



Dear *Travel Friend*,

November 2024

Add a four-day getaway to your summer 2025 travels in Europe, to Spain's beautiful city on the Mediterranean—Barcelona!

We'll spend four days exploring Barcelona's medieval quarter, its parks and boulevards, the world-famous basilica of Antoni Gaudí and try the best Catalan food and drink in the quieter part of the travel season.

Barcelona is unique. The city drove the country's economic growth in the last century and reclaimed its Catalan language and culture after they were suppressed during the Franco dictatorship. Ninety percent of Catalans voted in favor of independence from Spain in 2017—a measure struck down by the nation's top court—but Barcelonians remain fiercely proud of their identity and their city. We'll see Barcelona's ancient Roman road and aqueduct, wander through the medieval Gothic cathedral, and explore the stunning, modernist basilica designed by the city's most famous architect, Antoni Gaudí.

We'll join the locals in their most beautiful public spaces. We'll stroll through the leafy pedestrian avenue known as the Rambla. We'll see the beautiful Monjuïc Park, the venue of the 1992 Summer Olympics, and the fantastical constructions in the Park Guëll, another creation of Gaudí. We'll try Catalan food, made with fresh, locally grown produce and the harvest of fish and shellfish from the sea. The red wines of nearby Tarragon and Barcelona's own bubbly cava wine will complement this healthy, Mediterranean fare.

Our itinerary at the start of fall will give us the advantage of seeing the sights with warm weather but after the peak of summer travel. Our hotel, in the central part of the city, will give us the best location for walking or hopping on the city's metro or public transit for short rides to all we want to see and do.

You will learn, relax and have fun during this short visit in Catalunya's capital. We are excited for you to join us!



Mark & Karl

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Barcelona Get-Away

September 29-October 3, 2025



Monday, September 29

We will meet today at the hotel in Barcelona. For those starting in Madrid, the coordinators will accompany you from Madrid on a high-speed train to Barcelona, three hours distant. Transportation from the Madrid hotel to the hotel in Barcelona is included in the program cost. For those traveling separately to Barcelona, we will provide you local transportation in Barcelona tailored to your plans. We'll spend the rest of the day relaxing or taking some walks near the hotel or hopping on Barcelona's public transit for some short trips around town. We'll enjoy the evening with a dinner out.

Tuesday, September 30

A self-serve breakfast is provided each morning of our stay in Barcelona. Afterward we'll strike out to explore the city, the capital of the region of Catalunya and a world-renowned center of art and architecture. We'll take a two-hour guided walking tour of the main sites of the medieval Gothic quarter and cathedral in the middle of town. We'll get a bite of lunch at the nearby Mercat de la Boqueria market, with its many stands offering a wide variety of Spanish and Catalan specialties. Later we'll explore the scenic Montjuïc Park. Those who wish may walk up or take the aerial car to the Montjuïc Castle for a stunning view of the city and the Mediterranean Sea. We'll end the day with a stroll along the Rambla, one of the city's most beautiful and lively pedestrian thoroughfares. Dinner near the hotel.



Wednesday, October 1

After breakfast we'll explore the creations of Barcelona's famed architect Antonio Gaudí, who gave the city its most recognizable and loved monuments and public spaces. We'll start with an audioguided tour of Gaudí's most imposing creation, the Sagrada Família basilica, and then visit Gaudí's Park Güell, with its whimsical buildings topped by undulating rooftops, fanciful spires and fantastical animals. We'll take a self-guided audio tour of the Casa Batlló, Gaudí's design from 1906, where he turned a non-descript residential building into a playful creation of stone, plaster and colorful organic forms, recognized by the United Nations as a

World Heritage Site. During our explorations we'll stop for coffee or a drink at streetside cafés and watch the people of Barcelona go about their day. Dinner near the hotel.

Thursday, October 2

This morning we'll visit one of the city's most elegant neighborhoods, the Eixample, and stroll among the shops on the posh Paseo de Gracia ("Graceful Boulevard"). We'll enjoy some time at a sidewalk café to sip some Catalán cava (a sparkling wine), some local vermouth (sweet, fortified wine usually served with snacks), or a glass of wine from Spain's several wine-making regions. We'll find a good place for a farewell dinner this evening to recount and celebrate our discoveries of Barcelona.



Friday, October 3

Your program coordinator will be available to accompany you today to the airport for your return home or to the train station to continue your journey elsewhere in Europe. Transport to the airport or train station is included in the program cost.

Fees and payments

Fee for the four-night Barcelona Get-Away program is \$1800.00 per person, in a double-occupancy room. The fee includes:

--Four nights double-occupancy lodging in tourist or superior-tourist class lodgings in Barcelona, Spain with self-serve continental breakfast each day.

--One-way transportation from central Madrid to the hotel in central Barcelona, with public transport or taxis and inter-city train, public transportation passes in Barcelona, and transport from the hotel to the Barcelona train station or airport on departure.

--Entrances for the Barcelona guided walking tour, Park Güell, Sagrada Familia with audioguide and the Casa Batlló with audioguide.

--Gratuities to drivers and hotel staff.

Fee does not include airfare, meals or entrances not specified in the program, or travel insurance.

Supplement for a single room is \$640.00.

Payments are due on the following schedule:

March 1, 2025	\$ 500 due
May 1, 2025	\$1300 due (plus \$640 single-room supplement if applicable)

Payments should be made to River Plate Seminars through one of the following:

Bank wire transfer:

Chase Bank
Orlando, Florida
account: 105 987 770
routing number: 021000021
attn: Mark McMeley

U.S. Mail:

Mark McMeley
River Plate Seminars
1001 Brynlor Lane
Orlando, Florida 32818

Zelle:

321-977-1389

For further details about the program, contact us at the website, address or numbers below.



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