



Pentagon Ski Club Trip to Barcelona and Catalonia, Spain May 10-22, 2018 – \$3900

The PSC is going to one of the great cities in the world - Barcelona! - and we will also tour the northwest Spanish area of Catalonia, the Catalan part of Spain that's known for its beauty, history, art and architecture, food and partying. (Catalans speak Catalan, which isn't really Spanish, and want to be independent. Also, they say Barthelona. Just so you know.)

The Trip:

Thursday, May 10 - Depart from Dulles

Friday, May 11 - Arrive Barcelona and travel by bus for about two hours north to Figueres. This small city is the birthplace of Salvador Dali, but its history goes back to the 13th century. We'll relax here after checking into the Hotel Duran.

Saturday, May 12 - We have tickets for the Dali Museum, can meander down Figueres' rambla, and hit other museums of your choice: the Toy Museum of Catalonia, the Emporia Region Museum, and the Technical Museum. Too many museum? Check out the local castle.



Sunday, May 13 - we will bus to Pubol in the morning and visit the Gala Dali Castle House and meander the town. In the afternoon we'll visit Besalu, a beautiful medieval town considered one of the most beautiful in Spain. None of the bus rides are over an hour, if traffic is normal.

Monday, May 14 - We'll load our luggage on the bus and head off to visit the Empuries Ruins, an old city founded by the Greeks with beautiful ruins and views of the beaches and Bay of Roses. After this, we'll head over to Empuriabrava, the opposite of Empuries. This upscale beach town has canals, 15 miles of beach, and lots of restaurants and bars. A great place for a long lunch, meandering, and wishing you had more money. Then we take a spectacular drive along the coast to the artist's town of Cadaques, where we'll stay at the Hotel Solvent.

Tuesday, May 15 - We can walk (15 minutes) to the nearby fishing town of Portligat. It has the house where the Dali's lived and a beautiful view of the ocean. In the afternoon, we may busover to El Port de la Selva or just meander Cadaques.



Wednesday, May 16 - We pack up again and take the bus to look at the resort of Roses. This town is one of the most popular on the Costa Brava and also has an ancient citadel with Greek, Roman and medieval remains. It is also home to the biggest fishing fleet in Spain. Afterwards, we'll get back on the bus and continue to Barcelona and unload at the H10 Hotel. The night is ours for dinner and exploring. Remember, the Spanish don't eat until 10 PM, so most any restaurant



will have space for us blue-plate specialists.



Thursday, May 17 - Barcelona. What can one say, there is so much to see and do. So on the first day there we'll have a morning guided tour to acquaint ourselves with this wonderful city. Since it hosted the Olympics 25 years ago, Barcelona has cleaned up and it's easy to get around using the subway (or just walking). When we get back to the hotel, we can do lunch and one of your trip leaders will be more than happy to walk you down the street show that is the Ramblas and show you what's near the hotel. For dinner, we can go to a tapas restaurant.

Friday, May 18 - Free Day! What do you want to see? The Gothic Quarter, the oldest part of the city with its 13th century cathedral; the Quadrat d'Or, known as the leading area for Modernista buildings; go on your own Antoni Gaudi tour - La Perdrera, the Palau Guell, and the still unfinished Sagrada Familia cathedral (amongst many others); Montjuic, overlooking all of Barca, where the old Olympic stadium is; or Port Vell, the modern beach area with its restaurants and aquarium. Plus all the museums. Barcelona has a good subway system and is a great city to walk around in.

Saturday, May 20 - Off we go to the Monastery of Montserrat, Catalonia's holiest place. Located on the "Serrated Mountain" (4055-feet high), it is a highlight for pilgrims, who come to hear the Escolania sing the Salve Regina at 1 PM every day and see La Moreneta (the Black Virgin) behind the altar.

Sunday, May 21 - and Monday, May 22 - Free Days! See what you've missed so far.

Tuesday, May 23 - And now we go home.

Note:

All breakfasts are included and we are planning for two or three included dinners, probably the first and last nights; lunches and all other dinners are your choices. The Dali Museum and house tours, the guided tour of Barcelona, and the trip to Montserrat are also included. The hotels are not firmed up at this time but if they differ, they will be of the same quality. Prices may always change, as could air flights.

Flights:

Thursday, May 10 - Depart Dulles on Lufthansa 5:15 PM - Arrive Barcelona Friday, 11:45 AM.

We will change planes in Frankfurt.

Tuesday, May 22 - Depart Barcelona on Lufthansa 10:50 AM - Arrive Dulles 4:14 PM

We will change planes in Frankfurt.

We are looking at direct flights, but that will cost more.

Insurance:

Medical/repatriation insurance is included in the trip price. Cancellation insurance will cost \$150 and must be purchased by January 11, 2018. More details regarding cancellation insurance will be sent out later.

Sign-Ups:

Although the trip is first-come, first-served, we do have to match roommates. If you do not sign up with a roommate you may have to opt for a single supplement (if one is available) or not go. If you choose the latter, let us know and we will hold onto your deposit until we or you find you a roommate. You may contact us any time regarding that situation.

Payment Schedule:

- Initial Deposit - \$1,000
- Sep 12 - \$1,000
- Nov 14 - \$1,000
- Jan 16 - \$900.

Pay at our meetings or send a check (and fill out the application form on the web) to Susie Pumphrey, 3138 Singleton Circle, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Trip Leaders:

Peter Porton: peter.porton@gmail.com; 703-471-7791

Susie Pumphrey: wachtraum@msn.com; 703-980-3340

