

Gustavus Adolphus Wind Orchestra American Celebration of Music in Spain and France

January 19 – February 1, 2023 (12 nights/14 days)

Day 1 Thursday, January 19, 2023

Depart via scheduled air service to Barcelona, Spain

Day 2 Friday, January 20 Barcelona / Tarragona / Valencia (D)

Arrive in Barcelona

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Transfer to Valencia via Tarragona

Excursion to Tarragona. Sightseeing in Tarragona includes visits to the Archeological Promenade and Amphitheatre. Also see the Roman Mosaics. Set in a cliff over the beach, this ancient amphitheater was the site where gladiators and wild beasts fought until death for the amusement of the crowds

Continue to Valencia for an orientation tour of the city, followed by late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Valencia, lies close to the Mediterranean on the right bank of the Río Turia. Described in an ancient saying as "a piece of heaven fallen to earth", Valencia is a typically southern town with its bustling streets and the brightly colored azulejo domes of its many churches. The climate is unusually mild and predominantly dry. During the Civil War, in 1936-37, it was the seat of the Republican government, and it was the last Republican stronghold to fall to Franco on March 30, 1939, two days after Madrid

Day 3 Saturday, January 21 Valencia (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour of Valencia which includes the Old Town. See the Palacio de la Generalidad and Lonja (Silk Exchange). Northwest of the Cathedral, in Calle de Caballeros, stands the Palacio de la Generalidad, built between 1510 and 1579 to house the parliament of the kingdom of Valencia and now occupied by the Diputación Provincial

Lunch, on own

Afternoon time at leisure for shopping and sightseeing

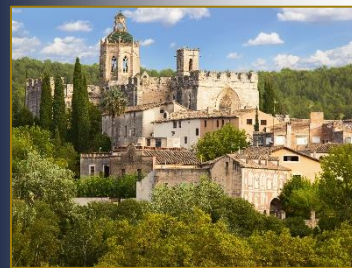
Dinner included, and overnight

Day 4 Sunday, January 22 Bunol / Valencia (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Bunol, located along the Bunol River. The city is surrounded by the mountain ranges La Sierra de Las Cabrillas, la Sierra de Dos Aguas, and la Sierra de Malacara y Martes. Archaeological evidence has indicated civilization going back 50,000 years

Lunch, on own



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*Shared Performance with Local Band at Auditory of the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain**

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 5 Monday, January 23 Barcelona (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Barcelona

Lunch, on own

A guided tour includes the Eixample Quarter, location of many of Barcelona's best Modernista buildings. Travel down the Passeig de Gràcia, a luxurious street adorned with elegant wrought iron street lamps which contains the finest examples of Modernist architecture in Barcelona. Pass by Parc Güell. Then visit the La Sagrada Família, Europe's most unconventional church, yet uncompleted

Dinner included, and overnight

Barcelona was originally founded by the Phoenicians. Although it belongs to Spain, it is the capital of Catalonia, and is a more dynamic city than ever, hosting the 1992 World Olympic Games. It is a large industrial center with a very busy port; it's also a university town, and important cultural center with an opera-house and many museums, theaters and concert halls

Day 6 Tuesday, January 24 Montserrat / Barcelona (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day sightseeing to Montserrat to visit the monastery. The monastery, with its church and the various subsidiary buildings, is a little city on its own. The monastery complex proper is reached by way of the Plaza de la Cruz (Catalan Plaça de la Creu), which is flanked by a restaurant, souvenir shops, a post office, payphones and a bureau de change. Hear Escolania, one of Europe's oldest boys choir sing the 11 am Mass in the monastery

Lunch, on own

Return to Barcelona

*Shared Performance with the Student Band of the Conservatori de Liceu at the Church of Pi in Barcelona as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain**

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 7 Wednesday, January 25 Lleida / Barcelona (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Lleida, the capital of this province in Catalonia, known for its rich wind band history and culture. Built on high ground to command a point where communications crossed, Caesar's and Pompey's legions stormed it savagely. Visit the splendid Seu Vella (Old Cathedral) a veritable jewel of Gothic and Romanesque architecture, and the knights' templar castle of Gardeny. Below the hill stretches the long, pedestrianized Eix Comercial de Lleida, with shops set inside many of the old town's striking buildings

Lunch, on own

Afternoon meeting and exchange with local band

*Shared Performance with Band of the Municipality of Lleida at Auditori Eric Granados in Lleida as part of the American Celebration of Music in Spain**



Return to Barcelona
Dinner included, and overnight

Day 8 Thursday, January 26 Perpignan / Avignon (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Avignon via Perpignan
Excursion to Perpignan. The city has preserved an extensive old center with its *bodegas* in the historic centre, colored houses in a series of picturesque streets and alleys stretching between the banks of the Têt and its tributary, the Basse
Lunch, on own
Continue to Avignon
Dinner included, and overnight

Protected by its ramparts, the historic core of Avignon is a lively center of art and culture. For 68 years it was the residence first of seven French Popes, then of three others once Pope Gregory XI had returned to Rome in 1377, then of the Papal Legates who remained here until the city was reunited with France in 1791

Day 9 Friday, January 27 Avignon (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Enjoy a half day guided tour of Avignon, including entrance to the Palais des Papes, the site of the Papal Court during much of the 1300's. Seven "official" popes reigned here, followed by three "anti-popes." Also visit the famous Pont St-Bénézet (best known from the children's round "Sur le pont d'Avignon"), built in 1177, and for centuries the only stone bridge over the Rhône
Lunch, on own
Performance at Auditorium le Pontet in Avignon as part of the American Celebration of Music in France*
Dinner included, and overnight

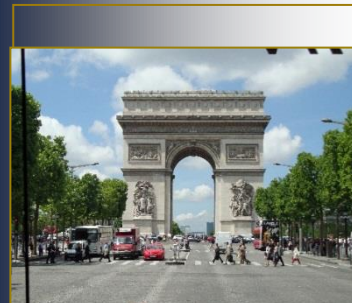
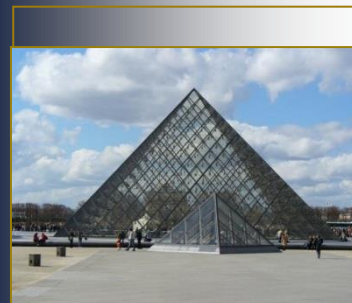
Day 10 Saturday, January 28 Paris (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Full day transfer to Paris
Lunch, on own
Enjoy a brief orientation tour of the city upon arrival
Dinner included, and overnight

With its grand boulevards, Streetside cafés, magnificent architecture, and river vistas, it takes little to understand why Paris is known as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. There is nothing more inspiring than walking the streets of Paris taking in the dynamic atmosphere. Paris is a place that breathes history and legend, a perfect combination of the modern and the ancient

Day 11 Sunday, January 29 Paris (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
Afternoon guided tour of *Paris historique*. See the most historic parts of the city including seeing the Notre-Dame Cathedral during the restoration process after the devastating fire in 2019, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Latin Quarter, Place de la Bastille, Invalides Hospital, and other Parisian highlights



Lunch, on own

Afternoon meeting and exchange with local band

*Shared Performance at La Madeleine in Paris as part of the American Celebration of Music in France**

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 12 Monday, January 30 Paris (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a tour of *Paris artistique*, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world, with more than 45,000 works of art displayed over 700,000 sq. ft. It's packed with enough artistic masterpieces to make the Mona Lisa weep. Rembrandt, Reubens, Botticelli, Ingres, and Michelangelo are all represented here; subjects range from the grandiose (Antoine-Jean Gros's gigantic Napoleon Bonaparte Visiting the Plague-Stricken in Jaffa) to the mundane (Vermeer's tiny, exquisite Lacemaker). You can gape at a diamond the size of a golf ball in the gilded Galerie d'Apollon or marvel over exquisite bronze figurines in the vast Egyptian section, there's something for everyone

Lunch, on own

*Performance at Salle des Fetes in Paris as part of the American Celebration of Music in France**

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 13 Tuesday, January 31 Versailles / Paris (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Take a guided tour of Versailles Palace. Louis XIV transformed his father's hunting lodge into the monumental Château de Versailles in the mid-17th century, and it remains France's most famous and grand palace. Situated in the leafy, bourgeois suburb of Versailles, southwest of central Paris, the baroque château was the kingdom's political capital and the seat of the royal court from 1682 up until the fateful events of 1789 when revolutionaries massacred the palace guard. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were ultimately dragged back to Paris, where they were ingloriously guillotined.

Lunch, on own

Afternoon time at leisure in Paris for shopping and sightseeing

Farewell Dinner included, followed by Bateaux Mouches Cruise

Overnight at the hotel

Day 14 Wednesday, February 1 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Paris Airport for return flight home

**Subject to confirmation*

***This is a very flexible itinerary.** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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