



## Barcelona Mini Guide by **Barna Tours!** 🎉

Hey, I heard you are coming to Barcelona! You are going to have a great time, and to make it even better I wrote this guide for you.

### Gaudí & Modernism 🌟

If you only have time/budget for 2 Modernist highlights, get tickets for **Sagrada Familia**, for the light inside, and **Park Güell**, because you can only see it if you pay. Next, get to **Hospital de Sant Pau**—by Domenech & Muntaner— as it's just a 10min walk from Sagrada Familia and it's stunning! If you need more Gaudí in your veins, **La Pedrera** and **Casa Batlló** would be next, and if you want to catch them all, top it off with **Palau Güell** and **Casa Vicens**. Oh and don't forget **Palau de la Música**, an astonishing concert venue!

## A City Center Walk

Barcelona is best explored on foot! The Gòtic Quarter is the ancient heart of the city; it's the place with the narrowest streets, the Barcelona Cathedral, and impressive Roman ruins. Then you have Born, which is super young and lively, with the gothic Santa Maria del Mar church, plus lots of little local-run shops.

Raval is where you'll find the famous Boqueria Market—go early, before 10 AM, to beat the crowds—though the food stalls can be a little disappointing, sadly. Keep walking through Raval and you'll hit the Sant Antoni Market, which is actually the best one in town! And finally, just take a nice walk down at Barceloneta by the beach.

## Family Fun!

If you come with little ones you can spend a day up at Tibidabo, which has the best views in Barcelona—better than Carmel Bunkers—and a fantastic old-school amusement park. For science fun, check out CosmoCaixa—it's a seriously cool interactive science museum that everyone loves. And to relax and let off steam, the Glòries Park has 2 absolutely amazing, modern playgrounds.



## Shopping and Museums



For shopping, hit the high-end spots on Passeig de Gràcia or the crowds on Portal de l'Àngel. You will find a more genuinely local feel, go hang out in the Gràcia neighborhood. For museums, check out Fundació Miró for contemporary art, or the MNAC for traditional art. CaixaForum and CCCB sometimes have interesting temporary exhibits.

## Food



Get ready to eat. For a traditional breakfast, go to La Cova Fumada (\$\$), or if you want a market breakfast experience Pinotxo (\$\$) is where to go.

Best paella in Barcelona is at La Mar Salada (\$\$\$).

For tapas, you have options! Go to Quimet & Quimet (\$\$) for pinchos, or Can Paixano (\$) for a classic, busy, standing tapas experience.

Xampanyet (\$\$\$) is the busiest though and a little fancier food. If you want the absolute best patatas bravas and other tapas, head to Senyor Vermut (\$\$). My favorite bodega is Celler de Cal Marino (\$\$).

Looking for local Catalan cuisine? go to Gelida (\$\$) for the classics or Alkostat (\$\$\$\$) for a modern take.

If you're doing a fine dining night out, Enigma (\$\$\$\$) is one of the best restaurants in the world, or try Ultramarinos Marin (\$\$\$\$) is an outstanding asador.

Casual eats too! Sandwich Club (\$\$) and Compá (\$) make the best sandwiches, Fast Eddie's (\$\$) has your burger fix, and Sartoria Panatieri (\$\$\$) makes world-famous pizza.

## Drinks & Party 🍺

Antic Teatre is a quaint beer terrace at the heart of the city. If you go to Bar Marsella—Barcelona's most iconic bar, frequented by Picasso & Hemingway—order a glass of absinth. Grab some wine—and food—at Glug (\$\$\$) and follow up with some fancy cocktails at Paradiso.

A night out usually ends at Apolo or Razz.

## Don't forget the snacks! 🍦

Got a sweet tooth? I got you covered! Get creamy cheesecakes at Jon Cake, cookies & croissants at Origo, ice cream at DelaCrem, churros at Xurreria Laietana, traditional pastries at Forn Vilamala, or

Cedric-Grolet-like cakes from Hofmann. Oh, and get your specialty coffee fix at Nomad Coffee!

### A Quick Heads Up! ⚠

La Rambla is famous, but it's mostly just an overcrowded walk with tourist-trap restaurants.

Most importantly: watch out for pickpockets! Seriously, be vigilant, especially in crowds and in public transportation. Even more at night if you are tipsy.

Finally, Montserrat is beautiful but, unless you stay 7+ days in Barcelona, IMHO not worth the full-day trip.

Have the best trip!

Xavi

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