

Barcelona & the Mediterranean Coast

Spain Cultural Walking Adventure



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“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

—Travel + Leisure

Catalonia & the Mediterranean Coast

On a recent Barcelona tour, when we asked our guides how to describe Catalonia to you, they surprised us. "Tell them we are Tuscany, only better." We'll admit they have a point. Spain's easternmost province is a sensory revelation that easily equals the best of Italy. The olive groves, the cypress trees that pierce the horizon like leafy exclamation points, and the perched stone villages all shimmer in the region's incredible light. The aromas of the local markets and the fresh Mediterranean air along the Costa Brava remind you how rich the world really is. And stimulated by walks in rustic countryside or on the cosmopolitan avenues on a cultural tour of Barcelona, your sense of taste will be more than satisfied by the vivid flavors of Catalan cuisine. With all due respect to our guides, this Spain tour offers so much that Tuscany can't—paths through a park full of extinct volcanoes...a dip in the sea at your private resort...and quirky Art Nouveau architecture that's a unique trait of this proud region's DNA. If you have already enjoyed time in Southern Europe's other favorite regions but don't want to repeat yourself, make this your next destination. We promise you won't be disappointed!

DAY 1

BARCELONA

- Explore the Gothic Quarter on a leisurely walk
- Guided visit to La Sagrada Familia
- Celebrate over a festive dinner

Barcelona is one of Europe's most beautiful and distinctive cities, as you'll see on a leisurely walk from your hotel through the city's medieval heart, the Gothic Quarter. You feel as if you've literally stepped back into time in the maze of tightly packed medieval streets.

How long does it take to build one of those multi-spired basilicas that tower over so many European cities? The answer is still to come in Barcelona. Your exploration continues with a visit to La Sagrada Familia where the first stone was laid in 1882 (and you'll get a glimpse of the construction that continues to this day). It's just one of the landmark designs of the architect Antonio Gaudí that you'll encounter as you roam Barcelona.

This evening, you'll stroll to dinner along the Marina. Your welcome feast is at a restaurant with fresh local dishes.

Overnight: Barcelona

Meals: D

DAY 2

RUPIT / GIRONA

- Enjoy a countryside walk with impressive views
- Visit the ancient walled town of Girona
- Relax in the tranquil gardens of your farmhouse hotel

After breakfast you leave behind Barcelona and head to the rolling hills of Northern Catalonia. Join your guide for a remarkably scenic walk along forested plateaus to the wonderfully preserved village of Rupit, accessed by a secure hanging bridge, and continue on to a 10th century Romanesque church. Along the way, you'll see how various Mediterranean cultures have influenced the land. Scattered across the hills, masias (farmhouses) built of local pink and gray stone.

Delightfully hidden, except to the locals, you'll explore the ancient walled city of Girona with its narrow streets, and rows of pastel-colored houses leaning over the banks of the River Onyar. The Jewish community was a robust part of the town until their expulsion in 1492. But even today, El Call is one of the best-preserved Jewish quarters in the world. You'll hear about that heritage on a leisurely walk that also takes you past the 13th-century cathedral, the Romanesque baths, and along the Passeig Arqueologic, where you get an astounding view of the Charlemagne Tower.

Late afternoon arrive at your hotel in the heart of the province of Girona. It's a remarkable home for the next two nights.

Overnight: Madremanya, Girona

Meals: B, D

DAY 3

SANTA PAU / FIGUERES

- Go for a scenic forest stroll to Croscat volcano
- Visit the medieval towns of Santa Pau and Besalu
- Linger at the Dalí Museum on an afternoon visit

This morning, enjoy a short drive to Garrotxa Volcanic Park, Europe's largest region of extinct volcanoes. A walk through an unusual beech tree forest offers great views of Croscat volcano - the youngest and highest volcano in the Iberian Peninsula.

After lunch in the medieval village of Santa Pau, you'll continue on to the town of Besalu, famous for its Renaissance atmosphere, impressive and wonderfully preserved 10th century bridge and Jewish Heritage. From here, you'll continue to Figueres. The region's most famous son was Salvador Dalí, and this afternoon we visit his hometown. There's time for a relaxed visit to the Dalí museum, which the artist personally designed and decorated. Having already spent some time along the coastline of the Costa Brava, it's easy enough to see how Dalí's surreal paintings actually reflect this dramatic landscape.

The country air is good for the appetite, so you won't be disappointed as you enjoy dinner this evening in a local restaurant serving specialties such as onion quiche, marinated red peppers and duck.

Overnight: Madremanya, Girona

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

EMPORDÀ / PLATJA D'ARO

- Explore the medieval towns of Empordà on foot
- Visit a local potter's workshop in Bisbal
- Relax at your coastal hotel with views of the Costa Brava

This morning, a short drive leads to the starting point of a peaceful walk in the Empordà region. Along the way, you'll see a 10th-century chapel and enjoy the shade of a forest of cork oak and pine carpeted in rosemary, lavender and rock-rose leading to an ancient watermill.

Later in the day, you will have a special invitation into a local potter's workshop. You'll be well primed for arrival in Platja d'Aro where you can swim in the pool, stretch out on the beach or explore the nearby villas and seaside mansions. If you're so inclined, join your guide for a walk along the coastal trails for your first glimpse of the Costa Brava.

Overnight: Platja d'Aro, Girona

Meals: B, D

DAY 5

EMPÚRIES

- Explore fine Greco-Roman ruins overlooking the sea at Empúries
- Visit the medieval town of Pals

A scenic morning walk leads to the fabulous Greek and Roman ruins of Empúries, a city built by Greek merchants on the Mediterranean seashore more than 25 centuries ago, and later occupied by the Roman legions. In both the Greek and the Roman sites, you can admire the layouts of public and private houses, some with amazingly well-preserved floors with Roman mosaics, the outline of the main streets lined with shops, public baths, gardens and temples; all surrounded by huge city walls.

As you explore with your guide, and with the blue Mediterranean in the backdrop, the ruins grow in your imagination into the great city it once was, when Europe and the world were still taking shape.

After your time in Empúries you'll visit perhaps the best preserved medieval town of Pals, perched on a hill, surrounded by rice fields where some of the best paella rice is cultivated.

Overnight: Platja d'Aro, Girona

Meals: B

DAY 6

COSTA BRAVA

- Marvel at the beauty of Cap Roig Botanical Gardens
- Enjoy a wine tasting at a local winery
- Shop in a 10th-century town, lounge on the beach or linger on the hotel terraces

This entire day is dedicated to exploring the coastal villages that dot the Costa Brava, and taking in the breathtaking sea views, cliffs and coves. You'll begin in Cap Roig where the castle and its lush botanical garden was the fairy-tale creation of a Russian architect and his aristocratic English wife. They thought this spot overlooking the Mediterranean was the best place on earth for their dream home, and even today you'll agree. If you've ever walked the Cinque Terre, you'll feel right at home here. The path takes in white sand beaches, secluded coves ringed by umbrella pines, and hillside villas painted in glowing ochre and cream. Along the way, you'll pause in Calella, a red-tiled fishing village with a simple white church tower.

Just in time for a leisurely lunch, you'll find yourself on a crescent-shaped bay hugged by the small village of Llafranc. Then it's off to a local winery before returning to your resort hotel for an evening in the relaxed tempo of this seaside land.

After a full day soaking up the Costa Brava, a wonderful dinner awaits. Maybe you'll choose to enjoy grilled local fish so fresh that it was caught just that morning. Savor a cup of cremat (a mixture of rum and coffee), a typical sailor's drink, while enjoying outstanding views of the entire coast stretched out below. Bon profit!

Overnight: Platja d'Aro, Girona

Meals: B, D

DAY 7

BARCELONA

- Return drive to Barcelona
- Part company in Gaudi's favorite city

After breakfast, you'll return to Barcelona where your group parts company. Extend your visit in this charming city to do more exploring or as a convenient base for excursions to Montserrat, the wineries of Alt Penedès and the popular beach resort of Sitges.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Duquesa de Cardona

Located near La Rambla and the Gothic Quarter, this historic 16th century building was once home to nobility. Restored in 1850 and converted into a luxury hotel in 2003, the hotel's decor blends the original style with Barcelona's distinctive flair.

OVERNIGHT: Barcelona | **NIGHTS:** 1



Casa Anamaria

In the heart of the Girona province, with the Pyrenees mountains in the background, this hotel is housed in a magnificent Patrician villa. It features charming rooms, a well-tended garden, and a salt water swimming pool with great views.

OVERNIGHT: Ollers | **NIGHTS:** 2



El Racó de Madremanya Hotel

OVERNIGHT: Madremanya | **NIGHTS:** 2



Salles Cala Del Pi

This upscale oceanfront hotel is set on Cala del Pi Bay, overlooking the Mediterranean. Elegant rooms and suites, decorated in traditional Catalan style, feature private balconies. Enjoy a spa treatment or a dip in the pool.

OVERNIGHT: Platja d'Aro, Girona | **NIGHTS:** 3

DAILY ITINERARY

Spain: Barcelona & the Mediterranean Coast | Cultural Walking Adventure

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Lobby of Duquesa de Cardona, Barcelona, Spain
END	Downtown, Barcelona, Spain
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate on good trails.

What's Included

- All breakfasts and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Wine on Us
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

Franklin
President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Spain...

- Relaxing at Casa Anamaria, a magnificent Patrician villa overlooking the tranquil countryside
- Skipping the lines at La Sagrada Familia for a private tour of Gaudi's cathedral
- Tasting amazing cuisine, 5-star paella, rustic country sausages and sheep's milk cheese
- Walking through remote Girona, a whitewashed village that tilts over the River Onyar
- Exploring with cordial local guides like Ricardo, who will convince you that this isn't really Spain. It's Catalonia, with its own language and personality

"The opportunity to meet and spend time with both the Spanish people and the other guests. I learned a great deal about the Spanish history, culture, and lifestyle, which I will cherish. I also really enjoyed our group."

-Ann Wise., San Jose, CA.