



# Gems of the Mediterranean Coast

12 Days | Summer 2026

The experience of a lifetime is waiting for you. Every detail from the cities you'll stay in to the cultural discoveries you'll make have been customized by your teacher for your group. Take a look at your personal itinerary for a sneak peek of what's in store.

# Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; project-based learning program, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily unless otherwise specified.

Sightseeing:	Barcelona; Sagrada Família; Dali Theatre Museum; Florence
Entrances:	Casa Mila; Park Güell; Sagrada Família; Girona Cathedral; Dali Theatre Museum, Figueres; Pont du Gard; Papal Palace, Avignon; Cinque Terre train card; Accademia, Florence; Duomo, Florence

**Overnights:** Barcelona (3); Montpellier region (1); French Riviera (2); Cinque Terre region (2); Florence (2)





# **Your Itinerary**

Day 1: Fly to Spain

Board your overnight flight to Barcelona!

Day 2: Barcelona

#### Arrive in Barcelona

Welcome to Barcelona, an art lover's dream city and the place where masters like Miró, Picasso and Dalí flourished. As the capital of fiercely nationalistic Cataluña, Barcelona also celebrates unique identity through its language and increasingly influential government.

#### Walking tour of Las Ramblas

Join your Tour Director on a walking tour that will introduce you to Barcelona. Together, you will walk down the dynamic Las Ramblas pedestrian street. Keep an eye out for colorful flower stalls, mime artists, local eateries and perhaps come upon the splendid La Boqueria food market.

#### Bike tour (time permitting)

This is your chance to take in the sights and sounds of Barcelona as you enjoy a wonderful bike tour of the city's main attractions. Your tour guide will give you a brief introduction to your day and your fellow cyclists.

Day 3: Barcelona

#### Guided sightseeing of Barcelona

Your expertly guided tour will introduce you to the vibrant and culturally rich, Barcelona. You'll enter Gaudí's fantasyland of Park Güell, complete with a bright mosaic lizard fountain and one of the longest benches in the world. Your bus will also take you through the Eixample district, down the Paseig de Gràcia where you'll see the Gaudi houses, La Pedrera and Casa Batlló.

#### Guided visit of the Sagrada Família

Enter this amazing skeleton of a cathedral. Gaudí began this church in 1882, and it remains unfinished. Construction still continues and completion is slated for the mid-21st century, yet no one knows if the finished product will be what Gaudí intended. Take your time to explore this bizarre masterpiece by wandering around the base, marveling at the enormous statues of saints or climbing one of the many towers for a spectacular view of the city. (*Please note that this visit is pending confirmation due to limited group reservations.*)

#### See Montjuïc Hill

Take a moment to enjoy the marvelous harbor views from atop Montjuïc Hill.

Day 4: Barcelona

## **Excursion to Girona and Figueres**

# Walking tour of Girona

Explore the ancient walled town of Girona with your Tour Director, which stands on a fortress-like hill, high above the flowing waters of the Riu Onyar. As one of Spain's wealthiest inland cities, Girona has much to offer and usually isn't overcrowded with tourists, despite its proximity to the resorts of the Costa Brava. Walk past the trademark old houses painted in orange, yellow and blue. You might even have a chance to stop at one of the many sidewalk cafés that line the city's medieval narrow streets.

#### Visit the Girona Cathedral

This ancient cathedral was originally a mosque. After the final expulsion of the Muslim people from the region, the mosque was either entirely remodeled or rebuilt. The present edifice is one of the noblest monuments of the school of the Majorcan architect Jaume Fabre and one of the finest specimens of Gothic architecture in Spain.

# Walking tour of Figueres

Travel to the provincial town of Figueras, birthplace of surrealist painter Salvador Dali, and home now to his embalmed body which rests in the main exhibition hall of the lavishly decorated Dali Theatre Museum.

#### Guided visit of the Dali Theatre Museum

Explore the golden-egg-topped Dali Theater Museum; a showcase of the man and his art designed by Salvador himself and the largest artistic undertaking of his life. There is the opportunity to linger in the famously perspectivechallenging Mae West room. There is also an inner courtyard where a coin operated 1941 black convertible Cadillac is located, from which loud opera music is emitted through the gear box!

Day 5: Barcelona | Montpellier region

#### Travel via Carcassonne to the Montpellier region

Get to know Carcassonne during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together you might see Europe's largest and most-complete medieval fortress and the city's age-old ramparts.

# Walking tour of Montpellier

Explore the eighth-largest city in France. Montpellier is broken up into smaller neighborhoods that each have their own unique character. Your Tour Director will lead you through them to see the main sites including The Place de la Comedie, the botanical gardens and the St. Pierre Cathedral. After your walking tour you will have free time to discover the city on your own.

Day 6: Montpellier region | French Riviera

Travel via Avignon to the French Riviera

#### Walking tour of Avignon

Your Tour Director will introduce you to Avignon, capital of the Provence region. Together, you might see the famous Palais des Papes or stroll by the quaint shops and restaurants within the walled city.

#### See the Pont du Gard

See the Pont du Gard, a portion of an aqueduct built by the Emperor Agrippa in AD 19. This spectacular work of Roman engineering is impressive in both form and function-the water conduit, atop the three levels of arches over the River Gard, brought 2,000 gallons of fresh water to the city each day.

#### Visit the Papal Palace

Pope Clement V, a native of France, chose Avignon as the seat of the papacy in the 1300s. Stroll through the sprawling Palais des Papes in which he and six successive popes resided. View the stunning Italian frescoes in the chapel, step inside the papal vestry, and see the hidden vaults where the Church's riches were stored.

#### Arrive in the French Riviera

Welcome to the French Riviera, land of deep blue waters waving palm trees and sun-drenched promenades. Learn why this area of France is a favored resort of the rich and famous, locals and visitors alike.

Day 7: French Riviera

#### Walking tour of Nice

Get to know Nice during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together you might stroll through the Vieille Ville, past white-washed villas or see the famous Promenade des Anglais.

#### Guided excursion to Saint-Paul de Vence

Enjoy a half-day guided excursion to the medieval, fortified hill town of Saint-Paul de Vence, one of the French Riviera's most beautiful villages. Admire breathtaking views that inspired painters like Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse as you stroll along the 16th-century ramparts encircling the town. Then lose yourself in the town's maze of charming streets and see why it's a photographer's delight.

Day 8: French Riviera | Cinque Terre region

#### Travel via Monaco to the Cinque Terre region

#### Walking tour of Monaco

Get to know Monaco during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together, you might see the Casino Monte-Carlo, the Cathédrale de Monaco, or the hairpin turn made famous by the Monaco Grand Prix.

# Your Itinerary

#### **Exploration time in Monaco**

Enjoy some time exploring the exciting and beautiful Principality of Monaco.

#### Arrive in the Cinque Terre region

Welcome to the Cinque Terre region, a cluster of towns perched on the dramatic cliffs of the Mediterranean coast. Each of the region's five Italian villages- Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore-has its own unique character and charm.

Day 9: Cinque Terre region

## Visit the Cinque Terre

Travel by train between the villages and take in views of dazzling aquamarine water, which makes the area popular with sunbathers and swimmers. From Monterosso's lively markets to Vernazza's medieval forts and Manarola's pastel-colored edifices, there is something for everyone to discover and enjoy in Cinque Terre.

Day 10: Cinque Terre region | Florence

#### **Travel to Florence**

Welcome to Florence, a jewel set deep in the heart of Tuscany. Florence is the birthplace of the Italian language, opera and the Renaissance, and where works of art like Michelangelo's statue of *David* and Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* still reside today.

#### Guided sightseeing of Florence

Fall under the spell of the powerful Medici family on your guided walking tour of Florence. The Medici's dominated politics, banking and trade for generations in Florence, the capital of the Tuscany. See Giotto's Bell Tower and the imposing marble cathedral of the Duomo, the Cathedral that rises far above this city's otherwise low skyline. Stand before Ghiberti's legendary *Gates of Paradise* and pass the classical statues in the main square: Piaza della Signoria. Here you can see where Michelangelo's *David* originally stood.

#### **Exploration time in Florence**

Take time to make your own explorations of Florence. You may wish to visit one of the city's many fine museums or stroll across the Ponte Vecchio to explore the Oltrarno neighborhood.

Day 11: Florence

#### Visit the Accademia Gallery

This simple building, located on Via Ricasoli, houses one of the world's true masterpieces in Michelangelo's statue of *David*. Elsewhere, you can see unfinished works by the great artist along with other Renaissance treasures.

#### Photo stop at Piazzale Michelangelo

As you leave Florence you will make a stop at Piazzale Michelangelo for one of the most breath-taking views of Florence.

#### Visit the Duomo

Visit the Duomo, which was commissioned in 1296 by the city fathers. Arnolfo di Cambio was given the assignment to erect a cathedral "with the most high and sumptuous magnificence" so that it would be "impossible to make it either better or more beautiful with the industry and power of man." The Duomo was not completed until 122 years later in 1418 after Filippo Brunelleschi developed the idea of double-shelled construction to build the Cathedral's dome. Your visit will conclude with a climb to the top of the Duomo where you will enjoy the best views of the city. (*Please note that your ticket also includes entrance to the Duomo Museum, baptistery, crypt and Bell Tower*).

Day 12: Depart for home

## Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at <u>www.eftours.com/bc</u>.

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-CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER



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