

# Albuquerque Civic Chorus American Celebration of Music in Spain & France

Tour #6 (8 nights / 10 days)

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## Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Barcelona, Spain

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## Day 2

**Barcelona**

**(D)**

Arrive in Barcelona

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of Barcelona's highlights including Gothic Quarter, Plaça del Rei, Roman City, Plaça Reial, Port Vell, etc

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Barcelona was originally founded by the Phoenicians. Although it belongs to Spain, it is the capital of Catalonia, and is a more dynamic city than ever, hosting the 1992 World Olympic Games. It is a large industrial center with a very busy port; it's also a university town, and important cultural center with an opera house and many museums, theaters and concert halls*

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## Day 3

**Barcelona**

**(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A guided tour includes the Eixample Quarter, location of many of Barcelona's best Modernista buildings. Travel down the Passeig de Gràcia, a luxurious street adorned with elegant wrought iron street lamps which contains the finest examples of Modernist architecture in Barcelona. Then visit La Sagrada Familia, Europe's most unconventional church, yet uncompleted

Lunch on own

*Afternoon clinic or school exchange*

Evening dinner and overnight

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## Day 4

**Barcelona / Montserrat**

**(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

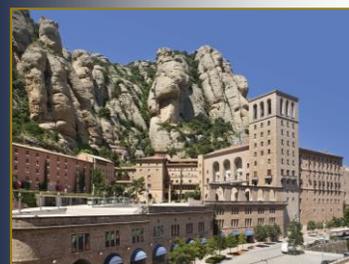
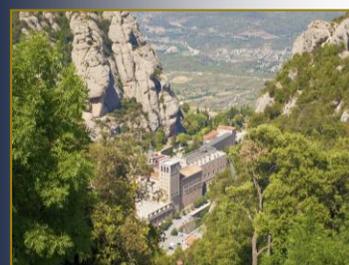
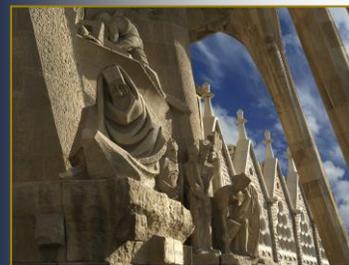
Half-day sightseeing to Montserrat to visit the monastery. The monastery, with its church and the various subsidiary buildings, is a little city on its own. The monastery complex proper is reached by way of the Plaza de la Cruz (Catalan Plaça de la Creu), which is flanked by a restaurant, souvenir shops, a post office, payphones and a bureau de change. Hear Escolania, one of Europe's oldest boys choir sing the 11 am Mass in the monastery

Lunch on own

Afternoon guided tour to Montjuïc (the Mountain of the Jews) for a great view overlooking the city. Visit the Poble Espanyol (Spanish village), built for the 1929 exhibition to illustrate regional styles in Spanish architecture

*Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain*

Evening dinner and overnight



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**Day 5****Barcelona / Perpignan / Arles (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Arles via Perpignan. Nestled in the foothills of the Pyrenees, in many way Perpignan feels as much Spanish as French. Sprawling suburbs radiate out from the tight knot of the old town

Lunch on own

Continue to Arles for dinner and overnight

*The ancient town of Arles is an important center of Provençal life, proud of its traditions and famed for both its Roman and its early-medieval heritage. It lies on the Rhône south of the point where the river divides into two arms - the Grand Rhône to the east and the Petit Rhône to the west. Though the painter van Gogh resided here in 1888-89; the famous "Bridge of Arles" in his picture no longer exists, and Arles possesses none of his works*

**Day 6****Arles (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Take a half-day sightseeing tour of Arles, focusing on the old Roman portion. Visit the Théâtre Antique, a Roman theater that was once a fortress. Its stones were later used for other buildings; its remaining columns are called the "two widows." Also visit the Arènes, the Roman Amphitheater that is one of the best-preserved monuments of Roman Provence. Each arch is supported by Doric and Corinthian columns. In summer there are bullfighting contests in the 20,000-seat arena. Lastly visit the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Église St-Trophime and its cloisters

Lunch on own

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 7****Arles / Avignon (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Avignon. Enjoy a guided tour of Avignon, including entrance to the Palais des Papes, the site of the Papal Court during much of the 1300's. Seven "official" popes reigned here, followed by three "anti-popes". Also visit the famous Pont St-Bénézet (best known from the children's round "Sur le pont d'Avignon"), built in 1177, and for centuries the only stone bridge over the Rhône

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

Return to Arles for dinner and overnight

**Day 8****Arles / Aix-en-Provence (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Aix-en-Provence

Lunch on own

A guided tour of Aix includes entrance to the 13th century Cathédrale de St-Sauveur, noted for its 16th century walnut doors, Merovingian baptistry and Romanesque cloisters. Also tour the Atelier de Cézanne, the perfectly preserved studio of Paul Cézanne, Aix's most famous son, and the Cours Mirabeau, one of the most pleasant boulevards in all of France, with its overarching trees, rows of old mansions and numerous street cafes

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in France***

Evening dinner and overnight



**Day 9**

**Aix-en-Provence / St-Tropez / Cannes(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Day excursion to various famous beach resorts of St-Tropez, Cannes and others

Lunch on own

Return to Aix for Farewell Dinner and overnight

**Day 10**

**Depart for home**

**(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Marseille's airport for the return flight

***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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