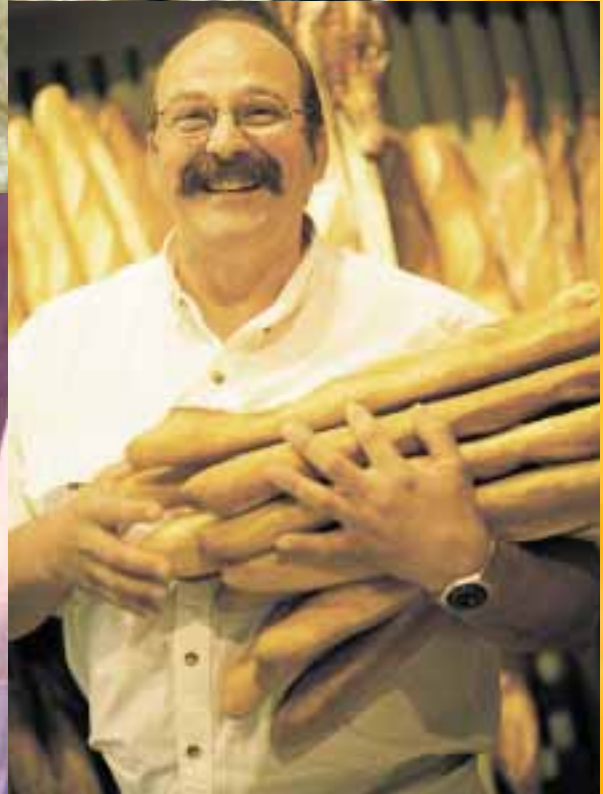




*Educational
Tours*



France and Spain



France and Spain

France • Spain



Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays (10 with extension) in hotels with private bathrooms; plus 1 night couchette accommodation
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides (4 with extension)
- 6 visits to special attractions (9 with extension)
- 3 EF walking tours (4 with extension) and 1 sightseeing briefing

Highlights: Notre Dame Cathedral; Louvre; Eiffel Tower; Champs-Élysées; Parque Guell; La Sagrada Família; Las Ramblas; Barrio Gótico; Barcelona Cathedral; Palacio Real; Prado; Plaza Mayor; Puerta del Sol
With extension: Mezquita; Seville Alcázar; Seville Cathedral

Optional: Versailles; Chartres and the Loire Valley; Flamenco Evening; Morocco (extension only)



Learn before you go
www.eftours.com/pbsfrance
www.eftours.com/pbsspain



No matter where you are in the City of Light, the impressive Eiffel Tower seems to watch over you.

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to France • Enjoy jet accommodations as you fly through the night across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Paris

Arrival in Paris • Touch down in Paris, City of Light. After clearing customs you are greeted by your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Day 3 Paris

Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine: from the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, to the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to Lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral • Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to her former glory. Hugo's novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1831), helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire her stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Built between 1163–1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804.

Optional excursion to Versailles • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Here the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. Stroll through the elegantly landscaped gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre, tour the State Apartments of the King himself, walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors and admire the ornate decor of the State Apartments of the Queen. (Please note: Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace). On occasions when Versailles is closed (as in every Monday) you'll instead take in the regal splendor of Château de Fontainebleau, a 12th-century royal residence that was a favored hunting palace for Napoleon and other rulers of France.



Number of overnight stays in parentheses.

Day 4 Paris

Optional excursion to the Loire Valley •

Journey through the French countryside to the magnificent Loire Valley, Playground of the Kings. Our first stop is Chartres, home to Europe's grandest Gothic cathedral (13th-century) and the world's finest stained-glass windows. Then visit the spectacular Château de Chenonceau on the banks of the River Cher, an architecturally breathtaking estate with a romantic history. Finally, stop at Chambord, the largest of all the Loire Valley châteaux. Here many of Molière's plays were performed for the first time.

Free time in Paris • Alternatively, you can enjoy free time for your own explorations of Paris. You might wish to visit the Louvre Museum, the Picasso Museum or the futuristic exhibits of the Pompidou Centre. Other possibilities are a visit to the Sacré-Coeur, where you can watch artists at work in the streets of Montmartre below, or a stroll through the Latin Quarter. Or simply observe the timeless Parisian tradition of people-watching over a cup of *café au lait* at a sidewalk café.

Day 5 Paris • Night Train

EF walking tour of Paris • Join our walking tour of the chic Opéra district and the haute couture boutiques of Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré. Stroll through Place de la Concorde, the city's largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. The next Louis was not so lucky—he was beheaded here during the Revolution, along with Marie Antoinette. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to Place Vendôme, a vast square wrapped in 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. (The exact walking route may vary depending on your hotel location and other activities.)

Visit to the Louvre • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece, and Rome. You'll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as paintings by European masters, including the *Mona Lisa*.

Night train to Toulouse • Tonight, enjoy *couchette* accommodations aboard your overnight train bound for Toulouse.

Day 6 Night Train • Barcelona

Arrival in Toulouse • Arrive in Toulouse, nicknamed the Rose-Colored Town.

Tour director-led sightseeing of Carcassonne • Continue on to medieval Carcassonne, named after a woman who rescued the town from the hands of Charlemagne. Relive medieval times as your tour director leads you past the city's age-old ramparts (which slowly turned to ruin after falling to the Crusaders in the 13th century). Carcassonne is also home to Europe's largest and most complete medieval fortress.

Transfer to Barcelona • Pass through the foothills of the Pyrenees to Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of Catalonia. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Recall that Barcelona, which played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain's monarchy in 1931, was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939.

Day 7 Barcelona

Guided sightseeing of Barcelona • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and still unfini-

ished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family). This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudí, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place.

Visit to Parque Guell • You'll also visit the mosaic-encrusted Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. Visit the room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu where Gaudí lived from 1906–1926.

EF walking tour of Barcelona • Experience the flavorful atmosphere of Barcelona on our EF walking tour. You'll stroll the narrow lanes of the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city. Your tour director takes you past the city's spectacular cathedral, built in a Mediterranean Gothic style, and down Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian boulevard that W. Somerset Maugham called "the most beautiful street in the world." As you stroll the famous paseo, keep in mind that Barcelona has inspired countless artists—Miró, Picasso and Dalí all lived or studied here at the beginning of their respective careers.

Optional Flamenco Evening • Encounter the drama, rhythm and heartbeat of Spain at an optional Flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, Flamenco dance is a passionate blend of intricate heelwork and clapping, accompanied by songs and guitar.

Day 8 Barcelona • Madrid

Transfer via lunch stop in Zaragoza •

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. View the brightly colored domes of the Basílica del Pilar, whose central pillar is said to be a gift from the Virgin Mary to St. James. Also see the building that housed Zaragoza's 16th-century stock exchange.

Arrival in Madrid • Arrive in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital.

Day 9 Madrid

Guided sightseeing of Madrid • Your local guide introduces you to the sights of Madrid on a panoramic tour of the city. Continue with a visit to the extravagant Palacio Real (Royal Palace), built by Bourbon 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 extravagant rooms, including one encased in porcelain. Marvel at the splendor of the marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible collection of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

EF walking tour of Madrid • Meet at the Puerta del Sol for our EF walking tour of Madrid. Here Madrileños once battled Napoleon. Walk through

Plaza Mayor is an architectural showpiece and a popular gathering spot for Madrileños.



one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to public executions.

Visit to the Prado • You'll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with many works that once belonged to the Spanish monarchy. Look for the self-portrait of Velázquez in *Las Meninas*, marvel at how scandalous Goya's *Naked Maja* must have been for 18th-century Spain, and keep an eye out for the unflattering but true-to-life portraits that Goya painted for the royal court.

Day 10 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 10 Madrid • Seville

Transfer via Puerto Lápice • Alternatively, you can extend your stay three days. Travel through La Mancha, the region in which Cervantes's Don Quixote chased windmills. Stop in picturesque Puerto Lápice, where travelers in centuries past found sustenance as they fed and watered their horses.

Brief stop in Córdoba • Visit Córdoba's 8th-century Mezquita, formerly the largest mosque west of Mecca. Córdoba was once a sacred Muslim city and one of the world's great centers of learning—at its height, it was home to 700 mosques, 900 public baths and 70 libraries.

Transfer to Seville • Follow the Guadalquivir River to Seville—capital of Andalusia, birthplace of Velázquez and host of the 1992 World's Fair. If you're lucky enough to arrive in spring, Seville will greet you with the sweet fragrance of orange blossoms.

Day 11 Seville • Costa del Sol

Guided sightseeing of Seville • Hispalis, as Seville was called in Roman times, rests on the banks of the Río Guadalquivir and is Spain's only river port. See the Old Tobacco Factory, setting of Bizet's opera *Carmen*, and pass the Plaza de Toros, one of Spain's preeminent bullrings. Then visit Maria Louisa Park to view the beautiful mosaics of Plaza de España, built for the 1929 Ibero-American Fair. Next, walk through the geranium-strewn alleys of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, an aesthetic treat you'll always remember. As you wind your way through this historic Jewish Quarter, notice the whitewashed houses with sand-colored trim—this is typical of Sevillian-style architecture. Top off your tour with a guided visit to the Moorish Alcázar. Built for Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century, it is one of the purest examples of mudéjar architecture in the world. When the Moorish Alcázar is closed (Mondays), groups will visit the Casa de Pilatos.

Guided visit to Seville's Cathedral • Columbus landed in Seville upon returning from his first voyage in 1493. Pay tribute to his grave inside the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral, the third largest in the world. Then climb the cathedral's Giralda Tower for a spectacular view of the city below.

EF walking tour of Seville • Meet at the base of the 12th-century Giralda Tower, Seville's best-known symbol, for our EF walking tour. Make your way toward the 12-century *Torre del Oro* (The Golden Tower), built to defend the river entrance to Seville. Then head for the *Plaza de Toros* (bull ring), one of the oldest and grandest in all of Spain.

Transfer to the Costa del Sol • Travel to the sunny Costa del Sol.

Day 12 Costa del Sol

Optional excursion to Morocco • Join our full-day optional excursion to Morocco. Ferry across the Strait of Gibraltar and enter a world of mosques, camels, snake charmers and bustling markets. You'll travel to Tetouan, a serene North African town whose culture and architecture reflect the area's Moorish past. See the Andalusian and Islamic-influenced architecture as a local guide leads you through the Medina. You'll also hear presentations at a carpet bazaar and a local spice shop.

Day 13 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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