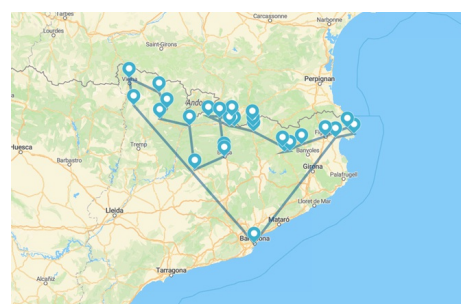




Spain, 11 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Catalan Pyrenees

This is a tour through the Pyrenees of Catalonia that has it all. Nature, of course, culture, breathtaking views, sport, hiking, food & drink, charming villages, and much more. Just follow the itinerary and, with the freedom of your rental car, simply stop off or take a detour from the suggested route whenever you feel like it. The journey begins at the evocative coastal archaeological remains of Empúries, 1.5 kilometres northwest of the town of L'Escala. This was a strategic Greek port (later Roman) and dates back to the sixth century BC. From here you'll head off in a westerly direction, following the mountainous profile of the Catalan Pyrenees. You'll travel more than five hundred kilometres before arriving at the Mont-Rebei Gorge, with its imposing sheer faces that funnel the turquoise waters of the Noguera Ribagorçana River. This impressive natural marvel is the crowning glory of the tour. Your journey will let you see and experience the most iconic attractions of the Catalan Pyrenees. These include the Romanesque Complex of the Vall de Boí, the greatest exponent of Catalan Romanesque and which lives in harmony with the natural environment, or cultural heritage like the impressive monastery of Sant Pere de Rodes and those of Sant Joan de les Abadesses and Santa Maria de Ripoll. Other must-sees are the Esteva Pharmacy in Llívia, the Gerri de la Sal Museum and the picture-postcard landscapes of the National Park of Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici, the Garrotxa Volcanic Zone Natural Park and the Cadí-Moixeró Natural Park, to name just a few. Head north for fun by setting off on this road trip through the Catalan Pyrenees.



NATURE

CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - BARCELONA

An amazing tour around the Pyrenees of Catalonia, from its stunning valleys (Val d'Aran) to Cap de Creus on the Mediterranean-lapped Costa Brava, discovering its diverse landscapes, cuisine, culture and charming villages.

Flight departure from the city of origin to Barcelona and rental car pick-up.

Your first stop will be Barcelona, an ever-vibrant city fusing history, culture, design and fun. Take a leisurely stroll through the Barrio Gótico, the city's medieval quarter full of inviting squares dotted with cute terraces, majestic churches, and tempting stores that combine tradition with the avant-garde. Gaze in awe at the surreal works of architecture by Gaudi, such as the Sagrada Família or the Casa Batlló, stroll along the elegant and lively boulevards, and round the day off unwinding by the sea or in the Parc de la Ciutadella, one of the most popular parks among locals to soak up the sun. Savour some local cuisine at one of the city's many markets and restaurants or admire a bird's-eye view of Barcelona from its spectacular sky bars. And for exploring the depths of the ocean from dry land, there's nothing better than the family-friendly Aquarium. (Admission not included).

Overnight stay in Barcelona.

DAY 2 · CASTELLÓ D'EMPÚRIES - CADAQUÉS - EL PORT DE LA SELVA - FIGUERES

You'll get your first taste of the Catalan Pyrenees from their Mediterranean side, discovering the Costa Brava in the region of Alt Empordà, a historic gateway of ancient civilisations that settled in these lands and shaped their culture and character. In this area, we suggest stopping off in Empúries, where you can visit the remains of a Greek city - the colonial enclave of Emporion - and a Roman city - the old Emporiae. The next stop will be Castelló d'Empúries, taking the GIV-6216 road. If you fancy, you can visit the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Nature Park, one of the natural protected marshlands of Catalonia, and enjoy its tranquillity, native flora and fauna. Castelló d'Empúries was for centuries the capital of the ancient medieval county of Empúries and its architectural legacy is still present today, with cobbled streets and a medieval layout. Make sure you see the Basilica of Santa Maria and the remains of its medieval Jewish community. The next stop is one of the most iconic coastal towns in Catalonia, although if you ask any one of the locals, they'll tell you that it's actually the most beautiful one in the entire world. We're talking about Cadaqués, some forty minutes further north on the GI-614. Its winding streets, lined with whitewashed houses boasting deep blue windows and doors, make the already stunning coves take on an even more special appeal. Right by Cadaqués, Salvador Dalí created his home in a small fishing hut in Port Lligat, drawn by the light, the beauty and the seclusion of the spot. It's now one of the museums of this genius, where you can discover the most personal side of the master of surrealism (make sure you book in advance if you plan on visiting). Your next stop will be the easternmost point of the Iberian mainland, the Cap de Creus Nature Park, an area that was an inspiration for the artist thanks to its cliffs and rock formations (Paraje de Tudela). The GI-613 road will then take you to the Monastery of Sant Pere de Rodes, passing through three of the area's iconic villages: Port de la Selva, Selva de Mar (inland) and Llançà. From the Benedictine Monastery (one of several in the area), you'll get to admire spectacular views of the Cap de Creus and the Costa Brava. It houses an amazing church (one of the most sophisticated architectural examples of Catalan Romanesque, two cloisters and a defence tower... Get out of the car, look around and breathe in the fresh air! The second day of your road trip has almost come to an end... So head towards Figueres to spend the night. If you wish, you can stop off en route at other inland villages such as Sant Llorenç de la Muga or Maçanet de Cabrenys.

Overnight stay in Figueres.

● DAY 3 · FIGUERES - BESALÚ - GARROTXA VOLCANIC ZONE NATURAL PARK - SANTA PAU - OLOT

Salvador Dalí said that time is one of the few important things that we have left. So, make the most of the third day of the road trip. And what a day lies ahead... You'll discover the surrealist universe of Dalí, the life of Jewish communities in medieval times, landscapes that boast wonderful volcanoes with pocket-sized chapels in their craters, and beech forests that grew on top of the lava... and then there's the delicious cuisine waiting to be savoured! Figueres is home to one of Dalí's masterpieces: the Dalí Theatre-Museum. The entire space was conceived and designed by the genius of surrealism to offer you an authentic experience and immerse you into his world. The museum's permanent collection retraces the painter's artistic career. Afterwards, drive westwards for about minutes on the N-260 until you reach Besalú. Cross the impressive Romanesque bridge with its arches and fortified tower to enter the heart of the town. If its walls could speak, they would tell of the Jews who settled for the first time in the municipality back in the ninth century, right in this very fortress. Traces of its history are still preserved today in the form of arches and stone houses. But, above all, in the impressive mikveh dating from the twelfth century, the space where the purification baths prescribed by Judaism were built. Besalú's Municipal Tourist Office organises daily guided tours centred around the Jewish heritage. And very close to Besalú are the volcanoes of La Garrotxa! Named the Garrotxa Volcanic Zone Nature Park, it's formed by some forty volcanic cones between 8,000 and 700,000 years old. Exploring them on one of the twenty-eight trails on offer, most of them signposted, is like witnessing a scenic testimony of the Garrotxa region's history. One of the park's most beautiful spots is La Fageda d'en Jordà. This impressive beech forest grew on top of the lava of the Crosat volcano. Without leaving the park, take the car and head towards Santa Pau, one of the most picture-postcard villages in the whole of Catalonia. The old town is surrounded by medieval walls and is arranged around the castle and the main square, dating from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. Even though, for some people this town is more famous for its fesols (beans, in English), which have Protected Designation of Origin. Don't leave without trying them, so make sure you book a table at one of the restaurants in the area.

Overnight stay in Olot, capital of the Garrotxa region.

● DAY 4 · OLOT - RIBES DE FRESER / QUERALBS - VALL DE NÚRIA - RIBES DE FRESER

You'll notice the scenery changing and how you're getting into more and more mountainous landscapes. The next stop on your route is Ribes de Freser, an hour from Olot on the N-260 road. En route you'll pass through some outstanding villages. One is Sant Joan de les Abadesses, famous for its monastery. This was the first female monastery in Catalonia, founded in 887 by Guifré el Pilós and another example of Catalan Romanesque that you'll see on this tour. This stretch of road to Ribes de Freser also gives you another historical-cultural break at the Monastery of Santa Maria de Ripoll. The monumental portal, from the mid-twelfth century, is one of its jewels. It is a large rectangular structure attached to the wall, made of local sandstone and worked in relief with images from the Bible and plant motifs. The Monastery once harnessed enormous political, social and cultural power, reaching its heyday in the eleventh century under the rule of Abad Oliba, to the point of becoming a genuine school of calligraphers and miniaturists and a notable centre for teaching the seven liberal arts. Once in Ribes de Freser, hop on board the rack railway - also stopping in Queralbs - to climb up to the Vall de Núria ski and mountain resort, located in the Vall de Ribes. It runs for some 12.5 kilometres and climbs 1,000 metres to offer you unique views of the valley that gives its name to the resort. The great thing is that the resort also has lots to do in the summer, as it provides activities such as hiking or horseback riding for you to enjoy the outdoors and the nature of the Catalan Pyrenees. You can also visit one of the enchanting Pyrenean villages that make up the Vall de Ribes such as Campelles, Pardines, Planoles, Queralbs or Toses; or the villages of the Valle de Camprodon (forty minutes away), including Camprodon, Llanars, Molló, Sant Pau de Segúries, Setcases and Vilallonga de Ter.

Overnight stay in Ribes de Freser.

DAY 5 · RIBES DE FRESEER - CERDANYA

From Ribes de Freser you can head towards the Cerdanya region by taking the Collada de Toses (one hour on the N-260 or GI-400), a mountain pass reaching some 1,800 metres. You'll pass through villages such as Planoles, Fornells de Montanya or Toses until you reach Puigcerdà, the capital of the Cerdanya region. Stroll around its old town, with its winding and irregular sloping streets, and you'll quickly find the bell tower of the Church of Santa Maria, one of the town's symbols. The other is trinxat, a dish made with cabbage, potatoes and bacon, which is actually typical of the whole Cerdanya region. The activities in this region ultimately depend on the season when you're here. In winter, skiing and winter sports take centre stage at resorts such as La Molina and the north-facing La Masella, which has floodlit slopes for night skiing. Meanwhile, you can head to the resorts of Guils Fontanera, LLes de Cerdanya or Aransc to enjoy a spot of Nordic skiing (also called cross-country skiing), which is an excellent alternative for having fun in the snow while admiring the landscape and at-oneness with nature. In summer, you can enjoy even more at-oneness with nature in the Cadí Moixeró Nature Park, or you can explore local villages such as Alp, Meranges, Bellver de Cerdanya or Llivia. Ten minutes after leaving Puigcerdá on the N-154, you'll arrive in Llivia, where there's a pharmacy transformed into museum, the Farmacia Esteva de Llivia, which for years has been an exhibition space. Founded in the fifteenth century, it's considered one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe and was in operation until 1942. You can see old science books, prescriptions, formulas or laboratory instruments. The museum is also home to an important collection of archaeological material that reviews the history of the town.

Overnight stay in La Cerdanya.

DAY 6 · LA CERDANYA - CERCS (CERCS MINE MUSEUM - SANT ROMÀ MINE) - BERGA - SOLSONA - LA SEU D'URGELL

Your next stop is Cercs, driving along the C-16 for forty-five minutes. On the way there, you can take a detour off the C-16 to stop off at the breathtaking viewpoint of Pedraforca. Once in your destination, you'll find the Cercs Mine Museum, a space dedicated to the world of coal and mining in the Berguedà region. You'll get to know the day-to-day life of the settlement and also slip on a helmet to venture into the Sant Romà mine on board a train. After this, a twelve-minute drive on the C-6 will take you to Berga. This small laid-back town is the bastion of Berguedà cuisine. It's a rustic cuisine, with strong and hearty flavours, subtle aromas and textures and tastes that are hard to find these days. The secret lies in the outstanding quality of products such as veal, mushrooms and black peas. Meanwhile, its must-see fiesta is the Patum de Berga. It's held each year during Corpus Christi. In fact, it's a festival that has gone beyond Catalan borders, as in 2005 it was declared a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

Next stop: Solsona!

Fifty minutes along the C-26 will take you to this town, where highlights include the cathedral, the ice well, modernist buildings and the Quarto dels Gegants, the place where fiesta costumes are kept. At some point during your visit, the locals will tell you all about the fiesta here and how it's different from other carnivals, as the costumes that the troupes wear are colourful tops and they're accompanied by crazy giants that dance through the town's streets.

After leaving Solsona behind, your next stop will be la Seu d'Urgell, which is approximately an hour drive across the C-26 and C-14 roads. During this trip you will have the chance to enjoy the changing landscape of Pyrenean valleys.

The must-see in the La Seu d'Urgell is the only Romanesque cathedral in Catalonia, the Cathedral of Santa Maria d'Urgell. It retains the Romanesque church, with three naves and a large transept with five apses. Of particular note are the cloister and the Diocesan Museum, home to stunning examples of mural paintings. Make sure you check out the famous 'Trade Route', an itinerary that connects a network of museums to give you an insight into how professions have changed over time and what the daily life of inhabitants of the Pyrenees used to be like many years ago. Villages like Arsèguel or Coll de Nargó are must-sees. On a musical note: every year Arsèguel hosts an international gathering of accordionists. If you fancy a sportier vibe, you can choose from rafting, riverboarding, canoeing, boat trips, and much more. The Parc Olímpic del Segre was built as an Olympic facility for canoeing competitions during the 1992 Barcelona Games but today it's a great spot for some fun and sports.

Overnight stay in La Seu d'Urgell.

DAY 7 · LA SEU D'URGELL - SORT / LLAVORSÍ - ESTERRI D'ÀNEU - VAL D'ARAN

Today's destination is Sort! And the Noguera Pallaresa, one of the best rivers in Europe for rafting. Along the fifty kilometres of raftable river, you'll come across some tricky stretches, but your guide will help you safely navigate through the rapids. There are many companies around for sports such as rafting, kayaking, canoeing, riverboarding, and so on. As for hiking, there are dozens and dozens of options, but we particularly recommend the Alt Pirineu Nature Park and the National Park of Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici. The entrance to the latter is in Espot (park house), where you can take a mountain taxi that will drop you at the Lake of Sant Maurici. The Pallars Sobirà region is a stunning showcase of the typical valleys of the Pyrenees, with their stone-built villages and Romanesque churches: Vall de Cardós - Vall d'Estañ (Ginestarre, Arrós de Cardós), Valls d'Àneu (Alòs d'Isil, and the Church of Sant Joan d'Isil, Esterrí d'Àneu) and Vall Ferrera (Àreu, Alins, Tírvia). Ideal destinations to visit with friends, your partner or as a family. In the winter, you can go to one of the four ski resorts in the region: Port Ainé, Espot Esquí, Tavascan or Virós-Vallferrera (the latter for Nordic skiing). Before leaving Pallars Sobirà, round off the day in Gerri de la Sal, a town in the Catalan Pyrenees closely linked to the production of salt. Its history is preserved in an old salt warehouse that hosts an exhibition on the town's salt production. At the end of the tour, take the C-13 and the C-28 for about ninety minutes, driving through the Bonaigua mountain pass and ultimately arriving in the Val d'Aran.

Overnight stay in the Val d'Aran.

DAY 8 · VAL D'ARAN

In winter, this is a mecca of skiing, with Baqueira Beret as the flagship resort, where you can also take part in other activities such as snowshoeing, snowmobiling, dog sledding or Nordic skiing. And in spring, summer and autumn, the Atlantic climate of this valley provides landscapes of spectacular beauty. There are several hiking trails that will make you fall even more in love with this corner of Catalonia. One of them is the Camin Reiau, which passes through the thirty-three villages of the valley. Setau Sagèth is another good choice, which starts and ends in Vielha. Or places such as Artiga de Lin, Uelhs deth Joeu or Montgarri. You'll find everything from easier routes to more complicated climbs, such as Colomers. Must-dos in this region are villages such as Arties, Bagergue, Bossòst, Salardú, Gessa or the Romanesque churches of the Val d'Aran (Era Mair de Diu de Purificacion, St Andreu de Salardú). What's more, foodies will love the culinary highlights here, including cheese factories (Quesería Tarrau), craft beers, caviar and the winter staple of 'olla aranesa' (a hearty stew of various meats, vegetables and legumes).

Overnight stay in the Val d'Aran.

DAY 9 · VAL D'ARAN - VALL DE BOÍ / VAL D'ARAN

Drive fifty minutes along the N-230 road that connects Val d'Aran with Vall de Boí. Romanesque is omnipresent in the Pyrenees, but it's in the Vall de Boí where it really has the wow factor. Romanesque art is considered by historians as the first great artistic form common throughout western Europe after the Roman Empire. Here, the Church of Sant Climent de Taüll is the icon of one of the most important ensembles of Romanesque churches in Europe (nine in total), declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. You can visit all of them (see itineraries at the Romanesque Centre of Vall de Boí) and make sure you see the video mapping of Sant Climent de Taüll that recreates the apse, which is preserved in the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya. Romanesque style isn't the only UNESCO accolade held by Vall de Boí, as the Fire Festivals of the summer solstice, which are also celebrated in other municipalities within the Pyrenees, have been deemed Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In line with tradition, at nightfall participants march down from the mountains with lit torches drawing figures as they dance, sing and light bonfires upon reaching the villages. In summer, hiking and outdoor activities are an excellent way to explore this area. In Boí you'll also find one of the entrances to the National Park of Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici. When you go, keep in mind that private vehicle access to the Park is restricted. Leave the car in one of the designated parking areas. At the entrance, there are taxis and 4x4 vehicles that provide a shuttle service to the Park throughout the year. In winter, whether it's or a snowshoe excursion through the National Park of Aigüestortes and Sant Maurici or skiing at the Boí y Taüll ski resort, you'll discover a completely different landscape.

Overnight stay in Vall de Boí or Val d'Aran.

DAY 10 · VALL DE BOÍ / VAL D'ARAN - BOÍ TAÜLL - MONT-REBEI GORGE - BARCELONA

The road trip continues by entering the region of Pallars Jussà until you reach La Pobla de Segur. Following the N-260, you'll arrive there in an hour. Nearby you can visit the village of Salàs de Pallars, with a guided tour of the Botigues Museu de Salàs. These are old shops that restore furniture and products sold in the mid-nineteenth century, so they're a real treasure trove of antiques. The museum can only be visited with a guide and at specific times. As for hiking, the Cinquè Llac begins and ends in La Pobla de Segur, a mid-mountain hiking trail of 100 kilometres, divided into five stages. It runs through villages such as Peramea or Beranui and past points of interest such as Pont del Diable and the Dolmen of the Casa Encantada. Choose whichever stretch appeals to you the most, bearing in mind that there's another physical activity planned for the afternoon. Another local image that will stay etched in your memory is the Mont-Rebei Gorge. Formed by the erosion of the Noguera Ribagorçana River as it passes through the Montsec mountain range, the walls of Mont-Rebei have a vertical fall of more than five hundred metres. Only a bridle path carved out of the mountain allows you to pass through on foot. The other option is to follow the course of the river by kayak. There are many companies that organise this kind of excursion. The best time to enjoy Mont-Rebei is in spring and autumn, avoiding the hottest months. This is the final picture postcard to add to your bursting album of memories that all five senses will have captured during this incredible tour through the Catalan Pyrenees. And for a well-deserved rest, you can unwind in the city of Barcelona to round it all off.

Overnight stay in Barcelona.

DAY 11 · BARCELONA - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Barcelona.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Barcelona.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Figueras.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Figueras.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Olot.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Ribes de Freser.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Ribes de Freser.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cerdanya.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Cerdanya.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in La Seu d'Urgell.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in La Seu d'Urgell.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Vall d'Aran.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Vall d'Aran.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Barcelona



Castelló d'Empúries



Cadaqués





El Port de la Selva



Figueras



Besalu



Parc Natural Zona Volcànica de la Garrotxa



Santa Pau



Olot



Ribes de Freser



Queralbs



Vall De Nuria

La Molina



Masella



Lles de Cerdanya



Puigcerdà



Cerdanya



Cercs



Berga



Solsona



La Seu d'Urgell



Sort



Llavorsí



Esterri d'Àneu



Vall d'Aran



Boí



Important remarks _____

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.