

Saturday, May 18 - Fly to Barcelona

- Depart SFO at 8:05 pm

Sunday, May 19 - Barcelona

- Arrive in Barcelona at 4:45 pm
- Catch airport shuttle to Placa de Catalunya - comes every 5 - 10 minutes (€ 5.70)
- From Placa de Catalunya, walk 20 minutes to Motel One (taxi would have been better)
- Dinner – pizza at La Mezcla in La Ribera neighborhood near the Arc de Triomf (1/2 mile from hotel)
- Stay at Motel One Barcelona (11 Passeig de Pujades) - across from Parc de la Ciutadella

Monday, May 20- Barcelona

- Walk 15 miles exploring the city
 - Las Ramblas
 - Gothic Quarter
 - Barceloneta
 - Montjuic
- Have dinner at Els Quatre Gats (Picasso's old hangout)
- Stay at Motel One Barcelona (11 Passeig de Pujades)

Tuesday, May 21- Barcelona

- Full Gaudi day
 - Casa Mila in the Eixample - 9:30
 - Park Guell - 1:00
 - Walk to the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau (Modernista masterpiece)
 - Walk along Avinguda de Gaudi, a pleasantly shaded, cafe-lined pedestrian street, to reach Sagrada Familia
 - Sagrada Familia - enter 3:45; Nativity Tower at 4:00
 - Take photos of Sagrada Familia from Placa de Gaudi
- Take out empanadas at La Pizza del Born, just a short distance from hotel
- Stay at Motel One Barcelona (11 Passeig de Pujades)

Wednesday, May 22 - Barcelona and Montserrat Monastery

- Transportation to the Montserrat Monastery
 - Walk to Arc de Triomf metro station
 - Take L1 to Placa d'Espanya - buy the Montserrat all inclusive ToT ticket
 - Take R5 train to Montserrat Aeri
 - Take cable car up to Monastery
- Tour Montserrat
 - Montserrat Museum - thousand years of artistic and archeological heritage of the 1,000-year-old abbey (free with ToT card)
 - Tour the Benedictine monastery
 - Hear the famous boys choir perform at 1 pm and
 - Lunch at the Cafeteria - delicious and plentiful buffet (free with ToT card)
 - Take the Sant Joan funicular to explore the top of the mountain

- 7.5 km (2 ½ hour) loop walk to Sant Jeroni (Montserrat's highest peak)
- Take cable car, train, metro, etc. back to Barcelona
- Walk around the trendy El Born neighborhood near the hotel and get take-out empanadas at La Pizza del Born
- Stay at Motel One Barcelona (11 Passeig de Pujades)

Thursday, May 23 - Pick up van in Tarragona and Cala D'Oques (15 miles; 20 minutes)

- Get taxi to Barcelona Sants (train station)
- Take train to Tarragona (1 hour) <https://www.thetrainline.com/en/train-companies/renfe>
- Take cab to Carvisa (12 miles away) to pick up van
- Food shop
- Drive to Cala D'Oques
- Hang out on the Platja del Torn (beach right near campground)
- Camp at Cala D'Oques - 33 € per night

Friday, May 24 - Camping La Marina on the Costa Blanca (260 miles; 4.5 hours)

- Leave Cala d'Oques a day early because of rain
- Drive south along coast to Camping La Marina in Alicante on the Costa Blanca
- Explore campground and take a walk along the boardwalk to the beach
- Beach - Platja del Torn (walking distance)
- Camp at Camping La Marina - 48 € per night

Saturday, May 25 - Camping La Marina on the Costa Blanca

- Run on treadmill in campground fitness center
- Have paella at the campground restaurant
- Afternoon stroll along the Playa Els Tossals to the jetty where the Segur River flows into the Mediterranean.
- Hang out on beach for a bit - still a little chilly and windy
- Camp at Camping La Marina - 48 € per night

Sunday, May 26 - Camping La Marina on the Costa Blanca

- Sunny skies - relax on the Playa Els Tossals and swim in the Mediterranean
- Camp at Camping La Marina - 48 € per night

Monday, May 27 - Granada (200 miles; 4 hours)

- Drive to Camping Reina Isabel in Granada
- Swim in their lovely pool
- Take the bus from the campground to the old city
- Explore the Albaicin, the old Moorish quarter of the city on a hill overlooking the Alhambra
 - Hike up to the Plaza San Nicolas - great panoramic views of Alhambra
 - Have a glass of wine on the terrace of the El Huerto de Juan Ranas with an uninterrupted view of the Alhambra and Generalife below.
 - Wander back down along the narrow alleys through the Sacromonte gypsy cave quarter

- Have dinner at an outdoor restaurant along the River Darro
- Take bus back to campground
- Camp at Camping Reina Isabel - 23 € per night

Tuesday, May 28 - Visit the Alhambra in Granada

- Take the bus from the campground to the old city
- 3-hour, small group (less than 20), English speaking tour of the Alhambra, Generalife, Alcazaba and Nasrid Palaces.
- Take bus back to campground
- Swim in the campground pool
- Make salad and bratwurst in the camper
- Camp at Camping Reina Isabel - 23 € per night

Wednesday, May 29 - Ardales (95 miles; 2 hours)

- Drive 2 hours to Camping Park Ardales on the shores of the Conde del Guadalhorce Reservoir (1 km away from the entrance of El Caminito del Rey)
- Walk 2 miles to the trailhead for the El Caminito del Rey (so we know where it is for our next day scheduled early morning hike)
- On the way back, we missed the tunnel shortcut, but wound up at the Mirador des Embalses (View of the Reservoirs) where there were great views of the Conde del Guadalhorce Reservoir, which we were camping on
- Make salad and tortellinis in camper
- Evening campground walk to a point jutting out into the Embalse del Guadalhorce
- Camp at Camping Park Ardales - 23 € per night

Thursday, May 30 - Ardales / Ronda (75 miles; 2 hours)

- Walk the 2 miles to the El Caminito del Rey trailhead for our 9:30 scheduled entry
 - El Caminito del Rey closed because of wind - rescheduled for next day
- Side trip to white village of Ronda
 - Walk through the New City and cross the iconic Puente Nuevo over the El Tajo Gorge into the Old City
 - Hike as far as possible down into the gorge
 - Have coffee at the Hotel Hemingway in the New City
 - Food shop on the way back to the campground
- Back at campground - relax on campground beach on the Reservoir
- Camp at Camping Park Ardales - 23 € per night

Friday, May 31 - Ardales / Caminito del Rey

- El Caminito del Rey - "take 2"
 - Woke up to no wind - promising for getting on the El Caminito del Rey
 - Once again, walk the 2 miles to the trailhead for our 9:30 scheduled entry - hoping it would be open
 - It was, and they let our group of 50 or so start at our scheduled 9:30 slot
 - Incredible 4.5-mile hike along the fabulous Caminito del Rey (first and last group to get on because of second day of high winds)

- Take bus from southern end of Caminito del Rey in El Chorro back to the campground
- Hang out on the campground beach on the Reservoir - very windy again
- Camp at Camping Park Ardales - 23 € per night

Saturday, June 1 - Cordoba and the Mezquita (100 miles; 2 hours)

- Drive 2 hours to El Brillante Municipal Camping in Cordoba (1.6 miles from Mezquita)
- Walk to Old City to explore even though Mezquita closed early because of a festival
 - Cross the Guadalquivir River on an ancient Roman bridge built in the first century AD
 - Wander the narrow winding alleyways of the Jewish quarter, dating back to the late Middle Ages
 - Pass the remains of an ancient first century AD Roman temple
- Since no restaurants were open at 5:30, stop at a McDonald's near the campground for free WiFi, quarter pounders, cafe con helado (coffee with ice cream) for me and a McCerveza for Herb
- Camp at El Brillante Municipal Camping - 33 € per night

Sunday, June 2 - Cordoba and Mezquita, then on to Salamanca (310 miles; 6 hours)

- Leave campground at 7:30 am to get to the Mezquita at opening time
- Tour the Mezquita (purchase audiotour)
 - Hypostyle Islamic prayer hall with the famous forest of red-and-white giant double arches
 - Renaissance cathedral and Baroque-style choir right smack in the middle of the building, surrounded by the Islamic prayer hall
 - Mihrab, with its horseshoe-shaped arch, adorned with shimmering gold tesserae with vegetal motifs and calligraphic bands of quotes from the Quran
 - Dazzling gold mosaic dome above the mihrab, built of crisscrossing ribs that create pointed arches
 - Belltower - unfortunately sold out
- Walk back to campground in time to checkout
- Drive 6 hours to Salamanca
- Camp at Don Quijote Camping - 18 € per night

Monday, June 3 - Salamanca

- Walk 5.5 miles from the campground along the Tormes River path to the Old City
- Walk across the 1st century AD Roman Bridge - great photos of Salamanca Cathedral from center
- Walk along the Calle Rua Mayor (Salamanca's main drag) into the breathtaking Plaza Mayor
- Have tapas and Sangria at Vinoteca Taperia on the Calle Rua Mayor

- Stop to see the Casa de las Conchas, a house with a facade encrusted with more than 300 scallop shells
- Tour the interior of the Salamanca Cathedral (Old and New)
- Walk back along the river to the campground (15 mile total)
- Have dinner (Carne for 2) at the very popular campground restaurant
- Camp at Don Quijote Camping - 18 € per night

Tuesday, June 4 - Basilica de Covadonga and Picos de Europa (240 miles; 4.5 hours)

- Drive 4.5 hours to the Basilica de Covadonga
- Explore and photograph the incredible pink-granite, 19th century, neo-Romanesque basilica
- Explore the nearby Santa Cueva, where according to legend the Virgin Mary appeared in 722 AD, before the battle in which the Christians defeated the Muslims, beginning the 800-year Reconquista.
- Drive another 40 minutes to Camping Naranjo de Bulnes, just outside the Parque Nacional de Los Picos de Europa
- Camp at Camping Naranjo de Bulnes

Wednesday, June 5 - Side Trip to Santillana del Mar and the Altamira Cave (94 miles; 2 hours)

- Delay our hike on the Ruta del Cares a day because of bad weather.
- Take a side trip to Santillana del Mar and Altamira Cave 47 miles away (1 hour)
- Tour the Altamira Cave Museum - explore the replica cave
- Continue on into the lovely village of Santillana del Mar
- Wander along the cobbled streets, passed honey-colored mansions and a stunning Romanesque Church
- Have lunch at El Porche Restaurant
- Drive back to Camping Naranjo de Bulnes
- Camp at Camping Naranjo de Bulnes

Thursday, June 6 - Ruta del Cares hike in the Picos de Europa

- Hike the 7.5 mile (each way) along incredible Ruta del Cares trail from Poncebos to Cain and back
- Camp at Camping Naranjo de Bulnes

Friday, June 7 - Bilbao (116 miles; 2.5 hours)

- Get a campsite at Area de Autocaravanas de Kobetamendi, an aires located atop a hill on the outskirts of Bilbao
- Take the bus into town
- Stroll along the River Nervion to the Guggenheim Museum
- Tour the Guggenheim Museum - inside and out
- Cross the river on the Puente La Salve and stroll along the other side of the river to the Casco Viejo (Bilbao's Old Town)
- Have pinxtos (tapas) at a restaurant on the Plaza Nueva
- Take bus back to campgroun

- Camp at Area de Autocaravanas de Kobetamendi

Saturday, June 8 - Getaria and San Sebastian (68 miles; 1.75 hours)

- Drive 1.25 hours along the scenic route to San Sebastian to the tiny fishing village of Getaria
 - Walk around the harbor
- Continue driving another half hour to Donastia San Sebastian, an aires in San Sebastian - fortunate to get the last spot
- Explore San Sebastian
 - Hand out on the Playa de La Concha for an hour or so
 - Walk the promenade along the Playa de La Concha
 - Hike up Mt. Urgull and visit the Castillo de La Mota, a 12th-century fortress, and a 40-foot-tall statue of Christ looking out over the harbor
 - Walk to the Parte Vieja (Old Town) and have pintxos at Baztan Pintxos and Bar
- Walk back to and stay overnight at the Donastia San Sebastian aires

Sunday, June 9 - Narbonne Plage, France (312 miles; 6 hours)

- Find out that we can't do our Pyrenees hike because there is too much snow
- Drive east across southern France to Camping Campeole La Cote des Roses on the Narbonne Plage on the Mediterranean Sea
- Walk ½ to the beach and have wine and cheese
- Camp at Camping Campeole La Cote des Roses

Monday, June 10 - Narbonne Plage, France

- Really really windy day
- 7.5-mile walk from the campground along the beach and the 2.5 km pedestrian promenade and back
- Have lunch at L'Arlequin
- Camp at Camping Campeole La Cote des Roses

Tuesday, June 11 - La Gaviota on the Costa Brava (95 miles; 2 hours)

- Drive back into Spain to Camping La Gaviota on the Costa Brava
- Take a walk on the beach in between the raindrops
- Buy tickets for the Salvador Dali Theater and Museum in nearby Figueres for the next day at 12:30
- Camp at Camping La Gaviota

Wednesday, June 12 - La Gaviota and side trip to Salvador Dali Theater and Museum in Figueres (25 miles; 1 hour)

- Tour Salvador Dali Theater and Museum in nearby Figueres
- Relax by the campground pool
- Back at Camping La Gaviota, go for a 5-mile run into the village of Sant Pere Pescador and back along the beach
- Camp at Camping La Gaviota

Thursday, June 13 - La Gaviota and side trip to Cadaqués (43 miles; 1.5 hours)

- Drive the windy scenic road down to the white fishing village of Cadaques
- Hike 7.5 miles (out and back) from Port Lligat on the Cap de Creus to the lighthouse
- Stroll into the picturesque village that so many artists have painted
- Drive back along the windy road to the campground
- Camp at Camping La Gaviota

Friday, June 14 - La Gaviota on the Costa Brava

- Less windy day - spend time reading on the beach
- Run 5.5-miles along the beach and the River Fluvia into the village of Sant Pere Pescador and back
- Stroll down to the beach for cocktail hour
- Have dinner at the campground restaurant
- Camp at Camping La Gaviota

Saturday, June 15 - Las Palmeras Camping in Tarragona (140 miles; 2.5 hours)

- Drive down the coast to Camping Las Palmeras on the Costa Dorado
- Walk 1-mile through the campground to Cala Fonda, a lovely beach in a secluded cove
- Spend the afternoon swimming and relaxing on the beach
- Camp at Camping Las Palmeras

Sunday, June 16 - Las Palmeras Camping in Tarragona

- Walk 6 miles to Tarragona's ancient Roman Ruins
- Tour the amphitheater and circus
- Walk back to Cala Fonda to spend the afternoon on the beach
- Clean the van and pack in preparation for tomorrow's drop-off
- Have dinner at the campground restaurant
- Camp at Camping Las Palmeras

Monday, June 17 - Van drop-off and back to Barcelona (66 miles; 1.5 hours)

- Drive the van back to Carvisa (McRent) in Tarragona
- Go through inspection of the vehicle and explain away the broken faucet
- Take a cab to the Tarragona train station
- Take the Train from Tarragona to Barcelona Sants train station
- Take a cab to Motel One
- Explore the Parc de la Ciutadella across the street from Motel One - Barcelona's largest park
- Have dinner at Café Menssana
- Stay at Motel One

Tuesday, June 18 - Fly home

- Depart BCN at 2:30 pm
- Arrive in SF at 6:20 pm
- Take airport shuttle to Home Sweet Home

Total Trip Mileage: 2,279 miles
Average Miles per Day: 74 miles per day