



# BARCELONA, PAMPLONA & BILBAO



*Educational  
Tours*



*Discover the Global Classroom*



9 or 12 DAYS

# Barcelona, Pamplona & Bilbao

Spain



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao is as famous for its building's design as it is for the modern and contemporary works of art inside.

## Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
  - Barcelona • Santillana • San Sebastián
- 3 sightseeing tours led by your tour director:
  - Pamplona • Guernica • Bilbao
- 1 walking tour: Barcelona
- 8 visits to special attractions:
  - Parque Guell • Museum of Contemporary Art
  - Altamira Museum • Colegiata de Santa Juliana
  - Picos de Europa National Park • Guggenheim Museum
  - Monte Igueldo • Chillida Leku

## OPTIONAL:

Barcelona Flamenco Evening

## WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
  - Burgos • Santiago de Compostela
- 1 sightseeing tour led by your tour director:
  - León
- 3 visits to special attractions:
  - Burgos Cathedral • León Cathedral
  - Santiago de Compostela Cathedral

## Day 1 Flight

**Overnight flight to Spain** • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

## Day 2 Barcelona

**Arrival in Barcelona** • Touch down in Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of Cataluña. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Barcelona played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain's monarchy in 1931, and was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

**Walking tour of Barcelona** • Barcelona, known as "La Gran Encisera" (the Great Enchantress), has inspired countless artists—Miró, Picasso and Dalí all lived or studied here at the beginning of their careers. Experience the spirit and romance of Barcelona on our EF walking tour. Your tour director takes you down Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian boulevard that W. Somerset Maugham called "the most beautiful street in the world." Wander among the newspaper kiosks, flower and bird stalls, and performers, from human statues to street musicians to fortune tellers. Restaurants, cafés and hotels abound, as do tourists and locals alike.

## Day 3 Barcelona

**Guided sightseeing of Barcelona** • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still-unfinished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family), where you will make a photo stop. This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You will also see some of Gaudí's other works during our panoramic bus tour of Paseo de Gracia, one of Spain's most cosmopolitan streets. Check out Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España, a bustling six-street intersection that boasts the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, a fountain that puts on a fabulous show of water, lights and music on the weekends. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place. Here, you will see the former stadium and the Olympic Rings. Continue to the Plaza de Colon, a square built in honor of Christopher Columbus ("Columbus" is *Colon* in Spanish). Finish your tour in the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city and home to the stunning Barcelona Cathedral, built in the Mediterranean Gothic style.

**Visit to Parque Guell** • You'll also visit the Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. The beautifully landscaped park is decorated with playful Modernist mosaics. Visit the Room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu, where Gaudí lived from 1906 to 1926.

**Visit to MACBA** • The Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA) provides visitors with an extensive collection of Catalan art by well-known artists, such as Tàpies and Barcelò. A good portion of the museum is devoted to Catalan artistic movements, such as the Grup del Treball, which promoted Catalan independence and created works of art that criticized Franco. Be sure to take note of the building's design and creative use of light, too.

**Optional Flamenco Evening** • To better understand the soul of Spain, choose to attend an optional flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco dance is a passionate display of complex heelwork, dramatic poses and flamboyant costume, accompanied by song and guitar playing. You will marvel at the intricate rhythms created by a dancer's steps and by the use of percussive elements such as castanets (wooden finger symbols) and clapping. (A beverage is included.)

#### Day 4 Zaragoza • Pamplona

**Transfer via lunch stop in Zaragoza** • En route to Pamplona, stop in Zaragoza for lunch, if you choose. A quintessential Iberian city, Zaragoza was founded by Caesar Augustus in 19 B.C. Part of the Aragón region, Zaragoza was a hub of Muslim activity in Moorish times. Choose to visit the Basilica del Pilar, whose central pillar is said to have been a gift from the Virgin Mary to St. James. Also see the building that housed Zaragoza's 16th-century stock exchange.

**Tour director-led sightseeing of Pamplona** • Explore Pamplona, a town best known for its annual Fiesta de San Fermín, and especially its highlight, the running of the bulls. This dangerous but exciting tradition is said to have started in the 13th century as a way to move the animals through the town to be sold at the market. Ernest Hemingway set his novel *The Sun Also Rises* amid the bullfights of Pamplona. See the Plaza de Castillo, the former bullring, built in 1847. Today, the plaza houses the autonomous provincial government and boasts elegant tree-lined streets. You will also marvel at Pamplona's proud cathedral, dating from the 14th century. Its Neoclassical and Baroque façade complements its Gothic interior.

#### Day 5 Santillana • Cantabria

**Transfer via Santillana to Cantabria** • Along your travels today, stop for a guided tour of Santillana del Mar, one of Spain's most picturesque towns. View the age-old golden stone houses, the Romanesque monastery and the Plaza Mayor. See the Colegiata de Santa Juliana, the 800-year-old cathedral, which holds the tomb of the area's patron saint, Juliana. Visit the Altamira Museum, dedicated to ex-

ploring the famous Paleolithic cave art—the first discovery of its kind in 1879. You'll see a short video before your guide takes you to visit a replica of the Altamira Caves. Then continue on to the mountainous Cantabria region, where you will spend the next two nights.

#### Day 6 Cantabria

**Excursion to Picos de Europa National Park** • Join an excursion to the Picos de Europa, the first national park in Spain. Hike the winding trails of the picture-perfect limestone mountain range, where beech, oak, hazel, maple, chestnut and walnut trees abound.

#### Day 7 Guernica • Bilbao

**Tour director-led sightseeing of Guernica** • Travel to the Basque town of Guernica, where, on April 26, 1937, the German air force led an aerial attack of the civilian population with the intent of completely obliterating it. The mission was the first of its kind and was part of a series of attacks corroborated by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. Though the number of casualties widely varies depending on the source, the Basque government reported that nearly 2,000 people died, many elderly, women and children. The bombing of Guernica inspired Picasso's famous painting *Guernica*, which was unveiled at the 1937 World's Fair in Paris.

**Transfer to Bilbao** • Journey to the heart of the Basque Country (or Euskadi, as the natives

call it) to Bilbao, a city nestled at the foot of the Pyrenees.

**Tour director-led sightseeing of Bilbao** • See what Bilbao has to offer as your tour director shows you around. Stroll through the rustic streets of the *casco viejo* (old town) to the Catedral Basílica de Santiago, Bilbao's Gothic Cathedral.

**Visit the Guggenheim Museum** • Visit Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum of modern and contemporary art. Designed by American Frank Gehry, the building is an internationally renowned architectural masterpiece. Its fanciful walls of titanium, limestone and glass surround a vast collection of 20th-century art, including works by Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock.

#### Day 8 San Sebastián • Bilbao

**Guided excursion to San Sebastián** • From the top of Monte Igueldo, take in the beautiful scenery of San Sebastián, a town sandwiched between the mountains and the sea. Stroll down Playa de la Concha and through the town's old quarter, where Isabel II spent her vacations. Napoleon III and Bismarck both spent time in San Sebastián as well. While in the Old Town, look for numbers on the balconies above—these used to be ringside seats for bullfights. Then continue to the nearby mountain town of Hernani, where you will visit a 16th-century farmhouse that has

Flamenco, which originated in Spain, exists in three forms: song, dance and guitar-playing.





been converted into a museum devoted to the works of Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida. (Please note: Depending on weather conditions, groups may visit Monte Urgull instead of Monte Igueldo for views of San Sebastián.)

#### Day 9 Home

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

#### EXTENSION

##### Day 9 Burgos • León

**Transfer to Burgos** • Continue on to Burgos, a town renowned for its connections with El Cid (whose name means "the lord" in Arabic). This legendary leader, who spent most of his life in Burgos (and was ultimately buried here), freed Valencia from the Moors in the 11th century.

**Guided sightseeing of Burgos** • Pass by the impressive medieval architecture of this town, which pilgrims traversed on their way to Santiago during the Middle Ages. The Arco de Santa María, Burgos' last surviving medieval gate, once ushered visitors through the city's walls. Today, it is adorned with a statue of El Cid as well as a statue of Emperador Karl V. Ferdinand and Isabella welcoming Columbus back to Spain—after his second journey to the New World—at the 15th-century Casa del Cordón.

**Overnight in León** • Spend the night in León, a town that played a pivotal role during the Christian reconquest of Spain from the Moors.

##### Day 10 León • Santiago de Compostela

#### Tour director-led sightseeing of León

When you tour this city founded by the Romans as a camp for their Seventh Legion, you will enter its grand cathedral, begun in the 13th century and built in the French style. Observe the silver reliquary holding the remains of Saint Froilan and Pedro de Campaña's *Adoration of the Magi*. Later, as you follow the Roman wall that encircles the city, you'll be inspired by Basilica San Isidoro's medieval frescoes depicting the harvest.

**Transfer via Astorga and Ponferrada** • Your journey continues via the towns of Astorga and Ponferrada, which feature vestiges of the Roman presence in Spain as well as castles built to protect medieval pilgrims traveling the Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela.

**Arrival in Santiago de Compostela** • Arrive in Santiago de Compostela, Christianity's third-most important pilgrimage site in the Middle Ages.

##### Day 11 Santiago de Compostela

#### Guided sightseeing of Santiago de Compostela

Today's guided walking tour introduces you to the historic features of Santiago de Compostela, a World Heritage Site named in honor of Saint James, whose remains were said to have been found here. During the Middle Ages, only Rome and Jerusalem were more important pilgrimage destinations. Stroll along the ancient city's narrow streets, viewing the Plaza del Obradoiro, the 9th-century monastery and the 17th-century fountain in the center of the Plaza des Praterias. You'll also visit the town's twin-spired cathedral.

**El Camino de Santiago Walk** • El Camino de Santiago, or St. James' Way, is the road that pilgrims traveled to reach Santiago, founded in the 9th century after the remains of Apostle Santiago were discovered here. The remains are believed to have been interred in the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, drawing people from around the world looking for forgiveness of their sins. The approximately 660-mile pilgrimage (450 of which are in Spain) would typically take 30 days. You will explore part of the trail, which today draws pilgrims for religious and non-religious reasons alike.

#### Day 12 Home

**Return home** • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.**



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Itinerary subject to change.

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