



Day 1: Fly to Spain

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

Day 2: Barcelona

Arrive in Barcelona: *Bienvenidos* and welcome to one of the most colorful cities on earth, Barcelona. Put on your walking shoes and embark on a tour through the imaginative and independent Catalan streets.

Walking tour of Barcelona: Explore open-air plazas dotted with avant-garde gems, from the Plaza de Catalunya to Plaza España. Wander along Las Ramblas, a pedestrian mall where you'll find endless entertainment, restaurants, markets, monuments and shopping. Watch street artists, meet a diverse array of locals and then rest your soles during a group dinner at a delicious local restaurant.

Day 3: 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 visitors with dazzling light and water shows. From atop Montjuïc Hill enjoy panoramic views of the harbor below.

Park Güell: Playful and unusual, Park Güell is a feast for the senses and one of many examples of designer Antoni Gaudí's vivid imagination. This vast public park features colorful mosaics and remarkable architecture.

Day 4: Barcelona

Walking tour of Modernist district: Discover the best of Barcelona's Modernist buildings dominated by architects Gaudí, Domènech i Montaner and Puig i Cadafalch. On a guided tour of Casa Milà, you'll learn about this apartment complex with two strategically positioned courtyards, allowing for light in every room. The rock-like structure, which features no straight lines, causes people to frequently refer to it as "La Pedrera," or rock quarry. You'll also visit the Casa Batlló, now a museum, to marvel at the bold colors that shimmer from the delicate tiles covering the outside.

📍 **Barcelona flamenco evening:** Feel the beat this evening as you experience flamenco, a fiery taste of the soul of Spain. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco is characterized by intricate footwork and clapping displays. During your flamenco lesson, your instructor will demonstrate basic techniques while describing the history and origins of this dramatic dance. Then, let the classical guitar be your guide and experience it for yourself. Later, watch bona fide flamenco artists in action during a special performance. The impressive adornments worn by many dancers are designed to accentuate the passionate rhythm of the dance.

Day 5: Barcelona

Free time in Barcelona: Take the day to explore on your own. Visit the Picasso Museo Málaga, five contiguous medieval stone mansions boasting a collection that concentrates on the artist's formative years. Check out Camp Nou Stadium, the largest stadium in Europe and site of the 1992 Olympics. Explore where bus tours can't take you and discover the sights and history of Barcelona on a guided bike tour.

Day 6: 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:** Visit a one-of-a-kind theater museum dedicated to the surrealist world of renowned Spanish painter Salvador Dalí. The most visited museum in Spain after the Prado and a true delight for everyone who appreciates absurdity, fantasy and participation. Converted from an old theater in 1974, Salvador Dalí created the museum as a repository for some of his most famous works, including *Soft Self-Portrait with Fried Bacon*, *Port Alguer* and *The Girl from Figueres*. Don't miss the living room designed as "The Face of Mae West," with the famous red sofa as her lips.

Day 7: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

📍 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 7: Barcelona | Madrid

Travel to Madrid: Board a high-speed morning train and travel to the grand city of Madrid.

Sightseeing tour of Madrid: Explore the capital of Spain in Puerta del Sol, the heart of Madrid. At Plaza Mayor, you'll learn about this grand square's history of bullfights, royal weddings and public executions. Stand in the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Step inside to explore this magnificent palace, built by King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 rooms, including one with extravagant ceramic walls. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible variety of priceless frescoes and chandeliers. Visit the Prado art museum and behold paintings like Velázquez's *Las Meninas* and Goya's paired canvases. Then enjoy a group dinner where you'll taste the flavors of Madrid.

Day 8: Madrid

📍 **Cooking class:** Like the geography, climate and culture that make up the country, Spanish cuisine is diverse—and there's no better place to taste the differences than in Madrid. From paella that's been cooked to perfection in a big cast iron skillet to delicately prepared small plates of tapas, you'll get the chance to learn the culinary secrets that give this unique food its distinct flare.

📍 **Toledo:** Take a day trip to the former Spanish capital of Toledo, where Muslims, Jews and Christians peacefully coexisted for centuries after the arrival of the Moors in the early eighth century. Visit the Cathedral of Toledo, a spectacular example of Gothic architecture, before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomé.

Day 9: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.