ancient Greeks would communicate with the gods here, seeking advice and answers at this magical site where the heavens and the earth were said to meet. Delphi was considered not only the center of worship for the god Apollo, but also the center of the world.

Overnight in Delphi

### Day 14: Delphi | Athens

#### Guided sightseeing of Delphi

As you tour Delphi, ponder the mysteries of what lies in your future, as did Greece's ancient military leaders, who left gifts for the Oracle in hopes of good fortune in battle. Then visit the Temple of Apollo where, according to legend, the gods communicated with mortals. Your visit concludes with a stop at the Delphi Museum, whose collection boasts many artifacts dating back to 550 B.C., reminiscent of the mythical past of ancient Greece.

### Return to Athens

Nestled among mountains on the Attic plain, Athens is the Cradle of Democracy and birthplace of Western civilization. A modern city with a strong connection to its ancient history, Athens has been a center of culture, politics, and history for thousands of years. The great philosopher Socrates lived here, offering to fellow Athenians his views on virtue and knowledge.

### Dinner is included this evening.

Overnight in Athens

### Day 15: Athens

#### Guided sightseeing of Athens

An expert local guide introduces you to the antiquities of Athens. Climb the Acropolis to view the majestic Parthenon, perhaps the world's greatest architectural feat. See the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess (her wings were clipped to keep her from ever deserting the city). Athens is named after Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom. After seeing the Presidential Guard in their traditional costumes, pass the stadium, where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896, as well as lively Omonia and Syntagma Squares.

Overnight in Athens

### Day 16: Depart for home

#### Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at <http://www.efcst.com/bc>.**



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