

Art and Culture Andalucía

Barcelona Cultural Tour



Sagrada Familia

This is a wonderful opportunity to see Barcelona on and off the beaten track. We stay at a delightful hotel in the cultural heart of Barcelona, famous for its exceptional range of first-class museums and its unique architecture, as well as for its vibrant restaurants and bars.

You need make no more decisions than you want to – we know just where to eat and how best to travel around. The hotel provides breakfast and most restaurant meals are also included in the price, as this is the best moment to discuss the art you have seen with like-minded art enthusiasts.

Join us for an uplifting long weekend in Autumn, an ideal time to visit Barcelona.

“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.”

Pablo Picasso.

Day 1

Hotel Midmost. Meet in the lobby at 15.00. Afternoon 15.00-21.00.

We start with a walking tour of the Gothic quarter and churches, with intervals for refreshments.

19.00-21.00 Evening visit to the Picasso Museum

Picasso spent nine years living in Barcelona, from 1895 to 1904, and the museum has one of the most complete permanent collections of his art, consisting of over 3,500 works, organised into three sections – painting and drawing, engravings, and ceramics. Housed in five adjoining medieval palaces, this beautiful space opened in 1963, while Picasso was still alive. Highlights of the collection include two of his first major figurative works, *The First Communion* and *Science and Charity*, as well as works from his Blue Period and the entire *Las Meninas* series. The museum was the idea of Picasso's lifelong friend and secretary, Jaume Sabartés, who originally proposed Malaga as the location, but Picasso suggested Barcelona would be more appropriate.



The Women of Algiers. 1955. Picasso Museum.

Evening 21.00

Supper at Los Caracoles restaurant in the Gothic Quarter, founded in 1835 by the Bofarull family. A real gem.

Day 2

Meet in the lobby at 09.30. Morning 10.00–14.00. Taxis to MNAC (Museo de Arte Nacional de Cataluña)

The medieval County of Barcelona remained largely untouched by the Islamic kingdom of al-Andalus, and this is reflected in its distinctively Christian material culture. We will be focussing on the museum's remarkable collection of medieval Romanesque and Gothic art, as well as its plentiful Modernist painting and sculpture, though you will also have time to explore the renaissance and baroque collection.



Romanesque Altar Frontal from St. Mary of Avia. 13th Century. MNAC

14.00 – 15.30 Lunch at MNAC

16.00-18.00 Short walk through Montjuic hilltop park to Miró Foundation – unguided visit

Born in Barcelona in 1893, Joan Miró created in his oeuvre an intangible universe that is rooted in the landscapes of Mont-Roig, in Catalonia, yet also has an international reach, influenced by his time in Paris, New York, Mallorca and Japan. Surreal and abstract, his art developed a unique and extremely personal language that makes him one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

18.30-21.00 Taxis to Els 4 Gats for drinks and tapas – the fin de siècle meeting place of Modernisme artists.

Day 3

Meet in the lobby at 09.00. Morning 09.00–10.00. Walk the Ramblas to the Columbus Monument.

10.30-14.00 Visits to the Palaces – Palau Guell and Palau de la Música Catalana.

Enjoying two secular buildings this morning, we will explore Gaudi's patron's home, Palau Guell, done with an unlimited and undisclosed budget, which is obvious when you see the riches inside. Palau de la Música Catalana by the wonderful architect Doménech y Muntaner celebrates Catalan song in its joyous decoration.



Palau de la Música Catalana - interior

14.00-15.30. Tapas in the Eixample

16.00-18.00. La Sagrada Família

So little of La Sagrada Família was actually built by Gaudi during his lifetime and as yet it is still not finished, but exploring and comparing the old and new sections is a real treat!

Evening 19.30-21.30. Independent supper

22.00. Live Flamenco Show near the Ramblas

Intimate and 'authentic' it attracts some of the best singers and dancers.

Day 4

Meet in the lobby at 10.00.

10.30-12.30 MACBA (Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Barcelona)

Opened in 1995, the museum's design, by the American architect Richard Meier, has strong references to modernism and allows for an abundance of natural light to illuminate the interior galleries. The permanent collection of around 5,000 works dates from the mid-20th century onward and focuses on post-1945 Catalan and Spanish art, although some International artists are also represented.

13.00-14.30 Visit to the Boqueria Market

This world-famous food market with its distinctive entrance, is considered one of the best in the world.

14.30 Farewell lunch, followed by return to the hotel to collect luggage and take taxis to the airport.



Entrance to the Boqueria Market

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is Managing Director of Art & Culture Travel. She was formerly Head of the Department of Art History at Westminster School, Chief Examiner in Art History at Cambridge International Examinations, and an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. Ian Cockburn is a director of Art & Culture Travel and has an MA from the Courtauld Institute in medieval Spanish art history. Both are lecturers accredited by The Arts Society.

Fees (minimum 12 people/maximum 16 people): £1,390 per person (shared room).

The fee covers three nights' double accommodation at the 4-star Hotel Midmost, including breakfasts; teaching and guiding by two specialist tutors over four days; all taxi journeys around Barcelona; all museum and other entry fees; all meals except Saturday evening; entry to the Flamenco Club.

Hotel Midmost. A 4-Star hotel in Barcelona's Old Town, located between Plaza Catalunya and Plaza Universitat squares, near Las Ramblas and Paseo de Gracia Boulevard.

Fitness: Please note a suitable level of fitness and mobility is required for walking and for visiting galleries.

Not included in the fees: Flights, transfers from and to the airport in Barcelona, travel and medical insurance, Saturday evening meal. Single room supplement 25%.

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