

FAQs

AAIDD Delegation to Spain



What are the dates of the Delegation?

The dates of the program are **September 28–October 10, 2019**. Delegates should plan to arrive in Madrid, Spain, on Saturday, September 28, 2019. Delegates should plan on departing from Barcelona, Spain to their home city on Thursday, October 10, 2019.

What is included in the program fee?

The program fee of **\$3,500 double/\$4,100 single occupancy** includes all arrangements for professional visits, in-program travel (including the flights between Madrid, Bilbao and Barcelona), transfers between airports and hotels (on September 28 and October 10), lodging, local guides, emergency health/evacuation insurance, and admission to cultural attractions on the itinerary, most meals, and tips.

What is not included in the program fee?

Air travel between Delegates' home city to Madrid and from Barcelona; excess baggage fees on the flights between (a) Madrid and Bilbao and (b) Bilbao and Barcelona; vaccinations/medications, and trip cancellation insurance are not included in the program fee. Four dinners and one lunch during the program and pocket money are at Delegates' discretion.

Is a visa required for this trip?

Tourists from the US and Canada may stay up to 90 days in Spain without a visa.

How strenuous will the trip be?

Each day of the Delegation has been structured to provide a full day of group activities. Delegates are informed that public accommodations, historic sites, and walking pathways outside the US are typically not optimally accessible to those who have mobility impairments.

The Delegation will be based in three cities with travel each day to various destinations, which will necessitate entering/exiting airports, airplanes, motor coaches, and buildings; walking on uneven ground and over hills; and climbing stairs. **Based on planned destinations for this trip, Delegates will be expected to climb up to 4 flights of stairs and walk up to 3 miles each day over uneven ground and over hills.**

Will I need vaccinations/medication for this trip?

For travel to Spain, [the CDC recommends](#) that travelers be up to date on routine vaccinations. Delegates with special health concerns should consult their physician.

What kind of lodging can I expect?

Delegates can expect to stay in three-star hotels equipped with WIFI and breakfast service.

When should I plan to arrive in Madrid and how should I get to the hotel?

Delegates should plan to arrive in Madrid on Saturday, September 28, 2019. Our Delegation will begin with an orientation dinner on the 28th. Delegates will be met at the airport and transported to the hotel on September 28, 2019.

When should I plan to depart from Barcelona?

A full day of activities and a farewell dinner are scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2019. Transfers will be provided to the airport in Barcelona on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at no additional cost. Delegates who plan to depart Barcelona following this date should plan to make their own airport transfer arrangements at their own cost.

When should I apply?

The Delegation is limited in size, and once all the slots have been filled, no further applications will be considered. Delegations for the past four years were fully subscribed soon after the program was announced.

Applications are reviewed as they are submitted and applicants will be contacted by phone for additional information before a determination is made on their application. Individuals are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible and to respond to any requests for additional information as quickly as possible.

Will there be opportunities to present my work?

The itinerary of every Delegation is different. For the Delegation to Spain, no formal presentation opportunities by Delegates are planned.

Can I share this invitation with other professionals in our field?

Yes. The Delegation is designed to be a **professional exchange** in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Delegates are encouraged to let others in the field know about this delegation; however, all interested individuals must individually apply, be at least 18 years old, and commit to attend and participate in the entirety of the program.

Can I bring a guest on this Delegation?

No. Other than personal support staff necessary for a Delegate's participation, no guests or traveling companions

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will be included. Delegates are informed that the arrival of a Delegate's guest or traveling companion at any time during the Delegation will result in their immediate dismissal from the program without a refund.

How will my health information be treated?

Delegates are asked to disclose health information (conditions, medications, etc.) that the tour leader will have access to for the purpose of assisting medical professionals in the event that you require emergency health care. This information is treated confidentially prior to and during the trip and will be destroyed after.

How should I pack for this trip?

For professional meetings, participants are encouraged to dress "business casual" and wear comfortable walking shoes. In addition, Delegates are strongly encouraged to dress appropriately for the climates.

Over the period of the Delegation, the weather is typically moderately cool (mid-60s F) and rain is likely on several days. To assure maximum comfort, Delegates are encouraged to pack clothing that could be layered for warmth. Laundry services will be available during the Delegation.

Delegates are encouraged to bring a voltage converter. While WIFI will be complimentary at the Delegation's hotels, Delegates are encouraged to check with their cell provider about international calling/data plans.

Delegates can expect to check **one bag** at no additional cost for the flights between (a) Madrid and Bilbao and (b) Bilbao and Barcelona, and are encouraged to check the baggage policies for their own international flight to determine the cost of any additional bags.

Are scholarships or discounts available from AAIDD to participate in the Delegation?

No. AAIDD Delegations are offered "at cost"; no discounts are available, nor does AAIDD offer scholarships for its Delegations.

Will AAIDD provide supports for people with disabilities to participate?

AAIDD encourages people with disabilities to apply. AAIDD requires that all applicants disclose any condition or need that may require reasonable accommodations at the time of their application for the program. Should a Delegate require personal support staff to fully participate in the program, AAIDD requires Delegates to provide such supports (including salary, travel, program costs, etc.) at their own expense.

Failure to disclose any condition or need that would require reasonable accommodation may result in the inability of AAIDD and its representatives and agents to provide accommodations, and further, Delegates are informed that should they fail to disclose such information, they may be dismissed from the program without a refund.

When are payments due?

A deposit is required at the time of application and the final payment is due to AAIDD by July 5, 2019. AAIDD accepts all major credit cards.

Is trip cancellation insurance available?

Trip cancelation insurance is **not** included in the program fee (either for the program or the flights you arrange), but may be purchased (at your discretion) from your airline and/or travel insurance companies, such as [Allianz](#). The program fee includes a group insurance policy that covers emergency health and medical evacuation costs (up to a cap) while on the trip.

Who should I contact for more information?

For more information on the AAIDD Delegation, contact Laura Thorn at 301-392-2485 or lthorn@aidd.org.

