# THE METROPOLITAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL PROGRAMS

Sandra Baskin, Choral Director Scott Stickley, Orchestral Director Anthea Jackson, Executive Director

# A Grand Tour to Spain Granada International Festival of Music and Dance

## July 6-19, 2016

## MADRID | SEGOVIA | MEDINA | TOLEDO | GRANADA SALOBREÑA | MALAGA | VALENCIA | BUÑOL | BARCELONA

#### <u>NOTE</u>

This custom tour to Spain for MYO is planned by GrandTours. All times printed in the itinerary are approximate and subject to final confirmation by your professional tour managers: *Nacho Piqueras, Rocío Pérez and Cristina Herrero*. The order of sightseeing outlined in this tour booklet can and will change due to traffic & weather, as well as changes in the sightseeing, rehearsal and concert schedule. Always be aware of the location for meeting the group, as well as exact times for sightseeing and musical activities as communicated by your guides. Shadow tour timings will at at times differ slightly and your tour manager will announce those to you. The tour manager will also assist with concert attendance and admission/seating for the group.

We will be using three deluxe 50-passenger motor coaches from *Elite Touring* throughout the entire tour. Two coaches will be used for MYO musicians and staff. The third coach will be for non-performing shadow tour travelers. Get to know your tour manager and driver as they are excellent professional resources while you are visiting Spain. Please take any personal belongings as well as trash with you when leaving the bus at the end of each day. During the day, your belongings are secure on the coach. Upon arrival at each listed hotel, you may wish to obtain a local city-map and highlight the location of the hotel. A complete list of hotels with contact information is contained in this tour booklet and we recommend you keep it with you while touring. This information may be helpful if you need to return to the hotel on foot or by local transportation.

#### **AIRLINE BAGGAGE AND FEES**

American and Iberia Airlines allow one checked piece of luggage—up to 50 lb. and 62 linear inches (L+W+H). We recommend taking no more than 40 lb. to save room for souvenirs you may wish to purchase during the tour. You can also bring one carry-on piece—up to 45 linear inches and 22 lb. We recommend choosing a carry-on bag the size of a school backpack. Musical instruments that can fit in the overhead bin or under your seat should be taken on-board as personal items. A maximum of two pieces are allowed in the aircraft cabin. Due to limited space on the motor coach, it is essential that you pack efficiently and save space for any souvenirs you wish to buy in Spain. Review current luggage information at <a href="http://www.aa.com">www.aa.com</a> and <a href="http://www.aa.com">www.iberia.com</a>

#### **MEALS**

A buffet breakfast and group dinner are included in the tour program each day. Lunches and additional snacks/beverages will be at your own expense. Serving times listed in this tour booklet are approximate and your guides will confirm this daily. One meal each day will be at your own expense. At the included group meals, table-water will be included free-of-charge and it is safe to drink. Bottled water, soft-drinks, coffee, and tea will be at your own expense and you will need to settle the bill with the waiter before you leave the table. Vegetarian, vegan, lactose-free and gluten-free meals can be requested in advance and your guide will assist you at group meals. Please advise your tour guide of any special dietary needs.

#### **OUTBOUND FLIGHT SCHEDULES**

<u>80 Passengers</u> July 6, 2016	AA 94	New York-JFK/Madrid	7:00 pm / 8:30 am (July 7)
<u>18 Passengers</u> July 6, 2016	IB 6252	New York-JFK/Madrid	8:55 pm / 10:10 am (July 7)

<u>7 Passengers</u> Land-Only (No group air)

Departure for American Airlines is from Terminal 8 at New York—JFK. Departure for Iberia Airlines is from Terminal 7 at New York—JFK. You can get current flight & gate information at <u>www.aa.com</u> or <u>www.iberia.com</u>

#### **American Airlines Passengers** 4:00 pm Suggested arrival time at Terminal 8 of New York-JFK International Airport. MYO staff will meet passengers and assist with check-in at the AA check-in area. You are traveling on E-tickets and will need to show your valid signed passport at check-in. Receive your boarding pass to Madrid and then continue through the T.S.A. security station making your way to the departure gate. 7:00 pm AA 94 departs non-stop from New York-JFK overnight to Madrid. Enjoy complimentary beverages, dinner, and snacks during the flight. You will also have inflight entertainment on your transatlantic flight. **Iberia Airlines Passengers** Suggested arrival time at Terminal 7 of New York-JFK International Airport. MYO staff will meet passengers and 6:00 pm assist with check-in at the Iberia check-in area. You are traveling on E-tickets and will need to show your valid signed passport at check-in. Receive your boarding pass to Madrid and then continue through the T.S.A. security station making your way to the departure gate. 8:55 pm IB 6252 departs non-stop from New York-JFK overnight to Madrid. Enjoy complimentary beverages, dinner, and snacks during the flight. You will also have inflight entertainment on your transatlantic flight. THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016 ARRIVAL | MADRID DAY 2 AA 94 arrives in Madrid at Terminal 4-S. Collect your luggage and instruments. Meet your Spanish tour 8:30 am managers: Nacho Piqueras, Rocío Pérez (MYO and Staff) and Cristina Herrero (Shadow Tour) just outside of the customs Nothing to Declare exit. Take time to use the restrooms before loading the waiting motor coaches. Once ready, the AA group will depart from the airport for the center of exciting Madrid. Have time for lunch in the city-center. Afterwards, begin a panoramic sightseeing tour to see some of the Madrid landmarks such as the Royal Palace, Plaza Espana, El Retiro Park, Puerta del Sol, and Las Ventas Bull Ring. Charles III of Spain, who reigned from 1759-88, believed that Madrid should boast the same amenities as Europe's other fine capitals. He then set out building wonderful museums including the Prado, and other attractions, attempting to make this city an equal to cities like Rome, Paris, and London. 10:10 am IB 6252 arrives in Madrid at Terminal 4-S and passengers will follow the same arrival structure as outlined above before checking into the hotel. Note: If you are a land-only passenger you will need to meet our group in the arrivals hall at the Madrid Airport. Both American and Iberia Airlines will arrive at Terminal 4-S. Look for our guides holding MYO signs. You are welcome to use our included group airport transfers if they align with your air schedule. If not, you will need to transfer by taxi to the hotel at your own expense. 3:00 pm AA passengers arrive at the NH Collection Eurobuilding hotel for check-in. Take time to get settled and freshen up. There is an ATM machine just outside of the hotel if you need to get Euros using a debit/credit card. Iberia Airlines passengers arrive at the hotel for check-in. Take time to get settled into your rooms. 4:30 pm 7:30 pm Welcome group buffet dinner in the restaurant at the hotel. 9:30 pm Time to get some much needed rest after a busy first day in Spain! Hotel: NH Collection Eurobuilding www.nh-collection.com Meals: Inflight/D DAY 3 FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2016 MADRID 7:00 am Breakfast begins serving at the hotel. It is not necessary to all dine at the same time. 9:00 am MYO musicians depart for a morning rehearsal at the Centro Cultural Sanchinarro (Sala Polivalente - Multiusos). The shadow tour guide will announce the departure time from the hotel separately. Rental instruments will be delivered to the venue. You will need music stands for the rehearsal. Rehearsal concludes with time to store instruments. 11:30 am Load the coaches and travel into the city-center for lunch. Noon Local guides will facilitate a sightseeing tour of Madrid. See the Royal Palace and Cathedral. Take a guided tour 1:30 pm

**DEPART NEW YORK-JFK** 

European art.

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2016

of the El Prado Museum as part of today's activities. El Prado features one of the world's finest collections of

7:00 pm	Return to the hotel with time to relax and store your belongings.		
8:30 pm	Depart from the hotel by motor coach for dinner.		
9:30 pm	Tapas dinner and Flamenco show at Restaurant Las Carboneras.		
ТВА	Return to the hotel following the show.		
	Meals: B/D		
DAY 4	SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2016 SEGOVIA   MEDINA   MADRID		
7:00 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel. Bring instruments and concert performance attire with you today.		
9:00 am	Travel out of Madrid to visit beautiful Segovia.		
10:30 am	Explore the town with your guides seeing both the Alcazar and Roman Aqueduct.		
12:30 pm	Time for lunch in Segovia. There are many cafes and restaurants in the pedestrian-only town center.		
2:00 pm	Continue to the small town of Medina de Rioseco.		
3:30 pm	Arrive at the concert venue where you take time to set up and rehearse.		
	Rental instruments will be delivered to the venue. MYO members and staff will facilitate set-up. We will use a professional Roland keyboard with amplifier for this concert and you will need your own folding music stands for this performance.		
5:30 pm	Walk to a group dinner at <i>Santa Maria Restaurant</i> in Medina de Rioseco. Walk back to the concert venue to change for your performance. <i>Changing facilities are available at the concert venue</i> .		
8:30 pm	Concert by MYO in the San Francisco Church & Museum of Medina de Rioseco.		
TBA	Return to Madrid following the concert.		
	Meals: B/D		
DAY 5	SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2016 MADRID   TOLEDO   GRANADA		
7:00 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel. Bring luggage and instruments to the coach for loading.		
10:00 am	Depart from the hotel for Toledo. The city is about 1-hour south of Madrid.		
11:00 am	Arrive in Toledo and with a panoramic view from above the town. Situated on the bend in the Tagus River, the city overlooks the arid plains of New Castile. See the ancient craft of sword making and enjoy the maze of narrow streets, art galleries and shops.		
Noon	Time for lunch in small groups near Plaza Zocodover of Toledo. Do some exploring in small groups.		
2:00 pm	Meet at the Cathedral of Toledo, one of the three 13th century Gothic cathedrals in Spain. You can enter the Cathedral any time after 2:00 pm on Sundays.		
3:30 pm	Depart from Toledo to Granada. The journey is 368 km and will take about 4.5 hours with a rest stop en route. This is a great time to catch up on your rest.		
8:00 pm	Arrive in Granada and check-in at the Carmen Hotel.		
8:30 pm	Group buffet dinner in the hotel restaurant.		
	Hotel: Carmen <u>www.hotelcarmen.com</u> Meals: B/D		
DAY 6	MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016 GRANADA		
7:30 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel.		
	This morning we have staggered entrances for a locally guided tour of the Alhambra Palace, the mighty 13th-century citadel planned by the Moorish ruler Al Ahamar, and one of the most striking works of architecture in Spain. Your guides and MYO staff will facilitate dividing the group for each entrance.		
8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	53 passengers 27 passengers 25 passengers		
TBA	After the tour, return to the hotel with time to get lunch and rest before your rehearsal and evening concert.		
3:00 pm	Buses depart from the hotel to the concert venue. Rental instruments will be delivered to the venue. MYO members and staff will facilitate set-up. Music stands and a grand piano will be available for this performance.		

3:30 pm	Rehearse in the Manuel de Falla Concert Hall for your performance.		
5:30 pm	Buses depart for the hotel following the rehearsal.		
6:00 pm	Take time to relax and then dress for your concert performance.		
7:00 pm	Pre-concert buffet dinner at the hotel.		
8:00 pm	Depart from the hotel for the concert dressed for your performance with instruments. The shadow tour manager will facilitate tickets for this event.		
9:00 pm	Concert by MYO as part of the FEX LXV Festival Internacional de Musica y Danza De Granada at the Centro Culturale's, Manuel de Falla Concert Hall.		
	Meals: B/D		
DAY 7	TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016 SALOBREÑA   GRANADA		
7:00 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel.		
9:30 am	Begin a guided walking tour of Granada's Old Town.		
Noon	Get lunch on your own in the Albayzin; the old Arab Quarter. It comprises approximately the area between the hill of the Alhambra, the hill of San Cristobal, the Sacromonte and Elvira.		
3:00 pm	Return to the hotel and prepare for evening musical activities.		
4:00 pm	Coaches depart from the hotel to Salobreña, the jewel of the Costa Tropical. Salobreña is a whitewashed hill-town clinging to cliffs along the shore of the Mediterranean. It is topped by a Moorish castle and surrounded by lush sugar cane plantations. Bring instruments and performance attire. Rental instruments will be delivered to the venue. MYO members and staff will facilitate set-up.		
5:30 pm	Dinner at a local restaurant in Salobreña before the concert.		
7:30 pm	Dress and prepare to perform as the closing event of this local extension of the FEX Granada Festival.		
9:00 pm	Concert by MYO as part of the FEX Fringe Granada Festival Extension in the Auditorio Villa de Salobreña José Martín Recuerda.		
	Meals: B/D		
DAY 8			
DALO	WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016 MALAGA   ANTEQUERA   GRANADA		
7:00 am	WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016       MALAGA   ANTEQUEKA   GRANADA         Breakfast begins serving at the hotel.		
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DAY 9	THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016	GRANADA   VALENCIA		
8:00 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel. Bring luggage and instruments to the coach for	r loading.		
10:00 am	Depart from Granada through the countryside towards Valencia today. The total journey will be 500 km and will take about 6-hours with the required driver stops. We will make stops along the way to break up the journey. This is a great chance to catch up on your rest write in your journal after a busy start to our tour program.			
Noon	A lunch stop will be made at a large highway service center en route. It has many food and beverage options.			
5:00 pm	Arrival in Valencia. Check-in at the hotel.			
7:00 pm	Group dinner in the hotel restaurant.			
	Hotel: Beatriz Rey Don Jaime <u>www.beatrizhoteles.com</u> Meals Included: B/D			
DAY 10	FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016	BUÑOL   VALENCIA		
7:00 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel.			
9:00 am	Enjoy a locally guided tour of Valencia. Explore the old town as well as the important historical buildings and monuments in Valencia. See the <i>Plaza del Ayuntamiento, Valencia Bioparc, Valencia History Museum</i> and the Valencia Football Club's <i>Mestalla Stadium</i> . You will also travel along Valencia's converted riverbed and down to the port and beach areas. See the <i>City of Arts and Sciences</i> , the <i>Aquarium</i> , the <i>Port and Las Arenas beach</i> .			
Noon	Take time to get lunch in the city-centre. Explore the pedestrian-only center in smal	ll groups.		
3:00 pm	Return to the hotel. Have time to rest a bit before departing for Buñol.			
4:00 pm	Depart from the hotel with everything you need for your visit to Buñol. Every year, August more than 40,000 people, hungry for fun and fiesta, get roped into tomato th Buñol, a friendly battle in which more than 110 tons of ripe tomatoes fly through th short distance from Valencia. The city is only a only a short distance from Valencia.	nrowing in the Tomatina de ne air. The city is only a only a		
5:00 pm	Set up and rehearse for the concert. A grand piano and music stands will be available	le for this performance.		
6:00 pm	Have a traditional Paella dinner at Venta Pilar Restaurant prior to the concert.			
8:00 pm	MYO performs in the prestigious <i>Teatro Monte Carlo</i> of Buñol. This classic Spanish concert venue is home to the <i>Valencia Youth Orchestra</i> and <i>The Artistic Musical Society of Buñol</i> .			
TBA	Return to the hotel in Valencia following the concert.			
	Meals Included: B/D			
DAY 11	SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016	VALENCIA   BARCELONA		
7:00 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel. Bring luggage and instruments to the coach for	r loading.		
9:00 am	Depart from Valencia to Barcelona on a beautiful coastal drive. A rest and snack-sto	op will be made en route.		
1:00 pm	On arrival in Barcelona, we will disembark from the coaches at the <i>Plaza Catalunya</i> , where there are numerous restaurants. Some of you may wish to visit the enormous Boqueria for inexpensive local meats, fruits, produce, and beverages from the region. <i>Please be aware of pick-pockets in this crowded area and make sure to secure your belongings in zippered holders or pockets</i> .			
2:30 pm	Meet back at the <i>Plaza Catalunya</i> and then walk with your guides to the nearby <i>Pa</i>	alau de la Musica.		
3:00 pm	Enjoy a guided tour of this unique concert hall in small groups. Following the tour, board the coaches and travel to nearby Mont Juic, where you have a fantastic panoramic view over the entire city and harbor of Barcelona. Continue past the Olympic Park and make your way along the waterfront to the hotel.			
7:00 pm	Check-in at the Front Maratim Hotel with time to get settled.			
8:00 pm	Group dinner in the hotel restaurant.			
	Hotel: Front Maratim Meals Included: B/D			

DAY 12	SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2016 BARCELONA			
7:00 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel.			
9:00 am	Depart from the hotel with local guides for a sightseeing of Barcelona. We will visit Park Guell and then explore Gaudi's work as you see the Sagrada Familia, Casa Batlo, Casa Mila (La Pedrera). You may wish to return to some of these venues for interior entrances on your structured free day.			
Noon	Have time for lunch near the Plaza Catalunya. Explore in small groups or take a walk down La Ramblas.			
2:30 pm	Meet at the <i>Plaza Catalunya</i> and travel to the hotel. Take time to relax before departing for the final concert.			
4:00 pm	Depart from the hotel to Vilassar de Dalt.			
5:00 pm	Arrival in Vilassar de Dalt with time to set up and rehearse a bit for your evening concert and take time to relax a bit before dinner. A baby grand piano will be available but you will need to bring your music stands.			
7:00 pm	Concert in the Teatro La Massa.			
9:00 pm	Enjoy a festive post-concert dinner at the local El Peller Restaurant following the final concert of the tour.			
10:30 pm	Return to the hotel following the concert. Meals: B/D			
DAY 13	MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016 BARCELONA			
8:00 am	Breakfast at the hotel.			
	Today is a structured free-day to explore Barcelona with three possible options as listed below:			
	1) Exploring Gaudi: Passeig de Gràcia, Casa Batlló, Façade of La Pedrera, Sagrada Família. Entrances are at your own expense and you may wish to purchase tickets online in advance of departing for Spain.			
	2) A day at the beach: Spend a day on the Mediterranean Sea at the beach across from the hotel. <i>Be sure to secure</i> your belongings and take the appropriate precautions regarding sunburn.			
	3) Gothic Quarter, Picasso Museum, and La Rambla. Entrances are at your own expense and you may wish to purchase tickets online in advance of departing for Spain.			
	If using the Metro, you have two choices for purchasing Metro tickets. You can buy single ride tickets for 2.15 Euros or you can buy a T-10 card that will allow ten rides on the system for 9.95 Euros. If you plan on using the Metro throughout the day, your pass can be split with a friend and this is clearly your best value. When using the Metro, keep close watch on your valuables and be sure to secure them.			
	In order to make the most of your day, we advise that you plan what you wish to do prior to leaving for Spain and you may wish to purchase admissions for the Sagrada Familia, Casa Mila and the Picasso Museum online.			
5:00 pm	Everyone meets back at the hotel. Relax a bit and get dressed up for your farewell evening in Barcelona.			
6:15 pm	Walk the short distance to El Cangrejo Loco Restaurant.			
7:00 pm	Farewell dinner party with Flamenco Guitar music to conclude your stay in Spain.			
TBA	Return to the hotel.			
	Upon returning to the hotel, please pack your belongings for the early departures to the airport. A wake-up call will be organized by your guides. Be sure to settle any room bills this evening at the hotel reception.			
	Hotel: Front Maritim Meals Included: B/D			
DAY 14	TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016 RETURN TO THE U.S.A			
4:30 am	Wake-up call for all passengers.			
5:30 am	Breakfast at the hotel. Bring your luggage to the coach for loading.			
6:00 am	Check-out and depart to the airport. <i>Nacho</i> will advise on the final transfer time to the airport.			
	Note: If you are a land-only passenger you are welcome to use the included group airport transfer. If your air schedule differs from the group you will need to arrange your own airport transfer at your expense.			
7:00 am	Upon arrival at the Barcelona Airport, check-in with American Airlines and receive your boarding passes. Have your passport available for check-in and confirm luggage is routed to New York—JFK.			
10:00 am	AA 67 departs from Barcelona non-stop to New York-JFK.			
12:40 pm	AA 67 arrives at New York-JFK—Terminal 8. Proceed through US immigration and customs. Welcome home!			

#### **RETURN FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

#### All Group Passengers

July 19, 2016 AA 67 Barcelona / New York-JFK 10:00 am / 12:40 pm

Arrival is at Terminal 8 of New York-JFK International Airport. Clear US Immigration on arrival. That process can take about 30minutes depending on how busy it is at the time of arrival. You can get current flight & gate information at <u>www.aa.com</u> or a flight tracking website such as <u>www.flightstats.com</u>

Retrieve your baggage and pass through U.S. Customs. Relatives and friends should meet passengers in the baggage-claim area of Terminal 8 of the New York-JFK International Airport.

#### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

July 7-10, 2016	Madrid	Hotel NH Collection EuroBuilding**** Padre Damián, 23 28036 Madrid, Spain Tel: 011 34 91 353 7300 <u>www.nh-hoteles.es</u>
July 10-14, 2016	Granada	Hotel Carmen**** Acera del Darro 18005 Granada Tel: + 34 95 825 83 00 <u>www.hotelcarmen.com</u>
July 14-16, 2016	Valencia	Rey Don Jaime**** Avda. Baleares, 2 46023 Valencia Tel: +34 96 337 50 30 <u>www.beatrizhoteles.com</u>
July 16-19, 2016	Barcelona	Hotel Front Maritim**** Paseo Garcia, 69-71 08019 Barcelona Tel: +34 93 30 34 440 www.hotelfrontmaritim.com

#### AIR TRAVEL

The group will be flying on American and Iberia Airlines to and from Spain. Passengers were ticketed approximately 30-days before departure on group reservation numbers. Seats are generally assigned in alphabetical order within each reservation number. You will not be able to access your flight record online as you would with an individual ticket. Flight itineraries are included with your tour documents and the AA reservation number is included on the air itinerary. MYO representatives will assist with check-in at New York-JFK (Terminals 7&8). You may put your AAdvantage award number into the air record at the departure gate at JFK. Please review current baggage allowances and information at: <a href="http://www.aa.com">www.iberia.com</a>

#### **PROTECTING VALUABLE ITEMS**

The best way to protect and carry valuables such as a passport, boarding passes, debit and credit cards, and cash is to buy a zippered passport holder or a money belt. Either of these can be worn beneath clothing or attached to a belt. You may find them at stores such as Target & Walmart. Check with your insurance provider to make sure personal musical instruments are insured to full replacement value with your homeowner's policy.

### **LUGGAGE**

All checked luggage must be unlocked unless you use a special TSA approved lock. Make sure you have your GrandTours luggage tags and personal identification attached to your bags. It is wise to also include identification inside your suitcase in case a tag is destroyed or removed. Do not pack items such as your money, passport, ticket receipts, or other travel documents. Lost or damaged luggage must be reported before you leave the airport. The airlines will not be responsible for unreported loss or damage. Check with your insurance provider to make sure personal instruments are insured to full replacement value with your homeowner's policy.

#### PASSPORT

All tour members are required to have a passport which must remain valid 6-months beyond the return date of the tour or January 19, 2017. Do not pack your passport in luggage, but keep it with you and available always. We strongly recommend that you keep a photocopy of your passport in your luggage in case you happen to lose your original.

#### **3-1-1 GUIDELINES**

All liquids, gels or aerosols in your carryon luggage must be in original containers of 3 ounces or less. All containers of liquids, gels and aerosols are to be placed in one quart-size clear plastic zip-top bag. One quart-size bag of liquids, gels and aerosols per traveler allowed in your carryon luggage. This bag must be removed from your luggage and placed in the security bin for x-ray screening at the security check point. Visit <u>www.tsa.gov</u> for further details.

#### **US CUSTOMS**

You can currently bring back into the United States \$800 of personal and household goods duty free. Anything above this amount and you will have to pay duty.

#### **TIME DIFFERENCE**

Spain will be 6-hours ahead of New York. When it is 9:00 AM in New York it will be 3:00 PM in Spain.

#### MEDICAL NEEDS

Special inoculations are not required to visit Spain. We encourage you to check with your physician as a precaution. Be sure to bring necessary medication with you on the trip. DO NOT pack medication in your checked luggage. We suggest you obtain a duplicate of your prescriptions and inhalers. Please inform the MYO Staff and Tour Nurse of any illness immediately.

#### WEATHER AND CLOTHING

The entire trip is casual so please dress for comfort. You can expect average daily temperatures to vary between 60-90° F over the course of the day. Your tour leaders will communicate proper performance attire. Use <u>www.weather.com</u> as a resource before departure.

#### **COMMUNICATION**

Most are using mobile phones with international plans now. We do not recommend dialing home from your hotel room as it is very expensive. You will need to check with your service provider if planning on using your mobile phone. Roaming voice and data charges can be very expensive and this deserves careful attention before departure. Be sure your mobile phone has a data or application switch if you plan on using it abroad. *Skype, Viber, What's App,* and other messaging apps on phones/tablets are a great way to communicate when in free WiFi areas.

#### **ELECTRICITY**

The electricity in Spain runs at 220 volts, 50 cycles. You will need to bring an adapter and converter to use a U.S. hair dryer, curling iron, razor, or travel iron. Some appliances can now accommodate both 110 and 220 volt current. Please review your device information before departure. Converter and adapter kits can be bought at Target, Walmart, REI, etc. Most U.S. made electronic devices such as laptops, I-pods, camera chargers are now dual voltage and only require a 2-prong European adapter plug.

#### **FOREIGN CURRENCY**

1 US Dollar = .88 Euro cents 1 Euro = 1.13 US Dollars

#### **MONEY AND USE OF DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS**

We recommend you bring a combination of cash and some type of debit & credit card for the tour that can be used in local ATM/ Bankomat machines. Check with your bank for any ATM or foreign transaction fees associated with your debit & credit card.

MasterCard and Visa and American Express is accepted in most restaurants and shops, but not in all locations. Local currency can be withdrawn from ATM Machines with cards on the Plus and Cirrus systems. You must have a 4-digit PIN for these cards to work. You generally receive the Interbank rate-of-exchange plus any foreign transaction fees (FTFs) associated with your individual card.

YOU MUST CALL YOUR BANK TO ADVISE THAT YOU WILL BE USING YOUR DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD IN SPAIN IT MAY BE DEACTIVATED FOR FRAUD PROTECTION.

#### SPENDING MONEY

While spending money is completely a personal matter, we find that most travelers are reviewing their budget for meals that are not included, snacks, and an amount for souvenirs. We find students are averaging \$200-\$400 in spending money on a tour of this nature.

#### **GRATUITIES**

All gratuities to your tour manager, drivers, and local guides have been included in the tour price. There is no need to do any additional tipping. You may leave some small change in the rooms for maids, but this is at your discretion.

#### TRAVEL GUARD PROTECTION PLAN

Each traveler has limited insurance coverage with Travel Guard's, Group Protection Plan. There is NO trip cancellation coverage provided as part of this policy. Once purchased, it becomes an individual policy with reimbursements the responsibility of the traveler. This policy is not intended to protect your original monetary investment in the tour, but rather to aid in recovery of additional expenses that may result from travel issues while touring. For incidents not affecting the entire group, claims must be filed by individual travelers at the time of the incident. From Europe, call toll-free (715) 345-0505. In the U.S.A. call (800) 326-1300.

## **GRANDTOURS**

855 Village Center Drive #333 Saint Paul, MN 55127 Jeff Goldsmith & Keith Engdahl 651.756.8885 | 888.900.9874 | 651.756.8398 E-mail: info@grandtoursinc.com www.grandtoursinc.com

