



QUO

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

MADRID, BARCELONA & PARIS



14 DAYS \$5,495

MADRID, BARCELONA AND PARIS INSTANTLY ENVELOP YOU IN THEIR SATURATING CULTURE AND LEAVE YOU FEELING A LITTLE MORE IN LOVE WITH EACH DESTINATION.



DAY

- 1 **Departure day.** Depart the USA for your overnight flight to Madrid.
- 2 **Madrid, capital of Spain.** Upon arrival our guide will meet us and we will have an opportunity to exchange currency before leaving the airport. After lunch we will have an orientation Madrid and will see the Royal Palace, Teatro Royal and the Plaza Mayor. We will then check into our hotel with time to freshen up before dinner. This evening we will learn about the culture of Flamenco as we see a Flamenco show.
- 3 **Medieval sword making.** This morning we will visit the Royal Palace, which is the official residence of the Spanish Royal family. The palace has over 3,000 rooms and remarkable frescos adorning many of the ceilings. Later in the day we journey to Toledo, a beautiful medieval village where the ancient art of sword making is still practiced. We will watch the master sword makers as they hammer steel to create these beautiful replicas of medieval swords.
- 4 **Design your day on the Hop-On Hop-Off bus!** This morning we will leave for Valencia on the Costa del Azahar (the Orange Blossom Coast). Valencia is the third largest city in Spain. The contrast between the medieval old city and the modern architecture make Valencia one of the most popular destinations in Spain. After our arrival we will switch to the Hop-On Hop-Off tour bus, which will allow us to pick our own itinerary for the afternoon while listening to the history of the city through headphones that are provided. Later this evening we will enjoy dinner in this sun drenched city.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Flamenco in Madrid
- Home dinner in Spain
- La Sagrada Familia and Gaudi Park, Barcelona
- Medieval City of Carcassonne
- Chateau de Versailles, France
- Eiffel Tower, Paris



DAY
5

City of arts and sciences. The City of Arts and Sciences represents the modern side of Valencia. In 1957 a flood destroyed much of the city and the exciting river was diverted around the city center leaving room for a park. In the early 1990's construction began on a series of remarkable buildings that include a science center, aquarium and an opera house. This morning we will see the Oceanographic, an aquarium complex with more than 500 different species of marine life. In the afternoon we will enjoy some free time to explore the complex and marvel at the architecture. This evening we learn to cook paella at a local restaurant specializing in this famous Spanish dish.

6 Gaudi, Gaudi everywhere. This morning we head north to the beautiful city of Barcelona. Today we will learn where the English term gaudi originates as we marvel at the spectacular architecture of the Gaudi. In 1882 construction began on La Sagrada Familia, a cathedral designed by Gaudi. Construction continues to this day and will likely not be completed until 2026. Following our visit we will explore Gaudi's Parc Guell, a fantasy-like blend of architecture and nature.

7 Dip in the Mediterranean. Drawing inspiration from the parc, we will participate in a workshop where we will produce our own mosaic in the style of Antonio Gaudi. Following lunch we will have time at Barcelonetta beach where we will swim in the Mediterranean ocean and enjoy the warmth of a Spanish afternoon.

8 Explore Barcelona like a local. This morning we will ride by cable car to the top of Montjuic where we can see the Olympic stadium and enjoy the spectacular views of Barcelona. In the afternoon we will explore La Rambla the most famous street of Barcelona. Here we will be able to browse the shops or sample ice cream or tapas just like the locals. Speaking of locals, this evening we will divide up and join a local family for dinner at their house.

9 Adios, Spain and bon jour, France! Sadly we bid farewell to France and make our way north to the border of France. In the morning we will visit Figueres and discover the amazing art of the surrealist Salvador Dali. After lunch we continue to Perpignan where we will spend the night.

10 Medieval times! Carcassonne is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in all of Europe. It is distinctive for the blue turrets of the castle and some may recognize it from the movie Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves starring Kevin Costner. The city with its fortified walls contains 53 individual towers and turrets. Our visit will include

free time to wander the narrow streets and marvel at the preservation of this beautiful city. This afternoon we will trek up to the Tautavel Man Cave for an archaeology workshop and a lesson in making fire from flint! Following dinner we board our overnight train to the city of light—Paris.

11 Voila, Paris! Early this morning we arrive in Paris, the city of light. We will be met at the station by our motorcoach and guide who will take us on a tour of this beautiful city. In the afternoon we will visit the historic hilltop of Montmartre, a haven for artists. As we peruse the square we will have chance to marvel at the artists hard at work on their painting. A few steps away is the spectacular Sacre Coeur. We will make sure to have time to take pictures of the outside of the cathedral and from the overlook which provides spectacular views of Paris.

12 Chateaus and sun kings. Today we will journey back in time to the age of Louis XIV and the magnificent Chateau de Versailles. Many would say that this is the most spectacular of all the European Royal Palaces. Later we will enjoy some free time on the fabulous Avenue des Champs-Élysées, one of the most famous streets in the world.

13 View from the top! This morning we will explore the Louvre and marvel at the most famous works such as the Mona Lisa, Winged Nike and Venus de Milo. After lunch we will ascend the Eiffel Tower and catch a final glimpse of the City of Light.

14 Homeward bound. This morning we bid adieu to Europe as we head to the airport for our flight back to the United States.