



Barcelona in Focus: Surrealist Art, Sunlit Culture
6 day Private Tour – May 1 – 6

Barcelona itself is a work of art, the modern cityscape laid out by genius-level urban planners like Ildefons Cerdà and adorned by the fantastical facades of starry-eyed architects like Antoni Gaudí. Great painters and sculptors of the modernist age, Picasso and Miro, lived and worked within that lattice of diagonal streets and rectilinear blocks. This tour leads you deep into their territory by way of leisurely guided walks and museum visits with passionate art historians.

Catalan creativity extends well outside city limits to the coastal painter's sanctuary of Sitges and the vineyards of Penedés, where winemakers deploy their own artistry to produce the region's signature sparkling cava country. Between those day trips and your deep dives into Barcelona's own fountain like sources of inspiration, you'll emerge with a clearer sense of how this skyline, coastline, and countryside can work such strange magic on the eye and mind.

Highlights

- Gaudi's Barcelona Tour including Fast-track Access Tour to Sagrada Familia
- Picasso Museum Tour with private guide
- Exclusive Access Experience: Montserrat & Cava Country with chauffeur and private guide, private visit and tasting at 19th century, family run winery.
- Full day trip with guide and chauffeur to coastal town of Sitges
- MNAC & Miro Museum tour on Montjuic with private guide
- Welcome dinner at hilltop restaurant with stunning views: tasting menu highlighting local gastronomic standouts.

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May 1. Arrival to Barcelona & Welcome Dinner

Upon arrival into Barcelona (Vueling #3507 @ 2:00pm) you will be transferred to **Serotel Amister Art Hotel**. This 4-star hotel is located on Barcelona's Avenida de Roma, between Montjuic fairgrounds and the commercial and business area of Avenida Diagonal, as well as a short distance from Sants Station. This wonderful hotel fits seamlessly into its surroundings and is decorated with contemporary works of art, dedicating each floor to a different artist. The hotel holds 59 rooms that exude elegance and style, and that are equipped with everything you need for a comfortable stay. The hotel services include meeting rooms, a gym and a terrace with a bar and swimming pool.



8:30pm – 11:00pm – Welcome Dinner at La Venta Restaurant

Reinvented Catalan cuisine, with tasting menus & wine pairings, at a plant-filled, hilltop venue.



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May 2. Arrival to Barcelona, Gaudi Tour & Picasso Museum

Morning arrival (Aquathlon athletes) at Sercotel Amister Art Hotel. After lunch we explore Barcelona through the eyes of famous artists



3:00pm – 7:00pm “Gaudi’s Barcelona Tour.” The look and feel of the Catalan capital reflect the fantastical art nouveau visions of Gaudí. Your guide walks and talks you through Gaudí’s life and work, as you admire his gorgeous facades along the Passeig de Gracia, and his dreamlike unfinished basilica, the Sagrada Familia. It’s the perfect primer for exploring the city in your free time.

An eye-popping swirl of paintings, drawings, lithographs, engravings and ceramics, the Barcelona Picasso Museum houses one of the world’s most extensive and eclectic collections of work by the great Spanish artist. This private tour with our art historian leads you from Picasso’s apprentice sketches to Blue Period masterpieces and the Las Meninas series – multiple variations on an image that obsessed him.



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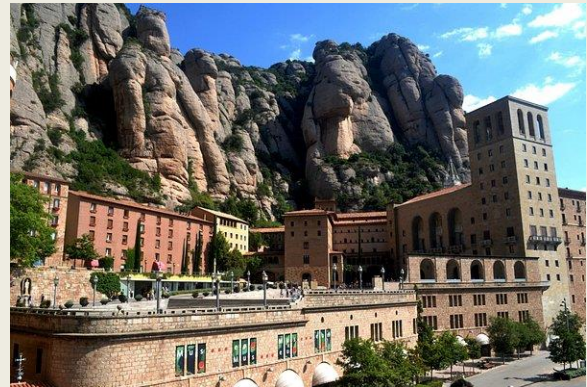
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May 3 Montserrat & Cava Country

9am-5pm Your guide and driver meet you at the hotel for the one-hour upward drive through a landscape of dramatic rock formations to the hilltop sanctuary of Montserrat. The Abbey of Santa Maria de Montserrat is a 1000-year-old shrine built and still occupied by Benedictine monks. It is linked by cable car to the Sant Joan viewpoint where you take in the full sweep of the surrounding peaks and walk the high ground on a light 15-minute hike across flat terrain.



Next, a 45-minute drive into the cava country of Penedés, home to one of Catalonia's oldest wineries. The Llopart family have been in viticulture for 25 generations, and have grown on these high slopes since the 19th century. On a tour of their facility – state of the art, but still rooted in the Llopart clan's feel for the soil – you learn how they have helped develop the region's signature Saignée method for making sparkling wine, before tasting various premium varieties. We've got a range of recommendations for lunch in the area, according to your preferences and hunger levels. Then back for a relaxing evening at the hotel.



Stop for lunch.

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May 4. Sitges, Maricel & Cau Ferrat Museums



10am-5pm Your guide and driver meet you at the hotel for your 40 minute drive to Sitges, where a chain of gorgeous beaches trace the edge of a coastal enclave that has harbored and fostered Spanish creativity for generations. The avant-garde artists of the 19th century gave the town a contradictory spirit that later gave rise to a ferociously colorful countercultural movement in the 1960s, while annual carnival celebrations help sustain the flamboyant energy of the place. You begin your tour with a walk through the city center and along the modern architectural line of the seafront, with its dreamy profile of blue patios.

Late 19th-century painter Santiago Rusiñol spent summers living and working here, and you can see his impressive collection of ancient and modern art at his former residence, el Cau Ferrat, converted into a museum in 1933. The collection features pieces by two of his great friends, Casas and Picasso. The Maricel Museum also shows an expansive range of work spanning from the Middle Ages to Modernism. Co-created by Charles Deering – one of several prominent American philanthropists and art collectors who came to invest here as if hypnotized in the early 20th century – its striking religious paintings and classical sculptures is only enhanced by the background glitter of the Mediterranean sea. The American connection continues down an atmospheric alley known affectionately, if ironically, as “Fifth Avenue” to locals. Then it’s on to lunch by the shore at one of our pre-selected restaurants, before returning to Barcelona to spend the evening at your leisure.



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May 5. Montjuic: MNAC & Miro Foundation

10am-2pm Montjuïc is the birthplace of Barcelona – the hillside where the Llobregat River meets the Mediterranean, where ancient Romans left their ruins, where Medieval residents buried their dead. Today, its slopes are home to some of the city's most striking architecture, as you'll see on this dynamic private tour combining art, history and natural beauty. Arriving via cable car at the hilltop fortress of Montjuïc Castle, you'll take in the panoramic grounds of the 1992 Olympics, the Romanesque churches and frescoes now contained within the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC), and a textile factory designed by Catalan modernist master Puig i Cadafalch. You'll also discover the artistic delights of the Joan Miró Foundation building. Conceived by the great artist as a surrealist playhouse for his own paintings, sculptures and ceramics, it's also a showcase for other wayward contemporary talents. And when all the man-made sights are set aside, you have still got that spectacular view.



May 6. Return home or continue to more adventures.

Airport transfers for those traveling back to U.S.

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**Price**

- \$1890 per person (sharing)
- \$500 for single supplement

Payments

- \$200 deposit
- Final Payment due Mar 2

What's Included:

- 5 nights Sercotel Amister Art Hotel, Barcelona 4*
- *All breakfasts included
- Luxury Car Service & Driver:
 - Transfer from Airport to Hotel
 - Full day to Montserrat
 - Full day to Sitges
- Welcome dinner (tasting menu with wine included)
- All privately guided visits, tastings, activities, and entrances mentioned in the itinerary

Not included

- Airfare and flights
- meals not mentioned above.
- travel insurance
- gratuities for guides

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