



Tour Information



Girona Two Thousand Years of Art, Architecture and Culture





Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Swiss valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

As a tourist visiting from the UK, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

For all other passport holders please check visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Spanish consulate: 20 Draycott Place, London SW3 2RZ; Tel: 020 7589 8989, Fax: 020 7581 7888.

Open Mon-Fri 0915-1400 (except Spanish National holidays).



Tickets

Included with your detailed itinerary is an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk, and you will be issued with your boarding pass. Online check-in is not available.

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 5 cm and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20 cm.

Please contact the airline for further information.

<http://www.britishairways.com>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

Transfers

On arrival in Barcelona, transfer to the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Girona approximately a 1 hour and 30 minute drive.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.

Taking food into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.

Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Girona

The four-star DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel is centrally located in Girona and offers the comfortable standards of the Doubletree Hilton brand. Facilities at the hotel include a seasonal outdoor rooftop pool, rooftop bar, restaurant, bar and lounge.

The 115 attractive air-conditioned rooms have a modern décor with soft colours. Room facilities include complimentary wi-fi, coffee/tea making facilities, minibar, safe, hairdryer, MP3 clock, ironing board and bathroom with walk-in shower.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/doubletree/>



Food

Spain's eating and drinking culture is one of its greatest attractions. The Spaniards take their food seriously – be it diner-style *menus del dia* (menus of the day) or elaborate, nouvelle cuisine in gourmet restaurants. Food is generally dictated by the seasons and fresh, whichever corner of Spain you go to. An excellent way to understand different facets of Spanish cuisine is to sample tapas: small snacks served with drinks in local bars across the country. They can range from gourmet canapés to simple plates of olives, cheeses and cured meats, and may be charged or given free.

In the geographically diverse region of Catalonia, you will find quite a varied cuisine noted for its mix of sweet and savoury, stews and use of sumptuous sauces. From the fresh seafood, locally grown vegetables and olive oil of the Mediterranean, to the cheeses, salted smoked hams, chorizo and sausages of the mountainous inland region, you will not be disappointed. Local specialities include the simple staple *Pa Amb Tomaquet* (or *pan con tomate* – bread rubbed with fresh tomatoes and olive oil), *Escalivada* (a warm side of grilled aubergine and peppers with olive oil, tomatoes, onions and garlic), *Bullinada* (fish and potato soup), *Esqueixada* (pepper, tomato, onion and *bacalao*, salt cod, salad), *Fideuas* (seafood *paella*, but prepared with short noodles rather than rice), and *Suquet de Peix* (seafood stew, generally made with the catch of the day).

You will also find fish, poultry or lamb cooked in the sauces of the region – the garlic and oil *aioli*, dried red pepper, almond and garlic *Romesco*, or a tomato, onion and pepper sauce.

Other typical Spanish dishes

Paella: A Valencian rice dish loaded with seafood and chicken or rabbit, saffron and vegetables.

Tortilla Espanola: A rich, chunky potato omelette – a staple throughout Spain.

Gazpacho: A chilled tomato-based, tangy vegetable soup from Andalucía.

Jamón: One of many cured Spanish meats, Jamón is a type of finely sliced cured ham.

Chorizo: A dried and course pork sausage seasoned with smoked paprika.

Many restaurants serve a '*menú del día*' at lunchtime, this is a three-course meal including drinks that generally costs between €10 and €20 and can be very good value.



Drink

Spanish drinks have brewed up quite a storm worldwide, from the thirst-quenching sangria to bubbly Cava and sophisticated Rioja wine.

Spain is essentially a wine-drinking country, with sherry being one of the principal export products. Its English name is the anglicised version of the sherry producing town *Jerez*, from which the wine was first shipped to England. There are four main types: *fino* (very pale and dry), *amontillado* (dry, rich and dark), *oloroso* (medium, full-bodied, fragrant and golden), and *dulce* (sweet).

Well-known Spanish beers (*cerveza*) include *San Miguel*, *Damm*, *Estrella Galicia* and *Cruzcampo*. Spanish brandy is as different from French as Scotch whisky is from Irish. It is relatively cheap, pleasant, although some brandy drinkers may find it a little sweet. Brands include *Carlos I*, *Osbourne* and *Fundador*.

Meals included in the holiday are:

Breakfast daily and two dinners at the hotel, including wine.



Destination

Girona shows how there is so much more to Catalonia's independent streak and unique customs than its brimming neighbour Barcelona, only 90 minutes away. Girona has a deep-rooted historical charm and a culture dating back more than 2,000 years when Girona was the centre of a vibrant mix of culture and trade. As a result, the city has been left with a wealth of spectacular architectural and artistic treasures. Alongside the Roman and Carolingian remains, there is much evidence of Romanesque and Gothic architecture that reflect Catalan's medieval importance. Much also remains of what was one of Spain's largest and most important Jewish quarters, as well as 12th century Arab baths. There is also evidence of the Renaissance period, and much from the Baroque period. Girona is also the home of Noucentisme, an early twentieth century response to that other Catalan style, Modernism, whose primary exponent was Rafael Masó. This vibrant and visually dynamic city ensures a fascinating tour.

Girona

Situated in the north-east of Spain, Girona, a river city, is the capital of the province of the same name. It is spelt 'Gerona' in Castilian Spanish and 'Girona' in Catalan, which is the primary language spoken throughout the province. It is a city where you can catch a real glimpse of the Catalan culture, but equally it is a fascinating city historically, offering plenty to see and discover; medieval walls, narrow winding city streets, and one of the best-preserved Jewish Quarters in Europe, it is a joy to stroll through. Founded as early as 73 BC but significantly developed in the 1st century AD by the Romans, Girona, situated inland from the popular Costa Brava and surrounded by northern Catalonia's soft, green hills, was ruled by the Moors for two centuries, controlled by the French and besieged so many times it earned the nickname 'immortal' or 'the city of a thousand sieges. Its heart is the ancient walled city, Barri Vell, sitting on the right bank of the river Onyar, where colourfully painted homes line the river side.

For more information, please visit:

<https://lennonwall.auni.edu/history-food-and-independence-in-girona/>

Places of interest included in the tour:

Museu d'història de Girona

This museum offers a journey through the history of Girona from its Roman foundation to the present day. It occupies the old Capuchin convent of Saint Antony, built in the 18th century, which still preserves some very interesting features such as the cemetery, cloister and cistern.

For more information, please visit:

<https://visitmuseum.gencat.cat/en/museu-d-historia-de-girona>

Girona Cathedral

Built at the highest point of the old town and defining the city skyline, the cathedral, dedicated to Saint Maria, dates from the 11th century, although construction was not fully completed until the 18th century, resulting in a diversity of architectural styles. The main façade is Baroque, the cloister and Charlemagne tower Romanesque, and the Nave Gothic, and reputed to be the widest Gothic Nave in the world. Other highlights of the Cathedral include richly carved fantastical beasts and biblical scenes in the cloister's southern gallery, and a 14th-century silver altarpiece, studded with gemstones, portraying 16 scenes from the life of Christ. The Cathedral's Treasury Museum hosts an impressive collection of art including the Creation Tapestry, a wonderful embroidery from the late 11th century showing extensive iconography, and considered the most famous and the most enigmatic work of the Catalan Romanesque.

For more information, please visit:

<https://visitmuseum.gencat.cat/en/museu-tresor-de-la-catedral-de-girona>

Basilica of Sant Feliu

Girona's first cathedral up until the 10th century is one of its most representative Gothic buildings. With its castle-like appearance, the Romanesque chevet was completed with a majestic Gothic nave and a baroque façade. The church houses some remarkable works of art, such as the eight pagan and early Christian sarcophagi (4th c.) and the Recumbent Christ (14th c.) by the sculptor Aloi de Montbrai.

For more information, please visit:

<https://en.costabrava.org/what-to-do/culture/heritage-and-monuments/romanesque-architecture/church-of-sant-feliu-38834>

Episcopal Museum of Art

Founded in 1976, the Girona Art Museum is home to one of the most important collections of the province, dating from the Romanesque age to the dawn of the 20th century. It is based in the former Episcopal Palace, one of the most noble and spectacular buildings in Girona. The Museum also manages the heritage sites known as the former Saint Catherine's Hospital, which houses one of the best-preserved hospital pharmacies in Europe.

For more information, please visit:

<https://museuart.cat/en/home/>

Arab Baths

The first mention of the existence of public baths in Girona dates to 1194. In 1285, the complex was partially destroyed during a siege by the troops of Philip III the Bold of France. In 1294, King James II commissioned Ramon Talalà, a citizen of Girona, to rebuild them. In 1342, they were owned by Arnau Sarriera, the personal physician of Peter III the Ceremonious. It seems that during the Middle Ages, some of the rooms were used temporarily as a mikveh by the city's Jewish community. In 1618, they were bought by a community of Capuchin nuns, who used them as part of their convent. In the 19th century, they were an object of interest and study by early travellers who made them known to the entire world through their books.

For more information, please visit:

<http://patrimoni.gencat.cat/en/collection/arab-baths-girona>

Museum of Archaeology

Founded in 1846, this is one of the oldest museums in Catalonia. It houses archaeological finds from excavations in the region of Girona, from prehistory to the Middle Ages. The building where the museum is located is a remarkable example of Catalan Romanesque architecture from the 12th century.

For more information, please visit:

<https://visitmuseum.gencat.cat/en/museu-d-arqueologia-de-catalunya-girona>

La Farinera Teixidor

Farinera Teixidor is a modernist building. Industrialist Alfons Teixidor commissioned its design and construction to Rafael Masó in 1910. It is one of the most representative works of Modernism in the city and is included in the Inventory of the Architectural Heritage of Catalonia. Teixidor asked for it to include: the family home, a suite of offices, and industrial warehouses to be used as a flour mill. Masó's idea was that the purpose of the building could be seen from the outside and created its white roof and dome: *'Even the roofs and the dome will be white. All snowy! I really want it to be the house of flour'*, said Masó. The building, which has influences ranging from Gaudí and Charles Rennie Mackintosh to the Vienna Secession, is currently the headquarters of Catalan newspaper El Punt Avui.

For more information, please visit:

<http://descobrintgirona.blogspot.com/2013/12/la-farinera-teixidor.html>

The Onyar River

The Onyar river begins at the Guilleries massif and joins the Ter River at the city of Girona. Walking along the banks of the river provides the opportunity to see the bridges and Girona's iconic colourfully painted houses situated along the river bank.

Casa Masó

Casa Masó is the birthplace and family home of architect Rafael Masó (1880-1935). It is one of his most important architectural works and the only one of the famous houses on the River Onyar that is open to the public. The building we see today is the result of the joining together of four separate dwellings acquired by the family between the mid-19th century and the turn of the 20th century. Today it looks similar to how it did after the final refurbishment completed by Rafael Masó in 1919. It has been preserved with the furniture and decoration of the Noucentista period, and offers unprecedented views of the city. The house has been owned by Girona City Council since 2006 and is run by the Rafael Masó Foundation.

For more information, please visit:

<https://rafaelmaso.girona.cat/cat/index.php>

Your lecturer / Guide

Mike Hope author, lecturer, curator and designer, has spent more than twenty-five years at four universities (Staffordshire, Portsmouth, Nottingham Trent and Plymouth) and nearly thirty years delivering Summer School Programmes. He has lectured around the world and was a founder board member of The European Academy of Design. Alongside an extensive publication list, he has researched, designed and curated many exhibitions, and advised on stained glass to the Diocese of Exeter. He specialises in Art and Design History, Stained Glass; Churches and Cathedrals; the English Country House and Garden.

Mike will deliver two lectures during the tour.

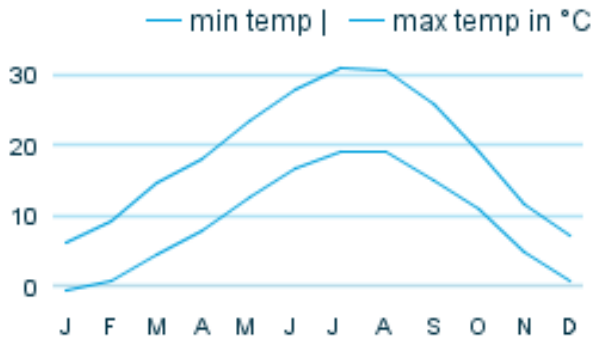
Tour Manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.



The Basics

Climate – The weather at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings may get a little cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Italian

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation Day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Immaculate conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you are eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it is advisable to always carry some cash with you. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops & Museums – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1230-1530. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one awards with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS 'Fit for Travel' website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you have got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside office hours, please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate General Barcelona

Avda Diagonal 477-13

08036 Barcelona

Spain

Spain.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Fax: +34 933 666 221

Telephone enquiries: 902 109 356 (in Spain), +34 917 146 300 (if outside Spain).

Consular phone lines are open 0900-1700.

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