

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 Figueres.

Departs: Daily (except Wednesdays/Thursdays) from 20 April - 30 June & 14 September - 31 October

Starts: Collioure **Ends:** Cadaques

Cost from: **\$2040** per person twin share
Single room supplement from \$530, Solo Traveller Supplement from \$550
High season supplement from \$245 per person twin-share (16 - 30 June)

Includes: 6 nights' accommodation, 6 breakfasts, 5 dinners, luggage transfers (weight limits apply), route notes and maps (1 set per room), local taxes and service charges, emergency telephone support (if required).

Not included: Lunches, dinner on 1 night, drinks, personal expenses, entrance fees, arrival/departure transfers (can be arranged at extra cost)

Accommodation and Meals: Accommodation is in small mainly 3-star hotels with 5 nights half board (breakfast and dinner) and 1 night bed and breakfast only. Lunches are not included in the tour cost, but picnic materials can be bought in local shops, or a packed lunch ordered the night before from your accommodation.

Grading: Moderate, with daily distances of 13-25km (5-7 hours) and daily ascent of 200-655 metres, over undulating coastal terrain. Walking paths can sometimes be rough or rocky underfoot. Warm temperatures can make the walking more challenging.

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 the stone lighthouse. Overnight at a 3-star hotel in Collioure, with dinner included.

Day 2 Collioure to Banyuls sur Mer

walking @ 14km

Ascend past terraced vineyards to Fort St-Elme, drop down to bustling Port Vendres then up to the lighthouse at Cap Béar looking out across the clear blue sea. Follow the path along the rocky cape 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

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 3-star hotel in Llança.

Day 4 Llança to Port de la Selva

walking @ 14km

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 4-star hotel.

Day 5 Port de la Selva to Cadaques

walking @ 25km

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

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 Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast. Public transport out of Cadaques 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 **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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