

Art and Culture Andalucía

A Taste of Art: Barcelona – Guided Tour

Friday 21st to Monday 24th April, 2023



Sagrada Familia

This is a wonderful opportunity to see Barcelona on and off the beaten track. We stay at a well-positioned, small 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, bars and music scene.

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 Spring, an ideal time to visit Barcelona.

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

Pablo Picasso.

Friday 21st.

Hotel Midmost. Meet in the lobby at 15.00. Afternoon 15.00-17.30.

We start with a walking tour of the Gothic quarter and churches.

18.00-20.00 Evening visit to the Picasso Museum (with their own local guide)

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. We will discuss the visit after, in a quiet corner of the gallery.



The Women of Algiers. 1955. Picasso Museum.

Evening 20.30

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

Saturday 22nd.

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 Modernista painting and sculpture. There will be a short break for coffee between the two guided tours.



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

14.00 – 15.30 Lunch at MNAC in the wonderful Oleum restaurant with its spectacular view over the city

16.00-17.30 Short (uphill!) 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. At your leisure. Nice gardens, shop and café too.

18.30-20.30 Taxis to Els 4 Gats for drinks and tapas – the fin de siècle meeting place of Modernista artists. The building itself was built by Josep Puig y Cadafalch in 1896.

Sunday 23rd.

Meet in the lobby at 09.00. Morning 09.00–10.00. Walk along the famous Ramblas

10.00-14.30

We will explore Gaudi's patron's home and palace, Palau Guell, done with an unlimited and undisclosed budget, which is obvious when you see the riches inside. We will then walk (or take the metro) to the Eixample district, built in the 19th Century, and visit Casa Mila, also known as La Pedrera (Stone quarry) where we can continue our journey with Gaudi.



Palau de la Música Catalana - interior

14.30-15.30. Lunch in the Eixample

16.15-17.30. La Sagrada Familia

So little of La Sagrada Familia was 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! We will discuss the façade and then their compulsory guide is booked.

18.30 – 20.00 We will take taxis back to the hotel where we recommend you find a local place to eat before we leave at 20.30 for the evening entertainment.

21.30. Gala Flamenco Show at the Palau de la Música Catalana

In one of the most spectacular concert halls in Europe, in a building by Gaudi's contemporary Domenech y Montaner, we are delighted to announce a rich Flamenco performance with the famous Chicuelo and Tati Amaya on the guitar, and Joaquin 'El Duende' singing.

Monday 24th.

Meet in the lobby at 9.30

10.00 – 13.30 A private visit to see some of the contemporary art scene of Barcelona

Explore Barcelona's thriving contemporary art scene at galleries selected by a local specialist, according to their current collections. Details will, of necessity, be advised closer to the date.

14.00 – 15.00 Visit to the Boqueria Market and tapas lunch in the market

This world-famous food market with its distinctive entrance, is considered one of the best in the world. You can explore the extraordinary variety of food, taste oysters with a glass of cava or choose a plate of tapas. With its 300 stalls there will be something for everyone to enjoy or take home. We recommend Bar Binocho and Bar Quim for lunch, but there are many others to choose from too.

15.30. Return to hotel to collect luggage and take taxis to the airport.



Entrance to the Boqueria Market

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is co-founder and director of Art & Culture Travel. She is a course director at the V&A, and also lectures at the Royal Academy and The Art Fund.

Ian Cockburn is co-founder and 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): £1,525 per person (shared room).

The fee covers three nights' double accommodation at the 4-star Hotel Midmost, including breakfasts if you would like to; teaching and guiding by two specialist tutors as well as local tutors over four days; all taxi journeys around Barcelona (excl. airport taxis); all museum and other entry fees; all meals except Sunday evening and Monday lunch; entry to the Flamenco Gala Evening

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. Barcelona can be edgy and noisy and we have found this little hotel, with its convenient location, friendly personnel, good breakfast and rooftop terrace with a bar and plunge pool, to be exactly the haven you need.

Not included in the fees: Flights, transfers from and to the airport in Barcelona, travel and medical insurance, Sunday evening meal and Monday market lunch. Individual room supplement 20%.

Note: Itinerary subject to change, if necessary.

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

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