

FRANCE & SPAIN: MEDITERRANEAN VERMILLION COAST

7-days/ 6-nights from Collioure to Cadaques **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walk **IDEAL SPRING & AUTUMN**



Discover the delightful Vermillion Coast on an exceptional walk along the Mediterranean Sea from France into Spain, exploring the magnificent rocky headlands and sea-cliffs of Catalonia. Ideal from early spring and in the European autumn, this walk is the perfect link between two great countries and two inspirational cultures.

Walk along the rugged coastline known locally as the Côte Vermeille for its pink rocks and terracotta tiled roofs, much loved by artists, including Dalí and Miró. From the coast to the mountains, from sea to crag, from sandy beach to rocky cliff, this is a diverse natural landscape full of contrast, with clear emerald waters and charming fishing villages which offer splendid views. A world of friendly people with a unique culture, not to mention Catalan cuisine – you may never bother with butter again after tasting *pa amb tomaquet* (bread rubbed with tomato, olive oil and garlic).

This is a region steeped in ancient and modern history. The path leading from Banyuls to the border with Spain follows the route taken by Walter Benjamin, the German-Jewish philosopher, on 24th September 1940 and by many Jewish refugees during World War II. At the end of your tour, you may also like to take extra time and visit the many local historical sites and the Salvador Dalí Museum at Figueras.

Dates: Daily (except Thursdays/Fridays) from 1st April – 30th June & 1st September – 31st October 2020

Difficulty: The walking is best described as moderate and should present no difficulties for anyone in reasonable condition and accustomed to walking up and down 650m or so in a day. Distances of 12 - 25km and the daily ascents make each day a full one.

Cost from: **\$1440** per person twin share Single room supplement from \$380,
Solo Traveller Supplement from \$270

Includes: Breakfast daily, dinner on 4 nights, luggage transfers, route descriptions, maps, tax and service charges, emergency telephone support (if required).

Not included: Lunches, dinners on 2 nights, drinks, personal expenses, entrance fees, arrival / departure transfers (can be arranged at extra cost)

Starts: **Collioure** (is the nearest train station). Nearest airports: Girona, Barcelona and Perpignan.

Ends: **Cadaques**. Nearest train station: Figueres. Nearest airports: Girona and Barcelona

Accommodation and Meals: Accommodation is in small 2 and 3-star hotels on a half board basis (evening meal and breakfast) on 4 nights, bed and breakfast only on 2 nights. Picnic lunches on walking days are not included in the tour cost, but picnic materials can readily be bought in local shops or a packed lunch ordered the night before from your accommodation.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive Collioure, in France.

Make your way to the pretty fishing port of Collioure surrounded by beaches and a dramatic coastline that has attracted artists such as Matisse and Picasso. The town is dominated by the ancient port walls and stone lighthouse. Overnight stay at a 2-star hotel in Collioure with plenty of seafood restaurants to choose for dinner.

Day 2 Collioure to Banyuls sur Mer

walking @ 14km (4 hours)

You begin this walk up from Collioure at sea level and along a mix of coastal paths, orange groves and country lanes. The route follows a rocky promontory looking out across the clear blue sea before descending through vineyards to the fishing village of Banyuls. Overnight and dinner in a 3-star hotel in Banyuls.

Day 3 Banyuls sur Mer to Llança

walking @ 13km (5½ hours)

From the vineyards the walk takes you through thick woodlands up onto another ridge for a panoramic view of France and Spain. Follow this ridge to the border and descend back to sea level at Port Bou in Spain. It is a short train journey to Llança (paid locally). Overnight accommodation and dinner in a 2-star hotel in Llança.

Day 4 Llança to Port de la Selva

walking @ 14km (4 - 5 hours)

Your walk starts with an ascent to the Sant Père de Rodes monastery with its impressive Romanesque art and distinctive Arab and Carolingian influences. Again there are spectacular views before the descent to Port de la Selva where you stay overnight with dinner in a 2-star hotel.

Day 5 Port de la Selva to Cadaques

walking @ 25km (7½ hours)

Following a country pathway through a typical rural landscape you reach Cap de Creus, a magical place where the Mediterranean Sea, stirred up by the *Tramontane*, rushes into the *Cova de l'Infern*. Follow a picturesque path with low stone walls to Port Lligat, pass close to Salvador Dalí's former home and then walk down to Cadaques for a two night stay in a 3-star hotel with dinner included on one night.

Day 6 Circular walk from Cadaques

walking @ 20km (4½ hours)

Today choose a relaxing day of sightseeing or a circular walk using Cadaques as your base. The walk will take you up into the hills to Cala Nans, before descending to the coast. Dinner tonight is at your own arrangement.

Day 7 Depart from Cadaques.

Tour ends after breakfast. Public transport out of the town is limited to just one or two early morning buses. The most convenient nearby train station is at Figueres; transfers to Figueres can be arranged at extra cost, ask for details when booking.



We recommend staying an extra night at Cadaques, with an opportunity to see some more of the landscapes which inspired Dalí. Please ask for details and costs. To visit the Dalí Museum at Figueres before onward travel to the airport at Barcelona or Perpignan or returning to Collioure, make an early start by bus or taxi.

Other **Outdoor Travel** walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals are available in many parts of Europe including the spectacular **Pyrenees Mountains to the Mediterranean Sea**, the majestic and historical **Cathar Castles** walk, the **Way of St James** from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain or the **Via Francigena**, the pilgrim's Road to Rome in Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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