

Catalan Classic Walk

Hotel-to-hotel upper  independent walking

- Exceptionally varied walking: pretty coastal paths, lush green valleys, ancient cork and pine forest
- A fabulous mix of hotels – swimming possibilities every day - including 2 nights in a ★★★★★ castle
- Stunningly rugged turquoise coast, secluded coves, hidden bays, outstanding views
- Excellent bird-spotting: hoopoes, buzzards, cormorants, white egrets
- Beautiful sandy beaches, traditional fishing ports, sun-drenched villages off the tourist trail



This 6-night walking holiday has been a firm Breakaway favorite since we introduced it into our program. It provides spectacular (but not too tough!) walking by day, and high standard hotels by night, and is perfect for people wanting to fit as much as possible into a short holiday.

The route takes in the winding, sandy paths of mainland Spain's loveliest coast – frequent glimpses of dazzling aquamarine through the umbrella pines – as well as heading inland where you'll discover the truly unspoiled landscapes of the Catalan countryside.

This is a wonderful region for bird and plant life. Over a third of the countryside is now protected under a government scheme to preserve natural habitats, which means a staggering variety of rare species: golden orioles, booted eagles, purple-shot copper butterflies and colourful wild flowers. Hidden deep in the forests are stunning natural curiosities too, including the 5000-year old dolmens and sparkling freshwater springs which drew the first settlers to these parts thousands of years ago.

At the end of each day, we have arranged especially nice places to stay. These range from lovely, family-run hotels on the coast to a magnificently restored ★★★★★ C14 gothic castle in the hills at Castell d'Emporda. The meals throughout are of a very high standard - we've left you free to choose in Calella de Palafrugell as you've a wealth of restaurants on your doorstep - and all hotels have private pools, except for Begur which is just 3km/2mi from the sea.



CATALAN CLASSIC WALK | DAY BY DAY



Day 1 Arrive in Calella de Palafrugell

We meet you at Flaca railway station and take you to your hotel (35mins) where all Breakaway guests are accommodated in rooms with private balcony and sea view. It's just a 5 minute walk to the center of town where you have so many restaurants to choose from that we've left evening meals here up to you.

Day 2 Calella de Palafrugell to Castell d'Empordà 16km/10mi/4hr or 18km/11mi/5hr

You start with a 20 min ride to Mas Frigola from where you have a choice of routes. Both routes take you into the Gavarre hills to visit three dolmens - fantastic views as far as Begur and the lles Medes - before descending to the peaceful mediaeval villages of Fonteta and Vulpellac. Then on to the hotel at Castell d'Empordà which has one of the finest located pools we've come across.

Day 3 At Castell d'Empordà

Laze by the pool or follow our suggested circular walk linking the pretty medieval villages of Corca, Monells (pretty square and lovely choices for lunch) and La Bisbal – a lively market town famous for antiques and pottery. Take time to explore the old quarter including the Carrer de Call, formerly a Jewish ghetto - its intricate arches are still intact today. Alternatively, the local bus goes to Gerona and Figueras if you fancy a longer day out.

Day 4 Castell d'Empordà to Begur 19km/12mi/5hr

Gentle walking across the Empordà plain, stopping first at Peratallada, possibly the best preserved village in Spain with its beautifully restored arches, arcaded passageways and lovely shaded squares. On through fields bright with sunflowers until you reach peach-colored Pals – lovely old village with Romanesque church affording stunning views. The final stretch takes you through pine forest to Maria and Narcis' family-run hotel in the old town of Begur. The food here is fantastic!

Day 5 At Begur

Begur is a fashionable hilltop town with C11 castle, impressive villas and pretty narrow streets made for exploring! It's just 10 mins by local bus (mid Jun - Mid Sep only) or taxi to the coast where four beautiful sandy coves await: Sa Riera, Aiguafreda, Sa Tuna and, just over the hill, Aiguablava. For people looking for something a touch more challenging, we provide details of a circular coastal walk which takes in all our favorite sections.

Day 6 Begur to Calella de Palafrugell 13km/8mi/4hr or 17km/11mi/5.5hr

Shaded forest paths take you to the lively seaside town of Tamariu (great beach) where you pick up the pretty coastal path, passing rocky headlands and chic, Spanish resorts on to Llafranc - spectacular views from the San Sebastian lighthouse. Lunch in one of the beachfront bars – you can almost dip your toes in the water as you eat! Back to Calella, perhaps continuing along the coastal path as far as the botanical gardens at Cap Roig, in time for a swim in the pool or a couple of hours on the beach before dinner.

Day 7 Leave Calella de Palafrugell

We take you to Flaca at midday to catch your train back to Barcelona - a city add on here is a popular option before heading home.



"Fabulous. A great mix of walking and high standard of accommodation with very good food."

Mrs M Green

Dates and Prices

Departs every two days **Tour Only**

2012 departures

Apr 11-29, Oct 2-24	\$2,527
May 1-25, Sep 22-30	\$2,487
Apr 3-9, May 27-Jun 30	\$2,635
Sep 12-20	\$2,635
Jul 2-Aug 3, Aug 25-Sep 10	\$2,669
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,720

Singles: Add \$91 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$17 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

Departs: Every two days from Apr 3 to Oct 24 (except Aug 5-23).

Duration: 7 days (6 nights). This holiday may be adapted into a 4 night version – just deduct \$356 per adult and \$188 per child from the prices above.

Meals: Continental breakfast and 4 evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Barcelona Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Flaca train station at 17:05*. (Then transfer to hotel, 35 mins, provided). **Return:** Flaca train station by 13:11 (transfer provided).

Rail options: Barcelona Passeig de Gracia to Flaca 15:20/17:05*. **Return:** Flaca to Barcelona Passeig de Gracia 13:11/15:05.

*Rail tickets from Barcelona Passeig de Gracia to Flaca return, pay locally. Allow approx \$40.

Tour only: Transfers included from Flaca train station at 17:05, and back to Flaca train station departing hotel at 12:30.

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CATALAN CLASSIC WALK | WHERE YOU STAY



Hotel Garbi
★★★
Calella de Palafrugell
Days 1+6



Castel Hotel Castell d'Empordà
★★★★
Castell d'Empordà, Bisbal
Days 2+3



Hotel Rosa
★★★
Begur
Days 4+5

For extra nights we recommend Calella de Palafrugell and Castell d'Empordà, and city add-ons can be arranged in Barcelona.

CATALAN CLASSIC WALK | WALKING DETAILS



The walking is fairly gentle on well looked after paths and tracks. There is a short detour through the woods which is not really suited to those who suffer badly from vertigo, although this can be avoided by taking a short road option.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

18 21 25 28 28 25 21
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

43 54 37 27 49 76 86
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

Further details at www.breakaway-adventures.com