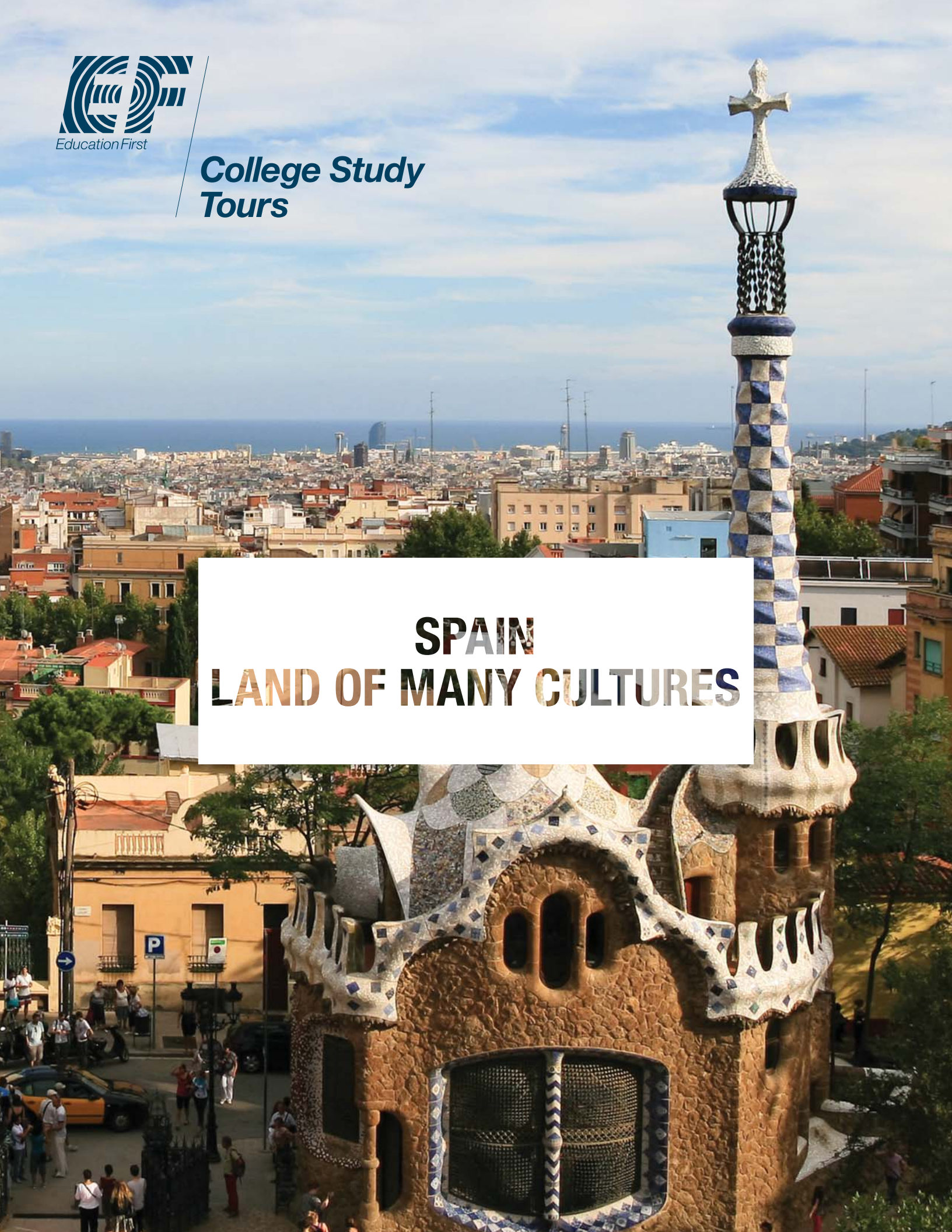




## College Study Tours

# SPAIN LAND OF MANY CULTURES



# SPAIN | LAND OF MANY CULTURES

The architecture of Antoni Gaudi is a testament to Barcelona's personality. His dreamlike rooftops and brilliant mosaic benches are found throughout the city and in the enchanting gardens of Park Güell.

Navigate the winding streets of Granada to find shade in a Teteria: a Moorish tearoom full of rich scents that compel you to linger. Take the exciting leap and cross over into Morocco, where the ancient mosques, opulent Arab baths and intricate lattices will feel familiar to you.

After an expedition in eastern ambiance, indulge in the flare of Madrid. Let your senses lead you down the city barrios, with tapas and guitars competing for your attention. Not far from here, the former capital of Toledo captures the essence of Spain's coexisting cultures perfectly. A millennia of cultivation finds synagogues, mosques and cathedrals sitting side by side in a heartening display of community—the perfect embodiment of the Spanish spirit.



## Day 1: Fly to Spain

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Barcelona.

## Day 2: Barcelona

**Arrive in Barcelona:** Welcome to Barcelona. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

**Explore Barcelona:** On your walking tour of Las Ramblas, stretch your legs and take this iconic part of the city at your own pace. Flower vendors and street performers greet you as you make your way through this tree-lined thoroughfare. Tonight, share a delicious dinner with your group and enjoy local flavors and specialties.

## Day 3: Barcelona

**Sightseeing tour of Barcelona:** On your sightseeing tour, see why Barcelona is an art lover's dream city and the place where masters like Miró, Picasso and Dalí flourished. Admire avant-garde gems in open-air plazas, such as the Plaza de Catalunya and Plaza de España. Snap photos of the twisting spires of La Sagrada Família and the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, which delights visitors with dazzling light and water shows. From atop Montjuïc Hill enjoy panoramic views of the harbor below. Here you can also see the 1992 Olympic stadium.

**Park Güell:** On your visit to Park Güell, marvel at Gaudí's landscaped greenery and playful Modernist mosaics.

## Day 4: Barcelona | Night train

**Free time:** Enjoy a free day in Barcelona—for art enthusiasts, we recommend the Museu Picasso. The setting alone, in five contiguous medieval stone mansions, is worth the trip. For a faster pace, take a bike tour of the city and discover Barcelona off the beaten path. Later, board a night train to Granada.

**+ Dalí Museum:** Visit a one-of-a-kind theater museum dedicated to the surrealist world of renowned Spanish painter Salvador Dalí. The most visited museum in Spain after the Prado and a true delight for everyone who appreciates absurdity, fantasy and participation. Converted from an old theater in 1974, Salvador Dalí created the museum as a repository for some of his most famous works, including *Soft Self-Portrait with Fried Bacon*, *Port Alguer* and *The Girl from Figueres*. Don't miss the living room designed as "*The Face of Mae West*," with the famous red sofa as her lips.

## Day 5: Granada | Costa del Sol

**Sightseeing tour of Granada:** On your tour of Granada, visit the Alhambra, widely recognized as the world's premier example of Moorish architecture. Built as an all-in-one *alcázar* (fortress), *alcázar* (palace) and small *medina* (city), the Alhambra was home to the last of the Nasrid Sultans. See the exotic mosaics, latticed windows and ornamented courtyards that define this royal stronghold. Here, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to finance the voyage of Christopher Columbus. In the afternoon, transfer to Costa del Sol where you'll enjoy dinner with your group and spend the night.

## Day 6: Costa del Sol

**+ Morocco:** Enter a world of mosques, camels, snake charmers and bustling markets as you ferry across the Strait of Gibraltar for a full-day excursion. Travel to Tetouan and see the Andalusian and Islamic-influenced architecture as a local guide leads you through the Medina and Hassan II Square. Visit a carpet bazaar and a spice shop before enjoying an included Moroccan lunch. Excursion is weather dependent. Travelers who do not participate in the excursion will have free time in Costa del Sol.

## Day 7: Seville

**Travel to Seville:** Travel to Seville; city of bullfights, flamenco and Don Juan.

**Sightseeing tour of Seville:** On your tour, follow narrow, twisting alleys through the Barrio de Santa Cruz, home to

picturesque whitewashed houses, flower-filled patios and tiled benches. Pass by Maria Luisa Park to admire the mosaics and fountains of Plaza de España, centerpiece of the 1929 Ibero-American Fair. Visit the Moorish Alcázar and the grave of Christopher Columbus, inside the Seville Cathedral. And imagine the spectacle of a traditional Spanish bullfight at the Plaza de Toros, celebrated for its Baroque architecture and historical significance. Round out the night with a delicious paella dinner.

## Day 8: Córdoba | Madrid

**Travel to Córdoba:** This morning, travel to Córdoba, a melting pot of Moorish, Roman, Jewish and Christian culture.

**Visit Mezquita:** This afternoon, visit the Mezquita, the largest mosque west of Mecca. Borrowing from Persian, Roman and Gothic architecture, the Moors erected this magnificent structure in the eighth century, including 800 columns and distinctive "candy-cane" arches. In the very center of the complex, discover a massive cathedral inserted after King Ferdinand III conquered the city and Christianity reigned. Later, make your way to Madrid, where you'll spend the night.

## Day 9: Madrid | Toledo

**Sightseeing tour of Madrid:** Stand in the Plaza de Oriente, Madrid's largest square, outside of the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). Step inside to explore this magnificent palace, built by 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. Marvel at the splendid marble staircase, the golden Throne Room and the priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

**Toledo:** Spend the afternoon in the former Spanish capital of Toledo, where Muslims, Jews and Christians peacefully coexisted for centuries after the arrival of the Moors in the early 8th century. Visit a spectacular example of Gothic architecture at the Cathedral of Toledo before continuing to the Church of Santo Tomé. Then, step inside a city synagogue before returning to Madrid.

## Day 10: Madrid

**Explore Madrid:** Wander through the Puerta del Sol, the heart of this Spanish capital. At Plaza Mayor, you'll learn about this grand square's history of bullfights, royal weddings and public executions. Later, head over to the Prado, the famed art museum with paintings like Velázquez's *Las Meninas* and Goya's paired canvases. In the afternoon, meet up with local students and then head into town for dinner.

## Day 11: Depart for home

Your Tour Director assists with check-in for your return flight home.

## + 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

### Days 11-13: Bilbao









**Travel to Bilbao:** Journey through Zaragoza on your way to the largest city in Basque Country, Bilbao, nestled at the foot of the Pyrenees. Enjoy lunch with your group on your way there in Burgos.

**Sightseeing tour of Bilbao:** On your guided tour, stroll through the streets of the Old Town to Bilbao's Santiago Cathedral. Visit the Guggenheim Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry, the Guggenheim Museum opened in 1997 to international renown. Its fanciful walls of titanium, limestone and glass surround a vast collection of 20th-century art, including works by Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock. Audio guides let you set the pace of your visit. Head over to the resort town of San Sebastián, set against picturesque cliffs overlooking the Bay of Biscay. Soak up some sun and enjoy free time at the beach. Cap off your final day with a delicious farewell group dinner.

## Day 14: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

## INCLUDED ON TOUR:

-  Round-trip flights on major carriers
-  Full-time Tour Director
-  Land transportation
-  Hotels and night train accommodations
-  Light breakfast daily; 5 local dinners or 6 with extension
-  **Sightseeing tours**  
Barcelona; Granada; Seville; Madrid; Toledo; *With extension: Bilbao*
-  **Entrances**  
Parque Guell; Alhambra; Royal Palace; Alcazar; Seville Cathedral; Mezquita; Prado; Toledo Cathedral; Church of Santo Tome; Synagogue; *With extension: Guggenheim Museum*
-  **Optional**  
Figueres; Morocco;

— the easiest ways to —

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