

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

SPECTACULAR SPAIN

ERIN HOLMES & BRAD MARISKA
DIRECTORS

March 22 - 30, 2024

MADRID | TOLEDO | VALENCIA | BARCELONA

Final Itinerary

WELCOME

This custom international concert tour to Spain for the Farmington High School Band has been planned by GrandTours in collaboration with the FHS band staff and our destination partners in Spain. All times in the tour itinerary are subject to final confirmation by your tour managers and they will make any necessary adjustments while touring. In Spain, we will be using two deluxe motor coaches for ground transportation. You will have a professional Spanish tour manager on each coach for the entire tour. Please be respectful of the tour managers and drivers. While your personal belongings are safe on the coach throughout the day, you will need to take everything with you at the end of each day.

GRANDTOURS APP

Travelers will be using an interactive app provided as an extension of our tour registration system. This will allow us to publish all tour information in a digital format that each traveler can have available on their mobile device and use during the tour. It allows for real-time updates of the daily schedule and offers many other features you can explore while touring. Download the free GrandTours app from the Apple or Google Play Stores to your mobile device. Find and select your tour in the list. When requested, enter the first name, last name and email address you provided at registration. A verification code will be sent to this email and to your provided mobile phone allowing you to access the tour. If you do not access the app within 24-hours you will be required to log into it again.

TOUR MANAGERS IN SPAIN

- Nacho Piqueras
- Rocío Pérez

BEFORE YOU GO

- Passport signed and secured in a zippered holder
- Access to the GrandTours App installed on your mobile phone / device
- Review your e-ticket to make sure your ticketed name matches your passport
- 1-checked, 1-carry-on, and 1-personal item are within airline guidelines
- Check with your mobile phone / device provider on an international cellular / data plan
- European international electricity adapters / converters / device chargers
- Advise your financial institution if using debit / credit cards while traveling
- Folding music stand / music / concert attire
- Musical instrument insured to replacement value

AIR TRAVEL

You will be traveling by motor coach from Farmington High School to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and flying transatlantic, nonstop on Iberia Airlines to Spain. Passengers were ticketed approximately 60-days before departure on group reservations. Flight itineraries are included with your final tour documents and the name on your e-ticket must match the name on your passport exactly. Seats are generally assigned in alphabetical order. Flight itineraries are included with your tour documents and the name on your e-ticket must match the name on your passport exactly. The airlines typically run the first and middle name together with no space in between the two names. This is normal and will not cause a problem at check-in. Group tickets do not allow you to upgrade your class-of-service and generally do not allow online selection of seats. All passengers have confirmed seating, however, the airline reserves the right to assign seats at any time on a group issued ticket. If you have one, you can input your American Airlines AAdvantage number at the departure gate.

LUGGAGE

For international travel, Iberia Airlines allows one free checked piece of luggage—up to 50 lb. and 62 linear inches (L+W+H). You can also bring one free carry-on piece up to 45 linear inches (22 x 14 x 9). You may also have a free personal item in the cabin, such as a small hand-bag that can fit under the seat in front of you. For this tour, you can find specific luggage information online at www.iberia.com Smaller musical instruments should be taken onto the aircraft as your carry-on bag or personal item. Larger instruments will be checked as luggage. Make sure you have your GrandTours luggage tags attached to your bags and we recommend putting a sheet or card with your personal contact information inside your luggage as well. Do not pack your money, passport, or medications in checked luggage. Lost or damaged luggage must be reported to the airline before you leave the baggage-claim area. Our most frequent travel disruption in 2023 was delayed/lost baggage. If you bring your personal belongings in a carry-on bag you will eliminate this potential issue. If you are checking your luggage, we recommend you pack one change of clothes and your toiletries in your carry-on luggage. GrandTours has no ability to affect the timeline for retrieval of delayed or lost personal luggage. Make sure your personal musical instrument is insured to full replacement value with your insurance provider.

MEALS

A daily buffet breakfast and 6-evening group dinners are included in the tour program. Lunch daily and 1-dinner will be at your own expense. You can budget 5-10 Euro per lunch and 10-15 Euro for dinner. At group dinners, table-water will be provided. Bottled beverages will be at your own expense. Special meals such as vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free and gluten-free have been requested in advance if that information was provided during registration. Special meal cards and severe allergy cards are included in your final tour documents. Simply show the restaurant waitstaff the appropriate card when seated for group dinners. This information has been communicated to hotels and restaurants in advance of the tour. You can also describe your allergy in English and translate it to Spanish using "Google Translate," a feature included within the GT app.

OUTBOUND FLIGHT SCHEDULE

IB 6274 March 22 Chicago / Madrid 5:45 PM / 7:55 AM +1

Departure is from Terminal 3 of Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

You can get current flight & gate information at www.iberia.com or www.flightstats.com.

DAY 1	FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024	DEPART THE USA
7:15 am	Meet at Farmington High School and prepare to depart for Chicago. Be sure to check that you have your passport, luggage, and musical instrument secured and ready for departure.	
7:45 am	Depart from Farmington High School for Chicago on two motor coaches. We will be using WiFi enabled motor coaches from Northfield Lines. Meal and rest stops will be made en route.	
2:45 pm	Arrive at Terminal 3 of Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Check-in with Iberia Airlines. You are traveling on E-tickets and will need to show your valid and signed passport. Make sure your bags are checked all the way through to Madrid, Spain (MAD). Receive your boarding pass and proceed to the TSA security checkpoint with your passport and boarding pass. Check the concourse flight monitors for the correct departure gate.	
5:45 pm	IB 6274 departs nonstop from Chicago O'Hare to Madrid. Enjoy complimentary beverages, dinner, and a light breakfast one hour before arriving. You will have inflight entertainment on your transatlantic flight. The transatlantic flight time is approximately 8 hours. Enjoy your flight. Meals: Inflight	
DAY 2	SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024	ARRIVAL MADRID
7:55 am	IB 6274 arrives at Madrid Barajas International Airport (MAD). Upon arrival in Madrid, make your way through EU Immigration. Collect your luggage and instruments then meet your Spanish tour managers just outside of the customs <i>Nothing to Declare</i> exit. Walk with your tour managers to the motor coaches.	
9:00 am	Load the motor coaches and depart for a guided sightseeing tour of Madrid. See landmarks such as the Plaza Espana, El Retiro Park, the Puerta del Sol, Las Ventas Bullring, Plaza Mayor and the Royal Palace, built by King Charles III of Spain, who reigned from 1759-88. He believed that Madrid should boast the same amenities as Europe's other fine capitals.	
12:00 pm	Time for lunch and exploring in small groups near the Plaza Mayor before departing for the hotel.	
3:00 pm	Arrive at the Hotel Rafael Atocha Madrid for check-in. Take time to get settled and freshen up before heading out to attend a Flamenco dinner show at <i>Tablao Las Carboneras</i> .	
5:00 pm	Arrive at the restaurant for a welcome dinner and Flamenco show with live Spanish music.	
7:30 pm	Return to the hotel following the show. Time to get some much needed rest after a busy first day in Spain! Hotel: Rafael Atocha Madrid Meals: Inflight/D	
DAY 3	SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024	TOLEDO MADRIDEJOS MADRID
7:30 am	Breakfast begins serving at the hotel.	
8:30 am	Depart the hotel for the ancient city of Toledo. The city is about 1-hour south of Madrid.	
9:30 am	Arrive in Toledo and begin a walking tour with local guides. Situated on the bend in the Tagus River, the city overlooks the arid plains of New Castile. Enjoy the maze of narrow streets, art galleries and shops.	
12:30 pm	Get lunch with free-time afterwards near the Plaza Zocodover. Pick up some snacks for the afternoon and early evening. Dinner will be later in the evening per Spanish tradition.	
2:00 pm	Visit the Cathedral of Toledo, one of the three 13th Century high Gothic cathedrals in Spain.	
3:30 pm	Depart Toledo for the town of Madridejos. It is situated at the heart of the province of Toledo where you will perform your first concert of the tour. En route, you will be able to see the famous Spanish windmills referred to in Miguel de Cervantes' novel, "Don Quixote."	
4:30 pm	Arrive in Madridejos where you have time to rehearse. Work with Spanish conductor, Quique Parreño, Director of the Alaqua's Conservatory near Valencia.	

8:00 pm Concert by the FHS Band in the *Casa de la Cultura* in Madrideojos.

9:00 pm At the conclusion of the concert, load instruments on the motor coaches. Walk to a nearby restaurant for a group dinner.

10:30 pm Following dinner, depart Madrideojos for Madrid and the hotel.

11:45 pm Arrive at the hotel and return to rooms.

Hotel: Rafael Atocha Madrid
Meals: B/D

DAY 4 **MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024** **MADRID | VALENCIA**

8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel. Bring luggage to the coach for loading as directed by your tour managers.

10:00 am Depart from Madrid through the countryside towards Valencia. The total journey will be 350 km and about 4+-hours. A rest stop will be made en route and you can pick up snacks for the day.

3:00 pm Check-in to the Hotel Eurostars Rey Don Jaime. Get settled into rooms.

4:30 pm Depart the hotel for the Old Town of Valencia. Spend time in the center of Valencia where you will meet your local guides for a guided city tour. Explore the Old Town and the important historical buildings and monuments in Valencia. See the Plaza del Ayuntamiento. You will also travel along Valencia's riverbed and down to the port and beach areas. See the City of Arts and Sciences, the Oceanografic Aquarium, the Port and Beach.

7:30 pm Dine at La Paz Restaurant situated on the sea. Enjoy a group dinner with the Family & Friends.

9:30 pm Return to the hotel and retire for the evening.

Hotel: Eurostars Rey Don Jaime Valencia
Meals: B/D

DAY 5 **TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024** **BENAGUASIL | VALENCIA**

7:00 am Enjoy a buffet breakfast at the hotel.

10:00 am Walk from the hotel to the Old Town of Valencia. Here you have time on your own for some souvenir shopping and lunch in small groups. Consider going to the Central Food Market to find traditional, local food for lunch.

2:00 pm Return to the hotel with time to store your belongings. Gather what you need for the evening concert.

3:30 pm Depart the hotel with your instrument and performance attire. We will be spending the rest of the day in the village of Benaguasil collaborating and performing with the Unión Musical Benaguasil Youth Band.

4:15 pm Arrive in the small town of Benaguasil. The town is situated just outside of Valencia, where you will share a concert with the Unión Musical Benaguasil Youth Band in their auditorium.

7:00 pm Perform a shared concert with the Unión Musical Benaguasil Youth Band. Farmington will perform first, followed by the Youth Band. Close the concert with two combined pieces as a finale.

8:30 pm After the concert, enjoy sharing time and some local food with members of the Youth Band in their social center.

10:00 pm Say good-bye to your new friends and depart Benaguasil.

10:45 pm Arrive at the hotel and retire for the evening.

Hotel: Eurostars Rey Don Jaime Valencia
Meals Included: B/D

DAY 6 **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024** **VALENCIA | BARCELONA**

- 7:30 am Enjoy a buffet breakfast at the hotel. Bring your luggage to the coaches as advised.
- 9:00 am Board the coaches and depart for Barcelona.
- 1:00 pm Time for lunch upon arrival in Barcelona at Las Arenas. This is a shopping mall like no other. Located in the Plaza España, the structure was first used as a bullfighting arena but was reconstructed into a shopping, sports and music center in 2011. Be sure to make your way to the rooftop for the 360° view of the city.
- 3:00 pm Enjoy a panoramic tour of the city. See Montjuïc, the Olympic Village and the Barcelona Harbor en route to the hotel.
- 6:30 pm Check-in at the Hotel Best 4 Barcelona. Have time to relax and get settled into rooms.
- 8:00 pm Dinner is served in the hotel restaurant.
- 10:00 pm Return to rooms for the evening.

Hotel: Best 4 Barcelona
Meals: B/D

DAY 7 **THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024** **BARCELONA**

- 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 am Depart on a guided city tour this morning. Stop to see the exterior of the Sagrada Familia for photos of the iconic Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. Drive the elegant Passeig de Gràcia and discover more Gaudi architecture. Continue visiting other parts of the city including the Olympic Port.
- 12:30 pm Have time for lunch and souvenir shopping on La Rambla. This vibrant pedestrian street is a great place to have lunch and admire the many “living statues” that adorn the streets. It features souvenir shops, street musicians, sidewalk cafes, and artists selling their wares. Be aware of your surrounding and personal belongings at all times, keeping valuables out of sight. Have fun in this crowded, tourist hot spot.
- 2:30 pm Meet at the designated location in the Plaza Catalunya and walk together to the Gothic Quarter.
- 3:00 pm Guided tour of the Palau de la Música Catalana concert hall. We will divide into two groups for the tour. The extravagant concert hall was built between 1905 and 1908 in the Catalan modernista style for the Orfeo Català, Barcelona’s choral society.
- 4:30 pm Return to the hotel with time to relax and store your belongings.
- 6:30 pm Depart the hotel for the Plaza Catalunya and La Ramblas. Have time for dinner in small groups. The Family & Friends travelers will also have the evening free for dinner and the tour managers will arrange a meeting point for the two groups.
- 10:00 pm Return to the hotel and retire for the evening.

Hotel: Best 4 Barcelona
Meals: B

DAY 8 **FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024** **PALAFOLLS | BARCELONA**

- 8:00 am Breakfast begins serving at the hotel.
- 10:00 am Depart the hotel for the center of Barcelona. Your tour managers will walk with you to assist at the nearby Metro station. The morning and early afternoon is free for exploring in small groups and time for lunch. In order to make the most of your time, we advise that you plan what you wish to do prior to leaving for Spain and sketch out a plan so that you see the main attractions you wish to visit. You could consider the Picasso Museum, Casa Mila, Sagrada Familia interior, or head to the beach.

1:00 pm Return to the hotel. Have time to store your belongings, collect your instruments and change into performance attire.

3:00 pm Depart the hotel for the village of Palafolls for the evening concert.

4:00 pm Arrive at the theater in Palafolls. Set up and prepare for the final concert of the tour.

6:00 pm Escola Municipal de Música i Dansa de Palafolls will open the concert. This will be followed by the performance by the Farmington High School Band.

7:30 pm At the conclusion of the concert, pack up and store instruments. Load the motor coach for the short drive to your farewell dinner.

8:00 pm Enjoy a group dinner at a local masia.

9:30 pm Depart back to the hotel in Barcelona.

10:30 pm Arrive at the hotel. Please pack your belongings for the early departure to the airport. A wake-up call will be organized by your tour managers.

Hotel: Best 4 Barcelona
Meals: B/D

DAY 9 **SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024** **RETURN TO USA**

5:00 am Your tour managers will arrange a wake-up call this morning. Pick up a breakfast-box in the hotel lobby before departing for the airport. Bring luggage to the motor coaches for loading.

5:45 am When ready, depart for Barcelona International Airport (BCN).

6:15 am Arrive at the Barcelona airport. Check-in with Iberia Airlines and receive your boarding passes. You can check your luggage all the way to Chicago.

9:15 am IB 3011 departs from Barcelona to Madrid.

10:40 am IB 3011 arrives in Madrid. Check the concourse monitors and make your way to your international flight.

11:35 am IB 6275 departs from Madrid nonstop to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

3:30 pm IB 6275 arrives in Chicago at Terminal 5. Have your passport ready and proceed through Immigration and U.S. customs. After clearing customs, proceed to baggage claim to collect your belongings. Proceed to the waiting motor coaches from Northfield Lines when ready.

4:30 pm Load luggage on the motor coaches. Depart for Farmington High School. A rest/snack stop will be made at the discretion of the FHS staff and coach drivers.

11:30 pm Approximate arrival time at Farmington High School. Welcome home!

RETURN FLIGHT SCHEDULE

IB 3011	March 30	Barcelona / Madrid	9:15 AM / 10:40 AM
IB 6275	March 30	Madrid / Chicago	11:35 AM / 3:30 PM

HOTEL INFORMATION

March 23-25, 2024	Madrid	Hotel Rafael Atocha Madrid Mendez Alvaro, 30 28045 Madrid, Spain Tel: +34 914 688 100 https://www.rafaelhoteles.com/es/hoteles/
March 25-27, 2024	Valencia	Hotel Eurostars Rey Don Jaime Valencia Avda Baleares, 2 46023 Valencia, Spain Tel: +34 96 337 50 30 https://www.eurostarshotels.com/eurostars-rey-don-jaime.html
March 27-30, 2024	Barcelona	Hotel Best 4 Barcelona C/ Doctor Trueta, 164 08005 Barcelona, Spain Tel: +34 933 290 954 https://www.besthotels.es/destinos-y-hoteles/best-4-barcelona.html

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

PASSPORT & VALUABLES

You are required to have a signed passport which must remain valid 6-months beyond the return date of the tour. Your passport is your formal document of US Citizenship and needs to be kept in a secure place on your person during the tour. Replacing a lost passport is extremely difficult, expensive, and time-consuming. Do not pack your passport in your checked luggage. We recommend you have a digital photo of your passport with you in case you lose the original. Protect and carry valuables such as a passport, debit/credit cards, and cash in a zippered holder.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health, safety and welfare of all travelers is GrandTours' highest priority. Review your group's medical policies before departing. Do not pack medication in your checked luggage. Please inform your group leaders/chaperones of any illness. In case of an emergency, the tour managers will assist in locating a proper healthcare facility. It is the passenger's responsibility to have a complete understanding of all health requirements in place at the time of travel.

TSA 311 CARRY-ON GUIDELINES

All liquids, gels or aerosols in your carry-on 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 is allowed. Visit www.tsa.gov for further details and the most current security policies.

TIME DIFFERENCE

At the time of departure, Spain will be 6-hours ahead of the Twin Cities. When it is 9:00 AM in Minneapolis it will be 3:00 PM in Spain.

WEATHER & CLOTHING

The entire trip is casual so please dress for comfort. Bring comfortable walking shoes as you can expect 15,000-20,000 steps daily. Average daily temperatures will vary between 50-70° F over the course of the week. Bring layered clothing that allows you to stay warm and dry. Your directors will communicate proper performance attire. Use www.weather.com as a resource.

MOBILE PHONES & DEVICES

If planning on using a mobile phone, check with your service provider for an international cellular/data plan. International charges can be very expensive and this deserves careful attention. If you do not have an international plan, turn cellular data off or put the device in Airplane Mode. You can then use free WiFi voice and messaging to communicate.

RADIO HEADSETS

Many of our tours use individual radio headsets for guided sightseeing and these are included in our tours, where required, at no cost to the traveler. They are compulsory in order to visit most sightseeing attractions today and allow you to listen to your tour guides in comfort. Your tour managers will distribute these to all travelers along with headphones. Each traveler is responsible for keeping their headset secure and in good condition. Your tour managers will have spare batteries and you should inform them if your headset is defective or problematic in any way. They will do their best to fix it or replace it for you. Headset rental companies charge for lost, stolen, or damaged radios, so please treat it as if it were your personal device and return it in good condition.

ELECTRICITY

The electricity in Europe runs at 220 volts. Most U.S. made electronic devices such as phones and tablets are dual voltage and only require a 2-prong European adapter. Other appliances such as hair-dryers, curling irons and straighteners may not be dual voltage and will need a power converter and adapter.

MONEY AND USE OF DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS

We recommend you bring a combination of cash and some type of debit/credit card that can be used in local ATM machines. Check with your financial institution and card provider for any special instructions and foreign transaction fees associated with your cards. MasterCard and Visa are accepted nearly everywhere. American Express is also common, but not accepted everywhere. Discover cards are generally not accepted. While spending money is completely a personal matter, we find that most families are reviewing their budget for meals that are not included, snacks, and a set amount for souvenirs. We find students are averaging \$200-\$400 in spending money on our tours. Be sure to call your financial institutions to let them know you will be out of the country. Give specific dates and locations of travel plans.

RATE-OF-EXCHANGE

1 US Dollar = 1.09 Euros

1 Euro = 0.92 US Cents

GRATUITIES

All gratuities to your tour managers, drivers, local guides, and restaurant staff have been included in the tour program. There is no need for additional tipping. It is customary to leave a small amount of change for housekeeping staff, but this is at your discretion.

STUDENT PROTECTION PLAN

GrandTours will purchase the Student Protection Plan on behalf of all passengers, provided by Travel Insured International, which can help protect you **after departure**. This plan includes Trip Interruption coverage but only reimburses up to \$500 in return airfare if you must interrupt your trip for a covered reason. 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.

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