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Spain

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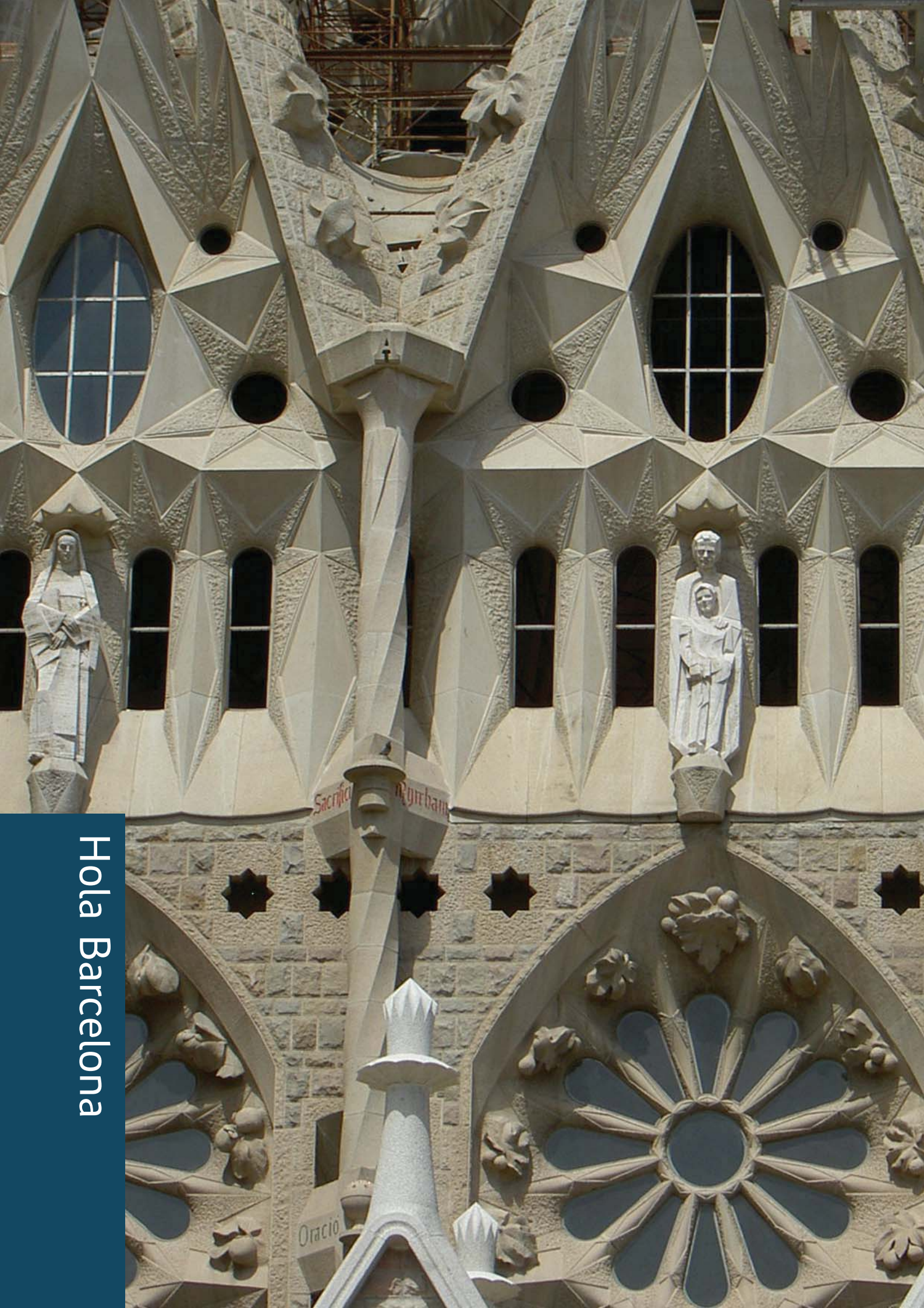
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Hola Barcelona

A visit to Barcelona

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia with 2,5 million citizens and a spectacular location by the warm coast of the Mediterranean. You are in Spain, but throughout the years, the history and culture of Catalonia have put their evident mark on the city and the rest of Catalonia. Amazing construction works have through the years been built in the old neighbourhoods. Barcelona and modernism automatically make you think of the world-renowned architect Antonio Gaudí. Barcelona is his city and his fingerprints are everywhere. His masterpieces such as la Sagrada Familia, Casa Mila and Park Güell are famous, but do also notice his works around the city.

Barcelona is beautifully placed in hilly country that offers plenty of opportunities for wonderful trips with one sight after another. In the central Barcelona, but also towards both the north and south, kilometres of sandy beaches go on and on, ready to invite you into the Mediterranean waves.

Have a nice trip!

Historical outline

The first sure signs of habitation are the Roman foundation of Barcelona in 218 BC. Any earlier habitation is not documented. When the Roman Empire dissolved in 400 the Romans left Barcelona. In the following 500 years, the reign of the city shifted hands several times. Not before the 900s did it become capital of the area in and around the present Catalonia. Based on the laws of Rome, the city gradually evolved and throughout the centuries, Barcelona became an even greater rival of the Madrid domination of Spain.

In 1479 the cities were joined when Ferdinand married Isabella of Castille, which set new grounds for the competition between the cities. For instance, Madrid ordered Barcelona not to trade with the new colonies in America. At the end of the 1600s Catalonia declared war against Spain and claimed independence. This happened under the protection of France. The Spanish troops led by the Castille besieged Barcelona and conquered the city. In 1713, the War of the Spanish Succession began and Barcelona supported the losing party. A result hereof was the Spanish besiege of the city in 1713-1714. After the defeat, the city was ordered to abolish its regional government and simultaneously the Citadel was built to supervise Barcelona onwards.

The Catalanian language was, at the same time, forbidden. In the beginning of the 1800s, the city re-flourished. The trade with the American colonies was once again legalised, and after Napoleon's defeat and the following withdrawal from Spain, the industrial development in Barcelona flourished just as in other places of the country.

The first railroad of Spain was built from Barcelona to Matero. Among other things a larger production of wine and an iron industry were also developed. The population of the city gradually increased and in 1869 there was a large expansion of the city districts. You can still see the city plan of that year in the area around Plaza Catalunya.

In the beginning of the 1900s, the self-image of Catalonia rose again and republican thoughts were subject of increasing value to many local groups. The Spanish leader, Prima de Rivera, band some political units and other Catalanian institutions, such as the football club FC Barcelona, were shut down. After Rivera's fall in 1931, the nationalists of Catalonia declared Catalonia independent, but this was withdrawn after much pressure from Madrid.

The former regional government was reinstated, but shut again, already in 1934, after political attempts of seceding Catalonia. Immediately before the imminent Spanish Civil War, another regional government was formed.

When Franco's troops, in the first period of the civil war, quickly emerged from the southern Spain, Barcelona stood by the republic with Madrid which fell. The Spanish government fled to Barcelona and shortly hereafter Franco's troops were just outside the city. The first aerial bombardments started in 1938 and in January 1939 the city fell. Spain was, once again, united under a government in Madrid. The language of Catalonia was again prohibited and every street name in the city was now written in Spanish.

Through the years up until Franco's death the development in Spain continued. This caused a financial boom, not at least because of an increase in international tourism to many Spanish locations e.g. Costa Brava outside Barcelona. After Franco's death in 1975, Catalanian politicians in exile returned to Barcelona and with King Juan Carlos accession autonomy was formed in Catalonia and the regional government reinstated.

Barcelona joined the rest of Spain in the UN in the 1980s and this started a financial and cultural development the city had not experienced before. The international highlight came in 1992 when the city was chosen to hold the Olympic Games. The construction work and investments related to the games meant a continuation of the growth period into the city you meet today

Tour 1: Barcelona

1. Plaça de Catalunya



Plaça de Catalunya

Metro: Catalunya

The Catalunya square is the centre of Barcelona and it is where the old part of the city meets the Eixampe-district of the 18th century. The forerunner of the current square was arranged in 1859. This is where several of Barcelona's wide streets branch from e.g. the pedestrian streets La Rambla and Passeig de Gràcia. There are several works of art on Plaça de Catalunya and the open areas and beautiful fountains always attract both tourists and locals.

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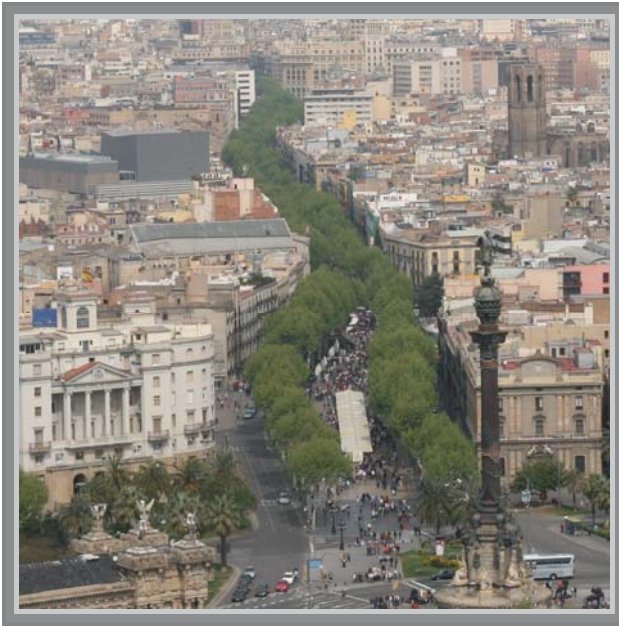
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2. La Rambla



La Rambla

Metro: Catalunya/Liceu/Drassanes

La Rambla is the beautiful pedestrian street of Barcelona and everyone should stroll along and experience the life of the city. On the 1.2 kilometres long Rambla, you will find shady trees, flower markets, artists, shops, restaurants, many interesting buildings and an always lovely atmosphere.

3. Museu d'Art Contemporani



Plaça dels Àngels 1

www.macba.es

Metro: Catalunya/Universitat

Museu d'Art Contemporani is the museum of modern art in Barcelona. The great white building

was built from 1987 to 1995 and is inspired by Modernism. Three periods are represented; 1940-1960, 1960-1970, and finally the latter decades. The collection focuses on art of Catalonia and the rest of Spain

4. Església de Betlem

La Rambla

Metro: Catalunya

The Bethlehem church, Església de Betlem, is one of the few baroque buildings in Barcelona. It was originally part of a Jesuit convent. The church was built in 1553, but burned to the ground in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War. Església de Betlem was reconstructed on the outside, while the interior was not rebuilt as the church from the 16th century.

5. Palau de la Virreina (La Rambla 99)

La Rambla 99

www.bcn.es/virreinaexposicions

Metro: Liceu

The 18th century palace, Palau de la Virreina, is one of the best examples of civilian Catalonian architecture of this period. Today, the house belongs to the city council and it is used for exhibitions.

6. Mercat de la Boqueria



La Rambla

www.boqueria.info

Metro: Liceu

Mercat de la Boqueria is a large market, which spreads immediately behind a row of house façades on La Rambla. One market here can be traced back to the 13th century when agricultural products were sold in this very spot; this was right outside the city. Today's market was opened in 1853 and large parts of the market halls are from 1914

7. Miró Mosaic (La Rambla)

La Rambla

Metro: Liceu

Approximately in the middle of the Rambla, where the street Carrer de l'Hospital meets La Rambla, you can see a big and beautiful pavement mosaic done by Joan Miró. The colourful work of art is from 1976.

8. Santa Maria del Pi



Calle Cardenal Casañas 16

http://es.geocities.com/santa_maria_del_pi

Metro: Liceu

The church Santa Maria del Pi was constructed in the 1300s, in a place supposedly used for religious

buildings since the 400s. The church is built with a rosette window in the gable and amazing glass mosaics in the large church room measuring 54 meters in length and 27 meters to the ceiling

9. Gran Teatre del Liceu

La Rambla 51-59

www.liceubarcelona.com

Metro: Liceu

Gran Teatre del Liceu is Barcelona's opera. The building was constructed in 1845-1847 after a private society collection. The opera burned down in 1861 and was rebuilt the following year. Then again in 1994, a fire destroyed major parts of the theatre which today is rebuilt as similar to the original as possible. Some parts are still from the original construction e.g. the façade. Almost 2300 spectators can be accommodated; making Liceu one of the largest opera houses in Europe.

10. Plaça Reial



Plaça Reial

Metro: Liceu

One of the most beautiful and harmonic squares of Barcelona is the royal square Plaça Reial that was arranged in the very spot in which a convent burned down in the 1800s. The buildings around the rectangular square were built in 1848-1895. Quite rapidly, the square with its benches, lean palm trees, fountains and lampposts made by Antonio Gaudí became a very popular place to the townsmen. This

is evident even today and especially at night there is an intriguing atmosphere

11. Palau Güell

Calle Nou de la Rambla 3-5

Metro: Liceu

Palau Güell is the first great construction by Antonio Gaudí, built in 1888. The works of Gaudí in the city are on the UNESCO World Heritage List and even though they are inspired by, for instance Gothic and Mauri style, Gaudí's style is one of a kind. The house was built for the Güell family with industrial magnate Eusebi Güell in front. It was a private residence and especially the reception facilities are interesting

12. Museu de Cera

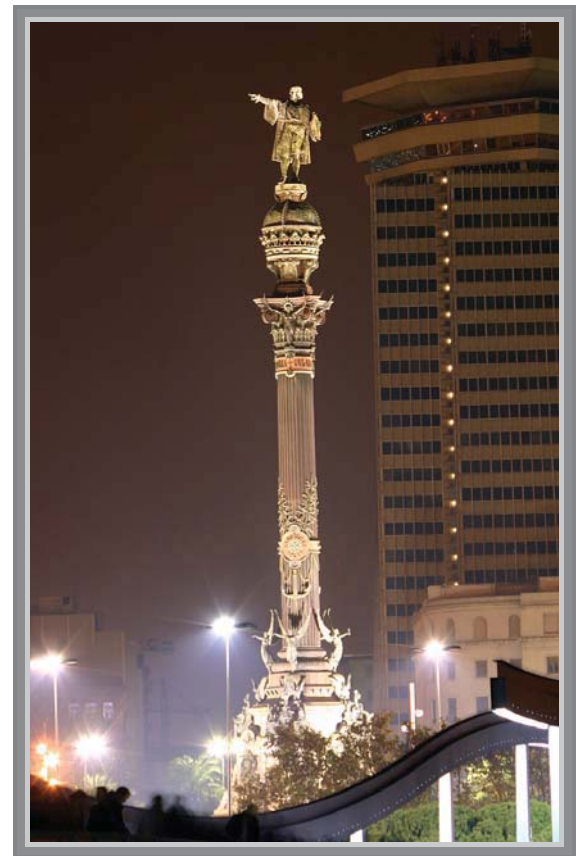
Passatge de la Banca 7

www.museucerabcn.com

Metro: Drassanes

Museu de Cera is Barcelona's wax museum with more than 350 figures of persons from very different parts of history. The building itself is also quite noticeable.

13. Monument a Colom



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Plaça Portal de la Pau

Metro: Drassanes

The 60 meters high Columbus monument, Monument a Colom, is set at the end of La Rambla facing Barcelona's harbour and the Mediterranean. The surrounding square was arranged in 1849, when the city wall sheltering the Rambla from the harbour was torn down. The monument was built in the years 1881-1888 in memory of Christopher Columbus' visit with King Ferdinand and Isabella in Barcelona, in 1493.

14. Golondrines

Plaça Portal de la Pau 1

www.lasgolondrinas.com

Metro: Drassanes

Golondrines is the name of the tour boats sailing the harbour of Barcelona. A normal sightseeing trip takes approximately 35 minutes.

15. Aduana Vieja

Passeig de Josep Carner

Metro: Drassanes

Aduana Vieja is Barcelona's old custom house constructed in fashionably decorated style in the years 1896-1902

16. Museu Maritim



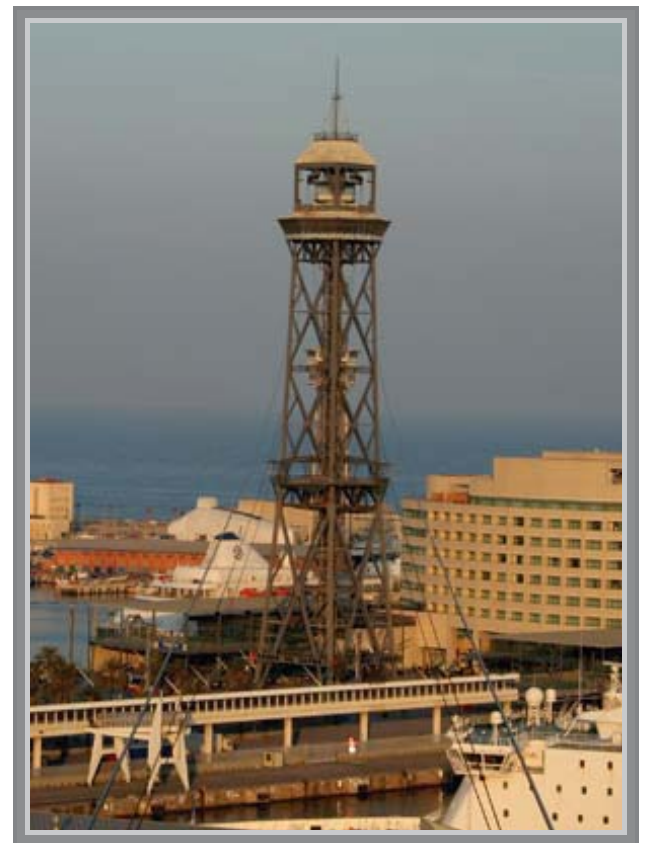
Avinguda de les Drassanes

www.museumaritimbarcelona.com

Metro: Drassanes

The Barcelona navy museum, Museu Marítim, has since the foundation in 1929 been instrumental in bringing about mainly the maritime history of Catalonia. In the collection there are interesting ships and a long row of objects such as model ships, nautical instruments and charts. One of the absolute highlights of the museum is a replica of a 16th century ship that was used in the battle at sea against the Turks at Lapanto in 1572. Along the street Avenida del Paral·lel, immediately south of the navy museum in a green area, you can see a preserved part of now cancelled and destroyed city walls of Barcelona

17. Torre Jaume I



Moll 18

www.tmb.net

Metro: Drassanes

The 107 meters high tower Torre Jaume I was built in 1931 as an aerial ropeway station for the track. An unforgettable trip leads from the 78 meters high tower, Torre Sant Sebastia, via Torre Jaumes I to Montjuïc. The ropeway is called Teleférico de Montjuïc. From the tower itself, there is an absolutely spectacular view of Barcelona and the harbour area. The highly recommended aerial trip puts it all in perspective.



Tour 2: Barcelona

18. Palau Centelles

Baixada de Sant Miquel 8

Metro: Jaume I

Palau Centelles was built in the 1500s as a palace for the king. The building later passed to the regional government of Catalonia, Generalitat. You are not allowed to see the interior of the palace, however, take a stroll in the yard; an impressive oasis in Gothic and Renaissance style.


19. Palau de Requesens

Calle Bisbe Caçador 3

Metro: Jaume I

Palau de Requesens is the greatest nobleman's estate from the Middle Ages' Barcelona. It was built in 13th century with an interesting integration of the Roman city wall in the complex. In the 17th century the palace was partially rebuilt and extended; e.g. with a balcony facing the street. In the 16th century, Catalonia's governor-general and friend of King Felipe 2nd, Galceran de Requesens, lived here. Since 1970, the building has been a Catalan cultural institute; Galeria de Catalans Illustres, with portraits of famous Catalonians. You can also see exhibitions arranged by Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres.

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20. Plaça de Sant Jaume

Plaça de Sant Jaume

Metro: Jaume I

The Sant Jaume square is where the two most important roads of the Roman city intersected. The importance of the square is signified by the fact that the two most significant political institutions are placed here.

20a. Ajuntament



www.bcn.cat

Ajuntament is the city hall of Barcelona and with its beautiful modern classicism façade it faces Plaça de Sant Jaume. The central entrance is flanked by two statues of Jaume 1st and chancellor Joan Fiveller. Inside the building you will find several gorgeous halls e.g. the one that houses one of the city's tourist information centres.

20b. Palau de la Generalitat



Generalitat is the name of the old regional government of Catalonia, which now uses the palace,

Palau de la Generalitat, which originally was built in the early 15th century. Throughout time, several reconstructions and additional buildings have been made.

21. Catedral



Plaça de la Seu

www.website.es/catedralbcn

Metro: Jaume I

The impressive cathedral of Barcelona was commenced in 1298 and opened in 1454, however, not yet finished. The façade of the cathedral is the most recently finished; it was done in 1890. The cathedral is one of the masterpieces of Spanish Gothic and an amazing display of detail can be found both outside and inside. Among the most spectacular are the high altar, the bell tower from the 15th century and the crypt in which one of two of Barcelona's guardian angels, Santa Eulàlia, lies. In this spot, there was already a Christian basilica from the fourth century which was ruined in 958

22. Museu Diocesà

Avinguda de la Catedral 4

www.arquebisbat.bcn.cat

Metro: Jaume I

Museu Diocesà exhibits different religious art from the Middle Ages up until today. You can see sculptures, paintings, jewellery etc.

23. Museu Frederic Marès

Plaça Sant Iu 5-6

www.muesumares.bcn.cat

Metro: Jaume I

This museum was established in 1946 by sculptor Frederic Marés who had a collection of works. The museum department for Spanish art displays works from the Roman era to the 20th century and is, in its field, among the most prominent in the country

24. Plaça del Rei

Plaça del Rei

Metro: Jaume I

Plaça del Rei is the architectural centre of the old quarter of Barcelona. Surrounding the square are medieval Gothic buildings with the former royal palace at head. The palace tower, Torre Mirador del Rei Martí, rises as a true skyscraper of the 16th century.

24a. Palau Reial Major



Palau Reial Major is the former royal palace of Catalonia. The earliest part of the building can be

traced back to the 13th century. The place was also the administrative centre back in the days of the Roman reign. The central room of the palace, Saló del Tinell, is an especially beautiful banquet hall from 1362.

24b. Palau del Lloctinent



Palau del Lloctinent was built in 1549-1557 in the capital of Catalonia as residence for the viceroy. However, for centuries the palace was used for storing royal belongings. The style is late Gothic with some renaissance elements, which are seldom seen in this city.

24c. Capilla Reial de Santa Àgueda

Capilla Reial de Santa Àgueda is the chapel of the royal palace devoted to Santa Agatha. It was built in the 14th century.

24d. Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat

www.museuhistoria.bcn.es

The city museum of Barcelona is particularly interesting. The entire history of the city, from the Roman era until the present, is told in images, text and models. In the basement, you can see the archaeological excavations of the Roman city. They began in 1931 and you can see remains of the first city wall, streets and different buildings. The museum is organized in Casa Clariana-Padellas; a Gothic commercial house built in the 16th century.

25. Plaça de Ramon Berenguer el Gran



Plaça de Ramon Berenguer el Gran Metro: Jaume I

This square was arranged in 1922 outside the Roman old walls and from here there is a spectacular view of the very well preserved part of the old defence. Barcelona's Roman walls for defence were built in the fifth century. They are nine meters tall and more than 3,5 meters thick. You can still see many of the watchtowers protecting the city integrated in the walls. The walls were left untouched until the 14th century when it was allowed to build up against the walls to avoid lack of space in the town

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Tour 3: Barcelona

26. Casa Calvet



Carrer de Casp 48

Metro: Urquinaona

Casa Calvet was built by Antonio Gaudí in the years 1898-1904 as a residence to textile manufacturer, Don Pedro Màrtir Calvet. The façade is symmetrical, atypical of Gaudí, however, his characteristic details in the architecture are quite evident.

27. Casa Lleó-Morera

Passeig de Gràcia 35

Metro: Passeig de Gracia

The corner building, Casa Lleó-Morera, from 1902-1906, is one of the most richly decorated modern houses in Barcelona. Combined with the adjacent

houses, Casa Battló and Casa Amatller, it forms a fine trilogy of this era.

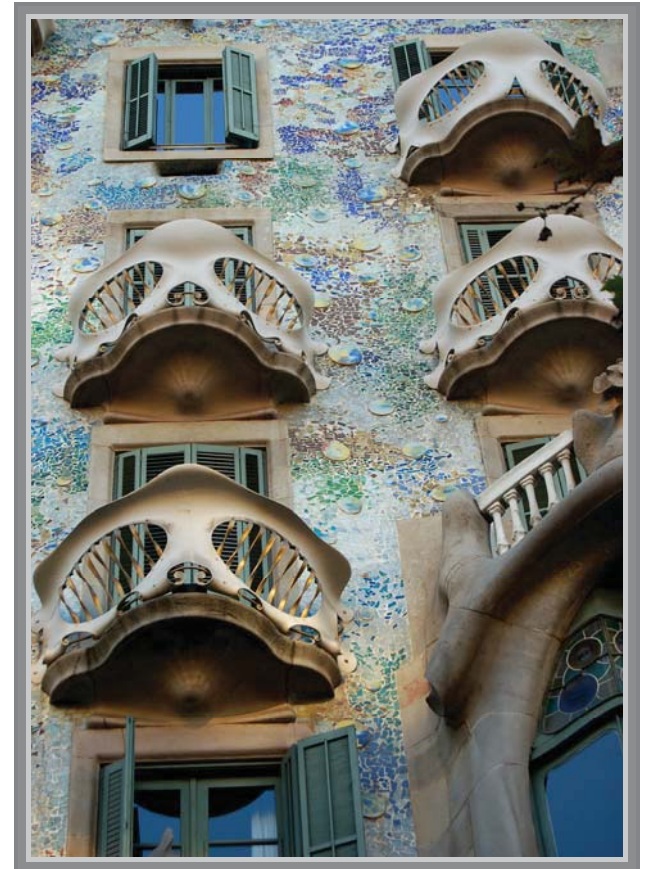
28. Casa Amatller

Passeig de Gràcia 41

Metro: Passeig de Gracia

Casa Amatller was built in the years 1898-1900 and the modern architecture was inspired by Nordic Gothic; e.g. the jagged gable towards the street.

29. Casa Battló



Passeig de Gràcia 43

Metro: Passeig de Gracia

Casa Battló is one of Antonio Gaudí's famous houses. It was originally built in 1877 and totally rebuilt by Gaudí in 1905 – 1907. As some of his other buildings, the house seems almost alive in its form of expression. In the design, which is Gaudí's particular form of Art Nouveau, barely any straight lines occur. A huge part of the façade is decorated with broken ceramic tiles in various colours. By Casa Battló, lie the interesting houses Casa Lleó

Morera (rebuilt in 1906) and Casa Amattler (rebuilt in 1896). The three houses are collectively called “Houses of Strife” because they differ a lot in expression, but are placed so closely together.

30. Casa Milà



Passeig de Gràcia 92

www.casamila.com

Metro: Diagonal

The house Casa Milà from 1905-1907 is one of Antonio Gaudí’s most renowned buildings. The most characteristic about this creation in particular is the undulating façade which has given inspiration to other houses around the world; e.g. Hundertwasserhaus in Vienna. Visitors should grant themselves a visit to the top storey and the furnished apartment.

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31. Casa Terrades o Casa de les Punxes



Avinguda Diagonal 416

Metro: Diagonal/Verdaguer

Two constructions hide behind the name of this tower-ornamented and castle-like complex: The residence of the Terrades sisters and Casa de les Punxes; one of the most special compositions from Modernism. The estates were built in 1903-1905.

32. Palau Baró de Quadras

Avinguda Diagonal 373

Metro: Diagonal

This house is one of the more characteristic houses of Barcelona's Modernism. Built in 1904-1906, it is inspired by Gothic houses.

33. Casa Comalat

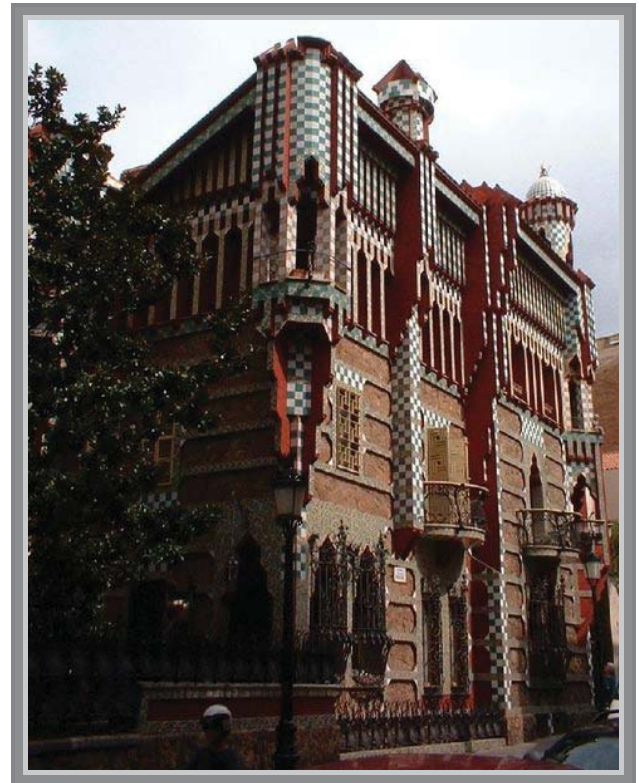


Avinguda Diagonal 442

Metro: Diagonal

Casa Comalat is one of Barcelona's modern houses, which makes some compare it to Antonio Gaudí. However, it was designed by Salvador Valeri in 1906-1911.

34. Casa Vicens



Carrer de les Carolines 24

www.casavicens.es

Metro: Lesseps

The estate Casa Vicens is the first great construction work of Antonio Gaudí. Built in 1883-1885, it was the residence of industrial magnate Manuel Vicens, who owned, among other things, a ceramics- and tile factory. Using these exact materials on the house was therefore natural. Today, the house is a private home.

35. Park Güell

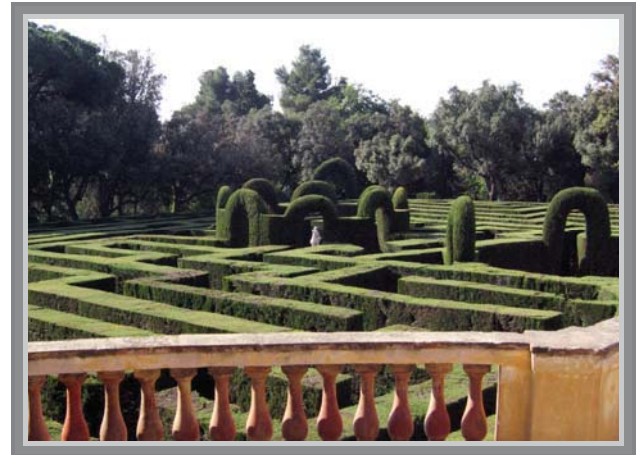


Carrer d'Olot

Metro: Lesseps

Park Güell is a 17 hectare large park designed by Antonio Gaudí and arranged in 1900-1914. Founder Eusebi Güell had originally intended the park as a place for estates of the prosperous but only two of sixty homes were built. Though Gaudí did not design the estates, he was persuaded by Güell to move in here himself in Torre Rosa. This is now known as Casa Museu Gaudí. The central element of the park is the grand terrace with a famous bench in the shape of a sea serpent. Even the paths of the park are interesting and from the top of the hill there is a magnificent view of Barcelona.

36. Parc del Laberint d'Horta



Passeig Castanyers 1

Metro: Mundet

This is the oldest public park in Barcelona and a fine example of a 18th century garden. The park is divided into different terraces and includes a big maze of plants in the middle.



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Tour 4: Barcelona

37. Palau de la Música Catalana



Calle Sant Pere Més Alt

www.palaumusica.org

Metro: Urquinaona

Barcelona is known for its Modernism; a unique forerunner of European Jugend style. The building Palau de Música Catalana is one of the main works and included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. It opened in 1908 after almost three years of work. Inside you will find a long row of details in the colourful and almost living house. It was originally built to house a choir, but a lot of concerts are now held there as well.

38. Museu Barbier-Mueller d' Art Precolombí

Carrer de Montcada 12-14

www.barbier-mueller.ch/cat/plansca.html

Metro: Jaume I

In the Barbier-Mueller Museum they have a fine collection of Pre-Columbian art. The collection includes most styles from the old American art and among the pieces ceramics, sculptures, textiles and different ritual effects are to be seen here.

39. Museu Picasso

Carrer de Montcada 15-23

www.museupicasso.bcn.es

Metro: Jaume I

The artist Pablo Picasso lived in Barcelona for nine years when his family had moved there from Malaga. In these years, he went through his so-called blue period and painted some of the first great works of art. The Picasso Museum opened in 1963 and the collection includes pieces from most of the years of his artistry. All in all, more than 3500 pieces are exhibited, so it is a very comprehensive collection.

40. Església de Santa Maria del Mar

Passeig del Born 1

Metro: Jaume I

The Santa Maria del Mar church is thought to be one of the finest examples of Catalan Gothic. Inside, the building is arranged quite simply. It gives the impression that it is filled with pillars and windows. The rosette window in the gable is from the 15th century.

41. Parc de la Ciutadella

Parc de la Ciutadella

www.parlament-cat.net

Metro: Ciutadella Vila Olímpica/Arc de Triomf

The Citadel park is one of the large city parks in central Barcelona. As the name indicates there was formerly a citadel here. It was torn down in the middle of the 19th century. In 1888, the park became home to the world exhibition. The green area with avenues, a lake and gorgeous gardens is just wonderful for a walk. The largest building in the park is almost castle-like and houses the Parliament of Catalonia. You will also find Barcelona's Zoo here.

42. Arc de Triomf

**Plaça de l'Arc de Triomf****Metro: Arc de Triomf**

The triumphal arch, Arc de Triomf, was built as a gateway to the world exhibition held in Barcelona in 1888. The style is New-Mauri and richly ornamented. In the top you can see Barcelona's escutcheon and over the round arch the 49 of the other Spanish provinces.

43. Plaça de Toros Monumental

**Plaça de Toros Monumental****Metro: Monumental**

Plaça de Toros Monumental is Barcelona's functioning bullfighting arena and a museum for the arena and the history of bullfighting. The beautiful building was initiated in 1914.

44. La Sagrada Familia

**Plaça de la Sagrada Familia****www.sagrada-familia.org****Metro: Sagrada Familia**

The church La Sagrada Familia is Antonio Gaudí's world-famous masterpiece. He initiated the construction work in 1883 and worked on it till his death in 1926. However, the building was nowhere near finished. La Sagrada Familia is the unfinished church and in spite of years of continuous work after Gaudí's death, many years are still to come before the church will be finished. Gaudí himself did not live to see much of his imagined masterpiece. He left unfinished drawings of the church in its whole. When working, he would make adjustments and change the plans. This made the building come to life just like his working style. The church is supposed to have a 180 meters tall central tower. The 12 remaining towers representing the 12 apostles are all 100 meters high.

The dimensions of the church were to be enormous and that is the impression you get when taking the recommended trip up between the towers. The museum in the church basement shows a model and sketches of the finishing of the church. In the nearby “Templo de la Parroquia” Antonio Gaudí is buried.

45. Hospital de Sant Pau



Carrer de Sant Antoni Maria Claret/Carrer de Cartagena

www.santpau.es

Metro: Hospital de Sant Pau

The Sant Pau Hospital was built in 1902-1930 by Catalan architect Lluís Domènech in Montaner. This is now, with its many colourful buildings, on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The history of the hospital can be traced back to 1401, when it was founded somewhere else in Barcelona

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Tour 5: Barcelona

46. Museu d'Història de Catalunya

Plaça Pau Vila 3

www.mhcat.net

Metro: Barceloneta

This is the history museum of Catalonia in which you can relive the region from palaeolithic time to the 20th century. Great historical events and necessities of everyday life are nicely described and vividly and sympathetically told. The museum is organized in one of the earlier storage buildings of the harbour built in 1900 and called Palau de Mar.

47. Barceloneta



The area by Passeig de Joan de Borbó, between Port Vell and Port Olímpic

Metro: Barceloneta

Barceloneta is one of Barcelona's very impressive quarters. It was built in the 18th century down by the harbour in order to re-house citizens from other parts of town. In 1714, after the Spanish War of Succession, King Filipe wanted to secure his citizens. This could be done by building more houses close to the citadel by the present park, Park de la Ciutadella. Houses of stone replaced the first barracks in 1749.

There have always lived many fishermen in Barceloneta and the area is also today well known for its many decent fish- and shellfish restaurants. The narrow streets and wide promenades invite you for lovely walks. The most popular 1100 meters long sandy beach is here by the ocean.

48. Forum Park

Rambla de Prim 2

Metro: Maresme/Forum

Forum Park is an exciting area that has been developed with the intend to attract both locals and tourists. The park is divided into four zones; each with their own special events. The actual entrance and information centre is in the green zone. The pronounced Forum building opened in 2004 and is an icon for the new Barcelona. There are different exhibitions in the triangular house.

49. Torre Agbar

Avinguda Diagonal 211

www.torreagbar.com

Metro: Glòries

Torre Agbar is a 142 meters high office building, which opened in 2005. The architecture is modern and not least interesting with the colour-changing glass on the façade. It is a particularly special sight at night.

50. Teatre Nacional de Catalunya



Plaça de les Arts 1

www.tnc.es

Metro: Glòries/Marina/Monumental

Teatre Nacional de Catalunya is the national theatre of the region Catalonia. It was modernly built but heavily inspired by Parthenon in Athens. There are three stages in the theatre performing both Catalanian, Spanish and foreign pieces.



Tour 6: Barcelona

51. Plaça Espanya

Plaça Espanya

Metro: Espanya

The Espanya square was built in 1929 as a grand entrance to the world exhibition. By the square, you can see the enclosed bullfighting arena, Las Arenas, now rearranged as an amusement park. The outside of the arena has remained the same, while the newly built roof of 76 meters in diameter frames many different activities.

52. Font Màgica



Plaça Carles Buigas

<http://fonts.bcn.es>

Metro: Espanya

Font Màgica, the magical fountain, is a series of cascades and fountains arranged for the world exhibition in 1929. In the summer evenings there is amazing light and music absolutely worth experiencing.

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53. Antiga Fàbrica Casaramona – CaixaForum



Avinguda Marquès de Comillas 6-8

www.fundaciolacaixa.es

Metro: Espanya

The former Casaramona factory from 1911-1913 is a pearl of industrial modernism. Already in 1920, the factory was shut down and for a long time it belonged to the police. Today, the restored buildings are organized as buildings for exhibitions.

54. Pavelló Mies van der Rohe

Avinguda Marquès de Comillas

www.miesbcn.com

Metro: Espanya

The Mies van der Rohe pavilion is a reconstructed version of the German pavilion from the 1929 world exhibition. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe who is considered to be a pioneer of modern architecture drew it.

55. Poble Espanyol

Avinguda Marquès de Comillas 13

www.poble-espanyol.com

Metro: Espanya

Poble Espanyol is a construction of Spanish city environments from the world exhibition in 1929. The 117 buildings leave you with a varied glimpse of the history and culture of the country through houses and building style.

56. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya



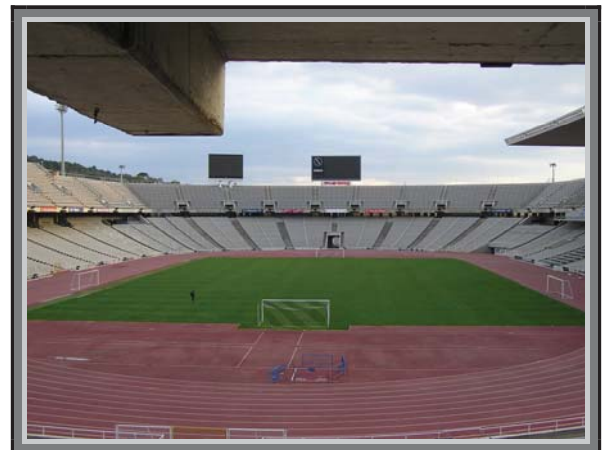
Parc de Montjuïc

www.mnac.es

Metro: Parc de Montjuïc

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya is one of Barcelona's most prominent museums with great collections of Catalan and Spanish art from the last centuries. Especially the collections from the Middle Ages are interesting. The museum building, Palau Nacional, was built for the world exhibition in 1929 and the museum has been here since 1934.

57. Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys



Passeig Olímpic 5-7

www.agendabcn.com

Metro: Parc de Montjuïc

The Olympic stadium of Barcelona was the centre of the sports world when the city hosted the Olympic Games in 1992. The stadium, however, was already made for the world exhibition in 1929 and Barcelona had also intended to apply to be the

stadium for the Olympic Games in 1936. In 1992, 70,000 people could be seated, today approximately 55,000 people can sit and it is the home ground of the football club RCD Espanyol. Today, on stadium, you can visit a museum for the Olympic Games of 1992.

58. Fundacio Joan Miró



Parc de Montjuïc

www.bcn.fjmiro.es

Metro: Parc de Montjuïc

A visit to this Joan Miró museum is an experience in the colours and shapes characteristic of Miró. In the museum, there are several hundred paintings and sculptures, plus works of other contemporary artists.

59. Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya



Passeig de Santa Madrona 39-41

www.mac.es

Metro: Parc de Montjuïc

This is Catalonia's archaeological museum and the exhibition takes visitors on a tour of the past of Barcelona and the entire region. For instance you can see several finds from the time of the settlement in the area.

60. Castell de Montjuïc



Montjuïc

www.museomilitarmontjuic.es

Metro: Parc de Montjuïc/cable track from Parallel

The Montjuïc-castle, Castell de Montjuïc, was built in 1750 and with its towers, walls and moats it is a real fortress. The view from the trip there as well as from the mountain itself is wonderful; there is a one of a kind panoramic view of Barcelona and the Mediterranean. You can go by the funicular railway, Funicular de Montjuïc, to the castle that today houses a military museum, Museu Militar. A series of weapons, uniforms etc. are exhibited here.



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Tour 7: Barcelona

61. Parc Joan Miró

Carrer de Tarregona

Metro: Tarragona

The artist Joan Miró is one of Barcelona's famous sons. When a slaughterhouse was shut down in 1979, it was decided to use the property to honour Miró. The park is arranged with many palm- and eucalyptus trees. His 22 meters tall sculpture of a woman and a bird, Dona I Ocell, is placed on a little island in a lake. The sculpture was finished in 1982 in Miro's typical style with colourful ceramic tiles.

62. Parc de l'Espanya Industrial



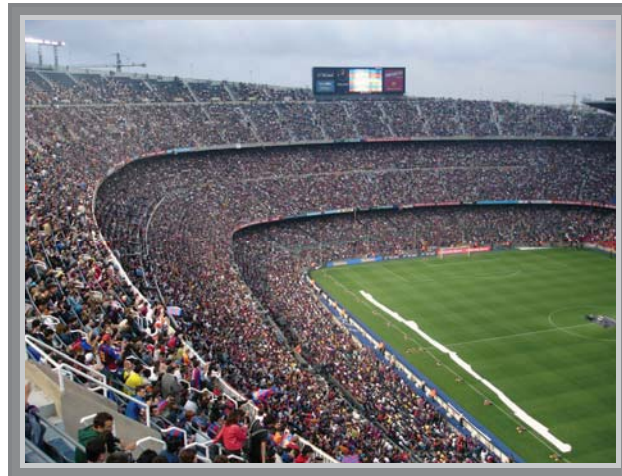
Plaça dels Països Catalans

Metro: Hostafrancs

Parc de l'Espanya Industrial is a different kind of park, made of modern materials in 1985, in the former place of textile factory. The park is designed with both classic green areas and ponds and with quite a lot of sculptures e.g. some futuristic

concrete sculptures offering a vision of the parks of the future.

63. Museu del Futbol Club Barcelona



Avinguda Aristides Maillol, Estadi FCB accesos 7/9

www.fcbarcelona.com

Metro: Badal

FC Barcelona is one of the most renowned football clubs with numerous trophies in the closet and exciting matches in their history book. In the museum, placed by the home ground Camp Nou, you will find the history and accomplishments of the club exhibited. Naturally, you can glance at the huge stadium; with more than 100.000 audiences it is an awe-inspiring set for other teams to visit.

64. Palau Reial de Pedralbes

Avinguda Diagonal 686

www.museuceramica.bcn.es

www.museuartsdecoratives.bcn.es

Metro: Palau Reial

Palau Reial de Pedralbes is one of Barcelona's royal palaces built in renaissance style for King Alfonso XIII in 1919-1929. The beautiful building now houses two museums; the ceramics museum Museu de Céramica and the museum of arts and crafts, Museu de les Arts Decoratives. By the palace, there is also a magnificently arranged park with fountains, sculptures and palm trees.

65. Monestir de Pedralbes



Baixada del Monestir 19

Metro: Palau Reial

The convent Pedralbes was founded in 1327, by Queen Elisenda de Montcada and still functions as a convent to the St. Clara-order. The convent, including the church, forms a lovely complex marked by peace and serenity. Apart from the buildings themselves and the surrounding green area there are also murals to gaze upon.

66. Tramvia Blau & Funicular del Tibidabo



Tramvia: Plaça de Kennedy-Plaça del Doctor Andreu

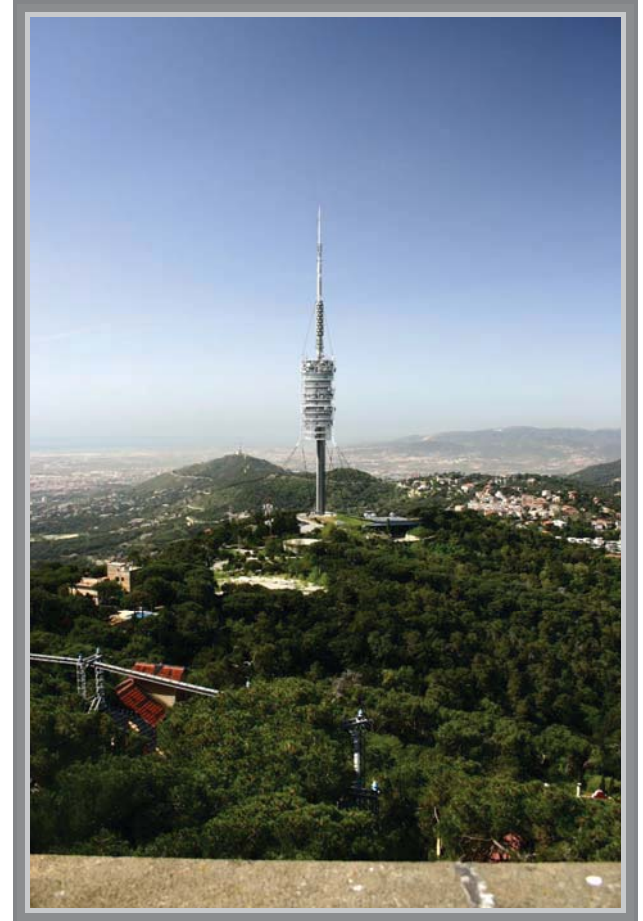
Funicular: Plaça del Doctor Andreu-Plaça del Tibidabo

Metro: Avinguda Tibidabo

By Tibidabo you can try two of Barcelona's most impressive means of transportation; the old trams

on Tramvia Blau and funicular railway running from the end of the tram road and to the top of Tibidabo mountain.

67. Torre de Collserola



Camí de Vallvidrera al Tibidabo

www.torredecollserola.com

Metro: Avinguda Tibidabo/Peu del Funicular

The television tower, Torre de Collserola, has a spectacular panoramic view of Barcelona. The 288 meters high tower was built in 1990-1992 as part of the preparations for the Olympic Games. It is placed on the 425 meters high mountain, Turó de Vilana, and it puts the vantage point in 560 meters height



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Day Tours from Barcelona

68. Monestir da Santa Maria de Montserrat



Montserrat, 50 km NW

Station: Castellbell in el Vilar-Monistrol de Montserrat/Monserrat-Manresa

The convent Montserrat is one of the most important religious places of pilgrimage in Spain. The convent and the mountains by same name lie north west of Barcelona in a very beautiful area, which in itself is a great experience. The Montserrat mountains are indeed an interesting sight; they point to the sky like soft fingers. In the midst of it all, in the highland, the great Benedictine convent is placed. The history of the convent can be traced back to 888. After the destructions in 1811 during the Napoleonic Wars, the convent was partially rebuilt and modernised. A herdsman was claimed to have found a Virgin statue in a cave in the mountains. Thus, the convent was placed here. The statue is one of the Black Madonnas, which is why it was called La Moreneta; the dark. The Madonna can now be seen in the convent church; the most holy in Spain next after the Santiago de Compostela. You can go by aerial ropeway to the Montserrat convent on the 1224 meters high mountain. The aerial ropeway can be used to the convent as well as further up the mountain. Do go hiking and enjoy

the many sights. By the way, Christopher Columbus used the name of the convent, when he, on his second trip across the Atlantic, named one of the Antilles Montserrat.

69. Costa Brava



From the city Blanes and North, 60 kilometres North East of Barcelona

The words Costa Brava leaves you with many associations of holiday life, cosy villages and lovely sandy beaches; definitely part of the characteristics of the area. Costa Brava, meaning the Wild Coast, stretches from the city Blanes and all the way north to the French border. It offers many sights and resorts. Here are mentioned just a few of the coastal cities.

70. Blanes

Blanes, 60 km NE

www.blanes.net

Station: Blanes

The city of Blanes is an old fishing village, which apart from a lovely, long sandy beach has two botanical gardens. Jardí Botànic Pinya de Rosa in Murta (Passeig Karl Faust) was founded in 1924 and has a collection of more than 4000 different subtropical plants. The botanical garden specialises in Central and South America, in addition to Catalonia. There are even special areas with poisonous, aromatic and medical plants. The garden Jardí Botànic Pinya de Rosa has an equally spectacular collection, in which they have specialised in Aloes and cactuses. It is, at the same

time, a marvellous garden arrangement. The area has splendid shopping opportunities and different historical sights dating back to the 16th century.

71. Tossa de Mar



Tossa de Mar, 85 km NE

www.infotossa.com

Station: Blanes (bus from here)

Tossa del Mar, north of Blanes, was founded by the Romans 2000 years ago. Today, the city is a lively tourist destination, but you can still see many of the interesting historical buildings of the city. The remains of the Roman Ametller estate can be seen in the excavation area in which ceramics, mosaics and different things, such as bathtubs have been found. The objects from the excavation are now kept in the city museum. Vila Vella is the old part of the city from the Middle Ages. Vila Vella is surrounded by defence walls from the 12th century, however partially altered in 1387. The city had a Gothic church as well as up to eighty houses. It is the finest example of the fortified Catalanian Mediterranean cities that through time have had to defend themselves against enemies on land as well as pirates of the sea. The city museum, Museu de Tossa de Mar is placed in Vila Vella's old governors' estate, Casa Falguera, built in the 1300s. Apart from archaeological finds, there is an art museum e.g.

with a work of art by Marc Chagall. The turret Can Magi, also known as the Mauri Tower, was built in 16th century as a defence against North African pirates. The towers from which you could warn the villagers of enemies were set along the coastline.

72. Tossa de Mar-Sant Feliu de Guixols

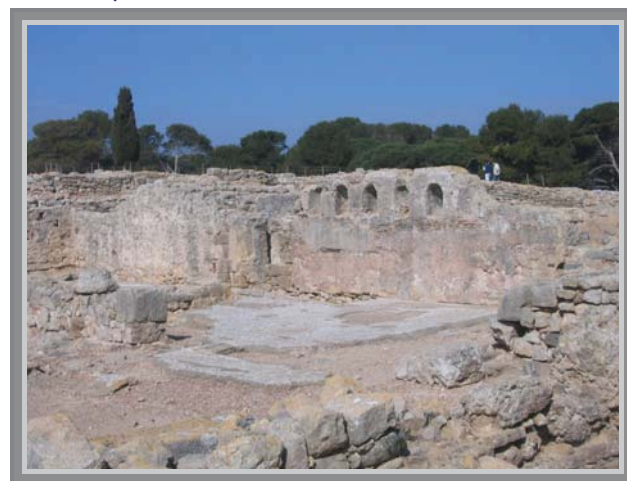
Tossa de Mar-Sant Deliu de Guixols, 85-110 km NE

www.tossademar.com

Station: Blanes (bus from here)

If you are in Tossa del Mar, the coastline between the cities Tossa del Mar and Sant Feliu de Guixols is worth the entire trip. It is among the most beautiful along the Costa Brava, the Wild Coast, which does indeed live up to its name. By car, you wriggle your way up and down the torn countryside along the coast of the Mediterranean.

73. Empúries



Empúries, 140 km NE

www.mac.cat/empuries

Station: Figueres (bus from here)

Empúries, close to the French border, was founded in 575 B.C. by the Greeks under the name Emporion, meaning market. Around 550 B.C. the villagers moved from the original place on an island in the river Fluvià to the present site. The Romans later on conquered the city, which for a time being was independent, but otherwise heavily expanded during the time of the Romans. When Barcelona and Tarragona gradually grew in power, Empúrius

had played out his role; at first the old Greek part of town was abandoned. Then – during the later Viking raids, even the more modern facilities were abandoned. You can see quite a lot of excavated ruins; e.g. in the original Greek city, called Palaiapolis. The walls around the new city, Neapolis, were built and altered 500 – 200 B.C., and they are relatively well kept. There are also still ruins of Roman thermae and the ancient Christian basilica. You can even see fine details such as floor mosaics and a well functioning water supply system.

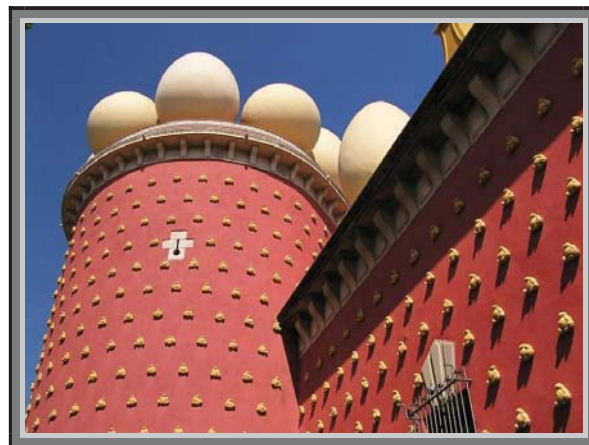
74. Figueres

Figueres, 145 km NE

Station: Figueres

Close to the French border, there is a cosy and typically Catalan city called Figueres. In spite of the relatively small size with only 40.000 citizens, there are several sights of which only the most important are mentioned here.

74a. Teatro-Museu Salvador Dalí



Plaça Gala-Salvador Dalí 5

www.salvador-dali.org

The famous artist Salvador Dalí was born in Figueres and the building, which in his childhood was the town theatre, he himself made as a setting for the museum of the history of Dalí and his works. The building is a prominent example of Dalí's surrealist style. Among the objects in the exhibition is the famous couch shaped like Mae West's lips. In the crypt of the museum, Salvador Dalí himself is buried.

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74b. Castell de Sant Ferran



Carrer del Castell

www.castillosanfernando.org

Castell de Sant Ferran is the great fortress of Figueres built on order by King Ferdinand VI after multiple attacks from the French throughout the 17th century and the first half of the 18th century. The construction work was initiated in 1753 and lasted until the beginning of the 19th century. The construction is one of the largest of its kind in Europe; e.g. the surrounding wall is 3,2 kilometres long. To the knowledge of those historically interested this was where the final battles of the Spanish Civil War were fought.

75. Sitges

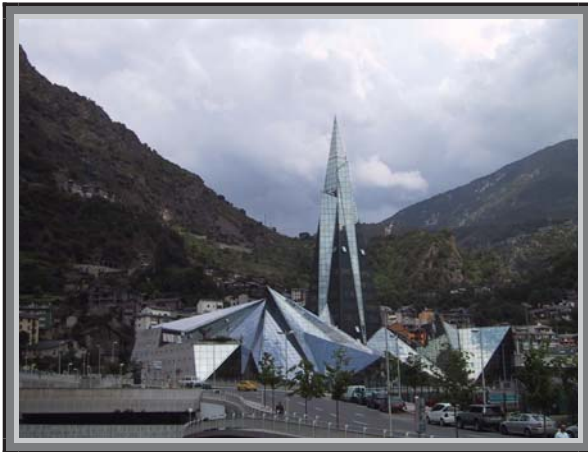


Sitges, 40 km SW

Station: Sitges

The city of Sitges on Costa Dorada south of Barcelona is among the favoured swimming locations of the Catalonians. The city has, apart from many beaches, a wonderful beach promenade and a lovely old quarter in which you find the 1600's church Sant Bartomeu in Santa Tecla. This is picturesquely placed under the palm trees on the promenade. Sitges is an adventure of wonderful patios, small interesting museums and all in all a very nice atmosphere.

76. Andorra



Andorra la Vella, 200 km N

www.turisme.ad

You will find the mountain state, Andorra, in 800-2900 meters altitude in the Pyrenees north of Barcelona. The state was founded in 805 and quickly fell under the city Urgell. Already in 1176, Andorra again became independent, but the written constitution of the country was not composed until 1993.

Throughout the centuries, Andorra has been influenced by the two larger neighbouring countries, France and Spain. Andorra is 468 square kilometres and today almost 70.000 citizens live here. Most visitors go to the capital Andorra la Vella, not far from the border. The town is well visited and known for its tax-free shopping opportunities. With the short distances between everything you can easily go sightseeing, shop and eat out while strolling around. Among Andorra la Vella's sights is the Santa Coloma church from 9th century as well as the building Casa de la Vall; the Parliament and Ministry of Legal Affairs. The building was constructed in 1580 and used as a parliament from 1702. The church Esglesia Sant Esteve was built in the first millennium and inside you can see paintings from the 13th century. Andorra also has different museums. Most are in Andorra la Vella (for instance the Andorra Car Museum; Museu Nacional de l'Automóbil) or in the city Ordino (the miniature museum; Museu de la Miniatura and the Post Museum, Museu Postal)



Metro Map



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Museu de Ciències Natural – Museu Zoologia (Passeig Picasso/Parc de la Ciutadella):
www.bcn.cat/museuciencies

Parc del Laberint d'Horta (Passeig Castanyers 1)
Parc Zoològic de Barcelona (Parc de la Ciutadella):
www.zoobarcelona.com

Tibidabo Amusement Park (Placa Tibidado 3-4):
www.tibidabo.es

Universal Port Aventura (Port Aventura, Tarragona, 100 km SW):
www.portaventura.es

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www.lesglories.com

Diagonal (Avenida Diagonal):
www.diagonalmar.com

El Bulevard Rosa (Passeig de Gràcia 53/55):
www.bulevardrosa.com

El Corte Inglés (Plaça de Catalunya 14/Avenida Diagonal 617/Avenida Portal d'Àngel 19/21):
www.elcorteingles.es

La Maquinista (Passeig de Potosí):
www.lamaquinista.com

L'Illa Diagonal (Avenida Diagonal 545/557):
www.lilla.com

Maremagnum (Moll d'Espanya):
www.maremagnum.es

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www.renfe.es



Hola Madrid

A visit to Madrid

www.descubremadrid.com

www.spain.info

Madrid is an impressive city and the centre of Spain. The city, in the middle of the Iberian peninsula, has been Spain's politically assembling point for centuries. This has left its mark on the island with many great buildings, and with the royal palace as one of the best sights.

Tourists are met, not only by sensing the presence of history, but also by a poetic, southern atmosphere where the adventurous can stroll along the narrow streets of old Madrid near Puerto del Sol and Plaza Mayor.

Madrid is the city of kings. It is also a city that is visited by many, not least in order to visit amazing art museums such as the Prado Museum, which houses the works of numerous great European masters. Close by you will find wonderful places to relax in some of the grand parks for which the city is also known.

Madrid is also the home of many major football teams including the most successful club in history, Real Madrid. Their match programme, I am sure, will be perused by many before they arrive in the Spanish capital. This capital, with more than three million citizens and plenty of activities, has experiences for everyone.

Happy holiday!

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The advertisement features a light blue background with a central graphic. The graphic consists of four colored squares arranged horizontally, separated by plus and equals signs. From left to right: a dark grey square with a white shopping cart icon labeled 'Student Discounts'; a blue square with a white calendar icon showing '2009' labeled 'Student Events'; a light grey square with a black pound sterling symbol (£) labeled 'Money Saving Advice'; and a yellow square with three white stars labeled 'Happy Days!'. Below the graphic, the text 'wealthystudent.co.uk' is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'wealthy' in dark grey and 'student.co.uk' in blue.

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Historical outline

The history of Madrid dates from the year 852 when the Moors, who ruled the area from Cordoba, built the fortress Mayrit which later became Madrid. The Moors' emirate kept the area until the first millennium when the Castille from the North conquered still more ground and forced the Arabian Moors into the South. In 1085 the Castille conquered Madrid. However, the city was at that time still a minor and unimportant village.

The status of Madrid as a capital was introduced, in the year of 1561, by King Felipe II. Henceforth the number of inhabitants quadrupled.

The construction of famous monuments and buildings increased rapidly after the reign of Felipe II, here among the foundation of Plaza Mayor. Thus the Habsburgian Monarchy has left behind many of the sights you find in Madrid today.

The construction work increased and art flourished in Madrid. The city gained financially from the income of Spain's great colonies in America. The last Habsburgian King, Carlos III, died in the year 1700. His death initiated the War of the Spanish Succession, which subsequently led to France inserting the Bourbons as rulers.

The Bourbons introduced the clearly French inspired constructions and in the first half of the 1700s the Palacio Real was erected. New areas were founded in Madrid and the area around the Prado Museum was mostly established by Carlos III in the 1700s. An example is Puerto del Alcala, a part of the new city. French architects and advisers often participated in the construction work.

Spain later made a deal with Napoleon who, nonetheless, occupied Spain with French troops. The new king was Napoleons brother José who, as ruler, had Plaza Oriente designed according to the ideal of Paris.

After a few years France was forced to retreat, and in the year 1813 Spanish Fernando VII was made king. In 1820, the king accepted the first constitution of Spain, which ended the absolute monarchy.

In 1833, Isabella II became ruler after Fernando VII and the following decades were coloured by the changing political trends and several political coups d'état. The political awareness in Madrid and the increasing financial prosperity made the distance to the monarchy still greater and in 1873 it reached its climax when Spain was proclaimed a republic.

However, this regime only lasted a short while and in 1875 the monarchy was reinstated.

Madrid encountered decades of financial success, at first without any major disturbances between the ruler and the politicians.

Politically and financially it went downhill during the time of Alfonso XIII's reign. The king chose a political solution introducing dictatorship during Primo de Rivera in 1923. Financially, the city as well as the country, experienced tremendous loss and this culminated in 1931, when Spain once again became a republic.

Spain, and certainly also Madrid with its large population, were coloured by the same political flow as in huge parts of Europe. The views of the working class gained ground in Madrid the same year as the troops of General Francisco Franco conquered still more of Spain and got closer to the city until Madrid, at the end of the Spanish Civil War, was fought over.

Francisco Franco was made dictator of Spain and he was to rule the country for more than 35 years. The first years following the Spanish Civil War were financially very hard on Madrid and on Spain. War ravaged in Europe while Spain in many ways had to be rebuilt.

When Franco died in 1975, Juan Carlos was made king and democracy was introduced. The first elections were held in 1977. During the 1980s, Madrid flourished culturally and both the city and the country saw great financial development among other things through achieving UN membership.

In Madrid things happened fast and so the city was appointed European City of Culture which contributed to the making of the charming and grand metropolis you see today

Tour 1: Madrid

1. Puerto del Sol



Puerto del Sol

Metro: Sol

Puerto del Sol is the constantly pulsating centre of Madrid and a square that you easily reach from every station on the city metro net. Puerto del Sol means Gate of the Sun and this is where the eastern gate of the city was in the walls of the 1400s. The sun rose in the east and thus the gate got its name. On the southern side of Puerto del Sol you find the most characteristic and central building; a former post office. This was built from 1766-1768 and was the Ministry of Internal Affairs during the reign of Francisco Franco. Today, it is one of Madrid's buildings of administration. The square is also the exact centre of all of Spain as the country's mileage distances are measured from here. In front of the central building to the south, you can see the milestone itself.

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2. Plaza Mayor



Plaza Mayor

Metro: Sol

Plaza Mayor is one of the most beautiful squares in Europe. The rectangular place measuring 129 times 94 meters was drawn in 1581 when King Filipe II wanted to reconstruct the area formerly known as Plaza del Arrabel. The construction work, however, did not start until 1617, when King Filipe III initiated it. The square you see today was arranged in 1790 after several fires had ravaged the neighbourhood. The equestrian statue in the middle portraying Filipe III is from 1616. It was put here in 1848. Since the construction, Plaza Mayor has played a significant role in the history of Madrid. Great festivals, coronation ceremonies and bullfighting have taken place here. Today, Plaza Mayor has different activities and shows and it is a special adventure to experience the environment. You can also just sit here and relax in this amazing city space with its surrounding Baroque buildings. It is a regular oasis just a few meters away from the frenzied metropole.

3. Palacio de Santa Cruz

Plaza de la Provincia 1

<http://edit.mae.es/en/MenuPpal/Ministerio>

Metro: Sol

The palace like building, Palacio de Santa Cruz, was built between 1629 and 1636. The work was initiated by King Filipe IV and is a fine example of Habsburgian architecture. It now houses the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

4. Mercado de San Miguel



Plaza de San Miguel

Metro: Sol/Ópera

Mercado de San Miguel is a cosy market interestingly organized in a wrought-iron building from 1913-1916. Among other things, you can buy fruits and vegetables on the market.

5. Plaza de la Villa



Plaza de la Villa

Metro: Sol/Ópera

The city square, Plaza de la Villa, is the old town hall square of Madrid. It is placed impressively by the street Calle Mayor and is a beautiful room in the old city. There are several interesting buildings around the square.

The house and tower Casa y Torre de los Lujanes is from the early 1400s. It is named after the first citizens and built with a Gothic portal and

horseshoe shaped vaults. Frans the 1st of France is said to have been imprisoned here in the year 1525.

The spire- and tower decorated work on the western side of the square is the former city hall. The stately baroque building was constructed in the latter half of the 1600s.

6. Basilica de San Isidro



Calle Toledo 37

Metro: La Latina/ Tirso de Molina

The great church with its two towers was temporarily used as a cathedral when Catedral de la Almudena was built. The style is inspired by the Gesu church in Rome and it is built in 1622 in the same spot where a former church was consecrated in 1567. In the church, the remains of the guardian angel of Madrid, San Isidro, are preserved.

7. Real Basilica de San Francisco el Grande

Plaza de San Francisco el Grande

Metro: Puerta Toledo/ Latina

The San Francisco el Grande – basilica was before the opening of Catedral de la Almudena one of the most important church buildings of Madrid. From the outside, the amazingly large dome impresses and inside you can admire numerous works; here among Goya's painting of Bernadinus of Sienna.

8. Puerto de Toledo



Glorieta Puerto de Toledo

Metro: Puerto Toledo

Puerto de Toledo is one of the two remaining city gates of Madrid. The other one is Puerto de Alcalá. The gate is set on the old road to Toledo and the building was started, when Joseph Bonaparte reigned in Spain. The construction work was initially meant to be a triumphal arch devoted to Napoleon, but when it was finished in 1817 it instead became a symbol of the return of King Ferdinand the 7th. From 1625 there was an earlier gate in this place.

9. Parque de la Arganzuela

Pasea de Yserias

Metro: Pirámides

The Arganzuela Park was opened in 1969 and in spite of it being sited near large roads, it is a wonderful and relaxing oasis elegantly established with shady avenues, lawns, squares, and fountains. The park is not big, but a cosy place south of the old city

Tour 2: Madrid

10. Teatro Real



Plaza de Oriente

www.teatroreal.com

Metro: Ópera

The royal theatre of Madrid, Teatro Real, was opened in 1818 on Princess Isabella the II's 18th birthday. In spite of the name, it is an opera scene and it is acoustically among the best in the world. The theatre was used as an opera house until 1925, when the construction of the Madrid metro had destroyed the building and forced it to shut. It did not open until 1966, this time doing theatre. In the 1990s it was once again converted into an opera house. In Teatro Real there is a museum that gives tours. You will also find a cafeteria from where you can enjoy the view of Palacio Real.

11. Plaza de Oriente



Plaza de Oriente

Metro: Ópera

Plaza de Oriente is a grand and magnificent square arranged according to Parisian ideals during the reign of Joseph Bonaparte. It was formerly used for residential blocks. These were cleared and the idea was that a boulevard such as Champs-Élysées was to be constructed. This part, however, was never realised. There are many things to see in this square; not at least the 44 statues placed in two rows. They represent kings and queens who have reigned on the Iberian peninsula and are placed around an equestrian statue of King Felipe the 4th.

12. Catedral de la Almudena



Calle de Bailén

Metro: Ópera

Already in the 1500s, there were thoughts about building a cathedral devoted to the Virgin of Almudena by the Madrid royal castle. However, the construction work of the church was not initiated until 1879. From the beginning of the Spanish Civil War till 1950 the construction work was stationary. Hereafter the original drawings were altered to what you can see today.

Catedral de la Almudena was consecrated by the Pope in 1993. The interior is a very modern and colourful version of Modern Gothic, which is interesting. In 2004 images from the Cathedral were shown all over the world when the Spanish Crown Prince Felipe married Letizia Ortiz.

13. Palacio Real



Plaza de la Armería

www.patrimoniacionacional.es/preal/preal.htm

Metro: Ópera

The royal castle, Palacio Real, is with its more than 2000 rooms one of the largest in Europe and an amazing spectacle awaits visitors. The castle was royal residence until 1931, but is still used today for large ceremonies. You should grant yourself a visit to Palacio Real, which is one of Madrid's most unforgettable places.

Palacio Reals position and the adjacent park, its beautiful interior, fine art collections with paintings by Goya, Rubens and Velásquez offer an incredible general impression.

Behind the grand architectural exterior of the castle, an amazing display of detail and diversity unfold in the many halls you may visit. The tour marvellously starts with the great stairs leading to the antechambers of the throne room, which in its red, warm colours is a little marvel in itself. The many following rooms differ so much in décor and interior that you can spend hours exploring the castle. Notice the exhibited artefacts that include, among other things, Flora Danica china and several violins built by Stradivarius.

Remember to pay a visit to the old royal pharmacy from the castle square. The pharmacy provides a good impression of curative methods from the latter centuries.

14. Jardines de Sabatini



Calle de Bailén

Metro: Santo Domingo/Príncipe Pio

Jardines de Sabatini is the palace garden of the Madrid royal castle. It was arranged in 1933 and named after the Italian Francesco Sabatini who in the 1700s worked on the construction of the castle. The garden was opened by King Juan Carlos in 1978 to the public. Trees, statues and fountains are symmetrically and beautifully placed.

15. Senado

**Plaza de la Marina Espanola**

www.senado.es

Metro: Santo Domingo/ Plaza de Espana

The Spanish Senate, Senado, is the house of lords of the parliament of the country. There are 259 members of whom 208 are directly elected and the remaining 51 regionally appointed. The senate consists of two buildings; an older and a modern building shaped as a semicircle.

16. Campo del Moro

**Paseo de la Virgen del Puerto/ Cuesta de la Vega**

Metro: Principe Pio

Campo del Moro is a gorgeous park set below the royal castle to the west. The name Moro comes from an Arabian warrior who in the Middle Ages tried to conquer the castle that was placed where you find the current royal castle today.

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Green lawns and magnificent plantations are the superior impression of the park that also holds a few interesting fountains; The Triton of the 1600s, which originally was located in Aranjuez and Las Conchas that is somewhat newer.

In Campo del Moro is also a wagon museum, Museo de Carruajes, with many fine old vehicles.



Tour 3: Madrid

17. Real Academia de Bella Artes



Calle Alcalá 13

<http://rabasf.insde.es/>

Metro: Sevilla

This is the royal Spanish Academy of Arts founded in 1744. Around 20 years later King Carlos the 3rd bought a baroque palace and had it reconstructed into an academy. Through the years the place has been expanded and today it also houses an art museum. In the museum you can see works by Rubens and Goya.

18. Gran Via



Gran Via

Metro: Callao/ Gran Via

Gran Via is the fashionable main shopping street of Madrid and was arranged as a grand project in the 1920s between the squares Plaza de Cibeles and Plaza de Espana. Many of the leading businesses in Spain tried to exceed each other in the expensive construction work of that time which is why the street today is a long row of impressive buildings. Please remember to notice the many details and variations between the individual constructions, of which only the most famous are mentioned. From the east-end you are met by the Metropolis building, Edificio Metrópolis, built 1907-1911. On the top of the richly ornamented dome you can see the winged Goddess of Victory. Further west the house Edificio Grassy from 1917 rises and further down is the 88 meters high Telefónica building, which after its construction between 1926-1929, was the highest in town.

Where Gran Via turns to the west by Plaza del Calleo you will find a row of traditional cinemas whereof the Capitol is one of Madrid's beautiful art Deco houses.

19. El Manasterio de las Descalzas Reales

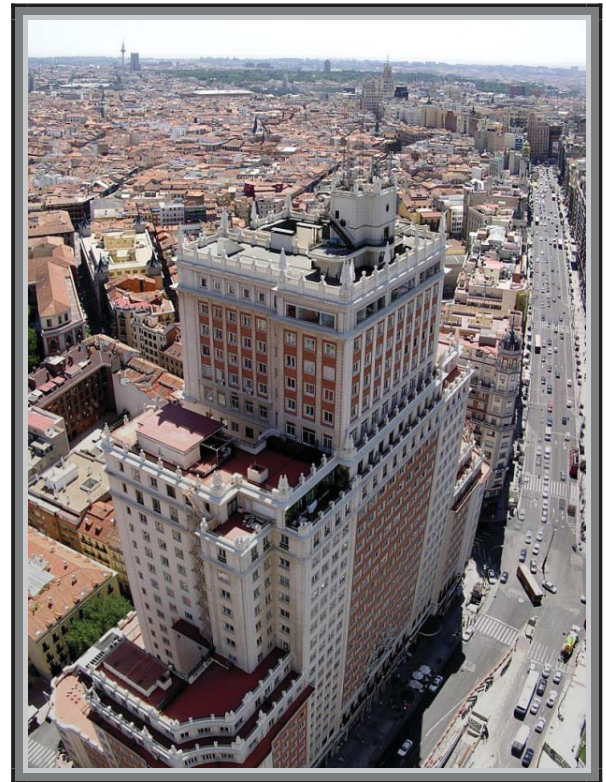


Plaza de las Descalzas Reales

Metro: Callao

Descalzas Reales is a Franciscan Convent arranged in King Carlos the 1st and Queen Isabellas former palace. Their daughter Johanna founded the convent in 1557. Through the centuries after the establishment many wealthy aristocratic women paid for a place here and thus the convent became one of the most financially secured in Europe. Throughout time the composition of citizens changed to house decidedly poor people and as a means to keep the place running the Pope gave permission to open the place as a museum. In the museum you can see the exact buildings where relics supposedly are kept; among others a part of the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

20. Plaza de Espana



Plaza de Espana
Metro: Plaza de Espana

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Plaza de Espana is the first large construction in Madrid since the ending of the Spanish Civil War. The square was a symbol of the upcoming financial state of Madrid and it formed a new centre in this part of Madrid, immediately northwest of the old part of the city. In the square park, which is a lovely oasis right beside the city main street, you can see the Madrigals relax and allow yourself to become part of the city life while admiring the centrally placed monument. It depicts the artist Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra who lived in 1500-1600s. The monument is created over several periods of time, first in 1925-1930 and finished in 1956-1957.

Construction-wise, Plaza de Espana is dominated by two of the highest sky scrapers of Madrid. The 117 meters high Edificio Espana was build on request of Francisco Franco 1948-1953 and was a status symbol of the competence of the country and was the first skyscraper of the city. Torre de Madrid is from 1957 and with its 142 meters the highest of its kind in Spain.

21. Iglesia de San Marcos

Calle de San Leonardo 10

Metro: Plaza de Espana

The San Marco church was built in 1749-1753 by the architect Ventura Rodríguez. It is a nice example of how you, even on rather small and oblique ground plans in the midst of the city, can build a spacious church.

22. Museo Cerralbo

Calle Ventura Rodríguez 17

www.museocerralbo.mcu.es

Metro: Plaza de Espana

The Cerralbo palace from the 1800s is today a monument for Enrique de Aguilera y Gamboa, the 17th Marquis of Cerralbo.

The palace gives a good impression of the wealth in Madrid's better society. The big stairs and the ballroom are the most impressive, but the entire house impresses as a palace and varies the image of Madrid even further.

The Marqui travelled a lot and in the museum you can see many of the things he brought home; paintings, sculptures and lamps.

23. Templo de Debod



Parque de la Mantana/ Paseo del Pintor Rosales

www.munimadrid.es/templebod

Metro: Rodríguez

Templo de Debod is something as special as an original Egyptian temple in the midst of Madrid. It was built in Philea in Southern Egypt in the first century B.C. during the reign of King Tabriquo. It was later expanded by diverse kings and by the Roman emperors Augustus and Tiberius. When one wanted to build the Aswan embankment in Egypt the country asked for help to protect the unique treasures that would be flooded. As a thank you to Spain, that helped move the Abu Simbel temples, the Egyptian State gave Spain Templo de Debod in 1968. It was reconstructed in beautiful surroundings in Madrid and opened in 1971.

24. Rosaleda de Madrid



Parque del Oeste, Calle de la Rosaleda

Metro: Rodríguez

Rosaleda de Madrid is an incredible green area, which among other things holds a large rose garden. Besides from seeing the many beautiful roses you can go for a stroll in the Zen garden, look at the monuments or simply enjoy all the green here close to the city centre.

25. Plaza de la Moncloa



Plaza de la Moncloa

Metro: Moncloa

The Moncloa square is one of Madrid's great and well-arranged squares. Here are several exciting things to see. The grand, palace-like building on the western side of the square is the main quarter of the Spanish Air force.

To the north, you find the triumphal arch, Arco de la Victoria, built in 1956 in honour of the Spanish Army. On the arch it says 1937 in Latin letters, which refers to a part of the row of victories during the Spanish Civil War for Franco's nationalists.

26. Faro de Moncloa

Plaza de la Moncloa

Metro: Moncloa

Faro de Moncloa means lighthouse of Moncloa and it is a very high tower you can see from far away. It is built in 1990-1992, is 100 meters high and has an observatory at the top from where there is a very nice view of Madrid.

27. Museo de América



Avenida Reyes Calólicos 6

<http://museodeamerica.mcu.es>

Metro: Moncloa

This museum exhibits articles from the American continents and not least the exhibitions from the pre-Columbian era are very interesting. Inca gold, mummies and different sorts of ceramics are just a few examples of the abundant collections.

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Tour 4: Madrid

28. Estación de Atocha



Glorieta del Emperador Carlos V

Metro: Atocha Renfe

Estación de Atocha is the biggest and oldest train station of Madrid. It was originally built in 1851 but had to be restored after a fire and thus the present railway station was finished in 1892.

The railway station has a quite impressive exterior designed by Alberto de Palacio Elissagne assisted by Gustave Eiffel. This construction is a marvellous example of how railway stations were built in the latter part of the 1800s. The tour through the railway station is worth participating in. The hall of the old railway station has now been organized with 4000 square meter covered palm tree garden from where you can feel the atmosphere and watch the travelling Madrignals. The trains depart from the railway station of 1992.

29. Museo Nacional Centre de Arte Reina Sofia

Calle Santa Isabel 52

www.museoreinasofia.es

Metro: Atocha

The museum, Reina Sofia, complements the two other major art museums on Paseo del Prado with contemporary art from the 1900s; not least by Spanish artists.

Here you will find various exhibitions, always with a high standard, and you can even see the famous *Guernica* by Picasso, displayed in a room especially decorated for this piece.

The central part of the museum is organized in an old hospital from the 1700s.

30. Palacio de Fernán Núñez

Calle Santa Isabel 44

www.ffe.es/palacio.htm

Metro: Atocha

The building is known as Palacio de Cervellón and constructed in 1847 for the Duke and Duchess of Fernán Núñez. In 1941 the building was taken over by the Spanish railroads whose administration still is placed here.

The ballroom is very luxurious, but it is only open occasionally.

31. Real Jardín Botánico



Plaza Murillo 2

www.rjb.csic.es

Metro:Atocha

The royal botanical garden of Madrid was arranged on behalf of King Ferdinand the 6th in 1755. From the beginning the garden was to be used for scientific research of plants, which it still very much is. There are now different parts of the garden; some with green houses in which you can have a closer

look on both exciting plants and the research results of the place.

32. Paseo del Prado

Paseo del Prado

Metro: Atocha/ Banco de España

A stroll down the street Paseo del Prado is for many tourists the reason for going to Madrid. For here you will find two of Europe's most famous museum collections side by side; Museo del Prado and Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. The two museums are among what makes Madrid an absolute leading art city with several world-class works and collections.

33. Museo del Prado



Paseo del Prado

www.museoprado.mcu.es

Metro: Atocha/ Banco de España

The Prado museum is known around the world for its magnificent and large collections of paintings. Works by Goya, Rembrandt, Rubens, Raphael, El Greco and Velazquez are just a few of the artists you can enjoy in the many halls. The collection includes paintings made by great European Masters as well as Spaniards.

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The collection covers art from 1100-1800 and the foundation for the museum opening in 1819 was the royal art collection.

34. Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza



Paseo del Prado 8

www.museothyssen.org

Metro: Banco de España

The Thyssen-Bornemisza museum opened in 1992 founded on baron von Thyssen-Bornemiszas great collection of paintings. The works come from the period 1200-1900 and is therefore quite comprehensive. Paintings by Miró, Picasso, Rafael and Van Dyck are some of the highlights in the beautifully decorated museum.

35. Banco de España



Paseo de Prado 2

www.bde.es

Metro: Banco de España

Banco de España is the Spanish National Bank that King Carlos the 3rd established in 1782. The beautiful main building was constructed in the 1880s in a distinguished French style.

36. Plaza de Cibeles

Plaza de Cibeles

Metro: Banco de España

The square Plaza de Cibeles was named after the Goddess Cybele, also known as Mother of the Gods, Magna Mater. There is a fountain with a statue of Cybele in the square. It is from around 1780 and has become one of the symbols of Madrid.

Plaza de Cibeles is also where the beautifully arranged boulevard and promenade, Paseo de Recoletos, starts to the north.

36a. Palacio de Linares



Plaza de Cibeles 2

www.casamerica.es

In 1873, King Amadeo 1st rewarded the banker José de Murga by appointing him Marqués de Linares. He built the grandest palace in town, Palacio de Linares, which has an amazing rococo décor. It is a visit worth spending time on. Most impressive is the first floor and the highlight is the ballroom. After a period of dilapidation the house became “Casa de America” with pictorial art done by South American artists.

36b. Palacio de Comunicaciones



www.munimadrid.es

The Palace of Communication, Palacio de Comunicaciones, is one of Madrid's most characteristic buildings. Seen from the outside it looks like a castle, but the building from 1904-1909 is now the central post office of Madrid. In 2007, the building was re-decorated and now houses the city hall of Madrid.

37. Puerto de Alcalá



Plaza de Independencia

Metro: Retiro

On the Independence Square stands the Alcalá gate, Puerto de Alcalá. The gate opened in 1778 as an integrated part of the city walls, where the road towards the city Alcalá began. It was King Carlos 3rd's idea to beautify the city towards the east and thus a former gate was replaced by this new fine gate.

38. Parque del Buen Retiro



Entrance through Avenida de Méjico etc.

Metro: Retiro

The 1.4 square meters large park, Retiro, lies in the middle of Madrid and is a particularly popular place for the Madrignals to go for a walk or to enjoy with their children. The park was arranged as a castle park for the Alcázar castle of Madrid in 1632 when it was still outside the city. You can still see the lines of the old park even though it has been altered since then. The castle itself was destroyed during the Napoleonic wars.

Gardens, fountains and flowers surround visitors who at the same time can see the buildings Palacio de Velásquez and Palacio de Cristal, both from the end of the 1800s. The fine glass building, Palacio de Cristal, was inspired by the Crystal Palace in London. In the centre of the park, you can see the impressive monument for King Alfonso the 12th from 1901. A semicircular colonnade surrounds the king portrayed on a tall equestrian statue.

39. Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas

Calle Alcalá 237

www.las-ventas.com

Metro: Ventas

The Plaza de Toros de la Ventas arena is, with its more than 22.000 seats, the biggest bull-fighting arena in Spain. It was built in 1922-1929 in a so-called *múdejar* style, which indicates a Moorish inspiration. The opening show was in 1931.

The arena replaced the former bull-fighting stadium of the city, which, after an increasing interest in bull fighting, had become too small. It now measures 60 metres across the diagonal and the finest of the many seats are those in the beautifully constructed royal box.

40. Torrespaña



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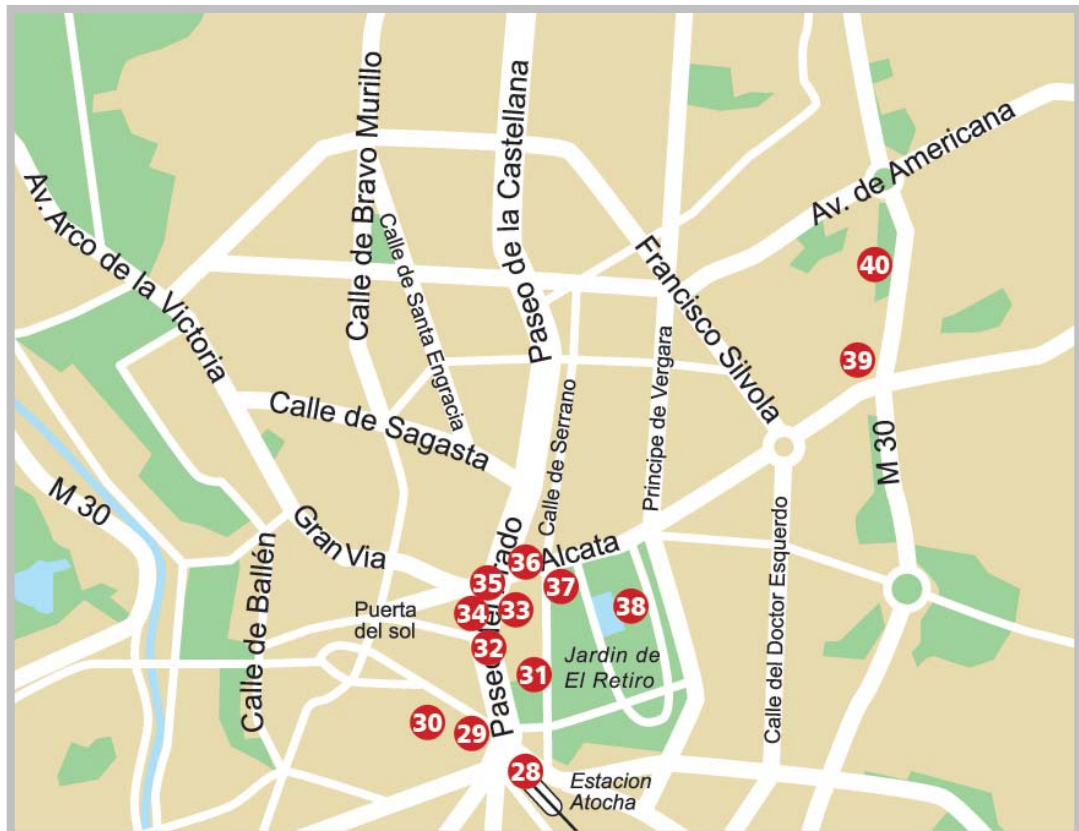
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can be seen from e.g. Parque de la Fuente del Berro

Metro: O'Donnell

Torrespaña is a 231 meters high television tower erected to transmit the football world championships held in Spain in 1982. Locally, because of its form, the tower is known as Pirulí, which means lollipop.



Tour 5: Madrid

41. Museo Municipal

Calle Fuencarral 78

www.munimadrid.es/museomunicipal/

Metro: Tribunal

Museo Municipal is the town museum of Madrid. Here are all sorts of artefacts telling the history and development of the city. Models of the city throughout time are among the interesting objects. The museum building is Baroque and from 1700. It has formerly been an orphanage.

42. Iglesia de Santa Bárbara

Calle de Bárbara de Braganza

Metro: Colón

Iglesia de Santa Bárbara is one of the impressive Baroque churches in Madrid. It is built from 1750-1757 and especially the very fine façade and superior interior décor is worth seeing.

43. Plaza de Colón

Plaza de Colón

Metro: Colón

The square, Plaza de Colón, is named after the explorer Christopher Columbus, in Spanish called Cristóbal Colón. Among the monuments on the square you can see a statue of Columbus erected in 1885. Columbus stands on the top of an ornamented foundation pointing to the ocean that made him famous and Spain rich. On the opposite side of the square fountain, is a sculptural monument of concrete. There are different inscriptions on it.

44. Biblioteca Nacional de España



Paseo de Recoletos 20-22

www.bne.es

Metro: Recoletos/ Colón

Biblioteca Nacional de España is the national library of Spain and the biggest in the country. It was founded in 1711 as a royal, public library by King Felipe 5th. It shares a building with Spain's national archaeological museum, in a big Modern Classicism building from 1868-1892.

45. Museo Arqueológico Nacional



Calle de Serrano 13

<http://man.mcu.es>

Metro: Recoletos/ Colón

This is the national archaeological museum of Spain. It exhibits a long row of artefacts found all over the country, also including some foreign objects. One of

the highlights is the Islamic collection, which, considering the long period of Moorish rule is quite voluminous. The museum was founded in 1867 on the orders from Queen Isabella 2nd. In 1895, it was moved to the present building, constructed in 1866-1892.

46. Museo Lázaro Galdiano

Calle de Serrano 122

www.flg.es/museo/museo.htm

Metro: Ruben Darío/ Nuñes de Balboa

Museo Lázaro Galdiano is a museum decorated in an 19th century house. Every floor bursts with art, paintings, articles for everyday use, jewellery and other things. Painting wise, many great artists are represented; for instance the Spaniards El Greco and Velásquez and several English landscape painters.

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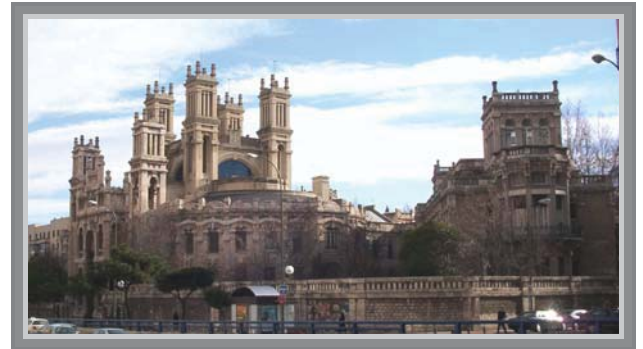
Milkround.com

47. AZCA

**Plaza de Pablo Ruiz Picasso****Metro: Nuevos Ministerios**

The letters AZCA stands for Asociación Mixta de Compensación de la Manzana A de la Zona Comercial de la Avenida del Generalísimo; in short, it is an area with lots of office buildings. The long name refers to the boulevard for Francisco Franco, but since the planning of the area in 1946 the street name has been changed to Paseo de la Castellana. Among the tallest buildings are Torre Picasso, 157 metres, and Torre Europa, 121 metres.

48. Hospital de Jornaleros de San Francisco de Paula

**Calle Raimundo Fernández de Villaverde****Metro: Cuatro Caminos**

This hospital was built in the period from 1908 to 1916, by the architect Antonio Palacios. It is not a great known sight, but a differently constructed building; a centre of parts pointing in eight directions. There are towers and spires on the different parts of the hospital e.g. of the hospital church.

49. Estadio Santiago Bernabéu



Avenida de Concha Espina 1

www.realmadrid.com

Metro: Santiago Bernabéu

For the citizens of Madrid football is part of their everyday life and most feel clearly connected to one of the many clubs, of which the royal club, Real Madrid, is the biggest. Real Madrid is a historic club, which has always had a special appeal to players and spectators. The home ground of Real Madrid, Estadio Santiago Bernabéu, seats 80,000 supporters, and if you are in Madrid during game season it is an amazing experience to attend a game – even if you do not usually care for football.

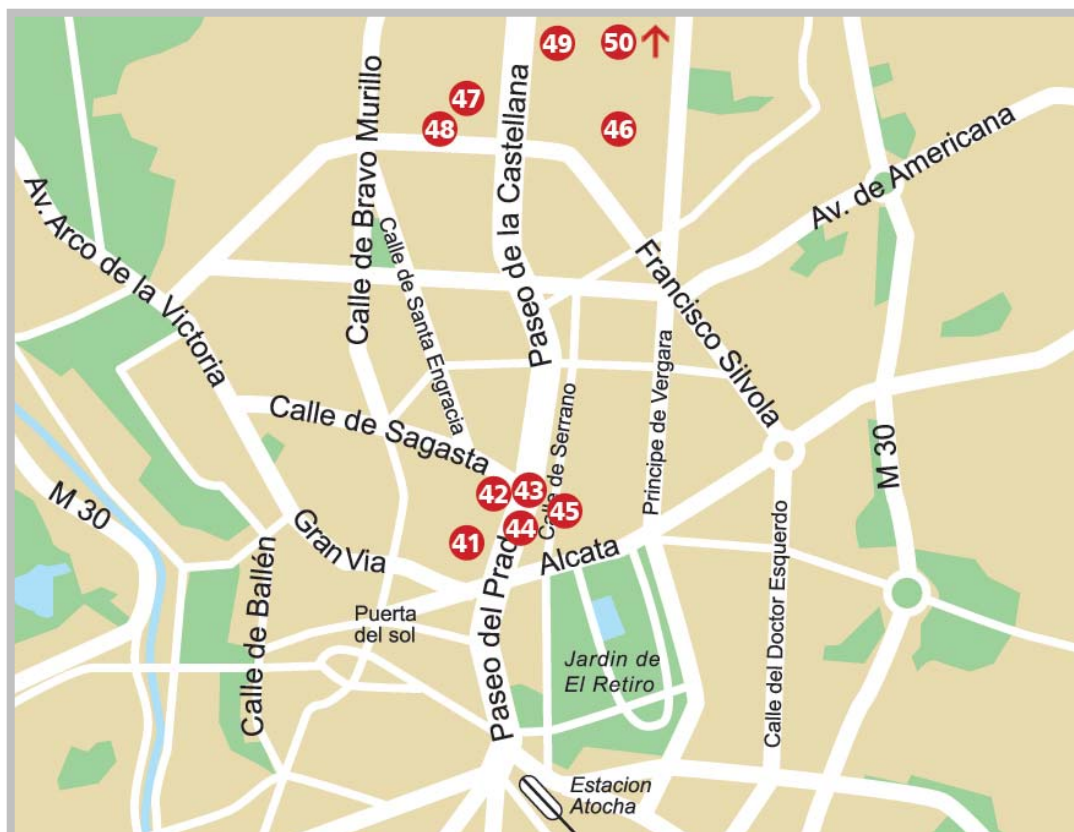
On the stadium you can visit a museum that offers an interesting thoroughfare of the history of Real Madrid and Spanish football. The greatest fight on stadium was the world championship final in 1982, where Italy won 3-1 over West Germany.

50. Puerta de Europa

Plaza de Castilla

Metro: Plaza de Castilla

The European gate, Puerta de Europa, is two modern buildings, which on each side of the square Plaza Castilla, form a big gate. Each building is 115 meters tall and built with a façade angle of 15 degrees. They opened in 1996 in one of Madrid's modern business areas. In front of Puerta de Europa, facing Paseo de la Castellana, you can see a monument for the politician Calvo-Sotelo.



Day Tours from Madrid

51. El Escorial



Avenida de Juan de Borbón y Battenberg, San Lorenzo de el Escorial, 50 km NW.

www.patrimoniocional.es/escorial/escorial.htm

Metro: El Escorial

El Escorial is one of the worlds biggest groups of castles with impressive 30,000 square meters in a ground plan of 244 times 153 meters. The entire main group, El Escorail, consists of a castle, a convent, a library and various functions used for this purpose. Apart from this, there is also a hunting cabin a few kilometres away called La Granjilla de La Fresneda. It was King Felipe 2nd who ordered El Escorial built after the victory over France in 1557. The construction work began in 1563 on a plateau by a little village, which later has developed into the larger El Escorial. The group of buildings have been arranged perfectly symmetrically and with a grandness that was to emphasize the reign and power of the Spanish kings. El Escorial was finished in 1584.

Do remember to set aside some time for this visit and see all of the exciting parts of the building. Some of the highlights of the castle are the royal chambers with the king and queen's rooms; they leave a good impression of the ways of the royal family.

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The crypt where kings and queens are buried is one of the most beautiful and unforgettable rooms. Basically all of the Spanish kings lies here and most of the queens.



The convent in El Escorial still functions as a convent and there is therefore limited access for visitors to this part. However, the beautiful San Lorenzo el Real basilica in the centre of the convent is open. Of the interior of the church, mainly the 28-meter high altar with its many colours and decorations is interesting.

You can visit the library with the amazing collections and this clearly shows the amount of work put into a place such as El Escorial. The library is organized in a 54 meters long hall with 10 meters to the arched ceiling. Marble on the floors and paintings everywhere on the ceiling makes it one of the most attractive rooms of the complex. El Escorial's collection of European art is abundant and a part of these works can be seen in the art gallery here.

52. Valle de los Caidos



Carretere de Guadarrama, El Escorial, 55 kilometres NW

www.patrimoniounacional.es/infprac/visitas/valle.htm

Station: El Escorial

You find Valle de los Caidos, Valley of the Fallen, close to El Escorial, the group of castles. Valle de los Caidos was made in memory of the fallen on both sides of the Spanish Civil War. In the valley itself, up to 40,000 soldiers are buried.

In 1940, it was decided to build a monument made of a tall cross of granite and a monumental church 1300 meters high in the Guadarrama Mountains. Both were finished in 1959.

The cross weighs more than 200,000 ton, it is 152 meters high and the arms are 46 meters wide. These dimensions do indicate the grandeur of the monument that few visitors are unimpressed by. The size was a symbol of the capacity of the leadership of Francisco Franco. The architecture was inspired by Albert Speer's and Benito Mussolini's glorious buildings in Germany and Italy. It is a distinguished example of the great public Spanish buildings of the post-war period.

The church is blown 250 meters into the rock and seems like a long tunnel. Next to the altar at the end, rest Francisco Franco and José Antonio, the founder of the Falangists party. The church room is built as the longest in the world; however, the Pope has only consecrated one room as official church space. This is a little shorter than the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Simultaneously, the Pope declared the place to be a basilica named Santa Cruz.

53. Toledo



Toledo, 75 kilometres S

www.toledoweb.org

Station: Toledo

You find the town Toledo in a unique and picturesque sighting on a little mountaintop on the Castilian Plateau. The Tajo River literally winds around the rock where the old part of town lies. Just seeing this you can understand why this town is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Toledo was the main capital of the area from 561 to 711 and again from the Middle Ages to 1561, where King Felipe 2nd moved the court to Madrid. Toledo, though, remains the religious centre of the country. This is emphasized by the impressive cathedral, which ought to be seen when visiting. Another historical characteristic is that Christian, Jewish and Mauri culture lived and flourished simultaneously here.

There are several sights in town; one being the narrow streets and lanes that you should admire just by exploring and enjoying the atmosphere, the squares, the lookouts and everything else here.

Of the churches of Toledo the cathedral, Catedral de Toledo (Plaza del Ayuntamiento), is the most impressive. The construction work began in 1226. It took 267 years before the church was finished in 1493. The interior is amazing; the church room itself and not least the high altar called El Transparente. The altar is a spectacular sight with differently coloured marble, stuccowork, various art works and much more.

You can also visit the painter El Greco's home, Casa Museo de El Greco (Calle Samuel Levi). He lived in Toledo in the 1500s and painted several motives of the town. The works are exhibited in the house museum.

The fort of Toledo, Alcázar de Toledo (Cuesta de Carlos V 2) was built in the year of 1085. The fort was home to King Carlos the 1st and since then the building has been ruined and resurrected several times. The atmosphere, however, is still intact.

54. Palacio de Aranjuez



Plaza de Armas, Aranjuez, 50 km S

www.patrimonionacional.es/aranj/aranjuez.htm

Station: Aranjuez

The Aranjuez castle is one of the most elegant castles in Spain. King Felipe the 2nd initiated the

construction work in 1560, the present appearance, however, was made by King Felipe the 5th in the 1700s. Inside the China hall and Mirror hall are especially worth noticing. The castle garden, Jardín de la Isla, is gracefully and, at the same time, grandiosely arranged. Among other things there is a row of Italian fountains from around the 1500 – 1600s. There are also museums in the area showing life at the castle and royal vessels.

The road to Aranjuez can be travelled during the summertime by Tren de la Fresa (the strawberry train), which leaves from Atocha. The train is lovely and old and gives the illusion of travelling along the railroad in the 1800s.

55. Segovia



Segovia, 90 km NV

www.segovia.es

Station: Segovia

In the town of Segovia you can experience different facets of Spanish history. You get impressions from the Roman and Spanish era of the country, throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance until today. and the old part of the town with its interesting places. Both are also on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

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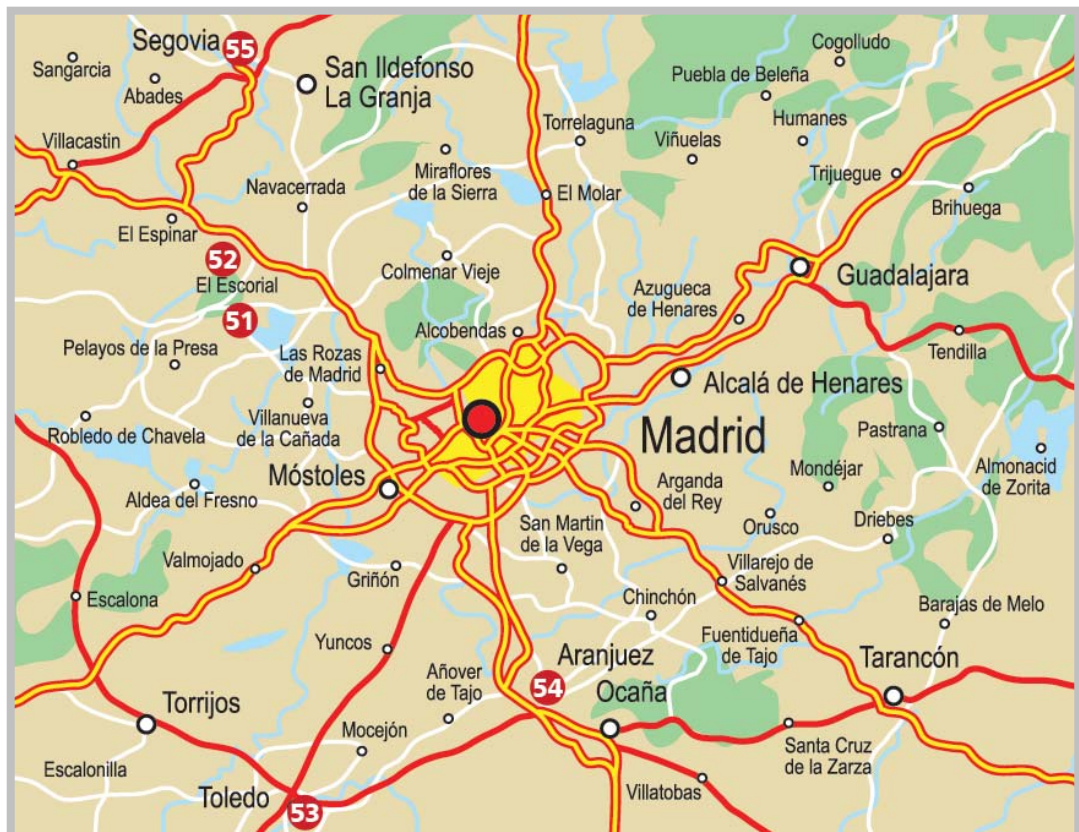
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The most famous monument in town is probably the Roman aqueduct, Acueducto de Segovia (between Plaza del Azoguejo and Plaza Díaz Sanz) from approximately year 100. It cuts its way into the centre of the town from the eastern side and was initially made to transport water from the mountains 17 kilometres away and into Segovia. In the middle of town the construction reaches an impressive height of 28 meters.

The great Gothic cathedral in town, Catedral de Segovia (Plaza Mayor) was built between 1522 and 1577. It rises above the old part of the town and can therefore be seen widely. The cathedral is considered to be the latest of the great Gothic cathedrals in Europe.

The fortress of Segovia, Alcázar de Segovia (Plazuela de Juan Guás) was made in the first millennium and is breathtakingly placed on a projected rock farthest to the west in town. Through the years, the fortress has gradually been expanded, not least because the kings of the Castillo often stayed here and wanted to put their mark on it.



Metro Map



Bringing children to Madrid

Aquasur (Carretera Andalucía, Aranjuez, 45 km S)

Aquópolis (Avenida de la Dahesa, Villaneuva de la Cañada, 35 km W):

www.aquopolis.es

Museo del Aire (Carretera Extremadura):

www.museodelaire.com

Museo del Ferrocarril (Paseo de las Delicias 61):

www.museodelferrocarril.org

Parque de Atracciones (Casa de Campo):

www.parquedeatracciones.es

Safari Park (Carretera de Extremadura, Aldeo del Fresno)

Warner Bros. Movie World (San Martín de la Vega, 25 km S):

www.warnerbrospark.com

The Zoo (Casa de Campo):

www.zoomadrid.com

Shopping in Madrid

Gran Vía, Plaza del Callao, Puerto del Sol, Calle Preciados, Calle Fuencarral, Calle Serrano, Calle de Goya

ABC Serrano (Calle Serrano 61):

www.abc serrano.com

Arturo Soria Plaza (Calle de Arturo Soria 126):

www.arturosoriaplaza.es

El Corte Inglés (among others Calle Preciados 1-3, Calle de Goya 76 and 85 and Calle Serrano 47 and 52):

www.elcorteingles.es

Jardín de Serrano (Calle de Goya 6-8):

www.jardindeserrano.es

La Vaguada (Monforte de Lemos 36):

www.enlavaguada.com

Main Outlet (Polígono Európolis):

www.mainoutlet.com

Moda Shopping (Avenida del General Perón 40):

www.modashopping.com

Plaza Norte 2 (by Autovía A-1):

www.plazanorte2.com

Sexta Avenida (by Autovía A-6):

www.sextavenida.com

Xanadu (by Autovía A-5):

www.millsmadridxanadu.com

Public transportation in Madrid

Madrid Metro:

www.metromadrid.es

Madrid Airport:

www.aena.es

Spanish Railroads:

www.renfe.es

Facts about Spain



Political

Official name	Reino de España
Capital	Madrid
Form of government	Constitutional monarchy
Head of state	King Juan Carlos I
Head of Government	Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero
National Day	December 6th
Achieved independence	United in 1469
Primary religions	Christianity
Language	Spanish
Area	504,030 km ²
Population (2007)	45,200,000

Borders on	
North	France, Andorra, Biscay
South	Gibraltar, Marocco (from Ceuta og Melilla), The Atlantic Ocean, The Mediterranean
East	The Mediterranean
West	Portugal, The Atlantic Ocean

Highest mountains	
Teide	3,718 meters
Mulhacén	3,478 meters
Aneto	3,404 meters
Veleta	3,392 meters
Llardana	3,375 meters
Alcazaba	3,366 meters
Monte Perdido	3,355 meters
Cilindro	3,328 meters
Perdiguero	3,321 meters
Maladeta	3,309 meters

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Largest islands

Mallorca	3,640 km ²
Tenerife	2,034 km ²
Fuerteventura	1,660 km ²
Gran Canaria	1,560 km ²
Lanzarote	846 km ²
La Palma	706 km ²
Menorca	694 km ²
Ibiza	571 km ²
La Gomera	370 km ²
El Hierro	278 km ²

Largest lakes

Lago de Sanabria	3,7 km ²
Lago de Bañolas	1,1 km ²

Longest rivers

Río Tajo*	1,007 km
Río Ebro	910 km
Río Duero*	895 km
Río Guadalquivir	657 km
Río Guadiana*	578 km
Río Júcar	498 km
Río Genil	337 km
Río Segura	325 km
Río Miño	310 km
Río Turia	280 km

*partially situated in Portugal

Largest cities (2005)

Madrid	3,093,000
Barcelona	1,583,000
Valencia	736,000
Sevilla	695,000
Zaragoza	601,000
Málaga	542,000
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	354,000
Bilbao	351,000
Murcia	350,000
Valladolid	317,000

Administrative divisions

County	County seat	Area
Andalusia	Sevilla	87,268 km ²
Aragon	Zaragoza	47,719 km ²
Asturias	Oviedo	10,604 km ²
Cantabria	Santander	5,321 km ²
Castilla-La Mancha	Toledo	79,463 km ²
Castilla y León	Valladolid	94,223 km ²
Cataluña	Barcelona	32,114 km ²
Comunidad Valenciana	Valencia	23,255 km ²
Extremadura	Mérida	41,634 km ²
Galicia	Santiago de Compostela	29,574 km ²
Islas Baleares	Palma de Mallorca	4,992 km ²
Islas Canarias	Las Palmas & Santa Cruz	7,447 km ²
La Rioja	Logroño	5,045 km ²
Madrid	Madrid	8,030 km ²
Navarra	Pamplona	10,391 km ²
País Vasco	Vitoria-Gasteiz	7,234 km ²
Región de Murcia	Murcia	11,313 km ²
City	Capital	Area
Ceuta	Ceuta	28 km ²
Melilla	Melilla	20 km ²

Monarchs since 1556

Felipe II	1556-1598
Felipe III	1598-1621
Felipe IV	1621-1665
Carlos II	1665-1700
Felipe V	1700-1746
Ferdinand VI	1746-1759
Carlos III	1759-1788
Carlos IV	1788-1808
Joseph Bonaparte	1808-1813
Ferdinand VII	1813-1833
Isabella II	1833-1868
Amadeo I	1870-1873
Estanislao Figueras	1873-1873
Francisco Pi y Margall	1873-1873
Nicolás Salmerón y Alfonso	1873-1874
Emilio Castelar y Ripoll	1874-1874
Francisco Serrano y Domínguez	1874-1874
Alfonso XII	1874-1885
Alfonso XIII	1886-1931
Niceto Alcalá-Zamora	1931-1936
Manuel Azaña	1936-1939
Francisco Franco	1939-1975
Juan Carlos I	1975-

Prime Ministers since 1939

Francisco Franco	1939-1973
Luis Carrero Blanco	1973-1973
Torcuato Fernández-Miranda	1973-1974
Carlos Arias Navarro	1974-1976
Fernando de Santiago y Díaz	1976-1976
Adolfo Suárez	1976-1981
Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo	1981-1982
Felipe González	1982-1996
José Maria Aznar	1996-2004
José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero	2004-

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Holidays and national days

January 1st	New Year's
January 6th	Twelfth Night
March 19th	San José, Fathers Day
Date varies	Good Friday
Date varies	Easter Day
May 1st	May 1st
Date varies	Corpus Christi
June 24th	San Juan
June 29th	San Pedro y San Pablo
July 25th	Santiago
August 15th	Ascension Day
October 12th	Columbus' Day
November 1st	Halloween
December 6th	Constitution Day
December 8th	Marys conception
December 25th	Christmas Day

Various facts

Currency	Euro
Currency code	EUR
Time zone	CET (UTC+1)
Country postal code	E
Internet domain	.es
Telephone country code	+34

Phrase book

Courtesy phrases

Greetings

Good morning	Saludos
Good day	Buenos días
Good afternoon	Buen día
Good night	Buenas tardes
Hi/Hey	Buenas noches
farewell	Hola
See you	adios
	Nos vemos

Others

Thanks	Otros
Thanks for the help	Gracias
Yes	Gracias por su ayuda
No	Sí
Okay	No
Be so good	Bien
Be so kind	Sea tan buen
Sorry	Sea tan amable
My name is.....	Lo siento
What is your name?	Me llamo...
	¿Cómo se llama?

Question (Inquiring) words

What...?	¿Qué...?
Where...?	¿Dónde...?
When...?	¿Cuándo...?
Who...?	¿Quién...?
How...?	¿Cómo...?
Why...?	¿Por qué?

Find way

To the right	A la derecha
To the left	A la izquierda
Straight on	Recto
Back	Atrás
Where is?	¿Dónde está...?
Can you show the way to.....?	¿me puede mostrar el camino a...?
Where am I/we at present?	¿Dónde estoy/estamos ahora?
How do I reach.....?	¿Cómo llego a ...?

how far is it to.....?	¿A qué distancia está...?
Where is the nearest station?	¿Dónde está la estación más cercana?
Address	Dirección
What is the address?	¿cuál es la dirección?

Tourist in the city

Have you a city map?	¿Tiene un mapa de la ciudad?
What shall I see here in this city?	¿Qué veré aquí en esta ciudad?
Can you recommend a sight seeing tour?	¿Me puede recomendar una excursión panorámica?

Visit to the toilet

Toilet	Visita al baño
Have you a toilet?	Baño
Do you have some more toilet paper?	¿Tiene baño?
Can I change the toilet?	¿Tiene más papel higiénico?
	¿Puedo cambiar de baño?

Transport for the trip

Railway

Underground railway	Tren
Train	Metro
Till what time does the train run?	Tren
Time table	¿Hasta que hora funciona el tren?
Station (train)	Horario
	Estación (tren)

Bus and Tram

Tram	Autobús y tranvía
Bus	Tranvía
Till what time does the bus/tram run.....?	Autobús
At what time is the last bus/tram?	¿Hasta qué hora funciona el autobús/tranvía?
Station (bus)	¿A qué hora es el último autobús/tranvía?
Stop	Estación (autobús)
	Parada

Airway	Aerolíneas	Taxi	Taxi
Airway	Aerolínea	Drive me to this address	Lléveme a esta dirección
Airport	Aeropuerto	I shall go to.....	Voy a ...
Check-in	Facturación	How much is it by taxi to?	¿Cuánto cuesta en taxi a...?
Passport	Pasaporte		
Ship	Barco	General	General
Ferry	Transbordador	Cycle	bicicleta
Port	Puerto	Motorcycle	motocicleta
Automobile	Automóviles	Arrival/arrival time	Hora de llegada/llegada
Motorcar	Automóvil	Departure/departure time	Salida/Hora de salida
Car rental	Alquiler de coches	Baggage	equipaje
Driving License	Permiso de conducir	Baggage locker	taquilla para equipajes
I would like to hire a....	Quiero alquilar un...		
Have you a children's seat?	¿Tiene asientos para niños?		
Does it run on petrol or diesel?	¿Funciona a gasolina o gasoil?		
Parking space	Sitio de aparcamiento		
Multi-storeyed car park	Aparcamiento de más de una planta para coches		

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Entertainment

Cinema	Cine
Theatre	Teatro
Match	Partido
Concert	Concierto
Park	parque
Circus	circo
Museum	museo
Amusement park	parque de atracciones
Casino	casino
Discotheque	discoteca
Night club	club nocturno
Aquarium	acuario
Zoological garden	jardín zoológico

Tickets

Adult	adulto
Child	niño
Pensioner	jubilado
Student	estudiante
Can I get a ticket?	¿Me puede dar una entrada?
Can I get a daily ticket?	¿Me puede dar una entrada de día?

In the hotel

I/we have a reservation	Tengo/tenemos una reserva
The name is....	El nombre es...
Single room	Habitación sencilla
Double room	Habitación doble
What is the room number?	¿Cuál es el número de habitación?
Which floor?	¿Qué planta?
Where is the elevator?	¿Dónde está el ascensor?
No smoking	No fumador
Smoking	Fumador
Have you a vacant room?	¿Tiene alguna habitación libre?
What is the cost of a single-/double room?	¿Cuánto cuesta una habitación sencilla/doble?

Can I order for an extra bed?	¿Puedo pedir una cama supletoria?
Have you a baby cot?	¿Tiene cuna para bebé?
Where is the breakfast?	¿Dónde es el desayuno?
When is the breakfast?	¿Cuándo es el desayuno?
When shall we check in?	¿Cuándo facturamos?
Where can I park?	¿Dónde puedo aparcar?
Can I call for a taxi?	¿Puedo llamar a un taxi?
Have you a card with the hotel's address?	¿Tiene una tarjeta con la dirección del hotel?
Have you a security locker?	¿Tiene taquillas de seguridad?
Is there a swimming pool?	¿Hay piscina?
Can I ask for a wake up call?	¿Me pueden llamar para despertarme?
Can I borrow an ironbox/-board?	¿Me pueden prestar una plancha/tabla de planchar?
Can I borrow a hair drier?	¿Me pueden prestar un secador para pelo?
Can I keep my baggage?	¿Me puedo quedar con mi equipaje?
Can I request for extra toilet paper?	¿Puedo pedir más papel higiénico?

On shopping

Shopping centre	Centro comercial
Departmental stores	Grandes almacenes
Main shopping area	Área comercial principal
Pedestrian street	Calle peatonal
Is it available in large size?	¿lo tiene en talla grande?
Is it available in small size?	¿lo tiene en talla pequeña?
What is the cost of this/that?	¿Cuánto cuesta esto/eso?
Do you have this/ these in my size?	¿Tiene esto/eso en mi talla?
Can you pack this in a gift wrap?	¿Lo puede envolver de regalo?
Do you accept credit card?	¿Aceptan tarjetas de crédito?
When do you close?	¿Cuándo cierran?
Open	Abierto
Closed	cerrado

In the restaurant/café

Breakfast	desayuno
Lunch	almuerzo
Supper	cena
May I see the menu card?	¿Puedo ver el menú?
May I see the liquor card?	¿puedo ver el menú de licores?
Menu for the children	meú para niños
Vegetarian	vegetariano
Well done	bien hecho
Medium	medio
Red (rare)	rojo (crudo)
It must not be very strong	No puede estar muy fuerte
I cannot bear....	NO soporto...
Bill	factura
May I pay?	¿Puedo pagar?
Can I pay with the credit card?	¿Puedo pagar con tarjeta de crédito?

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From the menu card	del menú
Starters	Aperitivos
Main course	Plato principal
Desserts	Postres
Fish	pescado
Shell fish	marisco
Poultry	aves
Chicken	pollo
Duck	pato
Goose	ganso
Turkey	pavo
Pork	cerdo
Beef	buey
Veal	ternera
Lamb	cordero
Bread	pan
Butter	mantequilla
Egg	huevo
Yoghurt	yogur
Soup	sopa
Salad	ensalada
Sandwich	bocadillo
Sausages	salchichas
Hotdog	perrito caliente
Pizza	pizza
Hamburger	hamburguesa
French fries	patatas fritas
Cheese	queso
Ice	hielo
Cake	bizcocho
Sugar	azúcar
Beverages	bebidas
Milk	leche
Mineral water	agua mineral
Juice	zumos
Soda water	agua de soda
Without ice	sin hielo
Coffee	café
Tea	te
Cocoa	cacao
Beer	cerveza
White wine	vino blanco
Red wine	vino tinto
Champagne	champán

Liquor	licor
Spirits	bebidas alcohólicas
Service	servicio
Knife	cuchillo
Fork	tenedor
Spoon	cuchara
Teaspoon	cucharilla
chop stick	palillos
Glass	vaso
Plate	plato
Napkin	servilleta

Bank, post, internet and telephone

Bank and money

Bank	banco
Where is a bank?	¿Dónde hay un banco?
Automatic teller machine	cajero automático
Where can I draw money?	¿Dónde puedo sacar dinero?
Change money	Cambiar dinero
Where can I change currency?	¿Dónde puedo cambiar divisas?
What is the rate of exchange?	¿Cuál es el tipo de cambio?

Post

Post office	Correos
Where is the post office?	Oficina de correos
Post box	¿Dónde está la oficina de correos?
Where is a post box?	Buzón
Stamp	¿Dónde hay un buzón?
Do you have an envelope?	Sello
	¿Tiene un sobre?

Internet

Where is the internet café?	Internet
Do you have internet, which I can use?	¿Dónde hay un café de internet?
	¿Tiene internet, cuál puedo utilizar?

Telephone

Can I borrow a telephone?	¿Me puede prestar un teléfono?
How do I ring abroad?	¿Puedo llamar al extranjero?
How much does it cost to ring to...?	¿Cuánto cuesta llamar a...?

Alarm and Sickness**Police and Fire**

Help	ayuda
I have been robbed	me han robado
Telephone the police	llame a la policía
Police station	comisaría de policía
Theft/stop the thief	robo/detengan al ladrón
Fire/ the burner	incendio/la cocina
Ring up the fire fighting service	llame a los bomberos

Doctor and pharmacy

Ring for an ambulance	llame a una ambulancia
Can you fix up an appointment with the doctor for me?	¿Me puede concertar una cita con el doctor?
Hospital	hospital
Doctor	doctor
Pharmacy	farmacia
Where is the pharmacy?	¿Dónde está la farmacia?
I have pain	me duele
I have pain here	me duele aquí
I have pain in the head	me duele la cabeza
I have nausea	tengo nauseas
I have diarrhoea	tengo diarrea
I have pain in the stomach	tengo dolor en el estómago
Have you pills for head ache?	¿tiene pastillas para el dolor de cabeza?
Have you pills for diarrhoea?	¿Tiene pastillas para la diarrea?
Tablets	pastillas

Dentist

Can you fix up an appointment with the dentist for me?	¿Me puede concertar una cita con el dentista?
I have tooth ache	me duele una muela

Numbers

Zero	Cero
One	uno
Two	dos
Three	tres
Four	cuatro
Five	cinco
Six	seis
Seven	siete
Eight	ocho
Nine	nueve
Ten	diez
Twenty	veinte
Thirty	treinta
Fourty	cuarenta
Fifty	cincuenta
Sixty	sesenta
Seventy	setenta
Eighty	ochenta
Ninety	noventa
Hundred	cien
Thousand	mil
Million	millón

Calendar and time

Days	días
Monday	lunes
Tuesday	martes
Wednesday	miércoles
Thursday	jueves
Friday	viernes
Saturday	sábado
Sunday	domingo
Yesterday	ayer
Today	hoy
Tomorrow	mañana
Day after tomorrow	pasado mañana

Months	meses
January	enero
February	febrero
March	marzo
April	abril
May	mayo
June	junio
July	julio
August	agosto
September	septiembre
October	octubre
November	noviembre
December	diciembre

Time	hora
What is the time?	¿Qué hora es?
The time is quarter past....	Son las ... y cuarto
The time is half past....	Son las ... y media
The time is quarter to.....	Son las ... menos cuarto

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PEOPLE FIRST

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!