

METEORIDS 2007: **SPECIAL BARCELONA TOUR** **(Thursday 14th afternoon)**

Special Gaudí Tour

No architect in Europe was as fantastical as Antoni Gaudí y Cornet, the foremost proponent of Catalán modernism. Barcelona is studded with the works of this extraordinary artist, all of which UNESCO now lists as World Trust Properties. A recluse and a celibate bachelor as well as a fervent Catalán nationalist he lived out his own fantasy in his work. Nothing is more stunning than his Sagrada Família, Barcelona's best-known landmark, a cathedral on which Gaudí labored for the last 43 years of his life. Work to complete the landmark cathedral continues still today, and when finished, "The Sacred Family" will be Europe's largest cathedral.

This guided walking lecture tour concentrates on his other two most well-known works in Barcelona including La Pedrera (Casa Milá) and Casa Batlló, . We are introduced to the genius – including his historical and artistic influences, his social life and his mentality. Time permitting, we may visit Casa Lleo Morera de Puig y Cadafalch, Casa Amatller de Muntaner. Although the tour includes only outside guided viewing, you have the opportunity to visit the interior of la Sagarada Familia . If you are Gaga over Gaudí, this walking lecture and photo-op tour is for you!



Walking Gothic Tour

Long before Madrid was founded, the kingdom of Catalonia was a bastion of art and architecture. Barcelona's early city center – which was surrounded by walls during Roman times – makes up what today is the Gothic Quarter.

Surrounding Barcelona's impressive cathedral, medieval palaces emerge such as Casa dels Canonges, La Pia Almoina, and Casa d' Ardiaca. Whether the Gothic Quarter (or Barri Gòtic as it's called in Catalán) is truly Gothic is the subject of endless debate, but it is one of the most evocative neighborhoods in Spain and hides lots of bewitching places with many stories to tell . Its richly textured streets, quiet squares, attractive corners, gurgling fountains, vintage stores and ancient fortifications inspired such artists as Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró (who was born in this neighborhood).

