



THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL COMPANY

THE WALKING PARTY

ITINERARY FOR THE FIVE DAY CATALUNYA HOP

Price : £1045 per person Single Supplement : £230

Date : 11th – 15th March

Distance: 16 miles Walking : easy



This is our new itinerary set up to counter balance our week in the Basque country. We may hope to see the Casteller human towers during the gastronomic festival of calçots. The weekend ends in Barcelona one of the great cities of Europe if not the most progressive. You will visit two of the Catalan architect, Anton Gaudi's, master works. The one ecclesiastical, the other residential. This is a beautiful part of the world seemingly in eternal sunshine with wonderful food and wine and Sitges, one of the prettiest ports, the Porto San Stefano of Catalunya!

Day 1 Friday

You arrive at Barcelona airport in the afternoon to be met by James. We drive to the Santa Maria hotel on the front of the pretty port of Sitges. This is an old style three star hotel in a wonderful position and you will stay your for first two nights here on the beautiful sea front. We will wander into the old town in the evening and have a tapas dinner in the old port amidst the usual Spanish hustle and bustle.

Day 2 Saturday

We drive to a small village to start our mornings walk in the Garraf park behind Sitges. This is a lovely hilly park full of wild fennel, rosemary and thyme and almond blossom with lovely views out over the Mediterranean. We walk through the park to have a picnic laden with fresh Spanish produce with Diana before continuing towards Sitges. In the late afternoon we will visit a local vineyard and hear about the making of the celebrated Catalan methode

champagnoise 'Cava'. Dinner again in Sitges this time at a celebrated local restaurant in the old port again. *Walk: 9 miles*

Day 3 Sunday

After another lovely breakfast on the front we will drive along the Costa Brava to reach the port of Cadaques. This is less seaside than Sitges and more 'inlet' and described by Salvador Dali as one of the prettiest villages in Spain. We have lunch in Cadaques before taking a boat for a trip to see the inlets and outlets of the Costa Brava! We return to Cadaques with time off to explore this wonderful famous village. You will stay at the Playa Sol hotel: a charming three star hotel with all the comforts overlooking the bay and the port itself. Dinner in Cadaques.

Day 4 Monday

After breakfast we set off on foot for the house where Salvador Dali lived. A beautiful complex of a few fishermen's cottages that Dali slowly accumulated and brought together with time. It is surprisingly prettily decorated and not nearly as surreally bizarre as I thought it might be! It is very beautiful indeed with more subtle quirks of surrealism than the shocking Dali delirium. One feels this is his wife Gala's influence ... the soft feminine touch! We then continue by foot through the park with wonderful sea views to the next door port for lunch. Optional walk along the coast after lunch before returning to Cadaques by car. Dinner Cadaques. *Walk: 7 miles*

Day 5 Tuesday

After breakfast we drive in the cars for the great Catalan city of Barcelona. We will visit the fabulous Sagrada Familia cathedral designed by the celebrated Catalan architect Gaudi, and which is still being constructed today. An astoundingly beautiful masterpiece mass of art nouveau and fantastic animal forms. One of the most extraordinary buildings of Europe and an absolute must to see. We will then visit the wonderful Casa Batllo again designed by Gaudi but of course this time a home for the rich bourgeoisie with wonderful earthly forms creating spiritual calm! Lunch in the centre of the city before driving to the airport.

If you decide you may like to stay on a few days in Barcelona then we would be delighted to help you with your trip and have a beautiful hotel ready to recommend!



NOTE: The itinerary is subject to change according to local conditions.

**For further information and reservations please contact
Jane Robinson on 020 7386 4695**