



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
ALUMNI

AUGUST 9-17, 2026

Featuring Faculty Host
Kelly Douglass

CATALONIA AND THE COSMOS

Orbridge

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE ON THE SPANISH COAST

Catalonia and the Cosmos | Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day 1 EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day 2 ARRIVE IN BARCELONA, SPAIN | EMPORDÀ (D)

Upon arrival an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the property. Take time to unpack and settle in before joining fellow travel companions for a welcome dinner.

Day 3 GIRONA (B,D) Begin with a comprehensive guided walking tour of Girona. Gothic spires, Romanesque towers and cultural highlights encompass more than 2,000 years of history. Your guide takes you through the old Jewish Quarter, or the Call—one of the best preserved in the world—with its narrow streets and fascinating squares. After lunch on your own gather together at colorful Rocambolesc Gelateria to taste confections guaranteed to satisfy the strongest sweet tooth. Late afternoon return to the property for a hands-on cooking class to learn the art of making paella.

Day 4 BARCELONA | SANT PAU D'ORDAL (B,L,D) Set off on a guided chocolate factory tour for a glimpse of the fascinating machinery and techniques used in producing high-quality chocolate from bean to bar. Afterward enjoy lunch before an inside visit to Vinseum, a museum featuring a range of exhibits covering the history of winemaking in the Penedès region. Continue to Albet I Noya, a prestigious winery that has been a trailblazer in sustainable winemaking since the late 1970s. The day is highlighted by the awe-inspiring 2026 solar eclipse. Witness this celestial phenomenon where the moon slowly encroaches on the sun.

Day 5 PÚBOL | FIGUERES | PALAU SALOR (B,L,D) Immerse yourself in the surreal world of Salvador Dalí. After breakfast set out for Púbol to tour Gala's Castle—a serene and secluded refuge Salvador Dalí gave to his beloved wife and muse, Gala. Continue to the Dalí Theatre-Museum for an inside visit. Next stop at the medieval town of Palau Sator for a brief walking tour, plus a visit to the museum Rural De Palau-Sator. Gather together for a lovely dinner at Mas Pou Restaurant before returning to the property.

Day 6 LA BISBAL | EMPÚRIES | L'ESCALA (B,D) Walk through the local market in La Bisbal, the capital of Catalan pottery, admiring the colorful goods on display. Continue to the ruins of Empúries to view part of the legacy left behind by Greek and Roman civilizations. Abandoned and buried by years of sand blowing in from the coast, this area showcases ruins of excavated temples and sanctuaries, plus remnants of artifacts including pottery and mosaics. Tonight dine at a Michelin-starred restaurant in Girona.

Day 7 MONELLS | CALELLA DE PALAFRUGELL | ST. SEBASTIA (LLAFRANC) | PALAMOS (B,L,D) Visit the small (and less-frequented) medieval town of Monells with a population of around 200. During a guided walk notice the Gothic-influenced stone houses and arched walkways. Drive to Palafrugell for a seaside walk between Calella de Palafrugell and Llafranc—two of three coastal areas belonging to the municipality of Palafrugell—before lunch. This afternoon features an excursion to Museu de la Pesca to learn about the fishing industry's history and importance to the region and culture. Continue to a local market to see a fish auction in action. Peruse the fresh seafood, including selections you will use in a hands-on cooking class to create dishes for tonight's dinner.

Day 8 EL PORT DE LA SELVA | CADAQUÉS | CANTALLOPS (B,L,D) See Sant Pere de Rodes, a 10th-century Benedictine monastery, and hear the legendary tales shrouding its origin. Later continue to Cadaqués, a sleepy fishing village Salvador Dalí once called home, for a leisurely seaside stroll and lunch. Venture to Cantallops in the wine region of Empordà to meet the owners of Masia Serra Winery. In an idyllic setting of olive trees and old oaks within the nature reserve of the Albera, this vineyard continues a family tradition of wine production dating back to 1961 when indigenous vines were planted by the grandfather. During a tour and tasting embrace the passion and pride exuded by your hospitable and knowledgeable hosts.

Day 9 EMPORDÀ | BARCELONA | DEPART FOR U.S. (B) After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights home.

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)



What's Included

- 7 nights luxury accommodations
- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 7 dinners served with wine
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director and expert local guides
- All lessons, private tours and tastings, and unique small-group excursions noted on the 9-day itinerary
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

Activity Level: Guests should be able to enjoy two hours or more of walking, be sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and walk up and down stairs without assistance. Historic city centers are usually more accessible by foot than vehicle. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for those with mobility issues may be limited.



Accommodations *(subject to change)*

After exciting days of exploring the Costa Brava region, return to the historic grandeur of Castell d'Empordà for relaxing evenings and rejuvenating leisure time.

The castle, which dates back more than 1,000 years, has been transformed into a luxury hotel featuring uniquely decorated rooms that offer a blend of antique furnishings and modern design elements.

The original castle structure retains many of its original medieval features, including thick stone walls, towers and battlements.

Embrace the expansive views over the Empordà Valley and take advantage of the property's two inviting swimming pools.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, flat-screen TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe, iron and ironing board, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.



Optional Post-Tour Barcelona

Discover one of the oldest cities in Europe—with historic streets and buildings that have survived more than 2,000 years alongside unique architecture designed by Gaudi as recently as the early 1900s.



Day 9 **BARCELONA** Set out on a panoramic visit of the city, first passing by Paseo de Gracia and La Pedrera. As you absorb the lively atmosphere explore the interesting examples of magnificent architecture, from 14th-century Gothic style to early 20th-century Modernism. Enjoy views from Montjuïc before arriving at today's featured highlight, an inside visit to La Sagrada Família—Barcelona's most visited attraction—where you'll have a guided tour inside the crown jewel of Antoni Gaudí's works.

Day 10 **BARCELONA | GOTHIC WALKING TOUR (B)** Enjoy a walking tour through the narrow streets of medieval Barcelona, the core of the city, to where it all started 2,000 years ago. Discover the elegant and inspiring Catalan Gothic architecture—its charming corners and squares hidden away down ancient narrow streets. From here travel back to the Middle Ages visiting the Jewish Quarter and the El Born district. See popular locales, such as Plaça Reial (Royal Square) and its Fountain of the Three Graces, Carrer Ferran, Plaça del Pi, Carrer Petritxol, Plaça Sant Jaume, Plaça del Rei (King's Square) and Plaça Sant Felip Neri.

Day 11 **BARCELONA (B)** The day is yours to enjoy Barcelona at leisure. Perhaps visit the Picasso Museum to view some of the artist's early sketches and lesser-known works or take a pleasant stroll down Las Ramblas, Barcelona's most famous pedestrian boulevard. Venture to Parc Güell, an area originally designed by Count Eusebi Güell and Gaudí that was intended as a luxury residential community, but was instead turned into a public park and municipal garden.

Day 12 **BARCELONA | DEPART FOR U.S. (B)** Guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

What's Included

- Private group transfer from Madremanya to Barcelona
- 3 nights at Hotel 1898 (or similar) with breakfast each morning
- A guided intimate visit of La Sagrada Família
- A guided panoramic tour of Barcelona's highlights
- A guided walking tour of the Gothic Quarter
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to local guide, driver and porters
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times



Dear alumni and friends,

Join us as we delve deep into the diverse flavors and myriad historic treasures during this leisurely exploration of the Spanish Coast. Visit artisan shops, delight in tours and tastings at award-winning wineries, and discover local fishing, farming, and cooking techniques that have been used over generations. This once-in-a-lifetime journey combines the best of cultural and culinary exploration with the breathtaking spectacle of a total solar eclipse—an extraordinary experience where tradition meets the cosmos on the stunning Spanish Coast.

Embrace the region's unique charm as you learn about the history and culture that have shaped its Mediterranean seaside villages and friendly locals.

Each day features exclusive and authentic experiences with chefs, wine and olive oil producers, local vendors and extraordinary historic sights. Learn about and savor the great cuisine for which Spain is famous—in

cooking classes, tastings and guided tours. Revel in Spain's celebrated art, architecture and history with visits to world-famous sites and cultural monuments.

Your home base during this adventure is the enchanting Castell d'Empordà, a property situated within an authentic castle. The original castle structure retains many of its original medieval features, including thick stone walls, towers and battlements. Embrace the expansive views over the Empordà Valley and take advantage of the property's two inviting swimming pools.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. Reserve online at rochester.orbridge.com or call (866) 639-0079.

Sincerely,
University of Rochester Travel Club
Alumni Relations and Constituent
Engagement
alumni@rochester.edu

AUGUST 9-17, 2026

Barcelona Post-Tour: August 17-20, 2026

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY

Online: rochester.orbridge.com

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Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$7,499	\$6,995
Single	\$9,299	\$8,795

Barcelona Post-Tour


Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$2,199	\$1,995
Single	\$2,899	\$2,695

*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included.

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DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON: \$850 main tour • \$500 post-tour

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.





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AUGUST 9-17, 2026

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30-DAY REFUND GUARANTEE

Reserve by
May 31, 2025**

Featuring Faculty Host, Kelly Douglass

Kelly Douglass is currently the Director of the C.E.K. Mees Observatory, the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Physics, and runs the NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates program in physics and astronomy at UR. While Prof. Douglass's



research focuses on mapping the structure of the universe, she was one of the primary coordinators for UR's solar eclipse festivities in April 2024 and is excited to share some of the science behind solar eclipses and witness the total solar eclipse in 2026 (hopefully with fewer clouds)!

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