

# Spain – Barcelona & Catalonia



## Trip Summary

Catalonia is one of Spain's most varied regions, where you can explore countless charming Romanesque churches, medieval hamlets and villages, and great Gothic cathedrals. A stream of museums can fill you in on the rich history and artistic legacy of the area. In fact, three of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most important artists – Picasso, Miró and Dalí – began their careers here. And who can ignore the architectural fantasies of Gaudí, such as the Sagrada Familia and the Casa Milà? When you're finished exploring, you can sit down to a delicious meal of Catalan food, which is among Spain's best. From the hearty meat and game dishes of the Pyrenees to the mouthwatering seafood delights on the Costa Brava, the range of delicacies is surprising.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Olot

We meet in the morning in Barcelona and are transferred to Pantà de Sau • The Sau Reservoir, belonging to the Ter River basin, is a perfect place to kayak • When the lake was established in 1962, the water covered the village of San Roman de Sau, while the bell tower continues to be exposed • After kayaking, we'll hike through the forest to reach "Salt de Sallent," the largest waterfall in Catalonia • For lunch we visit the town of Rupit, with narrow streets and tucked-away squares, affording some splendid views of the Pyrenees • Once in Olot, relax at your hotel before a delicious meal at the hotel's restaurant • *Overnight at Hotel Riu Fluviá (B, L, D)*

### Day 2: Olot

This morning you'll wake up early for an unforgettable hot-air balloon flight • Cava and 'coca de llardons' (a Catalan cake) are served during the flight, followed by a tasty brunch • Those who prefer to keep their feet on the ground can join us on a walk through the protected volcanic natural park between Olot and the village of Santa Pau • With its 30-some volcanic cones, this is a landscape of unusual beauty and lush vegetation • When back in Olot, choose to visit the botanical gardens and its interesting Volcano Museum • *Overnight at Hotel Riu Fluviá (B, L)*

### Day 3: Girona

Today, bike along a traffic-free 'Via Verde' for the entirety of the route to Girona • Enjoy a picnic lunch near the former train station of Amer and continue via Anglès (by bike or van) to the 'city of a thousand sieges' Girona, whose ramparts still mark the old city limits • Tonight the group will gather together for a fine meal with traditional specialties before relaxing in our rooms for the rest of the night • *Overnight at Hotel Ciutat de Girona (B, L, D)*

### Day 4: Girona

Visit nearby Banyoles, widely known for its figure eight lake fed by underground streams, which was the venue for the rowing events during the 1992 Olympics • Along the way, we'll stop at the bustling Wednesday market in the Plaça Major, which has been taking place since the thirteenth century • After a transfer back to Girona, explore the cobblestone streets from the popular series "Game of Thrones" on a Segway tour • There is so much to see and to do in Girona, you will want part of the afternoon off • You may opt to proceed to Figueres to visit the extraordinary Dalí Theatre-Museum in the town of his birth • An evening on your own will give you the opportunity to continue exploring all that Girona has to offer, or relax at your hotel after your exciting day • *Overnight at Hotel Ciutat de Girona (B, L)*



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## Day 5: La Bisbal d'Empordà

After a brief transfer, today's ride will take you through Catalonia's most authentic and best preserved villages: Madremanya, La Pera, Monells and Cruïlles • At Púbol, visit the mansion Salvador Dalí bought for his wife Gala, who lived here without him until her death in 1982, and was decorated by the artist himself in his inimitable style • In La Bisbal, explore the many ceramic stores and the ceramics museum • Retire to the grounds of our luxurious Spanish farmhouse turned villa • *Overnight at Hotel and Spa Mas Torrent (B, D)*

## Day 6: La Bisbal d'Empordà

Transfer to a deserted beach where your kayaking begins on the famed Costa Brava • Kayak through sea caves and visit incredible rock formations on this wild section of the coast • Eventually, you'll reach the fishing village of Calella de Palafrugell and enjoy an amazing and well deserved paella for lunch • After lunch, return to the hotel where you can relax at the pool or ride a short bike loop to visit several medieval villages • Enjoy a grand farewell dinner this evening while reminiscing about a wonderful week • *Overnight at Hotel and Spa Mas Torrent (B, D)*

## Day 7: Barcelona

At the time of your preference, your guide will transfer you to the Barcelona train station or airport for your departure home • If you decide to spend more time in Barcelona, your guide can transfer you to your post-trip hotel • *No overnight (B)*

*\*\*Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, trail, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

## Activities

**Day 1:** Kayaking, hiking

**Day 2:** Hot-air ballooning (optional), hiking

**Day 3:** Bicycle mileage options: 18 / 25 / 34

**Day 4:** Walking, Segway, rowing, swimming

**Day 5:** Bicycle mileage options: 25 / 32 / 40

**Day 6:** Boating, snorkeling, bicycle mileage options: 14 / 20

**Discovery:** Living among volcanoes is part of everyday life for the locals in Olot, the city being located in the Natural Park of the Volcanic Area of La Garrotxa. There are four volcanoes within the town limits. Kiss the 'Cul de la Lleona' to guarantee your return to Girona. Explore the parade of ceramics stores lining the main road in La Bisbal. Nearby Ullastret is one of the best-preserved Iberian settlements, where remains of the walls, gates, silos, and other elements, most dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, have been excavated. Try a "Copa de Cava," Catalonia's bubbly beverage.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to fit you to your bikes, explain the details of each ride and answer any questions. Each day your guides will help you choose the distance and route that is right for you.

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## Distinctive Accommodations

### Nights 1 & 2: Hotel Riu Fluviá

This modern hotel is within walking distance of the historic town center, with nice views of the surrounding mountains and volcanic hills.

### Nights 3 & 4: Hotel Ciutat de Girona

Centrally located in the commercial part of town, Hotel Ciutat de Girona is perfect for exploring the medieval town center across the river. You'll feel right at home in the modern, comfortable rooms. The restaurant features interesting fusion cuisine.

### Nights 5 & 6: Hotel and Spa Mas Torrent

Mas de Torrent Hotel & Spa is an eighteenth-century Catalan farmhouse converted into an exclusive five-star hotel. The spacious rooms feature decor that is traditional and elegant in the main building and light yet cozy in the garden accommodation, some with a private pool and some with private terraces. The Mas de Torrent gourmet restaurant offers traditional Catalan cuisine and an extensive wine list, and the spa features a sauna, steam room, indoor pool, and gym.

## Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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## Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Barcelona. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of Hotel Jazz in Barcelona at 8:30 a.m. After a transfer to Pantà de Sau, the fun begins with a kayak trip on the lake. After breakfast on Day 7, we take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in Barcelona (two-hour transfer).

## Trip Price

\$3,698 (\$680 single supplement)

## Trip Length

7 days/ 6 nights

## 2020 Dates

April 26 – May 2

May 17 – 23

June 14 – 20

September 6 – 12

September 27 – October 3

## Host City

Barcelona, Spain Airport code: BCN

## Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Discover Catalonia, one of  
Spain's most varied regions*

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## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800-575-1540

**Phone:** 406-655-4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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## **Private Custom Trips**

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## **Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments**

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. *\*some restrictions may apply*

## **Minimum Age**

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## **Cancellations and Refunds**

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## **Our Guarantee**

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.