

Spain – Barcelona & Catalonia



Trip Summary

From the wild coastline of the Mediterranean to the towering mountaintops of the Pyrenees, Catalonia's landscapes strewn with medieval hamlets and villages does not disappoint. From Gothic cathedrals designed by Gaudi, to the lofty volcanoes designed by mother nature, Catalonia will leave you awe inspired by its beauty. Don't forget three of the 20th century's most important artists – Picasso, Miró and Dalí – began their careers here. Catalanian food 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 proceed to Rupit for a 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 our hotel before you feed your appetite with 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

Transfer to nearby Banyoles, widely known for its figure-of-eight lake fed by underground streams, which was the venue for the rowing events during the 1992 Olympics • Visit the bustling Wednesday market in the Plaça Major which has been taking place since the thirteenth century • Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the scenic lake district before lunch • After a transfer back to Girona, explore the cobble stone streets from the "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 Teatre- Museu Dalí in the town of his birth, and spend ample time in this gigantic surrealist object • An evening on your own will give you the opportunity to relax at your hotel after your exciting day, or go out exploring Girona some more • *Overnight at Hotel Ciutat de Girona (B, L)*

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Day 5: La Bisbald'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 its many ceramic stores and the ceramics museum • Retire to the grounds of our luxurious Spanish farmhouse turned villa • *Overnight at Mas Torrent (B, D)*

Day 6: La Bisbald'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 reaching the fishing village of Calella de Palafrugell you'll enjoy an amazing and well deserved paella for lunch • After lunch transfer back to the hotel where you can just relax at the pool reflecting on the week or you may want to ride a short bike loop to visit several medieval villages such as Pals or Ullastrell • Enjoy a grand farewell dinner this evening while reminiscing over a wonderful week • *Overnight at 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 • Or be transferred to your hotel in Barcelona if you decide to add another night in this great city • *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.*

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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 3rd 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.

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.

Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 & 2: Hotel Riu Fluvià

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 Mas Torrent

Mas de Torrent Hotel & Spa is an 18th-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 of which with a private pool and some with private terraces. The Mas de Torrent gourmet restaurant offers traditional Catalan cuisine and an extensive wine list. masSPA, the Mas de Torrent spa features a sauna, steam room, indoor pool and gym.

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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 (2-hour transfer).

Trip Price

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

Trip Length

7 days/ 6 nights

2021 Dates

June 6 – 12

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

Email: 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.

Solo Travelers

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. We at Austin Adventures will do our best to match you with a suitable roommate of the same gender before departure. If you book 90 days or more before the trip and we cannot find you a roommate, 50% of the private room cost will be due at final payment time. If you book within 90 days of departure and we cannot find you a roommate, the full private room charge will be applied. If we do find you a roommate between final payment and before the trip departs, we will refund the single supplement amount paid. Some exceptions 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.