

## Notes

## Tourist spots

### Sagrada Familia



The Sagrada Família (Sacred Family) is perhaps the one of the most popular tourist attractions in Spain. Although the project started in the late 19th Century, construction is still ongoing in spite of the death of Gaudí in 1926. Completion is not expected until 2026. This Roman Catholic church is an icon of Barcelona and definitely worth a visit.

**ADMISSION:** 11€

**OPENING TIMES:** October-March from 9.00 to 18.00, April-September from 9.00 to 20.00, 25 and 26 December, 1 and 6 January from 9.00 to 14.00

**ADDRESS:** Calle Mallorca, 401

**METRO:** Sagrada Família

### La Pedrera



Also known as Casa Milà this building was designed by Gaudí and completed in 1912. It has an accessible roof top ornately decorated with Gaudí mosaic statues and chimneys and offers great views of the city. The limestone building also has an impressive central atrium and bookshop.

**ADMISSION:** 9.50€, free for children under 12 years.

**ADDRESS:** 92, Passeig de Gràcia

**METRO:** Passeig de Gràcia

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**Language:** Spanish, Catalan  
**Currency:** Euro  
**Electricity:** 220 Volts AC/50Hz. Euro plug  
**Time Zone:** Central European Time (GMT+1)

**Area Code:** +34 (ESP) and 93 (Bar)  
**Ambulance:** 061  
**Police:** 091  
**Fire:** 080

**Central Post Office:** Plaça d'Antoni Lopez  
**Main Tourist Office:** Plaça de Catalunya

**Consulates**

**Australia:** +34 93 490 90 13  
**Canada:** +34 93 204 27 00  
**France:** +34 93 270 30 00  
**Germany:** +34 93 292 10 00  
**Ireland:** +34 93 491 50 21  
**Italy:** +34 93 467 73 05  
**New Zealand:** + 34 93 209 03 99  
**UK:** +34 93 366 62 00  
**USA:** +34 93 280 22 27

**Casa Batlló**

Located just a few blocks further down Passeig de Gràcia from La Pedrera, the Casa Batlló is another one of Gaudí's creations. It was remodelled in the early 20th century by Gaudí in collaboration with another Catalan architect Josep Maria Jujol. The building is locally known as Casa dels ossos "house of bones", due to the remarkable skeletal nature of the façade. The building is perhaps not as popular as La Pedrera, but the interior is stunning and you will still need to queue to get in.

**ADMISSION** 16.50€ - audio guide included.

**ADDRESS:** 43, Passeig de Gràcia

**METRO:** Passeig de Gràcia

**Camp Nou**

The Camp Nou (new camp) is one of the temples of European football and the biggest football stadium in Europe with a capacity of just under 99,000. For football fans it is worth taking a tour round the stadium. You can see every corner of the stadium including the pitch, changing rooms, the press area, the presidents box, the FC Barcelona museum and the trophies. Also for most league games you

will be able to get tickets at short notice. You don't need to be a member as the stadium is so large that there are usually tickets available. As long as it is not against any of their major rivals.

**ADMISSION** 17€ Adults, 14€ Children up to 13, FREE for children under 6 years.

**ADDRESS:** Avinguda Aristides Maillol

**METRO:** Les Corts, Maria Cristina or Avinguda de Xile (tram)

**Catalan phrases**

The preferred method of communication for the locals, and they will be very surprised if you are able to speak a little of their native language.

**Yes** Si [see]

**No** No [no]

**Hello** Hola [oh-la]

**Goodbye** Adeu [a-de-oo]

**Please** Sisplau [sis-plo-w]

**Thank you** Gràcies [grath-see-us]

**I don't understand** No entenc [no an-tenk]

**Do you speak English?** ¿Parla Anglés? [par-lah an-gless]

**I'm sorry** Ho sento [ooh sen-too]

**I don't speak Catalan** No parlo Català [no par-looh cat-al-ah]

**I only speak English** Només parlo Anglés [noh-mess par-looh an-gless]

**A table for two** Una taula per dos [oon-a t-ow-lah par doss]

**smoking/non smoking** No fumadors / fumadors [noh-foo-ma-dors]

**The bill** El compte [al komp-tah]

**How much is it?** ¿Quant es? [kwant ess]

**Do I pay first?** ¿S'ha de pagar primer? [sah dah pa-gar pree-mai]

**A beer, normal size** Una canya [oo-na can-ya]

**Coffee with milk** Un café amb llet [oon caf-eh amb yet]

**sorry, pardon?** Perdona [per-don-a]

**don't worry** No passa res [no pass-a ress]

**I would like to pay now** M'agradaria pagar ara [m'eh-graa-da-ree-a pa-gar a-ra]



Parc Güell is another one of Gaudí's impressive architectural creations, situated in the hills of the Gràcia district of Barcelona. It was completed in 1914 after Count Eusebi Güell's original idea of building an upmarket housing site there failed.

The entrance gate to the park is flanked by two typically ornate and outlandish Gaudí houses and on the steps to the roof supported by the Doric columns there is the famous mosaic dragon fountain. It is also well known for the impressive vaulted arched walkways. In the park

there is a shop where you can buy Gaudí postcards and books, and also la Torre Rosa (Gaudí's own house) containing furniture that he designed (entrance fee only).

Access from the Metro to the park requires a bit of effort as it is extremely hilly but you can take a number 22 bus to the junction of Avinguda de Valcarca and Carrer de la Farigola. From there you will find a series of escalators to go up the hill.

**ADDRESS:** Carrer d'Olot 7  
**METRO:** Lesseps

**7. Take advantage of free activities**

Parc Güell, the port, the beach, CaixaForum, Montjuic and entry into the Olympic stadium are all free activities.

**8. Bicing**

Barcelona offers an excellent bicycle hiring service. There are automatic bicycle stations all around the Barcelona and once you have an account, you can use the service as much as you like.

**9. Shop around**

There is often a large discrepancy in prices in Barcelona. For exactly the same product, prices can vary around 40%. This is even true in supermarkets.

**10. Visit Raval**

This area is full of character and in some way is similar to Bethnal Green in East London. It is diverse with immigration, prices are very cheap and many young locals are flocking to this area to live.

**Las Ramblas**



Las Ramblas is perhaps one of the most important and well known tourist spots in Barcelona. Also known as "La Rambla" in its singular form, it is a long promenade (approximately 1.2 km) made up of consecutive smaller streets - hence the plural form. *Rambla* means intermittent flow of water and was originally a stream (or occasionally a dry river bed) that ran into the sea.

There is an awful lot to see in this street; there are many outdoor bars, restaurants, market stalls, street acts and the famous human performance statues.

Halfway down there is the Mercat de Sant Josep de la Boquería, Barcelona's ancient and iconic food market. Further down just of Las Ramblas there is the impressive Plaça Reial, a beautiful square with bars restaurants and night clubs.

The Gothic area touches La Rambla on one side and on the other side there is the diverse and ever more fashionable Raval. If you are limited for time in Barcelona then Las Ramblas should be first on your list. It also has the advantage that very close by you can see the Gothic area, Plaça Reial, the Cathedral, la Boquería, and Raval.

Also, the street leads down to the Statue of Christopher Columbus and the port is just a 2 minute walk further down.

**METRO:**  
Catalunya (top of Las Ramblas)  
Liceu (halfway down)  
Drassanes (bottom)

7. Electronic goods are expensive in Barcelona, even more so than in the UK. In particular, computers, TVs and white goods are very expensive.

8. On the other hand, alcohol is very cheap. In bars (except in tourist areas) a bottle of lager will cost about 1.30€ and a decent bottle of wine in a supermarket will cost about 3€. It is also possible to buy bottles of wine for as little as 1€ or less. Lager in supermarkets is also very cheap. A 330ml can of normal lager can cost about 0.25€ in supermarkets, but a known brand will cost double.

9. Smoking in Barcelona (and Spain) is extremely popular. There is a saying that goes "if you're Spanish you smoke". Spanish law has recently banned smoking from work places and applied smoking restrictions to restaurants, but many restaurants have smoking licences. The majority of restaurants in Barcelona are smoking or have a smoking area. For the locals, smoking in public is considered a right, so if you are in a restaurant eating a meal don't expect the customers sat on the neighbouring table to wait for you to finish before they light up.

10. In Barcelona, people like to take their time. If they have queued for a service (e.g. in banks or supermarkets) they will not be rushed once they are being attended to, even if the queue behind them is long. This can be frustrating if you are in a hurry, but it is part of the culture and they believe it is their right to take their time if they have been queuing.

11. Lunch in Barcelona is extremely important to the culture. If you are working in Barcelona for a normal Spanish or Catalan company then you will probably leave the office at 1:45pm to 2pm at the earliest and lunch normally lasts at least 1.5 hours. No matter how busy work is, very rarely is this hour and a half sacrificed. It is virtually sacred.

12. Tap water in Barcelona is perfectly safe to drink despite what you might have heard. Most people in Barcelona buy their own water because the tap water here does not have a particularly pleasant taste. It is normally used for cooking instead.

The most important Spanish phrases you may need are shown in the list below. The phonetic pronunciation is provided in the square brackets, with the emphasis on the bold syllable. For example in English we would make the distinction with the word "present" as such [to pres-**ent**] and [a **pres**-ent]

**Yes** Si [see]

**No** No [no]

**Hello** Hola [oh-la]

**Goodbye** Adiós [addy-oss]

**Please** Por Favor [por fab-or]

**Thank you** Gracias [grath-ee-as]

**I don't understand** No entiendo [no enn-tee-enn-doh]

**Do you speak English?** ¿Habla Inglés? [ab-la een-gless]

**I'm sorry** Lo siento [loh see-enn-toh]

**I don't speak Spanish** No hablo Español [no ab-lo espan-yol]

**I only speak English** Solo hablo Inglés [so-lo ab-lo een-gless]

**A table for two** Una mesa para dos [oon-a mess-a pa-ra doss]

**smoking/non smoking** No fumadores / fumadores [foo-ma-dor-ess]

**The bill** La cuenta [la kwen-ta]

**How much is it?** ¿Cuanto es? [kwan-toe ess]

**Do I pay first?** ¿Hay que pagar primero? [eye keh pag-ar preem-air-o]

**A beer** Una cerveza [oo-na ther-beth-a]

**A beer, normal size** Una caña [oo-na can-ya]

**Coffee with milk** Un café con leche [oon caf-eh con letch-eh]

**Sorry, pardon?** Perdona [per-don-a]

**Don't worry** No pasa nada [no pass-a na-da]

**I would like to pay now** Me gustaría pagar ahora [meh goost-a-ri-a pag-ar a-or-a]



The site of the Olympic stadium, Parc de Montjuïc offers great views of the city. It is home also to the National Palace, the iconic telecommunications tower and the Castell de Montjuïc. It is situated just on the hill above the famous roundabout Plaça Espanya, between the enormous Venetian style towers.

It is a great site to walk around; there are many parks, beauty spots and spectacular views. Access to the Olympic stadium (which is also the Andorra national football stadium and until recently the ground of RCD Espanyol) is free and there is also a cafeteria.

The National Palace is also home the National Art Museum of Catalonia – an art museum of Catalan sculptures and paintings: Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque, Renaissance and local art up to the mid 20 century.

**ADMISSION:** €8.50, valid for 2 days.

**METRO:** Espanya

Castell de Montjuïc is a 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century fortress and now a military museum. From the flat roof of the citadel there is a complete panorama over the sea, port, city and mountains. Admission to most areas of the Castell is free.

**ADMISSION** (only to military museum): €3.00.

**METRO:** Paral.lel

## Money saving tips

### 1. Use public transport

It is very cheap and very reliable. A carnet of 10 journeys cost only about 8€ and can be used on busses, trans and the metro.

### 2. Take advantage of the "Menu del día" (Menu of the day)

Virtually every restaurant does this and it costs around 9€ to 11€ for a very good 3 course meal (plus bread and wine/beer/water). This is only applicable during the working week and practically all of the locals do this.

### 3. Explore by walking

Barcelona is a very compact city. There are many shops in the L'Exemple area including the famous Passeig de Gracia street. It is easy to walk down to the gothic area, into Las Ramblas and then the beach and port.

### 4. Don't over tip

This is something difficult to get used to if you are from UK or US but 5% is considered a very generous tip. In a restaurant, no matter the type of restaurant or size of the bill, tips of 2€ are typical. Many people don't tip at all and only tip if you think the service was worth it.

### 5. Be aware of muggers

Not losing your wallet is most definitely one way to save money. Mugging is rife in Barcelona and is perhaps one of the worst places in Europe for this. Mugging takes place day and night, mostly in the tourist areas. Make sure any bags you carry are zipped up and that you do not leave wallets/purses or bags lying around in bars or restaurants – even if you think that you are watching them.

### 6. Avoid eating and drinking in Las Ramblas

Unless of course you want to soak up the incredible atmosphere. Prices here are normally at least double. Be aware that a large sangria will cost around 10€.

## The Port and Barceloneta



One of the big advantages Barcelona has over some other Spanish cities is the coast. The port is accessible just from the bottom of Las Ramblas and there is a footbridge that takes you onto the quay where there are bars, restaurants, shops, a cinema and the aquarium. It's a great place for watching the ocean liners come and go.

**METRO:** Drassanes

Barceloneta is the name of Barcelona's beach and is about a 10 minute walk further up from the port. There are many chiringuito's (beach bars) and it is usually packed with both locals and tourists. The beach is very clean and is particularly warm in late Summer.

**METRO:** Barceloneta

## Parc de Ciutadella



Parc de Ciutadella is the biggest and main park in central Barcelona and a great place to visit, or even to have a picnic. It has the Cascada (the arch and waterfall shown in the picture), children's play areas, the Barcelona Zoo, a lake, a castle (Castel dels Tres Dragons), museums and much more. It is perfectly situated, just a walk away from Barceloneta, the port and the Gothic Area.

**METRO:** Ciutadella-Villa Olímpica or Barceloneta



The Cathedral of Santa Eulalia is the Gothic Cathedral of Barcelona. Completed in 15th Century it is a beautiful church with several chapels, 13th century cloister, crypt, fountains and a garden. There is also a lift that takes you to the top of the roof of the cathedral.

**ADMISSION:** Cathedral FREE, Museum 2€, lift to roof 2.50€  
**ADDRESS:** Plaça de la Seu, 7  
**METRO:** Jaume I

**Mussol**



Mussol is a chain of decent restaurants serving traditional Catalan food. There are many around Barcelona, good price and good quality local food. Website: [www.mussol.angrup.com](http://www.mussol.angrup.com)

**4Gats**



Opened in 1897, 4gats is one of the most famous restaurants in Barcelona. Also a bar and cervezzeria, the food and atmosphere are excellent. During the day this restaurant is normally packed with locals. They also provide a menu of the day (with 3 courses and drinks) for about 13€. Well worth a visit. Website: [www.4gats.com](http://www.4gats.com)



## Practical facts and observations on Barcelona

1. When using your credit card you will always need to sign and must bring some photo ID, either a passport or driving licence. Chip and PIN is virtually non-existent in Barcelona.
2. The main language of Barcelona is Catalan, but the most widely spoken is Spanish. Catalan is spoken by 75% of the population, but virtually 100% of Catalans speak Spanish and there are many immigrants from South America and indeed from the rest of Spain, so Spanish is universal. In many bars and restaurants, Spanish is the main language.
3. Many large stores (such as supermarkets) do not let you bring large bags or backpacks into the shop. Many provide lockers with keys just before the entrance.
4. Pedestrian crossings - beware of the green man! In many countries when the green man flashes you have enough time to cross from one side to the other. Not in Barcelona. You normally have about 3 seconds to cross. If you are halfway across the road by this point you will probably need to start running. Do not attempt to start crossing the road when the man is flashing. This takes some getting used to.
5. Ticket validation for public transport - you must validate your ticket for all forms of public transport (trains, metro, trams, buses etc.). Validating means getting your ticket stamped in a small machine located in buses, or on the platforms when taking a train. Metros have a turnstile system where your ticket gets validated.
6. Metro turnstiles - when entering the metro you will need to insert your ticket into the gate to get through. Confusingly there are two types of gates: turnstiles and automatic glass gates. When entering through the turnstile gates you will need to pass the ticket with the left hand and pass to the right of the ticket. For the glass gates, you will need to pass the ticket with your right hand and pass to the left. When exiting the metro, you will not need your ticket at all.

## Plaça Reial



Plaça Reial meaning "Royal Plaza" is a large open square just off La Rambla in the Barri Gòtic. Filled with palm trees, lanterns designed by Gaudí and a fountain in the centre, it is a great place to eat or drink outside or under the arched walkways. Lively atmosphere and not to be missed. It is also a good place to stop off before or after exploring the nearby Gothic area.

**METRO:** Liceu

## CaixaForum



It's not often you get something for nothing, so it is well worth taking advantage. Even if you are not on a budget the Caixa Forum is still a great place to visit. The building is a converted textile factory and is now an art gallery that exhibits a wide range of contemporary art. It is conveniently close to Plaça Espanya, Font Màgica de Montjuïc and the Parc de Montjuïc.

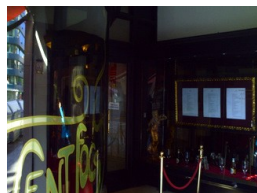
**ADMISSION:** FREE

**ADDRESS:** Av. Marques de Comillas 6-8, Barcelona

**METRO:** Espanya

## Restaurants

### Cent Focs



Cent Focs (one hundred fires) is a Catalan style restaurant based in the centre of Barcelona. It is very good value for money and is a popular place with the locals. Typically a decent meal for two in the evening will cost about 45€ including wine. They also do a menu of the day for under 10€ (three courses). Highly recommended. Tel +34934120095. Addr: Balmes 16. Web: [www.centfocs.com](http://www.centfocs.com)

### Txapela



For the typical tapas, this is the place to visit. Located down Passeig de Gracia you can choose from about 50 different tapas ranging from about 1.50€ to 2.50€ each. Normally about 6 tapas is enough for one person. Great atmosphere and good value.

## Map of Eixample (centre of Barcelona)

