



# FRANCE AND SPAIN



*Educational  
Tours*

➔ *Discover the Global Classroom*

10 or 13 DAYS

# France and Spain

France • Spain



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



Come face-to-face with some of the world's most recognizable landmarks, such as La Sagrada Família in Barcelona and the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

## Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension); plus 1 night couchette accommodations
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Paris • Barcelona • Madrid
- 1 sightseeing tour led by your tour director: Carcassonne
- 2 EF walking tours: Paris • Barcelona
- 1 EF orientation tour: Madrid
- 5 visits to special attractions: Notre Dame Cathedral • Musée d'Orsay • Parque Guell • Royal Palace • Prado

### OPTIONAL:

Versailles • Chartres and the Loire Valley  
Madrid Flamenco Evening

### WITH EXTENSION:

- All of the above PLUS:
- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Seville
  - 1 EF walking tour: Seville
  - 4 visits to special attractions: Mezquita • Seville Alcázar • Seville Cathedral • Seville bullring
  - Optional: Morocco excursion

## Day 1 Flight

**Overnight flight to France** • Relax as you fly 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, beginning with the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée. 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. You'll hear the story of how this impressive—but once highly controversial—symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909. Pass the Opéra Garnier, where the famous Phantom of the Opera haunted his dear Christine, and marvel at Église de la Madeleine, designed as a temple of glory for Napoleon's army. Continue past the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades.

## 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. Please also note that Versailles is closed on Mondays.)

## 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 (13th-century) cathedral 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 Mu-



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seum, 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

**Visit to the Musée d'Orsay** • Part of this museum's draw is the building itself, not just the artwork that adorns its walls. Built for the 1900 Universal Exposition, the Gare d'Orsay functioned as a train station until 1939 and was converted into a museum in 1986. The high, arching ceiling and enormous wall clocks hint at the days when trains zipped in and out of the spacious structure. The museum is noted for its collection of Impressionist paintings—a walk through the upper gallery will reveal works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, Sisley, Pissarro and countless others.

**Walking tour of Paris** • Meander through the Latin Quarter, an area dominated by the Sorbonne, Paris' most famous university, founded in 1253. As you stroll, look for the Panthéon, created by Louis XV because of a promise he made to build a church dedicated to Sainte-Geneviève if he survived a severe illness. You'll also explore Boulevard St. Michel and spend some time browsing the stacks at the famous Shakespeare and Company bookstore, which published James Joyce's *Ulysses* in 1922. As you make your way along the Seine, you'll also have the chance to browse the literary ma-

terials sold at *les bouquinistes*, the bookstalls that sell old books, maps, art prints and postcards. It's the perfect place to pick up some authentic souvenirs!

**Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral** • Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. 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 its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

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

#### Day 6 Toulouse • 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. 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-unfinished La Sagrada Família (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.

**Visit to Parque Guell** • You'll also visit 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.

**EF 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.

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



## Day 8 Barcelona • Zaragoza • 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 Basilica 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 sightseeing adventure begins with a panoramic tour of Spain's capital city. At the Puerta del Sol, the center of Madrid, pass through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This grand square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to royal weddings to public executions. Continue to the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Next, you will explore this magnificent 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 rooms, including one with extravagant ceramic walls. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible variety of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

**Madrid orientation tour** • Your tour director continues to show you Madrid. Travel back in time to Spain's Golden Age, when painters like Goya and Velázquez ruled and the Royal Court reigned. Get acquainted with the center of Iberia and its biggest draw—the friendly *madrileños* who inhabit the cafés, *tascas* and flea markets that pack the city. And discover what makes Pedro Almodóvar want to immortalize the Madrid scene in his films.

**Visit to the Prado** • You'll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with works collected by the Spanish monarchy. One of the museum's most famous paintings is *Las Meninas* by Velázquez. You'll also find Goya's paired canvases *The Clothed Maja* and *The Naked Maja*, along with works by Bosch, El Greco and many others.

**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 intricate heelwork and clapping, accompanied by songs and guitar.

## 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' 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 alleys of the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the historic Jewish Quarter. The whitewashed houses with sand-colored trim are typical of Sevillian-style architecture. Finish 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 at his grave inside the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral, the third-largest in the world. Then climb the Giralda Tower for a spectacular view of the city below.

**Tour Seville's Bullring** • With its Baroque façade in white and ochre, Seville's bullring is one of the most charming bullrings in the country. Although its capacity is only 12,500, it attracts the top bullfighters. You can see bullfights in Seville from April (during Seville's Feria de Abril) through to October.

**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 12th-century Torre del Oro, built to defend the river entrance to Seville. Then head for the Plaza de Toros, one of the oldest and grandest bull rings 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.**

## Discover the Global Classroom



Educational Tours