2015 ALUMNI TOUR
SPAIN
Spain is a land of romance and grandeur, a cultural crossroads of historical empires, where architectural marvels and charming streetscapes stand side by side. Above all, where people know how to relax and enjoy, whether it’s strolling, dancing, or snacking on tapas and cava. You can experience it all on the Fifth Annual Robert Morris University Alumni Tour.

Stately Madrid, where three world-class art museums invite you to appreciate Spanish masterpieces by Goya, El Greco, Velázquez, and Picasso. Medieval Toledo, the “Imperial City” of La Mancha, perched proudly on its mountaintop.

Andalusia, the legendary home of flamenco, with its fiery guitars and dancers who meld the severe with the seductive. The once-Moorish cities of Cordoba and Granada, where dazzling mosques and palaces remain as elegant reminders of the Umayyad Caliphate that once stretched uninterrupted from here to Persia. And the legendary port of Seville, founded by the Romans, where Spanish ships once set sail for the New World and returned loaded with precious cargo.

Join Greg and Polly Dell’Omo and other RMU alumni and friends as we discover the beauty and mystery of Spain.
DAY ONE

Sunday, May 10

Depart Pittsburgh in the early afternoon to make our connection in Philadelphia, where we will board our direct nonstop flight to Madrid.

YOUR HOTELS:

Hotel Villa Real
Plaza de las Cortes 10
28014 Madrid, Spain
A superior European urban hotel extremely well located between the Plaza Mayor and the Prado Museum.

Alhambra Palace Hotel
Plaza Arquitecto Garcia de Paredes 1
18009 Granada, Spain
This legendary hotel has the city’s most panoramic setting with its location alongside the Alhambra.

Casa Romana Hotel
Calle Trajano 15
41002 Seville, Spain
Located in the very popular old city area this 4 star boutique hotel successfully combines modern comforts with a Moorish flair.
Upon our morning arrival in Madrid, a private motor coach will bring us directly to our hotel for check-in.

We will gather in the evening for our welcome to Spain dinner. Then, fortified with the local cuisine, we’ll be energized to join the Madrileños in their traditional evening stroll through one of Europe’s loveliest and liveliest cities.

**THE BUZZ ON RMU ALUMNI TOURS**

“Travel arrangements went smoothly, accommodations were lovely and located perfectly for sightseeing, local guides were extremely knowledgeable, and we never felt rushed. This was our first trip with the group, and we have vowed not to miss another. We ended the trip feeling like we’ve been friends forever with every person in the group.”

* Cathy ’75 and Jim Zambito ’75

Included meals: breakfast, dinner
A guide will take us on a tour of Madrid’s historic center, beginning with the bustling Puerta del Sol, the hub of the city. Next we will wander in the grand arcaded Plaza Mayor, the picturesque central square where for centuries Madrid has held its celebrations and public gatherings.

We will also tour the 18th century Royal Palace, the official home of Spain’s new king and queen, Felipe VI and Letizia.

After a traditional Spanish lunch, we will visit the Museo del Prado. Celebrated as one of the world’s greatest art museums, the Prado displays an unparalleled collection of priceless works by masters Velázquez, Goya, Titian, and Rubens.

In the evening, we will enjoy dinner at a traditional Spanish restaurant and then enjoy an evening of free time to explore the city on your own.
We go day-tripping to Toledo, the capital of medieval Spain. Our guided tour will begin with the 13th century High Gothic Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo. We will also see the Spanish Renaissance masterpiece “The Burial of Count Orgaz,” which El Greco painted to adorn his parish church of Santo Tome.

We will return to Madrid in the afternoon, giving you some free time to perhaps stop at a café for the decadently rich Spanish hot chocolate and flaky fried churros. In the evening we will have a dinner to bid farewell to Madrid.
Spain’s bullet train, the AVE, will carry us in comfort to the sunny south of Andalusia, beginning with the former Moorish city of Cordoba, once the capital of the Islamic caliphate. We will walk through the well-preserved historical Jewish Quarter, and visit the 8th century Mezquita, a World Heritage Site that was built as a grand mosque under the Moors and converted to a Catholic cathedral after the Spanish Reconquista.

After lunch we will board our motor coach for a driving tour to Granada.
DAY SIX
Friday, May 15 | Granada

We will begin our morning with a tour of another of the world’s finest examples of Moorish architecture, the 13th century Palace of the Alhambra. We will also walk through the terraced gardens, waterfalls, and courtyards of the Generalife.

In the afternoon you will have free time to relax or do some more exploring. The Renaissance cathedral is one of the country’s architectural highlights, and in the Royal Chapel you can see the tomb of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Overnight Accommodations
Alhambra Palace Hotel
We head west to one of the oldest towns in Spain. Perched on the edge of a cliff, Ronda is split by a 500-foot gorge spanned by a Roman stone bridge. The views of the surrounding Andalusian countryside far below are stupendous.

Your guided walking tour will show you Ronda’s Moorish heritage and the Plaza de Toros, Spain’s oldest bullring, built in 1785. After lunch we will continue on to Seville.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch
DAY EIGHT  
Sunday, May 17 | Seville

Free time this morning in the capital of Andalusia to relax or stroll the quiet morning streets.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Alcazar, the oldest royal residence in Europe still in use. It is here where Ferdinand and Isabella welcomed Columbus upon his return from America. After we visit some of the rooms and the well-kept gardens, we will tour the Maria Luisa Park and the Plaza de Espana.

This evening we will enjoy a typical Andalusian dinner in one of the many charming restaurants of Seville.

Overnight Accommodations
Casa Romana Hotel

Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Your morning walking tour of Seville includes the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the most colorful old district of Seville, with its winding medieval streets, pocket-size plazas, and flower-filled balconies. We will also visit the soaring Seville Cathedral, which supplanted the Hagia Sophia as the largest cathedral in the world upon its completion in the 16th century. Here you will see a tomb mounted on four statues that is said to contain the remains of Columbus.

This afternoon you will be free to explore the city, and perhaps complete your shopping for the trip. In the evening we will gather for an exciting dinner and Flamenco show courtesy of Greg and Polly Dell’Omo. This will be a very enjoyable way to bid farewell to Spain.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

**COST**
$5,833 per person based on double occupancy (airfare included)

**AIR TRANSPORTATION**
US Airways

**ABOUT GULLIVER’S TRAVELS OF SHADYSIDE**
The travel consulting company founded in Pittsburgh and sending discerning travelers around the world – now celebrating their 50th year of service. Please call them with questions or to confirm your reservation at (412) 441-3131.

**OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Casa Romana Hotel**

**DAYS TEN | TUESDAY, MAY 19**

**RETURN TO PITTSBURGH**

We will depart from Seville airport in the morning for our journey back to Pittsburgh, where we will arriving in the early evening.