

# DESTINATION REPORT

**YOUR TRAVEL SNAPSHOT:** Destinations included in this guide

**Barcelona, Spain**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BARCELONA, SPAIN \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

Barcelona, Spain - Overview \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4

Barcelona, Spain - See & Do: Sightseeing \_\_\_\_\_ Page 7

Barcelona, Spain - See & Do: Recreation \_\_\_\_\_ Page 17

Barcelona, Spain - See & Do: Nightlife \_\_\_\_\_ Page 19

Barcelona, Spain - See & Do: Performing Arts \_\_\_\_\_ Page 23

Barcelona, Spain - See & Do: Spectator Sports \_\_\_\_\_ Page 26

Barcelona, Spain - See & Do: Shopping \_\_\_\_\_ Page 27

Barcelona, Spain - Dining \_\_\_\_\_ Page 33

Barcelona, Spain - Security \_\_\_\_\_ Page 38

Barcelona, Spain - Facts \_\_\_\_\_ Page 41

Barcelona, Spain - Events \_\_\_\_\_ Page 50

DESTINATION GUIDE

# Barcelona, Spain



---

## INTRODUCTION

---

Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city, is inextricably linked to the architecture of Antoni Gaudi. His most famous and unfinished masterpiece, La Sagrada Familia, is the emblem of the city.

Like the basilica, Barcelona takes traditional ideas and presents them in new, even outrageous, forms. And the city's bursts of building and innovation give the impression that it's still being conceived. Both the church and the city can be tough places to get a handle on, yet their complexity is invigorating rather than forbidding.

Since it hosted the Summer Olympics in 1992, Barcelona has been on the hot list of European destinations. The staging of the Universal Forum of Cultures in 2004 also raised the city's profile. Such popularity may make it harder to land a hotel room, but it has only added to the sense that Barcelona is a place to visit as much for its energetic, cosmopolitan character as for its unusual attractions.

---

## MUST SEE OR DO

---

**Sights**—La Sagrada Familia; La Pedrera; La Catedral (La Seu); Santa Maria del Mar.

**Museums**—Museu Picasso; Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya; Museu d'Historia de Catalunya; Fundacio Joan Miro; Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat; Museu Maritim.

**Memorable Meals**—Lunch at Escriba Xiringuito on the seafront; high-end Mediterranean fare at Neichel; fashionable, inventive dishes at Semproniana; Albert Adria's Nikkei cuisine at Pakta; upscale modern Catalan tasting menu at Hisop; creative, seasonal Catalan fare at Gresca.

**Late Night**—Flamenco at Los Tarantos in summer; drinks and a view at Mirablau; wine at La Vinya del Senyor; dancing at Otto Zutz.

**Walks**—La Rambla, the Barri Gotic and the Born; along the waterfront; Montjuic; Park Guell; Collserola woodlands.

**Especially for Kids**—Zoo de Barcelona; a ride on the roller coaster at Parc d'Atraccions del Tibidabo; the ComsoCaixa science museum.

---

## GEOGRAPHY

---

Barcelona is a large city with many districts, but the most popular attractions are found in a handful of areas that, for the most part, flow into one another. Beginning on the waterfront, Port Vell (Old Port) encompasses the harbor area and Barceloneta, a neighborhood that was once home to fishermen and has been renovated. The Vila Olimpica (Olympic Village) lies just east of Port Vell. It, too, has undergone extensive renovation in the past decade or so and is now the city's seaside recreation area.

La Rambla, Barcelona's famous boulevard and almost a district unto itself, begins at Port Vell and extends inland to Placa Catalunya. La Rambla is the heart of the central city, and it forms the boundary between El Raval, the neighborhood to the west of the boulevard, and the Barri Gotic (the Gothic Quarter), which lies to the east.

The Barri Gotic, the oldest part of Barcelona, has many bars, restaurants, museums and historic sites. Adjoining it on the east side of Via Laietana are the old quarters of Sant Pere and La Ribera, with its fine medieval mansions and trendy shopping and nightlife around the old Born market (now closed to shoppers but preserved as a historic site).

Continuing inland from the Barri Gotic, you'll enter the Eixample, an upscale shopping and residential area, crisscrossed by wide avenues, where many of the *modernisme* buildings are located. Adjoining it to the northwest is the chic villagelike district of Gracia, which has many pleasant restaurants. Beyond Gracia, the city climbs the lower slope of Mount Tibidabo.

Montjuic, a prominent castle-topped hill covered with parks, gardens and pathways west of Port Vell, is easily

visible from the central city. Museums and other attractions are found on this high ground.

The renovated district of Sant Marti is more detached from the other areas and is found on the beachfront farther to the east at the end of the T5 tram line.

---

## HISTORY

---

As with many places in Europe, Barcelona's history has much to do with invasions and conquest. The Romans founded the original settlement, named Barcino, in 133 BC, and the town was later held by the Visigoths, the Moors and the Christian Carolingian Empire under Charlemagne's son, Louis the Pious. In AD 988, Barcelona won independence from the Carolingian kings and became the dominant political and military force in the region of northeastern Spain later known as Catalonia—or Catalunya, in the native Catalan tongue. (Much of the city's character stems from the fact that it identifies itself more as part of Catalonia than of Spain.)

By the late 1400s, Catalonia was politically linked with other regions of Spain, but the region continued to enjoy autonomous rights and privileges until the early 1700s. That changed after the War of Succession, when Catalonia backed the losing side led by Archduke Charles of Austria. Spain's King Philip V abolished Catalonia's government and laws and made Castilian (Spanish) the language of official business, rather than Catalan. This was but one of many conflicts between Catalonia and the central authority of Spain.

By the late 1800s, Barcelona had become one of Spain's most industrialized areas, and the factories spawned significant wealth and a dynamic middle class. Industrial profits underwrote the *modernisme* movement in architecture—Barcelona's version of art nouveau that was spearheaded by architect Antoni Gaudi. The industrial riches did not trickle down to the working class, however, and radical movements—especially anarchism—found willing converts in the city's poorer districts. A violent uprising in 1909 was a precursor to the upheaval unleashed by the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930s, when Barcelona was ruled by leftist trade unions for several years. The city remained a stronghold of the losing Republican cause until the end of the war and paid the price afterward. During the long reign of Francisco Franco (1939-75) the Catalan identity and language were viciously suppressed.

Catalonian home rule was restored after Franco's death in 1975, and the Catalan language was declared co-official with Castilian. Beginning in the late 1970s, a forward-looking urban policy was adopted in Barcelona, and the regeneration reached its peak in preparation for the 1992 Summer Olympics. Since then, its popularity as a tourist and recreation center has continued to grow.

Politically, the city and region have become increasingly detached from Madrid's centralist rule; in 2010, more than a million Catalans demonstrated in favor of independence from the rest of Spain. That same year their official abolition of bullfighting—effective from 2012—was in effect a further rejection of deep-rooted Spanish traditions.

---

## POTPOURRI

---

Under Franco's regime, Catalan was forbidden in all forms—printed, written or taught. Now the city offers free courses to anyone who would like to learn it.

Although Antoni Gaudi created some of the most extravagant buildings ever made, he was a humble and religious man who rejected vanity in all its forms. When he was struck down by a tram in 1926, his clothes were so shabby that police assumed he was a vagrant. He died three days later in a hospital in the dilapidated Barri Xino district.

It has been estimated that to build the central spire of the Sagrada Familia, which will rise 560 ft/171 m high, the subterranean pylons would have to weigh 8,000 tons each for it to withstand an earthquake or gale-force winds of 100 mph/161 kph.

Barcelona's colorful Fiesta de Sant Medir, held in the Gracia district in early March and dating from Roman times, honors Saint Emeterio, or Sant Medir, the patron saint of broad beans. During the festivities, thousands of sweets are handed out to delighted children.

The name of Mount Tibidabo comes from the story of Christ's wanderings in the wilderness, when the Devil took him to a mountaintop and offered to give him all that he could see if Jesus would fall down and worship him. *Tibi*

*dabo* means "I give" in Latin.

During Franco's reign, a supervisor known as "la Moral" watched over the dance floor at La Paloma concert hall and parted couples with his stick if they danced too close or tried to sneak a kiss.

The stadium on Montjuic, called Estadi Olympic, was intended to host the People's Olympics in 1936, but Franco's coup the day before the scheduled opening kicked off the Spanish Civil War and put an end to the games. Catalans had to wait till 1992 when, in the newly refurbished stadium, Montjuic launched the world Olympics that made Barcelona internationally famous.

---

## LOCATION

---

Barcelona is an important stopping-off point for major cruise lines in the Mediterranean, and even the largest ocean liners can dock in its port.

The cruise-ship terminal is located in Port Vell, the Old Port district at the foot of La Rambla, minutes away from the city's most important tourist attractions. The terminal, one of the largest and most modern of its kind in the Mediterranean, offers many services, including currency exchange, duty-free shops, restaurants, Internet access points, bus stops and taxi ranks.

Large ferries connect the city to the Balearic Islands and all of the major Mediterranean ports. Phone 902-222-858. <http://www.apb.es>.

---

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

---

Typical shore excursions offered include a tour of Antoni Gaudi's architectural wonders, a visit to the Olympic Village, a walk through the Gothic Quarter, a tour of the Boqueria market and local food culture, a visit to the Picasso and Miro museums or a bus tour of the spectacular Montserrat mountain region with its famed monastery.

---

## SIGHTSEEING

---

Sooner or later, you must take a walk down La Rambla, Barcelona's famous thoroughfare, so you may as well make it sooner. It's a great introduction to the city, and it will put you in good position to see other nearby attractions.

If you head northeast from La Rambla, you'll enter the twisting, ancient streets of the Barri Gotic (Gothic Quarter). Find your way to the grandiose La Seu cathedral as you explore the district. Nearby is the Museu d'Historia de Barcelona (City History Museum). The Barri Gotic also holds several other treasures, so you may want to plan more than one day in the area. The highlights are the Museu Picasso (get there early to avoid the lines) and another magnificent Gothic church, Santa Maria del Mar. It's fun just to amble through the streets, however, especially in the evening, when you can sample many restaurants and bars in the contrasting Raval (earthy-international) and Born (avant-garde chic) districts.

You'll need at least a day to take in the famous sights from the *modernisme* movement in architecture. Before you start, stop in at the Ruta del Modernisme center at the tourist office in Placa Catalunya (and other locations), where you can get maps, a guidebook and discount vouchers to the city's 115 *modernisme* monuments. The guidebook with vouchers costs about 12 euros. Add 5 euros for additional vouchers for each accompanying adult. A route pack, which includes an additional guide to *modernisme* bars and restaurants, costs about 18 euros. For more information, visit <http://www.rutadelmodernisme.com>.

Begin at Manzana de la Discordia, on Passeig de Gracia in the Eixample district, where you can see three adjacent buildings designed by the best-known architects of the movement. Next, head a few blocks north to Antoni Gaudi's amazing building La Pedrera (or Casa Mila), which houses residential apartments, offices and an exhibition center. Plan at least two hours to see them and to walk around among the rooftop sculptures. From the roof, you'll be able to see the spires of Sagrada Familia in the distance, and that's your next stop. (You can walk there in a leisurely half-hour jaunt or catch the metro's Blue Line at the Diagonal Station near La Pedrera.) Close out the day at Gaudi's intricately surrealistic church. Be sure to go up in the spires for a vertigo-inducing look at the church and the city. A visit to Gaudi's Parc Guell, on the northern side of the city, is also recommended, though you will probably have to fit it into another day. An hour-long audio tour of Gaudi's Barcelona can be purchased from the official tourist authority website for 3 euros and downloaded to your mobile phone or MP3 player. It also contains a PDF file with more detailed information about the buildings, complete with photographs and maps. <http://bcnshop.barcelonaturisme.com>.

Montjuic, the hill rising southwest of the city center, merits a day of its own. Both the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya and Fundacio Joan Miro are found on Montjuic, as are several less cultural and more hedonistic attractions, including Poble Espanyol (a theme "village" incorporating architectural styles from all over Spain and a host of shops and restaurants), the Olympic stadium and Pavello Barcelona. Just strolling around this multifaceted green area is pleasant, and it offers some splendid panoramic views of the city and the Mediterranean coastline. Figure your route ahead of time, however, as Montjuic covers a lot of territory and the attractions are widely spaced.

---

## HISTORIC SITES

---

### Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau

Designed by Domenech i Montaner, one of the most renowned architects of the *modernisme* movement, this unusual hospital complex was built between 1902 and 1930. Located on the site of the old Santa Creu Hospital, which dates from 1401, the Hospital de Sant Pau is the largest single example of Catalan *modernista* architecture. Packed with sculptures and mosaics, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. However, it still functions as a hospital, and only the courtyards and gardens are open to visitors. There are 75-minute guided tours in English daily at 10 and 11 am, noon and 1 pm. 10 euros. Sant Antoni Maria Claret 165, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-317-7652 for information regarding guided tours. <http://www.santpau.cat>.



## La Catedral (La Seu)

The heart of the Old City, this Gothic monster (with the imposing and mostly unused formal name of Esglesia Catedral Basilica de Barcelona) was mostly built between 1298 and 1448 on the site that once held a Roman temple and later a mosque. The facade was not completed until the 1890s, and some feel that its neo-Gothic style is jarring, although it looks nice illuminated at night. Very spacious and soothing, the interior is notable for its volume, with three naves of almost equal width. The crypt of Barcelona's first patron saint, martyr Santa Eulalia, lies behind the altar. You can see some of the older furnishings in the church's Sala Capitular (Chapter House Museum). Above all, don't miss the open-air cloister with its gently splashing fountain and restful garden patrolled by white geese. You can also visit the rooftop terrace for a close-up look at the towers and views over the Gothic quarter. Cathedral open Monday-Friday 8 am-12:45 pm and 5:15-7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday 8 am-noon and 5:15-8 pm. Cloister open daily 8:30 am-12:30 pm and 1-5 pm (Sunday 2-5 pm). Chapter House Museum open daily 10 am-noon and 5:15-6:30 pm. The rooftop terrace is open Monday-Friday 10 am-noon and 5:15-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-noon. Cathedral admission is free; elevator to the roof is 3 euros. An all-inclusive ticket is 6 euros. Placa de la Seu 3, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-315-1554. <http://www.catedralbcn.org>.

## La Monumental

The last active bullfighting ring in Barcelona is now a museum. Built in 1914, the landmark has seen not only bullfights but also performances by the likes of the Beatles and Rolling Stones. Walk around the corridors and stand in the center where the fighting used to take place. There is an eclectic display of bullheads, matadors' costumes and other historical tidbits from this location in the Bullfighting Museum of Barcelona, located inside. The Emir of Qatar bought the site in 2014, and there are now plans to turn it into Europe's largest mosque by 2020 (if the city approves). At Gran Via and Marina, Eixample, Barcelona.

## La Pedrera

Built between 1906 and 1910, this large apartment building is one of Antoni Gaudi's masterworks. Its official name is Casa Mila, but it's better known as La Pedrera (the Quarry), a reference to its stony exterior appearance, with balconies that look like caves. Though Sagrada Familia is the Gaudi building that draws the biggest crowds, we think La Pedrera gives a better sense of the architect's astounding designs. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. The complex includes residential apartments, offices and an exhibition center. Daily tours of the Espai Gaudi (loft and roof) and the Pedrera Apartment of Caixa Catalunya are available November-February 9 am-6:30 pm and March-October 9 am-8 pm (last tours of the day 30 minutes before closing). Individuals can rent audio guides and can purchase tickets online; groups of 10 or more must book a guided tour in advance. 16.50 euros adults, 4 euros audio guides. Provenca 261-265, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 902-400-973 or 93-484-5164 (for group reservations). <http://lapedrera.com>.

## La Rambla

This tree-dappled avenue is the heart, soul and central hub of Barcelona, not to mention a world-famous thoroughfare lined with remarkably diverse architectural styles. Although it is technically five streets (Rambla de Santa Monica, Rambla des Caputxins, Rambla de St. Josep, Rambla d'Estudis and Rambla Canaletes), the separation has not been clear for at least two centuries, and all are generally referred to as La Rambla. At least once during your visit, you should plan to stroll its full length, from Placa Catalunya to the statue of Christopher Columbus presiding over the port. Throughout the day and night it surges with people and offers a variety of amusements. Street performers line the boulevard, the most common being the human statues of one sort or another. You'll see mimes, jugglers and puppet theaters, too. There are also flower and bird vendors, and lots of outdoor cafes where you can take a seat and watch the informal parade flow past you. The end near the port has an open-air artisan market where you can find attractive gifts and souvenirs from 10:30 am till dusk on Saturday and Sunday.

## La Sagrada Familia

The amazing Templo Expiatorio de la Sagrada Familia, to give it its full name, has to be seen to be believed. Even then it's hard to comprehend. The foundation stone was laid in 1882, and Antoni Gaudi worked on the building for more than 40 years, leaving it unfinished when he died in 1926. It remains unfinished, though work continues amid controversy: What few plans and models Gaudi left behind were destroyed or badly damaged at the outset of the Spanish Civil War, and those directing the current work are more or less guessing at the architect's intentions. You'll have no trouble distinguishing the portions that are pure Gaudi and those that are more recent



additions, based on the color and condition of the stonework. Nonetheless, it's a must-see for all visitors to Barcelona (expect big crowds). Additions include color mosaics as well as materials such as carbon fiber, which did not exist during Gaudi's lifetime but are needed today to make the structure earthquake-proof. Upon completion, the building will nearly double in height.

Start your visit in the church, then take an elevator that ascends one of the massive church spires for a great view of the city and the ongoing church construction that is expected to be finished in 2026. Also, don't miss the Gaudi House Museum located in the basement of the Passion facade. The museum focuses on Gaudi's works, especially emphasizing his work on the church. April-September daily 9 am-8 pm; October-March till 6 pm. Guided tours in English are held daily at 11 am and 1 pm; Saturday, Sunday and June-October also at noon. La Sagrada Familia admission 14.80 euros adults. Admission plus a guided tour or audio guide 19.30 euros adults. La Sagrada Familia plus Gaudi House Museum admission 18.30 euros adults. Tickets can be purchased in advance online. Carrer de Mallorca 401, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-207-3031. <http://www.sagradafamilia.cat>.

## Manzana de la Discordia

The name translates to "Block of Discord," a reference to the three contrasting *modernista* buildings that stand close together along Passeig de Gracia. On the southern corner is Domenech i Montaner's ornate Casa Lleo Morera. A few doors up, at No. 41, is the intriguing geometric Casa Amatller by Puig i Cadafalch. Temporary art exhibitions are sometimes held on the ground floor by the Fundacio Amatller. Next door, at No. 43, is Antoni Gaudi's wonderful fairy-tale Casa Batllo with its carnival-mask balconies—a building that would look more at home in Disneyland than it does on a busy city street. See it at night, when it sparkles under lights. You can visit Casa Batllo using self-guided audio tours. Casa Batllo is open daily 9 am-9 pm (last entry at 8:20 pm). Admission and audio guide 21.50 euros adults. Passeig de Gracia 43 (between Consell de Cent and Arago), Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-216-0306. <http://www.casabatllo.es>.

## Palau de la Musica Catalana

Another of the *modernista* landmarks, this one was designed by Domenech i Montaner and built around the beginning of the 20th century. It's now a UNESCO World Heritage site, as well as a focal point for the city's classical music scene. Although it's impressive from the outside, try to take a tour or see a performance at the hall so you can get a look at the magnificent stained-glass ceiling and other interior design elements. Guided 50-minute tours in English are offered daily on the half-hour 9:30 am-3:30 pm (till 8 pm in August). Times are subject to change because of concerts and other events. Tour admission is 18 euros adults. Buy tickets online or at the box office daily 9:30 am-3:30 pm. Carrer Palau de la Musica 4-6, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 902-475-485. <http://www.palaumusica.org>.

## Pavello Barcelona

The current Barcelona Pavilion (also known as the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion) is an exact replica of the German architect's influential work of modern architecture, originally built in 1929 for the International Exposition. (Don't confuse modern with Barcelona's *modernisme* style, which is known as art nouveau in most of the world.) The pavilion's stark, simple lines are a forerunner of many architectural designs in subsequent decades: It looks a lot like libraries and other public buildings from the 1960s. The pavilion is small, and there's not a lot to see inside except Mies van der Rohe's famous Barcelona chairs (which the caretaker won't let you sit on). Daily 10 am-8 pm. 5 euros adults. A 30-minute guided tour in English is offered on Saturday at 10 am. Avinguda Francesc Ferrer i Guardia 7, Montjuic, Barcelona. Phone 93-423-4016. <http://www.miesbcn.com>.

## Santa Maria del Mar

This soaring Catalan Gothic church sits in the heart of the medieval city's maritime district. Designed by the architect Berenguer de Montagut, this structure is considered by many to be Barcelona's most beautiful church. The foundation stone was laid to celebrate the conquest of Cerdana, which completed the Catalan domination of the region. Its relatively swift construction, between 1329 and 1384, made for an unusual unity of style. The interior, too, is uplifting in its exquisite simplicity and elegance, partly because its baroque trappings were burned during the Spanish Civil War. It also has perfect acoustics and serves as a wonderful setting for concerts and choir recitals, especially during the evenings when it's all lit up. Monday-Saturday 9 am-1:30 pm and 4:30-8 pm, Sunday 10:30 am-1:30 pm and 4:30-8 pm. Placa de Santa Maria 1, La Ribera, Barcelona. Phone 93-310-2390. <http://www.santamariadelmarbarcelona.org/home>.

---

## MUSEUMS

---

### CaixaForum

This is a cultural center that has one of the most important contemporary art collections in Spain, containing more than 700 permanent works that represent the evolution of contemporary art. One of the most famous works is *Schmerzraum*, an installation made of sheets of lead, iron and silver, by Joseph Beuys. Many international artists such as Donald Judd, Jannis Kounellis, Bruce Naumann, Gerhard Richter and Sigmar Polke are also represented. Concerts, artistic and literary conferences, and various other activities take place regularly in the museum building, which dates from 1909 and is considered a work of art itself. A media library, bookstore and restaurant are also available to visitors. Open daily 10 am-8 pm, till 11 pm Wednesday in July and August. Free. Ave. Francesc Ferrer i Guardia 6-8 (Metro: Espanya lines 1 and 3), Montjuic, Barcelona. Phone 93-476-8600. <http://www.fundacio.lacaixa.es>.

### Camp Nou Football Museum

Essential for soccer fans: The museum presents the history of the FC Barcelona team (also known as Barca) with audiovisuals, glittering trophies, and an amazing assortment of shirts, photos and stadium models. A visit to the museum lets you gaze upon the hugely impressive Camp Nou stadium and also visit Barca's ice-skating rink. Monday-Saturday 10 am-6:30 pm (till 8 pm April-October), Sunday and holidays 10 am-2:30 pm. 23 euros adults. Carrer d'Aristides Maillol 12, Les Corts, Barcelona. Phone 93-496-3600. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>.

### CosmoCaixa

A large, hands-on science museum that is great for the whole family. You can explore the Amazon, space in 3-D, evolution and more. You could spend hours discovering science through the many displays and interactive labs. Daily 10 am-8 pm. 4 euros adults, free for children younger than 16. Carrer d'Issac Neuton 28 (Metro: Avinguda Tibidabo or Vallcarca), Barcelona. Phone 93-212-6050.

### Fundacio Antoni Tapies

In addition to a broad collection of the Catalan artist's work, the foundation also mounts temporary exhibitions focusing on contemporary artists. It's housed in a restored landmark of modernista architecture, formerly the offices of a publishing company. Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-7 pm. 7 euros adults. Arago 255, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-487-0315. <http://www.fundaciotapies.org>.

### Fundacio Joan Miro

One of the world's largest collections of Joan Miro's work, including paintings, graphic work, drawings, sculptures and tapestries. They're housed high above the city on Montjuic hill in a Mediterranean-style building with galleries that are bathed in natural light. Climb to the roof terrace for some great views. The Fundacio also stages temporary exhibitions, screenings, seminars and concerts in its vocation as a platform for contemporary culture. There's an on-site restaurant that serves delicious Mediterranean dishes in a garden courtyard. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm (till 8 pm July-September and till 9 pm on Thursday), Sunday and holidays 10 am-2:30 pm. Main museum admission is 10 euros adults. Audio guide is 5 euros. Free guided tour of the permanent collection Thursday at 1 pm. Parc de Montjuic s/n, Montjuic, Barcelona. Phone 93-443-9470. <http://fundaciomiro-bcn.org>.

### G Experiencia

That's G as in Gaudi. It would be easy to dismiss this as a Gaudi theme park, but the interactive exhibits and 4-D audiovisual experience (the fourth dimension is provided by moving chairs in the screening room) are actually an informative and entertaining presentation of Gaudi's life and creative output. Daily 10 am-7 pm (till 6 pm November-March); last 4-D show 30 minutes before closing. 9 euros adults, 7.50 euros children younger than 14. Larrard 41 (near Park Guell), Barcelona. Phone 93-285-4440. <http://www.gaudiexperiencia.com>.

## Museo de Cera de Barcelona

Housed in a 19th-century neo-Renaissance building at the bottom of La Rambla, Barcelona's wax museum boasts 350 life-size figures. A blend of famous historical and fictional characters can be found in various settings designed to depict typical scenes of contemporary and historical life. Monday-Friday 10 am-1:30 pm and 4-7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am-2 pm and 4:30-8:30 pm. Open 10 am-10 pm nonstop during the summer. 15 euros adults, 9 euros children. Audio guide is 3.50 euros. Passatge de la Banca 7, Barcelona. Phone 93-317-2649. <http://www.museocerabcn.com>.

## Museo Egipci de Barcelona

This museum specializes in ancient Egyptian culture and is home to the Fundacion Clos collection, which has 700 original artifacts in its possession. The main focus is on the pharaohs and their concept of life after death. In addition, visitors can enjoy theatrical re-enactments of ancient Egyptian cultural life and various temporary exhibitions featured throughout the year. Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm in summer, 10 am-2 pm and 4-8 pm in winter; Sunday 10 am-2 pm. There are free guided tours in Spanish Saturday at 5 pm. 11 euros. Special prices apply to theatrical presentations. Valencia 284, Barcelona. Phone 93-488-0188. <http://www.museuegipci.com>.

## Museo Textil de la Indumentaria

Tracing the evolution of the textile industry, this museum contains various collections of garments, tapestries, embroideries and the apparatuses involved in the production of textiles, both from Spain and abroad. Daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm. Admission 5 euros adults. Free Sunday 3-6 pm. Avinguda Diagonal 686 (Palau Reial de Pedralbes), Barcelona. Phone 93-256-3465. <http://www.dhub-bcn.cat/en/history/museu-textil-i-d-indumentaria>.

## Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona

Often referred to as MACBA, this museum showcases works by contemporary artists the world over, but it's the museum building that often gets attention. Designed by U.S. architect Richard Meier and opened in 1995, the dazzling white structure is the flagship of the ambitious renovation of the Raval district. Inside, the museum has lots of natural light and ramps for walking ease. Various temporary exhibits augment the main collection. Late June-late September: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11 am-8 pm; Friday 11 am-10 pm; Saturday 10 am-10 pm; Sunday and holidays 10 am-3 pm. Late September-late June: Monday and Wednesday-Friday 11 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-3 pm. Admission 8 euros adults. Free guided tours in English on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 4 pm. Placa del Angels 1 (Metro: Universita), Barcelona. Phone 93-412-0810. <http://www.macba.cat>.

## Museu de la Xocolata

This museum presents Barcelona as you've never seen it before: made out of chocolate. The Olympic stadium, Gaudi's buildings and other Barcelona landmarks are all formed from the intoxicating sweet stuff. An initiative of the Provincial Guild of Pastry Chefs and City Hall, the museum is housed in the old Sant Agusti convent (suitably equipped with arctic-level air-conditioning to prevent Barcelona from melting). The museum also whisks you through the history of the "bitter drink" of the Aztecs and enlightens you about chocolate as medicine, food and aphrodisiac. And, of course, there's a scrumptious cafe and shop with consumable chocolate. Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm, until 8 pm in the summer, Sunday 10 am-3 pm. 4.30 euros adults. Carrer del Comerc 36, La Ribera, Barcelona. Phone 93-268-7878. <http://www.museuxocolata.cat>.

## Museu del Modernisme Catala

All things *modernisme*: painting, sculpture, stained glass, furniture, and other applied and decorative arts. Temporary exhibitions and lectures as well. Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday and public holidays 10 am-2 pm. 10 euros adults. Balmes 48, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-272-2896. <http://www.mmmcat.cat>.

## Museu d'Historia de Catalunya

A lively, interactive overview of the history of Catalonia is housed in a restored port building. Artifacts, hands-on exhibits, audiovisuals and animated models reconstruct the social and human complexity of each period. Guidebooks in English are available. A restaurant, 1881, is located on the fourth floor which has a rooftop bar offering impressive views of the city. A gift and book shop are also on-site. Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm, Wednesday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-2:30 pm. 4 euros adults, free on the first Sunday of each month. Placa de Pau Vila 3, Port Vell, Barcelona. Phone 93-225-4700. <http://www.mhcat.net>.

## **Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat**

This institution is actually a collection of museums. The main branch incorporates the ensemble of monumental buildings on Placa del Rei. The underground levels there reveal fascinating subterranean layers of the city's ancient history, including some remains from the Roman colony Barcino. An entire ancient street and a fourth-century Christian basilica are also preserved just where they were discovered during city excavations in the 1930s. Exhibits on the upper floors chart later developments in Barcelona. The different spaces have different opening times but they are generally Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm (until 8 pm April-September), Sunday and holidays 10 am-8 pm. 7 euros adults, free after 3 pm on Sunday. Placa de Pau Vila 3 (Palau de Mar), Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-256-2100. <http://www.museuhistoria.bcn.es>.

## **Museu Europeu d'Art Modern**

The collection in this lovely restored 18th-century neoclassical palace focuses on figurative art in paintings and sculpture from the 19th century to the present day. Daily except Monday 10 am-7 pm. 7 euros adults. Barra de Ferro 5, El Born, Barcelona. Phone 93-319-5693. <http://meam.es>.

## **Museu Frederic Mares**

This museum was created around the collections donated to the city by sculptor Frederic Mares in 1946. He continued adding to the collection throughout his lifetime. In addition to an extensive Hispanic sculpture collection and many of Mares' own works, the museum also contains photographs, fans, pipes, jewelry, clocks, toys, pharmacy bottles, gargoyles, opera glasses and other ephemera that give an insight into 19th-century customs and lifestyles. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm, Sunday 11 am-8 pm. Admission is 4.20 euros. Free on Wednesday 3-7 pm and on the first Sunday of each month. 5 Placa de Sant Iu, Barcelona. Phone 93-310-5800. <http://w110.bcn.cat/portal/site/MuseuFredericMares>.

## **Museu Maritim de Barcelona**

This is one of Barcelona's most popular museums, housed in the breathtaking Drassanes (Royal Shipyards), which date from the 1200s. Original and replica boats showing the changes in sea travel over the centuries and photographs depicting the shoreline of Barceloneta as a turn-of-century fishing village are just a few of the interesting items on display. Daily 10 am-8 pm. General admission 5 euros adults, free after 3 pm on Sunday. Avinguda de les Drassanes s/n, Port Vell, Barcelona. Phone 93-342-9920. <http://www.mmb.cat>.

## **Museu Monestir de Pedralbes**

The Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Pedralbes was founded in 1326 and is a splendid example of Gothic forms and structures. In addition to the church, visit the three-story cloister and the Chapel of Sant Miquel with its 14th-century murals. The infirmary, vaulted refectory, kitchen, and everyday objects and furniture give you the feel of what life used to be like in a convent. In fact, part of the building is still home to a community of nuns. The church can be visited for free daily 11 am-1 pm. Hours for the other buildings are Tuesday-Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-7 pm, Sunday 10 am-8 pm April-September; Tuesday-Friday 10 am-2 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-5 pm October-March. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. 7 euros adults (free for a few hours on Sunday afternoon). Baixada del Monestir 9 (Metro: Reina Elisenda or Palau Reial), Pedralbes, Barcelona. Phone 93-256-3434. <http://www.bcn.cat/monestirpedralbes>.

## **Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya**

Located in the Palau Nacional (Montjuïc), this museum (often referred to as MNAC) includes one of the world's most important collections of Romanesque art, including delicate murals rescued from the walls of tiny mountain churches in Catalonia. It also exhibits Gothic, Renaissance and baroque works. The interior of the palace, built for the International Exhibition of 1929, was partially remodeled by Italian architect Gae Aulenti in the early 1990s. The museum's front steps (or the rooftop for 3 euros) offer a spectacular view of the city. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm in winter and 10 am-8 pm in summer; Sunday and holidays 10 am-3 pm. 12 euros adults, free for children younger than 16 (valid for two days within a month); audio guide 3.50 euros each. Temporary exhibitions require a separate fee; combined tickets for permanent and temporary exhibits available. Free on the first Sunday of each month. Palau Nacional, Parc de Montjuïc, Barcelona. Phone 93-622-0376. <http://www.mnac.cat>.

## Museu Picasso

The museum's focus is on the early formative years of Pablo Picasso (1895-1904), many of which were spent in Barcelona. The collection includes drawings, representational and cubist paintings, and works from the artist's Blue and Pink Periods, housed in five adjacent medieval palaces. One of the highlights is the collection of interpretations that Picasso did of Velazquez's *Las Meninas*. Daily except Monday 10 am-8 pm. 11 euros adults, 6 euros for temporary exhibits. Free on the first Sunday of every month and every Sunday after 3 pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance online, which saves time waiting in lines during the summer. Montcada 15-23, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-256-3000. <http://www.museupicasso.bcn.cat>.

## Poble Espanyol

The name translates to Spanish Village. Built for the International Exhibition of 1929, it is an open-air museum that includes replicas (often on a smaller scale) of buildings, squares and bridges found throughout the country. It was revamped for the 1992 Olympics and turned into a local nightlife hot spot with numerous bars and restaurants. It's still open in the daytime, however, and has an arts-and-crafts center with more than 40 workshops where you can view and purchase traditional goods. Numerous children's activities and concerts are also held frequently on-site. Monday 9 am-8 pm, Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday 9 am-midnight, Friday 9 am-3 pm, Saturday 9 am-4 pm. 12 euros adults, 7 euros children. Avinguda Francesc Ferrer i Guardia 13, Montjuic, Barcelona. Phone 93-508-6300. <http://www.poble-espanyol.com>.

---

## NEIGHBORHOODS & DISTRICTS

---

### Barri Gotic

The Gothic Quarter is the oldest portion of Barcelona, a warren of narrow streets on the northeast side of La Rambla. It was originally the site of the Roman settlement and the area later encompassed by the medieval walls. Now it's one of the city's most interesting districts, packed with shops, bars and restaurants, many of them occupying centuries-old buildings. Sights of note include the cathedral, a number of museums and surviving bits of Roman walls. The nerve center of the old city, Placa Sant Jaume, goes back to Roman times, when it formed the intersection of the north-south and east-west roads. It's an excellent starting point from which to explore the rest of the Gothic Quarter.

Farther to the east you'll find the La Ribera and El Born areas. Several of the handsome old mansions there now house museums, including the Museu Picasso. Nestled between Parc de la Ciutadella and Via Laietana, El Born offers an eclectic mix of designer fashion outlets and small artisan shops for you to explore during the day, and plenty of bars, restaurants, nightclubs and terraces to sample at night.

### Eixample

This area of the city was first built in the mid-1800s after the medieval walls were demolished and Barcelona was allowed to expand. The Eixample (pronounced *eye-SHAAM-pla*) was laid out according to a plan drawn up by top local planner Ildefons Cerdà and is made up of a uniform grid of avenues with the corners of each block "flattened" or pushed in to make a hexagon out of a square—it's easy to identify on maps. The Eixample quickly became a fashionable residential and shopping area (which it remains). It's the prime area in which to view the buildings of the *modernisme* movement. At the western edge of the Eixample is the Parc Joan Miro with the colorful totemic landmark of Miro's *Woman and Bird* rising from a small lake. It's especially pretty when lit up at night.

### El Raval

On the opposite side of La Rambla from the Barri Gotic, El Raval once had a reputation as a famous red-light district (also known as the Barrio Chino, or Barri Xino), and although today street walkers still parade, there are far fewer of them than before. The area has undergone extensive revamping, making it a fascinating mixture of the old and the ultramodern. One of Gaudí's buildings, the Palau Guell, lies just a half block off La Rambla, although only part of it is open. Many fashionable bars and restaurants are also in the area, attracting a young, bohemian crowd, and its range of down-to-earth eating spots is the most ethnically varied in the whole city. The neighborhood can still be a bit dicey at times, however, so be cautious if visiting after dark.



## Gracia

Stroll up the Passeig de Gracia, cross the Diagonal, and you're in Gracia on the northern edge of Eixample, formerly a town in its own right before it was swallowed by Barcelona's growth. Turn into the warren of narrow streets and enjoy a more private Barcelona with an atmosphere of its own. The district is characterized by independent design, and art and cinema movements, and is home to myriad specialist shops, trendy bars and restaurants. You can find old-fashioned herbalists and junk shops as well as stylishly renovated stores, superb delicatessens and two municipal food markets. Placa del Sol and Placa Rius i Taulet are the main squares where you can enjoy a drink on a cafe terrace. The nightlife, which attracts people from all over town, centers on Carrer Verdi. The area is also famous for its spectacular street parties and celebrations in August.

## Montjuic

You'll need at least a full day to enjoy all that this landmark hill, the largest green area in the city, has to offer. It has a prominent castle, museums, various parks and botanical gardens, an amusement park, and the stadium and other facilities used in the 1992 Olympic Games as well as Poble Espanyol, a village that includes facsimiles of buildings from throughout Spain. Numerous ways of getting up the hill include escalators, buses, cable cars and a funicular train.

## Port Vell

The old port area, which surrounds the point where La Rambla meets the sea, doesn't appear old: It has been the site of renovation in recent decades. The statue of Columbus at the foot of La Rambla makes a convenient starting point for exploring this area. (Take the small elevator to the top to get your surroundings in perspective.) Nearby, in the old royal shipyard building, is the Museu Maritim de Barcelona. To the northeast is La Barceloneta, the traditional fishermen's district and home to the best seafood restaurants in town. For practical purposes, La Barceloneta can be thought of as part of Port Vell, although it's really a totally different district with a character all its own. Moll d'Espanya del Port Vell s/n, Barcelona.

## Vila Olimpica

The area of the Olympic Village was once a wasteland of derelict factories, railroad tracks and warehouses, vestiges of its former glory days as a thriving industrial zone. Today, it's a stylish residential district. With its fountains and gardens, shopping malls and cinema complexes, it is also a popular leisure space for locals and visitors alike. It includes 2.5 mi/4 km of beach and the Port Olympic, packed with restaurants, bars and discos. On Sunday, it seems as if the whole of Barcelona is down in the Vila Olimpica area; the restaurants are crammed then, so if you can see it on another day, you'll enjoy a quieter and more relaxing visit.

---

## PARKS & GARDENS

---

### Parc de Cervantes

On the edge of the city and stretching to the foothills, this luxuriant park is a favorite haunt of bikers and joggers. It has children's play areas, a pine-shaded picnic area and some vintage olive trees. The rose garden has more than 10,000 plants, which flower at different times April-November. Open daily 10 am-6 pm December-February, 10 am-7 pm March and November, 10 am-8 pm April and October, 10 am-9 pm May-September. Avinguda Diagonal 706, Barcelona.

### Parc de la Ciutadella

Charmingly old-fashioned in its geometrical layout, the Parc Ciutadella is leafy and restful, yet filled with surprises such as the flamboyant waterfall and fountain (whose designer was assisted by the student Antoni Gaudi), the sculpture of the dainty *Lady With the Umbrella* by Roig i Sole, rare trees and a boating lake (boat rental is 6 euros). Originally a citadel built in 1715 to keep Barcelona in line after the War of the Spanish Succession, this area was handed over to the city in 1869 and turned into a park. Barcelona started on its cosmopolitan journey when the park was chosen as the site for the Universal Exhibition of 1888, the gateway to which was the Arc de Triomf (Triumphal Arch). A cafe-restaurant built for the Exhibition is now the Zoology Museum. Still standing are the Hivernacle (conservatory) with a cafeteria, the shady Umbracle (tropical hothouse) and the geology museum. The southeast end of the park is taken up by the zoo. Daily 8 am-6 pm. Passeig Pujades and Passeig Picasso, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-413-2400.

## Park Guell

Gaudi's dreamland creation and now a UNESCO World Heritage site, Park Guell has been painstakingly restored and is a must-see. It was originally planned as a housing development, but only a few buildings were completed, including the gingerbread gatehouse. Some of Barcelona's most famous visual symbols are in the park: Gaudi's mosaic dragon (or lizard), the monumental plaza with its colorful serpentine bench made in *trencadis* (interwoven fragments of multicolored ceramic) and fabulous views of the city. The park stretches up the hill, with twisting paths through the woods. Monumental Plaza open daily 8 am-9:30 pm May-October, 8 am-8 pm end of March to end of April, 8:30 am-6 pm end of October to early March. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. Free admission to the park, monument section is 8 euros adults, 5.50 euros adults for the Gaudi House-Museum, where the architect spent the last 20 years of his life (museum closes earlier than the park). Olot 7, Barcelona. Phone 93-219-3811. [http://www.casamuseugaudi.org/cm-eng/docs\\_instit/parkguell.php](http://www.casamuseugaudi.org/cm-eng/docs_instit/parkguell.php).

---

## AMUSEMENT PARKS

---

### Parc d'Atraccions del Tibidabo

This amusement park is perched on Tibidabo, the summit of the Collserola Range, amid whose high woodlands you can enjoy a pine-scented breather from the congestion in the city below. The thrills include a roller coaster and some rides that date from 1901. The park also has a spectacular view of the city. The unique Museu d'Automates is a collection of old fairground machines. Park hours vary depending on the time of year and day of the week—consult the website to confirm hours. Entrance and unlimited rides 28.50 euros, 10.30 euros for children shorter than 47 in/120 cm tall. Placa Tibidabo 3-4, Barcelona. Phone 93-211-7942. <http://www.tibidabo.cat>.

---

## WINERIES, BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES

---

### Miguel Torres

A 30- to 40-minute bus or car ride west of the city takes you to the wine-producing town of Vilafranca del Penedes and Torres, Catalunya's top bodega. There, for a small fee, you can learn how wine is made (and ask lots of questions); multimedia presentations are offered along with a physical tour through working vineyards. Wine tastings and a shop are also on-site. One-hour tours available Monday-Friday 9:15 am-4:45 pm, Sunday and holidays 9 am-1 pm. For Saturday, check website. 6.45 euros adults. M. Torres, 6, 08720, Vilafranca Del Penedes. Phone 93-817-7400. <http://www.torres.es>.

---

## ZOOS & WILDLIFE

---

### L'Aquarium de Barcelona

Take a walk through shark-infested waters while staying safe and dry. The secret is a 260-ft-/80-m-long transparent tunnel that lets you stroll through the Oceanario, the main tank that contains thousands of specimens. Outside the fishy depths, amenities for humans include an interactive area for small children, an auditorium, a cafeteria, a gift shop and a panoramic terrace. Can be very crowded in summer and may be a disappointment to visitors who have seen more highly rated aquariums. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-9 pm (till 9:30 pm June and September, till 11 pm July and August), Saturday and Sunday 9:30 am-9:30 pm. Last admission one hour before closing time. 20 euros adults, 15 euros children ages 5-10. Moll d'Espanya, Port Vell, Barcelona. Phone 93-221-7474. <http://www.aquariumbcn.com>.

### Zoo de Barcelona

This pleasant zoo is located in Parc de la Ciutadella. In addition to the exotic animals, it also includes dolphin shows and farm animals. The zoo also offers shady picnic areas, pony rides and play equipment. Open daily 10 am; check website for closing times as they vary throughout the year. 19.90 euros adults, 11.90 euros children ages 3-12. Passeig Pujades and Passeig Picasso (in Parc de la Ciutadella), Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 90-245-7545. <http://www.zoobarcelona.cat>.



---

## OTHER OPTIONS

---

### Font Magica in Placa Espanya

Let the changing forms and colors of the Font Magica, originally designed for the International Exposition of 1929, mesmerize you. As the water jets dance to music, a fanlike light show plays from behind the dome of the Palau Nacional. The fountain operates on the half-hour Thursday-Sunday 9-11:30 pm April-October; Friday and Saturday 7-9 pm November-March. Free. Placa Carles Buigas 1, Montjuic, Barcelona.  
<http://www.bcn.cat/parcsijardins/fonts/magica.html>.

### Zona Forum

The district of Sant Marti was completely renovated for the 2004 Universal Forum of Cultures. The legacy of this event is a state-of-the-art complex with extensive facilities for conferences, exhibitions, concerts and cultural events. The forum complex forms part of a tourist route on the double-decker Barcelona Bus Turistic and can also be reached by the tramline specifically built for the Forum. By car, follow Avinguda Diagonal north until it meets the sea. Its vanguard architecture alone makes it worth a visit, as do its less crowded beaches.

---

## RECREATION

---

The most popular recreation area in Barcelona is the seafront, especially near Vila Olímpica. Walkers, joggers, bicyclists and in-line skaters all make use of the area, where they can be mobile without the worries of automobile traffic. The city's beaches are there, too, extending from Barceloneta eastward. What's more, Port Olímpic at Vila Olímpica offers opportunities for sailing and other watersports.

---

## BEACHES

---

In times past, only the foolish would splash into the polluted waters near Barcelona. An efficient purification system greatly improved the quality of the waters once the city began preparing for the Olympics, and swimming there is now a positive pleasure. The coastline from Barceloneta northeast to Rio Besos was converted from industrial wasteland to seaside playground. Visitors can enjoy more than 2.5 mi/4 km of sandy shore. It's broken up into different sections with different names: Platja Sant Sebastia, Platja Barceloneta, Platja Nova Icaria, Platja Bogatell, Platja Mar Bella and Platja Nova Mar Bella.

A promenade and a number of bars and restaurants can be found along the beaches. The whole area has become popular for sunning, strolling, bicycling, in-line skating and general hanging around.

If you want to swim, be sure to check the flags on the beach, which indicate whether the surf is dangerous: A green flag indicates that it's safe to enter the water, yellow indicates that you should exercise caution while in the water and red means dangerous conditions—stay out of the water.

---

## BICYCLING

---

City Hall is promoting the use of the bicycle as an alternative to the car, and the city has created numerous bicycle lanes. Where possible, these are segregated from traffic and pedestrians, though that's not always the case. Maps of the routes are available from the information offices. See the city's cycling website (only available in Catalan or Castellan) for maps, advice and a list of locations where you can rent bicycles both short- and long-term. <http://www.bcn.cat/bicicleta>.

The most enjoyable ride is on the seafront near Vila Olímpica, where you will be undisturbed by traffic. You will have to negotiate joggers, walkers and in-line skaters, though: This is a popular place.

### Fat Tire Bike Tours

The popular English guided bike tours found in other European cities also do a four-hour Barcelona City Tour. For experienced and novice bike riders, it is a great way to spend the first day in the city to get your bearings. Stops are made at places of interest with commentary throughout. Reservations are not required, but can be made online via email. Daily tours at 11 am and also 4 pm mid-April to mid-October. 24 euros adults, 19 euros children younger than 12. Sant Honorat 7, Barcelona. Phone 93-342-9275. <http://barcelona.fattirebiketours.com>.

### Un Cotxe Menys—Bike Tours Barcelona

The name of this ecologically conscious rental outfit means "One Car Less" in Catalan, and groups are formed daily next to the tourist office in Plaza San Jaume to pick up the bikes. No reservations are necessary for groups of fewer than 15 people. Tours last about three hours, and most of the route uses cycle lanes, parks and pedestrian zones. Daily tours at 11 am and also 4:30 pm Friday-Monday April to mid-September. 22 euros (includes bike rental, guide and drink). Bicycles can also be rented separately by the hour (5 euros), day (15 euros) or half-day (10 euros). Daily 10 am-6 pm. Call ahead if you want to rent a bike outside those hours. Esparteria 3, Barcelona. Phone 93-268-2105. <http://www.bicicletabarcelona.com>.

---

## BOATING & SAILING

---

## Classic Sail Barcelona

With the Mediterranean at its doorstep, Barcelona is a great place to go sailing. Chartered yachts, skippered or bareboat, are available through multiple vendors. One of the best trips is on a small classic yacht, complete with Capt. Dave, to take you on a three-hour tour of Barcelona. Available year-round for up to eight people. Price varies depending on number of people, free for children younger than 16. Phone 65-333-1545. <http://www.classicsailbcn.eu>.

---

## GOLF

---

### Club de Golf Sant Cugat

This 18-hole course is located about 12 mi/20 km outside the city. Call ahead or check website for tee times and greens fees. Calle Villa 79 (Sant Cugat del Valles), Barcelona. Phone 93-674-3908. <http://www.golfsantcugat.com>.

### Real Club de Golf El Prat

This 45-hole course, designed by Greg Norman, replaced the aging 1950s-era golf club of the same name. The new course moved from the previous location by the airport to Terrassa, located a short distance from Barcelona. A golf school is also on-site. Open all year. Plans de Bonvilar No. 17, Terrassa. Phone 93-728-1000. <http://www.realclubdegolfelprat.com>.

---

## HIKING & WALKING

---

### Collserola Natural Park

For hiking in a real Mediterranean wood filled with wildflowers and herbs, Collserola Natural Park is only a short train journey away from the city to the mountains north and west of Barcelona. Get there by taking the Terrassa/Sabadell line of FGC train network, which departs from the Placa Catalunya. The park is a short walk from the Baixador de Vallvidrera. Phone 93-280-3552. <http://www.parcnaturalcollserola.cat/es>.

---

## HORSEBACK RIDING

---

### L'Escola Municipal d'Hípica La Foixarda

Right up on Montjuic Hill close to the Poble Espanyol, this riding school is one of the most popular in Barcelona. Accommodates all levels and ages. Avinguda Muntanyans 1, Barcelona. Phone 93-426-1066. <http://www.hipicalafoixarda.es>.

---

## TENNIS & RACQUET SPORTS

---

### Centre Municipal de Tennis

This Upper Barcelona tennis club has long been a favorite with many major players with its 24 grass and clay courts located amid attractive gardens. Passeig Vall d'Hebron 178, Barcelona. Phone 93-427-6500. [http://www.fctennis.cat/act/act\\_bcn](http://www.fctennis.cat/act/act_bcn).

### Real Club de Tennis Barcelona-1899

The facilities include 18 tennis courts, a gym, fitness center and a swimming pool. Bosch i Gimpera 5, Barcelona. Phone 93-203-7852. <http://www.rctb1899.es>.

---

## NIGHTLIFE

---

Barcelona has always had a reputation as a party town. It's still true, though the emphasis now has more to do with trendy designer bars than seedy sailor dives. The rougher places are still there, though, especially in earthy districts such as Raval, should you wish to find them. Like other parts of Spain, Barcelona's club scene hits its peak in the wee hours and doesn't end till morning—many dance venues remain open until 5 am, though quieter bars close around 1 or 2 am.

Try to set aside one evening for a stroll through the Barri Gotic, in particular the El Born area, and see what bars and bodegas the twisting streets lead you to. In warm weather, you'll find that lots of outdoor plazas become extensions of the surrounding bars, and performers such as jugglers and musicians often stop by to put on a quick show. Those looking for a little more excitement will find the clubs of Port Vell and Vila Olímpica not too far away. The gay crowd might enjoy the bars in Eixample.

There are more options outside the city center. In general terms, the higher up and farther away from the sea you go, the more upmarket the scene. A young, affluent crowd hangs out in bars and clubs around Santalo and Placa Francesc Macia. Tibidabo, with its wonderful views of the city, offers an incomparably elegant setting.

Regardless of where you end up going, be sure to dress up if you're going to the clubs. Men should wear a button-up shirt with collar and nice shoes or they will be turned away.

---

## BARS, TAVERNS & PUBS

---

### Boadas

Some places never go out of fashion. Boadas, just off La Rambla, is among Barcelona's oldest cocktail bars, founded in 1933 by the father of the present owner, who brought his cocktail-mixing skills from the famous cocktail bar El Floridita in Havana, Cuba. It's a good choice for a pre- or post-dinner drink. Try a mojito, a subtle but lethal Cuban concoction of rum and mint. Monday-Saturday noon-2 am. Tallers 1, Raval, Barcelona. Phone 93-318-9592. <http://boadascocktails.com/en>.

### Boca Grande

A bar and restaurant with incredible interior design and a DJ in the stylish unisex restrooms. It's known for making one of the best gin and tonics in Barcelona, along with other outstanding cocktails. It's a bit pricey, but it draws a great mixed crowd. Concepcio 12, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-467-5149. <http://bocagrande.cat>.

### Bodega Marin

If you'd like to take a step back in time and rediscover vermouth, which has become *the* trendy drink of the moment, this is the place to go. It's a century-old store turned bodega where you can eat and drink with the old and young, local and foreign. Mila i Fontanals 72, Gracia, Barcelona. Phone 93-213-3079.

### City Bar

A cocktail bar, art space and party venue that also serves good Spanish and international tapas. Specializes in gin and tonics (popular and trendy in the city now) with more than 25 different varieties on offer. Daily 8:30 pm-1 or 2 am. Via Laietana 30 (in the Grand Hotel Central), Barcelona. Phone 93-295-7900. <http://www.grandhotelcentral.com>.

### Federal Cafe Bar

This stylishly cosmopolitan cafe and bar opened by an Australian couple fits the bill for everything from evening drinks on its rooftop terrace to breakfast, brunch or lunch on its two other floors. A bright and airy space with an eclectic crowd. Monday-Thursday 8 am-11 pm, Friday 8 am-1 am, Saturday 9 am-1 am, Sunday 9 am-5:30 pm. Parlament 39, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-187-3607. <http://www.federalcafe.es>.

## La Vinya del Senyor

This chic and charming little bar sits opposite the church of Santa Maria del Mar. It's one of the few places where you can try quality wines and *cavas* by the glass (more than 100 different choices), along with slivers of the finest Iberian ham, pungent Catalan cheese, Kalamata olives from Greece and other delectable snacks.

Monday-Thursday noon-1 am, until 2 am Friday and Saturday, until midnight Sunday. Placa Santa Maria 5, Born, Barcelona. Phone 93-310-3379.

## Marsella

For those who want to live out their fantasies of being a decadent writer or artist, the dustily atmospheric Marsella can fulfill your wishes. Said to be the oldest bar in town, it opened in 1820. It's also said that a scene from Woody Allen's *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* was filmed there. A specialty of the house is absinthe, the highly potent liqueur that was a favorite of Van Gogh and other bohemians in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It's illegal now in much of the world, but not in Spain. The fantasy is enhanced by the bar's location in a rather seedy area of the Raval. Don't let your fantasy go too far, though: This is a questionable area to walk through late at night, especially after sampling 140-proof booze. Monday-Saturday from 10 pm. Sant Pau 65, Raval, Barcelona. Phone 93-442-7263.

## Mirablau

This comfortable, elegant dance bar is at the foot of Tibidabo with fabulous views of the city. The terrace is a good place to sip drinks as you watch the sun go down. Later, there's dancing. Monday-Saturday from 11 am, Sunday from noon. Dancing begins at 11 pm. Placa Doctor Andreu s/n (at bottom of Tibidabo funicular train), Barcelona. Phone 93-434-0035. <http://www.mirablaubcn.com>.

## Schilling

This Austrian-founded bar is centrally located on the Gothic Quarter's main thoroughfare. In the evenings, the crowd is predominantly gay. In the afternoon, it is relatively quiet and a prime spot for aspiring writers and artists who sit at tables by windows and draw inspiration from the city. Though it is less fashionable than it was some years ago, it remains one of the classic places to meet with friends, enjoy cocktails and tapas, and begin a serious night out. Daily 10 am-2:30 am. Ferran 23, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-317-6787. <http://www.cafeschilling.com>.

---

## DANCE & NIGHTCLUBS

---

### Carpe Diem Lounge Club & Restaurant

In the late afternoon, chill out in two large Bedouin tents and enjoy your (pricey but good) cocktail on comfy white leather sofas big enough to serve as beds. You'll need to remove your shoes, so be sure your socks or bare feet look good, too. Later in the night, the location turns into an upscale party zone—and if you feel like it, you can go for a swim under the stars in the Mediterranean, just across the street. Open daily noon-3 am. Passeig Maritim 32, Barcelona. Phone 93-224-0470. <http://www.cdclbarcelona.com>.

### Luz de Gas

This popular nightclub for the over-30 crowd is situated in an old theater. Live music (blues, jazz, soul and rock) is played Monday-Saturday starting at midnight. The Friday and Saturday disco begins at midnight and features lively tunes from the 1970s-90s as well as more contemporary dance music. Cover charge varies; see website for details. Muntaner 246, Barcelona. Phone 93-209-7711. <http://www.luzdegas.com>.

### Opium

Situated in a great location near the beach, this dance club with a large dance floor always has an interesting crowd. Some nights entrance is free before 1:30 am, but most nights expect to pay 20 euros-40 euros. Drinks are on the pricey side as well. Daily except Monday 11 pm-6 am. 20 euro admission includes one drink. Maritim de Barceloneta 34, Barcelona. Phone 93-225-9100. <http://www.opiummar.com>.

## Otto Zutz

The ultrafashionable Otto Zutz has four floors, each with its own particular style and atmosphere. The main dance floor, which has three bars and is overlooked by two balconies, is situated on the ground floor. There, DJs spin house and garage music. The Hot Club, located on the first floor, plays music from the 1970s-80s and more recent hip-hop. Los Altos on the top floor is the VIP lounge and is often frequented by local celebrities (try to look important). The Red Room has electro-'80s music. Tuesday-Saturday from midnight. Cover charge varies. Lincoln 15, Gracia, Barcelona. Phone 93-238-0722. <http://www.ottozutz.com>.

## Razzmatazz

This local Berlin-esque icon of a dance and music venue has attracted both big- and small-name acts since it opened more than a decade ago. Five spaces featuring five different styles of music. Wednesday-Sunday with concerts usually between 9 and 11:30 pm, and the clubs get going around midnight or 1 am. Cover usually ranges 8 euros-15 euros. Pamplona 88 (first floor), Barcelona. Phone 93-320-8200. <http://www.salarazzmatazz.com>.

## Rita Blue

This cool cocktail bar and restaurant in retro design turns into a house-and-techno disco on weekends. The mojitos and caipirinhas are definitely not for the faint-hearted. Chill out on the terrace with lots of fresh air. Located on a small street off La Rambla. Open Monday-Saturday noon-2 am, Sunday 7 pm-2 am. Placa de Sant Agustí 3, Raval, Barcelona. Phone 93-342-4086. <http://www.ritablue.com>.

## Sala Apolo

Dance club, and live-music and special-events venues rolled into one. Many different music styles are accommodated, ranging from indie to rock to post-punk and electropop, and there are regularly scheduled theme nights, such as Nasty Mondays and Jazz & Swing the last Sunday of each month. Open daily. Concerts usually start around 7 or 8 pm, and the club gets going around midnight. Cover 12 euros-15 euros. Nou de la Rambla 111-113, Barcelona. Phone 93-441-4001. <http://www.sala-apolo.com>.

## Shoko

During the day, this beachfront club is a Japanese restaurant. At night, it's a place to go to chill out and listen to different genres of music, from the more relaxed to the harder house and drum-and-bass, all with feng shui design and plenty of VIP areas. Dress to impress and take plenty of money. Cover 20 euros-70 euros (sometimes free for women) depending on the artist. Drinks are high-priced as well. Passeig Marítim de La Barceloneta 36, Barcelona. Phone 93-225-9200. <http://www.shoko.biz>.

## Sutton

This exclusive club has some notoriously picky bouncers that ensure everyone inside is good-looking. Very strict dress code and pricey drinks—but worth it for the older crowd that enjoys people-watching and dancing to great music. You can book tables in advance online. Wednesday-Sunday from 11 pm; closing time varies. Entrance is 15 euros. Tuset 13, Sant Gervasi, Barcelona. Phone 93-414-4217. <http://www.thesuttonclub.com>.

---

## LIVE MUSIC

---

## Antilla BCN Club

The hottest *sa/sateca* in town, with lots of live acts. Dance the night away with merengue, bachata, son, salsa and tango. If you don't know how to dance, take the dance lessons on offer throughout the night. Pretty ladies can get some dance lessons for free on the spot from handsome Cuban or Colombian dancers. Best after midnight. Wednesday-Saturday from 11:30 pm (live music on Thursday), Sunday from 7 pm. Calle d'Arago 141, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-451-4564 or 93-451-2151. <http://www.antillasalsa.com>.

## Harlem Jazz Club

This unpretentious and intimate jazz club is a favorite with locals and is frequented by local musicians. The live sessions, at 10 pm during the week and 11 pm on Friday and Saturday, include Brazilian music, blues and flamenco fusion in addition to jazz. Daily except Monday from 8 pm. Cover charge varies according to the performers. Comtessa de Sobradíel 8, Barcelona. Phone 93-310-0755. <http://www.harlemjazzclub.es>.

## La Pedrera de Nit

If you're in town on a summer weekend, don't miss the opportunity to go clubbing on the roof of Gaudi's famous La Pedrera apartment building. Have a drink, admire the city view and listen to a live band. Open July and August Friday and Saturday 9 pm-midnight. Dates and ticket prices vary seasonally; call or check the website for the most up-to-date information. Provença 261-5, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-484-5900. <http://www.lapedrera.com>.

## Los Tarantos

Offers flamenco *tablaos* (shows) as well as Latin and salsa music. Like most flamenco presentations, these can be a bit tourist-oriented, and Barcelona is far from the heartland of flamenco, which is in southern Spain. Nonetheless, Los Tarantos offers the best you'll find in the city. After the flamenco show ends around midnight, the establishment becomes the Jamboree nightclub, with live jazz, Latin and blues, followed by a disco until the wee hours of the morning. Flamenco shows are daily 8:30-11:30 pm. 10 euros at the door, 8 euros if purchased in advance online. Plaça Reial 17, Barcelona. Phone 93-319-1789. <http://www.masimas.com/en/tarantos>.



---

## PERFORMING ARTS

---

Given Barcelona's other artistic leanings, it's not surprising that the performing arts are well-represented in the city.

Theater has always enjoyed great vitality in Barcelona, and several dance companies call Barcelona home. There's also opera, chamber music, jazz, symphony and flamenco productions.

---

## DANCE

---

Among the dance companies in Barcelona are Compania de Danza Mar Gomez (<http://www.ciamargomez.com>), Erre Que Erre (<http://www.errequeeredanza.net>) and Marta Carrasco (<http://www.martacarrasco.com>). All of them have irregular performance schedules. Watch for listings.

One distinctive dance performance that should not be missed is the *sardana*, Catalonia's national dance. Participants link hands in a large circle and do intricate steps. Informal *sardana* sessions take place every Sunday around noon in front of the Cathedral and in the evening (around 7 pm) in Placa Sant Jaume. The dancers are accompanied by a traditional band called a *cobla*, and you're welcome to join in the circle.

### **Gelabert-Azzopardi Companyia de Dansa**

The duo of Barcelona's Cesc Gelabert and Londoner Lydia Azzopardi shows some of the best dance performances in Spain. Watch for listings. Calle Domenech, Barcelona. Phone 93-416-0068. <http://www.gelabertazzopardi.com>.

---

## MUSIC

---

### **Orfeo Catala**

The largely amateur group was founded as one of the patriotic and social movements at the end of the 19th century. Franco, who feared Catalan nationalism, had it banned. Nowadays, the group serves as a choir for the Orquestra Simfonica and other Catalan orchestras, and performs in concerts. Calle de San Pedro Mas Alto (Palau de la Musica Catalana), Barcelona. Phone 902-442-882. <http://www.palaumusica.cat>.

### **Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya (OBC)**

Directed by Pablo Gonzalez Bernardo, the orchestra performs October-May, usually Friday-Sunday in the Auditori. Each year at least two works of Catalan composers are performed. Carrer Lepant 150, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-247-9300. <http://www.auditori.cat>.

### **Orquestra Simfonica i Cor del Gran Teatre del Liceu**

The Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of the Liceu Opera House performs international co-productions, which have included Richard Wagner's *Tannhauser* and Benjamin Britten's *Death in Venice*. Expect quite avant-garde interpretations. La Rambla 51-59, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>.

---

## THEATER

---

Theater companies in Barcelona include Dagoll Dagom (<http://www.dagolldagom.com>), Els Joglars (<http://www.elsjoglars.com>) and Tricycle (<http://www.tricycle.com>)—all offering the sort of spellbinding, multidisciplinary spectacles that leap over language barriers. None of these companies has a set schedule or theater venue, however, so watch for listings in the newspapers and entertainment guides.

Apart from the landmark theaters Liceu and Palau de la Musica, you can enjoy vibrant theater performances at the Mercat de les Flors (<http://mercatflors.cat>), the Teatre Lliure (<http://www.teatrelliure.com>), the Teatre Nacional de Catalunya (<http://www.tnc.cat>), the Teatre Poliorama (<http://www.teatrepoliorama.com>) or the Teatre Romea (<http://www.teatreromea.com>).

There's also a smattering of alternative theaters, such as Theatre Tantarantana (<http://www.tantarantana.com>), Espai Escenic Brossa (<http://www.laseca.cat>), L'Antic Teatre (<http://www.lanticteatre.com>) and Sala Muntaner (<http://www.salamuntaner.com>).

Tickets are usually available from Tel-Entrada. <http://www.telentrada.com>.

## Els Comediants

The most popular "comedians" gladly mix elements of commedia dell'arte and street performances. Watch them perform in the streets on national holidays or during major theater festivals. Carrer Comediants s/n (Canet de Mar), Barcelona. Phone 93-795-4859. <http://www.comediants.com>.

## La Fura dels Baus

Barcelona's best-known provocative theater company is known for its rowdy performances, which include anything from polemical to shocking to pornographic. The first-row seats are best avoided unless you love to catch some dirt or mock blood flying from the stage. Venues vary. Pujades 77-79, 2-6, El Poblenou, Barcelona. Phone 93-662-4047. <http://www.lafura.com>.

---

## TICKET BROKERS

---

### FNAC

Website is easy to use for searching local events and purchasing online. If you already know of an event you'd like to attend, most FNAC outlets will have ticket counters for local events and concerts. Triangle Shopping Center, Placa Catalonia 4, Barcelona. Phone 90-210-0632. <http://www.ticktackticket.com/fnac/fnac.html>.

### Tel-Entrada Caixa Catalunya

Tickets can be purchased online, by phone or at most branches of Caixa Catalunya savings bank. Phone 902-101-212. <http://www.telentrada.com>.

### Ticketmaster

Like in most countries, you can browse local artists, sports teams and events, or purchase tickets online. You can also purchase over the phone or at local ticket offices. Carrer de Pallars 193, Barcelona. Phone 93-304-0750. <http://www.ticketmaster.es>.

---

## VENUES

---

## Gran Teatre del Liceu

A plush showplace on La Rambla that was built in 1847 and painstakingly reconstructed after a major fire in 1994, the Barcelona Opera House is the major venue for operas, classical concerts and dance productions. But it also houses cutting-edge avant-garde shows by controversial companies such as La Fura dels Baus. It often stages co-productions with other leading music and dance companies in Europe.

It has an auditorium with 2,292 modern seats whose backs show subtitles in various languages, while Catalan subtitles are shown above the stage. The small Espai Liceu seats 50 spectators. La Rambla 51-59, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>.

## L'Auditori

This modern (and a little cold-feeling) concert hall is renowned for its acoustics and facilities. It is the home of the Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya, which performs in the 2,400-seat auditorium, while smaller jazz and flamenco productions are staged in the 600-seat space that also has chamber music concerts. There's another space with 400 seats that shows experimental productions and performances for children. Carrer Lepant 150, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-247-9300. <http://www.auditori.org>.

## Palau de la Musica Catalana

This World Heritage Building, a marvelous riot of colorful *modernista* architecture and decoration built in 1908, is the venue for some of the best international musical productions and stars. The Orfeo Catala choir performs there, too, and there are many excellent performances of orchestral music. Palau de la Musica 4-6 (Calle de San Pedro Mas Alto), Barcelona. Phone 902-442-882. <http://www.palaumusica.cat>.

---

## SPECTATOR SPORTS

---

There's no doubt that the city's sports scene is dominated by soccer, in the shape of FC Barcelona, also known as Barca. There's a slogan that has been repeated endlessly, but it's quite true: "*Barca es mes qu'un club*" (Barca is more than a club).

Barca is more than a soccer team in another sense: The FC Barcelona organization also fields basketball, handball, ice-hockey and roller-hockey teams, which have smaller, though equally devoted, followings. The city also has another first-division soccer club, RCD Espanyol.

---

## AUTO RACING

---

### Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya

This track is located about 30 minutes by car outside the city of Barcelona and attracts big names and big events such as Formula One. Other races are held at the track throughout the year. There are also tours and opportunities to drive around the actual circuit. Check dates on the website. Camino Mas Morenata, Montmelo. Phone 93-571-9700. <http://www.circuitcat.com>.

---

## BASKETBALL

---

### Liga Endesa

It might come as a surprise that one of the more popular sports in Barcelona (after soccer) is basketball. The team usually has been the home to internationally recognizable players, such as the Lakers' Pau Gasol. Home games and guest teams play in the Palau Blaugrana stadium—check website for dates and to purchase tickets. Carrer Aristides Mallol 12 and Avenue de Joan XVIII, Barcelona. Phone 90-218-9900. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com/club/facilities-and-services/detail/card/palau-blaugrana>.

---

## SOCCER

---

### FC Barcelona

This organization operates Barcelona's wildly popular soccer team and several other sports clubs. During the repressive Franco years, when everything Catalan was outlawed, Barca was the best outlet for the collective expression of Catalan identity. Today, it's one of the biggest soccer clubs in the world and is still followed with almost religious fervor. As a result, it's difficult to get tickets. A small number are made available two days before a match—lines at the stadium ticket windows are long. If you can find tickets at face value, they range 19 euros-265 euros. The view is good from any seat. Camp Nou Stadium (Avinguda Aristides Maillol), Barcelona. Phone 93-496-3600 or 902-189-900 for tickets. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>.

### RCD Espanyol

Barcelona's second club in Spain's Primera Liga is often overlooked but actually plays very good soccer. It's a lot easier to get tickets, except when they play against their big rival. Avinguda Baix Llobregat 100 (west of the city center in Cornellà de Llobregat), Barcelona. Phone 93-292-7700. <http://www.rcdespanyol.com>.

---

## SHOPPING

---

The industrious Catalans have often been dubbed a nation of shopkeepers, and Barcelona does have a staggering number of shops of every kind and in every neighborhood. Barri Gotic and El Raval, in particular, have many quirky little shops with long family traditions, struggling for survival in the face of malls and big-name merchants. A little shopping time spent around Placa Catalunya will introduce you to El Corte Ingles department store and El Triangle shopping mall.

Large or small, many of the city's merchants play to the city's love of design. In clothes, look for Catalan designers such as Antonio Miro and Adolfo Dominguez, and large stores such as Mango, Zara and Desigual (which is less expensive than in other European cities). Leather shoes, bags, wallets and belts can be particularly stunning and a good value. Some of the best choices are the Spanish brands: Loewe, Yanko, Farrutx and Camper. Even if you never set foot in a store, you'll get to appreciate the city's sense of style by strolling past elaborate window displays.

Food and drink are also highly prized in Barcelona and make good souvenirs. Stock up on olives and cheese (ask to have it vacuum packed or *sous vide* for overseas travel) at La Boqueria market on La Rambla, cold-pressed virgin olive oil in OroLiquido, and Spanish wine at a large grocer such as Colmado Quilez. If you don't mind carting (or shipping) heavy parcels home, treat yourself to an earthenware cooking pot, a cast iron *plantxa* or the more portable ceramic tapas dishes and metal paella pans.

To guide you through this cornucopia, the city has mapped out the 3-mi-/5-km-long Shopping Line (<http://www.shoppinglinebarcelonasl.com>), which links different shopping areas that also happen to be dotted with many of the most interesting tourist sights. The comfortable TombBus links the areas, running from Placa Catalunya to El Corte Ingles store at the top end of the Diagonal and back. The Barcelona Card transportation pass will give you a discount at a number of shops on the route: They're identified by the Shopping Line logo—four colored diamonds in a white circle within a blue circle.

**Shopping Hours:** Generally, Monday-Saturday 9 or 10 am to 1:30 or 2 pm and 4:30 or 5 pm to 7:30-9 pm. Neighborhood food stores and bakeries generally open at the crack of dawn, have a long break at lunch and are open again 5-9 pm. The department stores, shopping malls and many of the larger stores on the main shopping streets stay open at lunchtime and until 10 pm. In summer, many shops close on Saturday afternoon. Sunday opening is strictly regulated: The big stores and malls are allowed to open on eight Sundays each year, including the four Sundays before Christmas. Otherwise, you'll mostly find only convenience stores and gift shops open on Sunday.

---

## ANTIQUÉ STORES

---

### Bulevard dels Antiquaris

This mall of specialist antiques shops (more than 70 in all) is definitely worth a leisurely visit. You'll find furniture and lamps, dolls and perfume bottles, lace and jewelry. The best prizes, in our opinion, are the 13th-century Peruvian textiles with still-bright colors, and Himalayan and African art. Monday-Saturday 10 am-8:30 pm, closed on Saturday in July and August. Passeig de Gracia 55-57 (first floor), Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-215-4499. <http://www.bulevarddelsantiquaris.com>.

---

## BOOKSTORES

---

Barcelona is the international capital of publishing in Spain, and it has been since the 1600s. Hundreds of bookstores thrive in the city. Although the majority of the traditional shops in the Barri Gotic focus on books in Spanish and Catalan, it is not uncommon to come across rare copies of books in English, French, Arabic, Hebrew, Italian or Latin. If you consider yourself a true bibliophile, you should definitely visit as many used-book shops as you can. Even if you do not discover any hidden treasures, you can drool over rare editions of *Don Quixote*.

## Casa del Libro

Great selection of books and especially travel guides, also in English (the latter at only minimally higher prices than back home). If you read Spanish, you will be busy browsing hundreds of books about Barcelona and Catalonia. Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-9:30 pm. Passeig de Gracia 62, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 902-026-407. <http://www.casadellibro.com>.

## Hibernian Books

Barcelona's only second-hand English-language bookshop is in a rambling, multiroom building in the heart of the Gracia district. It has the feel of an old British literary backwater and exudes an aura of homely intellectualism. You can choose from an eclectic range of more than 40,000 volumes covering everything from in-depth history and philosophy to light romances and children's books. Open Monday 4-8:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10:30 am-8:30 pm. Shorter hours in August. Carrer Montseny 17, Gracia, Barcelona. Phone 93-217-4796. <http://www.hibernian-books.com>.

## La Central

This bookstore chain has multiple locations in Barcelona. The one at La Central del Raval has a pleasant cafe. The shops frequently organize literary events, which are occasionally in English. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-9 pm. Elisabets 6, Barcelona. Phone 93-318-9979. <http://www.lacentral.com>.

## Laie Libreria Cafe

The best international bookshop in town, perfect for civilized browsing as well as coffee, lunch or dinner. Store and cafe open Monday-Friday 9 am-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-9 pm. Pau Claris 85, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-318-1739. <http://www.laie.es>.

---

## DEPARTMENT STORES

---

### El Corte Ingles

Spain's most emblematic department store, where you can find anything and everything. The huge branch in Placa Catalunya is the most convenient for Barcelona visitors. It can get uncomfortably crowded, but tired shoppers can take a breather and enjoy the view from the rooftop cafeteria. Around the corner of Portal de l'Angel is a branch specializing in sports and leisure. Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-9:30 pm. Placa Catalunya 14, Barcelona. Phone 901-122-122. <http://www.elcorteingles.es>.

---

## FACTORY OUTLETS

---

### La Roca Village

Located a distance north of the city, but easily reached by car or coach bus from central Barcelona (adult round-trip is 20 euros), this upscale outlet mall filled with quality name brands such as Furla, Gucci, Missioni and La Perla is a shoppers dream. Make a day of it; there are places to eat there as well. Check website for shops, directions and bus tickets. Open daily 10 am-10 pm during summer; winter hours vary—check online. La Roca Village s/n, Santa Agnes de Malanyanes (La Roca del Valles). Phone 93-842-3939. <http://www.larocavillage.com>.

---

## MARKETS

---

### Els Encants Vells

A wondrous assortment of junk and jumble awaits at Barcelona's well-loved flea market. Selection and prices are best early in the morning. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9 am-8 pm (although the main activity occurs until 3 pm). Av. Meridiana 69 (Metro: Glories), Barcelona. Phone 246-3030.

## La Boqueria

Also known as Mercat de Sant Josep, this is the oldest and most marvelous of Barcelona's 40 bustling municipal food markets. It absolutely should not be missed, and with its location just off La Rambla, it's not likely you'd accidentally pass by. Loaded with stall after stall of fresh fruit, fish, meat and vegetables, it's full of bright colors and exotic smells. Of particular interest are the egg stall, with not only chicken but other unique types of eggs, and the stalls with chorizo, jamon iberico and *butifarra* sausages. Seek out the Pinotxo bar for a breakfast of tasty coffee and churros. Great tapas are served all day in the many bars inside. Monday-Saturday 8:30 am-8:30 pm (Monday is not the best day to visit because a large number of stalls are closed). La Rambla 91, Raval, Barcelona. Phone 93-318-2017. <http://www.boqueria.info>.

## Mercat de Sant Antoni

If the more famous Boqueria market is too bustling for your taste, this local indoor food market would be a good alternative. However, it is closed for renovations until the end of 2015. Carrer Comte d'Urgell 1, Raval, Barcelona. Phone 93-426-3521. <http://www.mercatdesantantoni.com>.

---

## SHOPPING AREAS

---

### Diagonal Mar Centre Comercial

If you happen to be in the Forum area of Sant Marti, visit this new indoor shopping center containing many familiar brands such as United Colors of Benetton, Desigual and Intimissimi. There are also places to grab a snack, as well as a post office and cinema. Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm. Avinguda Diagonal 3 (Metro: El Maresme/Forum), Barcelona. Phone 90-253-0300. <http://www.diagonalmarcentre.es>.

### El Triangle

A smart mall in Placa Catalunya, with a combination of small shops and big-name stores such as Sephora, Habitat and FNAC. Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm. Placa Catalunya 1-4, Barcelona. Phone 93-318-0108. <http://www.eltriangle.es>.

### Las Arenas

Modern shopping mall built into a historic bullfighting ring still visible from the outside; it's worth the visit just for the unique experience. Inside the shops vary, from cosmetics to clothing to food stores and include restaurants, a movie theater and spa. Open daily 10 am-10 pm. Gran Via de les Corts Catalans 373-385 (Metro: Tarragona), Barcelona. Phone 93-289-0244. <http://www.arenasdebarcelona.com>.

### L'illa

Housed in the unmistakable white building known as the Recumbent Skyscraper, this elegant and airy commercial center has numerous fashion shops and boutiques, a food market, an FNAC department store, lots of superb little stalls, coffee bars, eateries and a huge branch of the Caprabo supermarket. Monday-Saturday 10 am-9:30 pm. Ave. Diagonal 557, Barcelona. Phone 93-444-0000. <http://www.lilla.com>.

### Maremagnum

At this Port Vell shopping center, you'll find Mango, H&M and other popular chain stores, as well as shops catering to families, a Barca shop, and several coffee shops, tapas bars and restaurants. Open daily 10 am-10 pm; restaurants open until 1 am. Moll d'Espanya 5 (Metro: Drassanes), Port Vell, Barcelona. Phone 93-225-8100. <http://www.maremagnum.es>.

---

## SPECIALTY STORES

---

### Biosca i Botey

There are a lot of lamp stores in Barcelona (part of the city's love of design), but this one's a standout. It has a stylish inventory, from the trendiest little designer lamp to the weird and wonderful, with studio lighting and an antiques department, too. You probably won't take a lamp home with you, but it's impossible not to be lured in by the glowing colors and shapes you'll see in the window. Monday-Saturday 10 am-2 pm and 4:30-8:30 pm. Avenida Diagonal, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-238-7373. <http://www.bioscabotey.es>.



## Cacao Sampaka

Purveyors of eye-catching, high-quality artisanal chocolate goodies. Chef Albert Adria is one of the investors, so you know the flavors will be unique. Monday-Saturday 9 am-9:30 pm. Consell de Cent 292, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-272-0833. <http://www.cacaosampaka.com>.

## Caelum

Get thee to a nunnery? Well, not quite, but everything sold there has been produced by monks and nuns in Spanish monasteries. In the cafe downstairs, you can sample such culinary delicacies as cakes, cookies, sweets, honey, marzipan, wines and spirits. Open Monday-Thursday 10:30 am-8:30 pm, Friday and Saturday 10:30 am-11 pm, Sunday 10:30 am-9 pm. Carrer de la Palla 8, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-302-6993. <http://www.caelumbarcelona.com>.

## Camper

Footwear is fun at this cheerful shop, which has elevated Mallorcan peasant sandals into a fashion trend with international appeal. Flat-soled and wedge styles come with round toes, bold stripes and bright colors and designs. Other options range from sturdy leather shoes to plastic boots to funky high heels. Also at Rambla de Catalunya 122 and other locations. Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm. Pelai 13-37, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-302-4124. For the other locations, phone 93-217-2384. <http://www.camper.com>.

## Can Ravell

A good spot to go foraging for local food products, like ham and other cured meats, cheeses, prepared dishes, canned goods, and the shopping list goes on. It also has a restaurant on the premises in case you can't wait to enjoy the goods. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday 10 am-3 pm. Arago 313, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-457-5114. <http://www.ravell.com>.

## Casa Munich

The colorful sneakers of that old Catalan brand have become fashionable all over the world, but only in a few shops will you find the very sought-after special editions, which are presented there like icons in front of walls striped in black and white. There are other locations in L'Illa at Avenida Diagonal and Maremagnum. Open Monday-Saturday 11 am-9 pm. Carrer Antic de Sant Joan 4, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-319-9608. <http://www.munichsports.com>.

## Cereria Subira

Specializing in candles of every imaginable color, shape and size, this old store (founded in 1761) still has its original decor and is quite a sight in itself. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-1:30 pm and 4-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm and 5-8 pm. Baixada Llibreteria 7, Barcelona. Phone 93-315-2606.

## Colmado Quilez

This is a wonderful grocery store that's jammed with cheeses, wine, meats and practically anything else you could want. Monday-Friday 9 am-2 pm and 4:30-8:30 pm, Saturday 9 am-2 pm. Rambla de Catalunya 63, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-215-2356. <http://www.lafuente.es>.

## Custo

The designer T-shirts and trendy clubwear are popular with the international club set. Spanish actress Penelope Cruz reportedly adores the label. There are multiple locations throughout Barcelona, including the flagship store, but the company's empire is growing all over the world. Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm. Placa de les Olles 7, Barcelona. Phone 93-268-7893. <http://www.custo-barcelona.com>.

## Foix de Sarria

This pastry shop, one of the most select in town, has a sort of hushed, reverential, almost museumlike air. It was founded in 1886 and belonged to the family of the famous Catalan poet J.V. Foix. Located in the main square of the Sarria neighborhood (not far from Museu Monestir de Pedralbes), it is famous for its *petxines de Sarria*—shell-shaped candies made of almond and bitter chocolate. Around Easter, they have a stunning chocolate sculpture display. Multiple locations—check website. Daily 8 am-9 pm. Mayor de Sarria 57, Sarria, Barcelona. Phone 93-203-0714. <http://foixdesarria.com>.

## Herboristeria del Rei

This stately shop specializing in herbal concoctions is as much a local landmark as it is a business. Once purveyors to royal houses, it now peddles herbal remedies, essential oils, natural cosmetics and candles. Tuesday-Friday 4-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-8 pm. Vidre 1, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-318-0512.

## La Manual Alpargatera

A shoe shop specializing in the timelessly popular rope-soled espadrilles. Have a pair custom-made or choose from the shop's mind-blowing selection. Either way, be sure to see them being made by hand in the back room. The shop itself is also interesting—a haven of wrought-iron lamps and wooden beams unchanged since the 1940s. Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-1:30 pm and 4:30-8 pm. Avinyo 7, Barcelona. Phone 93-301-0172. <http://www.lamanualalpargatera.es>.

## La Patisserie

A must-visit for true pastry connoisseurs. Pastry chef of the world in 2011, Josep Maria Rodriguez Guerola has created some of the most delectable and creative pastries you will ever find. Enjoy them in the shop with a coffee or tea. Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-2 pm and 5-8:30 pm, Sunday 9 am-2:30 pm. Aragon 228, Barcelona. Phone 93-451-8401. <http://www.lapatisseriebarcelona.com>.

## L'Arca de l'Avia

This high-quality vintage shop is a veritable "grandmother's chest," as the name denotes. Antique textiles, particularly those that might have found their way into a bride's trousseau, such as wedding dresses, veils, linens and curtains. Centuries-old laces are also proudly displayed. Monday-Saturday 11 am-2 pm and 4:30-8:30 pm. Banys nous 20, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-302-1598. <http://www.larca.es>.

## OroLiquido

This upscale boutique for Spanish olive oils has a great selection of Catalan offerings. The shop always has oils out to sample, from light to more intense flavors, and the staff is happy to help you choose an oil to suit your tastes. Open daily 10:30 am-8:30 pm. Carrer de la Palla 8, Barcelona. Phone 93-302-2980. <http://oroliquido.es>.

## Papabubble

Sweet tooths will definitely feel at home there. Hand-made candies and lollipops in all colors, shapes and sizes. The packaging can also be customized. Monday-Friday 10 am-2 pm and 4-8:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-8:30 pm, Sunday 11 am-7:30 pm. Ample 28, Barcelona. Phone 93-268-8625. <http://www.papabubble.com>.

## Vila Viniteca

Great selection of 6,000 different Catalan and Spanish wines. Wonderful *cavas*, sherries, brandies and some very rare finds. Also sells international wines. Tastings offered. Open Monday-Saturday 8:30 am-8:30 pm. Carrer Agullers 7-9, El Born, Barcelona. Phone 90-232-7777. <http://www.vilaviniteca.es>.

## Vincon

Barcelona's original and innovative design emporium stocks everything for the home, from elegant and practical kitchenware to fabrics to fun lamps. It's a lovely place to browse, and you can get glimpses of La Pedrera's inner courtyard from the upper floors. Monday-Friday 10 am-8:30 pm, Saturday 10:30 am-9 pm. Passeig de Gracia 96, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-215-6050. <http://www.vincon.com>.

## **Vinus Brindis**

This local wine shop specializes in Catalan wines and also offers free wine tastings during the week (varies by store). Some employees speak English and will be able to guide you through the familiar and unfamiliar wines and grape varieties. Multiple locations in Barcelona, with a shop in L'Illa shopping center on Diagonal. Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-9:30 pm. Other locations have different hours—consult website. Diagonal 557, Barcelona. Phone 93-512-1713. <http://www.vinusbrindis.com>.

---

## DINING OVERVIEW

---

Catalan cuisine resembles that of other Mediterranean countries and makes use of nuts, garlic, olive oil, tomatoes and herbs. Truly traditional Catalan restaurants often feature many rich sauces and protein-centric dishes. One of the simplest and yet most delicious dishes (the one Catalans particularly yearn for when abroad) is *pa amb tomaquet*: a large slice of fresh country bread (toasted or not) rubbed with tomato and drizzled with virgin olive oil. It may be topped with Iberian ham, cheese and anchovies or served along with meat, chicken or fish *a la brasa* (cooked over a charcoal fire).

Other local specialties include *esqueixada* (a salad of raw salt cod with onions and peppers), *espinacs a la catalana* (spinach sauteed with raisins and pine nuts) and *bacalla a la llauna* (salt cod with tomato, garlic and parsley). If you have a sweet tooth, *crema catalana* (a cinnamon- and citrus-flavored custard) is a must for dessert.

Many restaurants advertise as serving *cuina de mercat* or *cocina de mercado*, meaning they use whatever is in season at the local market: Freshness is of the essence. There are restaurants serving dishes from other regions of Spain, as well, and places specializing in the cuisine of other countries are also common.

Tapas, one of the first items people visiting Spain want to try, are traditionally from Andalucia, in the most southern part of Spain and are not local to Barcelona. However, you will find some amazing places to try tapas in Barcelona.

Paella is a traditional Valencian dish that you can find all over Barcelona. For a more authentic dish, go for the *fideuà* which is a local dish much like paella but made with pasta.

You can eat well anywhere in the city, although many of the most emblematic restaurants are clustered in the Barri Gotic and the Raval, with Barceloneta and the Olympic port being a must for seafood and the sheer pleasure of eating outdoors. Eixample and Sant Gervasi are often the places for the more modern and new-style Catalan cuisine, and Gracia is full of eating places, many of them very inexpensive and popular with students and younger visitors. Poble Sec is turning into a gastronomic theme park, thanks to the multiple restaurants owned by Ferran and Albert Adria of the famed three-Michelin-starred El Bulli. In fact, many restaurants that have opened in Barcelona over the past few years are headed by chefs that had cooked at El Bulli and created their own spaces after its closure in 2011.

Like most Europeans, the Catalans begin their day with a light breakfast that may include *bollos* (rolls), *melindros* (lady fingers) and pastries. Lunch is served about 1:30 pm at the very earliest, with peak time being 2-4 pm. *Berenar* or *merienda* is an afternoon snack taken at around 4 or 5 pm to get you through to a late dinner, which isn't served until 9 pm or later. The best bargains are available at lunch, when most restaurants offer the *menu del dia* or set lunch. Even the most basic (for little more than 10 euros) offer a choice of starter course, main course of meat or fish and dessert, plus a drink.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than 20 euros; \$\$ = 21 euros-40 euros; \$\$\$ = 41 euros-70 euros; \$\$\$\$ = more than 70 euros.

---

## LOCAL & REGIONAL

---

### ABaC

A contemporary classic that is part of the Hotel ABaC, this restaurant occupies a spacious and stylish dining room. Its talented young chef Jordi Cruz has gained it two Michelin stars. Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards. Ave. Tibidabo 1, Sant Gervasi, Barcelona. Phone 93-319-6600. .

#### Address

Ave. Tibidabo 1  
Barcelona, Spain 08022

#### Phone

93-319-6600

## Aqua

Refined Spanish-Mediterranean cuisine served in a great location right on the beach. Beautiful people congregate on the terrace, but you can also enjoy the view through a large window from the cozy, tastefully designed interior. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Passeig Maritim de la Barceloneta 30, Barcelona. Phone 93-225-1272. .

### Address

Passeig Maritim de la  
Barceloneta 30  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-225-1272

## Butipa

Local street-food vendor, specializing in the delicious local sausage called *butifarra* made in nearby Vic. Not only are these sausages delicious, they are also inexpensive and quick for those on the go. Some casual indoor seating is available, and there are vegetarian options. Enjoy a Moritz beer or local soda with your meal. Small space but worth a visit. \$. No credit cards. Ramelleres 16, El Reval, Barcelona. .

### Address

Ramelleres 16  
Barcelona, Spain

## Cafe de L'Academia

Charming restaurant located on the Placa Sant Just, one of the most beautiful squares in Barcelona, in a Gothic building dating from the 15th century (not to mention the lovely terrace in summer). The Catalan food, using only the freshest ingredients, is excellent and surprisingly affordable: It's one of the best bets in Barcelona for lunch, which can cost as little as 15 euros. Try the eggplant terrine with goat cheese followed by codfish au gratin. Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner. Reservations highly recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Carrer Lledo 1, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-319-8253.

### Address

Carrer Lledo 1  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-319-8253

## Cal Pep

One of the best culinary shows in town. Seafood tapas and fresh seasonal fish dishes are prepared in an open kitchen in full view of diners. The cavelike interior enhances the theatrical atmosphere. Monday for dinner only, Tuesday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for lunch only. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Carrer Placa De las Ollas 8, La Ribera, Barcelona. Phone 93-310-7961. .

### Address

Carrer Placa De las Ollas 8  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-310-7961

## Casa Calvet

Dine on excellent Mediterranean food with Asian touches, served in a former office building designed by Antoni Gaudi. Try the duck liver with oranges, and rosemary ice cream for dessert. Wonderful game dishes in the fall. Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, closed Monday in June, July and August. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Carrer de Casp 48, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-412-4012. .

### Address

Carrer de Casp 48  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-412-4012

## El Gran Cafe

One of the oldest restaurants in Barcelona. It features old-fashioned decor and traditional Catalan dishes, but also boasts a selection of more innovative dishes. With its warm, welcoming atmosphere and round tables, it's a great place for a night out with friends or family. Daily for lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$. Carrer d' Avinyo 9, Barcelona. Phone

### Address

Carrer d' Avinyo 9  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-318-7986. .

93-318-7986

## Els Quatre Gats

Founded in 1897, The Four Cats is one of Barcelona's most famous historic restaurants. It maintains the traditional look designed by Modernist architect Puig i Cadafalch that attracted such famous personalities as Pablo Picasso and Antoni Gaudi in their day. Indeed, Picasso hung many of his earliest paintings on the restaurant's walls and designed the first menu.

We recommend the 16-euro menu for lunch (Monday-Friday), which includes a choice of two courses and dessert. Despite the tourist crowd, the atmosphere is still interesting, although the food is rather average. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Montsio 3, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 93-302-4140. .

### Address

Montsio 3  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-302-4140

## Embat

This small, chef-owned Catalan restaurant is one of the "bistronomics" that came into fashion after the 2008 financial crisis. A desire to continue serving great food, but at affordable prices, became the fashion ... and thank goodness. Expect a simple interior, friendly service and fresh ingredients. Tuesday-Thursday for lunch, Friday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Mallorca 304, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-458-0855. .

### Address

Mallorca 304  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-458-0855

## Freixa Tradicio

Classic Catalan cuisine is served in this upscale, family-owned restaurant. Since the 1980s, chef Freixa has been making some of the finest local dishes in the Sant Gervasi district of Barcelona. Great service and attention to detail will greet you when you arrive to taste dishes such as the Catalan cannelloni or Crema Catalana. The menu is divided by region in Catalonia, which gives you an even better idea of the cultural differences within the region. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Sant Elies 22, Barcelona. Phone 93-209-7559. .

### Address

Sant Elies 22  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-209-7559

## Gresca

Not to be missed, as this small, family-owned place could be the best value for the money if you are interested in a Catalan tasting menu in Barcelona for less than 40 euros. Chef Raphael Pena creates unique takes using the freshest local products and some very modern cooking techniques. Open Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for dinner only. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Calle Provenca 230, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-451-6193. .

### Address

Calle Provenca 230  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-451-6193

## Hisop

One of the great chefs of Barcelona, Oriol Ivern creates unique and memorable plates with touches of molecular gastronomy and local, seasonal produce. It's perhaps more avant-garde than other restaurants of similar pricing—don't let the simple dinning room deceive you. A wine-tasting menu is offered to pair with the tasting menu, but unless you are a strong drinker you might find it to be too much. Open Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for dinner only. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Passatge Marimon 9, Sant Gervasi, Barcelona. Phone 93-241-3233. .

### Address

Passatge Marimon 9  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-241-3233

# Dining: Overview

DESTINATION GUIDE  
BARCELONA, SPAIN

## Jaume de Provenca

Chef Jaume Bargues enjoys well-earned prestige for the wonderfully original variations on the traditional Catalan cuisine he has dreamed up. Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for dinner. Reservations required. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Provenca 88, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-430-0029. .

### Address

Provenca 88  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-430-0029

## La Camarga

This restaurant features imaginative and delicious Mediterranean cooking based particularly on fresh vegetables and fish, in addition to some excellent rice dishes. Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. MasterCard or Visa preferred. Aribau 117, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-323-6655. .

### Address

Aribau 117  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-323-6655

## L'Antic Forn

A traditional and cozy Catalan restaurant that focuses on market-fresh and seasonal ingredients and grilled meats. Set menus for lunch (11.50 euros) and dinner (19 euros). Definitely try the *calcots* (a type of scallion served with a sauce) when it's in season. Monday-Wednesday for lunch, Thursday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Villarroel 182, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-430-0826. .

### Address

Villarroel 182  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-430-0826

## Mam i Teca

If you're looking for a light meal or just prefer to nibble the night away in a languorous setting, look no further than this cozy tapas bar, with a handful of tables and soft jazz music. Traditional tapas are treated with loving care by the resident foodies who source top-quality Spanish ingredients such as air-cured tuna, fresh anchovies and a variety of cheeses to create Catalan specialties. But the daily specials are inspired. Monday and Wednesday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for dinner only. \$\$\$. Lluna 4, El Raval, Barcelona. Phone 93-441-3335.

### Address

Lluna 4, El Raval  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-441-3335

## Restaurant Gaig

Multiple generations of the Gaig family have nurtured this business for more than a century, and a distinct spirit of innovation and sound service on the part of the current husband-and-wife team keeps it going. Refined Catalan dishes are served in a sophisticated contemporary setting. Sunday for lunch only, Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Corsega 200 (at the corner of Aribau), Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-429-1017. .

### Address

Corsega 200  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-429-1017

## Sauc

Located in the Ohla Hotel at Urquinona, Sauc is a modern, Michelin twist on classic Catalan cuisine by chef Xaiver Franco. Plating and service are exquisite, the produce is seasonal and the sauces are rich. Portions are rather large, if you are ordering a la carte. Great service and wine list. During the summer, don't miss the rooftop bar and views before or after eating. Daily for lunch and dinner, with special lunch menus

### Address

Via Laietana 49  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-341-5050



# Dining: Overview

Monday-Friday. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Via Laietana 49, Barcelona. Phone 93-341-5050. .

## Semproniana

Located in a former printing office, this restaurant affords a welcome break from style and design with its nonmatching furniture, ceramic plates and other flea-market finds. But the food is some of the most inventive and delicious you will find in the city for such reasonable prices; servings come in various sizes. Favorites include codfish moussaka, partridges with cinnamon sauce, and *civet* of hare with jam. The star of the dessert menu is the *delirium tremens*, an understandably small slice of pure chocolate bliss. Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday and Monday for lunch only. Reservations required. \$\$\$. MasterCard and Visa only. Rossello 148, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-453-1820. .

### Address

Rossello 148  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-453-1820

## Taktika Berri

This is one of the best and most popular tapas bars in Barcelona, so reservations are highly recommended. Since the food is Basque, tapas there are called *pintxos* and are just delicious. Full meals are excellent, too, with an emphasis on fresh seafood. Do not expect a menu—the waiter will tell you what's available. The light, fruity Basque wines go very well with the food. Open Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for lunch only. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Carrer de Valencia 169, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-453-4759. .

### Address

Carrer de Valencia 169  
Barcelona, Spain

### Phone

93-453-4759

## Tragaluz

Two restaurants in one: Japanese food on the first floor and Mediterranean cuisine on the second floor, where fresh ingredients are served in endlessly imaginative combinations such as pork with figs or steamed hake with applesauce. This restaurant has won design awards as well, and is one of Barcelona's most fashionable eating places (don't miss the restrooms by Olympic-design darling Mariscal). Daily for lunch and dinner (cocktail bar open daily 6 pm-2 am). Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Passaje de la Concepcio 5, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-487-0621. .

### Address

Passaje de la Concepcio 5  
Barcelona, Spain 08008

### Phone

93-487-0621

---

## ETIQUETTE

---

Business travelers will find a moderately affluent city (in spite of current economic challenges), in step with the age of high technology but still maintaining many of its traditions.

**Appointments**—You may find it valuable to have a local intermediary who can assist in establishing business appointments. Schedule meetings well in advance. As a visitor, you should be punctual but allow a 15-minute grace period for anyone you are meeting. Catalonians pride themselves on their efficiency and timeliness.

**Personal Introductions**—Handshakes are the typical greeting. Last names with the appropriate Spanish title are used. If your acquaintance has a professional title, you will learn it when introduced; if not, *senor* (male) and *senora* (married female) are appropriate. The title and the person's last name should be used until you are instructed otherwise. Note that it is typical for Spanish people to have two surnames, one from their father and one from their mother. The father's surname will be given first during the introduction, and that's the name that is used to address or speak of the person. Thus, Federico Garcia Lorca would be addressed as "Senor Garcia." Invest in business cards with the information printed in English on one side and Spanish on the other.

**Negotiating**—Business is typically preceded by small talk and pleasantries. Negotiations can be a more extended process than in northern European countries. Companies tend to be hierarchical, so focus on individuals of equal rank or higher. At the same time, the opinion of everyone in the company is important. You are an outsider and must ingratiate yourself. Thus, expect many questions about your business, background and family. Intuition, as much as objective fact, is important in their impression of you, so remain warm and friendly in your demeanor. Anticipate that many of the people important to a decision may not be present at any given meeting.

**Business Entertaining**—Lunch and dinner are the meals most commonly attended by business associates. Lunch is usually the more productive for deal-making, but business discussions should be saved for the very end of the meal, during coffee. Know that dinner is usually served quite late—9 or 10 pm. Spaniards often fill the gap between lunch and dinner by snacking on tapas at cafes and taverns.

**Body Language**—Conversations take place at close quarters, and polite conversational touching may be practiced.

**Gift Giving**—In business contexts, gifts are typically given at the conclusion of successful negotiations. Gifts should be opened and appreciated immediately. Appropriate personal gifts when visiting a home include flowers, wine or chocolate, but avoid chrysanthemums, dahlias or 13 of anything.

**Conversation**—If you don't speak Spanish or Catalan, try to learn at least a few phrases well. In Barcelona, Catalan is spoken on an equal footing with Spanish, and the locals are generally impressed when foreigners take the time to learn the language. Spanish culture is always a good topic, as is Spanish literature, if you are knowledgeable. Sports and travel are good topics, but if you bring up FC Barcelona and soccer in general be prepared for in-depth, detailed conversation.

Be aware that, in many regards, Spain is still a country of regions: Many people will identify more strongly with their local area than with the country as a whole. Catalonians consider themselves members of an autonomous nation, even though many people in the rest of Spain oppose this view—tread lightly with the topic.

---

## PERSONAL SAFETY

---

In general, Barcelona is a reasonably safe city to walk around in, even late at night. The biggest danger is petty crime—pickpocketing, bag snatching and assorted scams. Thieves tend to ply their trade in the busy tourist spots such as La Rambla, the Barri Gotic, El Raval, in clubs or bars, down by the port, on the metro and on buses.

A few precautions will help keep you out of trouble: Don't carry money, credit cards or documents in back pockets, breast pockets or backpacks. Leave valuables in a safe-deposit box at your hotel, including your passport (a photocopy of your passport is sufficient to carry with you). Wear purses, bags and cameras slung around your neck or across your chest and keep them close to your body in crowds. Don't set them down at your feet or in adjacent seats in outdoor cafes or on trains and buses—keep your hand on them at all times. Do not leave cell phones or valuables on restaurant tables, especially on terraces.. Never leave any item of value unattended or inside a parked car.

In an emergency, dial 112.

For more information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

---

## HEALTH

---

Barcelona's tap water is safe to drink; however, many people prefer bottled water, which is easily available and inexpensive. Sanitation levels are high, but it's wise to exercise caution with tapas that look old and tired. It's also sensible to avoid mayonnaise when the weather's hot.

Spanish law prohibits smoking in all enclosed (and some open) public areas. With its regulations coming into line with most of the rest of Europe, smoking is banned totally in cafes and restaurants, and only allowed in certain specified areas of hotels. Smoking outdoors is banned in children's play areas, around schools and near hospitals. However, smoking at outdoor cafes is quite common, so avoid those areas if you are sensitive to cigarette smoke.

If you travel into the countryside, protect yourself from ticks, which are quite prevalent and can carry disease. There are also poisonous caterpillars that are found between January and April, typically near pine trees. Do not handle them; the hairs have a toxin that is rather painful.

The beaches of Barcelona are safe and typically do not have any waves or currents, but recently there have been an increasing number of shark sightings, so pay attention to the flags and lifeguards. Jellyfish can also be numerous in the warmer months of July and August. Be sure to wear plenty of sunscreen at the beach, or when walking around.

Most doctors have some knowledge of English, and many speak it reasonably well. Hotels will likely arrange to find an English-speaking doctor for you. In an emergency, your best bet is to go to the emergency department of any of the big public hospitals, all of which are open 24 hours a day. Be sure to have your health insurance information available and contact your home health insurance agency as soon as possible to advise them of the situation. While Barcelona is known for a high-quality, inexpensive public health system, you will pay much higher prices unless you are a resident.

Two hospitals in or near the city center are Centre Perecamps, Drassanes 13-15, Raval (phone 93-441-0600), and Hospital Clinic i Provincial, Villarroel 170, Eixample. Phone 93-227-5400. Pediatric emergencies are best handled at Hospital Sant Joan de Deu, Passeig de Sant Joan de Deu 2, Les Corts. Phone 93-600-9783.

If you need a prescription filled on short notice, be aware that every neighborhood has at least one pharmacy open 24 hours a day. Their addresses will be posted in the windows of other pharmacies and will be published in the newspaper under *Farmacias de Guardia*.

For an ambulance, dial 061 or 93-300-2020.

For more information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

---

## DISABLED ADVISORY

---

Barcelona is quite attentive to making the city accessible to locals and visitors alike. Sidewalks are wide and well-maintained, and ramps or elevators have been installed wherever possible. Unfortunately, the Gothic Quarter,

Born and Raval have historic buildings that cannot be fitted as easily as the more modern areas. The public transit agency offers a list of all buses and metro stops that are equipped for the disabled at <http://www.tmb.cat/en/transport-accessible>.

You can also request a taxi equipped for wheelchairs. Phone 93-420-8088. <http://www.taxi-amic-adaptat.com>.

Contact Oficina d'Informacio Turistica for additional information about hotels, transportation and services for the disabled. Phone 93-285-3834.

Other good sources of advice and information include <http://www.accessiblebarcelona.com>, a website created by an Englishman, Craig Grimes, who lives in Barcelona and uses a wheelchair (<http://www.craiggrimes.com>), and the Municipal Institute for People with Disabilities, Diagonal 233, Eixample. Phone 93-413-2775. [http://w110.bcn.cat/portal/site/InstitutMunicipalDePersonesAmbDiscapacitat?lang=en\\_GB](http://w110.bcn.cat/portal/site/InstitutMunicipalDePersonesAmbDiscapacitat?lang=en_GB).

---

## DOS & DON'TS

---

Do be careful where you light up. Spain's antismoking law took effect in 2011. The law bans smoking in enclosed public spaces, which include bars, restaurants, hotel lobbies, casinos, clubs, office buildings, open-decked tourist buses and airports. There is also a ban on smoking in outdoor spaces around schools, hospitals and children's playgrounds.

Do keep your eyes open for pickpockets. The areas around La Rambla and La Sagrada Familia are particularly dicey. In addition to light-fingered pickpockets, there are also a number of tricks thieves use to distract and defraud you. To reach into your front pockets, someone may approach you with a magazine or clipboard and practically press it into your chest, talking excitedly all the time. This is just a cover for them entering your pockets and removing your valuables. Leave your valuables in the hotel safe and take only as much cash as you'll need.

Don't confuse Catalan with Spanish or refer to Catalan as a dialect. They are distinct languages representing different cultures.

Don't expect to eat lunch before 1 pm, or dinner before 8 pm at most restaurants. The Catalans eat later than most visitors, so use the time before to try out some tapas like the locals do.

Do dress modestly in the city. Spain is a conservative country, so skimpy tops and too-brief clothing are inappropriate for visits to churches. Catalonians normally dress well and stylishly, but the younger generations are embracing a more relaxed attire. Even then, shorts are tailored and often worn with button-up or polo shirts instead of T-shirts. Bathing suits are only for the beach and will mark you for a tourist if worn elsewhere in the city, as will flip-flops.

Don't litter. You may see some people throwing trash in the street, but most people are tidy and have great respect for public areas.

Don't preface a question or restaurant order with too many polite formalities. Catalans are a friendly people, but when it comes to these situations, they prefer you get straight to the point. A simple *gracias* or *merci* will suffice at the end.

---

## Geostats

---

**Passport/Visa Requirements:** Passports are needed by citizens of Australia, the U.S. and Canada and must be valid for at least six months after your trip. A tourist visa is not required for a visit of three months or less. Proof of onward passage and sufficient funds are needed by all. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

**Population:** 1,611,822.

**Languages:** Catalan, Spanish.

**Predominant Religions:** Christian (Roman Catholic).

**Time Zone:** 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the end of March to the end of October.

**Voltage Requirements:** 220 volts. 50 Hz.

**Telephone Codes:** 34, country code; 93, city code;

---

## Currency Exchange

---

The euro is the local currency. Although foreign currency exchange fees will apply, the best and most convenient way to obtain euros is by withdrawing them from an ATM. There are ATMs in all neighborhoods of the city. La Caixa ATMs, in particular (those with the bright-blue star logo), are very common and found in municipal markets and shopping malls. Most ATMs have instructions in English. Outside of normal banking hours, you gain access to ATMs by inserting your credit or cash card into a slot in the door. You can lock the door from inside.

Most banks will change traveler's checks (preferring denomination in euros), but the commissions vary. Exchanging money is more streamlined at the big banks in the city center than at small local branches. Private exchange bureaus are located in the city center and along La Rambla, and most stay open until midnight or later. Although private bureaus generally don't charge commissions, they invariably give poor rates of exchange, and it's best to avoid them if you can.

---

## Taxes

---

The value-added tax in Spain is called by its abbreviation IVA (pronounced *ee-bah*). The basic rate is a whopping 21%. There is a reduced rate of 10% which applies to such things as passenger transport, hotels and restaurants. The lowest rate of 4% applies to such items as basic food and drink (not purchased at a restaurant) and pharmaceuticals.

Visitors to Spain not residing in the European Union are eligible for a reimbursement of the tax that they pay on some merchandise. The procedure can be a bit complicated, but it's basically as follows: The tax refund is valid only for purchases of 90.15 euros (taxes included) or higher. Look for stores displaying a "tax-free" sticker and request an invoice and an IVA refund form detailing the value, tax rate and nature of the purchase. When departing Spain, you will need to have the completed form stamped by customs—do this before you check your luggage, because they may need to see the purchased items. This is important even if you will be returning home from another EU country. If you are departing the EU from another member country, final processing of your refund claim will be handled by that country's customs. You can mail in the stamped form up to three months from the date of purchase and wait to receive your refund in the form of a check in euros, or you can get an immediate cash refund (minus a service charge) at the Tax-Free Shopping refund window, which is usually located in the departure area of airports.

---

## Tipping

---

Tipping in Spain is not based on a set formula. A service charge is generally already included in restaurant bills, so wait staff do not expect tips of 15% or 20%. Nevertheless, they will be delighted if you leave something as a way of saying you were pleased with the service. In higher-end restaurants, it is common to leave at least 5%-10%. The norm in bars or cafes would be to leave small change or round up the bill. The same goes for taxi drivers.

If you are staying in a hotel that offers room service or other hotel staff services, be sure to leave a few euros for each request.

---

## Weather

---

There is really no best time to visit Barcelona, nor a worst. Thanks to its location on the Mediterranean, it enjoys a mild, pleasant climate year-round. December-February is the chilliest period, although the sun shines most of the time. Even in winter, locals sunbathe on the beaches (in "suntraps" by the seawall) and eat and drink on terraces. The hardier ones even occasionally take a dip; you may not want to follow their example, however, as the water is surprisingly cold.

In January, the average temperature rarely falls below 50 F/10 C and is often considerably higher. Really cold spells are typically few and far between, although recent years have seen an increasing number of cold spells and even some snow.

Summers aren't necessarily hot—the average high in July and August is 78 F/25 C—but the high humidity can make them somewhat uncomfortable. School vacation runs late June to mid-September, and those who are able to do so spend the entire summer away from the city. Most shops and businesses take their annual vacations in August, leaving the city relatively empty.

Rain is infrequent, but can be heavy when it occurs and thunderstorms can be violent.

---

## What to Wear

---

It won't take you long to learn that Barcelona is a style-conscious city, so it's a good idea to have some options other than jeans and T-shirts. For the heat of summer, take along the coolest clothes possible. Fashionable trousers and sleeveless tops are fine, but bathing gear is strictly for the beach. Sunscreen and a hat will be useful accessories.

In autumn and spring, it can be chilly in the morning and evening, so take along a jacket and sweater. The winter tends to be relatively mild, but it is wise to take along hats, gloves, scarves and so forth, and to be prepared for very cold spells, which can appear without much warning.

Business visitors should stick to plain, conservative business suits with ties for the men and the equivalent for women: dark colors in winter, lighter in summer. Above all, pack comfortable walking shoes. Loafers are typical footwear for men in the city.

---

## Telephone

---

Public pay phones accept coins, phone cards issued by Telefonica (Spanish Telecom) and credit cards. The phones have clear instructions in English. You can also find pay phones in many bars and cafes, although they tend to cost more. You can buy Telefonica phone cards at post offices, tobacco shops (*estancos*) and newsstands. International calls are cheapest at phone centers, called *locutorios*, which offer discounted international connections. You will find several in the old town, especially in El Raval. You make your call in a private booth and pay in cash when you are through.

If you are going to be in Barcelona, or Spain, for a longer period of time and will need phone service, look into purchasing a SIM card from a local phone shop. They are relatively inexpensive, get good coverage and will save you money if you are only calling local numbers. Alternatively, before you leave home, contact your phone provider and see what international plans they provide.

Most regular Spanish phone numbers contain nine digits: The area code (93 for Barcelona and Catalonia) must be dialed for all calls, even if you are calling from within the same city or region. For international calls, first dial 00, then the country code, then the area code and number.

Spanish cell phone numbers begin with 6, toll-free lines with 900 and special-rate services with 902.

---

### Internet Access

---

Internet cafes are less common in Barcelona than they used to be because such portable accessories as smartphones are now so omnipresent. But small establishments with varying prices and connection speeds can still be found in various parts of the city, some with rates as low as one or two euros per hour.

Wi-Fi is available in the city and is offered by various hotels. There are also numerous cafes and bars that offer free Wi-Fi. The Eixample area has the highest number of such cafes, though they are also found in the city center and university areas. All of them advertise with large signs, frequently in English, for free Wi-Fi, or, less commonly, for Wi-Fi gratis.

Barcelona WiFi is a free Internet service provided by the city council and has a fairly comprehensive network of access points in parks, libraries, cultural centers, museums and markets. <http://www.bcn.cat/barcelonawifi>.

### Bornet Internet Cafe

An intimate spot tucked away in a tiny lane near the Picasso Museum where you can sip delicious coffee in a cozy ambience as you work. But be aware that it's a bit pricey and often crowded. Monday-Friday 9 am-11 pm, Saturday and Sunday noon-11 pm. Carrer Barra del Ferro 3, El Born, Barcelona. Phone 93-268-1507. <http://bornet.wordpress.com>.

#### Address

Carrer Barra del Ferro 3  
Barcelona, Spain 08003

#### Phone

93-268-1507

### WORKcenter

This is a chain of office-supply and support shops that also offers Internet access. It has multiple locations in Barcelona; the one on Diagonal is open 24/7. Diagonal 437, Barcelona. Phone 93-390-1100. <http://www.workcenter.es>.

#### Address

Diagonal 437  
Barcelona, Spain 08036

#### Phone

93-390-1100

---

### Mail & Package Services

---

Spain has a good mail service, and you can find many different services for mailing packages outside the country. But before you go through the hassle, you should ask yourself if you truly cannot fit the item or items into your luggage. Shipping items overseas is generally very expensive. If you do ship, be sure to insure anything of value. Check shipping services' websites for locations in Barcelona. Additionally, if someone needs to send you something besides paperwork into the country, be forewarned that you may be charged customs and have to endure a rather laborious procedure to acquire the items, depending on what they are.



### Correos

This is the more central post office. You should be prepared to stand in line at any post office in Barcelona. Be sure to take a ticket to keep your place in line. If you just need stamps for post cards, go to a local Tabacs (tobacco shop) to save time and put your letter in the yellow post box on the street. Barcelona. Laietana 1, Barri Gotic, Barcelona. Phone 90-219-7197. <http://www.correos.es>.

**Address**

Laietana 1  
Barcelona, Spain

**Phone**

90-219-7197

---

### Newspapers & Magazines

---

*Barcelona Metropolitan* is the city's English-language magazine and is available either online or for free at many English bars and bookshops, cinemas where original-version English-language films are shown, Internet cafes and so on. It offers a comprehensive rundown of entertainment options in the city. <http://www.barcelona-metropolitan.com>.

*The Broadsheet* (Madrid) is another free, online English-language publication. <http://www.paper.li/broadsheetmad/1360554216>.

AngloInfo has a Barcelona website that offers free, English-language advice, news and events for travelers and expats. <http://barcelona.angloinfo.com>.

*Barcelona Business* is an English-language business newspaper (printed on distinctive pink paper) available at English bookshops and some newsstands. *Barcelona Metropolis Mediterrania* (<http://www.barcelonametropolis.cat/en/page.asp?id=21&ui=229>) is an upmarket culture and art publication produced by City Hall with an English translation of all articles at the back. *Catalonia Today* (<http://www.cataloniatoday.cat>) is a weekly paper published in English in collaboration with *El Punt*, and *El Pais* produces an English-language insert for Spain for the *International New York Times*.

Spanish-language newspapers include *El Pais* and *La Vanguardia*. *El Periodico* and *El Punt* are the most widely distributed dailies. *Guia del Ocio* is a thorough entertainment guide in Spanish. <http://www.guiadelociobcn.es>.

Barcelona is very cosmopolitan, and newspapers and magazines from all over the world can be bought at a large number of places, including all the newsstands on La Rambla, Placa Catalunya and Passeig de Gracia, at both main branches of El Corte Ingles department store and at the FNAC stores, as well as some newsstands on the Diagonal and elsewhere.

---

### Transportation

---

The best way to get around in Barcelona is on foot (a centrally located hotel will put you within walking distance of many of the best attractions) and by public transport, especially the efficient subway system, the metro. There are a number of multiride tickets and travel passes available for use on the six metro lines, the city railway network and a huge fleet of buses.

The city's old tram network has also been resurrected, renovated and streamlined; modern, speedy, and almost-noiseless trams now regularly coast up and down Avenida Diagonal and northeast along the coast to the former industrial suburb of Sant Marti. Another alternative for getting around the city center are the ecological taxis that resemble a cross between rickshaws and bicycles, though they're not the best choice if you happen to be in a hurry or want to go farther afield.

The hugely popular Bus Turistic is a great way to visit the main sights of Barcelona. For general information on all city transportation services, visit [http://www.tmb.cat/en\\_US/home.jsp](http://www.tmb.cat/en_US/home.jsp).

---

### Air

---

Barcelona Airport (BCN), also known as El Prat, is 7 mi/12 km south of the city, near the town of El Prat del Llobregat. The airport has one of the fastest-growing traffic flows in Europe, and it is a hub for Mediterranean destinations. In spite of its rapid growth, the airport has been doing a good job of maintaining efficiency and comfort.

The airport consists of two terminals, T1 and T2. The T1, covering 133 acres/54 hectares, handles more than 30 million passengers a year. Services at the facility include a spa, fitness center, hair salon and four VIP lounges, as well as more than 50 shops and 30 bars and restaurants. Business travelers have access to a large business center, and there is Wi-Fi throughout the terminal. The granite structure was designed with sustainable practices, including the installation of hundreds of solar panels.

Both terminals have numerous shops, restaurants, bars and cafes on-site, as well as banks, ATMs, a Wi-Fi network and airline-related services. Phone 90-240-4704 for information. <http://www.barcelona-airport.com>.

Girona Airport (GRO) is also worth considering, as it has regular flights between many major European cities and is well-connected to Barcelona's Estacio del Nord (<http://www.barcelonanord.com>) in the city center (Metro stop: Arc de Triomf) via a 75-minute bus service. Bus tickets cost 16 euros one-way and 25 euros round-trip. Phone 90-226-0606 for information. <http://www.barcelona-girona-airport.com>.

### Connecting Transportation

#### *Best way:*

If you are headed for the city center, the Aerobus is inexpensive (5.90 euros one-way; 10.20 euros round-trip) and almost as fast as a taxi (about 30 minutes, depending on traffic). It can also accommodate all the luggage you have on the plane. You can purchase tickets from automatic machines with a credit card, or from the staff at bus stops by card or cash. However, you can only use cash to buy a ticket from the driver. It stops at Placa Espanya, Comte Urgell/Gran Via and Placa Universitat and ends at Placa Catalunya, at the top of La Rambla. There is a bus stop outside each terminal, with buses leaving every 10 minutes starting between 5 and 5:30 am. Phone 90-210-0104. <http://www.aerobusbcn.com>.

#### *Other options:*

Taxis are probably the most expensive option, but they will take you right to your destination. A typical fare from the airport to the center of Barcelona is around 35 euros. Be prepared to wait in line for a few minutes at the rank outside your terminal. Taxis are metered. For general information on using taxis and a list of current fares, see <http://www.taxibarcelona.cat/tabid/2099/Default.aspx>.

The Renfe train is the least expensive way into town, around 2.15 euros depending on final destination. At the airport, it operates from both terminals. Just follow the signs. Train service between Barcelona and the airport is via line C2 Norte (Macanet-Sant Celoni-Airport). Phone 902-240-202. <http://www.renfe.com>.

Plans are also under way for line 9 of the metro to have a stop at the airport terminals. When fully completed in 2016, it will be one of the longest metro lines in Europe.

Major rental car agencies have branches at the airport, and terminal T1 has parking for more than 11,000 cars.

---

### Bus

---

Barcelona is served by a large number of bus companies that operate regular lines to other cities and towns in Spain and to the rest of Europe. Most long-distance buses, both national and international, arrive and depart from one of two stations. Estacio d'Autobusos is at Barcelona-Nord, Ali Bei 80 (next to Arc de Triomf metro station). Estacio d'Autobusos Barcelona-Sants is next to Barcelona-Sants railway and metro station. Some buses to and from other towns in Catalonia stop elsewhere in the city.

---

### Car

---

The minimum driving age in Spain is 18, although most car rental companies will not rent to anyone younger than 21. Because it has a good public-transportation system, and because its automobile congestion is legendary, the first rule about driving in Barcelona is to avoid it if at all possible. If you can't avoid it, carefully study a good map well in advance of your arrival and plan the route to your destination within the city. Do not speak on the phone or text while driving and follow the speed limits; the camera and radar regulation in Spain is very advanced and you can get a ticket for going 5 kilometers over the speed limit.

Driving is on the right side of the road, although Barcelona has a rather extensive and complex grid of one-way streets. Use a detailed city map to locate a parking garage (indicated with a P) near your destination—though these are often expensive (20 euros or more per day). It's always difficult—if not impossible—to find a space on the street.

Remove all valuables from the car, no matter where you have it parked. Don't be tempted to park in a loading zone or other restricted area, as cars will be towed and it is very expensive.

---

## Ferry

---

### **Acciona Trasmediterranea**

Runs regular passenger and car ferries between the Balearic Islands and Barcelona. Boats arrive and depart from the Estacio Maritima at the Moll de Sant Bertran wharf. Ferry prices tend to be quite high. Phone 90-245-4645 for information and schedules. <http://www.trasmediterranea.es>.

**Address**  
Barcelona, Spain 28108  
**Phone**  
90-245-4645

### **Grandi Navi Veloci**

Operates a regular ferry service from Barcelona to Genoa, Italy, and Tangiers, Morocco. The boats dock at the Moll de Sant Bertran wharf in Port Vell. Phone 39-010-209-4591. <http://www1.gnv.it>.

**Address**  
Barcelona, Spain  
**Phone**  
39-010-209-4591

---

## Public Transportation

---

Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona (TMB) runs both the bus and subway systems, and there are also FGC trains that operate in the greater Barcelona area. There is an integrated fare system, which allows you to use one travel card on several modes of transport, including the metro; urban, metropolitan and interurban buses; the tram system; FGC trains; and Rodalies de Catalunya trains. This system allows you to use four different types of transport and make up to three changes within the zones for which your travel card is valid. There are six travel zones, although most of what you need is in Zone 1. The various options are detailed on the TMB website. <http://www.tmb.cat/en/bitllets-i-tarifes>.

It will almost certainly be worth your while to buy a Barcelona Card. It covers travel on the metro, TMB buses and FGC trains. In addition, it grants you discounts at museums, shops, restaurants and on special buses such as the TombBus, Aerobus and Barcelona Bus Turistic. Cards are good for two to five days and are on sale at the tourist information offices at Placa Catalunya, Placa Sant Jaume, Sants railway station, Cortes Ingles stores, at other tourist attractions or online. [http://www.barcelona.com/barcelona\\_city\\_tours/standard\\_bus\\_tours/barcelona\\_card](http://www.barcelona.com/barcelona_city_tours/standard_bus_tours/barcelona_card).

Free maps of the public transportation system are available at the customer service centers at several locations, including the Sants train station and metro stations at Universitat, Diagonal and Sagrada Familia. <http://www.tmb.cat>.

### FGC Trains

This railway network is run by the Catalan government and offers service in the city and to the surrounding region. You can take FGC trains from Placa Catalunya to the uptown residential district of Sant Gervasi and to the foot of Mount Tibidabo. Stations are marked by bright orange signs with a chain icon in white. Automated ticket machines have instructions in (slightly weird) English. Phone 93-205-1515. <http://www.fgc.es>.

**Address**  
Barcelona, Spain  
**Phone**  
93-205-1515

### TMB Buses

TMB operates a fleet of more than 800 buses, many of which are adapted for wheelchair access. Bus stops, some of which have shelters with maps, have a black bus icon on a white background. The TMB system also includes several trams, funicular trains and a cable car. Regular buses generally operate 5:30 am-11 pm, although some lines (*servicio de autobus nocturno*) operate later. A single-ticket fare is 2.15 euros. Phone 902-075-027. <http://www.tmb.cat>.

**Address**  
Barcelona, Spain 08040  
**Phone**  
902-075-027

### TMB Metro

There are eight subway lines in Barcelona that are clearly color-coded on maps and signs. To locate a metro stop, look for signs with the white M in a red diamond shape on a red background. Fare cards can be purchased from ticket windows or vending machines inside the stations. The metro operates Monday-Thursday, Sunday and holidays 5 am-midnight; Friday and Saturday 5 am-2 am. The fare for a one-way journey within zone one is 2.15 euros. <http://www.tmb.cat>.

**Address**  
Barcelona, Spain

---

## Ship

Barcelona is among the Mediterranean's leading cruise ports and has several passenger terminals. The terminals are extremely close to the city center in the old port, watched over by the promontory of Montjuic.

---

## Taxi

Taxis are plentiful and can usually be hailed on the street fairly quickly. A bright green light on the top and a sign in the windshield saying *Llibre/Lliure* (Free) indicate that the taxi is available. There are taxi ranks at metro, bus and train stations, in main squares and many other locations as well. You can also call for a pickup, but most companies will start the meter at the time they receive the call, not from the time you get in the cab.

Special services, including seven-seat vehicles and English-speaking drivers, can be hired from some of the telephone-taxi firms. The cabs are metered, and the official rates and supplements are shown in English on a sticker inside the rear window. A supplement is charged for each item of baggage handled by the driver.

Try to be sure you have small bills: Drivers are not required to carry large amounts of change, and very few accept credit cards. When giving the driver your destination, you'll have better luck stating the nearest intersection rather than the street number.

---

## Train

Barcelona has two principal stations for long-distance trains. Barcelona-Sants on Placa Paisos Catalans is the busier of the two. It handles many of the trains bound for other destinations in Spain as well as some international routes. Estacio de Franca at Avinguda Marques d'Argentera 6 handles many of the international trains to and from France.

RENFE, the Spanish national railway, operates most long-haul trains in Spain, whether bound for Spanish cities or

international destinations. Its well-designed Web site provides schedules and fares in English. Phone 90-232-0202. <http://www.renfe.es/ingles>.

FGC, the Catalan railway organization, operates trains throughout the region as well as local city lines. Two commuter lines run to nearby towns and villages, one from Placa Catalunya and one from Placa Espanya. <http://www.fgc.es/eng/index.asp>.

---

### Additional Reading

---

*The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (Penguin Books). This Spanish best-seller by a Barcelona writer became a huge hit when it was published in English. Set in Barcelona after the Civil War, it is the beautifully written tale of a young boy who discovers a dark secret when he searches for the books of an obscure author.

*Gaudi: A Biography* by Gijs van Hensbergen (Harper Collins). A well-crafted biography of Barcelona's most famous architect, which puts his work into perspective.

*Barca: A People's Passion* by Jimmy Burns (Bloomsbury). The story of Barcelona's famous football (soccer) club also gives insight into the role of sport in the Catalan national identity.

*Barcelona* by Robert Hughes (Knopf). Excellent historical-cultural treatise on the Catalan capital.

*Barcelona Gastronomy and Cuisine* by Toni Monne (Triangle Postals). Great little book with bright images on the food culture of Barcelona.

*Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). A firsthand experience of fighting the Fascists in the late 1930s.

*Homage to Barcelona* by Coim Toibin (Picador). A personal exploration of the city by one of its greatest and most knowledgeable fans.

*travel42 Tipster*. More than cheese and wine, Barcelona offers some unforgettable dining experiences. <http://www.travel-42.com/tipster/post/2013/04/08/Authentic-and-delicious-restaurants-in-Barcelona.aspx>.

*travel42 Tipster*. Antoni Gaudi's imaginative architecture brings Barcelona to life. <http://www.travel-42.com/tipster/post/2011/11/10/Imaginative-Architecture-in-Barcelona.aspx>.

---

### Tourist Offices

---

#### Oficina d'Informacio Turistica

The city's main tourism office (there are also branch offices at the airport, in City Hall at Placa Sant Jaume, at Sants train station and at popular sights such as Sagrada Familia). In addition to providing information on the city, the main office exchanges currency, makes hotel reservations, and sells theater tickets, transport tickets and phone cards. You can also purchase a Barcelona Card, which provides discounts on cultural sites and restaurants, as well as offers free rides on public transport. The BCN Shop has souvenirs and books. Daily 8:30 am-8:30 pm, closed Christmas and New Year's days. Placa de Catalunya 17, Barcelona. Phone 93-285-3834. <http://www.barcelonaturisme.com>.

#### Address

Placa de Catalunya 17  
Barcelona, Spain 08002

#### Phone

93-285-3834

#### Palau Robert

The Catalan Government's tourist office is housed in a restored mansion, close to La Pedrera. It offers essential Barcelona information and maps, plus a vast wealth of material on the rest of Catalonia. The Palau Robert also stages regular exhibitions and has a shady garden. Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday 10 am-2:30 pm. Passeig de Gracia 107, Eixample, Barcelona. Phone 93-238-8091.

#### Address

Passeig de Gracia 107  
Barcelona, Spain 08008

#### Phone

93-238-8091

<http://www.gencat.net/probert>.



---

## Calendar

---

Barcelona is one of Spain's most sophisticated and culturally exciting cities, and its dynamic calendar reflects this.

Religious and cultural festivals occur throughout the year, and the city's music, dance and opera performances offer a range of artistic choices. Sports fans will enjoy Barcelona's soccer and basketball teams, although tickets to see the famous Barcelona FC soccer club are difficult to get.

For detailed information about upcoming events in Barcelona, contact Turisme de Barcelona. Phone 93-285-3834. <http://www.barcelonaturisme.com>.

The Culture Institute of Barcelona (<http://www.bcn.es/icub>) provides information on major festivals. A comprehensive list of festivals can also be found on the Barcelona Life website. <http://www.barcelona-life.com/barcelona/festivals>.

If you're calling the Barcelona phone numbers listed here from outside Spain, you must first dial your own country's international access code, then Spain's country code, 34. The city code of 93, included with the numbers listed here, must be dialed even if you're calling from within Barcelona.

Information in this calendar is subject to change and should be confirmed.

---

## September

---

**Early-Late September—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June 2016

**Early-Late September—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July 2016

**11 Sep—La Diada de Catalunya** Catalonia National Day. Public holiday.

**Late September—Festivities of the Merce** The biggest annual festival on Barcelona's calendar draws nearly 2 million visitors to more than 750 activities held over five days. Major events include spectacular firework shows, traditional dancing and music, sports activities and competitions, as well as arts and music festivals. This festival is dedicated to Barcelona's patron saint. Venues across the city include museums, theaters, parks, neighborhoods and more. For information, call 934-027-000. <http://www.bcn.cat/merce>.

**Late September—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May 2016

---

## October

---

**Early-Late October—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Continues through mid May 2016

**Throughout October—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June 2016

**Throughout October—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets,



call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July 2016

**Throughout October—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May 2016

---

## November

---

**1 Nov—All Saints' Day** Public holiday. Barcelonans remember the dead with visits to relatives' graves and small parties at which sweet potatoes, chestnuts and pastries are served.

**Throughout November—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June 2016

**Throughout November—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July 2016

**Throughout November—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May 2016

**Throughout November—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Continues through mid May 2016

---

## December

---

**6 Dec—Dia de la Constitucion** Public holiday.

**8 Dec—Immaculate Conception** Public holiday.

**25 Dec—Christmas Day** Public holiday.

**26 Dec—Boxing Day** Public holiday.

**Late December—Santa Lucia Christmas Market** The market opens during the weeks leading up to Christmas in front of the cathedral. Along with the usual Christmas ornaments, *caga tio* and *caganer*—which are part of two unique Christmas traditions—are also available to purchase. <http://en.firadesantallucia.cat>.

**Throughout December—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June 2016

**Throughout December—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Continues through mid May 2016

**Throughout December—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July 2016

**Throughout December—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May 2016

## January

---

**1 Jan—New Year's Day** Public holiday.

**5 Jan—Cavalcada de Reis** The fantastically colorful Three Kings Parade is worth watching even without kids. Traditionally, the three wise men, or kings, bring presents on the eve of Epiphany: children leave their shoes on the balcony and the wise men fill them with gifts. The kings arrive from the Orient by boat and are welcomed on the quayside by the mayor. They parade around the city with their retinues and toss candy into the crowd. The parade begins at Moll de la Fusta and winds throughout the city. Each year the route changes and is announced in local papers.

**6 Jan—Epiphany** Public holiday.

**Throughout January—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July

**Throughout January—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May

**Throughout January—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Continues through mid May

**Throughout January—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June

---

## February

---

**Throughout February—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July

**Throughout February—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May

**Throughout February—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Continues through mid May

**Throughout February—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June

---

## March

---

**20-27 Mar—Semana Santa** Barcelona's Holy Week celebrations are relatively quiet compared to those in other Spanish cities. Apart from attending small religious processions, Barcelonans try to take some vacation time during this week.

**Throughout March—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July

**Throughout March—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300.

<http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May

**Throughout March—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Continues through mid May

**Throughout March—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June

---

## April

---

**23 Apr—Dia de Sant Jordi/Dia del Libre** A standout day for Catalans that blends the fun, romance, culture and hard-headed business sense that are typical of Barcelonans. Sant Jordi (St. George) is the patron saint of Catalonia, and his feast day, which is also the anniversary of Cervantes' death, is celebrated by exchanging gifts of books and roses. The day, however, is not a public holiday, so the festivities blend in with daily life. Booksellers set up stalls in the streets (a 10% discount is given on all books), complete with buckets of red roses. Book launches and author signings are scheduled, and at night the usual partying takes place—dances, discos and fireworks.

**Throughout April—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June

**Throughout April—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July

**Throughout April—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Continues through early May

**Throughout April—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Continues through mid May

---

## May

---

**Early May—Concert** Orquestra Simfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya presents its season of classical music performances. L'Auditori, Lepant 150. For information and tickets, call 93-247-9300. <http://www.obc.cat>. Concludes early May

**Early-Mid May—FC Barcelona Basketball** FC Barcelona plays home games at Palau Blaugrana, Avenida Aristides Maillol. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Concludes mid May

**1 May—May Day** Public holiday.

**Throughout May—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July

**Throughout May—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season continues through early June

---

## June

---

**Early June—Soccer** Barcelona's top soccer team, FC Barcelona, plays home matches at Nou Camp Stadium, Avinguda Aristides Maillol. Tickets are hard to come by, but a small number are released at the stadium box office

two days before each home game. <http://www.fcbarcelona.com>. Season concludes early June

**Mid June—Sonar** This festival of advanced music and multimedia art features the latest developments in those fields presented by national and international artists. The three-day interactive festival features more than 300 activities, including performances by bands and DJs, film screenings, dancing, exhibitions, conferences and discussions. Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Montalegre 5 and other venues. <http://www.sonar.es>.

**23, 24 Jun—The Feast of Sant Joan** Bonfires and fireworks mark this saint's day. Festivities begin at sundown on the 23rd and continue through dawn on the 24th.

**24 Jun—Feast of St. John the Baptist** Public holiday.

**Throughout June—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Continues through late July

---

## July

---

**Mid July—Cruilla Barcelona** The three-day music festival at the Parc del Forum features world-class artists and a selection of foods. Passes available for single nights or the full three days. <http://www.cruillabarcelona.com>.

**Throughout July—Performance** Gran Teatre del Liceu hosts regular opera, dance, concert and individual performances by both resident and international touring companies. La Rambla 51-59. For information and tickets, call 93-485-9900. <http://www.liceubarcelona.cat>. Concludes late July