



BARCELONA & MALLORCA

A HOMAGE TO CATALONIA APRIL 17TH - 26TH 2018

The beauty of Spain is legendary: the sweep of Mediterranean beaches and contrasting rugged mountains, the cosmopolitan cities and tiny hilltop villages where time seems to have stood still. Experience the diversity, color and passion that is Spain in this journey to two of her most exciting regions.

We begin in Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, and Spain's most visually striking city. As Rose Macaulay wrote in *The Fabled Shore*, "...it gives an impression of tempestuous, surging, irrepressible life and *brio*." It remains true today. We'll spend our days exploring the Barri Gotic, the very heart of Barcelona, her outstanding museums and architecture, and take an excursion up the Costa Brava in search of Salvador Dali.



PALAU NACIONAL, MONTJUIC

Finally a 4-night stay on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca concludes the trip with a welcome change of pace as we explore hidden villages and monasteries, winding lanes and quiet corners. The island is at once small enough to be easily manageable, but large enough to provide a variety of landscapes and resources. From the mountains of the northwest to the fertile central plain, there is an abundance of historical and artistic treasure to occupy the discerning visitor. And of course, beautiful beaches that have made the island a haven for European tourists seeking the summer sun.

Your trip has been specifically designed to avoid the tourists. In April the weather is wonderfully warm, spring is in full swing, and the historical sites will be blessedly free of tour buses. Our base will be the 5-star Gran Hotel (www.granhotelsoller.com) in the historic town of Soller, set in the beautiful Tramuntana Mountains. It is also accessible to the capital, Palma, by a wonderful antique electric train that affords incredible views as it weaves up through the mountains and out the other side.

This year, join Gavin Miller in exploring the island paradise he now calls home. This is the magic and romance of the Mediterranean: azure waters, white sands and year-round golden sunshine – but beware, like Robert Graves, you may never want to leave.



TERRACED HILLSIDE, MALLORCA

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	\$4190
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 980

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, all hotel taxes and service charges included
AIRFARE:	One way ticket from Barcelona to Mallorca
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 3 dinners
GUIDES:	Discover Europe tour guide throughout
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*



TUESDAY, APRIL 17TH - This evening you board an overnight flight from your chosen departure gateway. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18TH - Upon your arrival in Barcelona, you will be met and transferred to your city-center hotel. After time to rest and unpack, we begin with a visit to the Museu Picasso. Housed in two adjoining medieval palaces, this is one of the most important collections of Picasso's work in the world, containing many of his early works painted while living in Malaga, several paintings from his Blue period, and many of his Cubist interpretations of the Old Masters. This evening a dinner party at the hotel welcomes us to Spain! **(D) OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA**

THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH - This morning, we will board our bus for a panoramic sightseeing tour of this vibrant and cosmopolitan city that has inspired so much great literature from Cervantes to Hemingway. From the Old City to the ancient harbor, the chic commercial center to the city's world-famous museums, this city is endlessly fascinating. We'll pass by some of Gaudi's greatest buildings and explore the Barri Gotic (its cathedral, medieval streets, and churches) ending the tour at Montjuic, with a visit to explore a splendid collection of medieval paintings at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya. The rest of the afternoon and evening will be free. Return to the city center and follow in Gaudi's footsteps with visits to the Pedrera or the Sagrada Familia, or stay at Montjuic and visit the Poble Espanyol, or "Spanish Village," which chronicles the development of Spanish vernacular architecture. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA**

FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH - Today we take an excursion north of Barcelona along the Mediterranean coast. Our first stop is Girona, where we'll visit the Cathedral and the Arab Baths, with free time to explore, before continuing north to Figueres for lunch and a visit the Salvador Dali Museum. We return to Barcelona for a free evening with a stop along the way at the gorgeous seaside resort of Cadaqués. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA**

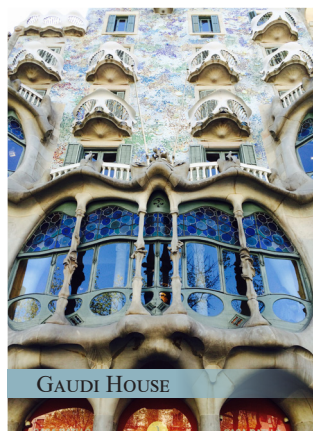
SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST - This morning we set off for an excursion up into the mountains north of the city to visit the Monastery of Montserrat, famous for its children's choir. We'll ride the funicular railway to the top of the mountain to take in some of the most spectacular views in Catalonia. We return to the city for a free afternoon. This evening, we'll have dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BARCELONA**

SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND - You have a free morning to explore the last corners of the city. Perhaps finish some shopping or linger in a cafe watching the locals move about their day. This afternoon, we return to Barcelona Airport for the short flight to Mallorca. On arrival in Palma, we'll drive up into the Tramuntana Mountains to



the beautiful town of Soller. Dinner awaits us at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MALLORCA**

MONDAY, APRIL 23RD - After a leisurely breakfast, the morning begins with an excursion along Mallorca's stunning northern shore through olive grove terraces built by the Moors in the 11th and 12th centuries. We'll stop at the village of Deia, nestled in the mountains, south of Soller, and climb up to the church perched on the top of the hill in order to visit the grave of the poet Robert Graves, who made the village his home for many years and we'll also visit his house, now a museum. We continue through the mountains to Valldemosa and the monastery where Georges Sand and Frederic Chopin lived during the winter of 1838-39. We'll have time for lunch before we return to Soller. There will be time to walk around the town center, or take a ride on the open tram down to the sea and explore the quaint fishing harbor of Port de Soller. **(B) OVERNIGHT: MALLORCA**



TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH - Heading to the southeast corner of the island, we begin our morning in the charming fishing village of Portocolom. Stroll along the waterfront or sit and have coffee in one of the harborside cafes. We will then head into the lush hills for lunch at the nearby mountaintop monastery of San Salvador – the best paella on the island. After lunch, we navigate back across the island and visit Petra and the Birthplace Museum of Junipero de Serra, a Franciscan friar who established a string of missions along the coast of California. We return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: MALLORCA**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25TH - Today's excursion takes us into the capital of the island, Palma, a city of some 400,000 inhabitants. To get there we'll take a ride on a vintage electric train that first ran this route through the mountains in 1912. Arriving in Palma, we'll head into the historic center of the city for a walking tour that includes a visit to the fabulous Gothic cathedral, known as "La Seu," with a spectacular altar piece by Gaudi. After free time for lunch, we'll meet up with our bus and proceed to the Pilar and Joan Miro Foundation for a visit. Artist Joan Miro moved to Mallorca to avoid the Nazi occupation of France (his mother was a native of Soller) and, shortly before his death in 1983, bequeathed his workshops and contents to the Palma City Council. We return to Soller this afternoon and enjoy dinner at a traditional Mallorcan restaurant this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MALLORCA**

THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH - Morning transport to Palma Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**



Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner