

PARIS & SPAIN: Fashion Tour

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to Paris.

Day 2: Arrive today in **Paris**. Meet your guide for an orientation city walking tour. Later, your guide will leave you in the Latin Quarter. At one time only Latin was spoken here! Today it is brimming with cafes, restaurants, little bookstores, and tourist shops.

Day 3: Today a guided visit to the **Louvre** and the Musee des Arts Decoratifs, housing 35,000 fashion accessories and pieces of fabric illustrating the evolution of clothing. Then see Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome and Palais Royale. See the famous cabaret, Moulin Rouge. Walk the Boulevard Clichy to Montmartre, one of the most picturesque and lively quarters of the city. Climb or take the funicular up to **Sacre Coeur**, a beautiful white basilica, majestically towering from the highest point in Montmartre. Tonight ascend the **Eiffel Tower**.



Day 4: Today is a day of **fashion related activities** learning from fashion professionals familiar with the fashion world who will provide you with knowledge of the world of French Haute Couture. Enjoy a guided walking tour followed by visits to independent fashion designers and possible fashion school visit. Spend time on Ave de Montaigne and Rue du Faubourg, Saint Honore, widely cited as the most fashionable streets in the world. Tonight enjoy a relaxing Seine cruise.

Day 5: Visit **Versailles**. See the Grand Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, and other sights. Afterwards, head to the Fragonard Musee du Parfum. The museum will introduce you to the rudiments of perfume history. The copper containers with spouts and tubes were used in the distillation of perfume oils, and the exquisite collection of perfume bottles from the 17th to the 20th century is impressive. Alternatively enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the Opera Garnier that includes a visit to the public foyers, the main auditorium and the backstage areas. Or visit the Musee de L'éventail or Fan Museum. The museum was established in 1993 and is the first museum in France dedicated to the fan. The museum is located within the Atelier Anne Hoguet, a workshop for fan-making and restoration and contains an exhibition of fans from the eighteenth century to the present day, along with the tools, workbenches, and materials used in making fans, including pearl, ivory, shell, bone, and wood. Tonight shop Galeries Lafayette and Printemps.



Day 6: Morning transfer to **Madrid**. Madrid is sophisticated and stylish but was at one time cloaked in authoritarian repression and insularity. Today there are sweeping plazas and grand boulevards, fountains and palaces, elegant buildings and more than 40 museums. Guided city tour. See The Plaza Mayor and El Retiro Park. Tour the Plaza de Espana and the statue of Cervantes fictional hero Don Quixote. Then continue past the elegant Alcala shopping street, the Cibeles Fountain and cross the Puerta del Sol. Enjoy a guided visit to Las Ventas. This impressive bullring was built in mudejan (Moorish) style and today is also used for rock concerts and political meetings. Also visit the Museo del Traje. The Museum of Costume follows Fashion and Costume from the 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries.



Day 7: Visit the Royal Palace, an extravagant and flamboyant Renaissance Neoclassical structure consisting of 2000 rooms which was completed in 1764 for Carlos III. Enjoy a leisurely walk to your visit at the Royal Tapestry Factory. This building houses a collection of 18th, 19th and 20th century tapestries, carpets and paintings. The tapestry collection based on sketches by Goya is noteworthy. Visitors can watch the work of its craftsmen and women in the museum workshops. Walk back towards your hotel and shop Puerto del Sol, Plaza Mayor, Gran Via. Tonight attend a traditional flamenco show.

Day 8: Morning transfer to **Barcelona**. Meet your guide for your city sightseeing tour. Visit Parc Guell. Later discover the famous Las Ramblas, a tree lined boulevard with many of Barcelona's most interesting streets running off or parallel to this main artery. The city's oldest buildings of historic and artistic interest are located in the Gothic Quarter.

Day 9: Visit **Sagrada Familia**, the unfinished church begun by local architect Antoni Gaudi. Gaudi worked on the project for 40 years and work is still underway on the project. Barcelona is crammed with shops and cafes. Make your way to Place Catalunya with its 4 radiating great boulevards Later enjoy a museum visit to the Picasso Museum, the best collection in the country of this artist who spent his formative years in Barcelona. Tonight see Font Magica in its entire colorful splendor and water acrobatics.

Day 10: Today the world of **Barcelona fashion**. The neighborhood of Gracia was an independent village until the late 19th century but today it is popular with artists and a bohemian crowd and has the highest concentration of foreign restaurants in the city. It is known for local artisans and brand shops, trendy bars and traditions such as the Festas de Gracia or St Medir Festivals. IED Barcelona has a history of developing talented fashion graduates who are able to develop a personal creative practice and work within all areas of the international fashion industry Later visit local independent and successful fashion designers and a fashion photographer.

Day 11: Visit the **Museum of Textiles and Fashion**. Newly opening in 2014 it is situated right next to a flea market space called Encants. The museum includes collections of historical and contemporary decorative arts, ceramics, industrial design, textiles, clothing and graphic designs. Enjoy your morning at the museum and flea market. Wander to the La Ribera neighborhood, an area that used to house the wealthier shippers and merchants. Streets are named after the shops that used to occupy them (ie The Carrer de L'Argenteria or Goldsmith Street). The Passeig del Born (formerly a jousting square) is popular for its fine restaurants and tapas bars. Museums that may be of interest today instead are the Chocolate Museum which tells the story of chocolate from the Aztecs to the Europeans and the Catalan Art Museum which houses a world class collection of the regions art. The rest of the day is free to shop, sightsee according to your own schedule, and relax with a cappuccino at a local coffee shop.

Day 12: Today unfortunately your tour must come to an end. Hasta la vista.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Paris return Barcelona
- One way flight Paris – Madrid
- One way flight or train transfer Madrid - Barcelona
- Assistance upon arrival in all cities
- 10 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 10 Breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Entrances/visits:
 - o Guided visit to Louvre
 - o Musee Des Arts Decoratif
 - o Eiffel Tower
 - o Seine Cruise
 - o Entrance to Fan Museum or Museum of Perfume or guided backstage Opera Garnier
 - o Versailles with audio guide
 - o Madrid Las Ventas bullring
 - o Costume Museum in Madrid
 - o Royal Palace & Royal Tapestry Factory
 - o Flamenco show
 - o Museum of Textiles and Fashion in Barcelona
 - o Entrance to Park Guell
 - o Guided visit to Sagrada Familia
 - o Entrance to Picasso Museum
 - o Full day fashion activities in Barcelona
- 4 day metro pass in Paris
- Coach transfers
 - o Paris – airport return
 - o Madrid – return airport or train station
 - o Barcelona – return airport or train station
- Guided orientation tours
 - o Walking & Fashion Tour in Paris (2)
 - o Coach tour Madrid
 - o Coach tour Barcelona

