



Sample Itinerary for a Four Day Languages Study Tour to Barcelona.

Dates: To Be Decided.



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the holiday itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit will be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The director is able to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.



ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Bonanova Park Capita Arenas 51, 08034 Barcelona, Spain.**

Tel: 003493 2040900. Fax: 003493 2045014. www.hotelbonanovapark.com

The Hotel Bonanova Park** is a superior two star hotel located on the central outskirts of Barcelona & within a fifteen minute walk of the Neu Camp Football Stadium. The hotel is a part of the Husa Hotels chain that operates throughout Barcelona. All of the 60 rooms have en-suite bathroom facilities, hairdryers, satellite televisions, telephones & desks with reading lamps. There is a pleasant bar & meeting area on the ground floor as well as a conference rooms.

The excellent metro system is within a five minute walk from the hotel, allowing for rapid transfers to the central Placa Cataunya & the tourist sites. The hotel management are extremely friendly & helpful & we have found the Hotel Serhs Campus to be a very popular base for our groups visiting the Barcelona region.

An on-line review of this hotel can be viewed on the following online link:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g187497-d234570-r5979666-Husa_Bonanova_Park-Barcelona_Catalonia.

CATERING

En Route

We ask parents to supply a packed lunch for the outward journey. On the final day, lunch is the final meal provided by Varsity Travel so participants should keep £3 for an evening meal.

Breakfast

A continental breakfast of croissants, bread, butter, jam, coffee, tea or hot chocolate is served either in the main or the group dining room.

Lunch

The Hotel Auto Hogar provides a filling packed lunch which includes two baguette sandwiches, fruit, a cake or chocolate, a soft drink & a bottle of mineral water. We stop for lunch in one of the many picturesque parks or squares between visits.

Dinner

Meals are taken in the excellent 'La Vaca Paca' Restaurant in the heart of Barcelona's designer shopping district & close to Gaudi's colourful Casa Batlo. This self-service restaurant has an extensive salad bar for the first course. Participants then take another plate for the hot buffet section which includes pizza, pasta, croquettes, chicken legs, vegetables & chips. For dessert, pupils help themselves to unlimited 'Mr. Whippy' style chocolate or vanilla ice-cream from a machine. Pupils can have soft drinks with their meals while wine is served for staff or older pupils with coffee to finish. We have found the Vaca Paca restaurant to be extremely popular with our groups & the staff are very helpful & friendly. We are able to cater for all special diets.

DAY ONE

06.30	Join coach at School.
07.00	Depart School. Transfer to local Airport.
08.00	E.T.A. local Airport. Commence check in.
11.35	Depart Airport on Ryanair flight FR9802.
14.45	E.T.A. Barcelona-Girona Airport.
<small>(Note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of UK time)</small>	
15.30	Coach transfer to Dali Museum, Figueres.
16.00	<u>Visit to The Salvador Dali Museum, Figueres.</u> www.salvador-dali.org

Situated north of Barcelona, this museum comes highly recommended. The museum building is located in the theatre in which Dali held his first ever exhibition. The building itself is typical of Dali's surrealist style and this visit is always popular with our art groups. After, viewing the works on offer, many groups enjoy spending time in the town square either having a coffee on the outside terraces or shopping for presents.

Please note that there is a supplement of £9/person for the Dali Museum to cover the cost of coach hire for the day.

18.00	Transfer to central Barcelona.
19.00	E.T.A. Hotel Bonanova Park. Check in & allocate room keys.
19.30	Metro transfer to Port Vell.
20.00	<u>Dinner at FresCo Restaurant, Maremagnum Shopping Centre, Barcelona.</u> www.fresco.com
21.00	<u>Evening Walk on The Ramblas Boulevard.</u>

Pupils will get an initial taste of the city from a short stroll along the bottom end of the Ramblas, with its street entertainers, bird markets & tapas stalls.

21.30

Metro transfer to Hotel Bonanova.

22.00

E.T.A. Hotel Bonanova.

DAY TWO

- 08.30 Breakfast.
- 09.30 Metro transfer to Picasso Museum.
- 10.30 **The Picasso Museum**
www.museupicasso.bcn.es

The Picasso museum is one of the world's most important collections of The Master's work. Picasso spent much of his youth in Barcelona and maintained close links with his Catalan friends when he left for Paris in 1904. The time he spent in Barcelona encompassed most of his 'Blue Period' and was the occasion for many of the formative influences on his art. The collection is very well laid out in three stages: ceramics, paintings/sketchings and lino cuttings.

- 12.30 Lunch in the Gothic Quarter.

- 14.00 **Walking Tour of the Old Quarter of Barcelona**

The tour will include the old town of Barcelona and will end with a visit to The Palau Reial. This was the Palace of the Counts of Barcelona and now houses a museum of the history of the city. Pupils will enjoy wandering through the Gothic area of the city, near the Placa Reial. The streets in this area have remained unchanged for decades and give a good impression of the severe lack of space that the city has experienced as a result of its historic immigration from Andalusia and other southern regions.

Pupils will enter the Moorish style cathedral and see the traditional 11 white geese that have inhabited the cloisters. Initially they acted as a noisy alarm in case of ransack or invasion by hostile foes. Outside the cathedral, pupils will view marks made in the wall by the elite troops as they sharpened their swords on the soft cathedral brick. The tour will end at the Picasso Museum, where the wealthy traders who profited from trade with the Americas could afford to buy the city's most prestigious and sumptuous houses with courtyards. These can still be seen today as most of the houses now house a wide variety of art museums.

15.30

Ascent of The Sagrada Familia

www.sagradafamilia.cat

This spectacular building was to be Gaudi's crowning achievement until he was killed by a passing tram while admiring his work from the street. This building is still being built and locals wonder whether it will ever be completed. Pupils will ascend one of the eleven towers after viewing the deeply religious facades at the front and rear of the temple. Some of the best views of Barcelona can be gained from the top of the Sagrada Familia. Afterwards we will view the subterranean museum, including Gaudi's workshop and the crypt where he is buried.

18.00

Dinner at la Vaca Paca Restaurant, Barcelona.

www.lavacapaca.com

20.00

View of Montjuic's Magic Fountains

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIG2d9c4s3o

Lights, colour, music, water...action! Montjuic's Magic Fountain has it all. Soft tones of coloured lights bathe the watery mist in shades of reds, greens and yellows as the Magic Fountain sprays and shoots water in all directions to the sounds of Mozart, Queen and Whitney Houston.

Montjuic's Magic Fountain was built in 1929 and restored in 1992 for the Barcelona Olympic Games. The fountain spurts, shoots and sprays water to the sound of music and a mixture of colorful lights. Located at the foot of the steps up to the Museum of Catalan Art on Montjuic mountain, this visit is a highlight for many visitors to Barcelona.

21.00

Walk to Hotel Bonanova.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Bonanova.

DAY THREE

- 08.00 Breakfast.
- 09.00 Coach transfer to Port Aventura Themepark, Tarragona.
- 10.30 **Day's Visit to Port Aventura Themepark.**
www.portaventura.co.uk

We will spend the whole day at this excellent themepark, one of the most popular in Spain. The park is divided into five different lands - South America, The Wild West, Asia, Polynesia & Europe. Each land has its own distinct identity & attractions. There are shows throughout the day, a variety of restaurants & some of the world's most advanced rollercoasters. 'Dragon Khan' is the only ride in the world to boast eight inverted loops. The 'Stampida' rollercoaster is constructed totally of wood & the Tutuki Splash ride leaves participants absolutely soaked to the skin! 'Hurakan Condor' is a gravity-defying ride which climbs 100 metres in the air before subjecting participants to a terrifying freefall which reaches speeds of 70mph - not for the fainthearted!

Please note: there is a supplement for the optional visit to the Port Aventura Themepark.

- 17.30 Coach transfer to Port Vell, Barcelona.
- 19.00 **Dinner at FresCo Restaurant, Maremagnum Shopping Centre, Barcelona.**
www.frescco.com
- 20.30 Metro transfer to Hotel Bonanova.
- 21.15 E.T.A. Hotel Bonanova.

DAY FOUR

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Metro transfer to The Park Guell, Barcelona.

10.30 **Visit to Gaudi's Parc Guell.**
www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/en/gaudi/park-guell.html

Gaudi's modernist park is largely made from broken porcelain and china that was reclaimed from the Barcelona municipal rubbish tip. The park is set on a peaceful hillside overlooking the city & beach below. Our art students are always impressed with the Park Guell. They can choose to sketch, paint or photograph the various attractions which include a large porcelain lizard, a Modernist ceiling, brightly coloured seats, a grotto & Gaudi's House - one of the most eccentric buildings in Barcelona. We will have time to enjoy an ice-cream while watching the wild parrots fly overhead or simply to relax on the grass under a palm tree.

12.00 Transfer to The Neu Camp Stadium.

13.00 **Visit to The Neu Camp Football Club - 'Home of the Barca'**
www.fcbarcelona.com

The football club of Barcelona is one of the world's richest and most successful. The club became a symbol of Catalan nationalism under the dictator General Franco and helped to culturally integrate many of the Andalusian immigrants at the time. When Franco made it illegal to fly the Catalan flag, Barcelonans flew the Barca flag instead. Many famous players have played for the club, and the museum is located in the West stand of the huge stadium. This visit is also of interest to those with little interest in football and exhibits include the original Barca flag painted by Joan Miro, a pair of Ronaldo's boots, masses of silverware in the Trophy Room and a ticket signed by the Pope.
Figueres.

14.30 Metro transfer to Barcelona beach.

15.30

Recreational Time on Barcelonetta Beach.

Pupils will enjoy some free time to enjoy Barcelona's famous sandy beach, with tapas cafes, views over the Mediterranean & beachfront hammocks. Many pupils enjoy a game of beach football or simply a relax on the sand after a day's sightseeing.

17.30

Coach transfer to Barcelona Airport.

18.30

E.T.A. Barcelona Airport. Commence check in.

21.30

Depart Barcelona Airport on Ryanair flight FR9803

22.35

E.T.A. local Airport.

23.30

Onward coach transfer to School.

(Local time) (Allow 30 minutes to collect baggage and pass through the Immigration Control at Airport)

01.00

E.T.A. School.

Please note that we make hotel & airline bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The airline timings and airports contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of airports and flight timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.

ALTERNATIVE VISITS TO CONSIDER:

Visit to Gaudi's La Pedrera

www.gaudiallgaudi.com/AA009.htm

La Pedrera is one of Gaudi's strangest and most intriguing buildings. Located on the busy road of Diagonal, a visit to the roof of this building provides students with a stunning view over the Barcelona rooftops and a series of foreboding sculptures and helmet-shaped clusters, many of which were based on Gaudi's vivid religious nightmares.

View of Gaudi's Casa Battlo.

www.casabatllo.es

This strange Modernist work resembles a dragon's back, symbolising the patron saint of Barcelona. Best viewed at night, the scales of the rooftop appear to be shimmering under the spotlights. Pupils always respond to this amazing building situated on one of the city's finest shopping streets.

Visit to the Mountain & Monastery of Montserrat.

www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/en/tour/montserrat-spain.html

After ascending the perilous twisting road to the top of the Mountain of Montserrat, participants will be able to enjoy some of the most spectacular views in the whole of the Catalunya region. The literal translation of Montserrat is 'sawed mountain', named because of the many jagged rocks, many of which are given strange names based on their appearance. The Monastery of Montserrat is a place of pilgrimage for many & is the spiritual heart of the Catalan region. It is traditional for a worshipper whose prayers have been answered to give thanks by ascending the mountain barefoot. We will visit the monastery, with its holy relic - the Black Madonna. At 13.00 we will gather to watch the Montserrat choir perform inside the monastery. There is a pleasant shop & cafeteria where students can sample local tapas foods or have a drink.