

CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

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.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

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 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 through the ancient merchant's quarter, La Ribera, and past the Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar. Tonight's dinner is at 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, leave Barcelona behind for a drive to the village of Rupit, located in the rolling hills of Northern Catalonia. From the picturesque village, 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.

Later, you'll make your way to the ancient walled city of Girona to explore, on foot at eye level. 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 walk that 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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: EMPORDA, GIRONA

DAY 3 »

Girona

Garrotxa Volcanic Park is Europe's largest region of extinct volcanoes. Your walk through a beech tree forest showcases cinematic views of Croscat volcano – the youngest and highest volcano in the Iberian Peninsula.

The region's most famous son was Salvador Dalí, and this afternoon you'll visit his hometown of Figueres. You'll also enjoy a mindbending 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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: EMPORDA, GIRONA

DAY 4 »

Empordà

Even with the pastel villages that dot the coastline, nature still finds ways to reign supreme, as you'll see on a walk adorned by majestic cork oak, holm oak, and pine trees. Heading south from Emporda, your guide shares with you the fascinating history of the cork and wine industry, immersing you into its significance in shaping the landscape and livelihoods of the locals.

Midday, make your way into the captivating medieval village of Peratallada, renowned for its timeless charm and storied past. As you wander through the cobblestone streets, you'll be transported back in time, tracing the footsteps of ancient civilizations that once thrived in this historic enclave. Peratallada means 'cut stone', and the village owes its name to its distinctive architecture, characterized by stone buildings and medieval fortifications. On a guided walk you'll delve into the town's rich history, spanning over 2,500 years, from its origins as an Iron Age settlement to its evolution into a thriving medieval hub. Marvel at the well-preserved medieval walls and the expansive moat carved from the bedrock, testament to Peratallada's enduring legacy.

Later in the day, you'll be well primed for arrival at your coastal hotel where you can swim in the pool, stretch out on the beach or join your guide for a walk along the coastal trails to explore the nearby villas and seaside mansions.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAY 5 »

Empúries / Figueres

A scenic morning walk leads to the fascinating 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 explore 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 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.

Continue to the quaint coastal town of L'Escala. An important fishing port, this village even has an annual festival dedicated to its famous anchovies. Stroll along the harbor and through the streets, seeing the monuments, churches and ancient ruins on foot at eye level.

The Costa Brava is famed for the quality of its ceramics because clay from Baix Emporda has been the foundation of the local economy for centuries. Trading the natural beauty of the area for the handmade kind, you're invited for an 'only with Classic Journeys' workshop in a local potter's studio. Learn about the techniques of the local potters. Then roll up your sleeves and create your own beautiful artwork.

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.

Then stretch your legs on a walk through scenic vineyards, taking in the picture-perfect views and hearing stories about local

wine-making traditions. You'll arrive on foot to a historic winery located on a beautiful estate with a reconstructed 17th-century farmhouse. Learn all about their grape varieties with their complex flavors and aromas, then sip some of the region's wines during a tasting. ... salud!

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAY 7 »

Barcelona

After breakfast, you'll return to Barcelona where you part company mid-day. Extend your visit in the iconic 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



[Hotel Peralada](#)

Hotel Peralada is an elegant 5-star property in the heart of Empordà. During your relaxing stay, luxuriate in the pool, sauna, or spa, play on the resort's exclusive golf course or sip fine wines in their award-winning vineyard estate.

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**