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Panoramic view of Segovia (this and all other illustrations c/o Wikimedia Commons)

OLD CASTILE: HISTORIC CRADLE OF SPAIN

A 14-day exploration, from Thursday, April 13, to Wednesday, April 26, 2023

A leisurely tour of the less known and less touristy but beautiful and fascinating part of Spain tucked between Madrid and the Portuguese border, covering most of Spain's heartland, Castile, as well as the rugged, relatively isolated province of Extremadura. Superb landscapes will alternate with great centres of art, learning, and religion, such as Segovia, Valladolid, Avila, Salamanca, Merida, Toledo, and Aranjuez. This tour features no less than eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, first-class hotels, excellent food, and fine local wines; it is offered in collaboration with Guelph Arts Council and is conducted by Jacques Pauwels, PhD, author of 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places' (London, 2009) and many other books published in ten languages.

Tour price, from Toronto and based on double occupancy: \$4,975 (CAD)

"Land only" from/to Madrid Airport April 14-26: \$3,775 -- Single room supplement: \$750

ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Thursday, April 13: Evening departure from Toronto to Frankfurt, with Air Canada.

Day 2 - Friday, April 14: Morning arrival in Frankfurt, and connecting flight to Madrid, where a comfortable tour coach will be waiting for us. We motor north to the historic Castilian city of **Segovia** via the picturesque Castilian town of **Pedraza de la Sierra**. Dinner and overnight in the first-class/four-star [Hotel Real Segovia](#), located on the main street in the heart of the old town.

Day 3 – Saturday, April 15: Morning sightseeing tour of the historical centre of Segovia, classified as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). The absolute highlight will be the almost perfectly preserved Roman aqueduct, but the local Alcazar (castle), perched high on a hill overlooking the beautiful surrounding countryside, is also a fabulous sight! Afternoon at leisure. This evening, special dinner of a traditional Castilian specialty, suckling pig, in the legendary, world-famous historic restaurant [Meson de Candido!](#)



< Segovia's Roman aqueduct

Day 4 – Sunday, April 16: Excursion to **Valladolid**, a former capital of Spain's Castilian heartland, which experienced its golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries. (Incidentally, Columbus died here on 20 May, 1506, but is not buried here; your guide will tell you where!) We view the most important monuments of the old town, such as the Cathedral and the House of Cervantes, and visit the wonderful National Museum of Polychrome Sculptures. On the way back to Segovia, we will view, and visit if time

permits, the impressive **Coca Castle**, a stunning example of so-called Mudejar architecture, typical for Spain in the late Middle Ages. Return to Segovia in late afternoon and dinner in the restaurant of our hotel

Day 5 - Monday, April 17: Departure after breakfast. We motor to **Avila** for a visit to this medieval jewel, still surrounded by its mighty city wall; Avila is also a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). In the afternoon we continue to **Salamanca**, one of Spain's most beautiful and interesting cities, described as "a lovely university city of golden stone, narrow streets, splendid buildings and exuberantly rich façades, a city of domes and spires with a long tradition of learning but still youthfully alive." Dinner and overnight in the centrally located 4-star/first-class [Hotel Eurostars Las Claras](#).

The medieval walls of Avila >

Day 6 - Tuesday, April 18: Morning tour of Salamanca's old city, a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), with plenty of great sights, including the wonderful main square, Plaza Mayor; the Old and New Cathedrals; the so-called House of Shells; the Patio of the School's Square, a fine example of the local version of Plateresque (Spanish Renaissance) architecture; the University; the Duenas Convent and cloisters; the Clavero Tower; delightful Plaza San Benito; and the Roman bridge over the river Tormes. Afternoon free to shop or explore the city on your own. Dinner again in the restaurant of our hotel.





Salamanca on an ancient painting

Day 7 - Wednesday, April 19: Excursion to [Zamora](#), a fortified town on a hill overlooking the Duero River Valley on a strategically important site close to the Portuguese border, famous for its many fine mansions of Castilian noble families. Short stop en route to view the Church of [San Pedro de la Nave](#), built in the 7th (!) century and a fine example of the rare “[Visigothic](#)” style, unique to Spain; the church is being considered for status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to Salamanca in late afternoon, and free time to shop and/or explore the city on your own. No group dinner this evening.

Day 8 - Thursday, April 20: Departure from Salamanca after breakfast. We motor south to the town of [Guijuelo](#), famous for its ham. Visit to the ham museum and tasting of this fine ham, known as [jamón ibérico](#), considered by many to be the world’s finest pork product! Then we cross into the isolated and rugged highlands of [Extremadura](#), a thinly inhabited region associated with pig and sheep farming, cork oak, and...conquistadors! Visit to [San Yuste Monastery](#), where Charles V, King of Spain but also Emperor of Germany, retired and died in 1558. In the afternoon we pause in the quaint town of [Trujillo](#), whose attractive main square boasts an equestrian statue of its most famous native son, Francisco Pizarro, conqueror of the Inca Empire. Late afternoon arrival in [Cáceres](#), the capital of Extremadura. Dinner and overnight in the centrally located 4-star [Hotel Don Manuel](#).



< The (in)famous conquistador Pizarro on the main square in Trujillo

Day 9 - Friday, April 21: Morning walking tour of Old Cáceres, yet another [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). This amazing “time capsule” is full of Gothic and Renaissance-style mansions of noble families, decorated with coats of arms and featuring high towers intended to impress and intimidate rival families as well as the town’s good burghers. Visits to the historically significant Church of Santiago (St. James) and the Casa de las Veletas, which houses the historical and archaeological museum with artefacts dating back as far as the Celtiberian

and Roman eras. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 10 - Saturday, April 22: Excursion to yet another urban jewel of Extremadura, **Merida**. This town was founded by the Romans under Augustus and is today's Spain's major showcase of Roman architecture and art, featuring relatively well-preserved villas, bridges, temples, an aqueduct, an amphitheatre (arena), and a particularly impressive theatre. This archaeological complex has been declared a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). We also visit the outstanding [National Museum of Roman Art](#). Lunch OR dinner will be included today.



Merida's Roman theatre

Day 11 - Sunday, April 23: Departure from Cáceres after breakfast. We motor to another great attraction of Extremadura, the [Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe](#), a shrine immensely popular in Spain and renowned all over the world, especially in Latin America, where the cult of the Lady of Guadalupe was introduced by Columbus himself; not surprisingly, this is a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). After lunch, we leave Extremadura, re-enter Castile, head for [Toledo](#), another [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), one of the most beautiful and historically important cities in Castile and indeed all of Spain -- and the country's cradle of Christianity, hence the expression "Holy Toledo!". Panoramic coach tour around the city before we check into the 4-star hotel [Sercotel Renacimiento](#).

Day 12 - Monday, April 24: Morning walking tour of Toledo's old town, with attractions such as the fabulous Cathedral, the former Synagogue of Santa Maria La Blanca, and the little Church of San Tomé with one of the masterpieces of El Greco, who lived and worked in this city. The afternoon is free to shop and/or explore Toledo on your own.

The Royal Palace in Aranjuez >

May 13 - Tuesday, April 25: Departure from Toledo after breakfast. A short drive (50km) takes us to [Aranjuez](#), a kind of oasis in the middle of the arid Castilian highlands and nestled on the banks of the Tagus River, for sightseeing in this [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), described as a "cultural landscape [featuring] sinuous watercourses and geometric landscape design, between the rural and the urban, between forest landscape and the delicately modulated architecture of its palatial buildings." In the centre of this complex are the famous Royal Palace and gardens, originally built in the 16th century but renovated and expanded in the 18th century in the style of Versailles. The beauty of Aranjuez has



inspired painters and composers, most famously Joaquin Rodriguez [Concierto de Aranjuez](#). On to nearby [Chinchón](#), a small but very pretty Castilian town, to admire its gorgeous arcaded Plaza Mayor and enjoy a “hasta la vista”-meal in a local restaurant. In late afternoon we continue to Madrid’s Barajas Airport and check into a first-class airport hotel, the [Sercotel Barajas](#). Free evening to pack your suitcase and go to bed early as we will have an early flight tomorrow morning!

Day 14 - Wednesday, April 26: Early morning transfer to Madrid Airport in time for the departure of our return flight to Toronto, via Munich, with Lufthansa and Air Canada.



Plaza Mayor in Chinchon

Tour price, from Toronto and based on double occupancy: \$4,975 (CAD)
“Land only” from/to Madrid Airport April 14-26: \$3,775 -- Single room supplement: \$750

Included in the tour price are:

- Return flight Toronto-Madrid (with Air Canada and Lufthansa), including one checked suitcase;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy, in 4-star/first-class hotels; the supplement for a single room (mostly a “double for single use”) is \$750, but only a limited number of such rooms are available;
- Breakfast daily and all but two dinners, usually including water and wine;
- Overland transportation by private coach;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned;
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

Not included are:

- All items of a personal nature;
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;
- Travel Insurance, available upon request.

THE EIGHT UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES FEATURED ON THIS TOUR:

The historic city centres of Segovia, Avila, Salamanca, Caceres, and Toledo; the Roman archaeological complex of Merida; the Royal Monastery of Guadalupe; and the town and cultural landscape of Aranjuez



View of Toledo, by El Greco

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible. We request you send your registration together with a deposit of \$750.00 per person. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form and a cheque, e-transfer or credit card payment of the deposit.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potentially hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.
4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.

7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that, should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.

8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.

9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases, it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection. It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice. Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on "Old Castile: Historic Cradle of Spain" April 13 to 26, 2023 tour,
offered in collaboration with Guelph Arts Council

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken)

I wish to book on group flights _____ OR land only _____. (If booking land only please send the office a copy of your flight details).

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly-used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin (2 beds) _____ double (1 bed) _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc. here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance: Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____

Other _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel E-transfer to tours@pauwelstravel.com Visa
 Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment."

Date _____ **(Signature) (s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:
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