

2017 Tour to SPAIN

Barcelona ~ Costa Brava ~ Cardona

May 03 – 13, 2017

Visit the Salvador Dali Museum in Figueres
Tour Barcelona & see the works of Antoni Gaudi
Experience a Flamenco Show
Visit the monastery at Monserrat
Spend the night in a castle
Meet with local quilters
Optional workshop with Rosario Casanovas
Shopping & so much more!

Dear Traveler,

Join us for this 11-day adventure as we travel to Spain, known for paella, Flamenco, Salvador Dali, Tapas, architect Gaudi and its wines. You will have the opportunity to experience all of these, in addition to enjoying beautiful scenery along the Costa Brava with views of the Pyrenees in the background.

There will be time for you to explore on your own and throughout the tour we will be looking for fabric, yarns, buttons, and everything related to needlework. I hope you can join us on this very special tour!

Barbara Spohn
Traveling Together

Your tour itinerary:

Wed, May 03, 2017

For those of you living in North America, you will need to arrange your flight to depart today, in order to arrive in **BARCELONA, SPAIN** on May 04.

If you would like to arrive Barcelona prior to May 04, contact Traveling Together regarding accommodations at the Hotel Catalonia Ramblas: \$159 per person, double occupancy and \$290 for a single, including taxes & breakfast.

Thu, May 04

Once you arrive at **BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BCN)**, you will make your way to the **HOTEL CATALONIA RAMBLAS**. You will find instructions for transferring from the airport to the hotel in the *Additional Information* section at the end of this itinerary.

The hotel is located in the city center and within an easy walking distance to world class shopping, and some of the best restaurants & museums that Barcelona has to offer. Most flights arrive early in the day so you will have some time to explore or relax, prior to meeting your travel companions at this evening's **WELCOME DINNER**.

Fri, May 05

Located on the Mediterranean coast, Barcelona is Spain's second largest city with a population of 1.5 million people, and the capital of Catalonia. This morning we will take a **PANORAMIC TOUR OF BARCELONA** that will acquaint you with the major sites of this city, including some of the famous works of the prominent architect and figurehead of Catalan modernism, Antoni Gaudí. Between 1984 and 2005, seven of his works were declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO and his masterpiece, the still-uncompleted Sagrada Família, is one of the most visited monuments in Spain. You will have the afternoon to explore the city, prior to dinner.

This evening we will stroll Las Ramblas to the **FLAMENCO SHOW AT TABLAO CORDOBES**. Known for having talented young artists, this specially formed foundation ensures that the artistic levels of their performances are among the best that Spain's flamenco scene has to offer. In addition to the show, we'll enjoy a 3-course **DINNER** buffet that offers over 60 homemade items to choose from.

To help schedule your free time and learn about the places you are most interested in, we recommend that you purchase a travel guide. The most popular are Frommer's, Foder's, Rick Steves', or DK Eyewitness. You may want to select one that includes a menu translation section for when you are dining apart from the group.

Be sure to check your travel guide or websites for opening days and times for any particular activity or museum that you are interested in.

Sat, May 06

You will have the entire day and evening on your own to **EXPLORE BARCELONA**. Las Ramblas is one of Europe's most famous people-watching pedestrian streets. Located just minutes from our hotel, it runs through the heart of the Old City from the Plaza Catalunya down to the harbor. You won't want to miss a visit to La Boqueria Market, considered to be one of the best markets in the world. It is the ideal place to discover why Mediterranean cuisine is internationally known, due to its *ingredients*. Featuring *fruits, vegetables, meats, fish and seafood, and some of the best tapas bars in Barcelona*. We will provide you with a list of the textile shops in the city center. The majority of museums are open until at least 7pm on Saturdays and shops stay open late.

Sun, May 07

We depart Barcelona this morning and drive north to **LA COSTA BEACH & GOLF RESORT**. The resort is located in natural surroundings and is just a short distance from Pals beach, in the heart of the Costa Brava. All rooms have a terrace with views of the tropical swimming pool, the Golf Platja de Pals golf course or the Mediterranean Sea. You will have the afternoon to explore the resort and relax, prior to our **DINNER** at the resort.

Mon, May 08

ROSARIO CASANOVAS

In addition to being a quilt teacher, quilt artist, pattern designer and dyer, Rosario is owner of R.C.Quilts & Patchwork and Co-Founder of the Spanish Patchwork Association and former president. A teacher for 20+ years, she now organizes quilting events and textile related trips.

Rosario is offering an **OPTIONAL ½ DAY WORKSHOP**.

All supplies will be provided and the details and a photo of the project will be posted as soon as they are available.

PALS is a medieval town in Catalonia, with the historic center perched atop a hill surrounded by plains with a medieval Romanesque tower built between the 11th and 13th centuries. The Gothic Quarter of the town has been substantially restored and there are cobbled streets interrupted by semicircular arches, façades with pointed arched windows and stone balconies. The town wall contains four square towers which date from the 4th century. The Josep Pla viewpoint, the Plaça Major, the tombs in the Carrer Major and the Romanesque church of Sant Pere are other features of the town. In the village are a couple of shops selling the brightly colored and cheaply-priced Catalan pottery which is made in the area, along with a few little cafes where you can idle away some time watching the world go by.

At some point during our stay in Pals, plans are being made to meet with some of the **LOCAL QUILTERS FOR A SHOW AND TELL** and time to socialize with some of the ladies from Spain.

Tue, May 09

We will travel approximately one hour north to the town of **FIGUERES**. In addition to strolling through the open-air pedestrian shopping streets of Old Town, we will visit the **SALVADOR DALI MUSEUM**. Figueres is the birthplace of artist Salvador Dalí and home to the Teatre-Museum Salvador Dalí, a large museum designed by Dalí himself. It houses the single largest and most diverse collection of works by Dalí, and includes a small selection of works by other artists that Dalí himself collected, ranging from El Greco to Marcel Duchamp.

Wed, May 10

We depart Pals this morning and stop at a local village along the **COSTA BRAVA** for some shopping and time for lunch at one of the many cafes along the beachfront, before continuing on to **CARDONA**. If you have never stayed in a castle, this is your chance!

Paradores are Spanish hotels located in medieval castles, Moorish fortresses and ancient monasteries. With a magical setting inside a 9th-century castle and boasting a 2nd-century tower, this Parador is straight out of a fairytale, with panoramic views over the Catalonian countryside. **PARADOR DUQUES DE CARDONA** is a luxury hotel with the added features of moats, towers and walls that were built to defend the castle. You will have time to explore and take photos of the castle and scenic views, prior to our **DINNER** in the medieval restaurant where Catalan cooking is the specialty!

Thu, May 11

Following a leisurely breakfast in the castle, we depart Cardona for a drive through eerie rock formations and dramatic scenery to arrive at **MONTSERRAT**. Sitting atop a 3,936-ft. mountain, the monastery is one of the most important pilgrimage spots in Spain. Thousands travel here every year to see and touch the medieval statue of La Moreneta (the Black Virgin), the patron saint of Catalonia. One of the monastery's noted attractions is the 50-member Escolanía, one of the oldest and most renowned boys' choirs in Europe, dating from the 13th century. At 1pm daily they can be heard singing "Salve Regina" and the "Virolai" (hymn of Montserrat) in the basilica. The winds blow cold at this elevation even in summer, so you will need to bring along a warm sweater, jacket, or coat.

This afternoon we return to the **HOTEL CATALONIA RAMBLAS** for our last 2 nights of the tour.

Fri, May 12

BARCELONA has so much to offer and today is your last chance to see or do what you may have missed, along with doing any last minute shopping. Our **FAREWELL DINNER** is this evening at our hotel, giving you the opportunity to say goodbye to your fellow travelers, many of whom have become friends that you'll want to stay in contact with and make plans for the next time we **TRAVEL TOGETHER!**

Sat, May 13

Options to return to **BARCELONA AIRPORT (BCN)** are listed below, so you can arrange for your flight home to depart at any time today. Your tour escort will help you arrange shared rides if there are others with flights departing around the same time of day.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- If you would like assistance in arranging your air travel please call Northwood Travel at 800-780-0571 or email them at info@NorthwoodTravel.com
- Aerobús between Barcelona Airport and Plaza Catalunya is a one-way cost of €6 and runs from approximately 6am until midnight each day. The bus stops along the Plaça de Catalunya, right in the city center and is approximately a 10 minute walk to the hotel.
- Speedy Shuttle Barcelona shared rides run about €20
- Taxi fare is approximately €35.
- Hotel Catalonia Ramblas has a check-in time from 2:00pm and check-out is by noon.
- Some of the most intriguing sightseeing can entail accessing locations that restrict motorcoaches, especially in historic areas. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs, or on uneven surfaces, all should be expected. The Parador Cardona does require the climbing of some stairs, including access to some of the rooms.
- For any race car fans: Should you want to extend your stay, the 2017 FORMULA 1 GRAN PREMIO DE ESPANA at the Circuit de Catalunya-Barcelona takes place on 14 May 2017.

Included in your 11-day tour:

- Hotels
- Breakfast each morning
- 5 Dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Luggage handling at hotels when arriving or departing as a group, where available
- Land travel by private motorcoach
- Group tours & activities
- Escorted by a professional tour leader

Tour Price:

\$ 2999 per person, double occupancy

\$ 845 single supplement

(NOT included in the cost of the tour: Airfare and the optional workshop)

Book early....space is limited!

We require that all travelers departing the U.S. be in possession of a CURRENT PASSPORT that does not expire until at least 6 months from the date of your scheduled return to the U.S.

Please note: Our tours are best experienced by walking. Please be sure to read over our Terms and Conditions and then if you have any questions about your ability to join the tour, please give our office a call and we will be happy to discuss this with you, in more detail.

Once you have booked your trip, you will be notified when it is time to make your air arrangements.

If at that time you would like assistance with your air travel, please call Northwood Travel at 800-780-0571 or email them at info@NorthwoodTravel.com Please note: This email address and phone number is for making air arrangements, only.

TO REGISTER:

****If Traveling Together is bookmarked in your favorites, please refresh the links for any updates.**

Please be sure to print and read the current **Tour Terms & Conditions**

Print and mail in the completed current **Registration Form** along with your deposit.

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