



## SPAIN

# GRAND TOUR OF CATALONIA - SELF-DRIVE (TOUR CODE: 13231)

### STARTS AND ENDS

in Barcelona

### TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Dec 23 - 31 Dec 24

### EXPERIENCE

Luxury  
Self-Drive

### TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Experience the wonders of Catalonia on the 10-day Self-Drive Grand Tour. This unique journey combines culture, nature, and gastronomy, all while promoting responsible travel and local appreciation.

## Highlights

- Indulge in the exquisite charm of boutique, **exclusive 4-5-star accommodations** that will elevate your experience and ensure you savor each and every moment to the fullest.
- All the **tours** included **are provided privately**, ensuring you have the undivided attention of a **knowledgeable English-speaking official guide/host**.
- Visit the **Tarragona Archaeological Site** is a World Heritage site declared by UNESCO!
- Marvel at the natural beauty of "**L'Empordà**" which boasts rugged cliffs, hidden coves, and beautiful sandy beaches.
- Visit old taverns, bars, restaurants, and other **Tapas venues** to gain insight into the **Barcelona's gastronomy, history, traditions!**

The Grand Tour of Catalonia Self-Drive offers a fantastic opportunity to explore, experience, and savor all that Catalonia has to offer while traveling in your own vehicle. This unique journey takes you on a circular route, allowing you to truly immerse yourself in the essence of Catalonia. Along the way, you'll encounter a rich blend of cultural heritage, stunning natural landscapes, and delicious culinary delights that define this wonderful region.

Inspired by the remarkable journeys of the past, this tour aims to not only showcase Catalonia's beauty, but also to foster an appreciation for its traditions and inclusive culture. By promoting local life and products, as well as encouraging environmental respect, this tour invites you to discover and enjoy Catalonia in a responsible and enjoyable way.

# INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Bages at Hotel Mont Sant Benet - 4\* Superior
- 2 nights in Escaladei at Hotel Terra Dominicata & Winery - 5\*
- 2 nights in Torrent (Girona) at Mas de Torrent Hotel & Spa - 5\*
- 3 nights in Barcelona at Hotel Majestic & Spa Barcelona- 5 \*
- 7 days Car Rental (Day 1-7)
- Parking space included
- Private transfer from Barcelona Hotel to Airport
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- Half-day Private Guided visit to Tarragona: The Gates of Rome en route to Priorat Region tickets to monuments
- Private guided visit to the monasteries of Poblet and Scala Dei & Private guided visit to Siurana
- Private visit to the Oil Mil and oil tasting
- Full-day private guided visit to Montserrat monastery with Hiking
- Private visit to the winery and the vineyards in Penedes & wine tasting and lunch
- Private guided hiking experience at La Fageda de'n Jordà
- Private guided walking visit in Besalú and tickets
- Private guided tour of the Dalí museum in Figueres with entrance fees included
- Private Guided tour of Girona with tickets to the Jewish Museum, the Arab Baths and the Cathedral
- Private guided hiking tour in Costa Brava
- Tapas tour of Barcelona (expert food guide, all tastings, tapas and drinks)
- Private guided visit of Barcelona and tickets to Sagrada Familia and Park Güell

# ITINERARY

Day	1	Barcelona Airport   Tarragona   Escaladei
		<p>Pick Up your rental car at Barcelona's airport and drive to the hotel, via Tarragona.</p> <p>Experience a <b>half-day Private Guided visit to Tarragona</b>, known as The Gates of Rome on the way to the Priorat Region. <b>The Tarragona Archaeological Site</b>, once known as Tarraco during the Roman era, has been bestowed the honor of being designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO. This unique site serves as an invaluable testament to the Romans' influence in the Mediterranean. Tarraco played a pivotal role in shaping the urban planning of the Roman Empire and served as a blueprint for other imperial capitals. Visitors can explore various Roman remnants within the city, including the imposing city walls and remarkable structures such as the amphitheater, the circus, and remnants of the forum. The city is also home to the Roman and Paleo-Christian necropolis, one of the most significant necropolises in Europe, where numerous archaeological findings can be viewed at the Tarragona Archaeological Museum.</p> <p>The UNESCO site also includes the area for Imperial worship and the provincial forum. The former can be found in the fine archaeological remains in the cathedral cloister. The latter are found in the buildings of the Antigua Audiencia, in Pallol square, in the Forum and the Praetorium. A visit to Tarragona is not walking through a city and admire its monuments, it is to walk through the first city founded by the Romans outside Italy.</p> <p>Overnight stay in Escaladei at <b>Hotel Terra Dominicata &amp; Winery</b>.</p>



## Day 2

### Escaladei Priorat region & Siurana Escaladei

After breakfast, drive with your rental car across Priorat Region.

Today, we will venture into the Priorat region, a serene escape from the bustling crowds. It's a place where you can find tranquility, contemplation, and a deep appreciation for its cultural heritage. Priorat, spanning less than 20,000 hectares, with only 1,600 hectares dedicated to vineyards, boasts a rugged and challenging terrain.

Our journey begins by delving into the region's mystical and religious heritage, focusing on the Cistercian monasteries that date back to the 12th century. We'll visit the **Poblet Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage** site, where the monastic traditions have endured through the centuries. Poblet is a remarkable architectural complex and stands as one of the largest monasteries in Europe.

Following the monastery visit, our journey continues to **Siurana**, one of the region's most picturesque villages, where we'll enjoy a brief exploration and savor lunch in a traditional restaurant.

Our next destination is the **Carthusian Monastery of Scala Dei**, a historic gem in Priorat. We'll stroll through the monastery's ruins, exploring its three cloisters, church, and refectory, gaining insights into the purpose of each building.

As the day winds down and we head back to the hotel, we'll make a **stop at an Oil Mill for a private olive oil tasting**. The Priorat Olive Oil Trail offers a delightful way to experience a fundamental element of Mediterranean cuisine. Undoubtedly, Priorat's olive oil is among the finest of its kind.

Overnight stay in Escaladei at **Hotel Terra Dominicata & Winery**.

Breakfast, Lunch





SIURANA

Day **3**

### Escaladei Penedes region Bages

After breakfast, drive with your rental car across **Penedés Region**.

Join us on a journey to explore **the private 14th-century country house**, where the small cellar in the basement became the birthplace of the first Llopart cava. Step back in time as you visit this charming old winery, savoring tastings of their finest bottles alongside traditional local snacks.

The tour then leads to one of their **oldest vineyards**, **their current cava production facilities**, and a panoramic view of the Llopart family's heritage, all enjoyed from a four-wheel vehicle. Experience the beauty of the Penedès landscape and the historical legacy that unfolds sip by sip. Salut!

Overnight stay in Bages at **Hotel Mon St Benet**.

Breakfast, Lunch



VINEYARDS

Day **4**

### Bages Montserrat Bages



After breakfast, drive to Montserrat and enjoy a **full-day Montserrat with Hiking**.

Montserrat is a remarkable destination with a rich history, legends, and a vibrant cultural heritage. Its origins trace back to the 9th century when it began as a chapel dedicated to Saint Mary. Over time, it evolved into a significant pilgrimage site and underwent various transformations, eventually becoming an independent abbey and a cultural icon. The monastery's renowned music school has been documented since the 14th century, and its "Escolania" (children's choir) stands as one of Europe's oldest.

Visitors to Montserrat can experience both spirituality and witness the enigmatic beauty of the **Virgin of Montserrat, affectionately known as La Moreneta (the black Virgin)**. Amid this stunning natural backdrop, travelers can immerse themselves in a cultural, natural, and mystical journey, exploring the mountain's captivating corners, landscapes, and its rich history.

Overnight stay in Bages at **Hotel Mon St Benet**.

Breakfast



Day **5**

## Bages Berguedà Besalú Torrent

After breakfast, drive your rental car from Hotel Mon Sant Benet to Costa Brava.

Make a stop for an **hike at La Fageda de'n Jordà** on our way to Costa Brava. Hiking in Catalonia has varied and exhilarating options for all tastes. These old trail walks are, so to speak, a thread of memory, of history, of the past and the many people, animals and stories that these landscapes hold within.

In the Berguedà area, numerous ancient roads have been revived and restored to preserve this valuable heritage and make them accessible for the public to enjoy once again. The most rewarding way to explore the nature and landscapes of Berguedà is undoubtedly by walking. With the guidance of an expert guide, you'll make the most of the chosen route, ensuring the most enjoyable experience in this breathtaking setting. It's a perfect excursion amidst mountains, lush scenery, and tranquil serenity.

In the afternoon, drive to **Besalú** and enjoy a private guided visit. Besalú is a beautiful medieval village located north of Girona, in the Garrotxa area known for its volcanoes, magic forests, excellent gastronomy, and quaint locals. In Besalú, you can discover one of Catalonia's most charming old Jewish quarters, very well preserved in a small town with extensive history.

This enchanting place, 40km northwest, has one of Catalonia's best-preserved calls, medieval **Jewish quarters**. Its Pont Vell (old bridge) provides beautiful stone sceneries and views of the river and the mountain surrounding the village, and one of the most beautiful bridge views in the region. Its charming streets take us back to those days when the mikvé and the synagogue were everyday life and coexisted naturally with the rest of the community, and part of the significant Jewish

population around medieval Catalonia

Overnight stay in Torrent (Girona) at **Mas de Torrent Hotel & Spa.**

Breakfast



Day **6**

Torrent Figueres Girona Torrent

After breakfast, enjoy a drive to Figueres and Girona.

In the morning, delight in a **private visit to Dali Museum in Figueres**. Salvador Dalí is without a doubt one of the most relevant artists of the 20th century, and perhaps he's the one that inspires the most curiosity. Dalí's world was full of imagination, eccentricity and symbolism—he was a character like no other. Today follow his foot steps through some of the life sceneries that were most dear to him.

In the afternoon, drive towards **Girona** and start your visit with your private guide. The ancient walled city of Girona stands on a fortress-like hill, high above the confluence of the Onyar and Ter rivers, and has a long and distinguished history. Founded by Iberians, the Romans later named it Gerunda and established it as an important stopping point on the Via Augusta, linking Iberia with Rome.

**The 15th-century cathedral**, featuring the world's widest unsupported Gothic arch, dominates Girona's skyline. Yet, the city's true charm lies in its labyrinthine cobblestone streets, especially in the captivating Jewish quarter. Here, the medieval atmosphere, "Barri Vell" shops, and beautiful corners create a fascinating experience. The Jewish Call maintains its Kabbalistic mystique from the Middle Ages. Known as the city of four rivers or "Little Florence," Girona's journey takes you through Iberian and Roman times, uncovering Romanesque monasteries, Arab Baths, Gothic gems, and charming squares and corners.

Overnight stay in Torrent (Girona) at **Mas de Torrent Hotel & Spa.**

Breakfast





## Day 7

### Torrent Costa Brava Barcelona

After breakfast, drive with your rental car to Barcelona and drop off rental car.

Stop for an excursion to the **Costa Brava** on your way to Barcelona. Here, you'll encounter picturesque scenes on one side with lush pine trees and whitewashed façades of old fishermen shacks, while on the other side, you'll be greeted by the endless blue of the sea. Along the Costa Brava, there's no better way to explore the beauty of this coastline than by walking its stunning coastal footpaths, which lead you to enchanting small coves, dramatic cliffs, charming beaches, and other must-see seaside treasures.

The journey begins at **Cala de la Fosca near Palamós and takes you to La Cala del Castell**. Comfortable shoes are recommended for strolling and enjoying breathtaking views, hearing stories of pirate attacks, exploring an ancient Iberian settlement, and finding a hut owned by Salvador Dalí. The path features renovated fishermen's shacks, pines, thickets, and rocks, with several viewpoints offering stunning Mediterranean panoramas. The route concludes at the Gardens of Cap Roig in Palafrugell, spanning around 7 kilometers.

Drive to Barcelona and drop off your car rental.

Overnight stay in Barcelona at **Hotel Majestic & Spa Barcelona** in a **Privilege City View room**.

Breakfast



Day **8**

## Barcelona

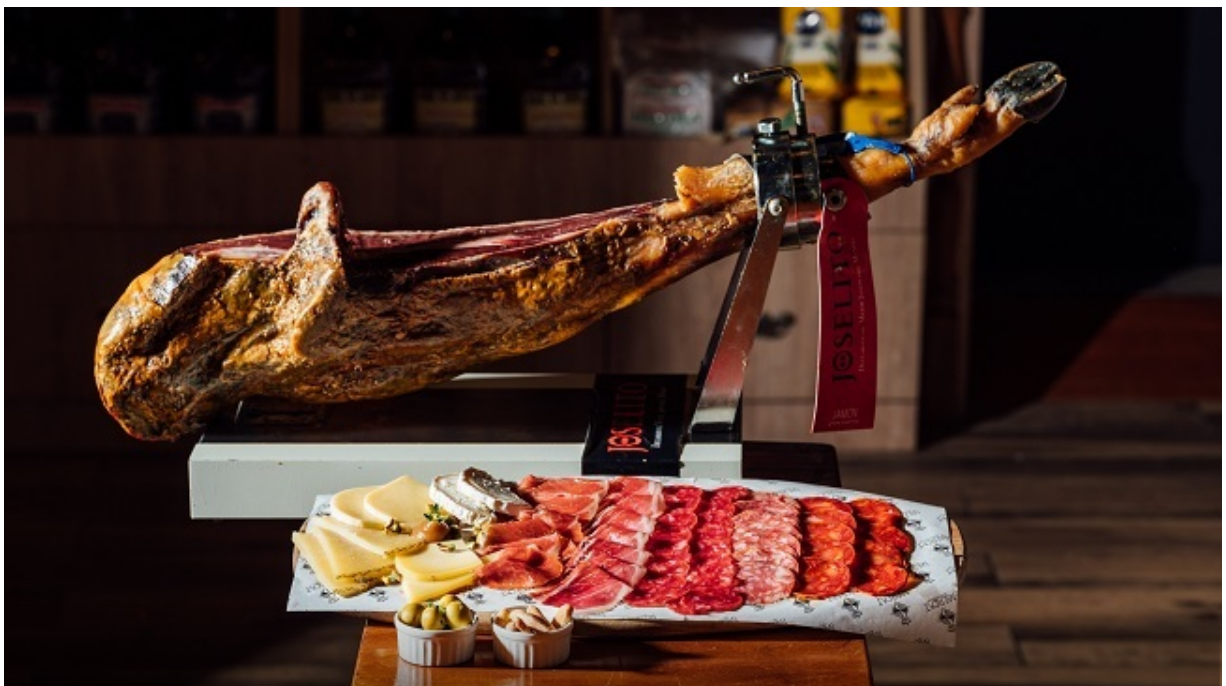
After breakfast, enjoy a unique **Tapas Tour of Barcelona**.

Barcelona has earned its reputation as a global culinary hub, renowned for its unique Catalan cuisine that seamlessly blends creativity and tradition. The city's culinary scene is ever-evolving, characterized by vibrant markets, bistrós, wine bars, and bodegas. Join a **local expert in gastronomy and history** to discover the traditions, stories, recipes, and tantalizing tastes that define Barcelona. This tour also serves as an excellent introduction to the city for newcomers.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a returning guest, Barcelona offers countless unexplored areas with lively venues serving excellent local cuisine. Sample the city's diverse flavors during a **walking tour that includes stops at old taverns**, bars, restaurants, and various intriguing food and wine establishments. Barcelona embraces its diversity, where you can savor homemade stews and rustic wines alongside the creations of talented chefs. Embrace the best of both worlds as you journey with a knowledgeable local guide.

Overnight stay in Barcelona at **Hotel Majestic & Spa Barcelona** in a **Privilege City View room**.

Breakfast





## Barcelona

After breakfast, delight in a **private half-day (4-hour) guided tour of Barcelona** including Sagrada Família and Parc Güell.

On this 4-hour tour, we'll delve into the world of Modernisme, or Catalan Art Nouveau, focusing on the iconic works of master architect Antoni Gaudí. We'll begin with the awe-inspiring Expiatory Temple of Sagrada Família, a masterpiece that combines Gothic and Byzantine cathedral traditions, seamlessly blending form, Christian iconography, and natural inspiration.

Next, we'll explore the magical Park Güell, a testament to Gaudí's imagination and commissioned by Eusebi Güell. This site is a major tourist attraction and features Gaudí's unique designs that harmonize with the space, once used for traditional Catalan dances and social events. We'll also catch a glimpse of Passeig de Gràcia's renowned facades, including Gaudí's iconic houses, such as Casa Milà ("La Pedrera") and Casa Batlló, which contribute to Barcelona's unique character.

Overnight stay in Barcelona at **Hotel Majestic & Spa Barcelona** in a **Privilege City View room**.

Breakfast



## Barcelona   Barcelona Airport

After breakfast, private transfer from the hotel to Barcelona's airport.

Breakfast

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
Spanish	Euro

- Please note that this product is not part of our Flexible booking policy as the supplier terms and conditions apply. Our Team will advise you of the exact booking conditions at the time of the booking.
- All services are subject to availability and prices may fluctuate between the time your proposal is prepared and when the trip is confirmed. When a final itinerary is set, we will provide you with the final price for the trip. We recommend you book on the early side to secure the best guides and hotel rooms, and to avoid disappointment.
- All **private tours** and experiences **can be adjusted based on the requirements and preferences of our clients**. Half-day tours range from 3 to 4 hours; full-day tours are approximately 8 hours in length.
- All transfers are with English-speaking professional drivers. The vehicles vary between a Mercedes E class or Mercedes Minivan, depending on the type of service and number of passengers.

## Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package