



8 days from £659

March to May, September & October

Montserrat, Roman Tarragona & Gaudi's Reus

A week in a four-star hotel on the Catalan coast, with three varied and interesting excursions to show you different aspects of Catalonia from your comfortable holiday base – this is the recipe for this holiday. Catalonia has an incredibly rich variety of landscapes. As well as sandy beaches, such as the wide, sandy one in front of your hotel, there are mountains, vineyards, rivers and picturesque villages all waiting to be discovered. As is one of the world's great cities, Barcelona - easily accessible by train, with half-hourly departures.

- 7 nights hb on the Catalan coast, wine included with dinner • Excursion to Montserrat and Sitges
- Excursion to Roman Tarragona & Reus • Entrance to the Gaudi Centre in Reus • Excursion into the Alt Camp Countryside • Entrances to the Espluga wine cellar and Santes Creus Monastery

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE: Flight to Reus or Barcelona. Transfer to your hotel, just under an hour away. Seven nights half board accommodation is reserved for you.

DAYS TWO TO SEVEN: In resort with three included excursions.

Montserrat & Sitges: just an hour away, Montserrat is one of Spain's most spectacular sights, with its astonishing rock formations, monastery, and fabulous views of the Llobregat Valley: Montserrat has been a major destination for pilgrims through the centuries. The basilica, home of the famous 'Black Madonna', dates from the 16th century and (subject to confirmation) you will be able to hear the boys' choir sing in the church. You could also go up to the nature area on the funicular railway to explore the walking trails. On the return journey we make a stop in the modernist resort of Sitges. 110 miles today.

Roman Tarragona & Gaudi's Reus: just 20 miles away, Tarragona was the capital of the Province of Northern Spain and home to the Emperor Augustus – a temple in his honour stood on the site of the current cathedral. You will spend the morning in the old city in the company of an expert guide, take the view from the Pretorium (entrance fee included), and see the amphitheatre, the Circus Maximus, the forum, and pretty streets and squares as you stroll through the medieval centre. You will also have free time for lunch, and to explore the market area and new Rambla area with its statue of the 'Castell', the 'Human Tower'. On the return journey we will make a short detour to make stop in Gaudi's home city of Reus, with a visit to the Gaudi Centre where you will learn something of the great modernist architect's work. 57 miles today.

Your third included excursion may be the one that surprises you most. You go off the beaten tourist track to visit the nearby 'Alt Camp' area – home to some lesser-known but no less impressive attractions - the jewel that is the medieval, walled town of Montblanc where you have a short orientation walk and free time to explore, sightsee, and have lunch; the unspoilt market town of l'Espluga de Francoli, which boasts what they call the 'Wine Cathedral' - the modernist building that houses the oldest wine co-operative in Catalonia; and the Cistercian

Monastery of Santes Creus, one of the three great Catalan monasteries, founded in the 12th century and housing two royal tombs. From Santes Creus you transfer back to your hotel, with an en-route photo stop at the unusual modernist Sanctuary at Montferri. 86 miles today.

DAY EIGHT: Departure to the airport for your flight home.

YOUR HOTEL

NUBAHOTEL ★★★★★, Coma-Ruga (seven nights)

The hotel stands close to the broad sandy beach. This unspoilt resort is quiet out of season, rather busier at weekends. A reasonable selection of shops, bars and restaurants is about 10 minutes walk (700m) away, and the railway station with half-hourly departures to Barcelona is about 15 minutes walk. There is also a local bus service to the nearby county town of El Vendrell, birthplace of Pablo Casals: his villa, now an interesting museum, is within walking distance of the hotel. The hotel has a spa centre (a reasonable extra charge applies), restaurant, bar, lounge, and outdoor pool. Rooms, which all have balcony, also have 2 queen size beds, bathroom with hairdryer, phone, air-conditioning/heating, satellite LCD tv, and safety deposit box (charge applies). Free wifi in public areas. (www.nubahotelcomarruga.com)

Extend your holiday - extra week available in Catalonia.

A WALKING HOLIDAY is also available from this hotel. Please ask for a copy of our Walking Holidays brochure or visit preferredts.com.

