Tour: Academy in Spain

Destination: Platja D’Aro & Barcelona, Spain

Specialization: Dance, Drama, Music & Art
Master Class, Performance or both

Itinerary: 5-days / 4-nights in destination

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As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an “example” of a schedule and that the activities included may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.
Welcome to Visions Academy!

Visions ‘Academy in Spain‘ offers excellent tour options with a unique cultural blend! Our Spanish Centre of Excellence is based in Platja D’Aro on the stunning Costa Brava. Situated in the heart of the Costa Brava, Platja D’Aro is an up-market Spanish seaside resort with its own golden sandy beaches, idyllic little bays, excellent performing arts facilities and a superb choice of accommodation. With over twenty years of experience in school tourism of this region, our exceptional relationship with resort staff has enabled us to provide an unrivalled service to ensure you have an exceptional tour abroad.

Our Spanish Academy Tours include 5 tailor-made Master Classes inclusive of Drama, Dance, Art and Music. Schools may elect to participate in variety of selections that incorporate all four disciplines or may elect to study only one or two disciplines for Master Class sessions. Workshop contents are developed between you, the Party Leader, and our European team of professional tutors to provide the specific training and instruction in the areas you are seeking and creating a personalized program to suit your individual needs. Classes are 2-hours in length.

All our Spain Academy tours include a full-day excursion to incredible Barcelona! Additional excursion options include a day trip to Montserrat, a day trip to Costa Dorada and the Port Adventura Theme Park, a day trip to Waterworld in Llorat De Mar, and an excursion to the Dali Museum in Figures.

**DRAMA** – Vision Academy can provide a creative springboard for students, enhancing the drama experience in Spain. Personalized Master Classes are created to include a variety of Drama techniques to suit your tour objectives, incorporating fringe activities such as mask making, stick fighting and circus skills.

**DANCE** – Vision Academy offers school groups cutting-edge dance interpretations, with locations in the inspirational setting of Costa Brava. With the use of first class local studios, our Academy team will deliver a suitable program to suit your needs.

**ART** – Home to three of the most well-known surrealist painters: Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro, Spain is the perfect location to motivate art students to produce creative coursework. Master Classes can be devised to cover a variety of disciplines, providing an expert Art tour to Spain!

**MUSIC** – Our exciting Music program in Spain is extremely popular, as students can study a whole range of music skills in the beautiful setting of the Costa Brava. Students can choose from a variety of workshops including rhythm work, rock school vocal, video vocals with movement, improvisation and vocal harmony. **Ask us about our Performance Tours which provide touring bands and choirs with an exciting range of concert venues.**

**Day 1**

Dinner at hotel

Travel to Spain, arriving at in the early afternoon. Upon arrival, your Visions Ambassador team will conduct an in-depth welcome, safety and orientation meeting, followed by an excellent dinner in the hotel.
Platja D’Aro & the Costa Brava – The Costa Brava is one of the main tourist destinations in northeast Spain. It is a coastline measuring more than 200kms on the coast of Girona. Localities like Cadaques, Lloret de Mar, Castell d’Aro, San Feliu de Guixois, Roses, Pals, Tossa de Mar and Palamos form part of this stunning coastal area and describe perfectly what tourism to the Mediterranean is meant to be. Since the Costa Brava borders with the Pyrenees and is close to Baqueira Beret, the possibilities of exploration are endless. The beach, rural areas and aquatic activities are the area’s most important heritage and the reason why millions of tourists come annually to this region. It is a land where great Catalonians like Salvador Dali decided to make this destination his home. Mild temperatures, moderate rainfall, Mediterranean gastronomy, sun, and historical heritage are just a few of the attractive qualities of the Costa Brava.

The Costa Brava is one of those paradises that offer the Mediterranean coast to both national and international visitors. Here you can have tons of fun while enjoying endless activities in the outdoors, dry land or in the ocean. The Costa Brava has many spots where the Tramontana winds blow making it perfect for sailing, windsurfing and kite-surfing; plus, beautiful small coves for scuba diving, swimming and snorkeling.


Sample Hotel: Hotel Aromar – Located directly on the beach in a quiet residential area, Hotel Aromar is the perfect base for Visions groups. Hotel Aromar is a three-star hotel property where guests may enjoy a quiet beachfront location, yet within a 10-minute walk of the town center. All rooms are spacious and are complete with bathroom, satellite television and balcony. On-site facilities include a swimming pool, bar-cafeteria, air-conditioned restaurant, television room and pool tables. An extensive range of all-you-can-eat buffet is served to suit all appetites. www.hotelaromar.com
Aparthotel Comtat Sant Jordi – Located only 500 feet from the sandy beach and slightly over a half-mile from the town center, the Sant Jordi is a firm favorite with Vision groups with all the advantages of staying in an apartment complex. All rooms are fully equipped with a kitchen area, living/dining room, double pull-out couch, satellite television, air-conditioning and heating, and a balcony. Rooms sleep four to six students. Other facilities include a swimming pool, market, snack bar, restaurant and games room. [www.aparthotel-santjordi.com](http://www.aparthotel-santjordi.com)

Tonight, Visions groups will enjoy a wonderful dinner at the hotel to kick off the start of our tour!

**Day 2**  
**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Good morning Spain! After a leisurely breakfast, we’ll embark upon our first Master Classes or Performances.

**Master Classes 1, 2 & 3** – Before the start of the tour, teachers will have spoken to our Academy specialists to discuss and agree upon the program contents of all Master Classes, the goals and the specific instruction given. Teachers may opt to have all classes in one discipline or may elect to have a variety of disciplines inclusive of Dance, Drama, Art and Music. All classes are instructed by our European team of tutors and are 1.5-hours in length.

After a buffet lunch at the hotel, students will embark upon their third Master Class!

After our workshops, we’ll be able to enjoy a brilliant dinner in the hotel leaving the late evening open for a moonlit walk or a variety of wonderful evening activities!
Good morning Costa Brava! Today we’re off to explore fabulous Barcelona! After a great breakfast, we’ll board our motorcoach and head to the city, approximately 1.5-hours, to discover this fascinating medieval region, home of the 1992 Summer Olympics, outstanding architecture, and wonderful culture!

**Barcelona** - In a privileged position on the northeastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula and the shores of the Mediterranean, Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain in both size and population. It is also the capital of Catalonia, one of the seventeen Autonomous Communities that make up Spain. There are two official languages spoken in Barcelona: Catalan, generally spoken in all of Catalonia, and Castilian Spanish. The city of Barcelona has a population of 1.5 million, but this number spirals to more than 4 million if the outlying areas are also included.

The capital of Catalonia is unequivocally a Mediterranean city; not only because of its geographic location but also and above all else, because of its history, tradition and cultural influences. The documented history of the city dates back to the founding of a Roman colony on its soil in the second century B.C. Modern Barcelona experienced spectacular growth and economic revival at the onset of industrialization during the second half of the 19th century. The 1888 World's Fair became a symbol of the capacity for hard work and the international outlook projected by the city. Culture and the arts flourished in Barcelona and in all of Catalonia; the splendor achieved by Catalan modernism is one of the most patent displays. [www.isango.com/things-to-do-in-barcelona-tour-sightseeing](http://www.isango.com/things-to-do-in-barcelona-tour-sightseeing)

During our visit, groups are welcome to determine the specific venues that they wish to see, however we recommend checking out the sights below. **Additional admission costs may apply.**

**Barcelona City Tour** – If you are coming to Barcelona for the first time, or if you are planning to stay in the city for a while, this is one way of getting to quickly see the city’s monuments and most important tourist sights of interest. The ‘Bus Touristic’ (as it's officially known) offers you an easy and quick way to start your visit to Barcelona and gives you an easy way to ‘find your feet’ so that you can gain an overview of the main sights and then go back later if you wish.

The Barcelona tourist bus stops at 42 places, all of them important sights of interest. From these stops you will have quick access to museums, monuments and important landmarks. You can stay at each sight of interest as long as you want and when you are finished, you just have to wait for the next bus to take
you to the next sight of interest. Every tourist bus has a guide who will give you a brief introduction in several languages to what you can find in each stop.

**Montjuic** – Montjuic, the hill overlooking the city center from the southwest, is home to some fine art galleries, leisure attractions, soothing parks and the main group of 1992 Olympic sites. You’ll see Parc Joan Miró, where stands Miro's highly phallic sculpture Dona i Ocell (Woman and Bird). Nearby, the Palau Nacional houses the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, which has an impressive collection of Romanesque art. Stretching up a series of terraces below the Palau Nacional are fountains, including the biggest, La Font Màgica, which comes alive with a free lights and music show on summer evenings. In the northwest of Montjuic is the 'Spanish Village', Poble Espanyol. At first glance it's a tourist setting, but it also proves to be an intriguing scrapbook of Spanish architecture with very convincing copies of buildings from all of Spain's regions. The Anella Olímpica (Olympic Ring) is the group of sports installations where the main events of the 1992 games were held. Down the hill, visit masterpieces of another kind in the Fundació Joan Miro, Barcelona's gallery for the greatest Catalan artist of the 20th century. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montju%C3%AFc](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montju%C3%AFc)

**Museu Picasso** - The Museu Picasso is Barcelona's most visited museum. It's housed in three strikingly beautiful stone mansions on the Carrer de Montcada, which was in medieval times, an approach to the port. The museum shows numerous works that trace the artist's early years and is especially strong on his Blue Period with canvases like The Defenceless, ceramics and his early works from the 1890s. The second floor shows works from Barcelona and Paris from 1900-1904, with many of his impressionist-influenced works. The haunting Portrait of Senyora Canals (1905), from his Pink Period is also on display. Among the later works, all executed in Cannes in 1957, are a complex technical series (Las Meninas), which consists mostly of studies on Diego Velazquez's masterpiece of the same name. [www.museupicasso.bcn.cat/en](http://www.museupicasso.bcn.cat/en)

**La Rambla** – Five separate streets strung end to end, La Rambla (also called Las Ramblas) is a tree-lined pedestrian boulevard packed with buskers, living statues, mimes and itinerant sales people selling everything from lottery tickets to jewelry. The noisy bird market on the second block of La Rambla is worth a stop, as is the nearby Palau de la Virreina, a grand 18th-century rococo mansion, with arts and entertainment information and a ticket office. Next door is La Rambla's most colorful market, the Mercat de la Boqueria. Just south of the Boqueria, the Mosaic de Miró punctuates the pavement, with one tile signed by the artist. The next section of La Rambla boasts the Gran Teatre del Liceu, the famous 19th-century opera house. La Rambla terminates at the lofty Monument a Colom (Monument to Columbus) and the harbor. Just west of the monument, on Avinguda de les Drassanes, stands the Reials Drassanes (Royal Shipyards), which houses the fascinating Museu Marítim. It has more seafaring paraphernalia than
you'd care to wag a sextant at - boats, models, maps, paintings, ships' figureheads and 16th-century galleys. www.aviewoncities.com/barcelona/rambla.htm

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**Barri Gotic (Gothic Quarter)** - The Barri Gotic contains a concentration of medieval Gothic buildings only a few blocks northeast of La Rambla and is the nucleus of old Barcelona. It's a maze of interconnecting dark streets linking with squares with plenty of cafes and other eateries. Most of the buildings date from the 14th and 15th century, when Barcelona was at the height of its commercial prosperity and before it had been absorbed into Castile. Around the Cathedral, one of Spain's greatest Gothic buildings, you can still see part of the ancient walls incorporated into later structures. The quarter is centered around the Plaça de Sant Jaume, a spacious square, the site of a busy market and one of the venues for the weekly dancing of the sardana. Two of the city's most significant buildings are here, the Ajuntament and the Palau de la Generalitat. www.barcelona-on-line.es/eng/turisme/bcn_gotic.htm

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**Port Vell** - Before the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, the Port Vell, the city's old obsolete harbor was filled with empty warehouses, industrial buildings, refuse dumps and railroad yards. In one of the most drastic urban renewal projects, the area was transformed into a yacht basin and entertainment center, opening the city up to the sea. A coastal road was moved underground, and a pedestrian street now stretches from the Columbus monument to the Barceloneta neighborhood. A brand-new wooden pedestrian bridge, the Rambla de Mar, connects the Rambla with the Maremagnum, a complex with shops, cinemas, bars and restaurants. Behind the Marèmagnum are an IMAX theater and Barcelona's aquarium. www.aviewoncities.com/barcelona/portvell.htm

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**La Sagrada Familia** - If you only have time for one sightseeing outing, this should be it! La Sagrada Familia inspires awe with its sheer verticality and, in the true manner of the great medieval cathedrals it emulates, it’s still not finished after more than 100 years. Work is proceeding apace however, and it might be done between the 2020s and 2040s. If the work should be carried on is the subject of controversy, but Spain’s most visited monument was consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI in late 2010. The main nave is now open
for daily mass. You could spend a couple of hours in here – the more you scrutinize decorative details, the more you see.

The church was the project to which Antoni Gaudí dedicated the latter part of his life. He stuck to a basic Gothic cross-shaped ground plan, but devised a temple 95m long and 60m wide, with capacity for 13,000 people. The completed sections and museum can be explored at leisure. Up to four daily guided tours, lasting 50 minutes, are offered. Combined tickets with Casa-Museu Gaudí in Park Güell are available. www.sagradafamilia.cat/sf-eng/?lang=0

Please know that while in Barcelona, you may customize what you would like to see, paying for any admission fees upon arrival.

Following our day in this outstanding city, we’ll travel back to our hotel for dinner and then, if elected, we’ll join hands to discover and learn the dance of the Catalans, the Sardana!

Sardana Dancing: Catalan Cultural Dance – The Sardana is a circle dance typical of Catalonia. There are two main types, the original sardana curta (short sardana) style and the more modern sardana llarga (long sardana), which is more popular. Other more unusual sardanas are the sardana de lluïment and the sardana revessa. Note: this specialized workshop is an optional workshop. It is not automatically included in your package price and additional fees apply.

Nobody knows when the sardana originated, but it has been popular since the 16th century. Some believe the sardana is two thousand years old, but such theories have few adherents. Modern choreography was established as late as the end of the 19th century and features slight differences from the original North-Catalonian dance. Pep Ventura's band is credited for stabilizing different variants around a clear 6/8 rhythm and fixing the instrumental ensemble. Though some Iberian and Mediterranean circle dances follow similar patterns, instrumental music for the sardana has achieved a complexity of its own. As a non-performance dance, sardana does not require special fitness.

Day 4
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Rise and shine Platja D’Aro! After breakfast, we’ll have our next round of Master Classes!
**Master Class 4 & 5** – choose from disciplines in Dance, Drama, Music & Art instructed by our European team of professional tutors.

After our workshops, we’ll have some free time, a wonderful dinner in our hotel, and then, if elected, we’ll learn the dance of the Gypsies, Flamenco!

**Flamenco Dance: The Dance of the Spanish Gypsies!** - Flamenco is a Spanish art form with roots deep in Andalusia — Spain’s southern region. Although there are clues as to how this dance and folk music evolved, the details are lost in history. Even the origin of its name is elusive. Some attribute it to the early 1500s and the Flemish courtiers during the reign of Spain’s Charles V. Their bright clothing inspired the names given things garish or conspicuous, such as flamingoes and flamenco. Others say flamenco — still referring to the Flemish — was the nationality erroneously given by the common people to Gypsies. Still others claim the name comes from the Arabic fellah mangú — the laborer who sings. **Note: this specialized workshop is an optional workshop. It is not automatically included in your package price and additional fees apply.**

Flamenco combines acoustic guitar playing, singing, chanting, dancing and staccato handclapping. The flamenco dancer performs with passion, fervor, even tortured expressions but always striving for grace and dignity. The guitar and the rapid rhythmic handclapping of the singers and dancers sets the scene.

**Day 5**  
**Breakfast**

Good morning Costa Brava! Today is our last day in stunning Platja D’Aro! After breakfast we’ll have the morning to do some local sightseeing and then, dependent upon travel times, we’ll start packing our bags and begin to say goodbye to this awesome region as we head off for home, taking memories with us that will last forever!
ADDITIONAL EXCURSION OPTIONS / ADD-ON DAYS

**Montserrat** - The Benedictine Monk retreat at Montserrat offers you some of the most spectacular mountain views of Catalunya. Students will learn about the holy grotto where visitations by the Virgin Mary were reported, the world-famous Montserrat Boys Choir recitals, plus details on the mountain walks with breathtaking views. For many visitors a trip to Barcelona Montserrat Spain is the highlight of their visit.

![Montserrat View](image)

Another highlight of a visit to Montserrat monastery is to listen to the famous Basilica boys choir performances of Gregorian chants and other genres of religious choral music. The performances can be heard free of charge in the Basilica at 1 PM daily with the exception of Christmas holidays, July and some other festive periods during the year. Montserrat music is very popular throughout the world and the Monastery choir boys have recorded over 100 albums of choral music.

The history of Montserrat is fascinating and started in 880 when a small group of shepherd children saw a bright light descending from the sky in the Montserrat Mountains. In the same moment the children heard angels singing and the music filled their hearts with a radiant joy. Overwhelmed by the experience the children ran home to frantically recall the experience to their parents. The parents were skeptical but knew their children were trustworthy and honest and so they went to where the children had experienced the visions to see if they could see what all the fuss was about. For the whole month following the first visitation the parents were also witness to the same heavenly experiences and were left with only one conclusion: The visions were a sign from God. A local vicar was brought to the scene and witnessed the same experiences as the children and parents.

The visions occurred in the same location in a cave on Montserrat Mountain. When this cave was explored by the religious elders of the community they found an image of the Virgin Mary. And from that moment on, the cave became a holy sanctuary for religious pilgrims. Today the site of the visions has been marked by a Holy Grotto on the mountain. You can walk to the Holy Grotto and see first-hand where these events took place. The Holy Grotto has now been ordained a holy place and is visited by pilgrims and curious onlookers from all over the world.

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**Port Adventura Theme Park** - PortAventura has everything for an unforgettable school trip! The resort offers you two parks to enjoy: first, PortAventura Park is an amazing park divided into five areas with a wealth of attractions and shows, and second, PortAventura Aquatic Park is a water park for fun in the water between the waves and waterslides.
Both students and teachers will have a great time! You can travel together to the five themed areas of the park: from the Mediterranean to China via Mexico, Polynesia and the Far West. In the park, teachers can enjoy a multitude of shows, from the dazzling wonders of China’s Imperial Theatre to the exotic dances of Polynesia. Meanwhile, the students can go for stronger emotions running from one attraction to another without stopping for a second.

Located one hour southwest of Barcelona, PortAventura has everything you need to have an unforgettable experience; even the environment in which it is located is excellent, as it’s only a ten-minute walk from the beach and another ten from the legendary Roman Tarragona. It’s a journey filled with imagination, laughter and entertainment.

**Waterworld** - At Waterworld on the Costa Brava, you can enjoy rides such as wave pools, rapid rivers, and kamikaze! Waterworld in Lloret de Mar is the perfect place to spend unforgettable days with your school group. You’ll find the best services for comfort like restaurants, pancake houses, picnic areas and pine forests, where students and teachers alike will relax and enjoy a great environment.

**Dali Museum** - Inaugurated in 1974, the Dalí Theatre-Museum was built upon the remains of the former Figueres theatre. It contains the broadest range of works spanning the artistic career of Salvador Dalí (1904-1989), from his earliest artistic experiences and his surrealist creations down to the works of the last years of his life.


We should also note the set of works that the artist created expressly for the Theatre-Museum, such as the Mae West Room, the Wind Palace Room, the Monument to Francesc Pujols and the Rainy Cadillac. Also, to be seen are works by other artists that Dalí wanted to include: El Greco, Marià Fortuny, Modest Urgell, Ernest Meissonier, Marcel Duchamp, Wolf Vostell, Antoni Pitxot and Evarist Vallès, amongst others.

The Dalí Theatre-Museum should be seen as a whole (all museums), as the great work of Salvador Dalí, for everything in it was conceived and designed by the artist in order to offer visitors a real experience of getting inside his captivating and unique world.

The different collections managed by the Gala-Salvador Dalí Foundation include all kinds of works of art: painting, drawing, sculpture, engraving, installation, hologram, stereoscopy, photography, etc., up to a quantity of some 4,000 pieces. Of these, some 1,500 are on show in the Dalí Theatre-Museum Dalí of Figueres.
ACADEMY IN SPAIN

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What’s Included: Round-trip flights or Motorcoach 4-nights’ accommodation (or more, dependent upon quote) Meals as indicated on the itinerary 5 Master Classes with professional tutors Excursion transportation to Barcelona Full Tour Representative Service 24-hour emergency cover

What’s Not Included: Fully Comprehensive Insurance (mandatory) Coach transfers to/from home airport Cost of visas, full or collective passports Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel Fees for Barcelona activities Sardana Dance Workshop (at extra cost) Flamenco Workshop (at extra cost) Additional Sightseeing / Entertainment Options Hotel incidental bills – meals, mini-bar, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid / bellman services, tour representative, etc. Personal expenditures

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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