



Day Trips from Barcelona

Girona p196

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 p199

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 p202

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

Sitges p204

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 p206

Sunny port city with 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 Rfo 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 (p196)
- **Place to Eat** El Cellar de Can Roca (p199)
- **Place to Drink** Bars on Plaça de l'Independència (p198)

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 (€8.40 to €15.90, 40 minutes to 1½ hours, up to 36 daily).



MUSEUM DISCOUNTS

The **GironaMuseus card** (www.gironamuseus.cat), covering six Girona museums, gives useful savings. You pay the full entrance fee at the first museum you visit and then get a 50% discount at the remainder.

Need to Know

- **Location** 85km northeast of Barcelona
- **Tourist Office** (☎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

(www.girona.cat/call; Carrer de la Força 8; adult/child €4/free; ☀10am-8pm 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 (Catalan for 'ghetto') 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

CHURCH

(www.catedraldegirona.org; Plaça de la Catedral; adult/student incl Basilica de Sant Feliu €7/5, Sun free; ☀10am-7.30pm Apr-Oct, 10am-6.30pm Nov-Mar) The baroque facade of the cathedral towers over a flight of 86 steps rising from Plaça de la Catedral. Though the Romanesque **cloister** dates to the 12th century, most of the building is Gothic, with the second-widest nave (23m) in Christendom. The 14th-century gilt-and-silver altarpiece and canopy are memorable, as are the bishop's throne and the museum, which holds the masterly Romanesque *Tapis de la creació* (Tapestry of the Creation) and a Mozarabic illuminated *Beatus* manuscript, dating from 975. The *Creation* tapestry shows God at the epicentre and in the circle around him the creation of Adam, Eve, the animals, the sky, light and darkness.