

The Magic and Mystery of Madrid

FAWCO REGIONAL MEETING – Madrid

28 February – 1 March 2020

The American Women's Club of Madrid looks forward to welcoming you to our bustling modern city, rich in history and sentiment. Our goal in designing this Regional Meeting is to provide you with a more intimate experience of this fascinating city, to discover little-known facts and mysteries behind this capital city and its people as well as how it is contending with current day issues. We encourage spouses and guests to join us for any of the optional activities too.

Friday, February 28, 2020

AWC Madrid Clubhouse Welcome!

10:00am-5:30pm

AWC Madrid Clubhouse

Price: No charge

The American Women's Club of Madrid opens its clubhouse to FAWCO visitors to kickoff our weekend of activities. Our first event will provide insights about the arrival of Americans in Madrid during the fifties and sixties. There will be information sheets, recommendations of books to read, and a very brief review of Spanish history in mid-20th century. The highlight of the afternoon will be at 3:00 p.m. with Peter Besas and Muriel Feiner, both long time American residents in Madrid. Peter Besas is a noted author whose works include *Hidden Madrid* and *A Yankee in Franco's Madrid*. Muriel Feiner is an accomplished journalist, writer, translator, photographer and founder of The International Bullfighting Club that accepts members of both sexes and diverse nationalities. Beverages and snacks will be available throughout the day.

You are welcome to come to the Clubhouse directly from the airport. We will hold your luggage during the Welcome Program. Roundtables will begin around 2:00 p.m., and Peter Besas and Muriel Feiner will speak at 3:00 p.m. Please let us know your estimated time of arrival to Madrid when you register.

Rooftop Welcome Reception

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Ayre Gran Hotel Colón – New York Room (rooftop)

Price: Included in Meeting Registration

Enjoy a selection a delicious tapas and beverages, including select Spanish wines on the hotel's rooftop terrace with expansive views overlooking Spain's capital city. The Ayre Gran Hotel Colón also serves as the meeting hotel and location.

Saturday, February 29, 2020

FAWCO Regional Meeting

8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Ayre Gran Hotel Colón – America Room

Price: Included in Meeting Registration

8:45 a.m. – Welcome by Maureen Beals, AWC Madrid FAWCO Representative

9:00 a.m. – FAWCO Overview and Update by FAWCO President Emily van Eerten

9:45 a.m. – The FAWCO Foundation Overview and Update – President Barbara Bühling

10:30 a.m. – Adelante Africa ONG – Founder and AWC member Jane Cadwallader

11:15 a.m. – Coffee Break

11:45 a.m. – Madrid For Refugees ONG – Manager of NGO Relations, Cayte Cozad

12:30 p.m. – AWC Madrid Charities presentation by AWC Board Member Fran Clemens

1:15 p.m. – Last minute raffle tickets sale

1:25 p.m. – Raffle Drawings – Quilt and a woman's Spanish cape from Capas Seseña

1:30 p.m. – Adjournment

AFTERNOON OPTIONS: (Times of tours listed include estimated travel time by taxi from the hotel to the meeting point for the tour.)

Lunch at Café Mediterranae

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Price: 30€ per person, including tax and gratuity

A quick walk across the street from the hotel, Café Mediterranae will serve a tasty lunch. After the meal, venture off on one of the many afternoon optional tours for a closer glimpse into the magic and mystery of Madrid.

Chefugee Cooking Class with Lunch**

2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Price: 30€ per person, including tax

MAXIMUM of 15 participants

The Cooking Solidarity Program of Madrid for Refugees (MFR) consists of bimonthly cooking classes taught by chef refugees passionate about the cuisine of their countries. The private cooking class for FAWCO members is conducted by a refugee chef. The chef will prepare a dish and a dessert from his/her country with the help of the attendees. (Vegetarian and vegan options are available.) This project creates empowering opportunities, where the chef acquires a leadership position, guiding the participants during the class. There is a cultural exchange between the refugee and the participants through food. This is an intimate setting in the headquarters of MFR, the Gabinete de Historia Natural building in the historic center of Madrid.

****Please note that if you choose this option, you will enjoy the lunch you cook rather than the meal at Café Mediterranae.**

Retiro Park Walking Tour

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (walking tour: 1.5 hours)

Price: No charge

MAXIMUM of 20 participants

Retiro Park is Madrid's most famous park. It was created for the Royalty, was opened to the public in the late 1700's, and today offers culture, leisure and sports. With 125 hectares it is impossible to experience it all in one afternoon. However, the highlights on this 1.5 hour walking tour include several unique buildings and gardens. *The Palacio de Cristal*, created to house a sample of exotic plants at the Philippines Exhibition of 1887, is one of the main examples of iron architecture in Spain. It is surrounded by a small lake and home to ducks, swans and turtles. The enclosed *Cecilio Rodriguez Gardens* are classically designed with Andalusian airs and special inhabitants – peacocks! The *Rose Garden* features an impressive collection of roses. *The Fallen Angel* is thought to be the only sculpture in the world that represents the devil. The impressive *Palacio de Velázquez* and the *Cultural Center Casa de la Vaca* are both venues for art and artistic expression.

Story-walking in the Barrio de las Letras

3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (walking tour: 1.5 hours)

Price: 5 euros per person, including the souvenir booklet

MAXIMUM of 15 participants

A Fun-with-Words Story Walking Tour in the Barrio de las Letras (the Literary neighborhood) of Madrid where the writers of the Spanish Golden Age lived and worked. Guided by AWC member and poet Marjorie Kanter who has lived in the neighborhood since 1994. Explore the mysteries, people and activities of this neighborhood, its special places, then and now. Experience some of Marjorie's real life story-poem-texts at the site where the original event took place. Learn little-known facts about Madrid, and take home a souvenir booklet of Marjorie's works.

Sorolla Museum

3:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Price: 5.50€ per person, including audio guide

MAXIMUM of 7 participants

Joaquín Sorolla excelled in painting portraits, landscapes and monumental works of social and historical themes. His most typical works show the people and landscapes under the bright sunlight of Spain. *Strolling along the Seashore* is undoubtedly one of the artist's most important works. Sorolla's widow left many of his paintings to the Spanish public. The paintings eventually formed the collection that is now known as the Sorolla Museum that was the artist's house in Madrid. The museum opened in 1932.

Palacio de Liria

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Price: 15€ per person

MAXIMUM of 20 participants

The Liria Palace is one of the most important private homes in Madrid, that of the Duke of Alba. This neoclassical building is also one of the most important buildings in Madrid, architectonically speaking, and home to one of the world's foremost private art collections. Experience the history of one of Spain's most distinguished lineages through documents, pictures, sculptures, tapestries and other works. This is the history of one of Spain's most well-known families, but also some of the major events in the history of Spain and the world.

EVENING OPTIONS: (Times of the events listed include estimated travel time to the event site.)

Dinner at Taberna del Capitán Alatraste

8:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m.

Price: 58€ per person, including tax and gratuity

The Tavern of Captain Alatraste is in the historic center of Madrid, in a 16th century palace, carefully appointed to reflect the Madrid of Spain's Golden Age. Capitan Diego Alatraste was a soldier of the "Tercio de Flandes" and a swordsman whose legendary adventures took place in these narrow streets of Madrid when it was the capital of the biggest empire on earth. Dine in the magical ambiance of the original caves that were built with materials of the old Arab wall, and enjoy traditional delicacies of Spain's enviable cuisine.

Flamenco Show at the Cardamomo Flamenco Tablao

11:00 p.m. – 12:45 a.m. (within walking distance of the Taberna del Capitán Alatraste)

Show: 11:30 p.m. – 1-hour show

Price: 39€ per person, including 1 drink

In 2010, UNESCO recognized Flamenco as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity." In 2014, Cardamomo Tablao Flamenco was recognized as a "Cultural Heritage of the City of Madrid." It features renowned flamenco singers and dancers in spirited performances. Here is where the dancing and singing are entwined with passion, emerging from the deepest core of flamenco. This passion is accompanied with other examples of flamenco art: the guitar, heel tapping, castanets, etc., an intensely personal and unforgettable experience.

Sunday, March 1, 2020

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: (Times of tour listed include estimated travel time by taxi from the hotel to the meeting point for the tour.)

Cerralbo Museum

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Price: No charge

The Cerralbo Museum is one of the few places in Madrid that shows the original decorative setting typical of an aristocratic residence of the late 19th century. It has been recognized with the European Union Award for Cultural Heritage. The museum was the residence of the XVII Marquis de Cerralbo who was a politician, historian and pioneer of archeology in Spain. His collection of important artistic heritage pieces shows a lifestyle and an explicit display of the decorative taste of an era that would otherwise have been lost.

Meeting Hotel Rates and Dates

Ayre Gran Hotel Madrid - Ayre Gran Hotel Colón is a modern 4-star hotel in a quiet residential neighborhood close to Retiro Park. The hotel has two buildings – the Europa Tower and the America Tower - both linked by a 1,200 square meter garden and an art gallery. Recently renovated, the hotel features all exterior rooms, free WiFi and stained glass décor touches by the same artist of the stained glass windows of the Cathedral of the Almudena. The historic center of Madrid is easily reached by metro, local bus or taxi.

FAWCO Rates: (Rates apply for the dates of: February 26-March 3, 2020)

95€ + 10% VAT – Single room, including breakfast

105€ + 10% VAT – Double room, including breakfast

Reservations – directly on the hotel's website with code: **FAWCO2020**

Reservas.colon@ayrehoteles.com

A block of 30 rooms in the America Tower is being held for the FAWCO Regional Meeting from February 26th to March 3rd, in the event you want to arrive early and/or stay later than the official meeting. You are encouraged to make your reservations as early as possible.

Under contract, half of the number of any non-confirmed rooms on December 31, 2019 will be released. On February 5, 2020 all the remaining non-confirmed rooms will be released, and the FAWCO rate will no longer be available.