



MIRA COSTA ORCHESTRAS
12 DAY PERFORMANCE TOUR OF SPAIN - DRAFT
JUNE 23, 2019 – JULY 4, 2019
(updated: Sept. 10, 2019)



Day 1 – Sunday, June 23, 2019 – Los Angeles to Madrid

Today we travel to Spain! We will start our journey by arriving at the LAX Airport 3 hours before our flight. After crossing the Atlantic we will arrive at Europe's third largest city – Madrid. Meals and snacks will be served on our flight.



Day 2 – Monday, June 24, 2019 – Madrid

We arrive in Madrid. Clear customs. Met by Culture Path staff. Board busses for hotel. Check-in. Walking tour. Instrument check for Cello & Bass. Dinner. Sleep!



Day 3 – Tuesday, June 25, 2019 – Madrid

This morning we will visit the Prado museum which is internationally famous, mainly on the account of its enviable collection of paintings. We will continue our sightseeing with a visit to Madrid's Royal Palace (also known as the Palacio Real). It is a beautiful baroque structure with approximately 3,000 rooms, making it one of Europe's largest castles. Lunch.



In the afternoon we will be having full rehearsal (optional workshop with Maestro Ruben Fernandez).



Violinist, chamber music teacher and director, Ruben Fernandez was trained at the Conservatorio Superior de Madrid and at the Robert Schumann Institute in Dusseldorf, Germany. He has been the concertmaster of many orchestra's including the Orquesta del Teatro de la Zarzuela, Santa Cecilia and the Colegium Musicum. After working as a teacher at the conservatories of Caceres, Merida and Salamanca, he joined the Royal Conservatory of Music of Madrid as a professor of chamber music. In 1992 he was appointed director of the Conservatorio De Musica De Arturo Soria in Madrid and between 1986 to 1993 he founded and directed the Luigi Boccherini Music School and the Arcos Musical Pedagogical Center. Lately his work as a director mainly focuses in the field of chamber and orchestral music. Presently, he conducts the City of Caceres Chamber Orchestra and teaches at various conservatories, universities and music schools from central to south-western Spain.

In the evening we will be going to a special dinner and Flamenco show!

Flamenco is a form of popular artistic expression representing a longstanding tradition that appears on the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This art form combines vocal music, dance and musica accompaniment (called cante, baile and toque). Cante cannot



only be accompanied by the guitar, but also by castanets, a percussion box known as “el cajón”, hand-clapping and heel-clicking, whose rhythms are broken down into diverse “palos” or varieties.

Day 4 – Wednesday, June 26, 2019 – San Lorenzo / Segovia (to be confirmed)

There are two possibilities for today depending on which one is available to us. The first option would be a day trip and performance in the town of San Lorenzo El Escorial. A morning visit to the monastery will be followed by lunch and an afternoon rehearsal and evening performance at Teatro Auditorio Escorial.

The second option is a trip to and performance in Segovia.

Centuries of settlement in Segovia have resulted in a rich architectural legacy, including medieval walls, Romanesque churches, a former royal palace and a Gothic cathedral. Its iconic ancient Roman aqueduct has more than 160 arches, most in the original mortarless granite, and stands above Plaza Azoguejo in the heart of the city.

Day 5 – Thursday, June 27, 2019 – Zaragoza (To be confirmed)

After breakfast we will leave Madrid and journey 3 hrs to Zaragoza. We will have a chance to have lunch and explore the old town of Zaragoza including a visit to the famous Basilica of our Lady of the Pillar. We will then load into the Auditorio de Zaragoza and prepare for our evening concert. We will stay in Zaragoza after the performance.

Day 6 – Friday, June 28, 2019 – Zaragoza to Valencia

After breakfast in Zaragoza we will depart for Valencia. When we arrive in Valencia (afternoon), we will board our bus for a short-guided city tour. As part of our tour we will have the chance to stop and take some photos of Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, the "City of Arts and Sciences", a newly constructed area of Valencia boasting spectacular architecture. Following our city tour will proceed to our accommodation and check-in. Dinner. Sleep

Note about daily schedule and meals times: Meal times in Spain differ from those in the USA. Lunch time is usually between 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Dinner time usually starts around 7:30 or 8:00 pm and for the locals often much later! This changes how the daily schedules are organized. For example, an afternoon activity would start at 2:30 or 3:00 pm and go as late 7:00 pm.

Day 7 – Saturday, June 29, 2019 – Valencia

Valencia is situated on the banks of the Turia, on the east coast of the Iberian Peninsula, fronting the Gulf of Valencia on the Mediterranean Sea. Its historic center is one of the largest in Spain. This heritage of ancient monuments, views and cultural attractions makes Valencia one of the country's most popular tourist destinations.

After breakfast, we will start the day with a city tour in downtown Valencia. We will end our guided bus tour in the center of the old town where we will have some free time to explore. We will gather at a central meeting point and return to our accommodation for lunch. After lunch we will have a rehearsal/workshop in the nearby town of Liria with **Kai Gleusteen** (Concert master of the Orchestra ‘del Gran Teatre del Liceu’ in Barcelona) at the Teatro Liria.



Canadian born violinist, Kai Gleusteen started playing violin at the age of five years old in his native city, Calgary. Early on, he had the opportunity to study with the most renowned violinists and teachers of his time, including Nathan Milstein, Ivan Galamian, Josef Gingold, Dorothy Delay, and Zakhar Bron. By the age of seventeen, Kai was awarded the top prize in the Commonwealth Concerto Competition in Australia, he had received the prestigious Skene Award in Scotland and had formed his first chamber orchestra: The Group of Twelve. He received a master’s degree from Rice University under the tutelage of violinist Camilla Wicks. In 2000, he won the concertmaster position of the Orchestra ‘del Gran Teatre del Liceu’ and subsequently moved to Barcelona. In 2003, he created the Gran Teatre del Liceu Chamber Orchestra and was appointed professor at the Escuela Superior de Musica de Catalunya. He continues to perform extensively as a soloist and a recitalist throughout Europe and North America and has released numerous critically acclaimed recordings. Kai plays on a violin made by J.B. Guadagnini in 1781.

After the rehearsal we will go to one of Valencia’s popular beaches for a late afternoon dip in the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 8 – Sunday, June 30, 2019 – Valencia

Breakfast. This day will be a full day of music with rehearsal and a performance. Our performance venue will be **Palau de las Musica de Valencia** (home to the City Orchestra of Valencia)

Day 9 – Monday, July 1, 2019 – Valencia to Barcelona

After breakfast in Valencia we will begin our journey up the coast to the capital city of the Catalonia region – Barcelona. Our journey up the coast will include a stop in the UNESCO heritage city of Peniscola where we will have a chance to explore the old city and castle.

Upon arrival in Barcelona we will visit Park Güell and then take a Panoramic tour of the city ending at the Sagrada Familia.

In 1883 the brilliant architect, Gaudí, agreed to take on the Sagrada Familia project, succeeding Francisco de Paula, and he worked on it until his death. Work to complete this great basilica still continues today and is scheduled to be completed on 2026, the centenary of Gaudí’s death.

If time allows we will continue our exploration of all things Gaudi with visits to other architecture marvels in the city. After our day of tours, we will check into our hotel, have dinner and take a rest!

Day 10 – Tuesday, July 2, 2019 – Barcelona

Breakfast. Music Day in Barcelona with rehearsals and a performance at **Palau de la Musica Catalan**

The design of the Palau is typical of Catalan modernism in that curves predominate over straight lines, dynamic shapes are preferred over static forms, and rich decoration that emphasizes floral and other organic motifs is used extensively. In contrast to many other buildings built in the modernism style, however, it must also be said that the design of the Palau is eminently rational. It pays strict attention to function and makes full use of the most up-to-date materials and technologies available at the beginning of the 20th century

After the concert we will return to the hotel for a celebration of the completion of an amazing Spanish musical experience!



Day 11 – Wednesday, July 3, 2019 – Barcelona

Breakfast. In the morning we depart for Montserrat.

For many visitors a trip to Barcelona Montserrat Spain is the highlight of their visit. Montserrat is a spectacularly beautiful Benedictine monk mountain retreat about one-hour North West from Barcelona. Not only is Montserrat Monastery of significant religious importance but the natural beauty surrounding the monastery is simply breathtaking. The Romanesque church was built in the 12th century and in 1223, it became the first European School for boy singers.

Following our visit to Montserrat we will be bussed back to Barcelona and dropped at Plaza Catalunya. From there we will be taking a walking tour. We will visit the active and popular Ramblas, a wide pedestrian boulevard in the city's heart. Finally, a walk through the Gothic Quarter will take you back centuries to when streets were cobbled and too narrow for cars. We will have a late dinner in the Gothic Quarter and return to the hotel.

Day 12 – Thursday, July 4, 2019 – Depart for home

Breakfast. Depart for Barcelona International Airport and our return flight to Los Angeles.

Approximate Cost will be - \$3840 - \$3940 USD per person
(based on preliminary airfare quotes)

The cost includes:

- Round Trip Airfare: Los Angeles to Spain.
- Air-Conditioned Accommodation – based on twin/double (triple in case of odd numbers of students)
Single supplement is available.
- Deluxe air-conditioned motor coaching as per itinerary
- Sightseeing, entrance fees and attractions as per Itinerary
- All taxes and gratuities
- Performances as per itinerary
- Baggage allowance (1 piece per person with a maximum weight of 50lbs).
- 3 full meals per day. Every effort will be made to accommodate food allergies and other reasonable food issues.
- The group will be assigned a dedicated tour escort
- Includes lower strings rental

The cost DOES NOT include:

- Items of a personal nature
- Passport Fees (Everyone must have a valid passport book)
- Trip medical insurance (required)
- Trip Cancellation Insurance (optional)