

Itinerary for Travel Study Abroad

Spain, Andorra France

May 18 – June 2, 2019

Saturday, May 18: Depart Chicago. Overnight flight to Madrid.

Sunday, May 19: A day to explore Madrid, the Royal Palace and the Plaza Mayor and market. Short city tour; stop at the Catedral de la Almudena. Late afternoon to explore Madrid. Overnight in Madrid.

Monday, May 20: Tour with Bob to the Prado Museum. Later, cross the street to the Reina Sofia and/or Thyssen Bornemisza Museum. Others can walk to the main street and explore/shop the Gran Via. Overnight in Madrid.

Tuesday, May 21: Travel to Barcelona. Visit to monastery at Montserrat. Visit to Barri Gotic, possibly Picasso museum /or contemporary museum. Free time in Barcelona. Overnight in Barcelona.

Wednesday, May 22: Barcelona, city tour and visit to Gaudi sites, Sagrada Familia, Guell Park, and Casa Mila. Dinner and overnight at Barcelona Hotel.

Thursday, May 23: Tour of Figueres and Salvador Dali Museum and Dali Castle of Pubol. Visit to Dali's summer house in the fishing village of Cadaques on the way to Andorra. Overnight in Perpignan, formerly part of Catalan, Spain and former seat of the Kings of Mallorca.

Friday, May 24: Travel north and cross Sir Norman Foster's Millau Viaduct before heading northwest into the midi-pyrenees country of France. Travelling from Rodez-Conques, one of the most beautiful drives in Europe. We will stay in the region of the hilltop town of Rocamadour. Rocamadour is set high above a gorge above a tributary of the River Dordogne, and the site of the pilgrimage sanctuary of the Black Virgin Mary. Overnight near Rocamadour.

Saturday, May 25: Spend another day near Rocamadour and visit the prehistoric cave venues of the northern Dordogne region. We will have time to visit the town as well as the nearby village of Conques. Overnight near Rocamadour.

Sunday, May 26: Today drive northwest to Sarlat la Caneda and visit the medieval village of Sarlat and onto Les Eyzies, Font de Gaume cave paintings, Dordogne region, Chateau de Commarque (castle), museum of pre-history before driving on to Loire Valley to Saumur to visit the medieval castle. Overnight near Saumur.

Monday, May 27: Continue exploring the Dordogne region to Périgueux -Poitiers. Visit the Périgueux Cathedral, named after St. Front, the first bishop of the region. It is also the site of a previous Roman City and a Roman amphitheater. Overnight near Périgueux.

Tuesday, May 28: Travel north to the Atlantic coast of France to Le Mont-St.-Michel. Short stop in Rennes to see the 286 Breton half-timbered houses. Rest of the day to explore the ocean front town of St. Michel and its the island church situated in the middle of a bay. Mont Saint-Michel is a French

pilgrimage church. At the entrance of this medieval town is the ancient Burgher's Guardroom. After going through the Boulevard Gate and then the King's Gate fortified with its portcullis, you will find the Grande Rue or main street with its museums, shops and houses dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. The parish church consecrated to St-Pierre, the patron saint of fishermen, is a small edifice from the 15th and 16th centuries. Finally walk uphill on the Grande Staircase whose majesty is a prelude to the Abbey church, where you can enjoy the matchless view over the bay before going down the rampart path. Overnight near St. Michel.

Wednesday, May 29: Today head to the City of Lights, Paris. Stop in Chartres to visit the grand Chartres Cathedral and visit the medieval center of Chartres. Overnight in Chartres hotel.

Thursday, May 30: Drive to Paris for a bus orientation tour. Walk up to Sacre Coeur on the hill, Montmartre, for a beautiful view of Paris. Free time in Paris before overnight in Paris.

Friday, May 31: Visit to the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and all the other famous landmarks. In the afternoon, stop at the Gare D'Orsay to see the 19th century art collection. Overnight in Paris.

Saturday, June 1: Enjoy another full day in Paris and enjoy a short walk to see St. Chapelle and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. After lunch, take an optional tour of the Louvre Art Museum. This vast collection is worth an extended visit. Overnight in Paris.

Sunday, June 2: Return via Paris to Chicago in the morning.