



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Madrid Masters

Private Collections, Majestic Palaces & Exclusive Luxury

April 18 - 25, 2026



With Madeline Díaz, *Lecturer*

Trip Highlights

Explore Madrid's art treasures with **Madeline Díaz**, a painter, art historian, and museum educator who has led groups to Madrid for more than 20 years.

Participate in an exclusive reception at **Palacio de Liria**, the 18th-century palace of the Duke of Alba, viewing his family's exceptional private collection of works by Goya, Velázquez, Titian, and other masters.

Experience the **Museo del Prado** before public hours to witness history's greatest painting, **Velázquez's Las Meninas**, and countless other treasures.

Join curators to view the **Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza's** wide-ranging art treasures and the **Museo Reina Sofía's** modern and contemporary art, including Picasso's *Guernica*.

View **Francisco Goya's** 1798 fresco cycle *in situ* at the **Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida**, the artist's resting place.

Go behind the scenes with a curator at the **Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson**, home to one of Spain's most important private collections, from medieval devotional panels to works by El Greco, Goya, Picasso, Dalí, Miró, and Warhol.

Enjoy an exclusive guided excursion to nearby medieval **Toledo**, featuring a viewing of **El Greco's The Burial of the Count of Orgaz** inside the Iglesia de Santo Tomé.

Attend exclusive meals in private royal residences and palaces, including a private lunch at Toledo's 13th-century Mudéjar-style **Palacio de Galiana**.

Conclude with a festive farewell dinner hosted by a marquis at the exclusive, members-only **Gran Peña Club**, which has welcomed generations of Spain's military, aristocracy, and intellectual elite—including King Alfonso XII—since 1869.

Meet some of **Madrid's leading contemporary artists** in their private studios.



Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid



Traveling With *You*

Madeline Díaz is an artist, art historian, and educator based in Paris. She works in France, Spain, and the U.S. and has more than 20 years of experience creating and leading programs for museums and cultural institutions such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Cloisters, The Frick Collection, and the Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum. She currently serves as a consulting educator for the Smithsonian National Museum for the American Latino, for which she coordinated the multiculturalism initiatives. She holds a B.A. from Brown University and an M.A. from Columbia University.

Dear National Trust Traveler,

For centuries, Madrid has stood as Spain's stage for great art. From **April 18 to 25, 2026**, the National Trust and the Museum Travel Alliance invite you to experience this legacy with behind-the-scenes access to ancestral palaces, private family collections, and members-only institutions that remain closed to the general public.

Art historian and painter **Madeline Díaz**, who has been drawn to Madrid for decades, will accompany this program. "It's a city whose Golden Age laid the foundation for our understanding of Western art," she says. Our reception inside **Palacio de Liria**, the 18th-century residence of the Duke of Alba, reveals masterpieces by Goya, Velázquez, Titian, and Rubens. Guests will stay at the **Mandarin Oriental Ritz**, perfectly positioned within Madrid's famed "Golden Triangle of Art."

That triangle—comprising the **Prado**, **Thyssen-Bornemisza**, and **Reina Sofía**—remains the city's greatest cultural inheritance. "We'll experience the Prado before public hours, viewing epoch-defining masterpieces like *Las Meninas* in near silence," Díaz explains. Specialists at the Thyssen-Bornemisza will guide us through Western art's story from medieval altarpieces to 20th-century Pop Art, while a curator at the Reina Sofía will lead us to Picasso's *Guernica*, a monumental cry against war.

Beyond Madrid, an excursion to **Toledo** will illuminate medieval Spain, where Christians, Jews, and Muslims built enduring monuments side by side. Díaz notes, "We'll go behind the scenes of two medieval synagogues, enjoy a private lunch at a 13th-century Mudéjar palace built by King Alfonso X, and behold El Greco's towering *Burial of the Count of Orgaz* inside the **Iglesia de Santo Tomé**."

The week concludes with a festive farewell dinner hosted by a marquis at the **Gran Peña Club**, the exclusive 19th-century institution that has welcomed Spain's aristocracy, intellectual elite, and even King Alfonso XII. Along the way, you'll also meet leading contemporary artists in their private studios, adding Madrid's present to its illustrious past.

Please call National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785 to reserve your place today. I hope you'll accept your "key to the city," experiencing Madrid's treasures with rare intimacy.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.



National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

Activity Level:
Intermediate



Pace Level:
Moderato



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.



Photos clockwise from top: Central Gallery, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid; Zurbarán, *Saint Casilda*, c. 1630-1635, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, photo © Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza; Sinagoga del Tránsito, (interior detail), Toledo, photo courtesy of Museo Sefardí; and Almudena Cathedral, Madrid

Madrid Masters

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Saturday, April 18:

Departure

Depart on an overnight flight to Madrid.

Sunday, April 19:

Madrid, Spain

Arrive in Spain's capital, a city known for the museums in its "Golden Triangle of Art" and divine culinary experiences. You will be transferred to the palatial **Mandarin Oriental Ritz** to meet your study leader and fellow travelers. This evening, we are invited to **Palacio de Liria**, the palace of the Duke of Alba, for an exclusive after-hours visit and a special reception with *tapas*.

Completed in 1785, the palace features a luxurious garden space and an impressive art collection with works by Goya, Velázquez, Murillo, Zurburán, El Greco, Ribera, Titian, and Rubens. The palace library also houses more than 18,000 prints, including a first edition of *Don Quixote*. **R**



Map of the region



Museo Lázaro Galdiano, Madrid

Monday, April 20:

Madrid

The day begins with a guided tour of the **Museo Lázaro Galdiano**, a 12,600-piece collection assembled by José Lázaro Galdiano representing works from the sixth century B.C. through the 20th century. The tour will focus on the Spanish section, featuring panels by El Greco and Velázquez, and a special collection of paintings by Goya.

Our inside look at Goya continues at the **Ermita de San Antonio de la Florida**, a neoclassical chapel that is Goya's final burial place and houses one of his frescoes. After lunch at a local restaurant, we explore the **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía**, one of Madrid's "Golden Triangle of Art" museums. A specialized curator will guide our contemplation of Picasso's *Guernica*, followed by a look at pieces by Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró, and Francis Bacon. This evening concludes with a *tapas* dinner. **B,L,D**

Tuesday, April 21:

Madrid

We will enjoy a private, before-hours visit to the 200-year-old **Museo del Prado**, the apex of Madrid's UNESCO-listed "Golden Triangle of Art". Away from the crowds, we will view masterworks such as Velázquez's *Las Meninas* and Goya's *Third of May, 1808*. Highlights will also include works by Spanish masters, such as El Greco, as well as international figures, including Rembrandt, Caravaggio, Bosch, and Raphael.

We will then be hosted for **an exclusive lunch at the home of a private collector**. In the afternoon, we will meet a curator at the **Fundación María Cristina Masaveu Peterson** for a behind-the-scenes look at the Masaveu Collection, one of Spain's most important private art collections.

We will experience the collection's richly eclectic holdings, which span from medieval paintings to contemporary expression, with works by artists including El Greco, Goya, Picasso, Dalí, Miró, and Warhol. Dinner is at leisure this evening. **B,L**



Roy Lichtenstein, *Brushstroke*, 1996, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid



El Greco, *Burial of the Count of Orgaz* (detail), Iglesia de Santo Tomé, Toledo

Wednesday, April 22:

Madrid / Toledo / Madrid

We will journey an hour south of Madrid to **Toledo**, Castile's ancient capital, known as the "City of the Three Cultures" for the converging Christian, Jewish, and Muslim influences that shaped it.

Our exploration begins at the **Catedral de Toledo**, a mammoth Gothic marvel, where a guided tour will highlight its superb art collection, with masterpieces by artists, such as El Greco, Titian, and Goya, and an impressive five-section altarpiece.

We continue to the **Iglesia de Santo Tomé**, a church with a 14th-century Mudéjar tower, to admire its most important treasure: El Greco's renowned, 15-foot-tall *Burial of the Count of Orgaz*.

To experience Toledo's Spanish-Jewish heritage, an expert will guide our look at the 14th-century **Sinagoga del Tránsito**, with its beautiful geometric motifs and inscriptions in Arabic and Hebrew, and the **Sinagoga de Santa María la Blanca**, constructed in the 12th century by Islamic builders as a Jewish house of worship in the Christian kingdom of Castile.

Lunch will be served in a private location before we return to Madrid for an evening at leisure. **B,L**

Thursday, April 23: *Madrid*

This morning, we will join a curator for a visit to the **Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza**, part of Madrid's "Golden Triangle of Art." We will wander through one of the finest and most varied collections of Western painting, with more than 1,000 pieces spanning the 13th through 20th centuries, including works by Caravaggio, Van Eyck, Monet, Van Gogh, Dalí, Pollock, and O'Keeffe.

After lunch, we will take a guided walking tour of the historic Habsburg area on our way back to the hotel. A light dinner will be available at the hotel this evening. **B,L,D**



Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, photo @ Pablo Casares

Friday, April 24: *Madrid*

This morning is dedicated to **private visits to local artists' studios**, guided by a painter. Lunch and the rest of the afternoon are at leisure.

Our trip will conclude with an elegant farewell dinner at the exclusive **Gran Peña Club hosted by a marquis** who is also a renowned winemaker. We will enjoy a delicious meal paired with excellent wines from his family vineyards as our host shares insights into his life and heritage, Spanish history, and his unique perspective of Madrid. **B,D**

Saturday, April 25: *Madrid / Return*

Depart the hotel early this morning for the flight home. **B**

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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Program Rate
\$10,999 per person, double rate
\$13,499 single rate
Rate Includes

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- High-speed train journey (Madrid-Toledo-Madrid)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fee; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

INSURANCE: National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit <https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/> or call 1-800-937-1387.

Accommodations



Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid

Mandarin Oriental Ritz, Madrid

A landmark of *Belle Époque* grandeur, this hotel sits at the nexus of Madrid's cultural core, steps from the Prado and Retiro Park. Behind its restored façade lie 153 rooms and suites, a tranquil spa with a heated pool, and five dining venues led by Michelin-starred chef Quique Dacosta.



Mandarin Oriental Ritz lobby, Madrid



Royal Chapel of St. Anthony of La Florida, Madrid

To secure your place,
please call National Trust Tours at
888-484-8785.

A deposit of \$2,000 per person
(of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for
administrative fees) is required.



Museo del Prado, Madrid



National Trust for Historic Preservation
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105 Loudoun Street, SW
Unit 1
Leesburg, Virginia 20175
www.nationaltrusttours.com
info@nationaltrusttours.com



Front cover: Palacio de Galiana, Toledo. Back cover: Chapel of San Biagio,
Cathedral of Toledo (top) and Toledo (bottom).
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