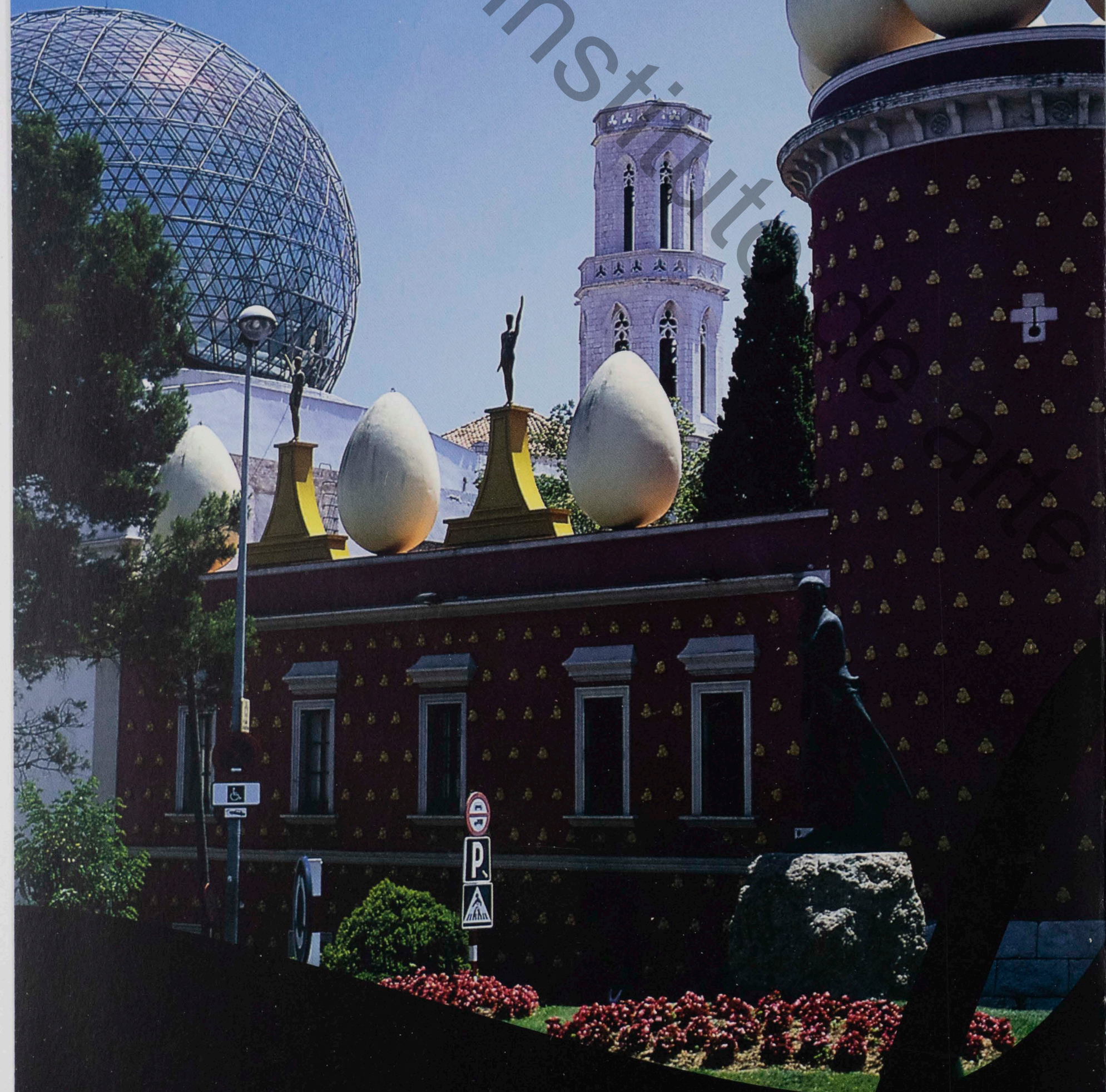




DALI'S SPAIN

Explore the extraordinary world of the master surrealist





FEELS
SURREAL

Salvador Dalí on the set of the film 'Spellbound'
Source: BFI Image Rights of Salvador Dalí reserved. Fundación Gala-Salvador Dalí, Figueres, 2007



Get inspired by a trip to the magical and magnificent Spain of Salvador Dalí

The first things you notice are the huge, cream-coloured eggs, balanced on the parapet of the roof as if they're awaiting a giants' breakfast. Interspaced, on raised plinths, is a crown of golden mannequins, Art-Deco figurines that strike classical and balletic poses. The façade of the building is studded with triangular plasterworks resembling doughy loaves of bread; beyond, you can make out the transparent cupola, a perfect scientific orb that sits atop the structure like a vast bubble.

Welcome to "the largest surrealist object in the world" and "a building that is a work of art in itself" – the Dalí Theatre-Museum in Figueres on the Costa Brava in northeastern Spain. Conceived and created by Salvador Dalí over a 13-year period and opened in 1974, the museum not only houses the world's finest collection of works by the great Spanish artist, but it is also a unique testament to his extravagant originality and eccentric imagination. Dalí designed and directed the entire look of the space, from the smallest detail to the grandest gesture.

Consisting of a converted 19th-century former city theatre, burned down at the end of the Spanish Civil War, and a modern extension, the Theatre-Museum boasts more than 4,000 of Dalí's works, around 1,500 of which are on display at any time. All periods of his prodigious creative output, from the 1920s to the 1980s, are represented, as is the multiplicity of his protean and playful talent, from painting to sculpture, drawing, engraving, installation, jewellery, photography, lithographs, tapestries and holograms.

As well as showing celebrated paintings such as *The Spectre of Sex Appeal* and *Soft Self-Portrait With Grilled Bacon*, the museum displays, at the back of the original stage, a massive surrealist backdrop Dalí produced for New York's Metropolitan Opera House. Elsewhere is the renowned statue *Venus de Milo With Drawers*; look up to the ceilings and you'll spy a bath, a lamp in the form of hydrogen atoms, and a fantastical painting that provides the illusion of ascending towards the heavens.

In the soaring central courtyard is the installation *Rainy Taxi*, featuring a beautiful black 1930s' Cadillac; when a coin is placed in a nearby slot, "rainwater" falls inside the car and on to its occupants – models of a driver and two passengers, and a collection of Burgundy snails. Up on the first floor is a recreation of Dalí's famous three-dimensional work *Face of Mae West Which May Be Used As An Apartment*. Climbing a short flight of stairs takes you to a viewing platform from where you view the installation through a reducing lens that hangs from the underside of a camel. Magically, the apartment's sofa is transformed into the actress' lips, the chimney her nose, the paintings her eyes.

While the Dalí Theatre-Museum is one of the most popular museums in Spain, attracting more than one million visitors a year, it is far from being a traditional, chronological or explicative gallery. The museum is more a series of spaces replete with ideas, suggestions, provocations and double meanings. It's like entering the labyrinth of the artist's mind, his inner world.

"I think people are attracted to Dalí's museum not only because he created some of the best-known and most iconic images of the 20th century, but also because of its sense of mystery and imagination," says Montse Aguer, director of Dalinian Studies at the Gala-Salvador Dalí Foundation. It is this foundation that is co-producing the Dalí & Film exhibition that is being staged at Tate Modern from 1 June to 9 September:

"There is a feeling of entering a world of dreams and the unconscious, of a kind of game or play in a very special theatre," continues Aguer. "In the best possible sense, the museum is like a thematic park – it appeals equally to adults and children, and to anyone with any kind of visual interest. All his life and evolution is here."

In fact, it is impossible to separate Dalí from the museum and the city. The artist was born in Figueres, baptised in the church opposite the museum, held his first exhibition of paintings in the vestibule of the original theatre, and he died in the museum's Torre Galatea in 1989. His tomb lies in the museum's crypt.

Dalí was also very much a man and an artist of the surrounding Empordà region. From 1930 to 1982, Dalí lived and worked with his Russian émigré wife Gala in a fisherman's house in the tiny hamlet of Port Lligat on the northern coast of Costa Brava, around 25kms from Figueres. They left the house, and the country, during the war years, yet on their return Dalí and Gala extended the house and garden into a dramatic private refuge and light-filled work studio. Since 1997, the house has been open to the public.

Like his museum in Figueres, it is an utterly inspirational place to visit. Small groups are guided around the house and garden, stopping to take in the assemblages of objects, furniture and mementoes. The home is more restrained than the museum, yet there remains a kind of mischievous excess, from the stuffed animals to the snail clock, from the Pirelli advertising boards by the swimming pool to a supine statue of found objects, titled Christ of the Rubbish, that adorns the olive garden.

Further south, 40kms from Figueres in the village of Púbol, the "Dalí Triangle" is completed by the 14th-century castle that Dalí bought, restored and designed for his wife in 1970. Plainer still than the couple's home in Port Lligat, the Gala Dalí Castle is where Gala lived until her death in 1982; Dalí was only allowed to visit her with written permission.

Also open to the public, the castle is an imposing yet welcoming building built around a deep, narrow courtyard. During his renovation of the castle, Dalí painted another celestial ceiling in the vestibule; in the romantic garden he placed sculptures of elephants with elongated legs and crows on top of their backs.

"You can't really understand Dalí and his work without visiting the places that were important to him," says Montse Aguer. "He was also an artist very in tune with the landscape of the area – you can see the wind-sculpted rocks and tall cypress trees in his paintings, as well as the influence of Mediterranean light and colour, the deep blue seas and skies."

It's easy to see why artists, writers and filmmakers such as Picasso, Federico García Lorca, Luis Buñuel, René Magritte and Marc Chagall were also attracted to the Costa Brava, and part of the joy of a visit to the Dalí Triangle is the opportunity it provides to explore the riches of the surrounding natural and cultural landscape that inspired them.

Just two kilometres from the Dalí house at Port Lligat is the charming and wonderfully secluded holiday village of Cadaqués, where Dalí's father was born and the young artist spent many summer holidays. Nearby too is the remarkable and remote Cap de Creus Nature Reserve, an atmospheric area of windswept rocks, cliffs and coves.

Along the coast from Cadaqués is the seaside town of Roses, made famous as the location of El Bulli, which was recently voted the world's best restaurant. Its innovative and experimental chef-owner Ferran Adrià has been suitably proclaimed "the Salvador Dalí of cuisine". And high up in the arid mountains that form a theatrical backdrop to Port Lligat is Sant Pere de Rodes, a 10th-century Benedictine monastery that offers unrivalled views over the entire northern coastline.

Near the Gala Castle are the magnificent and monumental Greco-Roman ruins of Empúries (www.mac.es); the elegant medieval town of Peratallada, with its winding streets, castle keep and porticoed square; and the holiday resorts of Llafranc and Calella de Palafrugell, which have sandy Blue Flag beaches and bustling bars and restaurants.

The city of Girona is also well worth a stopover. The historic old town has a majestic cathedral reached by steep rococo steps, carefully restored city walls that offer views over the city, and the winding, narrow streets of one of the best preserved Jewish quarters in Europe.

It also has a fun and fascinating Cinema Museum (www.museudelcinema.org), within which there are resounding echoes of Dalí's art. Dedicated to the early history of cinema, the interactive museum displays such wonders as magic lanterns, camera obscuras, optical toys and visual games. It's not hard to see why Dalí was eager to explore the new medium with such great cinematic iconoclasts as Luis Buñuel, the Marx Brothers, Walt Disney and Alfred Hitchcock.

Other areas of Spain also supply ample stimulation for the traveller in search of Dalí. Madrid was an important city to the artist; it is where he studied and first met Lorca and Buñuel. The capital's famed Reina Sofía Museum (www.museoreinasofia.es) contains around 60 of Dalí's paintings, many donated by the artist himself, including such notable works as *The Great Masturbator* and *Woman at the Window*. The nearby Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum (www.museothyssen.org) also includes several works by Dalí.

In Barcelona, at the National Art Museum of Catalonia (www.mnac.es), there are two well-known early Dalí portraits: one of his father; another of his father and sister. There are also Dalí paintings, including *Composition* from 1946, in the Museum of Contemporary Spanish Art in Palma de Mallorca (www.march.es), while the Patio Herreriano Museum in Valladolid (www.asomateavalladolid.com) has several studies Dalí made for his work *Soft Construction With Boiled Beans* (Premonition of the Civil War).



1. Salvador Dalí *Un Chien Andalou* 1929. Film, running time: 16 minutes, Contemporary Films © Salvador Dalí. Fundación Gala-Salvador Dalí, DACS, 2007
2. Salvador Dalí *Metamorphosis of Narcissus* 1937. Oil on canvas, 511 x 781 mm, Painting, Tate. Purchased 1979 © Salvador Dalí. Fundación Gala-Salvador Dalí, DACS, 2007
3. Salvador Dalí *Study for the dream sequence in 'Spellbound'* 1945. Oil on panel, Painting © Salvador Dalí. Fundación Gala-Salvador Dalí, DACS, 2007
4. Salvador Dalí *Large Head of Greek God*, design for the Walt Disney film *Destino* 1946. Oil on masonite, 635 x 505 mm (c) Disney © Salvador Dalí. Fundación Gala-Salvador Dalí, DACS, 2007
5. Salvador Dalí *Inaugural Goose Flesh* (Surrealist Composition) 1928. Oil on canvas, 755 x 625 mm Fundación Gala-Salvador Dalí, Figueres © Salvador Dalí. Fundación Gala-Salvador Dalí, DACS, 2007

On the Costa del Sol, a collection of sculptures, derived from smaller figures made by Dalí, line the seafront in Marbella, and on the approach to nearby Puerto Banús, there is a huge, three-ton statue titled *Rhinoceros Dressed In Lace*.

In a characteristic act of roguish bravado, Dalí once proclaimed: "I'm going to live forever – geniuses don't die." On the beautiful Costa Brava, and throughout his beloved Spain, that ambition is more alive than ever.

For further information go to www.spain.info/uk, www.catalunyaturisme.com, www.costabrava.org, www.salvador-dali.org and www.dali-estate.org. Visits to the Dalí house in Port Lligat must be booked in advance; email pllgrups@Dali-estate.org or phone 00 34 972 251 015.

Spain has the largest public collection of paintings in Europe, and no visit is complete without savouring the country's world-class art museums and attractions. Here is just a sample.

Madrid

The Prado (museoprado.mcu.es), Thyssen-Bornemisza (www.museothyssen.org) and Reina Sofía (www.museoreinasofia.es) museums are three of the world's most prestigious and important art galleries, and unmissable for any lover of art. The Prado houses 1,500 key works by many leading Spanish and European artists including Velázquez, Goya, Rubens, Titian and El Greco. At the Thyssen-Bornemisza almost every major figure in the history of western art, from the 13th century to today, is represented. As well as fine collections of the works of Juan Gris, Joan Miró, Eduardo Chillida and Antoni Tàpies, the Reina Sofía contains over 100 works of art by Dalí as well as many by Picasso, including Guernica. A "Paseo del Arte" pass provides admission to all three museums in this compact "Golden Triangle" at a discounted price.

Bilbao

This revitalising Basque port city has been placed firmly on the international art map by one building: the Guggenheim Museum (www.guggenheim-bilbao.es). Frank Gehry's groundbreaking titanium-clad museum, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, showcases the Guggenheim Foundation's extraordinary collection of 20th-century art, as well as leading temporary exhibitions.

Barcelona

The Museo Círculo Artístico de Barcelona (www.dalibarcelona.com) houses a permanent collection of over 700 of Dalí's works. The core of the collection is 44 sculptures by Dalí that were commissioned in the 1970s by private collector Isidro Clot. The wide-ranging Picasso Museum (www.museupicasso.bcn.es) is also particularly strong on the artist's early work, while the cool, calm and contemporary Joan Miró Foundation (www.bcn.fjmiro.es), in the hilly Montjuïc area of the city, is a worthy setting for the paintings and sculptures of one of Spain's most vibrant 20th-century artists. The Barcelona Contemporary Art Museum (www.macba.es), designed by Richard Meier, is another stunning light and airy modern building, dedicated to work mostly from the second half of the 20th century. The Antoni Tàpies Foundation (www.fundaciotapies.org) is located in a superb modernist house and shows the work of the renowned Catalan painter. Barcelona is also the home of the wonderfully extravagant creations of architect Antoni Gaudí, and no cultural visit to the city should omit his giant temple, the Sagrada Família (www.sagradafamilia.org), or the Casa Milà apartment building and Park Güell.

Valencia

Spain's third city is currently enjoying a dramatic cultural renaissance, due largely to its extraordinary City of Arts and Sciences (www.cac.es), a striking sweep of museums and buildings designed by native architect Santiago Calatrava. The cool and futuristic parkland complex houses a curvaceous opera house, plus a planetarium, aquarium and science museum.

Granada

Around 10kms from the spectacular Andalusian city of Granada, site of the monumental Alhambra palace, is the summer house in which the Spanish poet and playwright Federico García Lorca wrote some of his best-known works. Located in Huerta de San Vicente, the house is now a museum (www.garcia-lorca.org/ihuerta.htm) containing many of Lorca's manuscripts, photographs, drawings, paintings and personal items.

Málaga

Picasso was born in this sunny southern city and the Picasso Museum (www.museopicassomalaga.org), opened in 2003 in the historic centre, houses paintings such as Mother and Child, as well as sketches and ceramics. Nearby are Picasso's birthplace and the lively Contemporary Art Centre.

Santiago de Compostela

The Galician Contemporary Art Centre (www.cgac.org) is located in this ancient and fascinating northwestern city and features the work of major Galician and Spanish modern artists, as well as international stars such as Francesco Clemente, Anish Kapoor, Juan Muñoz and James Turrell.

Elciego

Near this village on the edge of the Basque and Rioja regions is the remarkable new Marqués de Riscal "City of Wine" (www.marquesderiscal.com), designed, like the Guggenheim in Bilbao, in shiny titanium by Frank Gehry. The complex features a wine museum, luxury hotel and vinotherapy spa.

1. Plaza de Cibeles, Madrid
2. Cerámica Quart
3. Inlesia Sant Feliú, Girona
4. M.Reina Sofia, Madrid



CINEMATIC SPAIN



1



3

The stunningly diverse Spanish landscape has played a starring role in many films. Here is a brief selection.

Almería

The empty and evocative Tabernas desert in eastern Andalusia has been a brooding presence in many Spaghetti Westerns, including *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*; some of the sets built in the 1960s can still be seen. The area also featured in *Lawrence of Arabia* and Terry Gilliam's *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*.

Casares de Las Hurdes

Arid, agricultural western region that was the subject of a surrealist short documentary made in 1933 by Luis Buñuel about the area's indigenous people (*hurdanos*) and shot around the town of La Alberca.

Seville

The symbolic Giralda minaret and vast Gothic cathedral feature in the Buñuel classic *That Obscure Object of Desire*.

1. Playa desierta. San José
2. El Argarmason, Carboneras.
3. Puente sobre el Onyar, Girona

Molina de Aragón

The castle in this historic town in the Guadalajara region provided the setting for Sean Connery's investigations in the film of Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*.

Bardenas Reales, Navarra

An arid sandstone plain, eroded by torrential rains and winds that have carved out extraordinary lava-like hills, that was a dramatic backdrop in the cult sci-fi comedy *Acción Mutante*.

Madrid

The capital's locations have featured in 11 of Pedro Almodóvar's 16 films, from the Villa Rosa bar near the Parque del Retiro to El Rastro flea market, Café del Círculo de Bellas Artes, Museo del Jamón and Plaza Mayor. Segovia's astonishing Roman aqueduct, an hour away from the city, also starred in Almodóvar's *Matador*.



4



6

A Taste of Spain

London's Regent Street will come alive in June with the heady tastes, sounds and passions of Spain. Spanish Month, presented by the Spanish Tourist Office and the Regent Street Association, will provide an enticing, month-long celebration of the country's finest foods, wines and festivities.

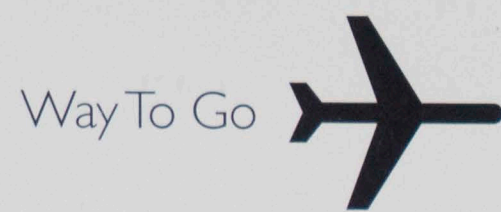
Spanish Month will build upon the extraordinary success of last September's Regent Street Festival: *A Walk through Spain*, which was enjoyed by a remarkable 500,000 people, by providing further Spanish entertainments. Many Spanish regions will host live concerts and musical evenings, as well as Spanish dance.

Retail outlets along Regent Street – from Hamleys, Hoss Intropia, Timberland, Austin Reed and Gerry Weber – will also be taking part in the celebrations, providing shoppers with special offers, in-store promotions and gourmet delights.

Spanish Month runs from Thursday 31 May to Saturday 30 June. The Spanish regions participating include Andalusia, Asturias, the Balearic Islands, Castile Leon, Catalonia, the Canary Islands, Madrid, Murcia, Valencia and the Paradores of Spain.

For further information go to www.regentstreetonline.com.

4. Cadaqués-Vista
5. Girona Catedral Cadaqués
6. Cadaqués
7. Subida a la Catedral, Girona



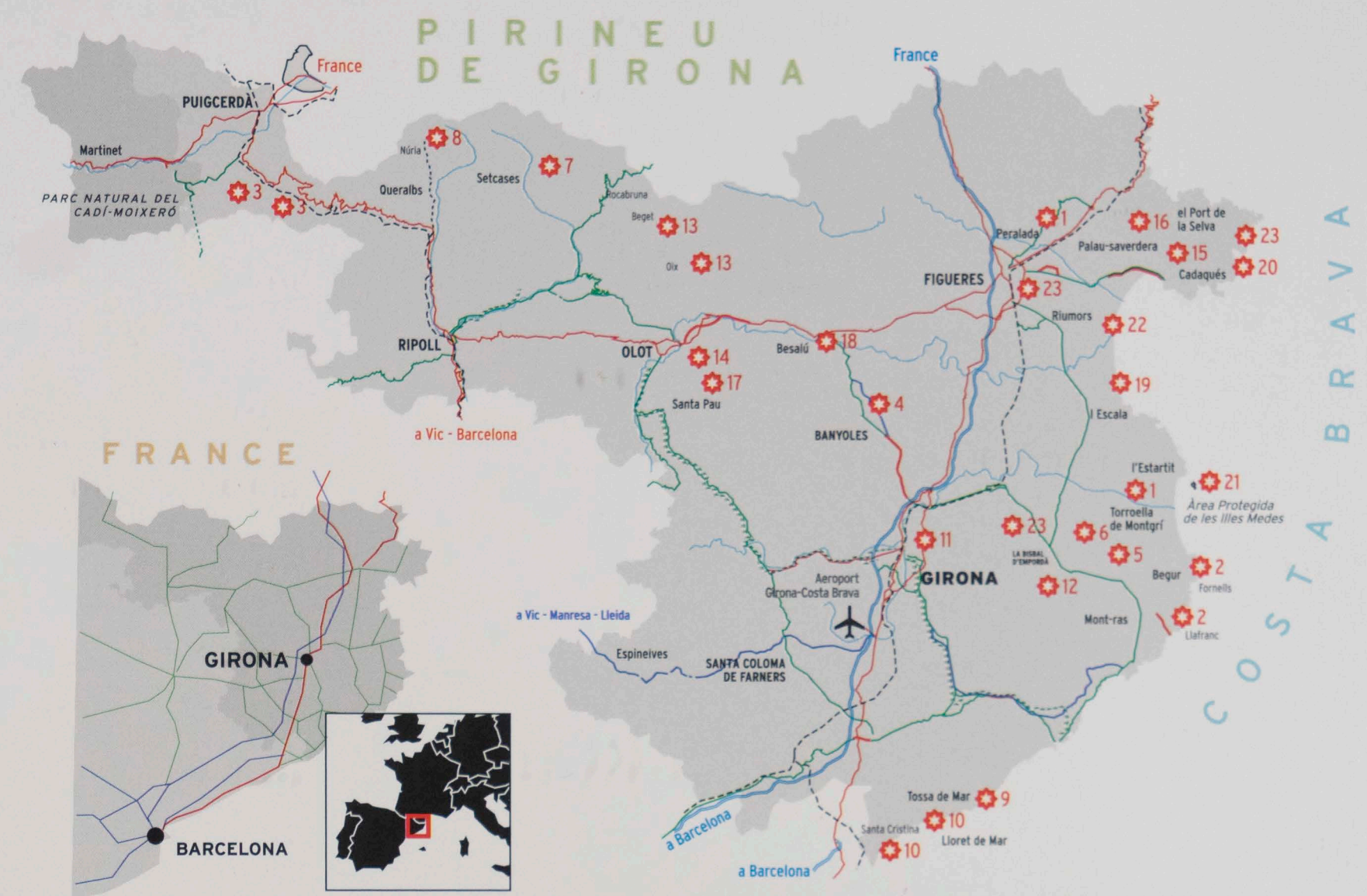
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Spain is more accessible than ever, thanks to the profusion of Spain's regional airports and the abundance of low-cost direct flights from the UK. Here's how to get to the places mentioned in this booklet:



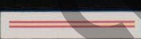
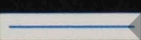
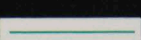
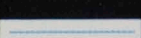
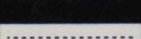
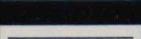
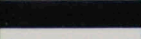

- Girona Ryanair
- Barcelona Air Berlin, British Airways, BMI Baby, Click Air, Easyjet, Globespan, Iberia, Jet 2, Monarch, Thomsonfly
- Madrid Aerolíneas Argentinas, Air Berlin, British Airways, Easyjet, Iberia, Monarch, Ryanair
- Málaga Air Berlin, British Airways, BMI Baby, Easyjet, Excel, Flybe, Globespan, Iberia, Jet 2, Monarch, Thomsonfly
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- Bilbao Air Berlin, British Airways, Easyjet, Iberia,
- Valencia Air Berlin, Click Air, Easyjet, Iberia, Jet 2, Ryanair, Thomsonfly
- Granada Monarch, Ryanair
- Santiago de Compostela Air Berlin, British Airways, Iberia, Ryanair
- Elciego Ryanair (to Vitoria)
- Almería Air Berlin, Easyjet, First Choice, Jet 2, Monarch, My Travel Lite, Ryanair,
- Casares de Las Hurdas LagunAir (to Salamanca via Madrid, Barcelona or Valladolid)
- Seville Air Berlin, British Airways, Click Air, Iberia, Ryanair
- Molina de Aragón Ryanair (to Zaragoza)
- Bardenas Reales, Navarra Ryanair (to Zaragoza)

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- Iberia Airlines 0870 609 0500, www.iberia.com
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- Ryanair 0871 246 000, www.ryanair.com
- Thomsonfly 0870 1900 737, www.thomsonfly.com

Madrid, Plaza Mayor.



 Interesting sites

-  Toll Motorway
-  National Road
-  Highway
-  Preferred Route
-  A Road
-  River
-  Rail Track
-  Regional Boundary
-  Railway
-  Green route

- 1- Torroella de Montgrí and Peralada Music Festivals
- 2- Beaches at Begur and Palafrugell and Light house at Sant Sebastià
- 3- La Molina at Masella ski and mountain resort
- 4- Banyoles Lake
- 5- Medieval villages of Pals and Peratalla.
- 6- The old town of Ullastret
- 7- The Valley of Camprodon
- 8- The Valley and sanctuary of Núria
- 9- The old town of Tossa de Mar
- 10- Selva maritime botanic gardens
- 11- Girona's old quarter
- 12- La Bisbal potteries
- 13- Ita Garrotxa (Oix and Beget)
- 14- The Natural Park of Zona Volcanica de la Garrotxa
- 15- Cap de Creus Natural Park
- 16- Sant Pere de Rodes
- 17- Santa Pau
- 18- Besalú
- 19- The ruins of Empuries
- 20- Cadaqués
- 21- Medes Islands and Montgrí mountains
- 22- Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park
- 23- Dalí triangle (Figueres museum, Portlligat and Púbol)
- 24- Romanic route
- 25- Gastronomy : " mar i muntanya"

Map provided by:
Girona Patronat de Turisme
 Costa Brava Girona



Front Cover Cadaqués, Girona
Back Cover Aiguablava, Girona

