



Carleton

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world

BORDER CROSSINGS: EXPLORING THE FRENCH & SPANISH PYRENEES

September 23 - October 4, 2017 (12 Days) with
Carleton Professors Dana and Stephen Strand

*"Thank you for retaining such engaging professionals in organizing your tours.
We had a wonderful time!" - Susan, Ontario*



Dear Carleton College Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to introduce this custom-designed, early autumn tour that blends cultural excursions with active walking/hiking excursions in the company of Carleton professors Dana and Stephen Strand. Together with the Strands and expert local guides, you will explore off-the-beaten path destinations as well as some classic highlights of northeastern Spain and southern France.

Visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites: the spectacular medieval citadel of Carcassonne, a boat trip on the Canal du Midi (Europe's oldest navigable canal), and one of Antoni Gaudí's elaborate works (Sagrada Família, Barcelona). Spend two nights in Collioure, the pretty fishing port that has a long association with leading French painters such as Henri Matisse; and, of course, walk and hike in the Corbières Massif, around the town of Céret in the Pyrenees, between medieval villages on the Costa Brava, and just outside Barcelona on Montserrat. Alternatives for non-hikers include a ride on Le Train Rouge through the Corbières, and visits to the castle in Púbol and the monastery on Montserrat.

You will also enjoy a wine tasting in France, a visit to a famous cava producer in Spain, a culinary workshop focused on traditional Spanish dishes, and generally exploring the gastronomy, cultures, landscapes and architecture of two European countries that beckon well-informed travelers to return again and again.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ladner Maris '85

Sarah Ladner Maris ('85)

President, Carleton College Alumni Association

ITINERARY

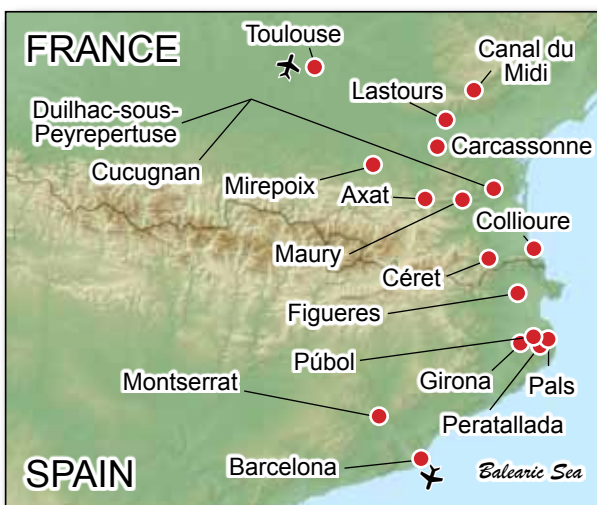
(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (D)= Dinner

Saturday, September 23, 2017: Depart HOME

Depart home on independent flights to Toulouse, France.

Sunday, September 24: TOULOUSE, France | CARCASSONNE

Arrive at Toulouse-Blagnac Airport (TLS). A group transfer in the early afternoon takes us from the airport to Carcassonne, approximately one hour away. Check-in to our hotel, a ten-minute walk from the Citadel, of which there are spectacular views from the hotel's restaurant. After a chance to get settled and freshen up, we take a guided tour of the Citadel before gathering this evening for a welcome dinner. *Overnight at the Hôtel des Trois Couronnes for two nights.* (D)



Monday, September 25: CARCASSONNE | MIREPOIX | LASTOURS | CARCASSONNE

This morning we drive to the medieval town of Mirepoix to enjoy its weekly market in the medieval town square. After an independent lunch we drive to the Châteaux de Lastours, four Cathar strongholds in a line, perched high on a ridge. Following a guided tour of the site, we return to Carcassonne for an evening at leisure. (B)

Tuesday, September 26: CARCASSONNE | CANAL DU MIDI | DUILHAC-SOUS-PEYREPERTUSE

Check out of our hotel and enjoy a cruise on the Canal du Midi, a 17th-century, 224-mile-long network of waterways and UNESCO World Heritage site that makes it possible to cruise across France, from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. After an independent lunch in Carcassonne, transfer to Duilhac-sous-Peyrepertuse, a tiny village deep in the Corbières Mountains, with a stop along the way for a wine tasting. Check in to our hotel, get settled, and gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the Hôtellerie du Vieux Moulin or its annex 500 ft. away.* (B,D)

Wednesday, September 27: DUILHAC-SOUS-PEYREPERTUSE | CUCUGNAN or AXAT and MAURY | COLLIOURE



Walking distance 7 mi.

The village of Duilhac-sous-Peyrepertuse sits at the foot of the Castle of Peyrepertuse, which we visit today. This requires a 45-minute walk from the parking area to the castle itself. The views from the castle are breathtaking. At about noon, we split into two groups (weather-permitting). Group A, together with their professional, English-speaking walking guide, will be dropped off at Cucugnan and embark on a 3.5 hour circular hike through the mountains, including a picnic lunch and visit to another Cathar castle: Queribus.

They will arrive back in Cucugnan in late afternoon, where their vehicle will be awaiting them. Meanwhile, Group B will drive to Axat, high in the mountains. After visiting the town and having lunch, Group B will take Le Train Rouge to Maury, chugging its way slowly past some spectacular scenery in the Corbières. (Le Train Rouge requires a minimum number of passengers to operate.) In Maury, late this afternoon, they will be picked up by the vehicle (with Group A) en route to Collioure. Dinner is on your own tonight. *Overnight at Hotel La Casa Païral for two nights.* (B,L)

Thursday, September 28: COLLIOURE | CÉRET | COLLIOURE

Walking distance 5 mi.

Drive to Céret, where we split into two groups (weather-permitting). Group A will take a circular hike in the hills around the town, with their professional, English-speaking walking guide. Meanwhile, Group B will remain in Céret for a morning at leisure, perhaps to visit the important Modern Art Museum. Both groups will have an independent lunch in Céret and then return as a single group to Collioure. The balance of the day is at leisure to explore the lanes and waterfront of this attractive, coastal village with its strong artistic tradition. (B)

Friday, September 29: COLLIOURE | FIGUERES, Spain | GIRONA

Check out of our hotel and drive across the border into Spain, to the town of Figueres, for a guided tour of the Salvador Dalí Museum. After an independent lunch in town, continue on to Girona and check-in to our hotel. Take a guided walk through the historical old town, including the Cathedral and its famous Creation Tapestry. Dinner is on your own tonight. *Overnight at Hotel Peninsular Girona for two nights.* (B)

Saturday, September 30: GIRONA | PALS | PERATALLADA or PÚBOL | GIRONA

Walking distance 4 mi.

Drive to the attractive medieval village of Pals for a brief visit. We then split into two groups (weather-permitting). Group A will walk from Pals to the equally picturesque and equally



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Left, Carcassonne castle. Above, street view of Céret. Below, a typical bridge spanning the Canal du Midi. Above right, a panoramic view of the village of Maury. Right, a view of the monastery at Montserrat.



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old village of Peratallada. Meanwhile, Group B will drive to the village of Púbol and visit the small castle that Salvador Dalí gave to his wife, Gala. The groups will reunite for lunch in a traditional Catalan “masía,” just outside of Peratallada. Return to Girona for the balance of the day at leisure. (B,L)

Sunday, October 1: GIRONA | BARCELONA

Check out of our hotel and drive to Barcelona, where we take a guided orientation tour of the city. After an independent lunch, we gather for a guided tour of Antoni Gaudí’s famous Sagrada Familia. The balance of the day is at leisure. *Overnight at the Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza (or similar) for three nights.* (B)

Monday, October 2: BARCELONA | MONTSERRAT | PENEDÈS WINE REGION | BARCELONA

Walking Distance 4.5 mi.

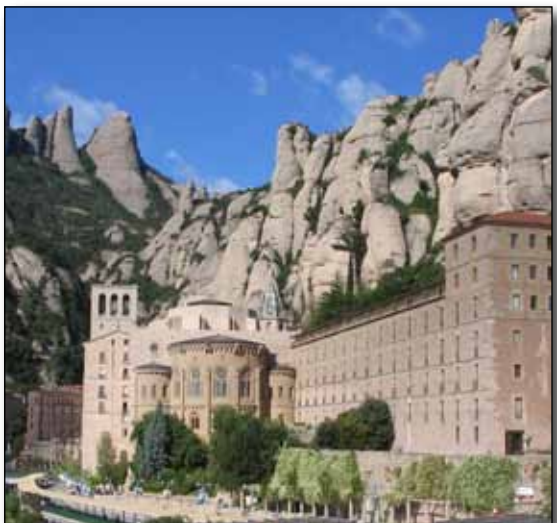
Drive to the Benedictine monastery at Montserrat, located in an extraordinary limestone mountain range just outside of Barcelona, where we split into two groups (weather-permitting): Group A will hike in the hills for a couple of hours, while Group B visits the Basilica. The groups reunite and drive to world-famous cava (sparkling wine) producer Codorníu Winery, a traditional family business, where we enjoy a light lunch followed by a guided tour of the winery. Return to Barcelona for the balance of the day at leisure. (B,L)

Tuesday, October 3: BARCELONA

This morning we visit the vibrant La Boqueria Market, on La Rambla (the city’s most famous street), followed by a culinary workshop focused on traditional Spanish dishes. In this workshop we participate in preparing the food for our own lunch today. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening we gather for a farewell tapas dinner. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, October 4: BARCELONA | HOME

Transfer to Barcelona airport (BCN) for independent flights homeward. (B)



TOUR PRICE (Per Person)

Double Occupancy (20-25 participants)	\$5,995
Double Occupancy (15-19 participants)	\$6,745
Single Supplement	\$825

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).

RATES INCLUDE:

- Faculty leaders Dana and Stephen Strand;
- Ten nights' accommodations as per the itinerary;
- Group arrival and departure transfers on tour dates, based upon suggested times TBA;
- Surface transportation by air-conditioned motor coach, with bottled water provided;
- Breakfast daily, plus 4 lunches and 3 dinners including mineral water and wine;
- All excursions and entrance fees as per the itinerary;
- English-speaking local guides;
- English-speaking Tour Manager;
- Gratuities to porters, drivers, guides and Tour Manager;
- Local taxes and service charges;
- Baggage handling at hotels;
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, including a suggested reading guide, travel guide, and packing list.

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE: Airfare; passport and inoculation charges; all airport departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic or other beverages except as noted above; taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; portage or individual transfers to join or leave the group when traveling independently; and any items not specifically indicated as included.

PASSENGER CANCELLATION FEES: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received at least one hundred twenty-one (121) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) per person. Cancellations received between one hundred twenty (120) and ninety-one (91) days prior to departure are subject to a fee equal to fifty percent (50%) of the tour cost. Cancellations received ninety (90) days or less before departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *You are strongly encouraged to obtain trip cancellation insurance (an application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit).*

Prices, itinerary and leaders are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to EOS-Passenger Account-CAA Pyrenees9/17. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure and must be by personal check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published. Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation and are available upon request.

Carleton College Faculty Leaders



Dana Strand is Andrew W. Mellon Professor of French and the Humanities Emerita at Carleton College, where she taught courses on 20th- and 21st-century French and Francophone literature, with a special emphasis on North Africa. She has published extensively on French literature, culture, and film. The founding director of the European Studies concentration at Carleton, she also served on the Middle Eastern Studies Initiative. Dana has led student programs to Paris, southwestern France, Turkey, and Morocco.



Stephen Strand is Raymond Plank Professor of Incentive Economics Emeritus at Carleton College. Before retiring in 2015, he taught courses in the Economics of the European Union, the Political Economy of the Turkish Republic, Turkey and the European Union, and a two-term course in Accounting and Management Science. In 2013, Steve was an Affiliate Visiting Professor at Georgetown University's McGhee Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies in Alanya, Turkey. He has led student programs to Egypt, Turkey, and Morocco; to Paris; and to Cambridge University, England. In 2015, he and Dana lectured on a Carleton-sponsored, small-ship cruise in the western Mediterranean.

What to Expect

This custom-designed tour combines active walking/hiking in the hills and mountains with expert-led visits to historical and cultural sites. It is ideal for people with basic levels of fitness who are prepared, on occasion, to walk for up to 3½ hours at a time along paths that may be uneven, of varying gradients, and/or wet. **The distance of each active walking/hiking day is estimated in the enclosed itinerary. The average daily distance for those days is about five miles, with varying degrees of ascent.** The most difficult ascent likely will be the walk from the ticket office to the Castle of Peyrepertuse at just over 2,600 feet above sea level (Sept. 27th), which is a bit of an up-and-down scramble on a rocky and uneven path. Those who intend to take part in the active walking/hiking excursions should feel confident in their ability to physically keep up with the group and not be dependent upon assistance from others. For non-hikers who are interested in joining the tour, **alternative arrangements are available (as outlined in the itinerary) on the active walking/hiking days.** The actual itinerary is subject to variables such as the abilities of the group and the weather conditions. In late September/early October, average daytime temperatures in the region range from 68°F in Carcassone to 73°F in Barcelona. There can be rainfall, which heralds the change of season from summer to autumn. All participants are expected to be physically active, not be an impediment to others on excursions, and enjoy traveling as part of a group. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. Our office will provide you with comprehensive pre-departure information, including packing suggestions.

For questions and to make a reservation please contact:



800-811-7244

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