



Day Trips from Barcelona

Girona p188

A splendid cathedral, a maze of narrow cobbled streets and Catalonia's finest medieval Jewish quarter are part of this riverside town's charms.

Figueres p191

The Teatre-Museu Dalí is Spain's most surreal sight, a place of pilgrimage for any fan of Salvador Dalí, and the artist's final resting place.

Montserrat p193

Catalonia's most important shrine is in this spectacularly sited mountain monastery, complete with Europe's oldest choir and superb scenic walks.

Sitges p195

A classy old town and eating scene, superb string of beaches, great nightlife and a hedonistic carnival await visitors at the south coast's premier seaside town.

Tarragona p196

This sunny port city has a beautiful medieval core, boasting some of Spain's most extensive Roman ruins and studded with tempting eating options.

Girona

Explore

Girona's big draw is its old town, a tight huddle of ancient arcaded houses, grand churches and climbing cobbled streets, so head first for the Catedral – either by strolling along the lazy Río Onyar or by taking the high road along the medieval walls. Follow this with a visit to El Call (the medieval Jewish quarter) and the excellent Museu d'Història dels Jueus de Girona before taking your pick of the numerous restaurants in the nearby streets. After lunch, continue your exploration of other old town sights, such as the wonderfully intact Banys Àrabs or the attractive cloisters of the Monestir de Sant Pere de Galligants, before finding a bar around the Plaça de l'Independència to put your feet up for a while.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** Museu d'Història dels Jueus de Girona
- ➔ **Place to Eat** El Cellar de Can Roca (p191)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Bars on Plaça del'Independència

Top Tip

For the best city views, take a walk along Girona's medieval walls, known as the Passeig Arqueològic and accessed across from the Banys Àrabs or near Plaça de Catalunya.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Car** Take the AP7 tollway via Granollers.
- ➔ **Train** Trains and *rodalies* on the R11 line run from Barcelona (€11.25 to €16.20, 40 minutes to 1½ hours, up to 24 daily).

Need to Know

- ➔ **Location** 85km northeast of Barcelona
- ➔ **Tourist Office** (Map p190; ☎972 22 65 75; www.girona.cat/turisme; Rambla de la Llibertat 1; ☎9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm & 4-8pm Sat, 9am-2pm Sun)



SIGHTS

Most of Girona's sights are concentrated in the lanes of its old town.

★ MUSEU D'HISTÒRIA DELS JUEUS DE GIRONA

MUSEUM

Map p190 (www.girona.cat/call; Carrer de la Força 8; adult/child €4/free; ☎10am-6pm Mon-Sat, to 2pm Sun) Until 1492 Girona was home to Catalonia's second most important medieval Jewish community (after Barcelona), and one of the finest Jewish quarters in the country. The Call was centred on the narrow Carrer de la Força for 600 years, until relentless persecution forced the Jews out of Spain. This excellent museum shows genuine pride in Girona's Jewish heritage without shying away from the less salubrious aspects, such as persecution by the Inquisition and forced conversions.

Other well-presented displays deal with Girona's Jewish contribution to medieval astronomy and medicine, the synagogue, everyday life, and rituals in the Jewish community and the diaspora. Standout objects include funerary slabs and the original documents ordering the expulsion of Jews from Spain. Opens shorter hours in low season.

★ CATEDRAL

CATHEDRAL

Map p190 (www.catedraldegirona.org; Plaça de la Catedral; adult/student incl Basílica de Sant Fel·liu €7/5, Sun free; ☎10am-7.30pm Apr-Oct, 10am-6.30pm Nov-Mar) Towering over a flight of 86 steps rising from Plaça de la Catedral, this edifice is far more ancient than its billowing Baroque facade suggests. Built over an old Roman forum, parts of the cathedral's foundations date from the 5th century. Today Gothic styling – built over the Romanesque church during the 14th century – dominates, though a fine, double-columned Romanesque cloister dates from the 12th century. It's a surprisingly formidable sight to explore, but an audioguide is included in the price.

MUSEU D'HISTÒRIA DE GIRONA

MUSEUM

Map p190 (www.girona.cat/museuciutat; Carrer de la Força 27; adult/student/child €4/2/free; ☎10.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sat, to 1.30pm Sun) This museum's setting within 18th-century cloisters lends an appropriately antique feel to your journey from Roman Girona to the present day. Standout displays include an exhi-