5 Days Catalonia & Barcelona

All Departures Are Guaranteed

09.03. to 13.03.2020 – with 4****Hotel Onabrava 23.03. to 27.03.2020 – with 4****Hotel Onabrava 20.04. to 24.04.2020 – with 4****Hotel Aquamarina 27.04. to 01.05.2020 – with 4****Hotel Aquamarina 04.05. to 08.05.2020 – with 4****Hotel Aquamarina 11.05. to 15.05.2020 – with 4****Hotel Aquamarina 18.05. to 22.05.2020 – with 4****Hotel Aquamarina

Day 1: Arrival Barcelona – Santa Susanna

Arrival of the guests to Barcelona Airport and welcome by our english/french/german speaking guide. Departure from airport to the 4****Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 2: Barcelona

BB and full day excursion to the capital of Catalonia, which is certainly a miraculous city due to the convenient location in the north-east of the Iberian Peninsula, the pleasant climate all year, and the hospitality of the nearly three million inhabitants. Barcelona is the cradle of the Catalan culture, which people abroad only know very little about. Barcelona is full of magic: no matter what time or what day it is, you are never alone in the city. Unless the F.C. Barcelona is playing, then the streets are empty. Barcelona has something to offer for everyone: Concerts, operas, theatres, exhibits, excellent restaurants, international fairs, museums, shops and art galleries, but also a fantastic nightlife, modern night clubs and bizarre bars. You can expect a city of full live and charm. Above all, architecturally Barcelona is a very diverse city with many famous buildings, for example the Gothic quarter of the city, the Ramblas, the Plaza de Cataluña, to the Passeig de Gracia, La Sagrada Familia, hospital de Sant Pau, Park Güell, harbour quarter of Barcelona, Columbus monument and the Gaudi museum. Afternoon free and transfer back to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3: Costa Brava – Figueres

BB und full day trip alongside the Costa Brava, passing by the cities Lloret de Mar and Tossa de Mar with the possibility to visit the gardens of Clotilde in Lloret de Mar. The gardens are set on land close to the cliff edge in a particularly beautiful part of the Costa Brava. Building work began in 1927 under Dr. Raúl Roviralta, with the collaboration of Nicolás María Rubió i Tudurí, who succeeded in making the most of this outstanding location though his skillful use of the area's steep slopes and uneven relief. From the esplanade of the house there are three main

visual axes. The most important of these is a large green staircase with sculptures of mermaids by María Llimona. All the paths, avenues, squares and steps are set off by clipped hedges that form splendid green architectural shapes. The gardens were designed under the influence of images of the Italian Renaissance, combining their sophistication and rigor. While working on the ensemble, Rubio departed from the style of his teacher, the French architect Forestier, and from the combination of Arab, Spanish and French elements of landscape design, which was used in their work together on Montjuic gardens; instead, he recreated the Renaissance style which better reflected the preferences of the Catalan society at that time. The splendor and harmony of the park convey the agreement between the customer's wishes – the Marguis of Roviralta and the mastery of the artist. Gardens of Santa Clotilde are perfectly preserved to this day. Tiered terraces, crossing paths, steps and slopes are interwoven with the murmur of flowing in the grottoes and fountains of water and create a beautiful picture against the backdrop of the sea filling the horizon. Park sends its visitors an impression of the Villa Medici, the Villa Borghese and Garden Bobolli – Florence, all of which served as inspiration for the architect. In the afternoon the trip will be continued to Figueres, the birthplace of the famous artist Salvador Dalí, and houses the Teatre-Museu Gala Salvador Dalí, a large museum designed by Dalí himself which attracts many visitors. Dalí was born in 1904 and expelled from the Academy in 1926, shortly before his final exams when he was accused of starting an unrest. His mastery of painting skills at that time was evidenced by his realistic Basket of bread painted in 1926. That same year, he made his first visit to Paris, where he met Pablo Picasso, whom the young Dalí revered. Picasso had already heard favorable reports about Dalí from Joan Miró, a fellow Catalan who introduced him to many Surrealist friends. As he developed his own style over the next few years, Dalí made a number of works heavily influenced by Picasso and Miró. In 1940 he emigrated with Gala Eluard to the United States and came back to Europe in 1948 as a world-famous artist. In Figueres we dedicate the most of our time to the extraordinary painter and visit his museum. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Girona – Besalu

BB and full day trip to Girona and Besalu. The excursion starts with Girona, where the city tour and the visit of the cathedral are included. The first inhabitants of the region of Girona were probably the Iberians. After the Romans, the Visigoths ruled Girona until it was conquered by the Moors. By Charles the Great, the city was recaptured 785 and made to one of the fourteen original counties of Catalonia. In 793 Girona was destroyed, pillaged and depopulated by Hisham I, emir of Córdoba. Alfonso II. in the 12th century, gave Girona the city rights. In the 12th century a large Jewish community lived in Girona. Here was the place of one of the most important Kabbalistic schools in Europe. The history of the Jewish community of Girona ended in 1492, when the Catholic Kings expelled by the Alhambra Decree all Jews from Spain. The ancient cathedral, which stood on the site of the present one, was used by the Moors as a mosque, and after their final expulsion was either entirely remodelled or rebuilt. The present edifice is one of the most important monuments of the school of the Majorcan architect Jaume Fabre and an excellent example of Catalan Gothic architecture. It is approached by eighty-six steps. An aisle and chapels surround the choir, which opens by three arches into the nave, of which the pointed stone vault is the widest in Christendom (22 meters). Among its interior decorations is a retable which is the work of the Valencian silversmith Pere Bernec. It is divided into three tiers of statuettes and reliefs, framed in canopied niches of cast and hammered silver. A gold and silver altar-frontal was carried off by the French in 1809. In the afternoon the trip continues to Besalu a small medieval city, that was designated as a historical national property in 1966. The town's importance was greater in the early Middle Ages, as capital of the county of Besalú. Its most significant feature is its 12thcentury Romanesque bridge over the Fluvià river,

which features a gateway at its midpoint. The church of Sant Pere was consecrated in 1003. The town features arcaded streets and squares and also a restored mikveh, a ritual Jewish bath dating from the eleventh or twelfth century, as well as the remains of a medieval synagogue, located in the lower town near the river. Besalú also hosts the Museum of miniatures created by jeweler and art collector Lluís Carreras. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5: Barcelona – Departure

BB and leisure time. Transfer in time to the Barcelona airport.

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Not included are: Other meals, beverages and personal expenses Not declared services like porterage, etc Flights Other entrance fees Site Inspection Tours

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