

BARCELONA

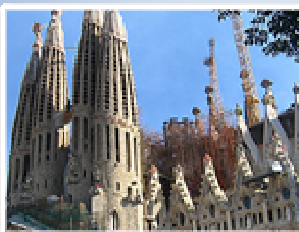
Barcelona is Spain's second largest city, and the capital of **Catalonia**. The city is on the **Mediterranean coast**, and has a wealth of unique historic architecture. Barcelona emerged as one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe during the 1990s.

It's a beautiful city, full of markets, shops, museums and churches, and great for walking around. There's an area called "Rambles" where people like walking. It's very tourist because there are flowers, paintings and restaurants. However, you can go to the beach, which is near, or you can walk around.

In 1992 **Barcelona** hosted the Olympics. Some time before the city was prepared for that, and the transformation was very important; new areas were made and the city was opened to the sea. This transformation and the games made the city known all over the world, and tourists began to come and a lot of ships dock here.



La Rambla: The most famous boulevard in Barcelona stretches from the harbor to **La Plaça Catalunya** running through the Ciutat Vella like a spine. There, you can find newspaper and book stands, birds, flowers, musicians, street-performing artists that all contribute to create a lively and unique atmosphere. A few blocks south of its north end, you'll find **La Boqueria**, a very large, fresh air (but covered) market.



The Sagrada Família: is a massive Roman Catholic church under construction in **Barcelona**. Construction began in 1882 and continues to this day. The church was designed by **Antoni Gaudí** (1852–1926), who worked on the project for over 40 years. Gaudí devoted the last 15 years of his life entirely to the endeavor.

Güell Park: This is on a hill overlooking **Barcelona**, so expect a relatively steep walk to the top, you will be rewarded with a panoramic view of the whole city. The park has two distinct parts, a relatively undeveloped natural area near the top of the hill, and the more famous (and crowded) sculpture park below. The sculpture portion is full of walkways and other structures exhibiting the distinct and colorful style of Gaudí, including the famous terrace. .



Passeig de Gràcia: is both one of the major avenues in **Barcelona** and also one of its most important shopping and business areas, containing several of the city's most celebrated pieces of architecture. It is located in the central part of Eixample, stretching from **Plaça Catalunya** to **Carrer Gran de Gràcia**. In terms of the cost of renting or buying property anywhere in this avenue, Passeig de Gràcia is nowadays regarded as the most expensive street in Barcelona.

Plaça Catalunya: is a large square in central Barcelona that is generally considered to be both its city centre and the place where the old city (see Barri Gòtic and Raval, in Ciutat Vella) and the 19th century-built Eixample meet.

Some of the city's most important streets and avenues meet in Plaça Catalunya: Passeig de Gràcia, Rambla de Catalunya, La Rambla or Portal de l'Àngel, in addition to Ronda de Sant Pere, Carrer de Vergara or Carrer de Pelai. It has an area of about 50,000 square metres. It is especially known for its fountains and statues, its proximity to some of **Barcelona's** most popular attractions, and for the numerous flocks of pigeons that gather in the centre.

USEFUL INFORMATION

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