

# NORTHERN SPAIN, ANDORRA, & BASQUE FRANCE

Autumn greetings from your fellow Adventurers at WAI!

We're happy to present one of our new Adventures, exploring the vibrant culture, breathtaking scenery, and enthralling history of *Northern Spain, Andorra, & Basque France*!

Our program starts in the Catalan city of Barcelona, on the Mediterranean coast. After some great walking there, we depart for the tiny principality of Andorra and several days of exploration in the fascinatingly remote Pyrenees communities of Catalan and Aragon. We first see the Bay of Biscay and the Atlantic Ocean at San Sebastian, our base to open a window into Basque country and culture on both sides of the French/Spanish border. Further west, Picos de Europa National Park provides one of many excellent nature walks on this Adventure. The old Christian medieval capital of Leon then becomes our gateway to the famed Way of Saint James (El Camino de Santiago), which takes us west into Galicia, culminating in a full day to explore Santiago de Compostela. Some of Spain's best cuisine and most celebrated wines will sustain us as we enjoy a variety of walk venues in these three countries.

## Possible Portugal Extension

We are currently considering an extension to Northern Spain, Andorra, & Basque France through northern Portugal. During our planning trip, we mapped out three new walks and are currently putting together details on this optional addition to the Adventure. Because the main tour is a couple days longer than usual, we'll be asking for your input before we commit to the extension.

## Announcing dates for a Second Departure!

We are opening up another Spain departure in the fall of 2010!

## Northern Spain, Andorra, & Basque France

**September 26-October 9, 2010 \* 14 DAYS \* \$4600**

A possible Portugal Extension may also be offered for this departure. Send in your \$50 refundable Early Bird deposit to save a spot on the second departure! *Once we receive 20 Early Bird deposits, we'll officially confirm Departure #2.*

## Two is sometimes better than one

WAI is also offering *Italy—Venice, Tuscany, & the Eternal City of Rome* in 2010, and it just happens to finish right before our *Spain, Andorra, & France* (1st Departure) trip begins. Travelers who decide to maximize their airfare by doing both trips, back to back, will receive a free connecting flight from Rome, Italy to Barcelona, Spain!

## How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

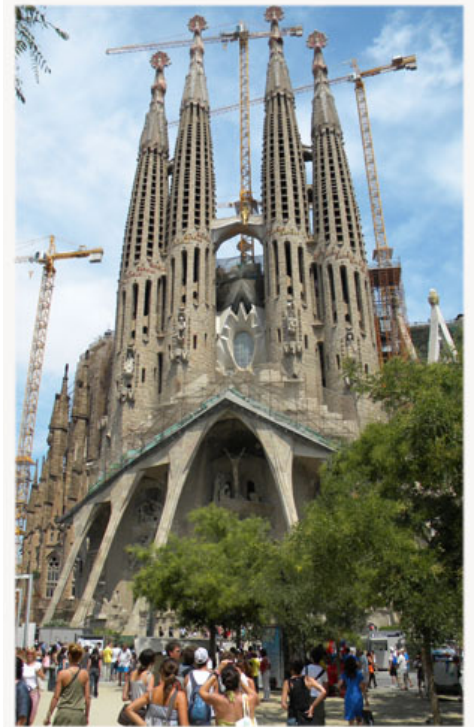
If you are among the travelers who have submitted an Early Bird deposit, your spot on the list is secure until **October 29**. Travelers who have submitted Early Bird deposits will be accepted in the order in which they submitted their deposit. After October 29, we will begin filling any open spots that have become available. A maximum of 30 travelers will be accepted on any one departure.

## Cancellation policy

Due to the changing contract policies of our vendors, we have adjusted our cancellation policy for 2010. Please see the General Tour Conditions sheet for more details.

## How is airfare arranged?

The official start point for this tour is Barcelona, Spain, and we finish the Adventure in Madrid. We recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is a good investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will be



provided in the *Adventure Advice* flyer, enclosed with your first invoice after you register for the Adventure. **Please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!**

*NOTE: Though Madrid is not the focus of this Adventure (we start here on our Walking Classic Spain & Portugal Adventure), travelers are encouraged to consider adding days to explore the capital of Spain on their own.*

### **Travel Insurance**

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the enclosures for more detailed information.)

**IMPORTANT:** The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for pre-existing conditions, provided you purchase the insurance at the time you register for the trip, or within 14 days of your registration. Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.

### **Group Travel Credit**

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name in writing to us before you make any deposits, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full registration payment is needed to officially reserve your place.

### **What Happens Next?**

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter and an *Adventure Advice* flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Now is a great time to begin planning your travels along the ancient Way of St. James! Be prepared to get off the coach with us and experience a walking program that will open your eyes to a side of Northern Spain, Andorra, & Basque France that few travelers experience! We look forward to exploring the countryside, castles, cathedrals, culture, and cuisine of the Iberian Peninsula with you next Spring!

***Until then...Adiós!***



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