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# Catalonia and Barcelona

- has become one of the first tourist destination has become one of the first tourist destination of Spain, it knows how to please the big majority : with a history among the oldest in Europe, a capital, Barcelona, which never sleeps and an inland full of charm not to forget beautiful beaches in La Costa Brava. The variety of artistic treasures, the Romanesque churches and the great names in modern art and architecture . Dali has become one of the first tourist





# Barcelona

- sited between the sea and the mountains, has found a formidable balance: a foot in the traditional things and the other in the avant-garde.



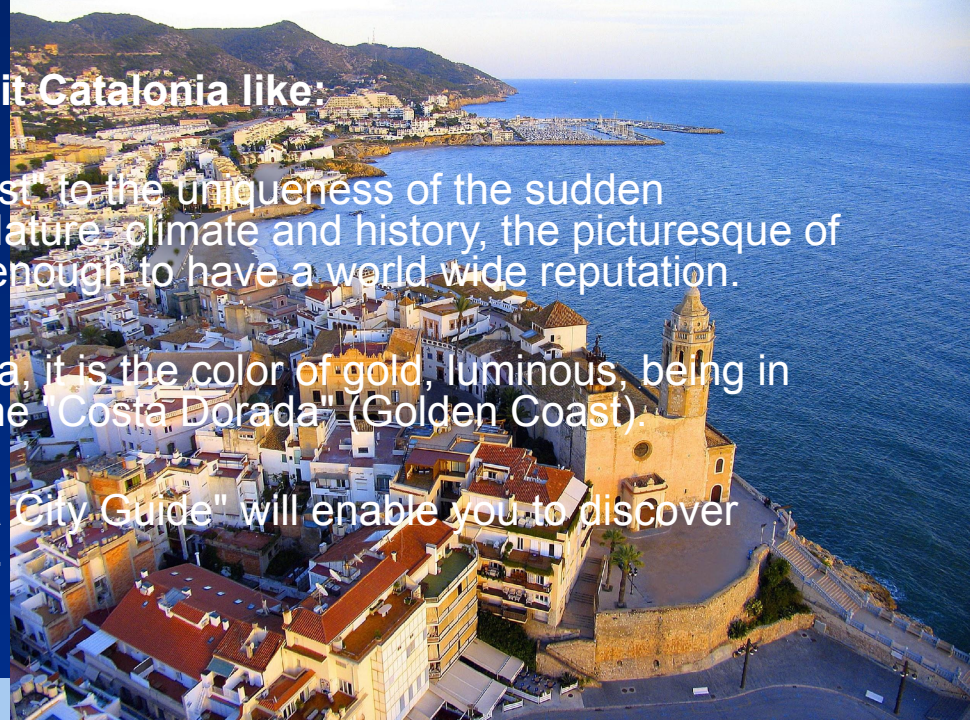
- Barcelona has the reputation of being the most cosmopolitan, modern and avant-garde city in Spain and it has renewed for the 1992 Olympic Games.





While in Barcelona take a little time to visit Catalonia like:

- **Costa Brava** owes its name of "wild coast" to the uniqueness of the sudden encounter between mountain and sea. Nature, climate and history, the picturesque of its ports and certain villages have been enough to have a world wide reputation.
- **Costa Dorada**, in the south of Barcelona, it is the color of gold, luminous, being in the maritime littoral the reason of its name "Costa Dorada" (Golden Coast).
- The headings in this chapter " Barcelona City Guide" will enable you to discover Barcelona attractions before your arrival.
- **And now follow the guide !!!**





# The City



- Barcelona is the passionate capital of Catalonia, an unforgettable city of art, culture and beauty. [Gaudi's](#) Barcelona is the passionate capital of Catalonia, an unforgettable city of art, culture and beauty. Gaudi's works, [museums](#) Barcelona is the passionate capital of Catalonia, an unforgettable city of art, culture and beauty.

Gaudi's works, museums, [concerts](#) and FC Barcelona's football team homeland. **Walk** along the Ramblas to enjoy street musicians, living statues, hustlers and just plain loonies. Hop onto the Tramvia Blau for a tram trip up to the top of Tibidabo and take in the magnificent sights of the city below you. **Shop** along the Passeig de Gracia, at the most well known boutiques in Barcelona.

Have a sunset **drink** at a chiringuito bar on the Barceloneta beach, then after dark, join the locals for pub crawling at the Barri Gotic for a huge selection of tapas bars, wine bars, cocktail lounges






# City Info



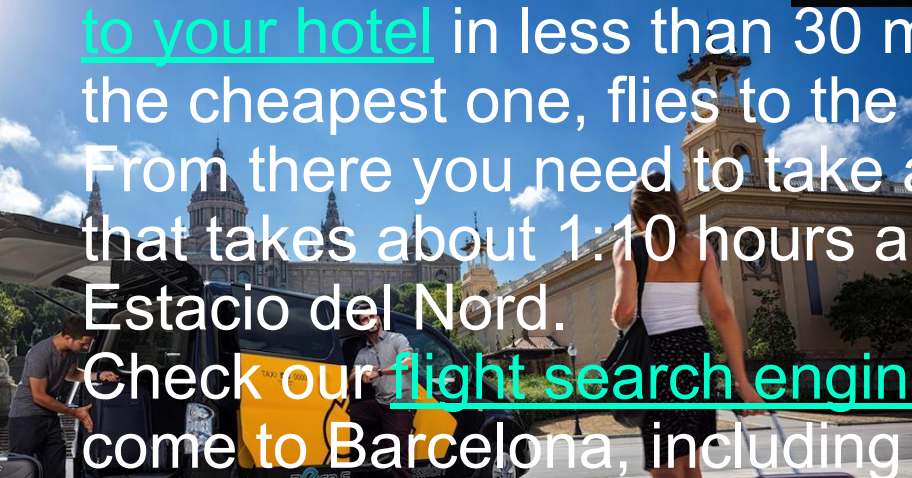
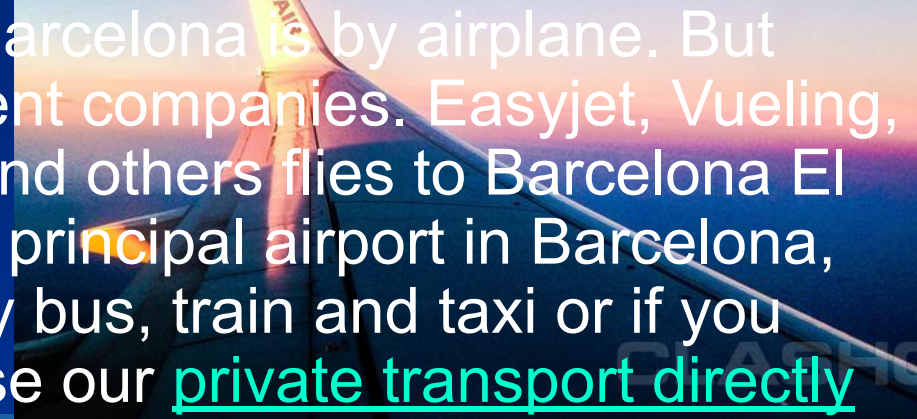
- *Population:* 1.6 million  
*Currency:* Euro €  
*Language:* Catalan and Spanish  
*Opening hours:* Usually 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday – Friday with some variations. Many establishments have the same opening hours on Saturdays and some open until lunchtime on Sundays. Shopping centres and many large stores do not close for lunch/siesta.  
***Emergency numbers:*** 112 all emergencies / 092 local police / 061 medical emergencies



# Getting There



The easiest way to get to Barcelona is by airplane. But watch out with the different companies. Easyjet, Vueling, Condor, Air Berlin, Niki and others flies to Barcelona El Prat airport, which is the principal airport in Barcelona, and can reach the city by bus, train and taxi or if you have a higher budget, use our [private transport directly to your hotel](#) in less than 30 minutes. Ryanair, probably the cheapest one, flies to the Girona or Reus airports. From there you need to take a bus (one way aprox. 12€) that takes about 1:10 hours and leaves you at the Estacio del Nord. Check our [flight search engine](#) for the best value flight to come to Barcelona, including all low cost companies.





# Moving around – Transportation



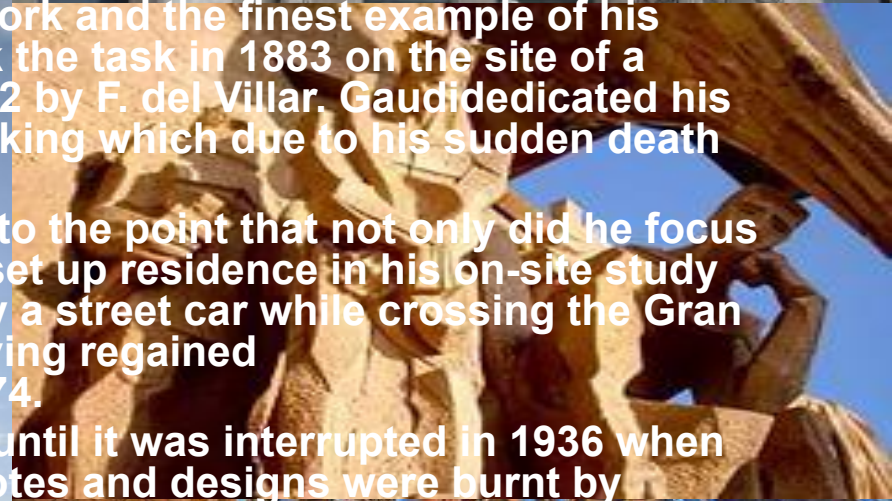
- **Walking:** ok and obvious, but also the best way to visit the Old Town, Gothic quarter streets, the old fisherman's village of Barceloneta and the beach, the fantastic Palau de la Musica Catalana in the Borne district, leading you all the way over to the garden of Barcelona – La Cuitadella . This is a huge part of Barcelona and is a really great way to spend a day, believe me.
- **Buses and Metro:** [Metro stations](#) are the best way to move around and the fastest way. You can buy a 2 day (11.20€) or 3 day (15.90€) tickets. You can combine the metro with the bus system, and the new "tranvia". With the public transportation system, you will save time, money and will be more ecological. For a global visit, we recommend to use the [Bus Turistic](#) that has 2 different routes and visits the major tourist places in Barcelona. Also called the Hop-on Hop-off Bus.
- **Car Rental :** If you will be visiting for a few days and have limited time, do not bother renting a car. Otherwise you can [rent a car](#) to go outside the city and visit the Costa Brava, Montserrat or other places worth if you have the time and already visited Barcelona. Also, the [Barcelona Card](#) gives nice discounts on transportation and [museums](#).







# What to Visit

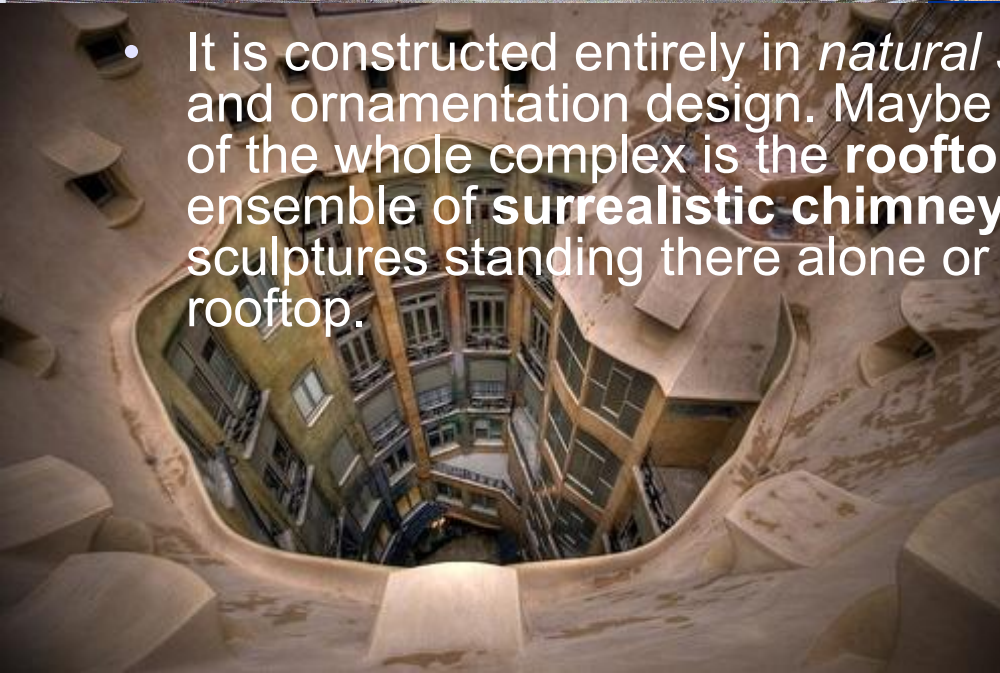


- The Sagrada Família is the world wide symbol of Barcelona. The monumental church El Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família (Expiatory Temple of the Sacred Family) is Gaudi's most famous work and the finest example of his visionary genius. The architect undertook the task in 1883 on the site of a previous neo-Gothic project begun in 1882 by F. del Villar. Gaudí dedicated his life to carrying out this ambitious undertaking which due to his sudden death was left unfinished.
- Gaudí became obsessed with the church to the point that not only did he focus all of his creative energies into it, but he set up residence in his on-site study as well. On June 7, 1926, Gaudí was hit by a street car while crossing the Gran Vía at Barcelona. Three days later not having regained consciousness, Gaudí died at the age of 74.
- Work continued on the church, however, until it was interrupted in 1936 when the crypt and Gaudí's study holding his notes and designs were burnt by Spanish Civil War shelling. The project was resumed in 1952 using drawings and scale models as a base although the continuation of the work gave rise to much debate. From 1954 to 1976, the facade and the four towers of the Passion (Western side) were completed.
- The sculptor Josep. M. Subirachs joined the project team to work on the sculptures on the Portal of Passion in 1987. Today, the constructed part is open to visitors as well as the small Museu del Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família with scale models and drawings showing the construction process. The towers can be climbed and offer incredible sights of the city.



# What to Visit

- After the [Sagrada Família](#), Casa Milà or "la Pedrera" as it is often called, is probably Gaudi's second most popular building in **Barcelona**.
- **Casa Milà** covers an area of more than 100 square meters and includes two large circular patios, so that almost every part of the house gets its share of sunlight.
- It is constructed entirely in *natural stones*, and lacking all the colors and ornamentation design. Maybe one of the most interesting places of the whole complex is the **rooftop**: here you can find a large ensemble of **surrealistic chimneys** all looking different and like sculptures standing there alone or in small groups, dominating the rooftop.





# What to Visit

- **Santa Maria del Mar** is a **Gothic church** from the XIV century, located at the seaside, was built as a private initiative on the wealth accrued from overseas ventures by the inhabitants of **La Ribera**. The stained glass windows of this basilica, dating from the 15th and 18th centuries, are very famous.
- From the outside, Santa Maria gives an impression of massive severity that belies the interior. It is hemmed in by the narrow streets of the Ribera, making it difficult to obtain an overall impression, except from the Fossar de les Moreres and the Plaça de Santa Maria, both of them former burial grounds. The latter is dominated by the west end of the church with its rose window. Images of Saint Peter and Saint Paul occupy niches on either side of the west door, and the tympanum shows the Saviour flanked by Our Lady and Saint John. The north-west tower was completed in 1496, but its companion was not finished until 1902.

In contrast with the exterior, the interior gives an impression of light and spaciousness. It is of the basilica type, with its three aisles forming a single space with no transepts and no architectural boundary between nave and presbytery. The simple ribbed vault is supported on slender octagonal columns, and abundant daylight streams in through the tall clerestorey windows.

The interior is almost devoid of imagery of the sort to be found in Barcelona's other large Gothic churches, the [cathedral](#). The interior is almost devoid of imagery of the sort to be found in Barcelona's other large Gothic churches, the cathedral and [Santa Maria del Pi](#), after the fire which occurred in 1936 during anticlerical disturbances. Amongst the most notable of the works destroyed at that time was the Baroque retablo by Deodat Casanoves and Salvador Gurri.





# What to Visit

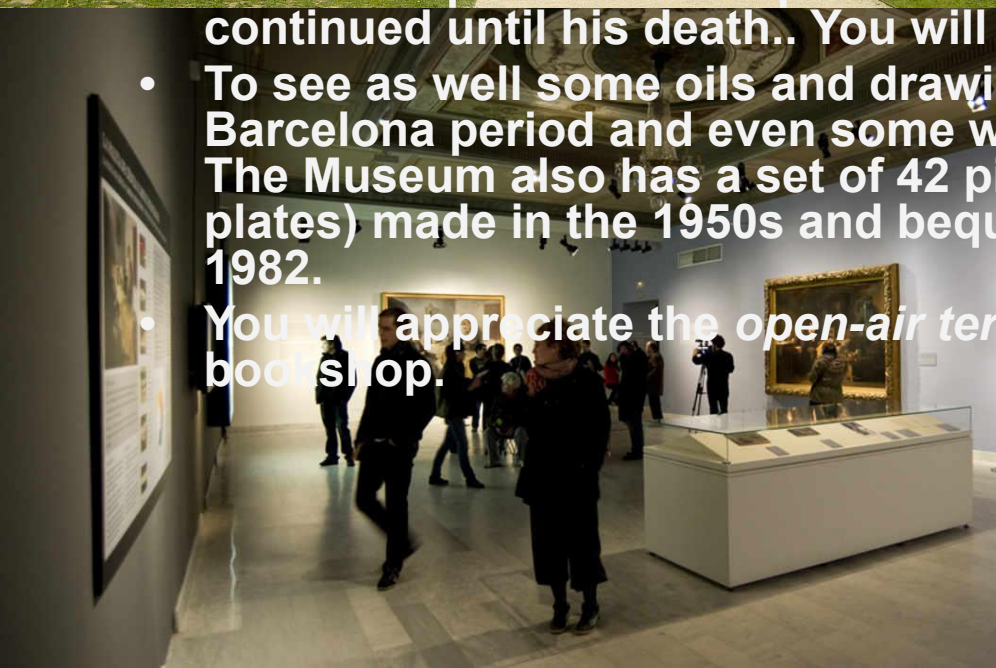
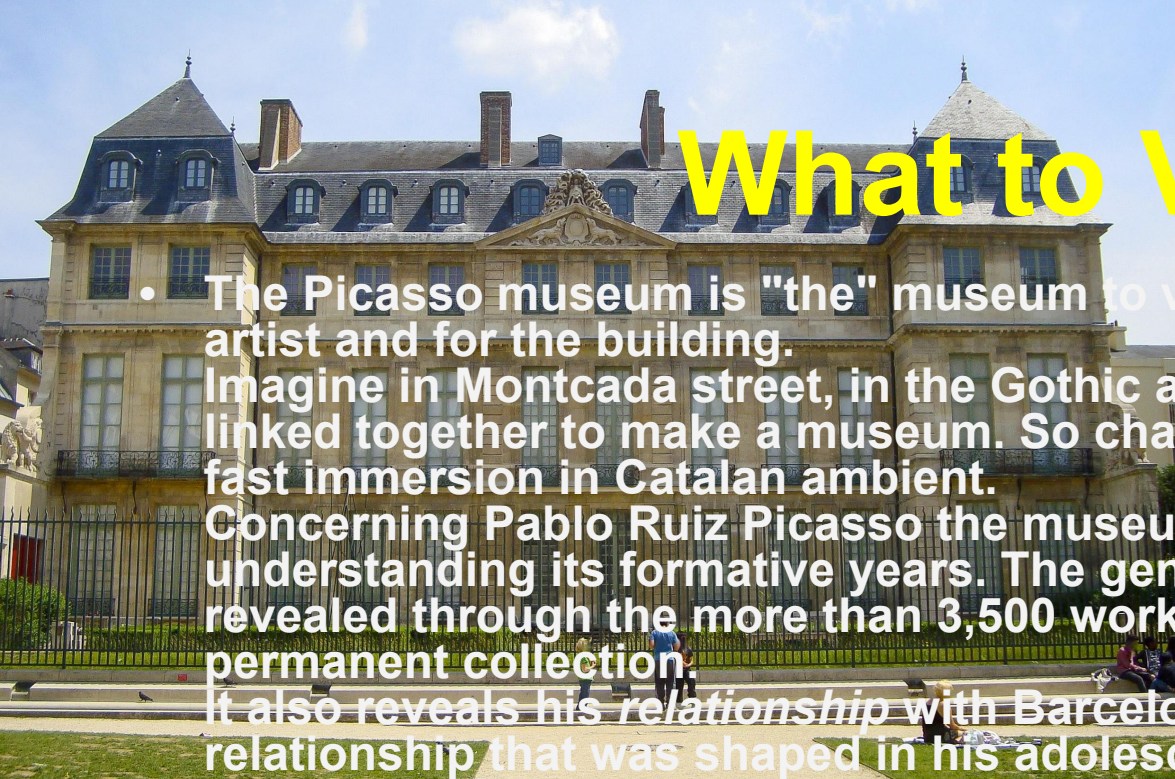
- Combining straight lines and curves in a continuous dialogue between the interior spaces and the light outside, the building, inaugurated in 1995, is a work by **Richard Meier**. It's about what is more interesting in this museum. **MACBA (Barcelona Contemporary Art Museum)** is dedicated to works from the second half of the 20th century. There are few works in the permanent collection and once in a while interesting temporary exhibitions.
- In 1959 the art critic Alexandre Cirici Pellicer believed in the need to create a **Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona**.
- Between 1960 and 1963, Cirici and Cesáreo Rodríguez Aguilera headed a group of individuals who began to put together a collection with the objective of constituting the basis for the future museum. In February 1963, the opening of the exhibition *El arte y la paz*, with a clear political commitment, exposed the narrow limits of what was then permissible.
- In 1986 *Barcelona City Council*, invited the North American architect **Richard Meier** to take charge of the project for the new museum. The City Council's Department of Culture commissioned the art critics *Francesc Miralles* and *Rosa Queralt* to draw up a report which would serve to define the philosophy of the future museum. In 1987 the **MACBA** Foundation brought private enterprise into the project. The **MACBA** was officially inaugurated on the 28th of November of 1995.



# What to Visit



- The Picasso museum is "the" museum to visit in Barcelona. For the artist and for the building. Imagine in Montcada street, in the Gothic area, five medieval palaces linked together to make a museum. So charming to visit and a very fast immersion in Catalan ambient. Concerning Pablo Ruiz Picasso the museum is indispensable for understanding its formative years. The genius of the young artist is revealed through the more than 3,500 works that make up the permanent collection. It also reveals his *relationship* with Barcelona: an intimate, solid relationship that was shaped in his adolescence and youth, and continued until his death.. You will remember corrida drawing.
- To see as well some oils and drawings from Picasso's Barcelona period and even some works from later stages in his career. The Museum also has a set of 42 pieces of ceramic (vases, dishes and plates) made in the 1950s and bequeathed by Jacqueline Picasso in 1982.
- You will appreciate the *open-air terrace*, cafe restaurant and the bookshop.





**Wish you enjoy your holidays!**

