

Barcelona, Spain

BarcelonaeGuide.com

Introduction



Located on the Mediterranean Sea, the port city of Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia and the second largest city in Spain with a population of about 1.6 million. Situated 166 kilometres from the French border and 120 kilometres south of the Pyrenees Mountains. It is bordered by two rivers, the Llobregat to the south and the Besòs to the north. The district covers just over 100 square kilometres.

A visual city with elegance and sophistication, a contrast of medieval and modern with five Barcelona buildings designated as World Heritage Sites. Museums, art galleries and architecturally significant streets and squares are all to be explored. Most people stay near the Ramblas or in the Gothic Quarter.

The Olympics of 1992 launched Barcelona onto the world stage. Considerable changes were made to the city before the Olympics including building museums, parks, roads and major infrastructure. Barcelona is the commercial centre of the Costa Brava holiday region, which is a large tourist attraction for most of the year.

Climate

The climate in Barcelona is typically Mediterranean. Summers are hot and humid and winters are fairly mild. With the sun shining for much of the year, you'll most likely only encounter rain in spring and autumn. The average annual temperature for 2005, according to the Observatori de Can Bruixa, was 17.6 degrees Celsius. Given a choice, May and June are the best months. July and August can be very hot and sticky.

Tourist Information

Essentials

Emergency = 112

Emergency Services

Police, fire and ambulance are all contacted by calling 112.

Language

Barcelona has two official languages, Catalan and Spanish.

Legal

The minimum age for drinking and smoking is 16. The age of consent is 13 and to drive you must be 18.

Banks

Banks open from 08:30 to 14:00 from Monday to Friday, with some branches open on Saturday morning.

Police Services

Call 091 for national police and 092 for local police. For an emergency call 112. There is a 24 hour police station at La Rambla 43 where English-speaking police can normally be found.

Medical Services

Hospitals

Centre d'Urgencies Perecamps: Avda Drassanes 13 0 15, Raval. Telephone 93 441 0600.

Hospital Clinic: Eixample. Telephone 93 227 5400.

Hospital Dos de Maig: C/Dos de Maig 301, Eixample. Telephone 93 507 2700.

Hospital del Mar: Passeig Maritim 25 -29. Telephone 93 248 3000.

Addresses

Buildings are written first, followed by the number of the street. For apartments, the order is street name, street number, floor level and, finally, flat number. Street names might confuse as some are in Catalan and others in Spanish and some have two names.

Telephones

The international code for Spain is +34. The outgoing code is 00. The "93" is needed for calls both within Barcelona and the rest of Spain. Watch out for numbers starting "806" as they are expensive premium numbers. Phone calls are not cheap in Spain.

Tipping

Hotel and restaurant bills usually include service charges but additional tips are always welcomed. If you do tip, add 5% to the bill but do not tip if service has been poor. In a taxi, 10% is sufficient if you feel the need to tip but is acceptable not to tip. Hotel porters expect to be tipped - 2 to 5 Euros is normal.

Smoking

Smoking is controlled and no smoking is allowed in enclosed public spaces, areas where food is prepared and sold, public transport, designated areas of bars and restaurants and any places that cater for children.

Tourist Information Centres

There are a number of tourist information offices around Barcelona:

Aeroport de Barcelona: Terminal A and B.

Cabina Barceloneta: Pg. Joan de Borbo.

Cabina Colom: Pl. del Portal de la Pau.

Cabina Placa Espanya: Pl.d'Espanya.

Cabina Sagrada Família: Pl. de la Sagrada Família.

Catalunya: Pl. de Catalunya.

Estació de Sants: Pl. dels Paisos Catalans.

Oficina Rambla: Rambla dels Estudis, 115.

Sant Jaume: Ciutat, 2.

Safety

Barcelona is a friendly city with few violent crimes but pick-pocketing is very common and most likely to happen in Raval, La Ramblas, Estació del Nord and Sants Estació. Lone women should exercise caution in exploring the more isolated parts of Montjuïc. Pick-pocketing is not violent but done well and you do stand every chance of losing your wallet, so please leave all valuables in your hotel safe! The metro can present a theft hazard at night so be cautious of travelling alone late at night. The city beaches also have common incidences of bag snatching.

Orientation

The central part of Barcelona breaks into 6 areas:

Barceloneta

The area along waterfront that includes the Olympic Port and Port Vell. An area that was fully developed for the Barcelona Olympics and is now a very popular place to walk and for entertainment.

Barri Gotic

The Gothic area is in the old city between Via Laietana and La Rambla and is a well maintained medieval area. The Gothic quarter is east of the Ramblas and contains medieval Gothic buildings dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. A maze of interconnecting streets linking with squares with plenty of cafés and bars, the Gothic quarter has the Cathedral of Santa Eulàlia and the Gothic Church of Santa Maria del Pi. Also worth the visit is the Gothic Basilica of Santa Maria del Mar, near the Picasso Museum.

The wide tree-lined boulevard known as La Ramblas is a long, continuous pedestrian avenue that changes names five times as it cuts through Barcelona's 'old city'. Lined with cafés, restaurants and shops, it is a street of great atmosphere and a place that all visitors to Barcelona should experience. All day long you will see buskers and mime artists as well as stalls selling flowers, newspapers, birds and rabbits.

Born & Sant Pere

An upmarket area to the east of the Gothic area and close to the waterfront, defined on the eastern side by Parc de la Ciutadela and on the west by Via Laietana.

Gracia

Gracia is north of the Eixample and includes Les Corts.

Montjuïc

Montjuïc is to the west of the Raval and is an area of gardens and space rising above Barcelona. Montjuïc overlooks Barcelona and where the main sites of the 1992 Olympics are to be found along with the Poble Espanyol, the Joan Miro Museum and the National Art Museum of Catalonia. The magical fountains of Montjuïc on summer evenings have displays of light, colour and music. The extensive area of the Montjuïc was named the Olympic Ring. The Stadium was rebuilt for the Olympics and other sports facilities constructed. Montjuïc is an area of parkland with many good view points. The Montjuïc Card provides entry and discounts to many of the attractions and facilities in Montjuïc, available from Font del Gat Information Centre on Montjuïc and at other tourist offices.

Worship

Anglican: St Georges Church, C/Horaci 38, Zona Alta. Telephone 93 417 8867.

Catholic (telephone in English): Parrquia Maria Reina, Carretera d'Esplugues 103, Zona Alta. Telephone 93 203 4115.

Jewish: Sinagoga de Barcelona, C/Avenir 24, Zona Alta. Telephone 93 209 3147.

Muslim: Mosque Tarik Bin Ziad, C/Hospital 91, Raval. Telephone 93 441 9149.

Sales Tax

Sales tax varies from 6 to 16%. Non-EU residents can claim back the sales tax if they buy an item from a shop that displays an EU tax free sticker and they spend more than 90.15 Euros. The shop will provide the document that you must then have stamped as you leave the EU and repayment will be organised in an agreed manner. For Barcelona airport, the tax office is in Terminal A by the arrivals gate.

Barcelona Card

The Barcelona Card is issued by the Barcelona Tourist Office and includes free travel on public transport, discounts at museums, theatres, shops, restaurants and many other places. Some places are free with the Barcelona Card. The card can be purchased for varying numbers of days from Turisme de Barcelona in Pl. Catalunya and Pl. Sant Jaume.

Raval

Raval, to the west of the Gothic area, is a rougher area and home of the red light district. In the Raval you will find some "touristy streets" and MACBA (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona).

The Eixample

The large, northern part of central Barcelona is called the Eixample. It extends north from Plaça Catalunya and has as its centre the Passeig de Gràcia, a major shopping street and location of some of the main Gaudi buildings.

The seafront, from the Moll de la Fusta and the area around the Palau de Mar to the Rambla de Mar and the Olympic Port area, is a popular recreational area. The beaches that stretch along the urban coast are Sant Sebastià, La Barceloneta, Nova Icària, Bogatell, Mar Bella and Nova Mar Bella. Platja de Mar Bella is the official nudist beach.

History

Barcelona, originally called Barcino, was founded in 15 BC by the Romans. The original settlement being on Mons Taber, a hill that provided views over the sea and plains. The Jewish were among the early settlers and Barcino was home of Saint Eulalia who was executed at the end of the third century. In the fourth century the town walls were constructed to protect the Christian community that lived in Barcino.

Barcino fell to the Visigoths in 415 and changed its name to Barcelona. They did not stay long and Barcelona was largely neglected until 801 when Barcelona was taken by the Louis the Pious and was made the bastion of the Marca Hispanica. Count Guifre el Pilos, at the end of the ninth century, controlled several Catalan countries and led to a continuous dynasty of the Counts of Barcelona until 1410.

This period was marked by the Catalan Romanesque Art and the construction of monasteries and churches including Santa Maria del Mar and Santa Maria del Pi. Trade developed and the wealth led to expansion of the city boundary beyond its Roman routes. Ships were built in the shipyards at Drassanes. In the 13th century Jaume I organised the building of a second wall behind the Rambla and started a form of self-government with chosen citizens sitting the Conseil de Cent.

This very prosperous period ran into problems at the end of the 13th Century as too many resources were needed to maintain the Empire and the far away ports. It was not helped by the black death of 1340. In 1410 Martí I died without an heir and the crown was passed to the Trastamara family. Civil war and peasant revolt came in 1460 and led to famine and the end of an era. In 1469 Ferdinand of Aragon married Isabel of Castille which led to the uniting of several Spanish kingdoms. In 1516 the crown passed to the House of Habsburg.

The next period was a time of conflict and Catalonia lost influence, in part due to the growing trade with the New World in which the Catalans were not allowed to participate until the 1770s. They survived on trade within the Mediterranean.

Barcelona started to gain significance once again in the 18th century. By the end of the century Barcelona was a major exporter of wines, spirits, textiles and wool to the New World. This increased wealth led the next building boom with the most obvious example being La Rambla which was transformed from a river bed to a street that is still one of the leading streets in the world. 1832 saw the first steam-powered factory. Another boost came in 1848 with the opening of the railway between Barcelona and Mataró.

The city walls were demolished in the middle of the century to allow expansion and for Barcelona to spread outward. From the 1880s modernism became the style and the Eixample was created and designed by Cerdà. The idea was to place two of the main avenues along a parallel and a meridian with the intention to form districts each having 20 blocks. To show Barcelona off to the world a Universal Exhibition was held in 1888.

Antoni Gaudí was one of the many that took forward the spirit of the time. In 1878 he worked with Eusebi Guell to build Palau Guell and Park Guell built during the period 1900 to 1914. The Sagrada Família was started in 1883 and involved Gaudí. The most complex Gaudí project was La Pedrera which he started in 1905.

1914 saw administrative union of four Catalan provinces with the first president being Prat de la Riba. Spain remained neutral in World War I and refugees came from all over Europe. The 1920s were prosperous and Barcelona was showcased at the second International Exhibition in 1929. This event triggered the building of many new buildings including the post office at Via Laitana and the first metro line.

The second Spanish republic came on 14th April, 1931. Francesc Macià declared Catalonia an independent Republic within the federation of states governed from [Madrid](#). The coalition soon collapsed and led to a general strike in 1934 and a period of conflict remained until Barcelona fell to the Francoist Army on 26th January 1939.

The Franco regime was strong on the Catalans and all expression in Catalan was forbidden. All Catalan buildings were destroyed and many people were executed. From 1939 until the mid 1950s Barcelona suffered badly. In 1953 when the UN embargo on Spain was lifted, things improved. In 1959 the Plan de Estabilización started the transformation of Spain into a western economy. From 1966 resistance to the Franco regime grew.

Celebrations in Barcelona were enormous following death of Franco on 20th November 1975. The city emerged once again and the Catalan culture once again re-emerged. A fresh, modern style was encouraged and the start of a new building and restoration programme. Public art, parks and urban renewal were led by Oriol Bohigas.

The 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games gave another major thrust and a city-wide reconstruction and development was undertaken from the day of announcement in 1986 until the start of the games. The city was re-orientated to face the sea and lots of work undertaken on the sea front and coastline.

Today Barcelona presents itself as a major, modern city. A city that is visited by millions and seen as a "place to go". A city that manages private and public partnership well.

Getting There

By Air

Barcelona airport is located 12 kilometres to the south of the city at El Prat. The airport has three terminals: A, B and C. International airlines operate from terminal A; domestic flights by Iberia, Air Europa and Spanair operate from terminal B as do British Airways and Lufthansa flights. Terminal C is used by Iberia's Barcelona-Madrid shuttle.

A train operates to Barcelona city from the airport. The train stops at Sants, Plaça Catalunya, Arc de Triomf and Clot- Arago. An alternative is to use the Aerobus which terminates at Plaça de Catalunya. The Aerobus departs every 15 minutes and stops at Plaça Catalunya, Passeig de Gracia and Plaça Espanya. Taxis are reasonably priced and work well if you are part of a group. A supplement is charged from the airport and for luggage.

By Bus

Coaches arrive from many European cities and terminate at Estació d'Autobusos Barcelona- Nord, C/Ali Bei 80.

By Ferry

Ferries from the Balearic Islands dock at Moll de Barcelona and from Genoa at Moll de Ponent.

By Train

Trains arrive into Barcelona from all over Europe. Trains arrive at either Estació de Sants or Estació de Franca.

Getting About

It is easy to move around Barcelona on public transport and on foot. Barcelona's excellent transport system includes the metro, buses, trains, funiculars and cable cars. Tickets for all are transferable across the system. One- to five-day public transport tickets are available which allow unlimited travel on the metro and bus networks. The Barcelona Card features unlimited free travel on public transport and free admission and discounts at about 100 visitor attractions. The Card is available for purchase for periods of between two and five days.

Barcelona Transport

Aereo

This cable car, easily seen in the port area, travels from the Port up to Montjuïc's Miramar lookout.

Bus

The bus network is extensive and is easy to use with a bus map. Night buses take over from about 10pm to 4am. The "hop on", "hop off" Bus Turistic or alternative Barcelona Tours (bright orange buses) links all main sights and tourist destinations. The price for the public buses is exactly the same as for the metro and the travel cards and T1 tickets are valid on both.

Funicular de Montjuïc

The Montjuïc funicular railway runs from Paral·lel Metro station and takes just 2 minutes to reach Montjuïc where you will find the Olympic Stadium, Joan Miro Foundation, Palau Sant Jordi. The fare is part of the metro system.

Metro

Barcelona has five lines (there are additional FGC lines) with over 120 stations. The Metro is the fastest and most efficient way to move around the city except during the rush hour. You can buy a single fare or better value is a 10-ticket strip called a T1. The T1 is also valid on buses. Another option is to buy a travel card which is sold by the number of days needed and the best value option. Telephone 93 318 7074.

Pushbike

Barcelona has fully integrated cycle lanes and you can cycle through the city's open spaces and parks. Barcelona tourist offices have cycle route maps. The seafront and Carretera de les Aigües are good bicycle areas.

Taxi

The black and yellow taxis of Barcelona are plentiful and inexpensive and are a good option especially late at night. A green light on top means that the taxi is free. Supplements apply from the airport and for luggage. Radio cabs start the meter once the call is taken but there is a limit as to what can be charged before you step inside the taxi.

Trambesos & Trambaix

The Trambaix all start and end at Plaça Francesc Macia. There are three tram routes. T1 to Cornellà via Hospitalet; T2 goes the same way but travels on to Sant Joan Despi; T3 travels to Sant Just Desvern. Telephone 902 19 3275.

Accommodation

Due to the huge quantity and variety of accommodation available in Barcelona, we recommend that you browse to find your choice and book online at [Travel eGuides](http://www.traveleguides.com) prior to your departure.

Restaurants

In Spain people usually eat later than many other countries. Esmorzar, the first meal of the day, is a light meal similar to a continental breakfast and is generally eaten between 9am and 11am. Lunch is normally between 2pm and 3pm, although some restaurants will open at 1pm. Dinner is served at any time between 9pm and midnight.

Catalan cuisine uses olive oil, aromatic herbs, fruit and fresh produce such as fish, meat and vegetables. A Catalan staple is pa amb tomàquet: toasted bread smeared with tomato and seasoned with olive oil. Also try Paella (a name that may hide many different kinds of rice concoctions) or Arròs negre (black rice) and tapas.

Coffee is served strong. Café solo is a small strong black coffee; cortado tallat is with milk; café con leche has even more milk. If you want a coffee with brandy then ask for carajillo.

There are many restaurants and eateries throughout Barcelona. Below is only a small sample of what to expect.

Catalan Restaurant

Commerc 24

A modern, Catalan-style restaurant with many small dishes to choose from to make up into an interesting dining experience. C/ Commerc 24, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 2102. Use Metro Arc de Triomf.

Chinese Restaurant

Aleluya

Authentic Cantonese dishes, Peking Duck and seafood are well known at Aleluya. Located close to the Cathedral. Via Layetana 19-21. Salida, Barcelona. Telephone 93 310 7676.

Flamenco Restaurant

Tablao de Carmen

Spanish cuisine and Flamenco shows located in the Poble Espanyol of Montjuïc. C/ Arcos, 9, Poble Espanyol, Barcelona. Telephone 93 325 6895.

Italian Restaurant

La Perla Nera

Typical Italian cuisine and easy to find near the Cathedral and Picasso Museum. Via Laietana, 32 -34, Barcelona. Telephone 93 310 5646.

Nepalese Restaurant

Himali

A contrast to Indian with genuine Nepalese cuisine. C/ Mila i Fontanals, Barcelona. Telephone 93 285 1568. Use Metro Joanic.

Philippine Restaurant

Fil Manila

A huge and authentic Filipino menu. C/ Ramelleres, 3. Telephone 93 318 6487. Use Metro Catalunya.

Pub Restaurant

The Michael Collins Irish Pub

An Irish bar close to the Sagrada Família with live Irish music and atmosphere. Placa Sagrada Família, 4 08013 Barcelona. Telephone 93 459 19 64.

Seafood Restaurant

Can Ramonet

Located in an old building, a well established seafood restaurant. Maquinista, 17, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 3064.

Thai Restaurant

Thai Cafe

Thai food presented in a modern environment. C/ Comerç 27. Telephone 93 268 3959. Use Metro Jaume 1.

Vegetarian Restaurant

Juicy Jones

A lively, well priced vegetarian (indeed vegan) restaurant. C/ Cardenal Casanas, 7. Telephone 93 302 4330. Use Metro station Liceu.

View Restaurant

Montjuïc El Xalet

Set in gardens near the Joan Miro Foundation with views over Barcelona. Av. miramar, 31, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 324 9270.

Tours

Similarly to accommodation, there is a large choice of tours available in Barcelona. Again, we recommend that you browse to find your choice and book online at Travel eGuides.

Attractions

Architecture, Buildings and Places of Historical Significance

Agbar Tower

A modern and controversial piece of architecture by Jean Nouvel best viewed at night from 21:00 to midnight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when lit by a high tech LED illumination. A phallic-shaped office tower that reflects colours off its aluminium and glass covering. Placa de les Glories, Poblenou.

Barcelona Cathedral

Dating from 1298 but transformed into a Gothic cathedral. In one wing of the Cathedral is the chapter house, the meeting place of the Cathedral chapter which is now the home of the Cathedral Museum. Of note in the museum is "The Pieta" by Bartolome Bermejo (1490) depicting the glorification of Saint Oleguer and Saint Eulalia. Located at Place de la Seu, 08002, Barcelona. Telephone 93 342 8260.

Dona i Ocell

A controversial sculpture by Miro located near the Placa Espanya.

Eixample

Modernist quarter, noted for its art nouveau buildings.

El Mirador de Colom

The Columbus Monument is next to the sea at the end of La Rambla and provides, from the top, views of the Gothic quarter, the Old Port, the Olympic Port and the Forum grounds. The monument was built as part of the Universal Exposition of 1888. Plaça Portal de la Pau. Telephone 93 302 5224.

El Mirador de la Torre de Collserola

The Mirador de la Torre de Collserola provides views of the whole city and on good days up to 70km. Ctra. de Vallvidrera al Tibidabo.

Magic Fountain

Built by Carles Buigas, who designed the fountain where the artistic element is made up of changing shapes of the water.

Palau de la Música Catalana

A concert hall designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner with an elaborate façade and mosaic pillars and modern design. Daily guided tours are available. Located at Sant Pere. Mes Alt. Jaume 1, Urquinaona.

Palau de Mar

A 19th century port building with restaurants and the Museum of Catalan History. Use Metro Barceloneta.

Plaça Nova

In the heart of the old city is the broad, modern Plaça Nova the forecourt of the Cathedral of Barcelona.

Sagrada Família

The Church of the Holy Family, designed by Antoni Gaudi, was started in 1882 but it was never finished. Construction still continues based on Gaudi's original plan. The magnificent spires of the unfinished cathedral are one of Barcelona's landmarks. Some of the façades are open as is the nave, the apse and museum. Mallorca 401, 08013, Barcelona. Metro Sagrada Família.

Santa Maria del Mar

A good example of Gothic architecture with a very open feeling inside due to the spacing between the Gothic columns. Concerts are often held here. Placa de Santa Maria. Telephone 93 310 2390.

Sant Pau del Camp

St. Paul in the Field is a small Romanesque church with an impressive facade. C/ Sant, 101, Barcelona. Telephone 93 441 0001.

Art Galleries**Centre D'Art Santa Monica**

Santa Monica Arts Centre is housed in a former convent near the sea at the bottom of La Rambla. A collection of contemporary art with an emphasis on Catalan art. La Rambla, 7, 08002 Barcelona. Telephone 93 316 2810.

Fundació Cuixart

The Cuixart Foundation operate this gallery to show the creativity of the artist. Placeta Montacada, 7, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 1947.

Fundació Fran Daurel

The Fran Daurel collection is a collection of Catalan art with works by Dali, Perejaume, Cuixart and Picasso amongst others. Av del Marques de Comillas, Poble Espanyol, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 423 4172.

Fundació Francisco Godia

The Francisco Goidia is a collection of medieval art, ceramics and modern paintings assembled by Francisco Goida Sales. Valencia, 284, pral, 08007, Barcelona. Telephone 93 272 3180.

Metronom

An unconventional exhibition space which explores all forms of art experimentation. Fusina, 9, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 268 4298.

Museums**Casa Amatller**

Amatller House was the home of Antoni Amatller and houses glass objects, medieval altarpieces and the original furnishings. Pg. de Gracia, 41, 08007, Barcelona. Telephone 93 487 7217.

Casa Batllo (Batllo House)

Built between 1904 and 1906 by Antoni Gaudi. The façade representing a calm sea hides a world of architectural surprises such as ceramic roof tiles, ingenious use of light, parabolic arches in the attic and twisting ceilings. The top floors and rooftop are open to visitors. Pg. de Gracia 43, 08007, Barcelona. Telephone 93 216 0306.

Casa Museum Gaudi (Gaudi House and Museum)

Built in 1904 as a show house for potential buyers at Parc Guell, Gaudi lived in the house until just before his death. Many of his personal belongings are shown. The gardens surrounding the house were designed by Francesc Berenguer. Park Guell, Carretera del Carmel, 08024 Barcelona. Telephone 93 485 9900.

CCCB Centre de Cultural Contemporània de Barcelona

A dynamic place with changing exhibitions and activities in an impressive architectural building. A focus is on innovation and experimentation. Montalegre, 5, 08001, Barcelona. Telephone 93 306 4100.

Centre D'Art Santa Monica

Santa Monica Arts Centre is housed in a former convent near the sea at the bottom of La Rambla. A collection of contemporary art with an emphasis on Catalan art. La Rambla, 7, 08002 Barcelona. Telephone 93 316 2810.

CosmoCaixa Museu de la Ciència

The CosmoCaixa Science Museum has a number of thematic areas with the 'Room of Matter', 'Geological Wall', 'Flooded Forest' and 'Planetarium'. Teodor Roviralta, 47-51, 08022, Barcelona. Telephone 93 212 6050.

Fundació Antoni Tàpies

A collection of works by Antoni Tàpies with a number of changing of exhibitions. Arago, 255, 08007, Barcelona. Telephone 93 487 0315. Use Metro Passeig de Gràcia. Admission charges apply.

Fundació Cuixart

The Cuixart Foundation operate this gallery to show the creativity of the artist. Placeta Montcada, 7, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 1947.

Fundació Foto Colectania

A collection of works by over 45 photographers. Julian Romea, 6, 08006, Barcelona. Telephone 93 217 1626.

Fundació Francisco Godia

The Francisco Goidia is a collection of medieval art, ceramics and modern paintings assembled by Francisco Goida Sales. Valencia, 284, pral, 08007, Barcelona. Telephone 93 272 3180.

Fundació Fran Daurel

The Fran Daurel collection is a collection of Catalan art with works by Dali, Perejaume, Cuixart and Picasso amongst others. Av del Marques de Comillas, Poble Espanyol, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 423 4172.

Fundació Joan Brossa

The foundation the work of poet Joan Brossa. Provença, 318, Baixos, 08037, Barcelona. Telephone 93 467 6952.

Galeria Olímpica

The Olympic Gallery relives the 1992 Olympic Games held in Barcelona with audio-visual shows and objects used during the opening and closing ceremonies. Estadi Olímpic, Pg Olímpic, 08038 Barcelona. Telephone 93 426 0660.

Joan Miró Museum

This museum is dedicated to Joan Miró with his numerous paintings, sculptures and sketches. The building is located in Montjuïc Park and designed by Josep lluis Sert. The museum often has other temporary exhibitions devoted to contemporary art. Located at Av Miramar, Parc de Montjuïc, Barcelona. Telephone 93 443 9470. Use the Funicular de Montjuïc.

La Pedrera - Fundació Caixa Catalunya

La Pedrera is one of Gaudi's masterpieces built between 1905 and 1910. The interior gives a picture of the life of the Milà family. Characterised by the strange undulating rooftop and wrought ironwork. Inside is an exhibition of Gaudi's work. Passeig de Gràcia, 92, 08008, Barcelona. Telephone 93 484 5530.

MACBA - Museu d'Art Contemporània de Barcelona (Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art)

A collection of contemporary art going back 50 years. Exhibitions change during the year. A modern building designed by Richard Meier that contrast with the surrounding traditional buildings in the centre of Barcelona. The forecourts are well used by skateboarders and features on numerous skateboard films. Pl. dels Angels, 1 08001, Barcelona. Telephone 93 412 0810.

Museu Barbier-Mueller

The Barbier-Muller Museum of Pre-Columbian Art is dedicated to pre-Columbian works from 1500 BC to the 16th Century. A good collection of early American cultures housed in a Gothic mansion. Exhibits include sculptures, ceramics, tapestries and silverware. Telephone 93 310 4516. Use Metro station Jaume. Admission charges apply.

Museu Casa Taller Durancamps

Learn about Rafael Durancamps, view his drawings and paintings and observe some of his personal objects in this museum. Av. Diagonal, 407 entry, 1a, 08008, Barcelona. Telephone 93 415 3911.

Museu D'Arqueologia de Catalunya

The Museum of Archaeology of Catalonia travels from prehistoric man to the medieval times. Pg. de Santa Madrona, 39 - 41, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 424 6577.

Museu de Carrosses Funebres

The Funeral Carriage Museum is in the basement of the Barcelona Municipal Funeral Services and has a good collection of funeral carriages and hearses. Sancho d'Avila, 2 08018, Barcelona. Telephone 93 484 1700.

Museu de Carruatges

The Carriage Museum is a collection of wagons and carriages and provides an insight into the early years of wheeled transport. Pl. de Josep Pallach 8, 08035 Barcelona. Telephone 93 317 2649.

Museu de Ceramica

Housed in Palau Reial de Pedralbes a collection of decorated Spanish ceramics with ceramics by Picasso and Miro. Av. Diagonal, 686. 08034, Barcelona. Telephone 93 280 1621.

Museu de Ciències Naturals (Zoology Building)

Housed in the impressive 'Castell dels Tres Dragons' built for the 1888 Universal Exhibition. Parc de la Ciutadella, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 6912.

Museu d'Història de Catalunya (Catalonia's Museum of History)

The history of the Catalans is housed in part of the Palau de Mar a former commercial warehouse in Barcelona harbour. A well set up museum with interactive exhibits, authentic recreations and the top floor provides views over the Port Vell. Pl. de Pau Vila, 3 Palau de Mar, 08003 Barcelona. Telephone 93 225 4700.

Museu de La Música

The Music Museum is on the second floor of the L'Auditori. A collection of instruments and musical documents with audio-visual displays. The museum caters for all music tastes. Padilla, 155, Edifici l'Auditori, 08013, Barcelona. Telephone 93 265 3650.

Museu de La Xocolata

The Chocolate Museum shows how chocolate is made and housed in the former Sant Agusti Convent. Comerc, 36, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 268 7878.

Museum de l'Eròtica de Barcelona

A museum devoted to the early erotic arts. Included are S&M apparatus and another such displays. La Rambla 96, bis, 08002, Barcelona. Telephone 93 318 9865. Use Metro station Catalunya.

Museu de L'Esport Dr Melcior Colet

Dr. Melcior Colet Sports Museum is dedicated to the world of sport. Buenos Aires, 56-58 08036 Barcelona. Telephone 93 419 2232.

Museum de Les Arts Decoratives

The Museum of Decorative Arts displays household items from the medieval period to contemporary. Av. Diagonal, 686, 08034, Barcelona. Telephone 93 280 5024. Use Metro station Palau Reial.

Museu de Sciences Naturals (Geology Building)

The Geology Museum is the oldest public museum in Barcelona and was founded in 1878. A collection of minerals, palaeontology and petrology. Parc de la Ciutadella, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 6912.

Museu del Calcat

The footwear museum showcases an unusual collection of shoes including the boots used by the first Everest team. Sancho d'Avila 2, 08018 Barcelona. Telephone 93 484 1700. Pl. de Sant Felip Neri, 5 08002 Barcelona. Telephone 93 301 4533.

Museu del Futbol Club Barcelona

The Barcelona Football Club Museum is located in the main stand of the Nou Camp. Camp Nou is the biggest stadium in Europe. The museum explains the history of the club and houses many trophies. The tour includes a visit to the dressing area. Av. Aristides Maillol, 08028, Barcelona. Telephone 93 496 3608.

Museu del Parfum

The Perfume Museum showcases perfumes from around the world. Pg. de Gracia, 39, 08007 Barcelona.

Museu del Rei de La Magia

The King of Magic Museum with displays, tricks and posters. Shows are provided on Saturday and Sunday in Spanish. C/ de L'Oli, 6 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 7393.

Museu dels Automats

Robots and automatrons from around the world. In addition there are mechanical games and coin-operated figures. Parc d'Attractions, Tibidabo, pl. del Tibidabo, 3 and 4, 08035, Barcelona. Telephone 93 211 7982.

Museu Etnologic

The Museum of Ethnology is organised into "origins" and "peoples". Pg. de Santa Madrona, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 424 6807.

Museu Diocesa de Barcelona

The Pia Almonia Barcelona Diocesan Museum is set into the Roman wall next to the Cathedral. The large collection spans the Visigothic and Roman eras to the 21st century. Av. de la Cathedral, 4, 08002 Barcelona. Telephone 93 315 2213.

Museu Egipci

The Egyptian Museum houses the Jordi Clos Egyptian Archaeology Collection. Valencia, 284, 08007, Barcelona. Telephone 93 488 0188.

Museu Frederic Mares

Frederic Mares donated his collection of works and objects to the city. Part of the museum is devoted to sculpture that dates back to the pre-Roman period and the other part showcases everyday objects from the 19th century. Pl. de Sant lu, 5-6, 08002 Barcelona. Telephone 93 310 4116.

Museu Militar de Montjuic

Montjuic Military Museum is inside the Montjuic Castle built in 1779. Castell de Montjuic, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 329 8613.

Museu Monestir De Pedralbes

A view of monastic life with church and monastery. Baixada del Monestir, 9, 08034 Barcelona. Telephone 93 203 9282.

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC)

The National Art Museum of Catalonia preserves the wall frescoes of a great part of the Romanic churches in Pirineos and a collection of Romanesque art. A collection that spans over 1,000 years. Works by Ramon Casas, Santiago Rusinol and Antoni Gaudi are displayed. At the end of the museum is an avant-garde sculpture collection including pieces from Juli Gonzalez. Located at Palau Nacional, Parc de Montjuic, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 622 0375.

Museu Picasso

A good collection of Picasso's early paintings housed in two medieval palaces. Pablo Picasso spent the period 1901 to 1906 in Barcelona; his formative years. Located at Montcada, 15- 23, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 6310.

Museum of the City of Barcelona

Provides access to underground Roman ruins and a complex of historic buildings in the centre of the Gothic quarter. Pl. del Rei 08002, Barcelona. Telephone 93 315 1111.

Museu Maritim

The original Royal shipyards now houses an extensive maritime display. Located at Av de lae Drassanes, 08001, Barcelona. Telephone 93 342 9920.

Museu Textil I D'Indumentaria

The Textile and Fashion museum is in a medieval mansion on Carrer Montcada and presents textiles and fashion over the ages. Montcada, 12-14, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 319 7603.

Palau Guell

Built by Gaudi to represent a small palace with lavish decoration. The façade, in contrast, is austere and hard to see in the narrow street. The basement was a stable and garage for carriages. The rooftop is very Gaudi with conical chimneys richly decorated. Nou de la Rambla, 3.

Palau Robert

Robert Palace has changing exhibitions together with tourist and cultural information on Catalonia. Pg. de Gracia, 107, 08008, Barcelona. Telephone 93 238 8091. Use Metro station Diagonal.

Pavelló Mies Van Der Rohe (Mies Van der Rohe Pavillion)

A major building designed by Ludwig Miles van der Rohe located in Montjuic Park. A building that defined aspects of modern architecture with its innovative structure that redefined the use of space. Av. del Marques de Comillas, Parc de Montjuic, 08038, Barcelona. Telephone 93 423 4016.

Wax Museum

Easily found on La Rambla the Museu de Cera displays over 300 wax models displayed in various elaborate settings. Ptge. de la Banca, 7 08002, 08002 Barcelona. Telephone 93 317 2649.

Animal Attractions

Barcelona Zoo

The zoo has over 450 animal species with some living in natural habitats with plenty of space. Others are less fortunate. To amuse kids there is a petting zoo, pony rides and mini train. Parc de la Ciutadella, 08003, Barcelona. Telephone 93 225 6780.

L' Aquarium

A very large aquarium with fish, penguins, sharks and a strong Mediterranean theme. Moll d'Espanua, Port Vell, 08039, Barcelona. Telephone 93 221 7474.

Fun Attractions

Harbour Aerial Tramway

The 1,450 metre long harbour aerial tramway starts on the top of 78 metre tall Torre San Sebastian and terminates at Montjuïc.

Les Golondrinas

The 'swallow boats' have for years been showing visitors views of Barcelona from the sea. Boats leave from Moll de Drassanes with high frequency.

Parks and Gardens

Barcelona Botanical Gardens

Laid out on the slopes of Montjuïc with plants from all the main regions of the world. Linked to the gardens is the Barcelona Botanical Institute with exhibitions open to the public. Dr. Font i Quer, 2, Parc de Montjuïc, 08038, Barcelona.

Parc de la Ciutadella

To the east of the old town this park was built in the 1860s with paths, museums and home of the Barcelona Zoo.

Parc Güell

Barcelona architect Antonio Gaudi developed Parc Güell with views of the city. The gardens have examples of his work, including flights of stairs, columns and a plaza decorated with mosaics. The pink fairytale house contains some Gaudi designed furniture. The interpretation centre located in one of the gatehouses shows what the original park project looked like and provides general information on Parc Güell. Park Güell, 080204 Barcelona.

Entertainment

Barcelona has plenty of entertainment and lots of night life. It all happens late with people often not meeting for an evening drink until 11pm and finishing at 3am. There are bars, clubs, theatres, samba clubs, cinemas and more.

For concert listings look at *Guia de Ocio* which is a weekly paid for magazine, or the free magazines *Metropolitan*, *Go*, *AB* and *Mondo Sonoro* which can be found in music shops.

The Barcelona Casino has poker, roulette, black jack, punto-banco, slot machines and is at Port Olimpic, Marina 19-21, 08005, Barcelona.

Barcelona, like all Spanish cities, has an active and ever-changing club scene. Most open late and close at about 3am.

Have a look at Barceloneguide.com for the entertainment listings.

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