

SPAIN: Barcelona, Madrid, Seville & Rhonda - *Fashion*

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart today on your flight to **Barcelona**.

Day 2: Transfer to Barcelona. The history of Barcelona dates back to 218 B.C. when the Romans first developed the city walls, parts of which are still visible. Upon arrival, an escorted panoramic city sightseeing tour. Disembark at **Park Guell**, now a magical park with amazing buildings, sculptures and tile work designed by **Gaudi**. You will also find Gaudi's old home in Park Guell which is now open to the public as a small museum.



Day 3: Start at Placa Catalunya, the square that divides old and new Barcelona. 4 great boulevards radiate from here. **The Ramblas**, Passeig de Gracia, Rambla de Catalunya and Avinguda Portal de L'Angel. Follow Las Ramblas boulevard to the cruise port terminal. Many of Barcelona's most interesting streets run off or parallel to this main artery. Stop at **Mer-cat de la Boqueria** food market great for shopping but also for just wandering. The city's oldest and most interesting buildings of historic and artistic interest are located in the Barri Gotic or Gothic Quarter. See inside the vast Catedral De Barcelona. See the Palace of the Catalan Government, City Hall and the Great Royal Palace.

Day 4: Today you will be introduced to the world of **Barcelona fashion**. Discover the neighborhood of Gracia popular with artists and a bohemian crowd. Find arty boutiques next to traditional Catalan and Spanish stores making for an interesting mix. 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. Graduates work at all major fashion labels and also have their own successful fashion brands. **Visit some local fashion brands and designers.**



Day 5: **Visit a studio for fashion photographic productions, ads, video clips, castings and events. Visit local designers.** You cannot help but notice Gaudi's works throughout the city. He contrived highly original designs – irregular and fantastically intricate. This afternoon visit the iconic **Sagrada Familia**, the unfinished church begun by local architect **Antoni Gaudi**. It is expected to be finished in approximately 2026. Other fascinating Gaudi monuments include **Casa Batilo and Casa Mila (La Pedrera)**, that time permitting you could visit on your own. Gaudi is even responsible for many of the intricate lamp posts you see around the city.

Day 6: Visit the **Museum of Textiles and Fashion**. This new 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 Encants. After lunch, wander the La Ribera neighborhood. Streets in this area are named after the shops that used to occupy them (ie The Carrer de L'Argenteria or Goldsmith Street). See the long square the Passeig del Born (it was formerly a jousting square) that is popular for its fine restaurants and tapas bars. Enjoy a museum visit to the **Picasso Museum**. Tonight see the **Font Magica Fountain** in its entire colorful splendor. It is a spectacular display of color, light, motion, music and water acrobatics and a must see when visiting Barcelona.



Day 7: Transfer to the airport and your flight to **Seville**. Meet your guide for a city sightseeing tour. The old town or centro historico once huddled inside city walls. Most highlights are clustered between two bridges. Seville's four greatest treasures – the Cathedral, the La Giralda Tower, the Alcazar, and the winding streets of the Barrio de Santa Cruz. Don't miss the Torre Del Oro (Tower of Gold), dating from 1220. An experience not to miss while in Andalusia are the bull-fights complete with elaborately decorated ("suits of light") matadors. Unfortunately the fights are seasonal, therefore today you will only visit the bullring, **La Maestranza**. Visit the ring that surpasses in grandeur any other arena in Spain, the museum and the chapel where the matadors pray before the fight.

Day 8: Full day in Seville to discover its treasures. Today you will visit the **Cathedral** and marvel at its interior. See the pinkish square **Giralda Tower**. Formerly a Moorish minaret from which Muslims were called to prayer, it became the Cathedral Bell Tower after the Reconquista. The **Alcazar** was originally a 10th century palace built for the governors of the Moorish state and still functions as a royal palace. You will visit the Alcazar today. There was once a thriving Jewish Quarter in Sevilla but the only reminder of this past is the Barrio Cruz, a tangled street plan with small plazas, tile covered patios, whitewashed houses with wrought iron lattice work usually draped with flowers. Doors are purposely left open for passersby to enjoy the greenery and richly tiled patios. No visit is complete until you experience an authentic **Flamenco show**. This music and dance art form has its roots in the gypsy and Moorish cultures. Tonight be entertained at your Flamenco Show.

Day 9: **Rhonda** rests on its **massive gorge** that literally splits the town in half. Cliff hanging houses perch right along the edge and look like they will slide into the abyss at any moment. Three bridges link two towns and two eras. The “new town” called El Mercadillo began around 1500. The “Old Quarter” known as La Cuidad is a labyrinth of cramped streets and wrought iron balconies brimming with potted geraniums. Today enjoy your full day excursion to the town of Rhonda.

Day 10: Depart Seville for **Madrid**. Since the civil war, expansion has been vast and rapid but most of the great monuments of the 17th and 18th century survive. Upon arrival enjoy a guided panoramic city tour. Stop at Museo del Traje, the **Museum of Costume**, one of the best costume museums in the world. It is a magnificent trip through the History of Fashion and Costume from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. These collections are wide and varied as they include historical, contemporary and traditional clothing jewelry and accessories.

Day 11: 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 walk around El Retiro Park or possibly do some shopping on the elegant Alcala shopping street. Or visit one of Madrid’s several museums. Three of the most important ones along or near the Paseo del Prado and El Retiro Park. **The Prado Museum**, Spain’s most visited museum and one of the most important museums in the world, the Museo Thyssen Bornemisza, formerly a private collection owned by the German Hungarian Thyssen Bornemisza family and has a bit of everything beginning from medieval times to the present or the Reina Sofia, the National museum of the 20th century art named after Queen Sofia of Spain. Near all these museums is the Royal Tapestry Factory. The building houses a collection of 18th, 19th and 20th century tapestries, carpets and paintings. Visit the museum today.

Day 12: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.



TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return flight to Barcelona return from Madrid
- Flight Barcelona to Seville
- Train or coach transfer Seville to Madrid
- Coach transfers
 - o Return airport transfer in Barcelona
 - o Airport transfer Seville
 - o Transfer Seville to Madrid or return train station transfers
 - o Full day excursion to Rhonda
- 10 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 10 breakfast
- 5 dinners
- Guided orientation tours
 - o Barcelona
 - o Seville
 - o Madrid
- Entrances
 - o Sagrada Familia
 - o Park Guell
 - o 1½ days fashion activities in Barcelona
 - o Museum of Textiles and Fashion in Barcelona
 - o Picasso Museum
 - o Cathedral in Seville
 - o Alcazar in Seville
 - o Tour of La Maestranza Bullring in Seville
 - o Flamenco show
 - o Royal Place in Madrid
 - o Costume Museum in Madrid
 - o Royal Tapestry Museum in Madrid