

# ALEXANDER+ROBERTS®

ORIGINAL JOURNEYS SINCE 1947

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## **Enhance Your Stay in Madrid with Additional Privately Guided Sightseeing**

**Half-Day Walking Tour of Salamanca Quarter:** Join your expert private guide to explore one of Madrid's most charming neighborhoods. Dating back to the 1800's, Barrio Salamanca is home to majestic boulevards and stately buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Developed under the reign of Isabel II as an upscale residential neighborhood for many of Spain's business and political elite, it has emerged as a luxury shopping destination with some of the highest property values in Spain. But it is also home to historic monuments like the Puerta de Alcalá and the beautiful, landscaped grounds and ponds of El Retiro Park. *Tour Duration: 4 Hours*

**Private Cooking Lesson:** With professional experience at the Culinary Institute of America, our engaging chef-guide is a member of the Spanish Academy of Gastronomy. In engaging company, you'll begin in a local market—learning about the produce, shopping for ingredients, and gaining insight into daily life in the capital. Then head over to our private professional kitchen for a hands-on cooking class featuring a variety of Spanish dishes. Sit down to the lunch you've helped to prepare, accompanied by fine Spanish wine. A vegetarian menu is available upon request. *Tour Duration: 4 Hours*

**Madrid Santiago Bernabéu Stadium:** Alongside its futuristic, wraparound steel façade and retractable roof, the recently refurbished home of the Real Madrid football club also features a retractable pitch that is stored in six underground levels, a state-of-the-art irrigation system, and ultraviolet lighting to maintain the quality of the grass. Discover this aesthetic and engineering marvel on a privately guided tour including both the stadium and its museum. *Tour Duration: 2 Hours*

**Churros Experience—Be a Real Madrileño!** *Churros con Chocolate* is not just a Spanish donut with hot chocolate! Although similar to donuts, Churros are long, thin, ridged pieces of deep-fried choux pastry often coated with cinnamon sugar. It's typically enjoyed with hot chocolate that's more like a pudding than the drinkable beverage we enjoy in America. With fascinating cultural context from your guide, today's visit to Chocolatería San Ginés, famed for its exceptional Churros con Chocolate, will be both enlightening and delicious! Then join your guide in one of their favorite local bars to sample Madroño Liqueur, a regional specialty distilled from the fruit of the strawberry tree. *Tour Duration: 2 Hours*

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**Vermouth Experience: Taste of a Deliciously Rich Cultural Experience:**

Enjoying a glass of vermouth, especially with pre-lunch tapas, is a favorite tradition among Madrileños—akin to having a pint in Dublin or a maté in Buenos Aires! Set out with your engaging private guide on a narrated stroll the heart of Madrid to visit three establishments known for their vermouth and tapas: Taberna Bodegas Ricla, Casa Revuelta, and Casa Gerardo. With their distinctive décor and ambience, each establishment offers a slightly different experience of this wonderful and tasty tradition—enhanced by the knowledge, cultural insights and congeniality of your guide. *Tour Duration: 90 minutes*

**Half-Day Tour of El Escorial:** Enjoy the scenic 1-hour drive with your private car and driver, heading north from Madrid to visit the Monasterio de San Lorenzo del Escorial 🌐. Founded by Philip II in 1563, this monumental complex includes 14 courtyards, the main basilica, formal gardens, the royal palace, the royal library, a seminary, and school. Filled with magnificent art and royal tombs, it was Philip II's seat of power when he ruled over the huge Spanish Empire that stretched from Madrid to Mexico and Manila. *Tour Duration: 5.5 Hours, including roundtrip chauffeured transportation from Madrid.*

**Full-Day Trip to Segovia:** Just 90 minutes from the capital, Segovia is an enchanting city that boasts three of Spain's most notable sites—all inscribed on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Visit all of these landmarks starting with the spectacular Roman aqueduct 🌐, constructed in the first century and wondrously preserved right in the heart of this vibrant city. Not far away, the Segovia Cathedral 🌐 was built over the course of two centuries, from 1525 to 1768. With its soaring towers and flying buttresses, its flamboyant Gothic style is enhanced by Renaissance elements which your private guide will point out. Before enjoying some free time here in Segovia, you'll also visit the Alcázar 🌐, a magnificent, fortified hilltop castle founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. *Tour Duration: 8 Hours, including free time in Segovia and roundtrip chauffeured transportation from Madrid.*

**Full-Day Excursion to Segovia and El Escorial:** Setting out in the morning with your private car and driver, this guided tour encompasses all of the sites noted above. You'll begin with the 90-minute drive to Segovia to see the magnificent, 2,400-foot-long, two-tiered Roman aqueduct 🌐 that was in use until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. You'll also visit the Cathedral 🌐 with its Gothic and Renaissance elements and the spectacular Alcázar 🌐 which many believe was the inspiration for Walt Disney's Cinderella castle. After sightseeing, your guide will be happy to offer suggestions to enjoy lunch on your own. Then continue to El Escorial to visit the monumental Monasterio de San Lorenzo del Escorial 🌐. Like our shorter half-day tour above, your visit includes the royal library, basilica, mausoleum and royal apartments. *Tour Duration: 10 Hours, including free time for lunch and roundtrip chauffeured transportation from Madrid.*