



CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Costa Brava

Barcelona & the Mediterranean Coast



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



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.



DAY 1 »

Barcelona

- Explore Barcelona's medieval heart while wandering the atmospheric streets of the Gothic Quarter.
- Visit La Sagrada Familia to admire Gaudí's intricate, awe-inspiring architectural masterpiece up close.

As you explore Barcelona, you're not just visiting a city; you're immersing yourself in a rich cultural tapestry. From the intricate details of Gaudí's architecture to the lively markets and squares, every moment is a chance to connect with the city's vibrant spirit. Your expert local guide will lead you to hidden gems and secret spots, ensuring that your journey is both memorable and meaningful.

As you step into Barcelona, one of Europe's most captivating cities, you'll embark on a leisurely walk through the medieval heart of the Gothic Quarter. The maze of tightly packed streets transports you back in time, immersing you in history. You feel as if you've literally stepped into a different era, surrounded by ancient architecture and vibrant street life. Your exploration continues with a visit to La Sagrada Familia, where construction began in 1882 and continues to this day. This iconic landmark is just one of many designs by the visionary architect Antonio Gaudí that you'll encounter as you explore the city.

This evening, you'll stroll through the ancient merchant's quarter, La Ribera, and past the Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar. The atmosphere is filled with the scent of local cuisine and the sound of lively chatter. Tonight's dinner is at a 100-year-old landmark, a favorite among actors, musicians, and politicians. This is where you'll experience the authentic flavors of Barcelona, savoring dishes crafted from fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

Barcelona / Rupit

- Hike to a dramatic waterfall surrounded by Rupit's scenic landscapes and rolling hills.
- Discover Santa Pau's cobblestone streets and well-preserved medieval architecture with your guide.

This morning, leave Barcelona behind and drive to the picturesque village of Rupit, nestled in the rolling hills of Northern Catalonia. From here, 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. The hills are dotted with masias (farmhouses) built from local pink and gray stone, reminiscent of Tuscany or Provence. This walk is more than just a scenic stroll; it's an opportunity to explore the authentic rhythms of rural life.

In the afternoon, visit the village of Santa Pau, where cobblestone streets are lined with traditional stone houses reflecting its medieval past. As you wander through the quiet corners and small plazas, you'll uncover the charm of this well-preserved architecture. Your guide will introduce you to local artisans and farmers, offering a glimpse into the region's rich agricultural heritage. This is an 'only with Classic Journeys' experience, where you'll connect with the people and places that make this region so unique.

As you explore these villages over the week, you'll feel the warmth of the local community. Your small group size allows for intimate interactions with the locals, ensuring that every moment is genuine and authentic. Whether it's a visit to a family-run bakery or a wine tasting at a small vineyard, every experience is curated to connect you with the heart of Catalonia.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: EMPORDA, GIRONA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Besalú / Figueres

- Wander through Besalú's historic streets and cross its iconic medieval stone bridges.
- Visit the surreal Dalí Museum in Figueres, exploring the artist's imaginative and eccentric world.

Today, explore the Garrotxa Volcanic Park, Europe's largest region of extinct volcanoes. Your walk through a beech tree forest offers cinematic views of the Croscat volcano, the youngest and highest in the Iberian Peninsula. Nearby, Besalú awaits, a town steeped in history and natural beauty. As you explore on foot, you'll discover its well-preserved historic charm. The town itself is a historical site, with ancient bridges and fortifications that transport you back in time.

DAILY ITINERARY
COSTA BRAVA | CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

Later, visit Figueres, the hometown of Salvador Dalí, and experience the mind-bending Dalí Museum, which the artist himself designed. The surreal landscapes of Dalí's paintings come alive as you explore the dramatic coastline of the Costa Brava. Your guide will share stories about Dalí's life and work, offering insights into how the region's landscapes influenced his art. This is a unique opportunity to delve into the creative genius of one of the world's most famous artists.

This evening, enjoy delicious local cuisine, crafted from fresh ingredients and served in a setting that reflects the authentic spirit of Catalonia. A family-run restaurant, your meal is a celebration of the region's culinary heritage.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: EMPORDA, GIRONA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Empúries / Girona

- Explore ancient Greek and Roman ruins at Empúries, imagining life centuries ago by the sea.
- Stroll through Girona's colorful Jewish quarter, uncovering hidden corners and centuries of history.

Begin the day with a scenic walk to the ancient Greek and Roman ruins of Empúries, built over 25 centuries ago. Explore the layouts of public and private houses, with remarkably well-preserved Roman mosaics. The ruins come alive against the backdrop of the blue Mediterranean. As you wander through the ancient city, imagine the bustling streets and markets of ancient times as your guide shares stories and anecdotes about the site, bringing it to life.

Continue to the quaint coastal town of L'Escala, famous for its anchovies, and stroll along the harbor and through its streets. The town is filled with monuments, churches, and ancient ruins, each telling a story of its rich maritime history. Later, visit the ancient walled city of Girona, with its narrow streets and pastel-colored houses leaning over the River Onyar. Explore the well-preserved Jewish quarter and hear about its rich heritage. Your guide will lead you to hidden corners and secret spots, ensuring that your experience is both authentic and unforgettable.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Empordà / Peratallada

- Walk amidst majestic cork oak and holm oak trees, learning about local wine and cork industries.
- Create ceramics in a local potter's studio, experiencing traditional craftsmanship firsthand in Peratallada.

Today, walk amidst majestic cork oak, holm oak, and pine trees, learning about the history of the cork and wine industries that have shaped the landscape and livelihoods of locals. Your guide will share stories about how these industries have influenced the region's culture and economy. As you stroll through the picturesque countryside, you'll feel the tranquility of the natural surroundings.

In the medieval village of Peratallada, wander through cobblestone streets and discover its timeless charm and storied past. The village's name, meaning "cut stone," reflects its distinctive architecture and medieval fortifications. Your guided walk will 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.

This afternoon, enjoy an 'only with Classic Journeys' workshop at a local potter's studio. Learn about the techniques of the local potters and roll up your sleeves to create your own beautiful artwork. This is a unique opportunity to connect with the artisans who keep traditional crafts alive. As you work with clay, you'll feel the creativity and warmth of the local community, knowing that your presence supports the local economy and helps preserve the traditional ways of life in this enchanting region.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Costa Brava

- Stroll along Cap Roig's stunning coastal footpath, enjoying breathtaking views of cliffs and coves.
- Taste local wines at a historic winery, learning about Empordà's grape varieties and winemaking traditions.

Dedicate the day to exploring the coastal villages of the Costa Brava, taking in breathtaking sea views, cliffs, and coves. Begin in Cap Roig, where a castle and lush botanical garden were once the dream home of a Russian architect and his English wife. The footpath leads you through white sand beaches, secluded coves, and hillside villas painted in glowing ochre and cream. Pause in Calella, a charming fishing village, and enjoy lunch in Llafranc, nestled in a crescent-shaped bay.

DAILY ITINERARY
COSTA BRAVA | CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

Later, stroll through scenic vineyards and visit a historic winery, where you'll learn about local wine-making traditions and enjoy a wine tasting. Your guide will share stories about the region's grape varieties and the complex flavors and aromas they produce.

Later, as you stroll through the scenic vineyards, you'll delve into the rich wine culture of the Costa Brava. The region's wine production is centered around the DO Empordà, known for its high-quality wines crafted from local grape varieties like Garnatxa and Carignan. You'll visit a historic winery, where the winemaker shares about the modern techniques and traditional methods that blend to create the region's distinctive wines, as well as how the climate and soil, influenced by the Mediterranean Sea and the Pyrenees, contribute to the full-bodied reds, crisp whites, and refreshing rosés.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: PLATJA D'ARO, GIRONA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

Barcelona

- Enjoy a leisurely morning near Platja d'Aro, relaxing or exploring the charming seaside town on your own.
- Journey back to Barcelona, passing rugged coastline, golden beaches, and pine-dotted hills of the Costa Brava.

After breakfast, return to Barcelona, where you'll part ways mid-day. Whether you choose to linger in Barcelona or explore beyond, you'll carry the memories of your journey with you. The warmth of the local community, the beauty of the landscapes, and the richness of the culture will stay with you, inspiring you to return to this enchanting region again someday.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

| | MINIMUM | AVERAGE | MAXIMUM |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Day 1 | 2 | 2 | 2.5 |
| Day 2 | 3 | 4 | 6.5 |
| Day 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Day 4 | 3 | 3 | 5.5 |
| Day 5 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| Day 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Day 7 | * | * | * |

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Barcelona, Girona and the villages along the Costa Brava, as well as well-maintained countryside and coastal trails, vineyard and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone, and even crushed lava rock on the volcanic paths. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain; with some elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Duquesa de Cardona
CITY: Barcelona, Spain
TIME: 2:00 PM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Downtown city center
CITY: Barcelona, Spain
TIME: 1:00 PM

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ REGENERATIVE TRAVEL
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- 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.

▶ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner on us.

▶ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

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

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.