

# **TRAVEL TOGETHER with Fellow Miniaturists to...SPAIN!**

November 20 - December 01, 2013

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## **2-night stay at Parador de Aiguablava**

*Madrid - Toledo - Girona - Barcelona*

**Tom Bishop Madrid Show**  
*with over 130 dealers and artisans*

*Visit to the home and studio of*  
**Francisco del Pozo Parés**

**and so much more!**

***Book by May 15, 2013 to receive \$75 off the cost of your tour!***

### **YOUR TOUR ITINEARY:**

20 Nov, Wed

For those of you living in North America, you will need to arrange your flight to depart today, in order to arrive in **MADRID, SPAIN**, on Thursday morning, November 21st. If you would like assistance in arranging your air travel please call Northwood Travel at 800-780-0571 or email them at [info@NorthwoodTravel.com](mailto:info@NorthwoodTravel.com)

In order to plan your free time wisely and learn more about specific places along the tour that interest you, we recommend that you purchase one of the following travel guides: Frommer's, Foder's, Rick Steves', or DK Eyewitness. Be sure that the guide you select has a food translation section for when you are ordering meals on your own.

21 Nov Thu

Upon your arrival at **MADRID AIRPORT**, there is a 24-hr Airport Express Shuttle that departs every 15m from each arrival terminal and the fare is only 5€ per person. The first stop will be just 200m from the **HOTEL CONVENCION**, our home for the next 5 nights and the location of the Madrid Bishop Show. Our **WELCOME DINNER** this evening will be at the hotel.

22 Nov Fri

This morning we will have a **PANORAMIC TOUR OF MADRID** to familiarize you with the many sites of the city so that you can plan your free time to see the places you are most interested in. We are working on a possible visit to see a private collection and/or artisan in the Madrid area and we will post the information once the visit has been confirmed. As is always the case, the artisans are focused on being at the show and are hesitant to add anything more to their busy schedule. As for private collections, M<sup>re</sup> Lourdes Areal of LXL (IGMA member and collector) writes: *You must have in mind that this hobby is rather new for us, not being so long established as in some other countries like England and Germany. Sunny weather doesn't keep us at home very much!*

23 & 24 Nov Sat & Sun

With over 35 years experience and having produced more than 450 shows worldwide, Tom Bishop Productions will be holding their **14TH ANNUAL FALL BISHOP SHOW IN MADRID** this weekend. With two-thirds of the 130-140 dealers and artisans being from Spain, this will be your best chance to add Spanish artisan pieces to your collection. Your tour price includes the special collector's hours on Saturday morning and the general admission for 2 days.

25 Nov Mon

We drive south this morning to the city of **TOLEDO**, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986 for its extensive cultural and monumental heritage as one of the former capitals of the Spanish Empire. Toledo sits atop a granite hill surrounded on three sides by a gorge of the Tagus River and the city's general aspect has changed little since El Greco painted his famous View of Toledo. Historically and culturally it is one of the most important cities of Spain.

Many famous people and artists were born or have lived in Toledo, including Al-Zarqali, Garcilaso de la Vega, Eleanor of Toledo, Alfonso X and El Greco.

In addition to a **PANORAMIC TOUR OF TOLEDO**, we will visit the 13th-century cathedral, the former imperial residence, Alcázar and other points of interest in the city. A **GROUP DINNER** will be at the hotel this evening.

#### 26 Nov Tue

Our day begins with a transfer to Madrid's Puerta De Atocha rail station. We'll travel on the **AVE HIGH-SPEED LINE** for the approximate 3-hour excursion to Barcelona. Upon our arrival at the Barcelona Sants Station, we board our motor coach for the drive north, to **BEGUR IN THE GIRONA PROVINCE OF CATALONIA**. We will be staying at the **PARADOR DE AIGUABLAVA**, a hotel situated in the unique Punta D'es Muts enclave on the rugged Costa Brava coastline. Surrounded by pine trees and overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, the parador affords some of the best views of the area's beaches and coves. **DINNER** this evening will be at the parador.

#### 27 Nov Wed

After a leisurely morning at the parador we will travel approximately one hour north to the town of **FIGUERES**. In addition to strolling through the open-air pedestrian shopping streets of Old Town, we will have a group visit to the **TOY MUSEUM OF CATALONIA**. If time permits, you may want to visit the Salvador Dali Museum on your own.

The Toy Museum of Catalonia has exhibits that include over 4.000 items: animated life forms, miniature theatre sets, cardboard animals and horses, kitchens, balls, spinning tops, planes, cars, trains, dolls, puppets, magic tricks, games for the blind, disguises, cut-outs, barrel organs, soldiers, robots, steam engines, teddy bears, tricycles, scooters, etc. Some of the toys belonged to personalities such as Anna Maria and Salvador Dalí, Federico García Lorca, Joan Miró, Frederic Amat, and others.

Figueres is the birthplace of artist Salvador Dalí and home to the Teatre-Museu Gala Salvador Dalí, a large museum designed by Dalí himself. It houses the single largest and most diverse collection of works by Dalí, and includes a small selection of works by other artists that Dalí himself collected, ranging from El Greco to Marcel Duchamp.

**FRANCISCO DEL POZO PARÉS** is an architect and a building engineer (known in Spain as a technical architect), by trade. Ever since he studied at the Politechnic University of Catalonia, he has been very fond of making things to scale. Five years ago, almost by chance, he started to build a house combining his experience as an architect and the traditions of dollhouses. He wanted a miniature house that was a miniature itself and not the mere excuse to fill it with other miniatures and so he built it to be as realistic and attractive as possible, in addition to making it useable as a dollhouse. Francisco writes "...and what I started half joking and half serious has caught me till today". His hobbies are growing organic vegetables and collecting opera recordings that he plays while working on his miniature projects.

The houses are built around a fixed wooden structure upon which each room is assembled in a drawer system. The rooms are entirely interior decorated according to customary models for buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and incorporate the electrical installation on the outside, which remains hidden by fitting it into the structure. In such a way, all the walls may be seen, even the common dividing walls. The work is carried out entirely as a craft, and the techniques and finishes are selected so as to match reality as far as possible, and, where scale permits, the same materials are used. The result is a construction in that the spaces are proportionate and distributed in an organized way in order to gain perspectives unknown in this type of miniatures.

Francisco has graciously invited us to his **ANCIENT COUNTRY HOME AND WORKSHOP IN PALAU-SATOR** to be his guests for a light **EVENING MEAL** and to learn about his work in miniature! See *American Miniaturist* n° 94 (Feb 2011) and a tutorial in n° 109 (May 2012). Photos of Francisco's amazing projects may be seen at each of the following links:

<http://www.artmajeur.com/miniarquitect> <http://www.miniarquitect.com>

<http://www.artquid.com/artist/miniarquitect/miniarquitect.html>

#### 28 Nov Thu

This morning we drive to **BARCELONA**, the capital of Catalonia and the second largest city in Spain, after Madrid.

**DRAP MINIATURES** is located in the Barri Gothic Quarter of the city. The shop carries hand-made pieces by Spanish artisans and they stock a wide range of miniatures...from food to furniture, with many being hand-made and hand painted. The owners Paco and Alex have kindly offered to feature artisan **CILLA HALBERT** during our visit today. Cilla made and sold her first miniature crystal chandelier in 1990. Between 1991 and 2004 she ran the shop in Stockholm, Sweden before moving to Barcelona in 2010. Cilla has been exhibiting at miniature shows in Europe and the U.S. since 1992, but has cut back on traveling the last few years and now focuses on the shows in London, her native Sweden, and Spain. In the U.S., Cilla has exhibited her work at the IGMA show in New Jersey, as well as at the Tom Bishop shows in Anaheim, Atlanta, Chicago and Fort Lauderdale and specializes in miniature lighting, but also makes mirrors and furniture, using vintage and antique materials to help create a timeless feel, thereby making each item unique. <http://www.minst.com>

Just a short walk from DRAP is Las Ramblas, one of Europe's most famous people-watching pedestrian streets. Las Ramblas runs through the heart of the Old City from the Plaza Catalunya down to the Harbor. Located at 109 Las Ramblas is **HOTEL 1898**, an oasis of calm and comfort right in the heart of Barcelona! Built in the late 1800's the hotel was the former palace of the Marquess of Comillas and has recently been restored to its historical splendor. It features 19th century architectural elements with all the luxuries and sophistication of the 21st century.

The **FLAMENCO SHOW AT TABLAO CORDOBES** is known for having talented young artists. A specially formed foundation ensures that the artistic levels of their performances are among the best that Spain's flamenco scene has to offer. In addition to the show, we'll enjoy a 3-course **DINNER** buffet this evening that offers over 60 homemade items to choose from.

29 Nov Fri

**CATALUNYA EN MINIATURA** is an outdoor park with more than 150 models of Catalonia's most famous landmarks, monuments and cultural icons. In 2012 the models were refurbished and updated by the on-site craftsmen. We have arranged for a tour of the workshops to see how the buildings are constructed and decorated. The scale models highlight the most outstanding works of art of the Romanesque and Gothic architecture of Catalonia and the complete works of the prominent architect and figurehead of Catalan modernism, Antoni Gaudí.

Upon our return to Barcelona, **A PANORAMIC TOUR OF THE CITY** will acquaint you with the major sites of the city, which will also include some of the more famous life-size works of Gaudí. Between 1984 and 2005, seven of his works were declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO and his masterpiece, the still-uncompleted Sagrada Família, is one of the most visited monuments in Spain.

30 Nov Sat

You will have the entire day to **EXPLORE BARCELONA**. The location of our hotel will enable you to walk to many of the most interesting areas of the city. In addition to the nearby Gothic Quarter with its famous cathedral, the Ribera district (a.k.a. "El Born") is where you will find the Picasso Museum and the Church of Santa Maria del Mar. Other options are to take a stroll down to the bustling harbor front or visit one or more of the many museums in the city. Our **FAREWELL DINNER** this evening will be at the Hotel 1898.

01 Dec Sun

You will be transferred this morning to the **BARCELONA AIRPORT** for your flights home. There will be one group transfer that will have everyone at the airport in time for flights that depart 9:30am or later.

Your tour includes:

- ALL hotels
- ALL breakfasts & 6 dinners
- ALL group tours & activities
- ALL group ground transportation in Spain
- 2-day admission to the Tom Bishop Madrid Show, including Special Collectors Hours
- Admission to the Toy Museum and Catalunya en Miniatura
- Luggage handling at hotels & train stations, when available
- Escorted by a professional tour leader
- Plenty of free time to explore and shop in each of the cities we visit!

***Book by May 15, 2013 to receive \$75 off the cost of your tour!***

Tour Price:

\$ 3597 per person, double occupancy

\$ 793 single supplement

(Does not include any air travel)

*To fully enjoy this tour:* Madrid, Toledo and Barcelona are cities that are best experienced by walking. In order to fully enjoy this trip you will need to be able to walk distances of up to 5 city blocks at any one time, and at a moderate pace. In addition to cobblestones and uneven walkways, you may also need to climb several flights of stairs. Please be sure to read over our Terms and Conditions and then if you have any questions about your ability to join the tour, please give our office a call and we will be happy to discuss this with you, in more detail.

*When traveling by train* from Madrid to Barcelona, your one suitcase will need to be taken onto the passenger car and stowed in a rack. We have been assured that porters are easily available once we arrive at the stations, but it is not something we can book in advance and guarantee. Your tour escort will make every effort to secure porters, but you need to be prepared to handle your own suitcase in the unlikely event that porters are not available for everyone.