

Bill and Cathy McArthur in Spain: 8

On Monday morning in Madrid, Bill got up for a morning run through the city streets. It was interesting dodging cars and people hustling to work. The running route was a circuit that went by many of the sights along the main walkway of the city. There were only a couple of other runners out there at that time.

We enjoyed a late breakfast at the hotel and, as we packed the car, we discovered a parking ticket on the car. The hotel manager said “No problema”, but stay tuned on this one. We had an easy drive out of the city with Tom navigating and due to Bill’s past experience as a Yellow Cab driver in Philadelphia. The trip to Toledo down the highway was easy and short. Tom decided to use Rick Steve’s book to guide us to our hotel. We headed up into the old walled city, and as we drove, the streets became alleys and got narrower and narrower. We actually drove to within 20 yards of our hotel, but had to keep going for lack of a place to park. At one point, we met an oncoming car and were informed that we were driving the wrong direction. Bill had to back down the alley and up another to turn around. In some kind of miracle, we emerged out of the maze of alleys and drove around the outer loop road just outside the walls. Somehow we took a wrong turn and ended up doing the maze again. This time we knew the ropes and didn’t have to back down an alley again. We got outside of the city walls again and parked in a lot below a series of escalators that go up into the city. We loaded ourselves with luggage and headed up. We stopped to buy a map at a store and then found our way to the hotel. By 1:00 PM we were settled in and ready to explore.

The day had become beautiful and warm, so we had a great time walking around seeing the old city. The cathedral was the highlight of the day. It’s impossible to adequately describe the beauty of this antique building. Just the magnificent artwork would make it a wonder of the world. Then you have the architecture and all of the gold and jewels. Incredible!

We walked all over the city and then around the outside. We got to drive on some more of the alleys as we moved the car to a parking garage close to our hotel. During a long coffee break in the evening, we taught Tom to play hearts and then really taught him as we loaded point after point on him.

At the end of the day, we all thought that Toledo was a great city to visit; full of culture, history, and charm.

Bill and Cathy