

Study Day March 24th 2026 sponsored by TAS Chichester

'Beside the Spanish Seaside'

Delivered by

Dr Jacqueline Cockburn



Spend a Study Day travelling along the Spanish Coast, examining the works and legacies of three Spanish artists. Barcelona grew exponentially in the nineteenth and early twentieth century and Antoni Gaudi's commissions enhanced this seaside city and left an indelible architectural mark on its streets. The great Pablo Picasso grew up in the Andalusian coastal town of Málaga, once famous for its wines. His own journey by boat first to the windy northern town of La Coruña with its wild coastal beaches and then on to Barcelona will be uncovered during this light-filled Study Day as we look forward to the Summer. Joaquin Sorolla caught the fabulous light of the sea in Valencia, his beloved hometown but he also travelled the length and breadth of Spain exploring its rituals, music, and dance in mountain top towns and near the seaside.

Lecture 1 Picasso: The Boy from Malaga



Picasso Barceloneta Beach 1896

Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born in the small and poor provincial Andalusian town of Málaga in 1881, just after the end of an economic boom. According to legend, the baby Pablo was still born, then resuscitated by cigar smoke. Unacademic but talented, he picked up his father's brushes well before the age of eight and depicted the world around him with its warm sun, chaotic household, bullfights and pigeons. This lecture will explore those childhood depictions within the

context of 19th century southern Spain under Alfonso XII and XIII. The move by boat to the more optimistic area of La Coruna in northern Spain took the young Picasso out of his linguistic and cultural comfort zone but led to art school and eventually to the heady city of Barcelona. The boy from Málaga was on the move, rarely to return south and with Paris firmly in his sights. We will follow his journey and observe his gradual uprooting and appearance on the artistic stage of the early twentieth century.

Lecture 2 Antoni Gaudí and other Catalan Architects in Barcelona



Gaudí View of Sagrada Família from rooftop of Casa Milà

Antoni Gaudí is well known and much loved. In this lecture, his work will be explored in detail. It will be shown how he engaged with nature in the most innovative and extraordinary ways. Inspired by honeycombs and spiders' webs, armadillo skins and mushrooms, trees and whales' bellies, he worked with extraordinary ceramicists, iron workers, tilers and decorative artists. We will look at his public and private buildings and his relationship with a wealthy and demanding patron. Private shy and retiring he was also humorous and witty in his extravagant style. However, it will also be the aim of this lecture to uncover some of the other architects working in Barcelona over the turn of the twentieth century; Domenech y Muntaner and

Puig y Cadafalch. Attention will be paid to several significant and ravishing buildings and some less well-known buildings in Barcelona.

Lecture 3 Joaquín Sorolla: The Painter of Valencian Light

One of the most extraordinary Spanish artists from Valencia; Joaquín Sorolla has become better known more recently. He lived from 1863 to 1923 and created a world full of light and colour which delights the senses. Sometimes a social painter he was more concerned with capturing light falling on bodies and sea-scapes and his wonderful technique will be considered in this colourful lecture. His final Visions of Spain now in New York will also be shown.



Sorolla Valencian Beach by morning light. 1908

Dr Jacqueline Cockburn



Dr Jacqueline Cockburn lectured at Birkbeck College, University of London from 1997 to 2013 concentrating on European Art 1790- 1950 but also running undergraduate programmes in Spanish Art and Art in the City: Paris and Berlin. She also taught at MA level and ran the PhD writing groups. She is Director of Art and Culture Travel (www.artandculturetravel.com), and runs residential courses in Spanish Art from her villa in the south of Spain. As a fluent Spanish speaker, she has published translations of Spanish songs and contributed to publications on Federico Garcia Lorca, the topic of her Doctorate. Her latest book is *Goya: Masters of Art* (11.02.2025, Prestel)