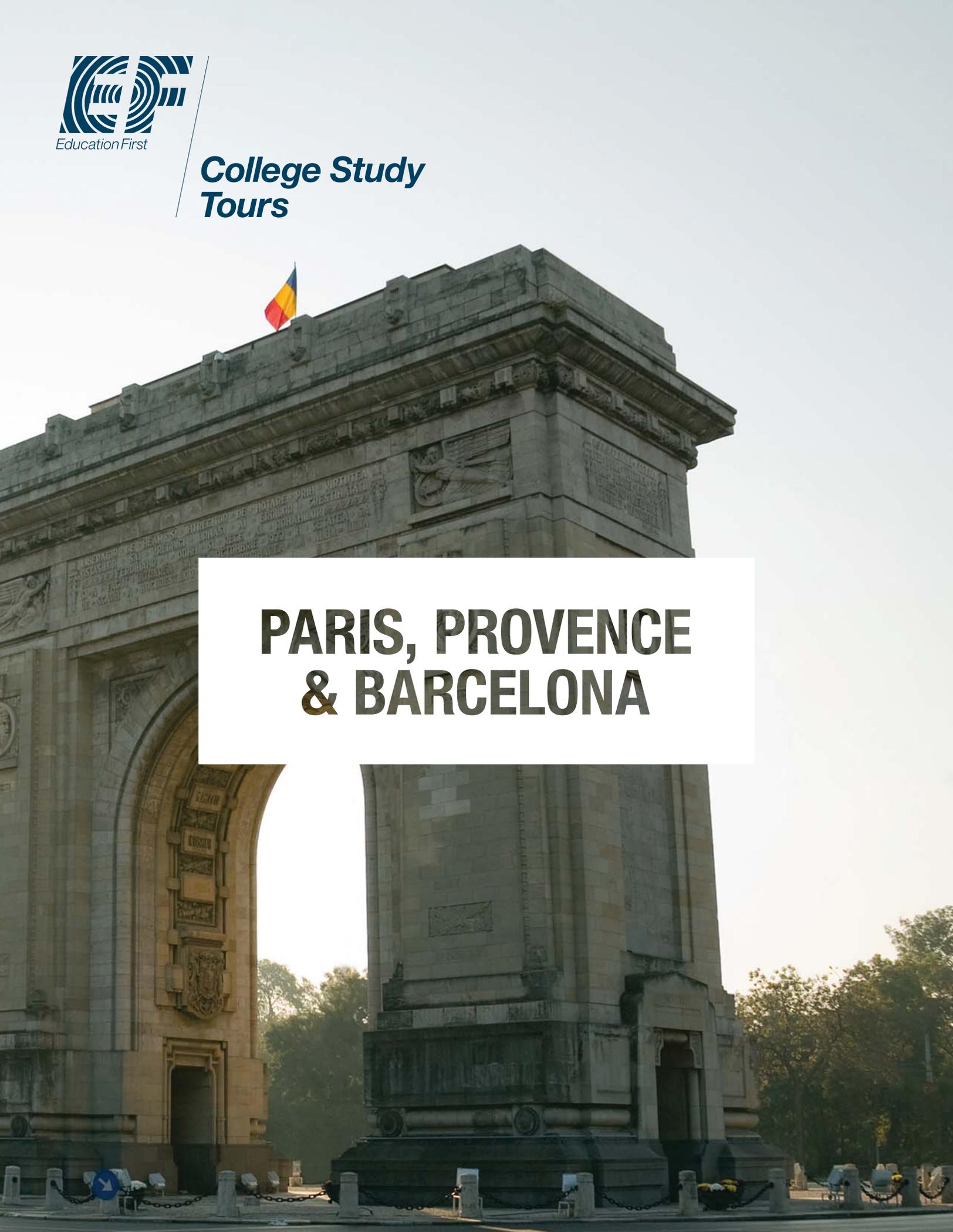




College Study Tours

A photograph of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France. The monument is a large, ornate stone archway with intricate carvings and inscriptions. A Romanian flag is flying from the top. The scene is set against a clear sky with some trees visible in the background.

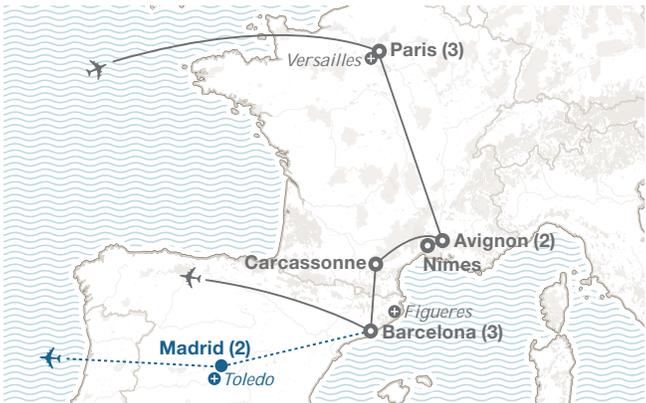
PARIS, PROVENCE & BARCELONA

PARIS, PROVENCE & BARCELONA

When you travel through the awe-inspiring landscapes of France and Spain, you'll be immersed in two unique ways of life.

Begin your adventure in the City of Light, where you'll be awed by the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. Continue on and marvel at Avignon's famous Palais des Papes, before discovering historic Nîmes and the medieval echoes of Carcassonne. Finally, soak in the culture of Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of

Catalonia. Take the time to step back and admire the beauty of Gaudí's ongoing masterpiece, La Sagrada Família, and dive headfirst into the bustling open-air market maze that is the Mercat de la Boqueria. If you still haven't had enough, feel free to extend your tour and experience Madrid and Toledo.



Day 1: Fly to France

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Paris.

Day 2: Paris

Arrive in Paris: Welcome to Paris, the City of Light. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore on your own.

Explore Paris: Check out Paris on foot. Head to the Latin Quarter, so named because the language was once commonly spoken by the Sorbonne students that populated the area.

Notre Dame Cathedral: Admire Notre Dame's sculptured façade, stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings. This evening, get to know your tour group over dinner in the Latin Quarter.

Day 3: Paris

Sightseeing tour of Paris: Get a taste of Parisian style as you ride down the famous Champs-Élysées, an elegant boulevard packed with high-fashion boutiques. You'll pass by grand monuments, including the obelisk in the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe. Next, strike a pose in front of the Eiffel Tower. When you see the lush and beautiful gardens of Les Tuileries, it's easy to forget the turbulent history of this sophisticated city. Your guide shares insight into the city's military history when you continue past Les Invalides. Also, learn about political upheaval in Paris as you pass by the Conciergerie, a palace-turned-jail for prisoners of the French Revolution, and the École Militaire, where a young Napoleon launched his incredible rise to power.

Louvre: Built to defend the city in the 13th century, today the Louvre safeguards art collections that span continents and the ages. Enter by I. M. Pei's glass pyramid, considered a controversial addition by many resident Parisians. Inside, discover Greek, Roman and Asian antiquities, as well as precious objects from the Middle Ages. These massive halls are home to over 35,000 objects; among them is Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, the Mona Lisa. Be sure to get an up-close look at her beguiling smile.

Day 4: Paris

➦ **Versailles:** On your excursion to Louis XIV's lavish estate, explore the State Apartments of the king and queen and the magnificent Hall of Mirrors. Walk through the meticulously landscaped gardens and marvel at dozens of ornate fountains. Then, return to Paris, where you will spend the night. Those who do not opt to join the excursion will enjoy free time in Paris.

Day 5: Avignon

Travel to Avignon: Board a high-speed train bound for Avignon.

Sightseeing tour of Avignon: Take a tour of Avignon, capital of the Provence region. Pope Clement V, a native of France, moved the seat of the papacy to Avignon in 1309. Stroll through the sprawling Palais des Papes in which he and his six successors resided. View the stunning Italian frescoes in the chapel, step inside the papal vestry, and see the hidden vaults where the church's riches were stored.

Day 6: Nîmes | Avignon

Excursion to Nîmes: Explore Nîmes—the birthplace of denim—and its rich history dating back to the Roman Empire. Here you'll take a guided tour of the Amphitheater, which was constructed in the 1st century and is the best-preserved Roman arena in France. You'll then take a guided tour of Pont du Gard, going right up to the top level of the massive, ancient aqueduct and into the channels where the water flowed when the aqueduct was in use. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the aqueduct adjoins the

Mémoires de Garrigue, or "scrubland memories," featuring 15 acres of restored agricultural parcels.

Day 7: Carcassonne | Barcelona

Sightseeing tour of Carcassonne: Relive medieval times as your Tour Director leads you past the city's age-old ramparts (which slowly turned to ruin after falling to the Crusaders in the 13th century). Carcassonne is also home to Europe's largest and most complete medieval fortress.

Travel to Barcelona: Continue to Spain's second-largest city, Barcelona.

Day 8: Barcelona

Sightseeing tour of Barcelona: On your sightseeing tour, see why Barcelona is an art lover's dream city and the place where masters like Miró, Picasso and Dalí flourished. Admire avant-garde gems in open-air plazas, such as the Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza de España. Snap photos of the twisting spires of La Sagrada Família and the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, which delights with dazzling light and water shows. From atop Montjuïc Hill enjoy panoramic views of the harbor below. Here you'll also be able to see the 1992 Olympic stadium.

Park Güell: Marvel at Antoni Gaudí's landscaped greenery and Modernist mosaics.

➦ **Barcelona flamenco evening:** Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco dance is a passionate display of complex footwork, dramatic poses and colorful costumes, accompanied by song and guitar. Marvel at the intricate rhythms created by a dancer's steps, castanets (wooden finger cymbals) and clapping.

Day 9: Barcelona

Sightseeing tour of the Mercat de la Boqueria: Barcelona's central produce market, the Mercat de la Boqueria, is one of Europe's finest feasts of sound, smell, taste and color. It spills over with all the rich and varied color of plentiful fruit and vegetable stands, seemingly limitless varieties of seafood, sausages, cheeses, meats (including the finest Jabugo ham) and sweets. Then, satisfy your appetite at Xampanyeria where you'll enjoy a tapas lunch of local delicacies.

➦ **Dalí Museum:** Travel to Figueres, a Catalan town on the Costa Brava, where you'll visit a one-of-a-kind museum dedicated to the surrealist world of renowned Spanish painter Salvador Dalí. See some of his most famous works, including Soft Self-Portrait with Fried Bacon and The Girl from Figueres.

Day 10: Depart for home

➦ 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 10-11: Madrid | Toledo

Travel to Madrid: Board a high-speed train to Madrid, Spain's capital city.

Madrid: Upon your arrival, stretch your legs and explore the city by foot. Then, visit the Prado, the famed art museum that is home to paintings like Velázquez's *Las Meninas* and Goya's paired canvases. The next day, on your sightseeing tour of Madrid, stand in the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace).

➦ **Toledo:** Take a guided half-day optional excursion to Toledo, the "city of the three cultures." Explore its diverse artistic and cultural legacy on a panoramic drive around the city, stopping at the iconic cathedral and the famed Church of Santo Tomé.

Day 12: Depart for home

INCLUDED ON TOUR:

 Round-trip flights on major carriers

 Full-time Tour Director

 Land transportation

 Hotels with private bathrooms

 Light breakfast daily; 3 local dinners or 4 with extension

 **Sightseeing tours**
Paris; Avignon; Carcassonne; Barcelona; Mercat de la Boqueria; *With extension: Madrid*

 **Entrances**
Notre Dame; Louvre; Papal Palace; Amphitheater in Nîmes; Pont du Gard; Park Güell; *With extension: Prado; Palacio Real*

➦ **Optional**
Versailles; Flamenco evening; Dalí Museum; *With extension: Toledo*

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