

CHCA Intercession 2025

January 2025

Course Name: **Railway Rendezvous Across France & Spain**

Instructor(s): **Heather Snell, Jennifer Rogers, and Tracy Early**

Course Type: **International**

Service Hours: **0**

Maximum enrollment: **24**

Minimum enrollment: **21**

Length of trip (if applicable): **10 days**

9 nights

Cost: \$ 3650

Overview:

Strap on your backpacks and get ready for a European adventure! Starting in Paris and traveling by train through France to Madrid, students will see the sights, discover new cuisine, and submerge themselves in the culture of the people and cities surrounding them!

Course Goals:

- Engage in the beauty of God's world by experiencing the culture of France and Spain. What is daily life like in these vibrant countries?
 - Investigate and learn more about the history, art, cuisine, and sights of these historic cities.
 - Discover the beauty of hidden gems within each city. In addition, we will be traveling by train to witness the beauty of smaller cities and experiences off the beaten path.
 - Learn to be an adventurous traveler - someone who searches out experiences outside of their comfort zone, one who has a desire to try new things and see and do that which they have never done before.
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Writing Component: Final Project—Journal reflection from our time in Europe

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Description: Embark on an enriching European adventure with this journey through Paris, Barcelona, and Madrid with a few surprises along the way! Explore the iconic landmarks of Paris, from the Eiffel Tower to the Louvre....even a day trip to Disneyland Paris! Immerse yourself in Barcelona's vibrant culture, visiting masterpieces and savoring authentic tapas. In Madrid, delve into history at the Royal Palace and enthusiastically cheer on your favorite football team at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Pack for adventure as we will travel by train throughout these two countries to engage in the language and cultural exchanges, creating lasting memories amidst the captivating beauty of God's world in these dynamic cities.

Weekly Plan

Day 1: Travel to Paris, France

Day 2-3: Paris

- Explore iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, Notre-Dame, and Montmartre
- Stroll along the Seine River and enjoy a boat cruise.
- Experience daily life in Paris by exploring local markets, indulging in local cuisine, and taking a class to learn how to make one of their famous delicacies (croissants, macaroons, or bread).

Day 4: Disneyland Paris

- Enjoy the attractions, shows, and parades in Disneyland Park and/or Walt Disney.

Days 5-6: Travel by train through France to Barcelona. We will enjoy the countryside and smaller town settings and experiences with stops that may include Lyon, Avignon, and/or Montpellier.

Day 7: Barcelona

- Visit the famous Sagrada Familia, Park Guell, and Gothic Quarter.
- Explore the hidden gems of the city with a local guide.

Days 8-9: Madrid

- Travel by train from Barcelona to Madrid
- Explore sights like the Prado Museum, Royal Palace, and Retiro Park.
- Attend a football match at Santiago Bernabeu or Wanda Metropolitano if there is a game scheduled.
- Explore the neighborhoods, like Malasana and Chueca, while enjoying traditional Spanish cuisine and (hopefully) a flamenco show!

Day 10: Return to Cincinnati

***Accommodations will be shared rooms in hostels and/or hotels near area attractions.**

This course is well suited to:

Students who enjoy being very active and fully immersed in new experiences that may take them outside of their comfort zones. This itinerary is jam-packed with exciting activities! Participants can expect a lot of walking and physical activity, in addition to new experiences in French and Spanish culture.

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Cost: \$3650 Includes hotels, train, airfare, entrance fees/tickets, and 3-4 group meals. While traveling students will need additional money for meals, snacks, and souvenirs (approximately \$30-50 per day) on a card, most places prefer non-contact payment option.

Additional costs:

Passport fees are also not included in the cost.

Other Information:

International travel - Students will need a passport for International travel. Passports cannot expire before **May 18 2025** .

Version saved 03.20.24