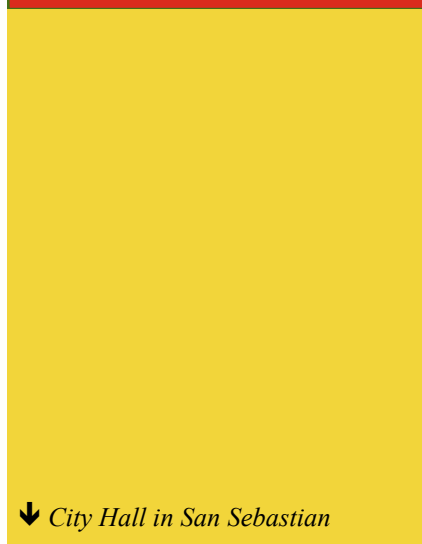


Historic city of Toledo



Sample Itinerary

Northern Spain



↓ *City Hall in San Sebastian*



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Olympic stadium in Barcelona

Day 1 • Depart

Our journey begins as we depart for Barcelona, Spain.

Day 2 • Barcelona

Upon arrival in Barcelona, we meet a local guide and board our motor coach for a panoramic tour of the city. We see such sites as the **Olympic grounds**, **Parc Güell**, **Barrio Gótico**, **Las Ramblas**, and Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, **La Sagrada Família**. We also visit **Montjuïc Park**, Barcelona's largest recreation area, which overlooks the city and the harbor. The afternoon is free to explore on our own. **D**

Day 3 • Barcelona

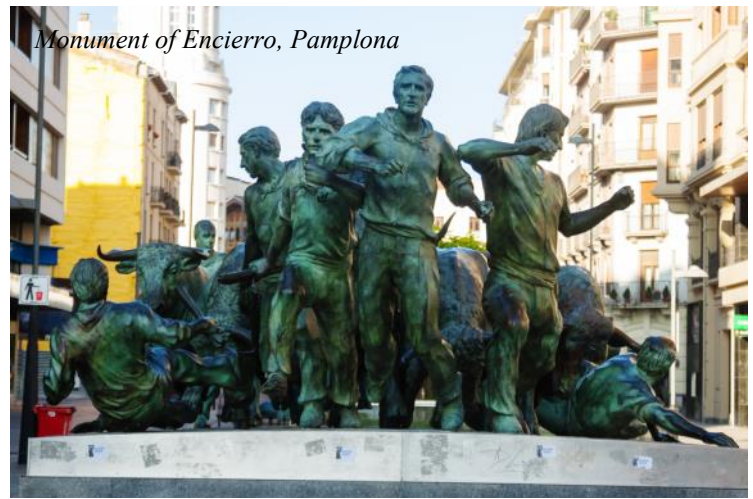
Today we journey to **Montserrat**, where we visit the spectacular 11th Century monastery, which has been in use for almost 1,000 years. We ride the *teleférico* up the mountain to the monastery where we have time to explore, visit the museum, and see an audio-visual recreation of the life and history of Montserrat. **B/D**

Day 4 • Zaragoza

We travel westward today through the region of Aragón to the historic, artistic city of Zaragoza. Augustus founded the city in 19 B.C. as a retirement colony for Roman veterans. The city gained everlasting fame years later when visited by the Virgin Mary. A tour of the city includes the **Roman Ruins**, **Palacio de la Alfajería**, and the **Basilica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar**. **B/D**



Parc Güell



Monument of Encierro, Pamplona

Day 5 • San Sebastián

Today we drive to San Sebastián, the heart of the culturally unique Basque region. En route we stop in **Pamplona**, known for its daredevil bull running. Here we see the lovely **Gothic Cathedral**, a massive citadel and the winding streets of the **Casco Antiguo**. Tonight we are in for a special treat as we enjoy a dinner that includes the famous and delicious *tapas* for which this city is known. **B/D**

Day 6 • San Sebastián

We have a day at leisure in San Sebastián. We may wish to spend time relaxing on the beach, or we may choose to take in the city's highlights: the Paseo Nuevo, the Palacio del Mar Aquarium, or the royal residences of Palacio del Miramar or Palacio de Ayete. **B/D**

Day 7 • San Sebastián

This morning we venture west to see the city of **Bilbao**. This city has flourished as an industrial center since the mid 19th Century. A tour of the city shows us the **Casco Viejo**, **Plaza Nueva**, the **Basilica de Santiago**, **Puente Colgante**, and the area's cultural crown—the **Guggenheim Museum**. **B/D**

Day 8 • Burgos

Our destination today is the Castilian town of Burgos, the home and resting place of Spain's legendary national hero, El Cid, who freed Valencia from the Moors in the 11th Century. The city also played a role as General Franco's army headquarters during the Civil War. A guided tour takes us to



Spanish tapas



Segovia

the beautiful **Gothic Cathedral**, the **Arco de Santa María**, the city's surviving military gate, and the **Casa del Cordón**. **B/D**

Day 9 • Madrid (Segovia en route)

En route to Madrid we visit **Segovia**, a medieval city perched on the rocky incline of the Guadarrama Mountains. We are awed by the grand **Acueducto Romano**, one of the greatest surviving examples of Roman engineering. A city tour also includes a visit to the imposing **Alcázar**. Then it's on to Madrid, the capital city of Spain. **B/D**

Day 10 • Madrid

This morning a local guide shows us the highlights of the city: the **Plaza Mayor**, the monument to Cervantes located in the **Plaza de España**, **El Prado** museum, **Parque del Retiro**, the **Puerta del Sol**, and the **Palacio Real**. We have some free time this afternoon to explore the city. Perhaps we choose to shop in the famous Corte Inglés or to take in the ambience of Plaza Mayor where one can imagine being back in the 17th Century watching a bullfight, the public trials during the Inquisition, or even executions. **B/D**

Day 11 • Madrid (Excursion to El Escorial)

Today we travel a short distance from Madrid to El Escorial. The grandiose palace, mausoleum, and monastery of **San Lorenze de El Escorial** are located here, where the bodies of every king since Carlos I, save three, are buried. On the return to Madrid we stop to visit **Valle de los Caídos**, Franco's stupendous monument to his troops who fell in the Spanish



Royal Palace, El Escorial



Madrid, Spain skyline

Civil War. Here 50,000 soldiers, and Franco himself, are laid to rest. **B/D**

Day 12 • Madrid (Excursion to Toledo)

We take an excursion this morning to Toledo and enjoy a locally guided tour of the walled fortress city. The guided tour includes **La Catedral** and **Capilla de Santo Tomé**. After the tour there is free time to explore Toledo before returning to Madrid. **B/D**

Day 13 • Return

It's time to say "*Adiós*" and transfer to the Madrid-Barajas Airport. We return with memories of lovely landscapes, fabulous castles, mosques and cathedrals, friendly people, tasty tapas, enchanting music, and most importantly, a wealth of new friends! **B**

Abbreviations for Meals
B=Breakfast **D**=Dinner



Montjuic Cable Car in Barcelona

Prices vary according to season, group size, and customization of each tour.
Contact our staff at students@ed-ventures.com for more information

Included

Transportation

- Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach

Accommodations

- Multi-bedded tourist class hotels

Meals

- As indicated in itinerary

Sightseeing

- Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary

Tour Guides

- Teacher serves as tour leader (Professional tour director can be added upon request)
- Local guides for city tours and major attractions

Taxes and Tips

- All taxes and tips for provided services except end of tour tip for driver

Complimentary Tours

- One per 8 paying participants

Not included

- Roundtrip air transportation (Included upon request)
- Professional tour director
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Beverages, except with breakfast
- End of tour tip for driver
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date*)
- Travel Insurance

This tour can be customized to your specifications.



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