



# A Week in Barcelona & Bilbao with Lisa Sharfstein

8 days

Travelers who venture to northern Spain will discover alluring architecture, colorful street life, and next-level cuisine. In Barcelona, see how the architect Antoni Gaudí and the city are almost inseparable. Boasting nearly a dozen buildings designed by Gaudí, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites. The city itself is like a museum, so it's easy to soak in the creative spirit—all you have to do is walk around. Then, journey into Basque Country and explore the unique sites of Pamplona and Bilbao, from the Running of the Bulls route to the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim, you'll be sure to fall in love with this vibrant part of the country.



## Your tour package includes

- 6 nights in a well-located hotel
- Breakfast daily
- 2 dinners with beer or wine
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 train ride

## Included highlights

- Palau Güell
- Colònia Güell
- Park Güell
- Mies van der Rohe Pavilion
- La Sagrada Família
- La Pedrera
- Running of the Bulls route
- Guggenheim Museum

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills.

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Barcelona today.

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## Barcelona → 4 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Barcelona

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Spain! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: La Sagrada Família & La Pedrera

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend the morning discovering the world-famous and iconic works of Gaudí throughout the city.

- Immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring beauty of La Sagrada Família, a testament to Antoni Gaudí's genius
- Marvel at the intricate details and stained glass that bathe the space in confetti-like bursts of color
- Take a guided tour of Casa Milà, popularly known as "La Pedrera," which was built by Gaudí between 1905 and 1910
- Admire the wave-like stone structure and grandly designed roof to the apartment, which reflects the style of the 20th-century bourgeois

The rest of the day is yours to explore the city at your leisure.

### Day 4: Park Güell & Mies van der Rohe Pavilion

*Included meals: breakfast*

Start off the day by heading to Park Güell, which was originally designed as a private neighborhood for the wealthy.

- Spend time walking through the park, which contains stunning buildings, intricate stonework, and colorful mosaics
- At the top of the park, marvel at the brilliant views of Barcelona

This afternoon, head to Pavelló Mies van der Rohe, or more simply the Barcelona Pavilion, designed by German architects Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Lilly Reich for the Barcelona International Exhibit.

- View the different materials used in the pavilion from glass, steel, and a variety of marbles such as greens and Roman travertine which make this an iconic landmark of the Modern Movement
- See the beautiful *Alba* sculpture by Georg Kolbe, the shallow pool, and open spaces which all come together to complement the pavilion's perfect symmetry
- Learn how the space was deconstructed completely after the exhibition, and then reconstructed later in the 1980s to bring back the grand space to the city

### Day 5: Güell Palace & Colònia Güell

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head outside of Barcelona this morning and dive into some of Antoni Gaudí's earlier and lesser-known UNESCO-listed works.

- Visit Palau Güell, or Güell Palace, Gaudí's first major work in the Catalan capital, designed for the industrial tycoon Eusebi Güell during the late 1800s
- Embark on a guided tour of the palace and view Gaudí's unusual and bold architectural stylings which use a variety of materials
- Learn how each floor serves as a metaphor for Güell's life, from the plain basement representing his poor beginnings to an over-the-top roof symbolizing his rise to wealth
- Travel to the town of Santa Coloma de Cervelló where you'll explore Colònia Güell, another commissioned piece by Count Güell—Gaudí's main patron
- Hear the history of how Gaudí was asked to design a church for Güell's new industrial village with no budget or deadline
- View the crypt, which is arguably the best place to see Gaudí's whimsical engineering techniques in one spot

Return to Barcelona and enjoy free time for the rest of the day, or add an evening excursion.

+ Barcelona Flamenco Show & Tapas

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## Bilbao → 2 nights

### Day 6: Bilbao via Pamplona

*Included meals: breakfast*

Board a train and travel through the Aragon and Navarra regions to Pamplona, which is located in Basque Country, and get to know the old city on a walking tour

- Pass Plaza de Toros and walk along the Running of the Bulls route
- Admire Pamplona Cathedral and Pamplona City Hall

After, continue on to your hotel in Bilbao.

*Please note: Porterage is not included for the train transfers. Travelers must be comfortable lifting and carrying all luggage over steps, onto platforms, and into luggage storage.*

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Bilbao

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Set off on a guided sightseeing tour of the port city of Bilbao with your Tour Director.

- Admire the architecture in Bilbao's Old Quarter, known as Casco Viejo
- Enter the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum, a showplace of modern and contemporary art, and admire the unique architecture alongside a local guide

Gather together with your group to celebrate your trip during tonight's farewell dinner.

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## Flight Home

### Day 8: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

## Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: <https://www.goaheadtours.com/YBLG> | 1-800-597-0350

### **Day 5: Barcelona Flamenco Show & Tapas**

From \$115.00. Visit the link above for pricing info. (4 hours, evening with dinner)

Discover why UNESCO has declared flamenco to be one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity during this evening's show.

Originating in Andalusia, this style of dance combines guitar playing, singing, clapping, and dancing. A tapas dinner will be served at a nearby restaurant before the expressive, dramatic, colorful performance. Please note: On some departures the flamenco show may take place before the tapas dinner.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://www.goaheadtours.com/terms)