



## Tour the Jeweled Sights of *SPAIN, FRANCE and ITALY* 13 Day Tour *June*

**Day 1** - Depart America for Spain.

**Day 2** - Arrive in Barcelona International Airport and visit the beautiful city of **Barcelona** with a guided tour on our luxury coach bus. Barcelona, the cosmopolitan capital of Spain's Catalonia region, is known for its art and architecture. The fantastical Sagrada Família church and other modernist landmarks designed by Antoni Gaudí dot the city. Museu Picasso and Fundació Joan Miró feature modern art by their namesakes. City history museum MUHBA, includes several Roman archaeological sites. Then arrive at the hotel for our accommodations. Our group will gather together for the *Welcome Dinner, included*.

**Day 3** - Breakfast **included** at our hotel, visit of scenic **Montserrat**. Montserrat is a multi-peaked mountain range near Barcelona, in Catalonia, Spain. It is part of the Catalan Pre-Coastal Range. The main peaks are Sant Jeroni, Montgrós and Miranda de les Agulles. Lunch at a typical restaurant for Paella, **included**. Return to hotel in Barcelona for dinner, on your own, and free time.

**Day 4** - Breakfast **included** at the hotel, depart for a guided tour and free time seeing the amazing sites of **Lloret de Mar** ... Lloret de Mar, a town on the Costa Brava in Spain's Catalonia region, is known for its Mediterranean beaches. The medieval hilltop Castle of Sant Joan, to the east, offers views over the area, while the central Iglesia de Sant Romà church provides examples of both Catalan Gothic and modernist architecture. On a cliff overlooking the sea, the Santa Clotilde Gardens were built in the style of the Italian Renaissance. Potential hotel on the beach to allow for relaxing time and lunch on your own. The evening will be spent at the **Castle of Val Tordera to watch the show and have dinner, included**. This will be a medieval setting in the castle. View [www.castellmedieval.com](http://www.castellmedieval.com). Return to hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 5** - Breakfast **included** at the hotel. Depart in our luxury coach bus for a guided visit to **Avignon**. Avignon, a city in southeastern France's Provence region, is set on the Rhône River. From 1309 to 1377, it was the seat of the Catholic popes. It remained under papal rule until becoming part of France in 1791. This legacy can be seen in the massive Palais des Papes (Popes' Palace) in the city center, which is surrounded by medieval stone ramparts. Lunch will be on your own and enjoy a little more of the visit city before we return to our hotel for accommodations and dinner together, **included**.

**Day 6** - Breakfast **included** at the hotel. Depart for **Nice** to visit the city...Nice, capital of the Alpes-Maritimes department on the French Riviera, sits on the pebbly shores of the Baie des Anges. Founded by the Greeks and later a retreat for 19th-century European elite, the city has also long attracted artists. Former resident Henri Matisse is honored with a career-spanning collection of paintings at Musée Matisse. Musée Marc Chagall features some of its namesake's major religious works. Lunch on your own. Back to our hotel for dinner together, **included**. Free time in Nice for the evening.

**Day 7** - Breakfast **included** at hotel, visit beautiful **Monaco** and lunch at typical restaurant, **included**. Monaco City is the southcentral ward in the Principality of Monaco. Located on a headland that extends into the Mediterranean Sea, it is nicknamed The Rock. The name "Monaco City" is misleading. It is not itself a city, but a historical and statistical district. Depart for **Genova** or Genoa (Genova) which is a port city and the capital of northwest Italy's Liguria region. It's known for its central role in maritime trade over many centuries. In the old town stands the Romanesque Cathedral of San Lorenzo, with its black-and-white-striped facade and frescoed interior. Narrow lanes open onto monumental squares like Piazza de Ferrari, site of an iconic bronze fountain and Teatro Carlo Felice opera house. Proceed to **Sarzana**, with guided bus tour. Sarzana is a town, commune and former short-lived Catholic bishopric in the Province of La Spezia, of Liguria region, northwestern Italy, 15 kilometres east of Spezia, on the railway to Pisa, at the point where the railway to Parma diverges to the north. Arrive back at the hotel with dinner on your own, at the hotel.

**Day 8** - Breakfast **included** at the hotel, then depart for **La Spezia, Cinque Terre** to tour these breathtaking sites with lunch on your own. The Cinque Terre is a rugged portion of coast on the Italian Riviera. It is in the region Liguria, in the northwest of Italy, to the west of the city of La Spezia, and comprises five villages: Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore. Later that day, depart for the hotel in **Montecatini**, outside of Florence, for dinner, **included**.

**Day 9** - Breakfast **included** at the hotel, free time in the morning and lunch on your own. Depart mid afternoon by **train, included** and arrive in **Florence**, free time to walk the city center, **optional view Statue of David, included**. Dinner in a restaurant in Florence, **included**. Florence is the capital of Italy's Tuscany region and is home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. One of its most iconic sights is the Duomo, a cathedral with a terracotta-tiled dome engineered by Brunelleschi and a bell tower by Giotto. The Galleria dell'Accademia displays Michelangelo's "David" sculpture. The Uffizi Gallery exhibits Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" and da Vinci's "Annunciation." Return to Montecatini hotel to relax or gather for an evening drink with friends of the tour.

**Day 10** - Breakfast **included** at the hotel, depart in our luxury coach bus and drive to a typical farmhouse for lunch, **included**. Then depart for a visit of **Piacenza** ... Piacenza is a city in Italy's Emilia Romagna region. A copper angel rotates atop the bell tower of Piacenza Cathedral. The nearby Sant'Antonino Basilica has an 8-sided tower and 17th-century frescoes, plus a portal known as Heaven's Gate, with a rose window. Arrive at hotel in **Milan** with free time before dinner, on your own.

**Day 11** - Breakfast **included** at the hotel, visit Scala di Milano da Fuori e Duomo in Milan. Lunch on your own. Mid afternoon departure for **Stresa**...Stresa is a resort town on Italy's Lake Maggiore. Landmark buildings include Villa Pallavicino, with its gardens and zoo, and the Grand Hôtel des Îles Borromées, where author Hemingway once stayed. Boats run from the waterfront to the Borromean Islands, home to palazzos, villas, a fishing port and the Museum of Dolls and Toys. Overlooking the lake, Monte Mottarone features a bobsled rollercoaster and botanic gardens. Tour these majestic sites, free time, then to our hotel in Stresa for dinner together, **included**.

**Day 12** - Breakfast **included** in the hotel. Free time at the hotel pool, lunch on your own. Depart by **boat, included** to visit the **Borromean Islands**. The Borromean Islands are a group of three small islands and two islets in the Italian part of Lago Maggiore, located in the western arm of the lake, between Verbania to the north and Stresa to the south. Together totaling just 50 acres in area, they are a major local tourist attraction for their picturesque setting. Return to our hotel for *Farewell Dinner* together, **included**.

**Day 13** - Breakfast **included** in the hotel, then depart for the airport in Milan to return to America, June 23rd.