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Barcelona: A Preview

by Russell Knudsen, MD, Sydney, Australia

he sun is getting higher in the sky as you wearily sip coffee in one of the cafes in the Puerta del Sol. You are in the centre of Spain, literally, as all distances in Spain are measured from here! You contemplate the day ahead of you in Madrid. A visit to the Prado gallery before lunch, a siesta to recuperate and later...tapas and beer or fino (dry sherry) in a bar before dinner, on to a restaurant, and later, it's off to one of the numerous nightclubs to socialise and dance the night away. When in Spain, do as the locals do — it's a nocturnal, vibrant existence, but what the heck, somebody has got to do it!

Thirty million tourists visit Spain each year, and it's easy to see why. Talk about regional differences... post-Franco there have been created twelve autonomias — autonomous regions — with their own governments, budgets, and cultural ministries. The separate kingdoms which made up the original Spanish state have reasserted themselves. This

regional diversity manifests itself in language, culture, artistic traditions, landscapes, and politics. The monuments span an extraordinary range — Roman, Moorish, the "Golden Age" of Renaissance imperialism, as well as the regions' very different twentiethcentury developments. In Castile and Leon, confront the vast cathedrals and reconquista castles. In the northern mountains of Asturias and the Pyranees, you find tiny Romanesque churches dotting the hillsides and villages. Andalucia has the great Moorish palaces and Mosques of Granada, Sevilla, and Cordoba.

Even the landscapes have enormous variety from the estuaries of Galicia to the high arid plains of Castile and the desert landscapes of Almeria. Not to mention that Spain is one of the most mountainous countries of Europe.

Highlights of any tour would be Barcelona (well, we are all going to be there, aren't we?), Madrid, Sevilla (home of Flamenco), and Toledo — the capital of medieval Spain and stunningly preserved with synagogues, former mosques, and an amazing cathedral.

October is autumn (fall) and daily temperature highs should be around 21 Celsius (70 F). Sounds good, doesn't it? Take the time and we'll see you there.

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Barcelona Update

by Patrick Frechet, MD, Paris, France

Dr. Ramon Vila-Rovira, our Spanish host and the recently elected First President of the Spanish Society of Hair Restoration Surgeons has finalized details for the live workshops at the Barcelona Meeting in October. We will have seven surgeries, covering most aspects of hair restoration (micrografts, megasessions, alopecia reductions, scalp lifts, flaps, Frechet flaps, and laser surgery).

Accommodations will be at the excellent Juan Carlos I Hotel, and the surgery will be conducted at a private hospital called the Centro Medico Teknon.

The call for abstracts has produced the best-ever response, and successful authors will be notified shortly.