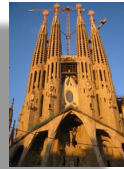




## ***Itinerary For a Five Day Languages Study Tour To Barcelona. Prepared For The MFL Department.***

***Dates: To Be Confirmed***



*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 Group Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The Tour Guide is able to run the tour 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 Exe Campus\*\*\*\***

**Vila Universitaria, (Campus UAB), 08193 Belleterra, Barcelona, Spain.**

Tel: 0034 93 580 8353. Fax: 003493 5808978.

[www.exehotels.co.uk](http://www.exehotels.co.uk)

The Hotel Exe Campus\*\*\*\* is located within 25 minutes of the heart of Barcelona in a picturesque woodland setting on the outskirts of the city. The hotel is a part of the large Bellaterra University Campus & guests have access to the university's facilities (football pitches, swimming pools etc.)

All of the 104 rooms have en-suite bathroom facilities, satellite televisions, telephones & desks with reading lamps. There is a pleasant bar & meeting area on the ground floor as well as several conference rooms.

There is a rail link at the end of the road which services the university campus & which takes our groups directly into the Placa Catalunya, the heart of Barcelona, in 25 minutes. Many of the groups which have joined us report that it is very welcome to return to the tranquility & calm of our hotel on the hills outside the city after a day in the hustle & bustle of Barcelona centre. The hotel management are extremely friendly & helpful & we have found the Hotel Exe Campus to be a very popular base for our groups visiting the Barcelona region.

# 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 10 Euros 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**

For lunch, the Tour Guide will distribute lunch money to students before taking the group to a particularly good area of the city for cafes, restaurants, pizzerias & pasticerias. Participants will have a wide choice of food & can either purchase a sandwich & a drink, enjoy a pizza on the terrace of a restaurant or try some tapas. The Tour Guide will take staff to one of the local tapas restaurants where they will be able to savour local foods.

## **Dinner**

Meals are taken in the excellent 'FresCo' Restaurant in the heart of Barcelona's Port Vell shopping complex & directly overlooking the port & close to the beach. 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 FresCo Restaurant to be extremely popular with our groups & the staff are very helpful & friendly.

We also include a traditional paella dinner at a very good tapas restaurant located directly next to the Sagrada Familia. We are able to cater for all special diets.

# DAY ONE

08.15	Join coach at School.
08.45	Depart School. Transfer to Local Airport.
10.15	E.T.A. Local Airport. Commence check in.
13.10	Depart Local Airport on Easyjet flight 8575.
16.20 <small>(Note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of UK time)</small>	E.T.A. Barcelona Airport (Terminal 2B).
17.15	Coach transfer to central Barcelona.
18.00	<b><u>Exploration of The Maremagnum Port Area.</u></b>
<p>Pupils will enjoy passing the marina to arrive at the modern complex of Maremagnum Port, where they can visit the many shops, watch the fishing boats departing to sea or enjoy an ice-cream in the evening sunshine. This is a popular tourist spot &amp; will allow pupils time to stretch their legs after the day's travelling.</p>	
19.00	<b><u>Dinner at FresCo Restaurant, Maremagnum Shopping Centre. Barcelona.</u></b>
20.30	Coach transfer to Hotel Exe Campus.
21.15	E.T.A. Hotel Exe Campus. Check-in & allocate room keys.

## DAY TWO

- 08.00 Breakfast.
- 09.15 Walk to local train station.
- 09.30 Metro transfer to The Ramblas.

10.10 **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 Andalucia 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.

- 12.15 Lunch in Gothic Quarter.
- 13.45 Meet by Gothic Cathedral. Walk to Picasso Museum.

14.00 **Visit to The Picasso Museum**

There is a pleasant walk along a palm-tree lined boulevard to arrive at the Picasso museum, one of the world's most important collections of his 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.

- 15.30 Transfer to Cablecar Station, Montjuic.

16.30 **Cablecar transfer to Barcelonetta Beach.**

Pupils will enjoy a cablecar transfer above the sea, the Port Vell & over the Columbus Monument to arrive at the beach of Barceloneta, where we will have lunch. Panoramic views will be enjoyed from the cablecar over the city below.

17.30

**Visit to Barcelonetta Beach.**

Pupils will enjoy a walk along the long & sandy Barcelonetta Beach. This is the main beach for the city & is very popular during the hot months of summer. We will enjoy a game of football, a stroll by the seaside & view of the enormous bronze fish that borders the sea from the Olympic Village.

19.00

Walk to Maremagnum Port.

19.30

**Dinner at FresCo Restaurant, Maremagnum Shopping Centre. Barcelona.**

21.00

Metro transfer to Hotel Exe Campus.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Exe Campus.

# DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast.

09.30 Metro transfer to The Ramblas.

10.00 **Walk Along The Ramblas Boulevard.**

Pupils will enjoy their first taste of the most famous avenue in Barcelona. We will walk from the Placa Catalunya to the Columbus Monument. The photography students, in particular, will benefit from the opportunity to photograph typical Barcelona street scenes amongst the Gaudi squares & ancient traders' houses.

10.30 **View of The Ancient Roman Remains, Placa Villa de Madrid.**

Having begun as a Roman colony under Emperor Augustus in 15BC, Barcelona was part of the Roman Empire for over 400 years. There are many impressive Roman remains still visible in the city, although many remains have been integrated into later buildings. At the Placa Villa de Madrid we will view the remains of a Roman necropolis from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD. Of particular interest are the recently excavated Roman tombs which are remarkably well preserved.

11.00 **Visit to La Boqueria Market.**

La Boqueria market lies midway down the Ramblas boulevard & is a hub of activity with locals purchasing their weekly vegetables & meat while stopping for a chat with friends & neighbours. Tourists are drawn to the market by the delicious samples of jamon de serano ham as well as the brightly coloured displays of the fruit juice stalls. We will have time to explore this market & browse amongst the stalls, perhaps buying a refreshing smoothie or sampling some of the local chorizo sausage. Students should take the opportunity to take lots of photographs on our day of arrival in the city.

12.00 Lunch by The Gothic Cathedral.

13.15 Walk to Gaudi's Casa Battlo, Passeig de Gracia.

13.45 **View of Gaudi's Casa Battlo.**

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 intriguing building situated on one of the city's finest shopping streets.

14.15

**View of Gaudi's La Pedrera – ‘The Casa Mila’**

Built by Gaudi for the Mila Family, 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.

14.30

Metro transfer to The Sagrada Familia.

15.00

**Visit to The Sagrada Familia**

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.

17.30

**Paella Dinner at Aitor Restaurant, Sagrada Familia.**

Students & staff will enjoy a traditional paella dinner at this popular tapas restaurant located around the corner from the Sagrada Familia. Served in wide shallow pans after being roasted in the oven, this traditional Spanish rice dish comes in several varieties & students will enjoy sampling the local cuisine for dinner.

19.00

Metro transfer to Placa Espanya.

20.00

**Visit to Montjuic's Magic Fountains**

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.

20.45

Coach transfer to Hotel Exe Campus.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Exe Campus.

# DAY FOUR

- 08.00 Breakfast.
- 09.15 Coach transfer to Port Aventura Theme park, Tarragona.
- 10.45 **Day's Visit to Port Aventura Theme park.**

We will spend the whole day at this excellent theme park, 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 roller coasters. '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!

Our groups who visit Port Aventura always find it to be a very memorable & enjoyable day.

*Please note: there is a supplement of £21 for this optional visit.*

- 17.30 Coach transfer to Barcelona.
- 19.00 **Dinner at FresCo Restaurant, Maremagnum Port Vell.**
- 20.30 Metro transfer to Hotel Exe Campus.
- 21.00 E.T.A. Hotel Exe Campus.

# DAY FIVE

08.30 Breakfast, hotel check-out, room checks.

10.00 **Presentation of Awards**

Before departing for the day's excursions we will have time to gather our group together in one of the hotel conference rooms to give out prizes & awards to the students for their achievements, efforts in speaking Spanish, comedy moments or funny experiences during the tour. Every student will receive an award & applause during the presentation.

10.45 Coach transfer to Parc Guell.

11.30 **Visit to The Parc Guell.**

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.

13.00 Lunch outside The Parc Guell.

14.15 Meet at Parc Guell front gate. Walk to coach park.

14.30 Coach transfer to Barcelona Airport.

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

18.00 Depart Barcelona Airport (Terminal 2C) on Easyjet flight 8580.

19.25 E.T.A. Local Airport.

(Local time) (Allow 60 minutes to collect baggage and pass through the Immigration Control at Stansted Airport)

20.30 Coach transfer to School.

21.45 **E.T.A. School.**

*Please note: This is a Suggested Itinerary only. We make hotel, flight & itinerary bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The timings, airports, flight times & visits contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of hotel, visits & timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.*