PARIS TO THE PYRENEES

Educational Tours

Discover the Global Classroom
10 or 12 DAYS

Paris to the Pyrenees
France • Spain

Program Fee includes:
- Round-trip airfare
- 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- Complete breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
  - Paris • Pamplona • Barcelona
- 3 sightseeing tours led by your tour director:
  - Biarritz • San Sebastián • St. Jean de Luz
- 2 walking tours:
  - Paris • Barcelona
- 5 visits to special attractions:
  - Louvre • Notre Dame Cathedral
  - Château de Chenonceau • Roman amphitheater
  - Parque Guell

Optional:
- Versailles • Barcelona Flamenco Evening

With Extension:
- All of the above PLUS:
  - 1 orientation tour: Madrid
  - 2 visits to special attractions:
    - Royal Palace • Prado
  - AVE high-speed train

Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.

From cafe au lait in a bustling Parisian sidewalk café to café con leche along Las Ramblas in Barcelona, you’re going to love this tour!

Day 1 Flight
Overnight flight to France • Relax as you fly overnight across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Paris
Arrival in Paris • Touch down in Paris, City of Light. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Walking tour of Paris • Our walking tour takes in the chic Opéra district and the Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, famous for its haute couture boutiques. Stroll through the Place de la Concorde, the city’s largest public square, built to honor Louis XV. During the Revolution, this was the location of Joseph Guillotin’s famous machine; the next Louis, Marie Antoinette and many others were beheaded here. Continue through the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades. Pass the Ritz hotel at no. 15, a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway. (The exact walking route may vary depending on your hotel location and other activities.)

Visit to the Louvre • Built to defend the city in the 13th century, the Louvre today safeguards one of the world’s greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei’s glass pyramid, constructed in 1989. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Asia, Greece and Rome. You’ll also see precious objects from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as iconic European paintings such as the Mona Lisa.

Day 3 Paris
Guided sightseeing of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine: from the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon’s Grande Armée, to the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV’s grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You’ll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to lieutenant and was told he’d go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centerpiece for the 1889 World’s Fair. You’ll hear the story of how this impressive—but once highly controversial—symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

Visit to Notre Dame Cathedral • Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as “a vast symphony in stone.” However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo’s novel The Hunchback of Notre Dame helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

Optional excursion to Versailles • Join an optional excursion to Versailles, the elaborate...
through the French countryside to the departure. In this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure. (Please note: Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace. Please also note that Versailles is closed on Mondays. Participants must enroll in this excursion no later than 50 days prior to departure.)

Day 5 Dordogne • Biarritz
Transfer to Biarritz • Travel past the vineyards of Bordeaux into Basque country, a linguistically and culturally unique region. Today’s destination: the world-famous seaside resort of Biarritz, located at the foot of the Pyrenees.

Day 6 Biarritz • Pamplona
Tour director-led sightseeing of Biarritz • As your tour director introduces you to the town of Biarritz, enjoy views of the Atlantic and the town’s sandy beaches. The area has been a favorite among international royalty since the early 19th century.

Transfer via St. Jean de Luz and San Sebastián • Make your way to the charming fishing town of St. Jean de Luz, where your tour director leads a sightseeing tour of this popular resort. Louis XIV married the Infanta Maria Teresa here in 1660. Continue through the Basque region for tour director-led sightseeing of oceanside San Sebastián (known as Donostia in Basque). While in the Old Town, notice the numbers on the balconies above. These used to be ringside seats for bullfights.

Overnight in Pamplona • Travel to Pamplona, where you will spend the night.

Day 7 Pamplona
Guided sightseeing of Pamplona • Explore Pamplona, a town best known for its annual Fiesta de San Fermín, and especially its highlight, the running of the bulls. This dangerous but exciting tradition is said to have started in the 13th century as a way to move the animals through the town to be sold at market. Ernest Hemingway set his novel The Sun Also Rises amid the bullfights of Pamplona. See the Plaza de Castello, the former bullring built in 1847. Today, the plaza houses the autonomous provincial government and boasts elegant tree-lined streets. You will also marvel at Pamplona’s proud cathedral, dating from the 14th century. Its Neoclassical and Baroque façade complements its Gothic interior.

Day 8 Pamplona • Zaragoza • Barcelona
Transfer via lunch stop in Zaragoza • A quintessential Iberian city, Zaragoza was founded by Caesar Augustus in 19 B.C. Part of the Aragón region, Zaragoza was a hub of Muslim activity in Moorish times. Visit the Basilica del Pilar, whose central pillar is said to have been a gift from the Virgin Mary to St. James. Also see the building that housed Zaragoza’s 16th-century stock exchange.

Continue to Barcelona • Pass through the foothills of the Pyrenees to Barcelona, Spain’s second-largest city and the capital of Catalonia. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V received Columbus in Barcelona upon his return from the Americas in 1493. Barcelona, which played a prominent role in the overthrow of Spain’s monarchy in 1931, was also the last city in Spain to surrender to Franco in 1939.

Day 9 Barcelona
Guided sightseeing of Barcelona • Your guided tour takes you past the controversial and stillunfinished La Sagrada Familia (the Church of the Holy Family), where you will make a photo stop. This masterpiece of twisting spires and colorful mosaics was designed by Gaudi, who estimated it would take 200 years to complete. You will also see some of Gaudi’s other works during our panoramic bus tour of Paseo de Gracia, one of Spain’s most cosmopolitan streets. Check out Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza España, a bustling six-street intersection that boasts the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, a fountain that puts on a fabulous show of water, lights and music on the weekends. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuïc Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place. Here, you will see the former stadium and the Olympic Rings. Continue to the Plaza de Colon, a square built in honor of Christopher Columbus (“Columbus” is Colon in Spanish). Finish your tour in the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the cit, and home to the stunning Barcelona Cathedral, built in the Mediterranean Gothic style.
Visit to Parque Guell • You’ll also visit Parque Guell, a World Heritage Site designed by Antoni Gaudí. The beautifully landscaped park is decorated with playful Modernist mosaics. Visit the Room of a Hundred Columns, a covered market with 84 pillars, and see the Casa-Museu, where Gaudí lived from 1906 to 1926.

Walking tour of Barcelona • Barcelona, known as “La Gran Encisera” (the Great Enchantress), has inspired countless artists—Miró, Picasso and Dali all lived or studied here at the beginning of their careers. Experience the spirit and romance of Barcelona on our EF walking tour. Your tour director takes you down Las Ramblas, the tree-lined pedestrian boulevard that W. Somerset Maugham called “the most beautiful street in the world.” Wander among the newspaper kiosks, flower and bird stalls, and performers, from human statues to street musicians to fortune tellers. Restaurants, cafés and hotels abound, as do tourists and locals alike.

Optional Flamenco Evening • To better understand the soul of Spain, choose to attend an optional flamenco performance. Born of Indian, Moorish, Arabian and gypsy influences, flamenco dance is a passionate display of complex heelwork, dramatic poses and flamboyant costume, accompanied by song and guitar playing. You will marvel at the intricate rhythms created by a dancer’s steps and by the use of percussive elements such as castanets (wooden finger symbols) and clapping. (A beverage is included.)

Day 10 Home
Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION
Day 10 Barcelona • Madrid
Transfer via AVE train from Barcelona to Madrid • Alternatively, you can extend your stay three days. Board Spain’s high-speed train, dubbed the AVE—Alta Velocidad Española. The first AVE train was inaugurated in 1992 with the completion of the Madrid-Sevilla line. The train will reach a maximum speed of more than 180 miles per hour before arriving in Madrid.

Arrival in Madrid • Arrive in Madrid. At 2,100 feet, this is Europe’s highest capital.

Guided sightseeing of Madrid • Your sightseeing adventure begins with a panoramic tour of Spain’s capital city. At the Puerta del Sol, the center of Madrid, pass through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This grand square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to royal weddings to public executions. Continue to the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid’s largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Next, you will explore this magnificent palace, built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 rooms, including one with extravagant ceramic walls. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the incredible variety of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

Day 11 Madrid
Madrid orientation tour • Your tour director continues to show you Madrid. Travel back in time to Spain’s Golden Age, when painters such as Goya and Velázquez ruled and the Royal Court reigned. Get acquainted with the center of Iberia and its biggest draw—the friendly madrileños who inhabit the cafés, tascas and flea markets that pack the city. And discover what makes Pedro Almodóvar want to immortalize the Madrid scene in his films.

Visit to the Prado • You’ll also visit the world-renowned Prado, filled with works collected by the Spanish monarchy. One of the museum’s most famous paintings is Las Meninas by Velázquez. You’ll also find Goya’s paired canvases The Clothed Maja and The Naked Maja, along with works by Bosch, El Greco and many others.

Day 12 Home
Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you’ll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.