

Gardens, landscapes & architecture of BARCELONA, GERONA AND VALENCIA. 1 to 11 OCTOBER 2026

With Charles Birnbaum, Nord Wennestrom & Sofia Barroso.

Dear TCLF travelers,

after last year's Balearic Island trip, I propose that this year we explore the gardens and landscape (both Urban and rural) of our Spanish Peninsula Mediterranean coast, which until the mid-15th Century was under the Crown of Aragon with the Balearic Islands, Naples and Sicily. With the marriage of the Queen Ysabella of Castille and Ferdinand of Aragon, both countries united and it was the birth of Spain. So again, we will be immersed in a Mediterranean climate, landscape and plants.

***Barcelona** was created by the Romans in the first century before JC. It bloomed in the Middle Ages thanks to its commerce in the Mediterranean and had another Renaissance in the turn of the 20th Century with the design of "Modernist" Art Nouveau Barcelona with Gaudí's and his contemporaries. At the same time, the Arts & Crafts School and the Art Nouveau movement had taken over Europe. All these architects had a conscious of nature and landscape, specially Gaudí, as we will see during our visit. Nature was an inspiration for architecture decoration is a constant.*

*The 1992 Barcelona Olympics was the perfect excuse to re-vamp the city and give it a new identity, creating new squares, gardens and parks for the peripheric communities, where landscape, architects, artists and Urban planners worked together. At the same time new private gardens were landscaped for privates both in the city and in the country in the Northern province of **Gerona**, the Catalan Tuscany, where the weekend and summer residences are located for the "Barceloneses".*

This is why we will spend a couple of days in Gerona, enjoying its cultural landscape and medieval & contemporary architecture and gardens.

*We will finish our trip in **Valencia**, vital city with its independent personality, where interesting Urban gardens have been landscaped, such as the Turia Gardens in Valencia, whose design was largely commissioned by architect Ricardo Bofill in 1981, with a extension of almost 10 kilometers, conceived as a "river of nature".*

*The last day of trip we will go to **Javea** to visit **Vicente Todoli Citrus Foundation**, a project born from the natural reaction of Vicente Todolí to his family's link to citrus growing and the urbanistic threat that could put an end to that memory. Today, with nearly 500 varieties from all corners of the planet, this orchard is probably the largest collection of citrus fruits grown outdoors in the world.*

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER: USA-BARCELONA.

Travel day to Barcelona.

1. FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER: BARCELONA.

AM

Independent arrivals and checking into **Hotel Catalonia Boulevard** for **4 nights**.
(Prepaid Thursday night for immediate checking)

**HOTEL CATALONIA
BOULEVARD**
c. Rosello 249
08008 Barcelona
Tel. + 34 934 15 99 11



PM

2pm. Welcome coffee at the hotel with Charles & Nord and Sofia Barroso, your lecturer.

2:30 pm Departure by coach for an **architecture tour of the city** where we will see interventions done for 1992 Olympics, viewing new parks and squares and sculpture installations. We will first visit the **Park of the North Train Station** with two site-specific sculptures of **Beverly Pepper** titled “Fallen Sky” and “Spiral”. This park has become a green lung for the community and was built in the space of the old rail tracks. Beverly Pepper uses broken tiles (“trancadis technique”) and Corten Iron in her works.



We will then drive down to Es Born through Passeig Sant Joan, the 1929 Universal Fair **Triumphal Arch** and the **Citadel Park**, with a Pavilion by Gaudí contemporary architect Domenech i Montaner and entrance gates by Gaudí. We will stroll the park up to its foundation and see its Art Nouveau pavilions. Continue by coach to the **Olympic village** by **MBM Arquitectes**, which includes **Josep Martorell, Oriol**

Bohigas, David Mackay, and Albert Puigdomènech. They oversaw the master plan, including the transformation of the seafront, the Olympic Port, parks, and the overall coordination of the 79-hectare area. Other architects were involved in designing individual housing projects within the village, such as **Bonell i Gil Arquitectes** and **Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura**. The Arts Hotel tower was designed by **Bruce Graham** and **Miguel Ruano** and the Mapfre tower by **Ortiz & Leon**.

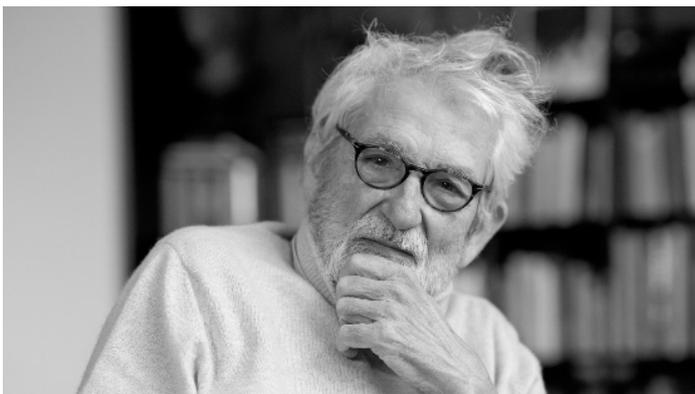
We will enjoy a walk to the Olympic port seafront to see **Frank Gehry fish**, the “**Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona**” (PRBB) and the “**Hospital del Mar**” by **PINEARQ (Albert de Pineda Àlvarez y Brullet-De Luna Arquitectes (Manuel Brullet Tenas y Alfonso de Luna)**. Then we will continue by coach to visit the site of the **2004 Forum of Cultures** with a distinctive blue building by **Jacques Herzog & Pierre de Meuron**. We will see parks designed by **Benedetta Tagliabue**.

From there we will view the **3 Chimneys of St Adrian de Besos**, built in the 70’s, that have been protected.

4:30 pm. Our last visit will be the **Horta Labyrinth**, historical garden and the oldest of its kind in the city. Located on the former estate of the Desvalls family the park comprises an 18th-century neoclassical garden and a 19th-century romantic garden. On the lower terrace is the hedge maze that gives the park its name.

7:00 pm. Visit a private garden by French landscape architect Louis Benech. Drinks.

8:00 pm. **Welcome dinner at La Balsa Restaurant**, designed by Oscar Tusquets in 1979, one of Barcelona’s main architects and designers. Return to the hotel by coach.



2. SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER: BARCELONA.

AM.

9:30am. Departure by foot. Visit La **Pedrera o Casa Milá**, Gaudí’s most emblematic apartment building. Since 1984, Casa Milà has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site given its incalculable artistic value and architectural uniqueness. It was the last private residence designed by architect **Antoni Gaudí** and was built between 1906 and 1912. At the time, it was controversial because of its undulating stone facade, twisting wrought iron balconies, and design by Josep Maria Jujol. Several structural innovations include a self-supporting stone façade, and a free-plan floor, underground garage and the spectacular terrace on the roof. The building is totally organic as Gaudí was a great follower of Nature, where there is never a right angle



12 noon. Walk down **Paseo de Gracia**, Barcelona's graceful main avenue with beautiful beginning of the 20th Century architecture. We will see the facades of "Block of the Misunderstanding" or "**Manzana de la Discordia**" with famous **Casa Lleo-Morera by Domenech i Montaner, Casa Amatller by Puig i Cadafalch and Casa Batlló by Gaudí**

1:00 pm. Lunch at **Restaurant Tragaluz**, one of Barcelona's contemporary classics designed by architect Tomás Taruella.

PM

3:00pm. Continue to **Güell Park**. Eusebi Güell or Count Güell, wanted to recreate the British residential parks, which is why he named it Park in English. Gaudí respected the Mediterranean vegetation that was already growing on the property, such as the carob and olive trees, and when new species were introduced, he opted for other Mediterranean plants that did not require much water. He also designed various systems for collecting and storing water, based on the irrigation systems he had learned about in the rural setting of his childhood. Both the vegetation and the management of the water resources thus helped to prevent the erosion of the land caused by the heavy Mediterranean downpours, helping to provide the water needed by the estate's inhabitants.

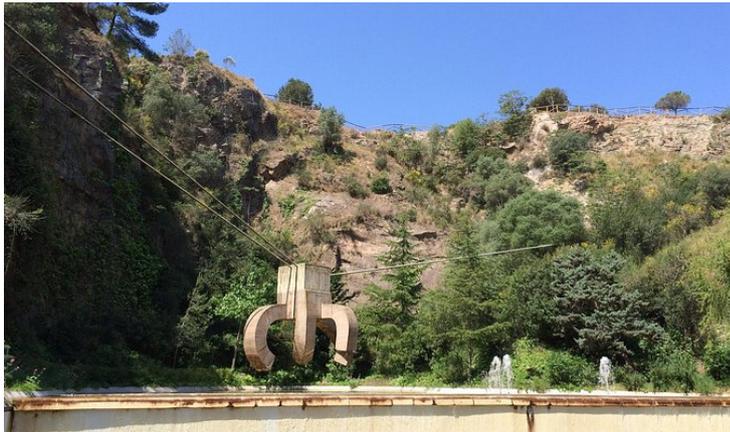


We will finish the afternoon at the **Park of La Creuta del Coll**, created from an abandoned quarry as part of the *nou urbanisme* developments for the 1992 Summer Olympics by architects Martorell, Bohigas and Mackay. The park contains the sculpture *Elogy of Water* by Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida, a massive concrete claw suspended by steelcables above a flooded quarry. Another steel sculpture, *Totem* by Ellsworth Kelly is near the entrance gate.

6:00pm. Drinks at a private garden designed by Beth Figueras.

7:00 pm. Return to the hotel.

Free evening. (List of restarants in your information folder).



3. SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER: BARCELONA.

AM

9:30 am. Departure to **Montjuic Hill**. The “Jewish Mountain” in Barcelona is an island in the city of green space, art and architecture. Visit the **Barcelona Mies van der Rohe pavilion**, organized with the foundation. <https://miesbcn.com/>

11: 00 am. View **Caixa Forum**, located in an old textile factory by Puig i Cadafalch and restored by Barcelona Architects Roberto Luna y Robert Brufau with the intervention of Arata Izosaki.



And drive by the 1992 Olympic architecture: **Olympic Stadium by Vittorio Gregotti; St Jordi Stadium by Arata Izosaki; Gymnastic Stadium by Ricardo Bofill & Santiago Calatrava Anthena.**

11:30 pm. Enter the **MNAC, Museum of Catalan Art**. Visit the Romanesque fresco paintings of the museum, beautifully installed by Aulenti and the collection of Art Deco furniture

1:30pm. **Lunch at Abses Restaurant** at the Museum of Catalan Art: MNAC, that was restored by Italian architect Gae Aulenti in the 90’s.

PM

3:30pm. Visit the **Barcelona Botanical garden of Mediterranean climates**. Situated on gently sloping terrain in **Montjuic Park**, Jardí Botànic de Barcelona (Botanical Garden of Barcelona) offers visitors a different walk in each season of the year as they observe vegetation from the five regions in the world with a Mediterranean-type climate. The purpose of the Jardí Botànic is to **conserve and disseminate**

collections of Mediterranean plants from around the world. Among its main objectives are the conservation and documentation of the natural heritage of Catalonia; to promote botanical and naturalist culture; and to promote knowledge of and respect for nature. It was designed by architect Carlos Ferrater and by landscape architect Beth Figueras.

The Jardí Botànic has a close relationship with the **Institut Botànic de Barcelona (IBB)**, a prestigious center jointly managed by the Barcelona City Council and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The facilities at the IBB, which specializes in botanical research, include a large, comprehensive library and one of the largest herbaria in Catalonia. The IBB is located in Montjuic Park, in the upper part of the Jardí Botànic.



5:00 pm. Then we visit the building of the **Miró foundation** by Jose Luis Sert with an addition by architect Jaume Freixa. Drinks and visit the beautiful architecture and sculpture garden.

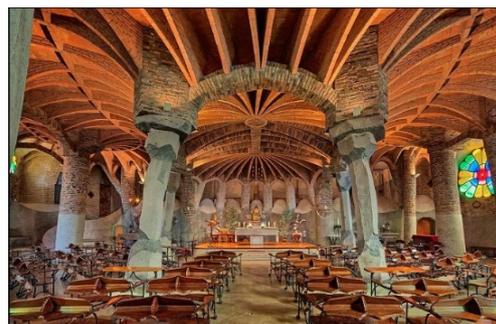
6:00 pm. Drinks at a private garden designed by Beth Figueras.

7:00 pm. Return to the hotel. On the way back we will drive through **Teknon-Quiron Hospital gardens** designed by Fernando Caruncho in 1993-1994. **Dinner on your own.**

4. MONDAY 5 OCTOBER: BARCELONA.

AM

9:30am Departure by coach to **Colonia Güell**, located in the industrial village in Santa Coloma de Cervelló, near Barcelona, it was created by Eusebi Guell (Gaudí's patron) to house factory workers. It is now a historical site known for its modernist architecture, (Catalan Art Nouveau) especially the unfinished church crypt designed by Antoni Gaudí. The colony provides a glimpse into early 20th-century industrial life, featuring worker housing, factories, and Gaudí's experimental crypt, which served as a predecessor to the Sagrada Família.



Return to Barcelona. On the way we will see the architecture of Fira Barcelona.

Visit the **rooftop garden of the Guardans family landscaped in 20's**. Drinks.

Walk to the produce **Market of Santa Catalina**, restored by **Enric Miralles & Benedetta Tagliabue**, with an incredible roof.

1:30 pm. **Lunch at Cuines Restaurant**, with fresh products from the market that are cooked in front of you.



PM

3:00 pm. We will walk to UNESCO heritage site: **Moncada St.**, full of 14th Century Gothic palaces up to the **Picasso Museum**. The Picasso Museum of Barcelona is a compound of 5 Gothic palaces plus a contemporary addition at the back by architect Jordi Garcés. It is a beautiful example of restoration.

<https://museupicassobcn.cat/en>



After we will visit the beautiful Gothic **Church of Santa Maria del Mar**, one of Spain's finest examples of Mediterranean Gothic with its characteristic's octagonal columns.

We will also see the **Square of Es Born** with site-specific sculptures done 1992 by Jaume Plensa.

6:00 pm. Return to the hotel.

7:30 pm. Departure by taxi for **drinks at a private collection of contemporary and Khmer Art**, located in a beautiful Nouveau Art building.

Return to hotel independently.

Independent dinner.

5. TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER: BARCELONA- SANT MARI VELL-PUBOL- BEGUR (GERONA).

AM

9:30 am. Departure with luggage. Drive to the **Ampurdán**, province of Gerona, the Spanish Tuscany with beautiful landscape and restored stone villages. Visit the village of **San Marti Vell** in the province of Gerona, beautiful preserved and restored village by Elsa Peretti and seat of her foundation.

11:30 am. Welcome by the director of **Elsa Peretti Foundation: Laura Cornejo**. Visit the **private foundation** of the late designer Elsa Peretti in two groups. We will see her home, workspace and collection including several Andy Warhol's. <https://www.nandoandelsaperettifoundation.org/>

1:30 pm. **Lunch at Can Elsa, Masia** (Catalan farmhouse) and **winery Eccocivi**, co-owned by the Elsa Peretti Foundation with a lovely garden. www.ecovici.com



Elsa Peretti, OMRI OMM (1 May 1940 – 18 March 2021), was an Italian jewelry designer and philanthropist as well as a fashion model. Her jewelry and design pieces for [Tiffany & Co.](#) are included in the 20th century collection of the [British Museum](#), the [Museum of Fine Arts in Boston](#) and the [Museum of Fine Arts in Houston](#). In 1974 Peretti, the "Halstonette" fashion model, arrived at Tiffany's with her modern jewelry. Her broadly popular work, including pieces like Bean, Bone Cuff and Open Heart, became as much as 10% of Tiffany's business and John Loring's *Tiffany Style – 170 Years of Design* devotes 18 pages of images to her jewelry and tableware design. *Vogue* described her as "arguably the most successful woman ever to work in the jewelry field." As a philanthropist, Peretti supported a wide variety of causes, and also privately undertook the restoration of the historic village of [Sant Martí Vell](#) in [Catalonia](#), Spain.

PM

3:00pm. Departure. Drive to **Púbol**. Visit the workshop of ceramist **Caterina Roma**, a specialized in ceramics. <https://caterinaroma.com/es/> The village of Pubol with its restored Medieval homes and gardens is one of the best preserved in the area.

4:00pm. Visit **Púbol Castle**, also of the Dalí Foundation, where Gala Dalí lived until her death. This castle became, between 1982 and 1984, Salvador Dalí's last studio and finally the mausoleum of his museum. When Dalí bought the castle in 1969, it was in a very poor state, with collapsed ceilings,

substantial cracks and a much-neglected yard. However, it gave the house a very romantic atmosphere that the Dalí couple appreciated and tried to retain during the restoration work they undertook. Púbol Castle is thus a highly significant place in the Dalinian creation: it is a continuation of Portlligat with a personality of its own. It is Dalí's gift to his wife Gala, to whom he took an oath of allegiance and where he could not gain access without written permission from her.

*Everything celebrates the cult of Gala, even the round room, with its perfect echo that crowns the building as a whole and which is like a dome of this Galactic cathedral. When I walk around this house, I look at myself and I see my concentricity. I like its Moorish rigor. I needed to offer Gala a case more solemnly worthy of our love. That is why I gave her a mansion built on the remains of a 12th century castle: the old castle of Púbol in La Bisbal, where she would reign like an absolute sovereign, right up to the point that I could visit her only by hand-written invitation from her. I limited myself to the pleasure of decorating her ceilings so that when she rai eyes, she would always find me in her sky". **Salvador Dalí.***

6:00 pm Departure to Begur. Check-into the **Parador de D'Aiguablava for 3 nights**. It has stunning views of **the Mediterranean**, pool and access to the water. Independent dinners. Parador de D'Aiguablava, Begur. **Dinner on your own.**

Parador de D'Aiguablava
Carrer Platja D'Aiguablava 25. Gerona.
Tel. + 34 972 62 21 62
<https://paradores.es/es/parador-de-aiguablava>



6. WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER. BEGUR- PERELADA-CADAQUES.

AM

9:30am. Departure by coach to the village of **Perelada**.

10:30 am. Visit **Perelada winery**. With a winemaking tradition spanning over six centuries, Perelada produces wines with character, presence and international renown. Our ambition is to reflect the personality of our single vineyard estates and to ensure that each bottle expresses the rich bounty

and nuances of the Empordà. The new Perelada Winery is a new step towards excellence. Designed to make great wines by **RCR Architects**, winners of the 2017 Pritzker Prize. It is the first winery in Europe to have achieved LEED GOLD sustainability certification, with one of the most extensive and complete enotourism experiences in the country.



12 noon. We will visit the **gardens of the Perelada castle** and ceramic collection.

1:30 pm. **Lunch in the village of Perelada at a private garden.**

PM

3:00pm. Drive to the town of **Port Lligat** where Dalí's family had his summer home. Private visit in 2 groups of the **Casa-Museo Salvador Dalí**, where Salvador Dalí lived and worked from 1930 to 1982.



Drive to the village of **Cadaqués**, where Salvador Dalí would spend his summers. Enjoy a stroll through the village.

6:00pm. Return to the hotel. **Independent dinners.**



7. THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER: BEGUR-PALS-LA BISBAL-FONTCLARA-BEGUR.

AM

Morning at leisure.

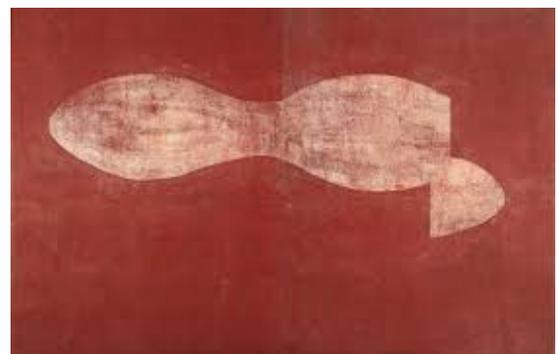
10:30 am. Departure by coach. Visit **Mas Floris private garden** in Pals designed by Fernando Caruncho between 1984 and 1986. (page 37, Mirrors of Paradise, The Gardens of Fernando Caruncho- Monacelli Press).

12:30 pm. Continue to **Mas de les Voltes**, gardens designed by Caruncho for the Laucerika family, know on the other hands. (page153. Mirrors of Paradise, The Gardens of Fernando Caruncho- Monacelli Press). Lunch at Mas des Voltes.



PM

3:30pm. Departure for the **studio of Lluís Lleo at la Bisbal**, Catalan painter and sculptor with an extensive international career,[1] who has lived and worked in New York since 1989. In his works, often on paper, he dominates geometry and minimalism with almost organic forms. In 2017, he installed a series of sculptures consisting of five blocks of painted stone almost four meters high on New York's Park Avenue with the title Morpho's Nest in a Cadmium House, between 52nd and 56th Streets in Manhattan. In 2018, he installed these sculptures in front of the main entrance to the Pedralbes Gardens in Barcelona.



We will finish the afternoon by having drinks in a **private garden in the village of Fontclara**, designed by **María Jover**.

6:00 pm. Return to the hotel.

Dinner on your own.

8. FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER: GERONA- PEÑISCOLA-VALENCIA

AM

9:00 am. Departure with luggage to **Valencia**.

1:00 pm. On the way we will stop for at **Peñíscola**, lovely historic town located on a Peninsula surrounded by the Mediterranean blue waters. Enjoy a stroll through its winding streets.

Paella lunch at Casa Jaime restaurant.



PM

After lunch continue to Valencia (1h45m). On arrival panoramic tour of the city.

Tour of architect Santiago Calatrava's architecture including the exteriors the Palau de les Arts, Museu de les Ciències, and L'Oceanogràfic.

Check-into **Palacio Santa Clara**, Autograph Collection (Marriott) for **3 nights**.

Dinner on your own.

**Palacio Santa Clara,
Autograph Collection
(Marriott).
C/ de Pascual i Genís, 22,
Ciutat Vella, 46002 València,
Tel. + 34 960 13 10 00**



9. SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER: VALENCIA.

AM

9:00 am. Departure on foot. **Walking tour of the old town.** Visit **Mercat Central**, Valencia's lovely produce market followed by a visit to **la Lonja**, the old silk guild located in a beautiful civil Gothic building, **Valencia Cathedral** with its Goya paintings and the **Church of Saint Catherine**.

At mid -morning, we will enjoy Horchata (a sweet and usually dairy-free beverage made of soaked grains (or nuts and seeds) and water that is flavored with spices), ice cream, and *fartons* (Valencian cookies) at the Horchatería Daniel (C/ del Mar 4). We will finish viewing the **palace of the Marquis of Dos Aguas** followed by a visit to the **Patriarch Museum** at the Real Colegio-Seminario de Corpus Christi, a sixteenth-century seminary.



We will finish our morning by having a **paella lunch** on the seafront of Malvarosa beach at a local restaurant.

PM

3:30 pm Departure by coach to **Montfort Gardens**, the last remaining example of nineteenth-century historical-artistic gardens in Valencia. Their origins can be traced back to an orchard that the Marquis of San Juan bought in 1849; he intended to transform it into a Romanticism-inspired garden, commissioning architect Sebastián Monleón to work on the project. The small Neo-classical style palazzo, shady bougainvillea-covered pergola, pond, beautiful rose gardens and numerous statues make it one of the most idyllic spots in the city, and it sits next to the old course of the Túria river. The loving care that is taken of its fountains and statues make the Jardí de Montfort one of the most beautiful corners of Valencia. The park covers almost 12,000 m². It is home to unique species such as the Ginkgo Biloba—known as the 'tree of the forty shields'—which can grow up to 35 m tall.

The garden is divided into three clearly defined zones: the Old Parterre, with trimmed hedges and statues on pedestals, the New Parterre, with the Patio de los Surtidores [water fountain patio] which is surrounded by cypress and myrtle hedges that are grown to form shapes and quadrants, and finally, a small wood which was designed to feel closer to nature.

6:00 pm. Return to the hotel.

Independent dinners.

(we will provide a list of restaurants).



10. SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER: VALENCIA- PEDREGAL- PALMERA- JAVEA-VALENCIA.

AM

9:00 am. Departure by coach to El **Pedregal** to visit the **garden of L'Albarda**, model of excellence in the world of Mediterranean gardens. Created in 1990, it demonstrates the great richness of the flora that thrives in this climate. L'Albarda covers an area of 50,000 m² and boasts more than 700 species of native plants, as well as an extensive collection of roses and palm trees. In addition to its botanical biodiversity, L'Albarda has a formal garden, orchards and wild gardens. These recreate the ancient Renaissance gardens of Valencia which were widely influenced by Arab culture. As in Renaissance gardens, architectural features have great importance in L'Albarda; visitors will be transported to ancient times as they wander the walkways, pergolas and areas of outstanding natural beauty. L'Albarda belongs to FUNDEM, foundation for the conservation of Mediterranean flora and fauna. One of the purposes is to publicize FUNDEM as an example of sustainable gardening, based on the use of native plants with low consumption of water and chemicals.



At noon we will continue to Palmera, to visit the **Todoli Citrus Foundation**. **Welcome by owner Vicente Todoli**, previous director of the Tate Modern and now curator for Hangar Bicoca in Milano and the Botin Foundation in Santander. <https://todolicitrusfundacio.org/en/the-foundation/>
The core of the Foundation is its citrus collection, which makes up the El Bartolí Botanical Orchard. This unique garden is located on the Spanish Mediterranean coast, in a region with a long tradition of citrus cultivation. It has some 500 different varieties of citrus, grown on an area of 4.5 hectares. El Bartolí is the hub of all our activity. Here we preserve the enormous biodiversity of citrus fruits, which is the basis of the outreach we carry out, as well as the starting point for numerous research projects in aspects as varied as sustainable agriculture, science, the environment, history, gastronomy, industry or art. Todolí Citrus Fundació has a strong link with contemporary art, which is present in different areas of the Foundation's facilities, most of them being works that the Foundation has received as donations from renowned contemporary artists. We will do a **Citrus tasting** and then have **lunch based on its citrus**.



PM

3:00 pm. **Visit the Citrus Orchard with Vicente.**

5:00 pm. We will then go to the **private home and garden of John Danzer and Chip Allman, who will host our farewell drinks and tapas.**

7:30pm. Return to Valencia. End of the trip.

11. MONDAY 12 OCTOBER: VALENCIA- MADRID -USA.

Independent transfers to the airport, organized by the hotel. (Pay individually).

** This itinerary can be subject to last-minute changes that will not affect the quality of the trip.*



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