Fanciful architecture and hip restaurants have come together with the sunny Spanish climate and beaches. This has transformed Barcelona in just a few decades from a rough port city to one of Europe’s—if not the world’s—premier destinations. Stroll along La Rambla, admire the Casa Calvet’s façade or the Casa Mila designed by Gaudi, visit the Market of la Boqueria or shop at El Corte Inglés, and sample some of the many bars, cafés and late night haunts while you’re at it.

Top 5

**PortAventura Park + Ferrari**
PortAventura Park: this amusement park is composed of six different worlds w...

**Casa Vicens**
The more recent of Gaudi's many projects to be opened to the public is the C...

**La Sagrada Família**
Antoni Gaudi's ambitious project remains, as of today, unfinished, which by ...

**La Rambla**
Barcelona's most well-known street is unofficially not just one uninterrupte...

**Casa Mila**
Another one of Gaudi's unconventional architectural creations, Casa Mila, al...
THE CITY

Like many other cities on the Mediterranean, Barcelona was founded by the Romans. The original settlement, called Barcino, was a small port located on the same spot as today’s cathedral. The town was overshadowed by Tarragona, the capital of the province. Both the Visigoths and the Moors invaded Barcelona; however, their influence was not as important to the future of the city as the arrival of the Franks in the late 9th century. It was at that point that Barcelona and Catalonia started shaping their own identity, different from the rest of Spain.

This is most apparent in the language - Spanish, or Castilian, has many Arabic words, while Catalan has many French words instead. So Catalan is not a Spanish dialect, but a language in its own right, related to other Romance languages.

Barcelona’s history is seen everywhere in the city. The oldest areas are located by the sea, including the shopping enclave Barri Gòtic. On the other side of the main boulevard, La Rambla, lies the legendary Raval district. Until the 1980’s this was the slum area, home to the city’s own Chinatown (Barrio Chino) and the red light district. Today, designer shops and cafés have moved in. Further north is fashionable Eixample, the area created as a result of the 19th century expansion of the city.

DO & SEE

Much of the attraction of Barcelona is the city’s wide range of sights. The architect, the design nerd, the football fan, the art historian, the city planner - there is something for all of them in the most self-assured city on the Mediterranean. A visit to Sagrada Familia, Casa Milà and Casa Calvet is a must when visiting Barcelona.

PortAventura Park + Ferrari Land

PortAventura Park: this amusement park is composed of six different worlds where you will enjoy all kinds of rides, attend shows or go to the various restaurants and shops.

Ferrari Land: in this park, built around the theme of the famous Ferrari car brand, you will find many rides and a new kids’ area in tribute to the genius Enzo Ferrari, the founder of the brand, and his passion for innovation.

PortAventura Park + Ferrari Land + transport from Barcelona for only 80 € per adult.

Photo: PortAventura
Address: Avinguda del Batlle Pere Molas, km 2, Tarragona
Phone: +34 902 20 22 20
PORTAVENTURA PARK + FERRARI LAND

BUS + TICKET

€80/adult

Excursion operated by:

PortAventura World

Julia Travel
Casa Vicens
The more recent of Gaudí’s many projects to be opened to the public is the Casa Vicens. Built between 1883 and 1885 and declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2005, Casa Vicens was the first house designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. Located in the bohemian district of Gràcia, this bold project, commissioned as a summer house, combines elements of nature into a chaotic yet peaceful retreat.

Photo: OneDayPix/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de les Carolines 20-26, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon: 10am - 3pm, Tue - Sun: 10am - 7pm
Phone: +34 935 47 59 80
Internet: www.casavicens.org
Email: info@casavicens.org

La Sagrada Familia
Antoni Gaudí’s ambitious project remains, as of today, unfinished, which by no means takes away from its popularity - at nearly 3 million yearly visitors, La Sagrada Familia is Spain’s 2nd most visited monument. The masterpiece was crafted meticulously to embody the Christian faith through composition, sculpture, and individualistic, offbeat design. Guided and audio tours available.

Photo: basiczto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de Mallorca 401, Barcelona
Internet: www.sagradafamilia.org

La Rambla
Barcelona’s most well-known street is unofficially not just one uninterrupted stretch but five (hence it being known as “Las Ramblas”), each containing attractions of their own. A pedestrian-only walkway runs through the street's central section, with street artists, souvenir vendors, bars and restaurants competing for visitor attention.

Photo: LALS STOCK/Shutterstock.com
Address: La Rambla, Barcelona

Casa Mila
Another one of Gaudí’s unconventional architectural creations, Casa Mila, also known as La Pedrera (“quarry”, for its wacky appearance distantly resembling an actual quarry), is one of Barcelona’s primary attractions. Entry tickets include a free audio guide.

Photo: Arnau Miguel/Shutterstock.com
Address: Passeig de Gràcia 92, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Fri: 9am - 6pm, weekends and holidays: 10am - 2pm
Phone: +34 932 14 25 76
Internet: www.lapedrera.com

Park Güell
In this park with stunning views over the city you can admire several impeccable works of Gaudí. Actually, the entire park is designed by the artist himself. Statues and buildings in different colours and shapes stand side by side
and the park is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Casa Batllo**

Once Gaudi got his hands on this previously unremarkable building in Passeig de Gràcia, it was never to be simply passed by again. Fascinatingly idiosyncratic and almost beast-like on the outside, it continues to amaze from within with twisted lines and elements that could only be thought up by the genius of Gaudi.

**Picasso Museum**

The Picasso Museum has one of the most extensive art collections by the 20th century Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. The permanent collections contain more than 3,800 works, and this is one of the most popular and most visited museums in Barcelona.

**Poble Espanyol Architectural Museum**

Located in one of the most emblematic areas of Barcelona, within walking distance from the Montjuïc Fountains, Poble Espanyol is one of the most attractive sites of the city for its unique setting, featuring architecture from across Spain, contemporary art, crafts, shopping and gastronomy. All this in a peaceful environment, ideal for children and adults.

**Plaça Reial**

Plaça Reial, a beautiful square and one of Barcelona’s busiest, most vibrant spots (especially so at night), is known for its many outdoor venues, restaurants and nightclubs. During summer time it becomes an even more popular meeting place when open air concerts take place. Stroll around or sit down with a tasty drink at one of the bars and just enjoy the moment.

**Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site**

Sant Pau is Barcelona’s new wonder. The world’s largest Art Nouveau site has been restored and invites you to enjoy one of the most emblematic works of architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner.
Declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997, Sant Pau is a city within a city, 12 buildings of great architectural value surrounded by gardens where history and architecture exist side by side.

Photo: Brian Kinney/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de Sant Antoni Maria Claret 167, Barcelona
Phone: +34 935 53 78 01
Internet: www.santpau.barcelona.org

**Camp Nou**

FC Barcelona is much more than just a football club. Sometimes it feels as if it carries the whole nation’s pride on its shoulders. Even those not interested in football will enjoy a visit to this grandiose stadium. One reason is the large number of well-dressed spectators, another the masterful architecture of the arena.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer d'Aristides Maillol 12, Barcelona
Phone: +34 902 18 99 00
Internet: www.bcn.travel/tours/camp-nou-museum-stadium-tour

**MACBA**

Leave the busy streets behind you for a moment and visit Barcelona’s museum of modern art. MACBA is short for Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona, and showcases Spanish and Catalanian art from the 20th century.

Photo: Teo Stuivenberg/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaça de Santa Maria 1, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Fri: 11am - 7:30pm, Sat: 10am - 9pm, Sun: 10am - 3pm, closed on Tuesdays

**Palau de la Música Catalana Concert Hall**

This sublime concert hall designed by Domènech i Montaner a hundred years ago is not quite as wacky as some of Gaudi’s architecture. It is actually more representative of Modernism. The Palace of Catalan Music not only pays tribute to the musical heritage of the Catalans but to all music—as well as beauty, colour and joy.

Photo: jiawangkun/Shutterstock.com
Address: Palau de la Música 4-6, Barcelona
Phone: +34 932 95 72 00
Internet: www.palaumusica.org
Email: taquilles@palaumusica.cat

**Santa Maria del Mar**

Barcelona’s most beautiful church is probably the best existing example of the Catalanian Gothic, with a cleaner style than normally associated with Gothic architecture. The church has a wonderful feeling of spaciousness and weightlessness emphasized by slender pillars and very sparsely decorated chapels.

Photo: TTstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaça de Santa Maria 1, Barcelona
Phone: +34 933 10 23 90
Internet: www.santamariadelmar.barcelona.org
Email: parroquia@santamariadelmar.barcelona.org
Aquarium de Barcelona

The sharks are the stars at this Mediterranean themed aquarium, but you will be able to see almost all different kinds of marine species here.

The Aquarium is situated at the end of Las Ramblas and is very close to the city centre. When here, make sure not to miss the tunnel where you can spot stingrays, sharks and many other fish swimming around and above you.

Photo: Fotokon/Shutterstock.com
Address: Moll d'Espanya del Port Vell, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 7:30pm
Phone: +34 932 21 74 74
Internet: www.aquariumbcn.com
Email: info@aquariumbcn.com

Barcelona Zoo

In the beautiful Parc de la Ciutadella you will find this well-maintained zoo with over 7,000 animals representing 400 different species. Spend a perfect day here with your family and discover animals like the lions, leopards, hippopotamus, red pandas and gorillas - just to mention a few.

Photo: Mario Sánchez Prada/Flickr (image cropped)
Address: Parc de la Ciutadella, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 7pm
Phone: +34 932 25 67 80
Internet: www.zoobarcelona.cat

CosmoCaixa

The CosmoCaixa, a science museum that attracts both kids and grown-ups, is one of the most thrilling and largest museums (more than 30,000 m²) in Barcelona and all of Spain. This hands-on museum offers physical, technical, geological, chemical and mathematical experiments and with its permanent exhibitions such as "Flooded Forest," "Geological Wall," "Room of Matter" and Planetarium, can keep nearly anyone busy for hours. It is easy to spend some hours here but make sure not to miss "The Amazon Jungle" with 30m tall trees and animals from tropical regions.

Photo: Jerzy Kociatkiewicz (image cropped)
Address: Carrer d'Isaac Newton 26, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 8pm
Phone: +34 932 12 60 50
Internet: www.cosmocaixa.com

Parc de la Ciutadella

Parc de la Ciutadella, Barcelona's "green lung", is not only the most central park in the city but also a park that includes a zoo, a lake, a large fountain and several museums. In the centre of the park you will even find the building where Catalan Parliament is seated. So take a walk and enjoy this very lusciously green and well-maintained park.

Photo: lornet/Shutterstock.com
Address: Passeig de Picasso 21, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 9am - 9pm
Phone: +34 638 23 71 15
**Gaudí Experiència**

Nothing like the audiovisual projections we normally see. It’s like being inside Gaudí’s head, understanding what inspired him in a way that is easy to understand and magical. With the audiovisual 4D you can travel inside the creative mind of Gaudi. Interactive walls with 9 languages put the life and works of the genius architect at your fingertips.

Photo: FastMotion/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de Larrard 41, Barcelona
Opening hours: Summer, daily: 10am - 7pm / winter, daily: 10am - 6pm
Phone: +34 932 85 44 40
Internet: www.gaudiexperiencia.com
Email: info@gaudiexperiencia.com

**El Born Cultural Centre**

11 September 1714 marks a crucial chapter in the history of Catalonia: the fierce siege of the Bourbonic troops of King Philip V, which ended in the capitulation of Barcelona and the loss of Catalan liberties. El Born Cultural Centre shows the vivacious, dynamic Barcelona of 1700 and the events of 1714 in the context of the War of the Spanish Succession. The archaeological site contains the remains of the neighbourhood demolished by King Philip V of Spain.

Photo: Marc Canela Fotografia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaça Comercial 12, Barcelona
Opening hours: Tue - Sun: 10am - 8pm
Phone: +34 932 56 68 51
Internet: www.elbornɔculturaimemoria.barcelona.cat/en
Email: infoelbornɔccm@bcn.cat

**Barcelona Segway Tour**

Are you ready for an adventure to remember for a lifetime? Go on a private Segway tour of Barcelona and explore the beautiful city in style. Never tried a Segway? Don't worry, it is as safe and easy as walking!

Photo: mariait/Shutterstock.com
Address: Passeig de Lluís Companys, Barcelona
Internet: www.bcn.travel/tours/barcelona-segway-tour

**Cardona Castle**

Cardona is a medieval village just one hour away from Barcelona. Come and see Cardona, go inside its Salt Mountain, a unique place in the world, and visit the castle that was the residence of the wealthiest lineage of Catalonia, the Cardonas. Also visit the Medieval Centre and enjoy the natural beauty surrounding the town.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Lloc Parador Nacional Turisme 506, Cardona
Phone: +34 869 24 75
Internet: www.cardonaturisme.cat
Email: informacio@cardonaturisme.cat

**Sitges**

This town, only 35 km south of Barcelona, is a popular day trip destination for visitors to the city. Come here to have a lazy day on the beach or stroll through the cosy town. You will find trendy shops, beautiful sights and delightful restaurants. If you choose to stay overnight do not miss the well-reputed nightlife.
The easiest thing is to divide Barcelona’s overwhelming range of restaurants into two categories: the new and the old. Some of the world’s most modern restaurants, managed by the world’s most innovative chefs (the most famous is Ferrán Adrià) can be found here, but there is also traditional Catalonian cuisine, which, despite being heavy on occasion, includes very good vegetable dishes (samfaina, a kind of ratatouille, escalivada, grilled, peeled peppers, aubergines and onions espinacs a la catalan, spinach fried with garlic, pine nuts and raisins). Best known is the simple rustic pa amb tomàquet: a slice of bread with olive oil, salt and freshly crushed tomatoes.

"The new ones" in particular may be expensive, but many of the best known chefs’ apprentices have now opened their own lower-priced restaurants. Generally speaking, "the old ones" provide better value for money, although even the traditional restaurants know how to charge. You should always reserve a table in Barcelona. Dinner is not served until 9pm.

Cal Pep

Cal Pep is a very popular tapas bar and restaurant. It is best to jostle your way to the bar and let Pep himself recommend the best hors d’oeuvres. Otherwise, there are also tables and a quieter dining room further in. Offered is a mixture of traditional and innovative cooking.

Banna Restaurant

Located in the heart of Gràcia, Banna is a restaurant whose Thai chef team from Xishuangbanna cooks to perfection with the freshest ingredients from Barcelona's markets. Choose from the a la carte, daily set menu or sampling menu. Authentic Thai food with great value for money can be enjoyed here.

Due Spaghetti

Catalan Italian restaurant, which is reflected in its culinary tendencies. There’s a wide range of dishes and delicacies to choose from,
and their speciality is pappardelle al ragù de conejo. The location is perfect, really close to Plaça Universitat, away from busy areas.

Toto Restaurant

Toto offers Italian-inspired meals, simple and based on seasonal products. They offer a short menu that changes every day. The wood oven and grill are the real stars of the restaurant, and offer guests unforgettable flavours.

La Cantina Mexicana

Only a step's away from the Sagrada Familia, come and discover La Cantina Mexicana restaurant. In this true Mexican taquería with a young and family-friendly atmosphere, you can enjoy a present-day Mexican cuisine, prepared with the best fresh products straight imported from Mexico.

El Filete Ruso

Quality food served by the friendly staff can be enjoyed at El Filete Ruso, where organic meats, hamburger, steak tartar, entrecote and tapas can be found on the menu. Enjoy your meal on the lovely terrace and watch the world go by.

Poble Espanyol: the richness of traditional Spanish cuisine

The wide range of bars and restaurants in Poble Espanyol allow you to discover the variety and richness of Spanish cuisine, known worldwide. Enjoying an excellent paella or delicious tapas in a peaceful environment is quite an experience. And if the weather permits, why not relax on one of the pleasant terraces too?
Uma

Uma, a highly appreciated restaurant among locals and tourists alike, will be an experience you will not forget. This small place is run by the chef and his wife, who do personal cooking in a charming and exclusive environment. The dynamic tasting menu with 14 dishes is prepared with high-quality products, with the starters served in the kitchen.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de Mallorca 275, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm, Sat: 10am - 2pm
Phone: +34 656 99 09 30
Internet: www.espaciouma.com
Email: info@espaciouma.com

Accés

Accés is a lavish restaurant that serves exquisite modern Mediterranean cuisine in a stylish ambience. Beautiful dishes are prepared by the professional chefs in the open kitchen for everyone to observe. Pan-seared scallops with crispy bacon, baked hake with artichoke confit and fillet of beef are some of the lovely, mouth-watering dishes on the menu.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer Aribau 55, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 8pm - 2:30am
Phone: +34 930 07 78 39
Internet: www.acces-bcn.com
Email: info@acces-bcn.com

Blavis

Tucked away on a small side street, Blavis offers truly a great culinary experience in a uniquely intimate atmosphere. The owners, Paco and Marc, are an attentive and warm team and offer simple yet mouthwatering tapas dishes. The place is small and seats only 18 people so booking in advance is recommended.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer Saragossa 85, Barcelona
Opening hours: Tue - Sat: 7pm - 10:30pm
Phone: +34 640 50 36 11
Internet: www.restaurantblavis.com

Carlota Akaneya

Inspired by a famous restaurant in Kyoto, Carlota Akaneya is the first sumiyaki in Barcelona. What makes it special is the grill placed in the centre of the table where you cook the impeccable quality meats, fish and vegetables. So if traditional and authentic Japanese cuisine is what you are looking for, then this is the place to head for.

Photo: Quang Mau Thanh/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer del Pintor Fortuny 32, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 7pm - 11pm
Phone: +34 933 02 77 68
Internet: www.carlotaakaneya.com
Email: carlota.akaneya@gmail.com
**Café Manila**

Founders Fede and Alex are the duo behind this simple and well decorated restaurant and cocktail bar where Asian/Spanish fusion food is served. The seasonal menu features dishes meant to be shared, and, while here, you should ask the mixologist for his recommendation and let the perfect drink tantalise your taste buds.

Photo: Photographee.eu/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ronda Sant Pau 7, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 6:30pm - 11:30pm
Phone: +34 934 61 73 67
Email: info@cafemanilabcn.com

**Piazze D'Italia**

This simple and cosy small Italian restaurant is a hidden gem compared to the many tourist traps a few streets away. Homemade pasta and pizza dishes are served every day by the attentive staff.

Photo: marinatakano/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de Casanova 94, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 1pm - 3:45pm and 8pm - 11:45pm
Phone: +34 933 23 59 77
Internet: www.piazzeditalia.com

**Viana Barcelona**

When dining at Viana Barcelona, one can relish the beautifully presented modern take on tapas. Although the restaurant is tiny and noisy, the delicious food and the excellent service make it all worth it. The food is also reasonably priced.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer del Vidre 7, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon, Wed - Fri: 6pm - 12am, Sat - Sun: 1pm - 4pm and 6pm - 12am
Phone: +34 934 63 82 95
Internet: www.vianabcn.com
Email: info@vianabcn.com

**Restaurant MIAN**

If Chinese dumplings commonly is something you’re in the mood for, then this is the place to go to. The authentic Chinese cuisine often presented in a bamboo steamer is perfectly balanced with sweet, salty and sour flavours. Besides serving dim sum, they also have noodle soups, fried rice and wok dishes, and it is all reasonably priced.

Photo: leungchopan/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer Girona 49, Barcelona
Opening hours: Tue - Sun: 12pm - 4pm and 7:30pm - 11pm
Phone: +34 936 81 78 29
Internet: www.restaurantemian.com
Email: bcn@restaurantemian.com

**CAFES**

Barcelona’s café culture is half Italian, and comes with its own set of simple rules: café con leche (café amb llet in Catalan) is for breakfast, preferably with a croissant; mid-day, especially...
after a meal, the locals have an espresso, café solo (un café) or a cortado (un tallat), which is an espresso with milk (café Americano is what some would call watered down versions of the two first coffees); in the afternoon, or after dinner, order a café solo corto, a strong espresso, or a carajillo—a café solo with Spanish brandy.

**Café de l’Òpera**

If you are searching for a classic, Café de l’Òpera is once place that holds such a status. Come here and you will definitely feel yourself transported back in time, served by the friendly staff. Apart from that, their coffees, churros and cakes are simply superb; don't miss out on their marvellous hot chocolate.

Photo: Ana del Castillo/Shutterstock.com
Address: La Rambla 74, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 8:30am - 2:30am
Phone: +34 933 17 75 85
Internet: www.cafeoperabcn.com
Email: info@cafeoperabcn.com

**Satan's Coffee Corner**

The coolest coffee house in Barcelona may be small but it does not lack in personality and customer loyalty. Coming from a family of coffee makers, Marcos Bartolomé set up Satan’s Coffee Corner and started creating his own original and creatively named blends, which are possibly the best coffee available in the city.

Photo: Siegi/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de l’Arc de Sant Ramon del Call 11, Barcelona

**Café Salambó**

Famed for its exquisite and varied cocktails and wooden decor that gives the place a homey feeling, Café Salambó attracts a young and vibrant crowd, many of whom stop by for a snack and a bite to eat before or after a visit to the nearby Verdi Park cinema.

Photo: Pheniti Prasomphetiran/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de Torrijos 51, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Fri: 12pm - 1am, Sat: 12pm - 3am, Sun: 12pm - 12am
Phone: +34 932 18 69 66
Internet: www.cafesalambo.com
Email: info@cafesalambo.com

**Cafés El Magnífico**

"Magnifico" in both name and quality, this high-end coffee house allows its patrons to try different types of coffee and speciality blends in the shop’s sampling area before deciding what to order. Many customers choose to take some beans home with them, which attests to their high quality and exquisite flavour.

Photo: bajinda/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer de l’Argenteria 64, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 10am - 8pm
Phone: +34 933 19 60 81
Internet: www.cafeselmagnifico.com
Email: elmagnifico@cafeselmagnifico.com
**Granja M. Viader**

Barcelona’s traditional cafes are known as "granjas", and M. Viader may be one of the most famous. It remains after all these years a great place to try the traditional cacaolat (a Catalan chocolate drink), always best paired with churros. The whole place oozes charm and personality, and staff and clientele alike ensure that it is always lively.

Photo: AS Food studio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Carrer d’en Xuclà 6, Barcelona  
Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 9am - 1:15pm and 5pm - 9:15pm  
Phone: +34 933 18 34 86  
Internet: www.granjaviader.cat  
Email: granjaviader@gmail.com

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**Caelum**

Offering a wealth of sweets, treats and pastries, Caelum aims to satisfy even the most discerning visitors' sweet tooth. The products on offer are made by monks and nuns in various monasteries and convents located around the region, and they can be enjoyed along with a steaming coffee in the small cafe area of the shop.

Photo: karnavalfoto/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Carrer de la Palla 8, Barcelona  
Opening hours: Mon - Thu: 10am - 8:30pm, Fri - Sun: 10am - 9pm  
Phone: +34 933 02 69 93  
Internet: www.caelumbarcelona.com  
Email: caelumbcn@gmail.com

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**BARS & NIGHTLIFE**

Barcelona stays awake while the rest of Europe sleeps. Nightlife starts late, preferably at a bar. Spaniards believe it’s smart to eat while drinking, so most bars also serve tapas. Barcelona’s trendy nightlife is in a constant state of change, so the best advice is to ask around for the latest and greatest places.

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**Icebarcelona**

The only ice bar in the world located directly on the beach, Icebarcelona offers a welcome respite from the oppressive heat of the Barcelona summer. Maintained at a chilled -5ºC, and the cool lighting and interesting ice sculptures complete the bar’s unique ambience.

Photo: Marcin Sylwia Ciesielski/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta 38 A, Barcelona  
Opening hours: Daily: 12pm - 3am  
Phone: +34 932 24 16 25  
Internet: www.icebarcelona.com  
Email: info@icebarcelona.com
Marula Café

Marula Café is known and loved for the old-school flavour of the jams that blaze from the speakers on a nightly basis. Funk, soul and disco beats keep the crowd dancing, and the regular live bands and DJ sessions keep them coming to this Gothic area nightclub.

Photo: wedninith/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer dels Escudellers 49, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Thu: 10pm - 5am, Fri - Sat: 11pm - 6am
Phone: +34 933 18 76 90
Internet: www.marulacafe.com/bcn
Email: eventos@marulacafe.com

Sidecar Factory Club

Indie and underground rock acts have called this place home for over 25 years now. Nightly concerts and/or DJ sessions make this gritty bar one of the coolest places to party in Barcelona.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaça Reial 7, Barcelona
Opening hours: Thu: 7pm - 5am, Fri - Sat: 7pm - 6am
Phone: +34 933 02 15 86
Internet: www.sidecar.es
Email: info@sidecar.es

Jamboree

Jamboree is an insanely popular jazz club that crams huge crowds into its small, cave-like space to listen to raucous jazz and blues acts and jam sessions on a nightly basis. It is an integral part of the Placa Reial night scene, transforming into a dance club later at night.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaça Reial 17, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 19:30pm - 12am
Phone: +34 933 19 17 89
Internet: www.masimas.com/jamboree
Email: info-jamboree@masimas.com

Sala Apolo

Sala Apolo offers something of an alternative to Barcelona’s typical nightlife scene, and it is worth the experience. Sala Apolo welcomes the young rebels and rockers of the city, and offers events like "anti-karaoke" on Mondays, followed by metal parties.

Photo: Sinelev/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer Nou de la Rambla 113, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Thu: 8pm - 5am, Fri - Sat: 6pm - 6am, Sun: 6pm - 5am
Phone: +34 934 41 40 01
Internet: www.sala-apolo.com/en
Email: info@sala-apolo.com

Harlem Jazz Club

Barcelona’s premier destination for live jazz music, Harlem Jazz Club brings the feel of the Harlem music scene to the Catalan coast. There are performances every night, attracting the best of the local talent as well as visitors from all around the globe.

Photo: Geoff Goldswain/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer Comtessa de Sobradiel 8, Barcelona
Opening hours: Sun - Thu: 8pm - 3am, Fri - Sat: 8pm - 5am
Phone: +34 933 10 07 55
Kaelderkold

The selection of beer in most bars in Barcelona is not very impressive, which makes Kaelderkold all the more special. They offer many different varieties of craft beers from all across Europe in a small but cosy setting.

Photo: Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer del Cardenal Casañas 7, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 12pm - 2:30am
Phone: +34 933 02 43 30

Carpe Diem

The location is by far the greatest draw for Carpe Diem, as its fantastic spot right on the beach makes for an enjoyable evening meal and drink, but the excellent food and cocktails are also well worth it. Many come to start the evening off, and some even stay longer and enjoy the restaurant’s transformation into a nightclub later at night.

Photo: oneinchpunch/Shutterstock.com
Address: Passeig Maritim de la Barceloneta 32, Barcelona
Opening hours: Daily: 12pm - 5am
Phone: +34 932 24 04 70
Internet: www.cdlcbarcelona.com
Email: alex@cdlcbarcelona.com

La Terrrazza

La Terrrazza is one of Barcelona’s most stunning party spots, located at the site of a former mountaintop castle that has now been converted into an open air nightclub that thousands know and love.

Photo: Thoom/Shutterstock.com
Address: Av. Francesc Ferrer I Guardia 13, Barcelona
Opening hours: Thu: 12am - 5:30am, Fri - Sat: 12am - 6:30am
Phone: +34 932 72 44 98
Internet: www.laterrrazza.com
Email: contact@laterrrazza.com

Mojito Club

Latin beats are the stars at Mojito Club, which, as the name suggests, specialises in salsa and Cuban music. Beginners can take salsa dancing lessons at 10pm, and seasoned veterans can show up later to tear up the dance floor. Other Latin American rhythms always make an appearance so all dancers feel welcome.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer del Rosselló 217, Barcelona
Opening hours: Thu: 11pm - 4:30am, Fri - Sat: 11pm - 5:30am, Sun: 9pm - 12am
Phone: +34 654 20 10 06
Internet: www.mojitobcn.com
Email: infomojito@gmail.com
Casino Barcelona

Discover a world of entertainment where gastronomy, live music and gambling are brought to life. Come and taste their Mediterranean, international and fusion cuisines, paired with the best wines and champagnes; enjoy live concerts and a variety of musical performances and entertainment which take place in their most innovative gaming rooms.

Photo: Hadrian/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer Marina 19-21, Barcelona
Opening hours: 24/7
Phone: +34 900 35 43 54
Internet: www.casinobarcelona.com
Email: info@casinobarcelona.com

SHOPPING

Shopping in Barcelona offers lots of interesting browsing. Unusual shops can be found in most parts of the city, but those who want to be efficient should focus on Placa Catalunya and the Gothic Quarter. The gigantic department store El Corte Ingles is located by Placa Catalunya. Come here for the wares, but also for the people. Across the street is El Triangle, a grotesquely large shopping palace with a good perfumery and a Camper shoe store.

Mercado La Boquería

Visiting the La Boquería, half way down La Rambla, is something of a must. This covered market provides everything when it comes to food, and the place is also popular for a lunch or a refreshing glass of cava. This historic, vibrant market is one of the city's principal attractions.

Photo: Iolanta Kli/Shutterstock.com
Address: La Rambla 91, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 8am - 8:30pm
Phone: +34 933 18 25 84
Internet: www.boqueria.barcelona/home
Email: pinfo@boqueria.info

Carrer d'Avinyó

Carrer d'Avinyó, in Barrí Gothic (the Gothic Quarter), is possibly Barcelona's most interesting shopping street. Here you can find fun stores, including street fashion store Soda, Ángel Gimeno specialising in trendy shirts for men, and Loft Avignon, which caters to the more sophisticated lot. Herborista del Rei in the Gothic Quarter is the best choice for herbs and spices.

Photo: Lobro/Shutterstock.com
Address: Carrer d'Avinyó, Barcelona
El Born

The El Born district is also a good place to shop for food. Casa Gispert offers coffee, dried nuts and fruits and Tot Formatge is one of Barcelona’s best-stocked cheese shops.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: El Born, Barcelona

Passeig de Gràcia

For serious fashion shopping, make your way to Passeig de Gràcia, the parallel street, Rambla de Catalunya, and the surrounding district. You will find all the big international fashion names here, including Spanish greats such as Adolfo Domínguez, Armand Basi, Groc and the leather specialist Loewe. More economic alternatives such as Zara, Mango and Massimo Dutti are also represented. You can also find a good selection of trend-conscious designer fashions at Noténom.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Passeig de Gràcia, Barcelona
Phone: +34 933 02 76 16
Internet: www.barcelonapaseodegracia.com/en
Email: info@barcelonapaseodegracia.com

La Maquinista

La Maquinista is the only open-air commercial centre in Barcelona, boasting more than 235 establishments, fashion brands, entertainment and technology stores, restaurants and a 13 screen cinema. There are 5,000 spaces of free parking and 30,000 square metres of open space with avenues and squares. It is perfect retail therapy during your stay in Barcelona.

Photo: www.BillionPhotos.com/Shutterstock.com
Address: Passeig de Potosí 2, Barcelona
Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 9am - 9pm
Phone: +34 933 60 89 71
Internet: www.lamaquinista.com
Email: atencionalcliente@lamaquinista.com

TOURIST INFORMATION
Best Time to Visit

Barcelona, second largest city in Spain, is the first tourist destination of the country, ahead of its rival Madrid. The city is particularly appreciated for its climate because it enjoys beautiful and sunny days eight months per year. It is popular with tourists from around the world during the two summer months because of its high temperatures, up to 37 °C. The many nearby beaches are perfect for a swim after a long day of sightseeing, but expect a busy crowd.

Spring and autumn are therefore the ideal seasons to enjoy the city in good conditions so that you can enjoy the sun and the beautiful and shining days away from the holidaymakers of July and August. Besides, the prices are more affordable and so it is easier to find a place to eat and to sleep.

It is also possible to explore the Catalan capital during the winter because the climate is cool but the temperatures are still mild. You will not find negative temperatures or frosts at this time of the year.

Several days are necessary to discover Barcelona as it is full of must-see tourist sites and typical places to see. However, avoid driving in the city and prefer public transport, bus, metro or tram that serve all tourist areas.

Passport / Visa

Spain can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a passport, but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.

Barcelona El Prat Airport

Barcelona El Prat Airport (BCN), Barcelona’s main airport, is located 13 km southwest of the city centre. Aerobus serves both terminals every 5 minutes before leaving for the city centre with stops at Plaza Espanya, Plaza Universidad and Plaza de Catalunya Square. A one-way Aerobus ticket costs 5.90€ (10.20€ for a round trip) and the trip takes about 25 minutes to reach the city center.

Local trains leave for Barcelona every 30 minutes (from the train station next to terminal 2). From terminal 1 to terminal 2 there is a free connecting shuttle bus that takes around 10 minutes. The train takes about 30 minutes to Barcelona’s Sants station and the ticket costs 4 €.
Taxis are available just outside the terminals. Price depends on traffic, luggage, day of the week and time. The average price is around 35 €.

Consult the airport website to learn more about other public transport routes servicing the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces
Address: Barcelona El Prat Airport
Internet: www.aeropuertobarcelona-elprat.com

Girona-Costa Brava Airport

Girona airport lies about 100 km from the centre of Barcelona, and there are three ways of getting between the two places. Buses will take you to Estacio d’Autobusos Barcelona Nord. They depart on a schedule based on the flights arrival times. Prices for a one-way ticket start from 16 €.

A taxi to Barcelona city centre may cost around 125 €, so a better option might be to stay overnight at Girona and travel by bus the next day.

There are also trains to and from Barcelona from central Girona but you will have to find a solution to get from Girona train station to the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces
Address: Girona-Costa Brava Airport
Phone: +34 913 21 10 00
Internet: www.girona-airport.net

Public Transport

Tickets for the underground and trams can be bought from travel information booths and from stations. They are valid for one trip. Bus tickets are bought from the driver. There are also a selection of different travel cards to purchase if you know that you will be travelling a lot.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair
Internet: www.tmb.net

Taxi

Barcelona’s black and yellow taxis can be hailed on the street, at stations or called by telephone. Standard fares apply between 6am and 10pm from Monday to Friday. At all other times, including public holidays, fares are higher. Remember that drivers often have minimal small change and do not take credit cards.

Most known taxi compagnies:

Barnataxi: +34 933 22 22 22
www.barnataxi.com

Fonotaxi: +34 933 00 11 00
www.fonotaxi.net

Ràdio Taxi: +34 933 03 30 33
www.radiotaxi033.com

Photo: BCN Travel
Phone: +34 933 22 22 22
Post

The post offices in Spain are called "Correos" (Correu in Catalan). Stamps can be purchased from post offices and kiosks - "Estancos". The main post office at Plaça Antoni López is open Monday-Friday 8:30am to 9:30pm and Saturday 8:30am to 2:30pm.

Photo: Andy Fuchs
Address: Plaça del Antonio López 1, Barcelona
Phone: +34 934 86 80 50

Pharmacy

Pharmacies in Barcelona take turns at operating the after-hours service. The nearest pharmacy that is open at night will be posted on the door of an adjacent pharmacies. Pharmacies with 24-hour service are:

Farmàcia Clapés
La Rambla 98
+34 933 01 28 43

Farmàcia Torres
Carrer d’Aribau 62
+34 934 53 92 20

Photo: Gemma Garner
Address: La Rambla 98, Barcelona
Opening hours: 24/7
Phone: +34 933 01 28 43
Internet: www.farmacias.com/barcelona

Telephone

Country code: +34 Area code: 93

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

220 volts (125 volts in some older buildings), 50 Hz

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
1.81 million

Currency
Euro, €1=100 cents

Opening hours
Usually Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 1:30pm and 4:30pm to 8pm with some variations. Many establishments have the same opening hours on Saturdays and some are open until lunchtime on Sundays. Shopping centres and many large stores do not close for lunch/siesta.

Newspapers
La Vanguardia
El Periódico
El País
El Mundo

Emergency numbers
Emergency call: 112

Tourist information
Turisme de Barcelona
Plaça de Catalunya 17 - basement
+34 932 853 834
Almirall Aixada B4 C4 C. Metges C2 Carrer d’ Aribau A1
Av. de la Catedral B2 C. Montsió B2 Carrer d’ Ausias Marc C2 D2
Av. de les Drassanes A3 C. Nou de la Rambla A3 Carrer d’Ali Bei C2 D2
Av. del Paral·lel A3 C. Nou de Sant Francesc B3 Carrer Joaquim Costa A1 A2
Av. F. Cambo B2 C2 C. Ortigosa de Trafalgar C2 Carrer la Ample B3
Av. Marqués de l’Argentera C3 C. Patrìcix B2 Carrer Vaidonzella A1 A2
Av. Vilanova D2 C. Pintor Fortuny A2 Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes A1 B1 D1
Avinguda Meridiana D2 C. Portaferrissa B2 La Rambla A3 B2
C. Almirall Cervera C4 C. Portal de Santa Madrona A3 Passeig de Colom B3
C. Argentaria B3 C. Portal Nou C2 Passeig de Joan de Borbo B4 C4
C. Banys Nous de la Palla B2 B3 C. Ribera C3 Passeig de Lluís Companys C2
C. Bisbe Irurita B2 C. Robador A2 Passeig de Picasso C2 C3
C. Boqueria A2 B3 C. Sant Carles C4 Passeig de Pujades C2 D2
C. Buenaventura Munoz D2 C. Sant Pere mes Alt B2 C2 Passeig de Salvat C4
C. Carders C2 C. Sant Pere mes Baix C2 Passeig Martítim C4 D4
C. Comtal B2 C. Sant Pere Mitja C2 Pg. de Circumval·lació C3 D3
C. Consolat de Mar B3 C3 C. Sant Vicenc A2 Pg. de Gracia B1
C. Cortíns C2 C. Santa Anna B2 Pg. de Sant Joan C1 C2
C. de Codols B3 C.d’En Roca B2 Pg. Isabel II B3 C3
C. de Ferran B3 Carrer Balboa C4 Pl. Angels A2
C. de la Cadena A2 A3 Carrer de Bailén C1 C2 Pl. de l’Angel B3
C. de la Canuda B2 Carrer de Balmes A1 Pl. de Pau Vila
C. de la Merce B3 Carrer de Casanova A1 Pl. de Sta Caterina B2 C2
C. de la Riereta A2 A3 Carrer de Casp B1 D1 Pl. del Rei B2
C. de l’Arc del Teatre A3 Carrer de Ginebra C4 Pl. d’ Antoni Lopez B3
C. de Pelai A1 B2 Carrer de Girona C1 Pl. M. Ribe B2
C. de Ramon Turro D3 Carrer de l’Hospital A2 Pl. Regomir B3
C. de Sant Jeroni A2 A3 Carrer de la Diputació A1 D1 Pl. Sant Pere C2
c. del Doctor Aiguader C3 C4 C3 Carrer de la Marina D1 D2 D3 D4 Pl. St. A. Vell C2
c. del Doctor Trueta D3 Carrer de la Princesa B3 C3 Pl. St. Agustí A2
c. del Lio A2 Carrer de Llull D3 Pl. J. Oriol B2
c. del Peu de la Creu A2 Carrer de Muntaner A1 Pl. St. Jaume B3
c. del Pi B2 Carrer de Naples D1 D2 Pl. St. Miquel B3
c. dels Angels A2 Carrer de Pau Claris B1 Pl. Vic. Martorell A2
c. dels Escudellers A3 B3 Carrer de Ramon Trias Fargas D3 D4 Pl. Vila de Madrid B2
c. Duran i B. R. B2 Carrer de Ribes D2 Pl. Voluntaris Olimpics D4
c. d’Andreu Doria C4 Carrer de Roger de Flor D1 D2 Placa Antoni Maura B2
c. d’Avinyo B3 Carrer de Roger de Lluria C1 Placa de Castella A1
c. d’En Cignas B3 Carrer de Sant Pau A3 Placa de Tetuan C1
c. Elisabets A2 Carrer de Sardenya D1 D2 D3 Placa Doctor Letamendi A1
c. Fonollar C2 Carrer de Sicilia D1 Placa Pedro A2
c. Fontanella B2 Carrer de Wellington D3 Placa Reial A3 B3
c. J. Giralt C2 Carrer del Bruc C1 Placa-de-la Universitat A1
c. Jonqueres B2 Carrer del Carme A2 Plaça de Catalunya B1
c. la Lluna A2 Carrer del Comerc C3 Plaça del Portal de la Pau A3
c. la Maquinista C4 Carrer del Consell de Cent A1 D1 Rambla de Catalunya B1
c. les Moles B2 Carrer dels Almogàvers D2 Ronda de Sant Antoni A1 A2
c. Lleona B3 Carrer dels Tallers A1 A2 Ronda de Sant Pere B2 C2
C. Maeques de Barbera A3 Carrer d’ Arago A1 B1 C1 Ronda Litoral C4 D4