

February 5, 2024

### **Additional Information for the Barcelona and Madrid Trip in March 2026**

The decision to travel to Barcelona and Madrid during Spring Break 2026 is because it is cheaper and the temperatures are more moderate. Spain in late June can be 100 – 110 degrees! (But, it's a dry heat. Ha!)

There is a one-day window for travel. At most, there would be one day of school we could miss during the travel window, but all efforts will be made to not miss any school.

Enrollment for the trip would begin in April 2024 if approved by the board. The reason for the early enrollment is because it will lower the monthly payments because there is more time to pay. These additional months could be the difference in a student being able to attend.

Because the London and Paris trip has not yet happened, Mr. Grigsby asked EF to provide a guarantee for a full refund in case it is the most awful experience ever. If the travelers return and feel like traveling with EF was not a valuable experience, the Barcelona and Madrid trip can be canceled. Everyone who enrolled will receive all of their money back.

There will be no organized fundraising effort as a group. Travelers will have a link Similar to a GoFundMe through EF. One hundred percent of all funds donated this way goes to the student traveler. There are also scholarship opportunities for travelers. Ideally, the monthly payments will be low enough that students and families can afford them.

Travel for this trip will depart from Evansville Regional Airport. Talking with parents in the community, teachers, and admin, it was unanimous that paying more for a local airport was worth the convenience.

Barcelona and Spain were chosen so students have the opportunity to practice the Spanish they have learned over the years.



## Educational Tours

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024,

Dear Mr. Grigsby,

It's come to my attention that the Gibson Southern School Board and administration would like to proceed with allowing you to plan for a 2026 tour with EF Educational Tours but would like to see how this summer's trip goes first. As a former administrator myself, I completely understand this position. In my current position with regards to Gibson Southern's proposed international travel program, I do want to be certain I am doing everything in my power to make this tour for your community be as affordable as possible. In that vein, there are limited time discounts and programs available only through this spring that will expire before this year's tour returns this summer.

Therefore, as the District Partnerships Manager for Indiana, I would like to extend an EF School Board Guarantee to your school. On our end, this would allow your high school to begin recruiting and enrolling families for the 2026 tour completely risk free this spring. In the unlikely event that your school board would not allow your school to travel in 2026, your school would simply notify EF that you need to cancel your international tour and we will refund your families *all* monies paid, including the \$95 deposit. For this offer to be valid, EF must receive notification of the school board's decision before 8/1/2024.

I hope this guarantee will give your school board and administration the confidence to move forward with enrolling students on your 2026 tour. This will allow your families to take advantage of these early enrollment benefits and discounts that are only available now by allowing your high school to begin recruitment this spring under this guarantee. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Thank you for all you do for rural students in Indiana. As a fellow Hoosier, I sincerely appreciate it.

Yours in education,

Brady S. Rhodes  
District Partnerships Manager: Indiana  
EF Educational Tours



### Gibson Southern School Board Proposal

#### **Seeking Approval for Student International Travel Opportunity: Spring Break 2026**

##### Goals of the Experience

- Provide Gibson Southern High School students an opportunity to see and experience the culturally impacting Spanish cities of Barcelona and Madrid
- Allow students to have a valuable cross-cultural experience that will enrich and impact their worldview, enable them to see new places, and experience content taught in their classes in new and engaging ways
- Enable students to learn more about themselves, the world, and their place in the world
- Reinforce classroom learning in content areas such as music, art, and history; and give students the opportunity to broaden their worldview through seeing classroom instructional items in real life
- Give Spanish foreign language students the valuable opportunity to practice their language skills in those nations!

##### Trip Information

- Eight-day European trip featuring tours of historic and breathtaking European locations such as the Royal Palace of the Spanish Monarchy in Madrid and the Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona!
- Organized through the largest and most established international student travel company in the world, EF Educational Tours
- Cost of the trip will be roughly \$3,989 (Interest free monthly payments are available)
- Trip will be planned to coincide with Gibson Southern High School's Spring Break 2026 to minimize students missing valuable instructional time
- The ratio of chaperones to students is 1 to 6
- Students will be accompanied by Gibson Southern staff and EF Educational Tours provides the services of a full-time tour director as well as licensed local guides throughout the tour

It is our desire to provide an impacting, inspiring, and educational experience for Gibson Southern students that will shape and impact their worldview in a lasting way that can only be accomplished through the unique experience of international travel. This tour provides the opportunity for students to experience many different places and ideas that are mentioned throughout their course work in many different subject areas. It is one thing to experience these ideas in a classroom, but it is an entirely different experience to see, touch, and taste those experiences firsthand. Those studies truly come alive and impact students' lives when they step into the birthplace of many modern art movements in Barcelona, tour the royal palace of Madrid, see the geological beauty of the Mediterranean Coast, hear music in the great cathedrals of Europe, and chat with locals at a food market in the languages they are studying in class. For many students this trip will be a once in a lifetime opportunity and it's our honor to work to provide this opportunity for them and the families of the Gibson Southern community.

Trip organized and planned by English teacher Jared Grigsby.

Chaperones will be decided after the registration period but will be employees of the South Gibson School Corporation and the south Gibson community.









# BARCELONA & MADRID

8 or 10 days | Spain | Extension to Portugal

How can two cities that share so much history still have their own unique cultures and character? In bustling Barcelona step inside the playful and imaginative mind of architect Antoni Gaudí. In elegant Madrid the scene is just as artistic and lively, as you'll discover at the Prado (arguably the world's best museum) and during your very own flamenco lesson.

## YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:

-  **Full-time Tour Director**
-  **Sightseeing:** 3 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides (5 with extension); 2 walking tours (3 with extension)
-  **Entrances:** Park Güell; La Sagrada Família; Palacio Real; Prado; with extension: Mérida Roman Theater; Mosteiro dos Jerónimos
-  **Experiential learning:** Flamenco dance lesson and show
-  **weShare:** Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.
-  **All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; 6 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (8 with extension); European breakfast and dinner daily (lunch instead of dinner on Day 6)





*Anyone can see the world.*

## YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE IT.

As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your **Tour Director** in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travelers on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our personalized learning platform, **weShare**, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels, and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. **Expert local guides** will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views of history, art, architecture or anything you may have a question about.

When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

*@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday*

- MELISSA, TRAVELER



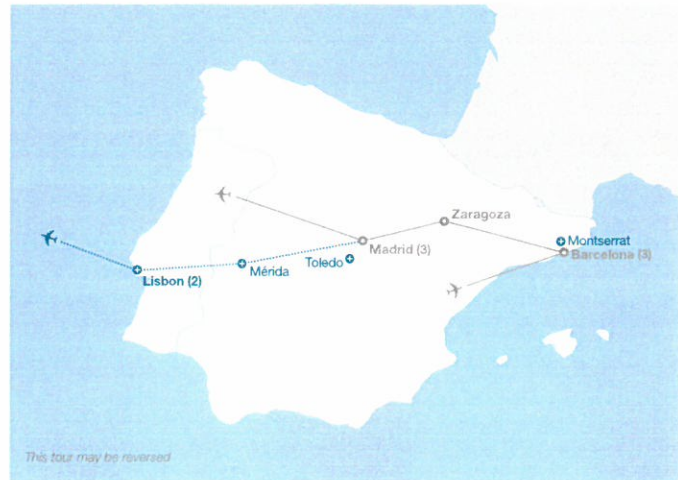
Via Twitter



**CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT**

Watch the videos at  
[eftours.com/](http://eftours.com/)

Your teacher's Tour Website



Via Instagram



## What you'll experience on your tour

### Day 1: Fly overnight to Spain

#### Day 2: Barcelona

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Barcelona, an art lover's dream city and the place where masters like Miró, Picasso and Dalí flourished. During your stay you'll explore open-air plazas dotted with avant-garde gems, like the Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España. Snap photos of the twisting spires of La Sagrada Família and the landscaped greenery and playful Modernist mosaics of Park Güell. Flower vendors and street performers greet you as you walk the tree-lined Las Ramblas.
- Take a walking tour of Barcelona: Las Ramblas.

#### Day 3: Barcelona

- Visit Park Güell.
- Visit La Sagrada Família.
- Time to see more of Barcelona or  
➤ explore Barcelona by bike.

#### Day 4: Barcelona

- Take an expert-led walking tour of Barcelona: Barrio Gótico; Barcelona Cathedral.
- Time to see more of Barcelona or  
➤ visit Montserrat.

#### Day 5: Zaragoza | Madrid

- Travel via Zaragoza to Madrid, the capital and largest city in Spain. While here you'll explore Puerta del Sol, the heart of the city, and travel back in time to Spain's Golden Age at Plaza Mayor, where you'll learn about this grand square's history of bullfights, royal weddings and public executions. At the Prado, behold paintings like Velázquez's *Las Meninas* and Goya's paired canvases. Get a taste of royal Madrid at the extravagant Palacio Real, where you'll wander the fabulous palace interior and find more than 2,000 rooms decked in beautiful frescoes, delicate porcelain wares, and finely woven rugs.

#### Day 6: Madrid

- Take an expert-led tour of Madrid: Puerta del Sol; Plaza Mayor.
- Visit the Palacio Real.
- Participate in a flamenco dance lesson and attend a show. Feel the beat this evening as you experience flamenco, the fiery dance full of Spanish soul. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian, and gypsy influences, flamenco is characterized by intricate footwork and clapping displays. During your lesson, your instructor will demonstrate basic techniques and describe flamenco's history and origins. Then, let the classical guitar be your guide and try it out yourself. Later, watch bonafide flamenco artists in action during a special performance. The impressive adornments worn by many dancers match the passionate rhythm of the dance itself—their colorful costumes and dramatic ruffles are sure to dazzle.

#### Day 7: Madrid

- Take a walking tour of Madrid.
- Visit the Prado.
- Time to see more of Madrid or  
➤ visit Toledo.

#### Day 8: Depart for home

### ➤ 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

#### Day 8: Lisbon

- Transfer to Mérida.
- Visit the Mérida Roman Theater.
- Continue to Lisbon.

#### Day 9: Lisbon

- Take an expert-led tour of Lisbon.
- During a photo stop, enjoy a panoramic view of Lisbon's red-tiled roofs.
- Visit Mosteiro dos Jerónimos.
- Take a walking tour of Lisbon.
- Enjoy a free evening or  
➤ attend a Lisbon Fado Evening.

#### Day 10: Depart for home



Royal Palace #Spain #Madrid  
#Palace #europe #eurotrip  
#eftours

– AARON, TRAVELER



Via Instagram

*I just got back from Barcelona-Madrid, Spain trip. I want to thank Liz our tour guide for a wonderful trip and a first time great experience to Spain! I would recommend EF Tours to anyone and definitely would do it again!*

– CELINA, TRAVELER



Via Facebook

## TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

— The easiest ways to —  
**ENROLL TODAY**



**Enroll on our website**  
[eftours.com/enroll](http://eftours.com/enroll)



**Enroll by phone**  
800-665-5364



**Enroll by mail**  
EF Educational Tours  
Two Education Street  
Cambridge, MA 02141

*Our child came home a citizen of a global community with a greater understanding of their part in the world. Now, they understand that there is so much more out there than our everyday*

— CHARLOTTE, DAUGHTER TRAVELED JUNE 2015



Tour review

## **THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

For over 50 years EF has been working toward one global mission: Opening the World Through Education. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

- **We always offer the lowest prices, guaranteed** so more students can travel.
- **We're fully accredited, just like your school**, so you can earn credit while on tour.
- **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety.** We have more than 500 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group** every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.

