University of San Diego® ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Duration
8 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
Land



Barcelona

November 12-20, 2026

Art, Culture & People | Serene Season | Starting from $4,745/pp

Embrace this rare opportunity to experience Barcelona's cosmopolitan spirit and dazzling architectur e—with fewer crowds and during the centenary of visionary architect Antoni Gaudí's passing. Explore Barcelona's atmospheric neighborhoods and historic waterfront, tour the acclaimed Picasso Museum and marvel at the Palau de la Música's grandeur. Be awed by the art nouveau beauty of Hospital Sant Pau and and Gaudí's surreal Catalan Modernism at La Sagrada Família and Parc Güell. Plus, join a Catalan cooking demonstration and savor tapas and Spanish wines on a tapas stroll!





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Barcelona | Art, Culture & People | Serene Season

Air Program: 9 days/ 8 nights (includes 1 air night) Land Program: 8 days/ 7 nights

Breakfasts: 7 | Lunches: 3 | Receptions: 2 | Dinners: 2

B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners

A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches.

- Mild – Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour
- Moderate – Walk 1–3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50–100 stairs; stand 1–2 hours
- Active – Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Barcelona, Spain. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: BCN.

Day 2 | Barcelona, Spain

Hotel Renaissance Barcelona

R

Arrive at Barcelona El-Prat Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer and check in to the first-class Hotel Renaissance Barcelona. Please note that if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Welcome Reception. This evening, meet and mingle with your fellow passengers at a Welcome Reception with canapés in the hotel.

Enrichment: Barcelona, the Capital of Catalonia.

Day 3 | Barcelona

Hotel Renaissance Barcelona

B | L

A full breakfast is served at the hotel every morning.

Barcelona's Gothic Quarter. Begin your guided walk of the Barri Gothic at the Barcelona Cathedral, near the surviving Roman walls that once defined the perimeter. Dating to the 13th century, the Barcelona Cathedral, also known as the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia, features beautiful stained glass windows and a cloister with a palm tree-filled courtyard. As you stroll the Gothic Quarter's labyrinth of winding, medieval cobblestone streets, pass through Catalan's historic powerhouse, the Plaça del Rei, to see where medieval Barcelona flourished at the center of the old city. (Moderate)

AHI Connects | Catalan Cooking Demonstration & Lunch: Delve into Catalan gastronomy during an interactive cooking demonstration with an expert chef instructor. Learn about the history and traditions of Catalan cuisine, known for its bold flavors, reliance on fresh, seasonal ingredients and combination of Mediterranean and inland culinary traditions. Best of all, you'll enjoy the delicious dishes prepared for lunch today! (Mild)

Free Time: After lunch, the remainder of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure to explore Barcelona on your own, including dinner tonight. Your AHI Travel Director will be on hand to offer sightseeing, shopping and restaurant recommendations.

Day 4 | Barcelona

Hotel Renaissance Barcelona

B | L

Enrichment: Barcelona Today. Gain insight into current-day Barcelona.

Monjuïc Hill & Barcelona's Waterfront. Take a drive up to Montjuïc hill to see the site where the opening ceremony of the 1992 Summer Olympics took place in July 1991. Here, you'll also be treated to panoramic views overlooking Barcelona and the Mediterranean Sea. On the drive up, see the Christopher Columbus monument, a symbol of Barcelona; the World Trade Center, shaped like a ship; and the medieval, royal Drassanes shipyards. Continue back down the hill to discover Barcelona's waterfront, including the boardwalk and the super-yachts at Marina Port Vell. Stop for lunch with your group at a local restaurant during your tour. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at your leisure.

Day 5 | Barcelona

Hotel Renaissance Barcelona

B | D

Enrichment: Catalan Modernism & Gaudí. Join an engaging lecture about Antoni Gaudí, one of the most famous figures of Catalan culture and world architecture. He spent over 40 years designing the Temple of the Sagrada Familía, a stunning – and still unfinished – cathedral in Barcelona. As a Catholic man of deep faith and constant prayer, Gaudí loved God and nature and freely worked both into his drawings and creations. He was often called "God's Architect" because he believed his ideas were divinely inspired.

Free Time: After this morning's lecture, explore at leisure and have lunch on your own before your afternoon excursion.

Sagrada Família. Barcelona is an architecture lover's dream, with eclectic monuments and architecture by Antoni Gaudí and his modernist contemporaries waiting to be discovered. Today, you'll visit La Sagrada Familía, Gaudí's most famous work and one of the UNESCO World Heritage-inscribed "Works of Antoni Gaudí" in Barcelona. The Spanish architect was a leading exponent of the European art nouveau movement, a style characterized by intense ornamentation and organic lines. Marvel at this beautiful, surprising and sometimes controversial basilica that has become the symbol of Barcelona. Combining various architectural styles, including Gothic and art nouveau, it is primarily known for its unique and expressive interpretation of the Catalan art nouveau movement. When complete, La Sagrada Família will have a total of 18 towers, with the tallest six central towers representing the Virgin Mary, the four Evangelists and Jesus Christ. The interior is characterized by a forest of columns that creates a sense of being in a natural environment; the ceiling is designed to resemble tree canopies, and stained glass windows provide a spectacular play of light inside the basilica. During his lifetime, Gaudí completed the crypt and the Nativity façade at the side of the basilica. The surviving models and drawings have made it possible to continue the building work, funded by private donations, with the projected completion now estimated in 2026, 144 years after construction began. (Moderate)

Sant Pau Hospital. Then, visit the extraordinary art nouveau campus of the former hospital, Sant Pau Recinte Modernista, Hospital de Sant Pau, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Designed by Catalan art nouveau architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner, the hospital is regarded for its singular beauty and sensitivity to design, and it is considered one of his finest contributions to Barcelona's architecture. The hallmarks of modernism include the integration of nature and the use of symbolism. The campus is surrounded by gardens, courtyards and green spaces, with symbolic elements incorporated into its design, including religious, historical and cultural references. The complex is adorned with unique architectural and decorative elements, including domed towers, colorful tiles, intricate mosaics and sculptural details. Underground tunnels interconnect the series of pavilions. Despite the variety of pavilions and the richness of decorative elements, there is an overall sense of harmony and unity in the design of Sant Pau. The buildings complement each other, creating a cohesive and

aesthetically pleasing ensemble that is a treat to behold. Built between 1901 and 1930, the hospital was closed in 2009, and it is the one building that could possibly rival the Sagrada Família in terms of size and invention in Barcelona. (Moderate)

Return to the hotel and rejoin your group for dinner this evening.

Day 6 | Barcelona

Hotel Renaissance Barcelona

B | L

Museu Picasso & El Born. Begin today with a guided visit to the Picasso Museum, one of the city's most iconic cultural institutions. Housed in five interconnected medieval palaces in the Gothic Quarter, the museum is dedicated to the early works and artistic development of Pablo Picasso, one of the 20th century's most influential artists. The eponymous museum holds more than 4,200 of Picasso's works, including paintings, drawings, engravings and ceramics. During your tour, learn about the evolution of Picasso's genius and the deep connection between the artist and Barcelona, where Picasso moved as a young boy and studied art.

Depart the museum and begin a guided walk of El Born, one of Barcelona's most emblematic neighborhoods. It was once home to medieval tournaments and fiestas and remains Barcelona's cultural hub today. Stroll past art galleries, design shops, boutiques and charming cafés and bars to the bourgeois Calle de Montcada, a noble street where 12th-century mansions now house art museums and galleries. You'll see the monument dedicated to those who lost their lives in the Spanish War and the 14th-century Santa Maria del Mar, designed in pure Catalan Gothic style. (Moderate)

Tapas Lunch. While exploring atmospheric El Born, experience a delicious introduction to tapas, a quintessential element of the city's culinary culture. Tapas here reflects a blend of Catalan flavors, Mediterranean influences and Spanish culinary traditions. During your walk, you'll stop by three different tapas bars to sample a variety of bold, flavorful tapas while learning about Barcelona's culinary traditions and tasting five different Spanish wines to accompany your bites. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy the rest of the day and evening at your leisure, including dinner on your own.

Day 7 | Barcelona

Hotel Renaissance Barcelona

B | D

Palau de la Musica Catalana. Set out this morning to visit one of the world's most exquisite treasures of Catalan Modernism, a must-see destination for architecture and music lovers. The renowned neoclassical concert hall was opened in 1805 and completely restored in 1997. Inside the opulent interior with gold accents and ornate chandeliers, you'll be awed by the stunning and soaring ornate ceilings and columns, massive organ and spectacular skylight portraying the sun. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy some free time for lunch on your own before your late afternoon excursion.

Park Güell. You'll be awed and delighted as you enter the magical Parc Güell, a playful, enormous garden designed by architect Antoni Gaudí. The park was commissioned by Eusebi Güell, a wealthy industrialist and Gaudí's main patron, who wanted to create a self-contained garden city. On a guided walk, observe the distinct Catalan architectural elements, including colorful mosaics, organic shapes and imaginative structures. Take note of the architect's use of vibrant ceramics and broken tiles, known as trencadís, a distinctive feature of Gaudí's work seen throughout the park. As you wind around the main terrace, you'll discover the iconic Serpentine bench, a long, continuous, undulating bench covered in colorful ceramic tile shards, and the views of Barcelona and the sea. Also, marvel at the famous dragon stairway and fountain decorated with a colorful mosaic dragon! (Moderate)

Relish dinner at a local restaurant this evening with your fellow travelers.

Day 8 | Barcelona

Hotel Renaissance Barcelona

B | R

Free Time: If you have not opted for today's Elective Activity (below), the entire day is yours to chart your own itinerary around this fascinating city.

Elective Activity | Montserrat Mountain and the Penedès Wine Region. Travel a short distance outside Barcelona this morning to the Santa Maria de Montserrat, an abbey of the Order of Saint Benedict located atop a mountainside. Take in the rugged natural beauty and spectacular vistas once there. For almost 1,000 years, a Benedictine community has lived in this area. Enjoy a visit to the Basilica, where the serene image of the Virgin of Montserrat, the patron saint of Catalonia, is enshrined. The site continues to draw thousands of pilgrims each year. Continue to Catalonia's premier wine-producing region, the Penedès, which produces high-quality reds and whites, along with Cava, the world-famous sparkling wine. Enjoy lunch and wine tasting before returning to Barcelona. (Moderate) Available at an additional cost.

Farewell Reception. Raise a toast to your epic Barcelona adventure at this evening's Farewell Reception in the hotel.

Day 9 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, bid chao to your fellow travelers and Barcelona, and check out of the hotel. AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Barcelona-El Prat Airport (BCN) for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.





What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 7 nights in Barcelona, Spain, at the first-class Hotel Renaissance Barcelona.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 receptions and 2 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

On-site Features

- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Renaissance Barcelona Hotel

Located in the heart of Barcelona, this upscale hotel is a blend of traditional and modern high-rise architectural design. Not far away, you'll find Las Ramblas, Plaza Catalunya, Gaudi's famed Sagrada Familia Cathedral, plus shopping along the chic Passieg de Gracia. Settle in at the contemporary CUIT lounge with a drink or dine at CRU Restaurant & Steakhouse which showcases Mediterranean cuisine. Re-energize at the Mayan Luxury Spa or the 24-hour fitness center. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

Pricing

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$4,745**
You Pay	**$4,745 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $750.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 120+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


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