

# **SSUSA's 2026 Explora España – Spain**

## **Softball Tour**



**October 15-27, 2026**  
**Madrid – Valencia - Barcelona**

Join Senior Softball USA for the 37th Annual SSUSA International European Tour, from October 15-27, 2026. The trip features a 2-day tournament in Madrid against local teams, as well as another 2-day tournament in Barcelona against their teams.

After 5 days in Madrid, the tour will transfer to Valencia for a couple of days, wrapping up in Barcelona another 5 days. Join us across Spain for guided city tours, museums, a dinner cruise in the Mediterranean Sea off Valencia's coast, historic and coastal sightseeing, and last but not least, two 2-day softball tournaments.

Don't miss your chance to meet and play with players from Spain, but also to tour the Royal Palace of Madrid, Bernabeu stadium, and the Sagrada Família Cathedral, among so many other sites Spain has to offer.

Regístrate hoy! Register today!

## Thursday, October 15 (D)

### USA – Madrid-Barajas Airport - Madrid

Upon arrival to Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas International Airport (MAD) and clearing customs (see booking form for more information regarding customs), please make your way to the hotel (check-in after 3pm).

The Welcome Dinner for players and companions will be hosted at the hotel or local restaurant at 7pm.

**Hotel: Hotel Emperador - Gran Vía Street, 53 28013 Madrid, Spain (6 nights)**



## Friday, October 16 (B, D)

### Centro Deportivo Municipal La Elipa - Madrid

After breakfast at our hotel, our motorcoach will take us to the nearby softball fields at the Centro Deportivo Municipal La Elipa complex for softball practice in preparation for the two-day El Real Español Championships on Saturday and Sunday.

After practice, the motorcoach will take us back to the hotel, where the afternoon is yours to relax and explore Spain's capital city, with its rich history going back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

A group dinner will be in the hotel or local restaurant.

**Hotel: Hotel Emperador - Gran Vía Street, 53 28013 Madrid, Spain**

## Saturday, October 17 (B)

### Centro Deportivo Municipal La Elipa - Madrid

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN!** Saturday kicks off the first half of the El Real Español Championships in Madrid. After breakfast at our hotel, our motorcoach will take us to the fields. Join the opportunity to play against 2-3 local Madrileño teams and mingle with their players.

After the games, our motorcoach will take us back to our hotel. Evening plans are yours to enjoy.

**Complex: Centro Deportivo Municipal La Elipa – Calle del Alcalde Garrido Juaristi, 17, Moratalaz, 28030 Madrid, Spain**

**Hotel: Hotel Emperador - Gran Vía Street, 53 28013 Madrid, Spain**



**USA Teams played local Luxembourg teams during the 2025 WWII/Softball Tour.**



## **Sunday, October 18 (B)**

### **Centro Deportivo Municipal La Elipa - Madrid**

Sunday is the final day of the El Real Español Championships.

After the games conclude, there will be an awards ceremony and a chance to exchange gifts and contact information with the Spanish players.

Our motorcoach will transport us back to our hotel. The rest of the night and dinner are yours to plan.

**Complex: Centro Deportivo Municipal La Elipa – Calle del Alcalde Garrido Juaristi, 17, Moratalaz, 28030 Madrid, Spain**

**Hotel: Hotel Emperador - Gran Vía Street, 53 28013 Madrid, Spain**



**Awards ceremony with USA and Luxembourg teams during the 2025 WWII/Softball Tour.**

## **Monday, October 19 (B, D)**

### **Madrid**

After breakfast, we will depart for an extensive, full day guided city tour of Madrid, in English. Entrances to the Royal Palace of Madrid, Stadium and the Reina Sofia Museum are included.

The Royal Palace of Madrid belongs to Spain's royal family since it's construction in 1738. King Felipe VI, the current monarch, serves as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and has regulatory powers in the Parliament. Now operated by Spain's National Heritage agency, the Palace is now used for state ceremonies.

The Reina Sofia (Queen Sofia) Museum houses Spain's 20<sup>th</sup> century art, including collections from Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dalí. Picasso's famous *Guernica* painting is housed there, which depicts the 1937 bombing of Guernica in Northern Spain by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. The bombing, an infamous war crime, bolstered Hitler ally and Spanish fascist dictator, Francisco Franco (1936-1975), to power.

The tour will also feature prominent sightseeing venues such as the Plaza Mayor and Plaza de España, filled with history and beautiful architecture.

Upon completing the tour, our motorcoach will drop us off at the hotel in the late afternoon where a group dinner will be served at our hotel or a local restaurant.

**Hotel: Hotel Emperador - Gran Vía Street, 53 28013 Madrid, Spain**



**Bernabeu is one of the world's most popular football (soccer) stadiums, home to Real Madrid soccer team since 1947.**



**Guernica painted by Picasso, reprinted on a mural.**

## **Tuesday, October 20 (B, D)**

### **Madrid**

The city of Madrid is so full of rich history and beauty, a one-day city tour is not enough. After breakfast, we embark on an additional half-day city tour of Madrid, in English.

This time, entrance to the Prado and Thyssen-Bornemisza Museums will be covered, as well as the entrance to Las Ventas.

The Prado and Thyssen Museums, along with the Reina Sofia from yesterday, are known as the Golden Triangle of Art in Madrid. The Prado features works as far back as the 12<sup>th</sup> century, with many of the pieces having belonged to the royal family, while the Thyssen focuses on more modern works across Western Europe and Spain.

Las Ventas is the colosseum famous for bullfighting; were matadors face bulls in front of large audiences. The colosseum was also converted into Franco's personal concentration camp during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

Upon completing the tour, our motorcoach will drop us off at the hotel where the afternoon is yours to plan. A group dinner will be served at the hotel or local restaurant that evening.

**Hotel: Hotel Emperador - Gran Vía Street, 53 28013 Madrid, Spain (last night)**

## **Wednesday, October 21 (B, D)**

### **Madrid – Valencia**

After breakfast, we check-out of our Madrid hotel to board our motorcoach on route to Valencia. Various stops for sightseeing and your own lunch plans will be made along the way.

Upon arriving in Valencia late afternoon, we check-in to our Valencia hotel, where the evening is yours to enjoy until a group dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant.



**Palace of the Arts in Valencia, by Spanish architect, Santiago Calatrava.**

**Hotel: Senator Parque Central Hotel - Pl. Manuel Sanchís Guarner, 1, L'Eixample 46006 Valencia (2 nights)**

## **Thursday, October 22 (B, D)**

### **Valencia**

After breakfast, we embark on a half-day city tour of Valencia, in English. Spain's third largest





**The Miguelete Tower, known for its architecture and spiral stairs, is a Bell Tower built in 1429.**

city, Valencia was found in 138 B.C. as a Roman colony, predating the formation of Spain and Islamic rule of the Iberian peninsula.

Entrances to La Lonja (photo left), Miguelete Tower and Mercado Central are included.

La Lonja and Miguelete Tower are popular tourist sites in the city. La Lonja is a Gothic-style building, built in 1533 and was home to most of the regions financial dealings and Spain's first marine merchant court, among other civil processes.

Mercado Central is one of Europe's largest public market, measuring over 86,000 square feet. The market's history dates back to 1839 as an open-air venue for merchants. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the city held a contest to build a structure to house the large market. The now roofed market is known for its unique architecture.

Lunch is yours to plan after the tour, before returning to the hotel and a free afternoon to explore the city.

For dinner, the motorcoach will transport us from the hotel to a dinner cruise on the coast of Valencia in the Mediterranean Sea. Savor traditional Spanish fare on an evening cruise as we sail along the coast and enjoy views of the city skyline from the

water. Enjoy a traditional paella served with beer and sangria.

After the dinner cruise, we will return to the hotel.

**Hotel: Senator Parque Central Hotel - Pl. Manuel Sanchís Guarner, 1, L'Eixample 46006 Valencia (last night)**

## **Friday, October 23 (B, D)**

### **Valencia - Barcelona**

After breakfast in our hotel and checking-out, we depart for Barcelona. The motorcoach will hug the coast as much as possible, making stops along the way for sightseeing until arriving in Barcelona in the late afternoon.

After checking-in to the Barcelona hotel, a group dinner will be held at the hotel or local restaurant.

**Hotel: Alexandre Fira Congress - Carrer José Agustín Goytisolo, 9-11 Hospitalet de Llobregat, Catalonia (4 nights)**

## **Saturday, October 24 (B)**

### **Barcelona Fields – Barcelona**

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN!** Saturday kicks off the first half of the Catalonia Classic in Barcelona. After breakfast at our hotel, our motorcoach will take us to the fields. Join the opportunity to play against 2-3 local Barcelonan teams and mingle with their players.



After the games, there will be an early dinner BBQ party with the Barcelonan teams.

After the games and BBQ, our motorcoach will take us back to our hotel. Evening plans are yours to enjoy.

**Complex: Camp Municipal de Softbol de Barcelona - Carrer Pierre de Coubertin, Sants-Montjuïc, 08038 Barcelona, Spain**

**Hotel: Alexandre Fira Congress - Carrer José Agustín Goytisolo, 9-11 Hospitalet de Llobregat, Catalonia**

## **Sunday, October 25 (B)**

### **Barcelona Fields - Barcelona**

Sunday is the final day of the Catalonia Classic.

After the games conclude, there will be an awards ceremony and a chance to exchange gifts and contact information with the Spanish players.

Our motorcoach will transport us back to our hotel. The rest of the night and dinner are yours to plan.

**Complex: Camp Municipal de Softbol de Barcelona - Carrer Pierre de Coubertin, Sants-Montjuïc, 08038 Barcelona, Spain**

**Hotel: Alexandre Fira Congress - Carrer José Agustín Goytisolo, 9-11 Hospitalet de Llobregat, Catalonia**

## **Monday, October 26 (B, D)**

### **Barcelona**

After breakfast at our hotel, we embark on a half-day city tour of Barcelona, in English.

Barcelona is the second most populated city in Spain, and one of the more populated regions along the Mediterranean Sea. It's also the capital of Catalonia, an autonomous self-governing

region in Spain. In 2017, growing public sentiment for full independence caused the autonomous government to attempt to secede from Spain. The failed attempt caused Spain to enact temporary direct rule and snap elections in the region to replace those in the government who supported independence. Jailed separatists were later pardoned in 2021.

Entrances to the Sagrada Família, Park Güell and Castillo Montjuïc will be covered, time permitting. The Sagrada Família (photo right), is one of the Worlds most famous Cathedrals.



Famed architect, Antoni Gaudi, designed the Sagrada Família, which began construction in 1882. It's the Worlds largest unfinished Catholic church.

Park Güell is a neighboring park designed by Gaudi, featuring many of his artworks, and Castillo Montjuïc, a 17<sup>th</sup> century castle that once defended the Catalan region.

After the tour, we return to our hotel where the afternoon is yours to enjoy. The Farewell/Award Dinner will be posted this night at the hotel or local restaurant.

**Hotel: Alexandre Fira Congress - Carrer José Agustín Goytisolo, 9-11 Hospitalet de Llobregat, Catalonia (last night)**

## **Tuesday, October 27 (B)**

**Barcelona – Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat International Airport - USA**

After breakfast in the hotel, there will be a group motorcoach transportation to the Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat International Airport (BCN) for your convenience.

### **Tour Highlights:**

- Welcome Dinner.
- 4-star hotels and accommodations.
- Motorcoach and other transportation as listed.
- 12 breakfasts, and 9 dinners (including Welcome and Farewell dinners, dinner cruise & BBQ as listed).
- Half-day Softball Practice in Madrid as listed.
- 2-day Madrid “El Real Español Championships” Tournament as listed.
- 2-day Barcelona “Catalonia Classic” Tournament as listed.



- USA uniforms for all players and guest jerseys for all guests or spouses.
- Valencia dinner cruise with drinks.
- One full-day and one half-day guided tours of Madrid, in English
  - o Entrances to the Royal Palace of Madrid, Bernabeu Stadium, Reina Sofia Museum, Prado Museum, Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum and Las Ventas.
- Half-day guided tour of Valencia, in English
  - o Entrances to La Lonja, Miguelete Tower and Mercado Central.
- Half-day guided tour of Barcelona, in English
  - o Entrances to Sagrada Familia, Park Guell and Castillo Montjuic.
- Farewell/Award Dinner.
- Transport to airport for departure flights as listed.
- All hotel tourist taxes.
- All tipping, for local guides, tour bus driver(s) and service staff.

### **What's not included:**

- Round-trip airfare to Madrid and back to the USA.
- All items of a personal nature: i.e., telephone calls, laundry, pay TV, hotel mini bars, etc.
- All meals not specified in the itinerary.
- All entrances to museums, art galleries, etc. not specified in the itinerary.
- All private excursions not specified in the itinerary.
- Any public transport, taxi, local bus or motorcoach, ferry, rail or flights not specified in the itinerary.
- Luggage handling at airports and hotels. (Please note our new luggage rule: Because of limited space on buses, players are limited to one medium-size suitcase (no larger than 26 inches), and a bat bag. Couples are limited to two medium sized suitcases (no larger than 26 inches) and one bat bag).
- Travel insurance (medical, travel delays and lost baggage).
- Tipping (tips for tour guides and motorcoach drivers are included).
- Currency exchange supplement, (if required).
- Any required COVID tests to enter or leave Europe.

**For more information, email Nic Francois at: [nic@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:nic@seniorsoftball.com).**

**We look forward to seeing you on the trip!**