Barcelona and Girona

Itinerary

Day 1
Your English-speaking guide will meet you at the airport or train station and take you to your hotel right in the heart of Barcelona’s famous Gothic Quarter. Before dinner, we’ll meet for an overview of the days to come. Dinner tonight will be in a bustling restaurant in the historic Jewish quarter, next to the Gothic Cathedral, where you will enjoy an assortment of traditional tapas.

Day 2
The morning’s activities begin with a tour of the famous Catalan market called La Boqueria, considered one of the best fresh food markets in Europe. Then, it’s off to the famous Ramblas of Barcelona and the Gothic Cathedral. After exploring the Old Quarter, we will share a chilled glass of Cava (Catalan sparkling wine) inside the magnificent Palau de La Musica, a Modernist concert hall designed 100 years ago by the architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner.
For lunch, we will take you to a unique tapas bar that serves some of the best Catalan wines to accompany the chef’s specialties. Your afternoon and dinner will be on your own to enjoy the city. We will happily give you suggestions on which places to visit.

Day 3
We leave the bustle of Barcelona for the beautiful area near historic Girona. We will check into your new hotel that’s situated between the Pyrenees Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea, centrally located near all destinations for the remainder of your tour. This morning, we’ll be in the kitchen with Chef Vicenc. Your first cooking lesson will focus on traditional Catalan recipes. You’ll sit down with the chef after the lesson to enjoy the meal, enhanced by wines selected to pair with the menu.

After lunch, we’ll head for the coast in time to see the fishing boats come back from the sea. We’ll watch the fisherman sell their catch and visit the local fish market. The remainder of the day will include visits to medieval villages such as Pals and a wine tasting in a vineyard. There’s dinner, too, in a classic Catalan restaurant.
Day 4

Today, we’re heading to the lovely and timeless Girona. Four rivers, affording lovely vistas and reflections, grace the city that traces its roots back several thousand years. The Old Town is rich with history, whether visiting the ancient walls, the well-preserved Jewish quarter, the 12th century Arab baths or the magnificent 15th century Gothic cathedral that holds the treasured “Tapestry Of Creation”, created in the 12th century.

Lunch will be at a restaurant that’s well known for its Catalan cuisine. In the afternoon, we will journey to the medieval city of Besalu before returning to the hotel to meet Chef Vicenc for your second cooking class. You’ll be dining with the chef this evening on the traditional meal you helped cook – with good wines, of course.

Day 5

We will start the day with a trip to a charming village – the home of a very special workshop where a master chef prepares his beautiful and equally delicious chocolates. We will not only see his craft but sample it as well! Then, it’s off to another type of culinary creation – cheese! We will visit a small cheese factory to see the process of making an excellent local cheese. We will finish the morning’s activities with a visit to the medieval village of Pubol. This is the home of the Dali’s Castle-Museum, a medieval castle restored by Salvador Dali. The castle is rich in architectural beauty and works of art.

The afternoon will be on your own to explore the area, relax by the pool or have lunch on your own. (We recommend that you eat a small lunch since dinner will be substantial!)

For the last evening of your tour, we will take you to one of our favorite restaurants:

La Plaça de Madremanya. Chef Vicenc will prepare the meal for you while his wife, Monica, a sommelier, will select the wine.

You are sure to enjoy this multi-course tasting meal in this beautiful countryside location.

Day 6

After breakfast, we will take you to your train station, airport or local hotel, hoping that you will be filled with wonderful memories of Catalonia.