

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Costa Brava

Barcelona & the Mediterranean Coast

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

Catalonia & the Mediterranean Coast

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 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 the rustic countryside or on the cosmopolitan avenues of Barcelona, your sense of taste will be more than satisfied by the vivid flavors of Catalan cuisine. Enjoy walking on paths through a park full of extinct volcanoes...dipping your toes in the sea at your private resort...and admiring quirky Art Nouveau architecture. 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.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

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**

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ **WINE ON US**

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails.

DAY 1 »

Barcelona

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 Família 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 through the ancient merchant's quarter, La Ribera, and past the Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar. Your welcome feast is at your guide's favorite restaurant, a 100-year-old landmark that's a favorite spot of actors, musicians and politicians.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA

DAY 2 »

Barcelona / Rupit

This morning, you leave behind Barcelona for a drive to the village of Rupit, located in the rolling hills of Northern Catalonia. Here, you have the option to explore the picturesque village or join your guide for a remarkably scenic waterside walk to a dramatic waterfall. 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 may remind you of Tuscany or Provence.

After lunch in Rupit, you'll continue on to the town of Besalu, famous for its 10th-century bridge, mikveh, Romanesque churches and medieval atmosphere.

The climax of the afternoon is the arrival at your four-star hotel in the heart of the province of Girona, true Catalan Tuscany. It's a remarkable home for the next two nights.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: OLLERS, GIRONA

DAY 3 »

Girona

Your invigorating day begins with a 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 a short visit to Santa Pau, including a special invitation into a local potter's workshop, you'll arrive in the ancient walled city of Girona just in time for lunch and exploration. Delightfully hidden, except to the locals, it's full of 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.

The country air is good for the appetite, so you won't be disappointed that Girona is well known for its pa amb tomàquet, a Catalan specialty of grilled bread slathered in olive oil, garlic and fresh tomato.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: OLLERS, GIRONA

DAY 4 »

Empordà

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 water-mill.

Lunch is in Peratallada, a village that seems to be taken from a fairy tale. The town's name is derived from the words for "carved stone," and you'll understand why as you walk the cobbled lanes closely lined with stone houses.

Later in the day, you'll be well primed for arrival at our luxurious coastal hotel 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 our guide for a walk along the coastal trails for your first glimpse of the Costa Brava.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAY 5 »

Empúries / Figueres

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 our 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.

The region's most famous son was Salvador Dalí, and this afternoon we visit his hometown of Figueres. 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. Afterward, you'll enjoy a visit to a local winery before returning to your resort hotel for an evening in the relaxed tempo of this seaside land.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAY 6 »

Costa Brava

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 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. This afternoon, you can choose to relax on the beach or at the hotel where you can lounge away your last afternoon overlooking the sea.

After a full day soaking up the Costa Brava, a wonderful farewell 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!

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAY 7 »

Barcelona

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.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



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.

NIGHTS: 3 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Duquesa de Cardona**
START CITY: **Barcelona**
START TIME: **2:30 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Downtown city center**
END CITY: **Barcelona**
END TIME: **1:00 PM**