



Historic Organs of Portugal and Spain

This tour will give you the unique opportunity to visit and study some of the most significant examples of a long-standing organ building tradition in Portugal and Spain.

“The concept of the “Iberian Organ” almost automatically evokes the image of an instrument in Central Spain during the 18th Century with its divided manuals, cajas de eco and en chamade trumpets. There are beautiful and well preserved examples of this type of instrument in small towns in villages or larger organs in Collegiate churches and Cathedrals that speak eloquently of the end of a long period of

development. The large country’s history allowed each region on the Peninsula to develop distinctly different kinds of organs that were also constantly receiving important influences from abroad.”

DAY 01: Arrive **LISBON** airport. Meet your tour manager and get transferred to your hotel in Lisbon. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

DAY 02: **LISBON / Excursion MAFRA and BELEM.** After breakfast travel to Mafra to visit the National Palace of Mafra with Basilica which houses a set of six organs, unique worldwide. Continue to Belem for a panoramic tour including the Church of the Jerónimos Monastery and the Belem Tower. Return to Lisbon for a guided walking tour. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

DAY 03: **LISBON - ÉVORA – CÁCERES.** After breakfast check out and travel to Évora. Walking tour including a visit to the cathedral which houses the most beautiful pipe organ from the Renaissance period. Meeting with the organist, 15 minutes recital. Continue to Cáceres and check into your hotel. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

DAY 04: **CÁCERES / Excursion GARROVILLAS de ALCONÉTAR.** After breakfast walking tour including a visit to Con-Cathedral Santa María which houses a wonderful Baroque style organ built in 1703 by Manuel de la Viña. Meeting with the organist, 15 minutes recital. Travel to Garrovillas de Alconétar and participate in a walking tour including a visit to the Parish Church of Santa María which houses the oldest functioning Renaissance church organ of the Iberian peninsula and one of the oldest music instruments in Europe. Meeting with the organist, 15 minutes recital (Asociación Domingo Marcos Durán). Return to Cáceres for dinner and overnight.

DAY 05: **CÁCERES – TOLEDO.** After breakfast check out and travel to Toledo. Walking tour including a visit to Cathedral Santa María "Catedral Primada" to see the impressive Emperor's Organ





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among others such as Berdalonga, Echevarría, Sagrario etc. dating from 1755 to 1798. Meeting with the organist, 15 minutes recital. Dinner and overnight in Toledo.

DAY 06: TOLEDO - VILLAVICIOSA DE ODÓN - SEGOVIA – VALLADOLID. After breakfast check out. Travel to Villaviciosa de Odón for a visit of the organ-building workshop "Luis Magaz". Continue to Segovia. Lunch in Segovia at the famous "Cándido Restaurant": Cochinillo Segoviano (piglet). Guided walking tour including the Medieval fortress El Alcázar and the Cathedral which houses the Epistle organ built by José Echevarría and his son Pedro in 1702 and joined by an identically cased Gospel organ in 1772. Pedro Liborna Echevarría is the most well-known and prolific of a long line of organ builders in the 17th and 18th centuries. He had a significant influence on organ building in Castile. Meeting with the organist, 15 minutes recital. Travel to Valladolid. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

DAY 07: VALLADOLID / Excursion TORDESILLAS and RUEDA (wine region). After breakfast travel to Tordesillas for a walking tour including a visit to the Church of San Pedro which houses the organ built by Manuel Benito Gómez in 1714. Meeting with the organist, 15 minutes recital. Continue to Rueda. Winery visit with tasting and lunch: Lechazo (lamb), at Bodega "El Hilo de Ariadna" (Ariadne's Thread). Return to Tordesillas to visit the organ workshop "Joaquin Lois Cabello". Joaquin Lois first began organ building in 1972 and settled in Tordesillas in 1985. Since that time, he has seen a fascinating transformation of concepts and practices in Spanish organ construction, especially in the matter of historic organs. The workshop has taken an active part in that process, deepening their knowledge of the instruments and their building techniques, and putting together a team of specialists and the equipment needed to face the present requirements of ancient organ restoration and of the construction of new ones. The restoration of the Spanish heritage is one of the main activities of this workshop. Their commitment is not only to quality and rigor in every work, but especially to the protection of this heritage through study and most respectful approach to it. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Valladolid.

DAY 08: VALLADOLID – MADRID: After breakfast check out and travel to Madrid. Panoramic tour including the Almudena Cathedral which houses an impressive organ built in 1999 in Barcelona by the German organ builder Gerhard Grenzing. Meeting with the organist, 15 minutes recital. Gerhard Grenzing, German organbuilder (b. 1942), has been based in El Papiol near Barcelona since 1972. He completed his training with Rudolf von Beckerath in 1963, and continued his studies at several other European workshops. Between 1967 and 1972 he devoted all his time to the restoration of several historic instruments in Majorca. In 1972 he founded the Grenzing Workshop in El Papiol. More than 200 organs have been built and restored worldwide during the last four decades. The organ, whose design was inspired by Gothic altarpieces, is impressive not only because of its size but also because of its sound, even in a cathedral of these dimensions. The instrument was built with the idea of creating a unique musical instrument with its own personality, that would adequately express the evolution of the organ at the end of the XXth century. Afternoon at leisure in Madrid. Dinner and overnight in Madrid.

DAY 09: MADRID / Departure. After breakfast check out and transfer to MADRID airport.

****All services subject to availability at the time of booking. Program can be adapted to your wishes. Organ concerts to be advised.*

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