



Education First

***Educational Tours***

# La France et l'Espagne

11 days | Summer 2020





**Educational Tours**

# La France et l'Espagne

Included on tour



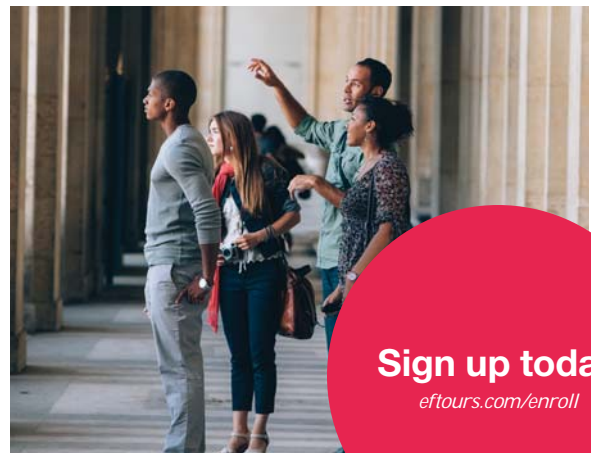
Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; weShare, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily

**Sightseeing:** Paris; Barcelona; Madrid

**Entrances:** Notre Dame Cathedral; Louvre; Perfume Factory, Eze; Pont du Gard; Papal Palace, Avignon; Park Guell, Barcelona; Sagrada Família; Royal Palace, Madrid; Prado Museum, Madrid

**Overnight stays:**

Paris (2)  
French Riviera (2)  
Provence (1)  
Barcelona (2)  
Madrid (2)



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## Your itinerary

### Day 1: Fly to France

**Board your overnight flight to Paris!**

### Day 2: Paris

#### Arrive in Paris

Welcome to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light. Over the centuries, Paris has grown to become the undisputed center of France, and one of the world's most important cities both culturally and politically. Equally famed for its high fashion, awe-inspiring museums and elegant cuisine, Paris has also been a center of theater, literature and philosophy throughout the ages.

#### Walking tour of Île de la Cité

Begin on the right bank of the Seine river and cross the Pont des Arts for beautiful views of the Île de la Cité, birthplace of Paris. On the left bank, watch the bouquinistes selling old books and postcards and catch glimpses of the Conciergerie and St. Chapelle from the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in the city.

#### Visit Notre Dame Cathedral

Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose window and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

### Day 3: Paris

#### Guided sightseeing of Paris

Discover the city on the Seine during your bus tour. Pass by the imposing Arc de Triomphe, and the Place de la Concorde, dedicated to King Louis XV and the site where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed during the French Revolution. Continue down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the École Militaire, where a promising young Napoleon launched his rise to power. Then, head through the Latin Quarter where you will see the world-renowned Sorbonne University. Drive along the Seine for wonderful views of the Musée D'Orsay, the Louvre, and the Pont de Neuf, or "new bridge," which is ironically Paris' oldest. Finally, make a photo stop at the iconic Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

#### Visit the Louvre

The Palais du Louvre, built to defend the city in the 13th century, now safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Italy and Asia such as the statues of *Venus de Milo* and *Nike of Samothrace*, better known as *Winged Victory*. You'll also see some of the Louvre's most prized paintings by Renaissance and European masters, including Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the mysterious *Mona Lisa*.

### Day 4: Paris | French Riviera

#### Travel by TGV train to Nice

Get on board one of France's Trains à Grande Vitesse (TGV) and watch the rolling countryside and picturesque towns roll by as you approach speeds of up to 170 miles per hour.

#### Arrive in the French Riviera

Welcome to the glamorous French Riviera - land of deep blue waters, waving palm trees and sun drenched promenades. Favored resort of the rich and famous, you can join the paparazzi on the lookout for celebrities.

#### Walking tour of Nice

Acquaint yourself with the palm trees and promenades of this exclusive seaside resort. Walk in the footsteps of the rich and famous as you stroll through the Vieille Ville, past white-washed villas and down the Promenade des Anglais. Nice's spectacular scenery has inspired such artists as Renoir, Matisse and Toulouse-Lautrec.

### Day 5: French Riviera

#### Excursion to Monaco and Eze

##### Visit a perfume factory

Stop in Eze, a small medieval town perched on a cliff high above the waters of the Mediterranean. Here you'll enjoy a guided tour of a perfume factory.

##### Walking tour of Monaco

Follow your Tour Director through Monaco, a speck of a principality that packs wealth, royalty, and the world's most famous casino into just 0.8 square miles. The Grimaldi family has ruled Monaco since 1297, making them the longest-reigning family dynasty in Europe. See the palace and pass by the Cathédrale de Monaco, site of Prince Rainier's wedding to Grace Kelly in 1956. The cathedral is also the final resting place of both Prince Rainier and Princess Grace, who was killed in a car accident in the hills of Monaco in 1982. Catch a glimpse of the stately casino as you stroll the streets with your Tour Director. The aura of mystique that surrounds the Monte-Carlo casino stems in part from Mata Hari, the professional dancer-turned-Dutch-spy who once shot a Russian spy inside the ornate landmark.

### Day 6: French Riviera | Provence region

#### Travel to Provence

Today you will travel to the Provence region of France--one of the most beautiful and acclaimed parts of the country. In this region you will discover a land of stunning architecture with heavy Roman influence, varied local produce and strong artistic links, none more famous than Impressionism.

#### 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.

#### Walking tour of Avignon

Take some time and explore Avignon, a walled city that stands in the valley of the Rhone. This Provençal town served as the seat of the papacy in exile during the 14th century.

#### 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 splendid 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.

## Day 7: Provence region | Barcelona

### Travel via Carcassonne to Barcelona

Relive medieval times as your Tour Director leads you past the city's age-old ramparts (which slowly turned to ruin after falling to the Crusaders in the 13th century). Carcassonne is also home to Europe's largest and most complete medieval fortress.

### Arrive in Barcelona

Arrive in Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city. As the capital of fiercely nationalistic Cataluña, Barcelona was the hotbed of resistance under the rule of General Franco. The city still celebrates its unique identity through its language, its increasingly influential government, and on the global stage, as host to the 1992 Olympic Games.

## Day 8: Barcelona

### Guided sightseeing of Barcelona

Stroll the narrow lanes of the 14th-century Barrio Gótico, the oldest surviving part of the city. Continue on to Gaudí's masterpiece, the fantasyland of Park Guell, complete with a bright mosaic lizard fountain and the longest bench in the world. Then enjoy a marvelous harbor view from atop Montjuic Hill, where much of the 1992 Olympics took place.

### Guided sightseeing of La Sagrada Familia

Enter into 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-21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Day 9: Barcelona | Madrid

### Travel by AVE train to Madrid

Board Spain's high-speed train, dubbed the AVE-Alta Velocidad Española. The first AVE train was inaugurated in 1992 with the completion of the Madrid-Sevilla line. The train will reach a maximum speed of more than 180 miles per hour before arriving in Madrid, your destination for the evening.

### Arrive in Madrid

At 2,100 feet, this is Europe's highest capital, a Mecca for art-lovers, the world-stage for bullfighting and home to the world's most famous soccer team! The city was elevated to capital status in 1561 at the instigation of Phillip II, and the lavishly opulent Palacio Real, built in 1738, is now an uninhabited but fascinating monument to Spain's much-revered monarchy.

## Walking tour of Madrid

Meet at the Puerta del Sol for your walking tour of Madrid. Here Madrileños once battled Napoleon. Then, walk through one of the nine arched gateways leading to the Plaza Mayor, the Renaissance hub of the city. This square has witnessed events ranging from bullfights to public festivals as well as the infamous autos de fe (procession of those condemned as heretics during the Spanish Inquisition). See the restaurant immortalized by Hemingway in *The Sun Also Rises*.

## Day 10: Madrid

### Guided sightseeing of Madrid

Your local guide introduces you to the sights of Madrid on a panoramic tour of the city. Continue with a visit to the extravagant Palacio Real (Royal Palace), built by Bourbon King Philip V. Once the seat of the most powerful court in the world, it was here that Spain officially joined the European Community in 1986. The palace boasts more than 2,000 extravagant rooms, including one encased in porcelain. Marvel at the splendor of the marble staircase, the golden Throne Room, and the incredible collection of priceless frescoes and chandeliers.

### Visit the Prado Museum

Explore the Museo del Prado which houses an astonishing 3,000 paintings collected by Spanish royalty. This massive building is constantly expanding in order to accommodate its impressive catalogue of Velazquez and Goya. It also boasts fine pieces by El Greco, Botticelli and many Flemish artists.

## Day 11: 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 [www.eftours.com/bc](http://www.eftours.com/bc).

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“My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.”

–**CHARLOTTE, PARENT**

