



Barrington Community School Barcelona y Valencia

**From the Costa Brava to the Costa Blanca
With an Optional Pre-Trip Extension to Mallorca**

May 5 - 14, 2015

This spring, join Barrington Community School Director, Sandi Tinyk, and Discover Europe's Gavin Miller on a unique itinerary that they have designed together, to the east coast of Spain.

Combining ancient monasteries and breathtaking scenery with modern architecture and modern art, this tour captures the very essence of Spain - the "brillo" that gives the country its flare and vitality, and the deep historical roots that keep the culture grounded and centered.

Optional Pre-Trip Mallorca Extension.

Saturday, May 2nd. This afternoon you meet at the Barrington Community School parking lot for the private transfer to Logan Airport, where you board your overnight flight. **Overnight: Plane**

Sunday, May 3rd. Connecting through London, your arrival in Mallorca will be met by Gavin Miller. A short bus journey will take you to the town of Soller nestled in the Tramuntana mountains. After time to unpack and rest we take the antique trolley-car down to the port of Soller, then back to our delightful hotel for dinner. **(D) Overnight: Mallorca**

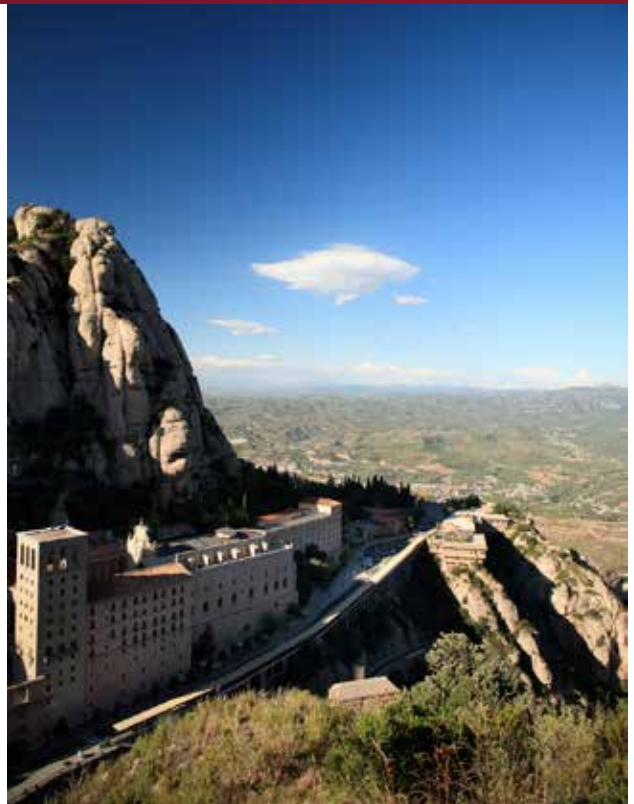
Monday, May 4th. After a leisurely breakfast we'll begin with a morning excursion along Mallorca's stunning northern shore, through olive grove terraces built by the Moors in the 11-12th centuries. Our first stop will be the village of Deia, nestled in the mountains to the south of Soller. Here we'll have time to climb up to the church perched on the top of the hill and visit the grave of the poet Robert Graves, who made the village his home for many years, and a visit to Robert Graves' home, now a museum. We continue through the mountains to Valldemosa and the monastery where Georges Sand and Frederic Chopin lived during the winter of 1838-39. There will be free time in Valldemosa for lunch before we return to Soller. Upon our return, we'll have free time to explore the town center. **(B) Overnight: Mallorca**

Tuesday, May 5th. Our first stop this morning is the Monastery of Lluc, before we head to the charming fishing village of Portocolom, where we'll have time to stroll the waterfront or sit and have coffee in one of the harborside cafes. Lunch will be at the nearby mountaintop monastery of San Salvador. After lunch we drive back across the island and visit Petra and the Birthplace Museum of Junipero de Serra, a Franciscan friar who established a string of missions along the coast of California. Free evening. **(B, L) Overnight: Mallorca**

Wednesday, May 6th. Leaving our hotel this morning we head to the capital of the island, Palma, a city of some 300,000 inhabitants. On arrival we'll head into the historic center of the city for a walking tour that includes a visit to the fabulous gothic cathedral, known as "La Seu," with a spectacular altar piece by Gaudi. Then we'll take a flight to Barcelona to join up with the other arriving group members for their afternoon and evening activities. **(B, D) Overnight: Barcelona**



Join us for lunch?



The Monastery of Montserrat

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Boston departure:	\$4990
Land only (no airfare included):	\$3820
Single supplement:	\$980

Airfares are available from many other U.S. departure cities.

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Round trip air on British Airways. All airport taxes and customs charges included.
- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Breakfast daily, 5 dinners.
- Guides:** Discover Europe's Gavin Miller and BCS director, Sandi Tinyk throughout. Local city guides as specified.
- Expenses:** Portage of one large suitcase per person.
- Trains:** 1st class tickets from Valencia to Barcelona.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance inc cancellation coverage.

Optional Mallorca Extension:

The cost of this extension is **\$1190** per person, double occupancy (single supplement: \$360). This includes round trip flights to Mallorca, 3 nights in the Gran Hotel Soller, breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, Discover Europe tour guide Gavin Miller throughout, all entrance fees and ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, baggage handling of one large suitcase per person and extended travel insurance coverage.

**For further information & registration please contact:
Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School
(401) 245-0432**



Tuesday, May 5th. This afternoon you meet at the Barrington Community School parking lot for the private transfer to Logan Airport, where you board your overnight flight. **Overnight: Plane**

Wednesday, May 6th. Connecting en route in London, you will arrive in Barcelona in the early afternoon. You will be met and transferred to our city-center hotel. After time to rest and unpack, we begin with a walking tour of the Barri Gotic, the ancient city center with its cathedral, medieval streets, and churches. We'll gather this evening for a welcome dinner at a wonderful local restaurant next to our hotel. **(D)** **Overnight: Barcelona**

Thursday, May 7th. This morning we board our bus for a panoramic sightseeing tour of this vibrant and cosmopolitan city that has inspired so much great literature from Cervantes to Hemingway. From the Old City to the ancient harbor, from the chic commercial center-the "Eixample"-to the city's world-famous museums, this city is endlessly fascinating. We'll pass by some of Gaudi's greatest buildings, visit the Sagrada Familia, and end the tour at Montjuic, where we'll visit the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, which has a splendid collection of medieval paintings. The rest of the afternoon will be free. You can return to the city center and follow in Gaudi's footsteps with a visit to the Pedrera, or stay at Montjuic and visit the Poble Espanyol, or "Spanish Village," which chronicles the development of Spanish vernacular architecture. The evening is also free and your tour guide, Gavin, will be glad to help you with plans or to obtain concert tickets. **(B)** **Overnight: Barcelona**



Sagrada Familia

Friday, May 8th. Today we head out of the city and up into the eastern reaches of the Pyrenees. We will stop at the foothills town of Ripoll, the spiritual home of Catalan nationalism. It was here in 888 that Guifre el Pelos (Wilfred the Hairy) founded the Monastery of Santa Maria to encourage Christian resettlement of the valleys following the expulsion of the Moors. There will be time for a coffee in the town square before a visit to the monastery where we will pay our respects to Wilfred's tomb and walk the beautiful 12th century cloister, a tribute to the Romanesque "Golden Age." We continue to the medieval mountain village of Queralbs and see the tiny 10th-century church of San Jaume with its beautiful fresco of Christ in majesty. We'll have lunch along the way in a local inn with spectacular views over the Ribes valley - why not try the local sausages, famous in Catalonia. We return to Barcelona for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Barcelona**

Saturday, May 9th. This morning we will visit the Picasso Museum. Not an artist normally known for traditional representation, Picasso's earliest works as a teenager and young adult come as a shock to many. He was a brilliant representational artist before he developed his own, very idiosyncratic, style. His 'First Communion', painted between the ages of fourteen and fifteen, has all the technical virtuosity of an accomplished artist three times his age. From here we go and take a guided tour of the Palau de la Musica Catalana - the beautiful modernista concert hall. We'll end at lunchtime at the Boqueria - Barcelona's vibrant food market. Greeted by a riot of noise and colour, here you will find some of the best seafood in the city. This afternoon, sticking with a 'fish' theme, why not head underground at the City Museum and visit a Roman salted fish factory and market, preserved almost in its entirety. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Barcelona**

Sunday, May 10th. This morning we set off for an excursion to visit the Monastery of Montserrat, famous for its children's choir. We'll ride the funicular railway to the top of the mountain for some of the most spectacular views in Catalonia. Our onward journey to Valencia will be broken by a mid-afternoon stop at the richly atmospheric coastal walled city of Peniscola. Once a Phoenician settlement, Peniscola claims a Templar castle, which was home to Pope Benedict XIII after he had been deposed in the 15th century, and was where much of the classic El Cid was filmed. After a visit to the castle, we will continue on to our city centre hotel in the vibrant Levante capital of Valencia. Dinner at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Valencia**

Monday, May 11th. A morning city sightseeing tour with a local guide introduces us to Spain's third largest city. Always an important city, Valencia was fought over for its agricultural wealth. After Roman and Visigoth occupation, it was held by the Moors for four centuries until recaptured by El Cid in the 11th century. Today, it has been revitalised by many new building projects, including Santiago Calatrava's astonishing Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias (City of Arts and Sciences). It is here that we will end our tour after visits to both the 13th-century cathedral and the UNESCO listed La Lonja de La Seda (the medieval Silk Exchange). This afternoon and evening will be free for individual exploration. Perhaps lunch in the beautiful Jardines del Real followed by a visit to the Museu de Belles Artes with its excellent collection of works by Bosch, El Greco, Goya, Velazquez and Ribera, or see what's playing at the Palau de las Artes. **(B)** **Overnight: Valencia**

Tuesday, May 12th. Today, we take an excursion to the ancient city of Cuenca. Heading inland, we will pass through mountainous, craggy countryside, as dramatic as any in Spain, arriving mid-morning at this extraordinary city perched high on a bluff and enclosed on three sides by the Huecar and Jucar rivers. A walking tour with a local guide will take us through the Cathedral and the fabulous Museo de Cuenca. There will be free time for lunch and a chance to wander through the narrow maze of lanes, which peter out in breathtaking views to the west and east. We return to Valencia for an evening of paella and flamenco. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Valencia**



Valencia - the Opera House

Wednesday, May 13th. The morning is free for shopping and lunch by the sea. If you haven't sampled Valencia's famous Horchata drink, now is your chance. It is a wonderfully refreshing drink made of pine nuts and ice and accompanied by long thin cakes known as Fartons! This afternoon we will board the fast train back to Barcelona arriving in time for our farewell dinner at one of Barcelona's superb modern restaurants in the Eixample district. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Barcelona**

Thursday, May 14th. Morning transfers to Barcelona Airport for returning flights to the U.S. Your arrival in Boston will be met for the bus transfer back to Barrington. Alternatively, why not stop in London on the way back and join our tour to the Chelsea Flower Show? **(B)** **Overnight: Home**