

PARIS, BARCELONA, MADRID & SEGOVIA

(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. Tonight a Seine Cruise.

Day 3: Today a guided visit to the **Louvre**. Then see Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome and Palais Royale. Walk the Champs Elysee, Ave de Montaigne, Rue du Faubourg, and Saint Honore, widely cited as the most fashionable streets in the world. See the Arc de Triomphe. Early this evening visit Paris's grands magasins (department stores) Galeries Lafayette and Printemps department stores. Later tonight the **Eiffel Tower**.



Day 4: Visit **Versailles**. See the Grand Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, and other sights. Return to Paris and 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, magnetically towering from the highest point in Montmartre. Transfer tonight to Barcelona.

Day 5: History of **Barcelona** dates back to 218 B.C. when Romans first developed the city walls. Meet guide for city sightseeing tour. Visit Parc Guell. Later self discovery of the city. Start at Placa Catalunya. Radiating from the square are 4 great boulevards, Ramblas, Passeig de Gracia, Rambla de Catalunya, Avinguda Portal de L'Angel. 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. Stop at the fabulous Mercat de la Boqueria. The market originated as an open air market where fruit and vegetables from local towns and farms nearby would sell their products. The city's oldest buildings of historic and artistic interest are located in the Gothic Quarter. See inside the Catedral De Barcelona, the Palace of the Catalan Government, City Hall and the Great Royal Palace. Enjoy an evening paseo (walk).



Day 6: Guided visit **Sagrada Familia**, the unfinished church begun by local architect Antoni Gaudi. 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 is popular for its fine restaurants and tapas bars. Museum visit to the Picasso Museum. The rest of the day is free to shop, sightsee and relax with a cappuccino at a local coffee shop. Tonight see Font Magica in its entire colorful splendor and water acrobatics.

Day 7: 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, the Plaza de Espana and the statue of Cervantes fictional hero Don Quixote. Continue past the elegant Alcala shopping street, the Cibeles Fountain and 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. Tonight a Flamenco show. This music and dance art form has its roots in the gypsy and Moorish cultures. After the show indulge in some hot churros and chocolate sauce as you stroll back to your hotel.



Day 8: 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 El Retiro Park or some shopping on the elegant Alcala shopping street. Afternoon visit to the Prado Museum or the Museo Thyssen Bornemisza. Walk back towards your hotel and shop Puerto del Sol, Plaza Mayor, Gran Via.

Day 9: Transfer to **Segovia** a UNESCO heritage site. The 2000 year old well preserved aqueduct is an imposing site. The prominent cathedral built in Renaissance times (1525 – 1768) is an excellent example of Gothic with its frilly exterior. Perched high on the hill is the Alcazar, a fortified palace that was once the residence of the monarchs of Castille, was at one time a prison, and then a Royal Artillery School. Visit the Alcazar. Alternatively visit Toledo, the former capital of Spain. At one time it had a population of 200,000 almost 4 times what it is today. With Toledo's long history of peaceful coexistence amongst the Jews, Moors and Christians, the city is dotted with historically important buildings of religious significance.

Day 10: Hasta la Vista. Today you head home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Paris return from Madrid
- One way flight Paris - Barcelona
- One way flight or train transfer Barcelona - Madrid
- Coach transfers
 - o Paris – return airport
 - o Barcelona - return airport or train station
 - o Madrid - return airport or train station
 - o Full day visit to Segovia or Toledo
- Assistance upon arrival in Paris, and Madrid
- 8 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 8 breakfasts
- 4 dinners
- Guided tours
 - o Paris walking tour
 - o Barcelona coach tour
 - o Madrid coach tour
- Entrances
 - o Guided Louvre
 - o Versailles with audio guides
 - o Seine Cruise
 - o Eiffel Tower
 - o Guided Sagrada Familia
 - o Picasso Museum in Barcelona
 - o Park Guell
 - o Guided Las Ventas Bullring Madrid
 - o Guided Royal Palace Madrid
 - o Museum of Choice in Madrid
 - o Flamenco show
 - o Entrance to Alcazar (Segovia)

