



First Last

Concert Tour of Spain & Portugal

June 13 - 23, 2026

Cost + What's Included

The total cost per student for our 9-day 2026 Concert Tour of Spain & Portugal is \$4,850*. The cost is essentially all-inclusive and below is a detailed list outlining what is included.

Included:

- Concerts (3)
- Sightseeing highlights: Guided sightseeing tours; Plaza de España, Cervantes Monument, Palacio Real, Plaza Mayor, Paseo Castellana, San Miguel Basilica, Plaza de la Villa and Paseo del Prado; Avenida da Liberdade, the Rossio, the Alfama Quarter, the Castelo de São Jorge and the Sé, Lisbon's Romanesque Cathedral, etc.
- Student exchange experience
- 8 nights of tourist class hotel accommodations sharing twin rooms (single room supplement not available for concert tour for safety)
- Continental breakfast daily and 8 dinners
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned motor coaches throughout land portion of the tour
- The services of one ACFEA courier per motor coach throughout the land portion of the tour
- 24/7 coverage by QCSYE full time staff members who are experienced chaperones
- On-site large instrument (cello, bass, percussion, tuba, piano/harp) rental and transportation
- Round-trip air transportation between Chicago and Spain & Portugal and roundtrip coach transfer between QCSO Office and Chicago
- Excess baggage fees for instruments that must be checked
- All necessary fees, documents, and bonds allowing for transport of all instruments into, out of, and throughout Spain & Portugal
- All taxes, tips and service charges normally payable for services included above, except discretionary tips to drivers, guides, and couriers
- One QCSYE Tour T-shirt

Not Included:

- Cost of Valid Passport
- Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, which is now required by most countries (brochure available in this packet)

- Independent lunches and snacks throughout the tour
- Beverages other than coffee and tea with breakfast, and water with dinner
- Souvenirs and gifts

Payment Schedule + Due Dates

- July 1, 2025 - \$755.00 Deposit
- September 1, 2025 - \$1,023.75
- November 1, 2025 - \$1,023.75
- February 1, 2026 - \$1,023.75
- April 1, 2026 - \$1,023.75

**Land only price is \$3,250 and does not include transportation to and from the airport.*

2026 Concert Tour of Spain & Portugal

Helpful Hints for Fundraising

1. *Create a list:* The main reason people don't give money is that no one asks them! So be thorough and think of as many people as you can to solicit. Remember: the more people you ask, the better your chances of success!
2. *Be creative:* Spread the message about your fundraising efforts through any means possible – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, a blog, a fundraising website, or a good old-fashioned letter! Include a personal message describing the tour and your need to raise funds for it.
3. *Make it easy:* With each letter or email, include contribution forms that include a deadline of April 1, 2026. And include a stamped envelope or a link to your fundraising website.
4. *Be specific:* Donors tend to give more when asked to give a specific amount.
5. *Be confident:* Keep in mind, always, that you are not “begging for money” – you are seeking support for a major educational and cultural opportunity with your youth orchestra. Ask with confidence!
6. *Follow-up:* If you haven't received a response from someone you've asked for a donation, be sure to follow up. Make a phone call or send a quick email to make sure that they haven't forgotten.
7. *Be organized:* For any forms you receive, collect the contribution forms and staple them together. IF CHECKS ARE MADE OUT TO QCSO, MAKE SURE THAT YOUR **FULL NAME AND “TOUR”** ARE IN THE MEMO LINE OF EACH CHECK, AND MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON EACH CONTRIBUTION FORM YOU SEND IN. Turn in the forms or mail to the QCSO. Please do not bring payments to QCSO rehearsals as they will not be secure.
8. *Say thanks!* Once you have received a contribution from someone, let the individual know that the contribution—whatever the amount—is important to you. You can also invite your donors to QCSYE concerts so that they can hear the results of your hard work in person. It is a good idea to send a personal thank you to show how very much you appreciate the support!
9. *Be in touch:* If at any point you need help, advice, encouragement, or more contribution forms, call Chelsea Sammons at (563) 424-7990 or email her at csammons@qcso.org.

Date

Dear NAME,

I am embarking upon an extraordinary educational experience this summer, and I hope you will be part of my journey. As you may know, I am a member of Quad City Youth Symphony Orchestra – one of the best youth orchestras in the region. Through my participation in the Youth Symphony Orchestra, I can take part in some wonderful performance opportunities, including a concert tour of Spain & Portugal.

From June 13-23, 2026 I will be performing with my peers in world-renowned concert venues in Madrid, Salamanca, Lisbon, and more! I am writing today because I am raising money so that I can participate in this important artistic and educational endeavor.

I am currently asking for contributions to support my tour experience, and I truly hope that you will be one of my sponsors. Each member of the Youth Symphony Orchestra is working to raise \$4,850 to support the cost of the tour. These include all concert expenses, such as hall rentals and publicity, music purchases, and international transportation of large instruments, round- trip airfare, hotels, meals each day, and educational tour guides.

Please consider making a gift of \$_____ to support my participation in YSO's Concert Tour of Spain & Portugal. My deadline for collecting contributions is April 1, 2026. Your gift will allow me to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience and a chance to perform wonderful music in some of the world's greatest concert halls. Please note, per IRS regulations, your contribution will not be tax deductible.

I really appreciate your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail or call me at _____. Thank you!

With gratitude,

STUDENT NAME

Youth Symphony Orchestra Member

Concert Tour of Spain & Portugal

Contribution Form

I/we would like to contribute to _____'s tour fund!

1. My Contribution Amount: \$_____

2. My Payment Method:

___Check #_____

(Please make payable to QCSO & include student's full name and "tour" in the memo line)

___Credit/Debit (Visa/Mastercard/Discover/AmEx)

Card # _____

Exp. Date_____CV Code_____

3. My Billing Info:

Name:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone: _____Email: _____

4. Mail to:

Quad City Symphony Orchestra

Attn: YSO Concert Tour

327 Brady St.

Davenport, IA 52801

**** Please note that this is not a tax-deductible contribution****

Companion Tour of Spain & Portugal

June 13 - 23, 2026

Cost + What's Included

The total cost per person for our 9-day 2026 Companion Tour \$5,850*. The cost is essentially all-inclusive and below is a detailed list outlining what is included.

Included:

- Tickets to all YSO Tour Concerts in Spain & Portugal (3 total)
- Sightseeing Highlights: Guided sightseeing tour, during which you will see the Plaza de España, Cervantes Monument, Palacio Real, Plaza Mayor, Paseo Castellana, San Miguel Basilica, Plaza de la Villa and Paseo del Prado; Prado; Salamanca guided walking tour; wine tasting; Guided sightseeing tour, during which you will see the Avenida da Liberdade, the Rossio, the Alfama Quarter, the Castelo de São Jorge and the Sé, Lisbon's Romanesque Cathedral; entrance to the Palacio Nacional
- 8 nights of superior tourist class hotel accommodations sharing twin rooms for individuals and double for couples**
- Continental breakfast daily and four group dinners
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned motor coaches throughout land portion of the tour
- The services of one ACFEA courier per motor coach throughout the land portion of the tour
- Round-trip air transportation between Chicago and Spain & Portugal and roundtrip coach transfer between QCSO Office and Chicago
- All taxes, tips and service charges normally payable for services included above, except discretionary tips to drivers, guides, and couriers
- QCSYE Tour T-Shirt

Not Included:

- Cost of Valid Passport
- Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, which is now required by most countries (brochures available in this packet)
- Independent lunches and non-full group dinners and snacks throughout tour
- Beverages other than coffee and tea with breakfast, and water with dinner
- Souvenirs and gifts
- Additional checked baggage

Payment Schedule:

- July 1, 2025 - \$1,170.00 Deposit (*scan QR code on next page*)
- September 1, 2025 - \$1,170.00
- November 1, 2025 - \$1,170.00
- February 1, 2026 - \$1,170.00

- April 1, 2026 - \$1,170.00

**Land only price is \$4,250 and does not include transportation to and from the airports.*

***Please note that there is a single room accommodation supplement of \$975.00.*

Cancellation Policy

For Concert + Companion Tours

The QCSO Association recommends that concert and companion tour members purchase travel insurance after they commit to participating in any QCSYE international tour. The QCSO recommends the travel insurance and global assistance options offered by Travel Guard, but students/companions may choose travel insurance from any provider.

The initial deposit which secures a companion/student's spot on the tour is non-refundable under any circumstance that causes a companion/student to cancel participation.

In the case a companion/student cancels his/her participation on or before December 1, 2025, up to 100% of the tour payments processed on behalf of said student are eligible for a refund with the exception of the deposit. Each instance of companion/student cancellation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the exact percentage of refund that can be offered by the QCSYE.

In the case a student cancels his/her participation between December 2, 2025 – March 1, 2026, up to 50% of the tour payments processed on behalf of said companion/student are eligible for a refund with the exception of the deposit. Each instance of companion/student cancellation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the exact percentage of refund that can be offered by the QCSYE.

In the case a companion/student cancels his/her participation on or after March 2, 2026, up to 0% of the tour payments processed on behalf of said student are eligible for a refund with the exception of the deposit. Each instance of student cancellation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the exact percentage of refund that can be offered by the QCSYE.

In the case that QCSYE cancels the tour for any reason, 100% of all processed companion/student tour payments including the deposit will be refunded.