



# WELCOME TO BARCELONA

PRACTICAL RELOCATION GUIDE FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE

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**PRACTICAL RELOCATION GUIDE FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE**

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## elcome to Barcelona

Barcelona, Mediterranean, cosmopolitan, enterprising and tolerant, will be your future home. To help with your personal arrival we have drawn up Welcome to Barcelona, a guide for professionals, executives and others from the world of business coming to our city to live and work.

With a long commercial and industrial tradition, a very competitive and diversified business structure and 21st century technology and infrastructure, Barcelona and its metropolitan area offer exciting opportunities for business, investment and entrepreneurship.

Here you will find the friendliness and warmth of the Mediterranean character, a pleasant year-round climate, enviable quality of life and an environment that fosters creativity and innovation.

Whether you are still thinking about moving to Barcelona, are in the process of doing so or have just arrived, this publication will help you in your decision to settle in the city and make the most of your first experiences here.

This guide includes everything you need to know before coming to Barcelona and on your arrival to make moving in and your daily life easier. You will also find information and support services if you want to do business, start a company, develop your career or establish business contacts and relationships.

In the blink of an eye you will find your feet and be ready to enjoy all that this beautiful and vibrant city has to offer.

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

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**Welcome  
to my daily  
5km beside  
the sea**

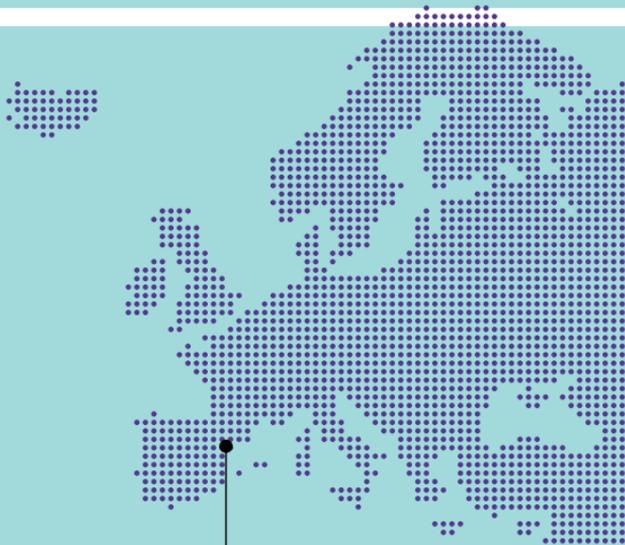




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# INTRODUCTION

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**BARCELONA**

Barcelona is the economic, cultural and administrative capital of Catalonia and one of Spain's 17 regions. Catalonia is located in the north-east of the Iberian Peninsula and is home to seven and a half million people, of whom nearly two thirds live in the metropolitan area of Barcelona.

Barcelona is on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and a couple of hours drive from France. It is also well connected to major Spanish and European cities through excellent air, rail and road links.

It is a very lively and densely populated city, where roughly 1.6 million people inhabit its 100 square kilometres of land. However, the real Barcelona is a much larger metropolitan area composed of nearly 200 municipalities with five million residents. The Barcelona metropolitan area is characterised by its demographically diverse and socially cohesive population and the continuity of its urban landscape: one can leave Barcelona and enter a different municipality without even noticing it just by crossing a street.

Its residents say that it is a dynamic, cosmopolitan city of contrasts, a city bounded by the sea and the mountains where wide avenues and modern skyscrapers coexist with narrow medieval streets and contemporary urban life is enriched by its fascinating history.

Other hallmarks of the city are its strong entrepreneurial culture based on rigour, future vision, ambition, capacity for in-

novation and openness to the world. It has an economy with a long commercial and industrial tradition which is attractive for business development, with research at the forefront and creativity that crosses frontiers.

The Mediterranean way of life, bustling streets and pleasant weather of Barcelona attract skilled professionals, entrepreneurs, researchers and students from around the world.



If you are thinking of exploring Barcelona and the surrounding region as a tourist before relocating, you can visit the official tourism websites of Catalonia, → [www.catalunya.com](http://www.catalunya.com), and of Barcelona → [www.barcelonaturisme.com](http://www.barcelonaturisme.com) and → [www.bcn.cat/turisme](http://www.bcn.cat/turisme)

## CATALAN CULTURE



La Rambla

Catalan society has a long tradition of autonomy and cultural uniqueness. In Spain, the Catalan people are known for their motivation and commitment to work, values rooted in a strong mercantile tradition. They can also be perceived as serious and reserved, but this should never be interpreted as unfriendliness but rather a clearer division between professional and personal relationships. Catalans, serious as they are in business affairs, are at their most extroverted and lively when surrounded by family and friends. Catalans are Spanish in their vitality and zest for life, and for all the importance they place on hard work, they always put social and family life first. With just the right amount of respect and amiability, you will have no trouble at all finding pleasant colleagues, good neighbours and even lifelong friends among Barcelona's locals.

Barcelona is a multilingual city with two official languages. Here as in the rest of Catalonia, Spanish shares co-official status with Catalan, the language of Catalonia. The Catalan language is a cherished, indispensable part of Catalan identity and culture, and it will surely play an important role in your everyday life in Barcelona.

Most locals, especially those living in urban areas such as Barcelona, can be considered balanced bilinguals. This means that they can switch between Catalan and Spanish with little to no effort. In fact, many Catalans instinctively speak to foreigners in Spanish. In addition, a part of Barcelona's population is composed of immigrants or descendants of immigrants from other parts of Spain who consider Spanish their mother tongue and home language. Spanish is widely used in Barcelona, in the home, in the street and in the media, and if you speak the language you can communicate with the locals as soon as you arrive.

The importance of the Catalan language in all areas of Catalan life is undeniable. A large number of Catalan families exclusively speak Catalan in the home and consider it their language of identity. Catalan is the language of instruction in schools in Catalonia, where Spanish and a foreign language, usually English, are also taught. In the region's universities, although teaching is conducted in both Spanish and Catalan, the latter is adopted as institutional language and is thus used in administrative affairs. Local government bodies and insti-

tutions also conduct business in Catalan. In Barcelona and the rest of Catalonia, commercial signage is mostly in Catalan, and street, town and city names are always in this language. For anyone planning to live in Barcelona, learning at least a little Catalan is highly recommended.

The good news is that Catalan, like Spanish, is a Romance language. Given the close proximity between these related languages, if you speak Spanish (or French or Italian or any other language in the family) you are already one step ahead in learning Catalan. Apart from this, the Catalan government and many of its universities and institutions offer free introductory courses as well as Internet learning resources. When you get to Barcelona or even before you arrive, there are a number of ways for you to learn Catalan.

The presence of a regional language is just another feature that makes the cultural tapestry of Barcelona richer and more colourful. Knowledge of Catalan, though by no means required, will make your integration into Catalan society easier. It can also open new doors in your professional, business, social and personal life, enrich your living experience in Barcelona, and enable you to enjoy a rich, diverse cultural and leisure offering that reflects the city's two-thousand-year old history.



For more information on the Catalan language and Catalan language policy, visit  
→ [www.intercat.cat/lingcat](http://www.intercat.cat/lingcat) and  
→ [www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/Llengcat](http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/Llengcat)

To learn Catalan online, go to  
→ [www.parla.cat](http://www.parla.cat)





Welcome to  
my travelling  
**office** in  
the open air



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# PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

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*Things you need to know before coming to Barcelona*



## APPLYING FOR A VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMIT

### EU, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA AND SWISS NATIONALS

#### ➔ EU, European Economic Area and Swiss nationals

Nationals of European Union (EU) countries and Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland do not need a visa to enter Spain, only a passport or an official valid identity card (ID).

All EU nationals planning to reside in Spain for a continuous period of more than three months are required to obtain an EU Citizen Register Certificate (*Certificat del Registre de Ciutadà de la Unió Europea*). You have to apply within three months of entry into Spain, and you will immediately be given a registration certificate stating your name, nationality and address, your Foreigner Identity Number (NIE - *Número d'identificació d'estranger*) and the date of registration. The NIE is a unique identification number assigned to all foreigners living in Spain. It is required for filing taxes and all other transactions with the state, as well as for buying property, establishing a business, opening a Spanish bank account, setting up a mobile phone contract, etc.

To do this, you first need to ask for an appointment and then go to the police station (*comisaria*) for your place of

residence. In Barcelona this is the police station at Rambla Guipúzcoa 74.

#### Asking for an appointment



→ [www.exteriores.gob.es](http://www.exteriores.gob.es)

Appointment:

→ [www.sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es](http://www.sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es)

#### DOCUMENTATION

- 2 completed copies of Form Ex\_18
- Passport: photocopy of your passport and the original
- Proof of your employment situation in Spain (as an employee or businessperson/entrepreneur). If you are not working in Spain, then you must provide documentation to show you have private or public health insurance and sufficient financial resources for yourself and your family during your period of residence in Spain.



At the police station you will be given a form which you need to take to any Spanish bank to pay the administrative fees. You then go back to the police station to return the form stamped by the bank. The document is issued on the spot.

### General information about the procedure and application form



→ [www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es](http://www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es)

You can print it out and fill it in by hand or fill it in online and print it as a PDF (do not try to save it directly) and then print it on paper.

#### COMISARÍA DE LA POLICÍA NACIONAL

Rambla Guipúzcoa 74

SECCIÓ DE CIUTADANS UE (EU CITIZENS SECTION)

METRO : Bac de Roda / Sant Martí L2

If you live outside Barcelona, you need to go to the designated National Police Station in your area.

If you do not speak Spanish or Catalan, it is advisable to be accompanied by somebody who does.

Alternatively, if you wish to receive your NIE ahead of time, you can apply for it at the Spanish Consulate in your country. Only certain consulates process NIE ap-

plications, so it is recommended that you contact the consulate first. Also be aware that processing the NIE at a Spanish consulate takes much longer.



For more information visit:

→ [www.exteriores.gob.es](http://www.exteriores.gob.es)

### Relatives of EU, European Economic Area and Swiss nationals

Relatives of Spanish nationals or of nationals of another Member State of the European Union or another State associated to the European Economic Area Agreement or of Switzerland who are not nationals of one of these States and wish to join or accompany them and are going to live in Spain for more than three months must apply for and obtain an EU citizen relative card.

To do this, you first need to ask for an appointment and then go to the police station for your place of residence. In Barcelona this is the police station at Rambla Guipúzcoa 74.

### Asking for an appointment



→ [www.sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es](http://www.sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es)

## Information about the procedure and application form



→ [www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es](http://www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es)

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METRO : Bac de Roda / Sant Martí L2

If you live outside Barcelona, you need to go to the designated National Police Station in your area.



## NON-EU, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA AND SWISS NATIONALS

### → Stay for business

Nationals of countries outside the EU, the European Economic Area and Switzerland which are on the list of countries requiring a visa to cross borders and are not holders of a valid residence permit or a valid long-term visa issued by another Schengen State need to apply for a short-stay visa (“Schengen visa”).

A short-stay visa is a permission to remain in Spain for no longer than 90 days per semester from the first date of entry.



Lists of countries subject to the visa requirement and waiver countries:

→ [www.exteriores.gob.es](http://www.exteriores.gob.es)

Applications for short-stay visas must be filed with the Spanish Consulate abroad using a completed application form (original and copy) which can be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation or may be obtained from Spanish diplomatic missions or consular offices abroad. The generally established fee is €60. The deadline for ruling on short-stay visa (Schengen) applications is 15 calendar days from the date of submission of the application. naturales a partir de la fecha de presentación de la solicitud.

## General information and application forms



Available at → [www.exteriores.gob.es](http://www.exteriores.gob.es)

### DOCUMENTATION

- Valid passport
- Current valid visa
- Documents supporting the purpose and conditions of stay and having sufficient financial means to support yourself during the period of stay in Spain.



Entry requirements are in the Public Services section at → [www.interior.gob.es](http://www.interior.gob.es)

## ➔ Living and working in Spain

Nationals of countries outside the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland who wish to remain in Spain for more than 3 months and/or work there must apply for a permit.

Spain issues different kinds of residence and work permits depending on the kind of work the foreign national is intending to do in the country.



You can view the list of permits and their procedures at → [www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es](http://www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es)

## Living and working in Spain as a salaried employee

The usual procedure for living and working in Spain as a salaried employee (e.g. a worker hired by a Spanish company) is as follows:

- The Spanish company applies for a residence and salaried work permit to hire the non-EU national.
- Once the permit is issued, the non-EU national has to apply for a visa to enter Spain in the Spanish consulate where they live.
- Once they have this visa and are in Spain, they have to apply for a Foreigner Identification Card at the police station nearest their home.

There are some variations in the general procedures to speed up and/or simplify the paperwork depending on the size and profile of the Spanish company seeking to hire the non-EU national and the qualifications and job they are to take.

### EU BLUE CARD

This is a card for highly skilled non-EU nationals who are hired for a job which requires a higher education qualification. The initial permit is for 1 year and can be renewed. 18 months after being granted with the EU Blue Card the person can move freely throughout the territory of the European Union.

## Living and working in Spain as a freelancer

The usual procedure for living and working in Spain as a self-employed worker (such as an entrepreneur/businessperson) is as follows:

- The non-EU national applies for a residence and self-employed work permit in the Spanish consulate where they live.
- Once the permit is issued, the non-EU national has to apply for a visa to enter Spain in the same consulate.
- Once they have this visa and are in Spain, they have to apply for a Foreigner Identification Card at the police station nearest their home.

## NEW REGULATIONS FOR STARTING A BUSINESS ACTIVITY (ACT 14/2013, OF 27 SEPTEMBER, ON SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND THEIR INTERNATIONALISATION)

Foreigners may apply for a visa to enter and stay in Spain for a period of 1 year for the sole or primary purpose of carrying out the preparatory procedures for performing an entrepreneurial activity. Subsequently they are also eligible to apply for a residence permit for entrepreneurs without having to apply for a visa and with no prior residence requirement, provided that they can prove they have actually started the business.

## Investors (NEW: Act 14/2013, of 27 September, on support for entrepreneurs and their internationalisation)

### RESIDENCE VISA FOR INVESTORS

Non-resident foreigners wishing to enter Spain in order to make a significant capital investment may apply for a stay visa. The award of a residence visa allows them to live in Spain for at least 1 year.

Significant capital investments are as follows:

- Initial investments equal to or greater than €2 million in Spanish government debt securities, or equal to or higher than €1 million in stocks or shares of Spanish companies, or bank deposits in Spanish financial institutions.
- Acquisitions of property in Spain with an investment equal to or greater than €500,000 for each investor visa applicant.
- Business projects that are to be carried out in Spain and are considered in the public interest for at least one of the following reasons:
  - Job creation
  - Investment with a significant socio-economic impact in the geographical area in which the activity is to be performed
  - A significant contribution to scientific and/or technological innovation
- Investments made by legal entities domiciled in a territory that is not considered a tax haven, when the investor visa applicant directly or indirectly holds the majority of the voting rights and can appoint or remove most members of the board.

## RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR INVESTORS

Foreign investors wishing to reside in Spain for a period exceeding 1 year may apply for a residence permit for investors.

The initial permit will last for two years. After this period they may apply to renew the permit for another two years.

In addition to the general requirements for residency in Spain, the investor must meet the following:

- Have a valid residence visa for investors in force or be within the 90 calendar days after it has expired.
- Have travelled to Spain at least once during the period when they are allowed to reside there.



The details and requirements for residency under Act 14/2013 are in Regulations and Case Law at → [www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es](http://www.extranjeros.empleo.gob.es)

## CITY COUNCIL REGISTRATION

*Certificat d'empadronament* means registering with your city or town's official record of residents (*Padró Municipal d'Habitants*). All residents in Spain are required by law to register with their city council or town council. The *certificat d'empadronament* is proof of this registration. You can apply for your *empadronament* as an individual or as a family.

You can do this in person at the Citizen's Assistance Office (*Oficina d'Atenció Ciutadana*) of Barcelona City Council (or the Citizen's Assistance Office of your district if you speak Catalan or Spanish) or online.

You need to present a valid passport (one for each member of the family) and your original rental contract. The process is quite straightforward, and you will get your certificate on the spot.

Getting your City Council registration is important because it is the way to verify or accredit your residence in Spain, and it is needed for administrative procedures such as applying for a residence card, applying for a local health card, getting married, enrolling your children in local schools, etc.

### IN PERSON

#### BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL CITIZEN'S ASSISTANCE OFFICE

Plaça Sant Miquel 3

OPENING HOURS: Monday to Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; August, Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m

METRO: Jaume I L4, Liceu L3

Offers services in a wide variety of languages

ONLINE

“Welcome to Barcelona” Programme



→ [www.bcn.cat/benvinguda/en/](http://www.bcn.cat/benvinguda/en/)

## **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (NÚMERO D'AFILIACIÓ A LA SEGURETAT SOCIAL)**

In order to contribute to the Spanish Social Security system and access the public health system, you need to have a Social Security number. Your Social Security contributions cover sickness and maternity benefits, old-age pensions, industrial-injury compensation, invalidity and death benefits.

Employers take care of Social Security procedures on behalf of their salaried employees. Self-employed individuals need to apply for their Social Security number in person at their nearest Social Security office (*Administració de la Seguretat Social*).



Go to → [www.seg-social.es](http://www.seg-social.es) for a complete list of Social Security offices in Catalonia and for more information on the Spanish Social Security system



## MONEY AND BANKING

### CURRENCY

The euro is Spain's official currency since 1 January 2002. One euro is equivalent to 166,386 of the former currency, the peseta. 500 pesetas is around €3 and 1,000 pesetas around €6.

### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

Spanish banks offer two types of bank accounts to international clients: resident and non-resident accounts. The difference is that the bank does not withhold a percentage of the interest earned in non-resident accounts, while fees are usually lower for resident accounts. The bank generally does a check of your non-resident status every six months. If you do become a resident after opening the account, you must notify the bank and give them a copy of your residence card.

To open a non-resident bank account, just go to the bank of your choice with your passport.

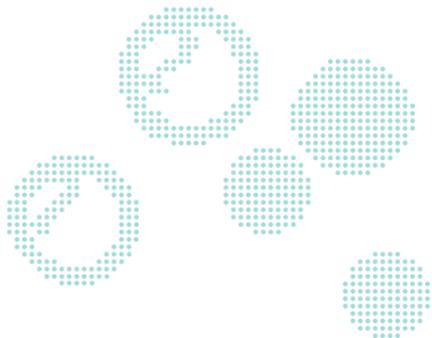
To open a resident account, simply go to the bank with your Spanish NIE and they will open your account right then and there. The bank will provide you with a bankbook (*llibreta*), a debit card, or both.

You can open an account in euro or in a foreign currency. There is usually no mini-

mum deposit for opening a bank account in euro, but there may be one for opening an account in another currency. There may be a fee for opening the account and a small annual charge for maintenance. There may also be service charges for certain transactions, so make sure to inquire about fees and check your bank statements carefully.

There are several banking options in Barcelona, from local banks to branches of major international institutions and large investment banks. It is a good idea to ask your bank in your home country about the possibility of opening an account with a corresponding branch in Barcelona if there is one. Some banks have English-speaking staff at specific branches to help foreigners. Many banks also offer excellent online banking services in different languages.

You can visit several banks or do research online to find out which institutions provide services that suit your needs best.



## BANKING HOURS

Most banks are open from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 or to 2:30 p.m. in the case of savings banks (caixes) which are also open on Thursday afternoons from 5:00 to 7:45 p.m. from October to May.

## CREDIT CARDS

Major credit and debit cards are accepted in almost all shops, restaurants, hotels and many other services, including Metro ticket machines and parking machines. You can also use your credit or debit card to withdraw money from cash dispenser, which provide instructions in different languages.

## PAYING BILLS

Cheques are rarely used in Spain—instead, a convenient way to pay recurring bills such as rent, electricity and telephone bills is through direct debit (*domiciliació*).

To have your bill payments deducted directly from your bank account, you must first authorise them with your bank. Just fill in the forms instructing your bank to pay these bills and inform them of your account details. The bank will advise you of the amount they have paid on your behalf and to whom.

## ACCOMMODATION

### SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Newcomers who wish to book short-term accommodation in Barcelona to allow themselves time to search for a more permanent home will find a wealth of options in the city. However, Barcelona's popularity as a destination for short breaks and the many international events regularly hosted by the city give it a hotel occupancy rate of 75-85%, one of the highest in Europe. It is therefore advisable that you arrange your short-term accommodation at least two to three months before your arrival, so you can have more choices and get cheaper rates.

#### Hotels

The robust growth in demand experienced by Barcelona's hotel sector has been met by numerous new hotel developments. The city now offers a wide range of hotels to suit all tastes and budgets, from five-star luxury properties to midrange accommodation.

The local market is mainly dominated by domestic hotel chains and independent hotels, although there is some presence from international operators. You can choose from large, full-service, globally branded hotels right through to smaller, cosier, individually-owned boutique hotels. There is a broad selection of hotels in the lively city centre and beachside areas, as well as in quieter residential zones.

## ➔ Budget hotels and guesthouses

This type of accommodation is called a *pensió* or *hostal* in Catalan. A *hostal* should not be confused with a hostel, which is a kind of communal accommodation offered mostly to young people, referred to as an *alberg juvenil* in Catalan. A *hostal* is very similar to a hotel, but is smaller and more informal. *Hostals* tend to be family-run businesses. They are not categorized by the 5-star hotel rating but instead have their own 3-star rating system. They provide quality accommodation at a much lower price, although they offer fewer facilities and services and generally lack Internet reservations or booking sites.

## ➔ Serviced and self-catered apartments

These are fully furnished and equipped apartments available for short-term or long-term stays. They usually provide cooking facilities and all the modern conveniences of home. Serviced apartments come with daily or weekly cleaning services, while in self-catered apartments such services are optional and are charged separately.

They range in size from one-room studios to 2-3 bedroom apartments. This type of accommodation is ideal for families and large groups. The main advantages of staying in an apartment are privacy, more space and the cost savings associated with cooking one's own meals.



To search for short-term accommodation in Barcelona go to the Plan Your Trip page of Barcelona's tourism website → [www.bcn.cat/turisme](http://www.bcn.cat/turisme)

## ➔ Aparthotels

Aparthotels combine the flexibility of apartment living with hotel comforts. Like serviced and self-catered apartments, aparthotel suites feature en-suite bathrooms, fully fitted kitchens and living areas. But in addition to these internal facilities, they also offer typical hotel services such as restaurants and bars, concierge assistance, in-house maintenance and laundry services.

## MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Any stay in a rental property longer than six months is considered medium or long-term accommodation. Long-term accommodation is a stay of at least one year's duration.

A temporary contract is for six to eleven months and is renewable. This type of contract is normally used for holiday lettings and is more expensive. The new Residential Tenancies Act of June 2013 provides that the duration of leases is freely agreed between the parties. If it is less than three years it will be extended

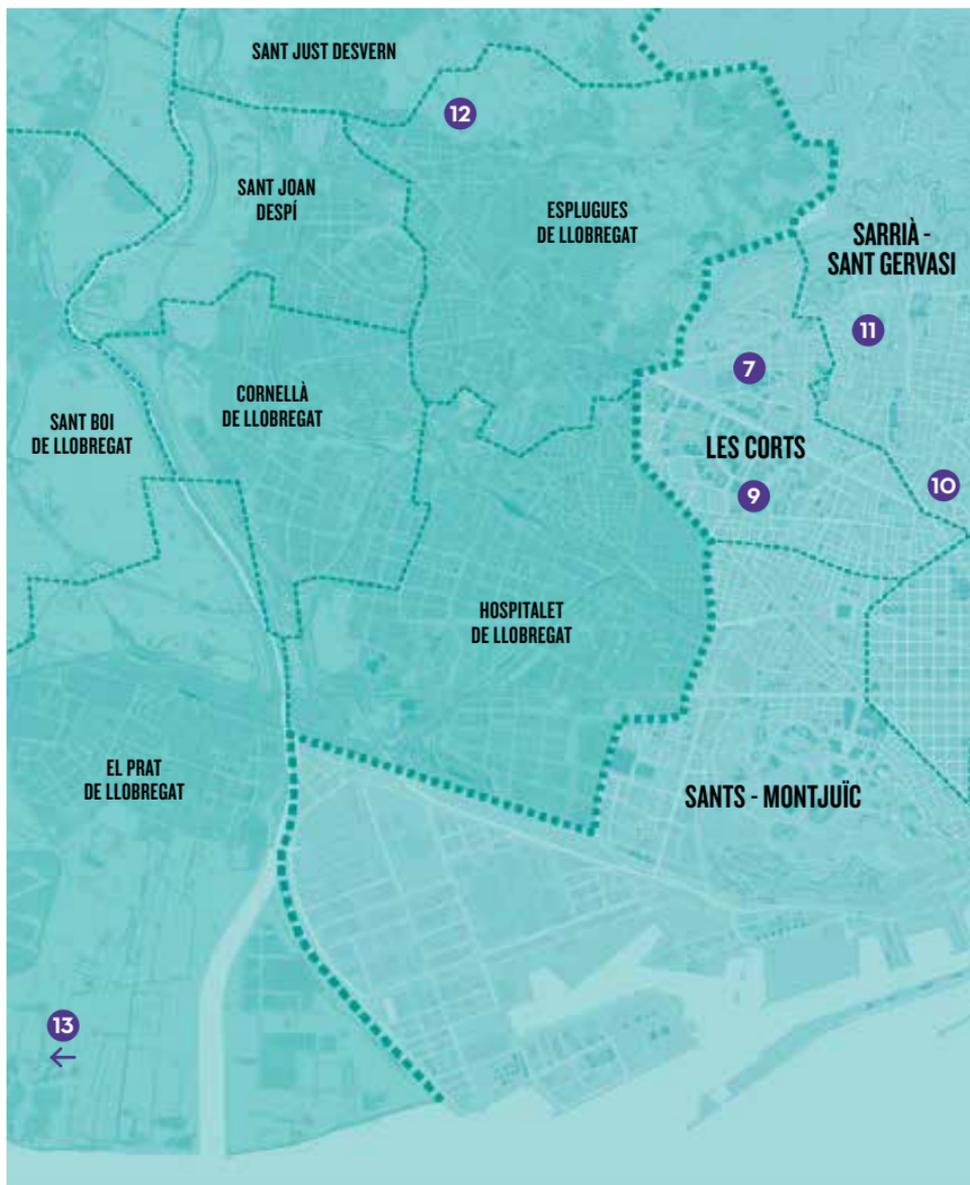
on expiry to three years, and thereafter automatically year by year. The previous law applies to contracts from before June 2013 which establishes contracts for a minimum of one year, renewable up to five years. The first year is mandatory for both tenant and landlord, while the remaining four years are optional for the tenant and obligatory for the landlord.

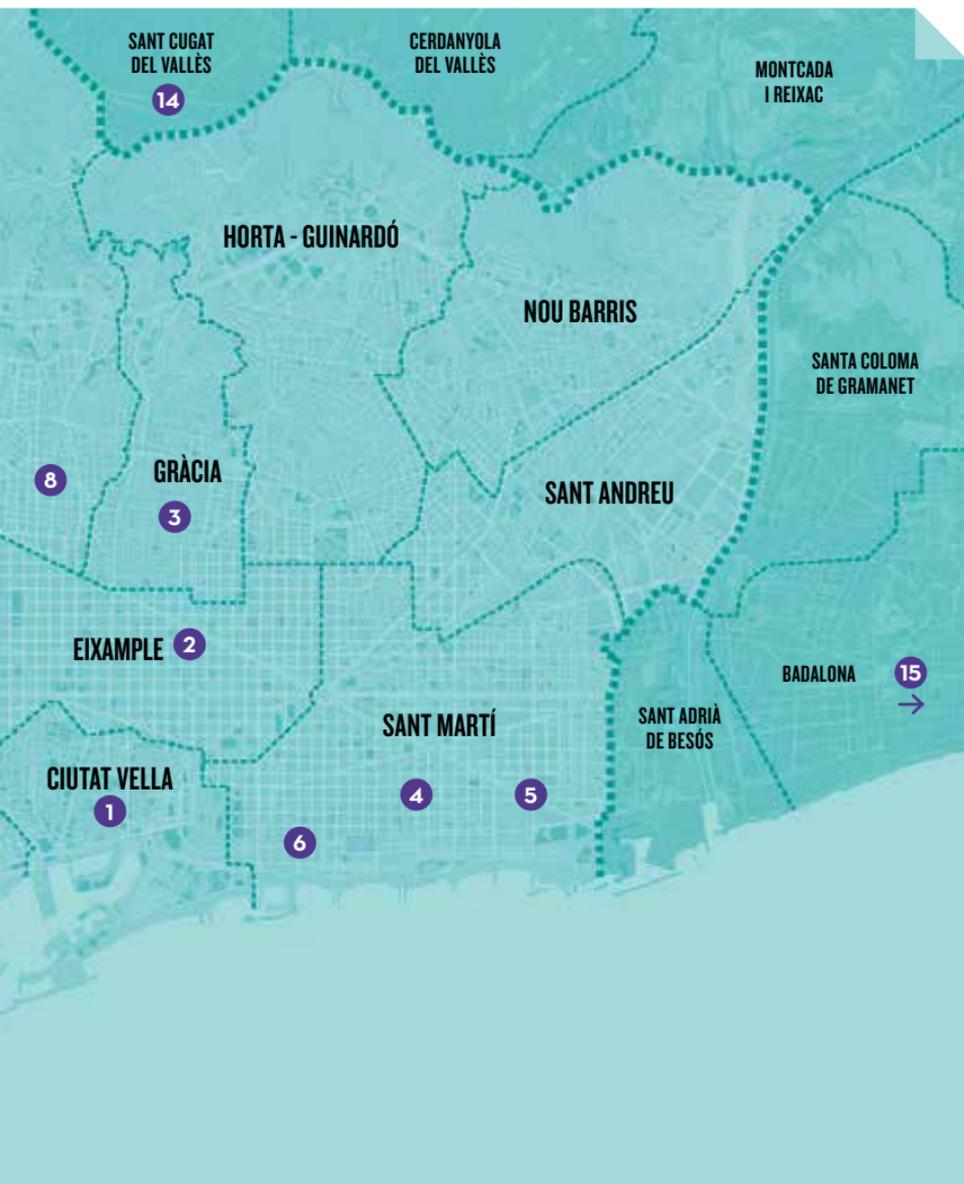
Due to limited space in Spanish cities, locals are used to living in multi-family residential buildings. Barcelona is no exception to this. Single-family detached homes with a garden or even semi-detached homes are very difficult to find in the city. Those who wish to live in this type of house need to go to residential areas outside the city.

Bear in mind that in Barcelona, socialising is mostly done outdoors and there is little entertaining at home. Bedrooms are considered a purely functional place to sleep and are often comparatively small.

Flats may be furnished or unfurnished. Furnished flats include basic living, dining and bedroom furniture and basic appliances such as a refrigerator, cooker and washing machine. You can negotiate the items to be included with the owner.







## CHOOSING A PLACE TO LIVE

### THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OF BARCELONA

Barcelona is divided into ten administrative districts, each one with its own district council. These districts are Ciutat Vella, Eixample, Gracia, Horta-Guinardo, Les Corts, Nou Barris, Sant Andreu, Sant Marti, Sants-Montjuic and Sarria-Sant Gervasi. These districts are subdivided into neighbourhoods or *barris*.

The following is a brief overview of the most popular neighbourhoods of Barcelona.

#### ➔ 1 Barri Gòtic / El Born

*Ciutat Vella*, meaning Old City, is the historic centre of Barcelona. This district, with its Roman, Medieval and Gothic architecture, narrow, winding streets and intriguing mix of old and new, is a magnet for tourists and locals alike. El Born and the *Barri Gòtic* or Gothic Quarter stand out as the most interesting neighbourhoods in the district.

The Gothic Quarter holds the remnants of Barcelona's Roman past. Its main attractions are the magnificent Barcelona Cathedral, Plaça Sant Jaume and its beautiful government buildings, the buzzing nightlife in and around Carrer de Ferran and Plaça Reial, and the interesting shops in the commercial area of Portal de l'Àngel. The area also features two of the best food markets of the city, Boqueria and Santa Caterina.

Nearby is La Rambla, at the top of which is Plaça Catalunya. The neighbourhood is a short walk from Barcelona's other attractions and has excellent public transport links to other parts of the city.

El Born, once a medieval trading venue, is now one of the most fashionable areas of Barcelona. It is known for its vibrant nightlife and excellent shopping. It is also home to the famous Santa Maria del Mar Cathedral and the Picasso Museum. El Born is located between Via Laietana and Barceloneta and is served by the Metro stops Barceloneta and Jaume I on Line 4. It is a ten-minute walk from La Rambla and from the beach. Parc de Ciutadella and the Barcelona Zoo are also nearby.

Ciutat Vella is a trendy district that draws a hip, youthful crowd. Many of the buildings in this area have been renovated and turned into rental apartments, which have become popular among young local professionals, expatriates and tourists.



Plaça Reial



La Pedrera

## → 2 Eixample

The Eixample neighbourhood is by far the largest in Barcelona. It stretches from Plaça Espanya to Plaça de les Glories Catalanes and from Ciutat Vella to Gràcia. The whole area is set out in a grid, with each block having an inner courtyard. This grid design, a masterpiece of 19th-century Catalan urban planner Ildefons Cerdà, makes it very easy to find one's way in the neighbourhood.

The Eixample contains the largest concentration of modernist architecture in Europe. It is also the economic and commercial hub of Barcelona and a high-class residential neighbourhood. Passeig de Gràcia, home to most of Barcelona's exclusive designer shops and restaurants, is at the heart of the Eixample, and divides it into two: Left Eixample (Eixample Esquerra) and Right Eixample (Eixample Dreta). Also on this boulevard are two of

Antoni Gaudí's most iconic buildings: Casa Batlló and Casa Milà.

In the Eixample, one can find spacious apartments with high ceilings, inside elegant Catalan Modernist buildings with long corridors and elaborate facades. The inner courtyards in each block give most buildings a natural source of light both in front and behind.

This neighbourhood is very central and has excellent transport links to the rest of the city. It appeals to residents of all age groups.



Parc Güell

## → 3 Gràcia

Gràcia is just off the upper end of Passeig de Gràcia, but when entering one feels like leaving Barcelona and going into a whole different world. Gràcia was in fact an independent village that was absorbed by Barcelona in 1897.

Gràcia has a network of narrow streets and charming bench-lined squares. It is home to

sidewalk cafes and bistros, low-key night-spots, alternative theatres and quirky shops that draw a youthful clientele. Yet behind its trendy, bohemian character lies a traditional neighbourhood of proud, elderly locals.

A Metro line runs through the heart of the neighbourhood.

## → 4 Poblenuu

Poblenuu was a traditional industrial area of Barcelona that is now rapidly being transformed through the 22@ project into the new Barcelona's technological and innovation district.

22@ is creating a diverse and balanced environment in which the most innovative companies exist alongside research and technology-transfer centres, together with housing and green areas.

Its closeness to the beach makes it attractive for new housing complexes, and it is now starting to attract local and international businesses. It may be hard to find parking in this area during the day when it is buzzing with business activity, but at night some streets are not so busy.

Many of Poblenuu's old warehouse buildings have been converted into trendy lofts and studios.

The Rambla del Poblenuu adds a unique, local character to this neighbourhood, retaining a village appeal with a great selection of shops, markets, bars and restaurants.



Vila Olímpica

## → 5 Diagonal Mar

This newly developed area by the sea is part of the construction boom of the previous decade and of a strategic regeneration of the city's seafront. The wide streets and avenues are lined with numerous high-rise, condominium-style apartment buildings, as well as lower walk-up complexes with community areas and swimming pools.

Diagonal Mar has a large shopping centre and several 4-star hotels. Many of the apartments in this zone are rented out to the employees of the multinational companies that have set up offices in the nearby area.

## → 6 Vila Olímpica

This was the site of the Olympic Village of the 1992 Games held in Barcelona and is very close the Port Olímpic and beaches. After the Olympics, the area's buildings were transformed into apartments, and the whole area was renovated to accom-

moderate gardens, terraces and community areas. New buildings were constructed in the surrounding areas along Avinguda d'Icària and Carrer de la Marina.

Vila Olímpica is well connected to the rest of the city by metro, tram and bus services. It is also within walking distance of Parc de la Ciutadella, the Barcelona Zoo and the Poblenou neighbourhood. It has a modern shopping centre with a supermarket and movie theatres playing movies in their original version.

## → 7 Pedralbes

Pedralbes is a quiet, exclusive residential area with luxury buildings and wide green spaces. Some developments have private gardens and swimming pools. This neighbourhood also houses many of the city's international and private schools and the ESADE and IESE business schools.

The area has easy access to motorways and the airport and is fairly well served by buses going to the city centre.



Torre Bellesguard / CC BY-SA 3.0 Photo: GerthMichael

## → 8 Sant Gervasi

Sant Gervasi, at the foot of Tibidabo hill, is another quiet, upmarket residential area. It has a distinguished history, being the site of the Bellesguard, built by King Martin I at the beginning of the 15th century and completely refurbished by Antoni Gaudí in the early 20th century. Spacious second homes and Catalan Modernist houses remain, as well as many convents and religious schools. Gaudí's Les Teresianes convent is particularly remarkable. The neighbourhood also boasts the beautiful hilltop parks of Monterols and El Putxet, which command good views over Barcelona.

The neighbourhood has a great community atmosphere and is very popular with Barcelona families. It also offers a good selection of shops and restaurants.

Sant Gervasi is 10-15 minutes by car from the city centre. It is also connected to the centre by Line 7 of the Ferrocarril de la Generalitat de Catalunya (FGC) railway.

## → 9 Les Corts

Les Corts is a neighbourhood with a very heterogeneous urban fabric, as it combines buildings from 1800 and 1900 with more modern constructions.

It corresponds to the oldest and most central area of the old municipality of Les Corts which was incorporated into Barcelona in 1897.

In the highest part, situated above Avinguda Diagonal, Neolithic and Iberian remains were found as well as a Roman necropolis.

## → 10 Turó Parc

This area features properties that overlook Turó Parc, one of Barcelona's most beautiful green spaces.

Excellent shops and restaurants are close by in the commercial areas of Pau Casals, Plaça Francesc Macià and Avinguda Diagonal.



## → 11 Sarrià

Sarrià, a charming old neighbourhood at the foot of the Collserola hills, has an historic quarter that has preserved most of its original personality. Sarrià, like Gràcia, was once an independent town, hence its unique village appeal.

The neighbourhood's two FGC (Catalan railway) stations, Reina Elisenda and Sarrià, make getting to the city centre quite easy.

### **METROPOLITAN AREA: SURROUNDING TOWNS AND CITIES**

## → 12 Sant Just Desvern / Esplugues de Llobregat

Sant Just Desvern and Esplugues de Llobregat are municipalities in the Baix Llobregat region of the Barcelona metropolitan area. They are located south of Barcelona, just 15 minutes by car to the city centre.

Sant Just and Esplugues are quiet residential areas with vast green spaces and great views of the sea and the city of Barcelona. Many of the properties here are recently constructed apartments and houses with swimming pools. It is also possible to find detached, single-family homes in this area. It has all the essential commercial and public services.

Esplugues is home to the American and German schools and is thus very popular with German and American residents.

## → 13 Castelldefels / Gavà / Sitges

The history of Castelldefels can be traced back to the year 911. Its castle was built in the Middle Ages, as well as the towers of the original city wall, which can be found today in the city centre.

Castelldefels is 20 minutes away from the city centre and 10 minutes from the airport, taking either the C-246 or the A-16 motorways. The public transportation system is excellent, with both buses and trains to Barcelona leaving every 20 minutes from several locations throughout the area.

Bordered by a mile-long sandy beach to the east and hills to the west, Castelldefels has a mild climate. A favourite spot for tourists, it has many restaurants serving a variety of cuisines and a number of good hotels.

Castelldefels is attractive to people who like living near the sea and to families whose children go to the British school, which is located in the area.

The town of Gavà boasts four kilometres of coastline frequented by beach lovers and the mountains of Garraf Natural Park. It is one of the biggest municipalities in the Baix Llobregat area. It is located 15 kilometres from Barcelona and 10 kilometres from the international airport, and can be reached by bus, train and car. It is connected to Barcelona by the C-32 and C-246 motorways.



Sitges

Sitges, a city about 35 kilometres south-west of Barcelona, is a very popular tourist destination. It is known worldwide for its beaches, nightspots and historical sites, as well as its annual Film Festival and Carnival. Many expatriate families live in Sitges' residential districts of Vallpineda, La Levantina, Quint Mar and Rocamar

## → 14 Sant Cugat / Vallès Occidental

Sant Cugat is a town in the Vallès Occidental area, just 12 kilometres away from Barcelona. Its strategic location and excellent transport links to the city allows many of its residents to live in Sant Cugat and work in Barcelona. Although it has grown in size and population, Sant Cugat has managed to preserve the essence of a quiet town, and its residents enjoy a high quality of life.



Sant Cugat del Vallès

Sant Cugat offers new condominiums with common areas, swimming pools and gardens. Here it is also possible to find detached, single-family homes. This and the town's quiet, family-oriented atmosphere appeal to many expatriate families.

Sant Cugat has different residential areas, all well connected to each other and the city centre by buses and FGC stations. Larger flats and houses can be found in the Eixample area, an older residential part of town, and in Golf-Can Trabal, a residential zone of the town's Golf Club.

Parc Central-Turó de Can Mates and Coll Favà-Volpelleres are Sant Cugat's newest residential areas. Parc Central and Coll Favà are the closest to the city centre. In all these zones you can find flats with communal areas and to a lesser extent terraced houses.

Other residential areas include Valldoreix and Mirasol, which were originally summer vacation destinations of Barcelona residents.

Other municipalities in Vallès Occidental also offer attractive housing options. Bellaterra, in the municipality of Cerdanyola del Vallès, is home to the campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).

### ➔ 15 El Maresme

El Maresme is a county (*comarca*) located along the coast, between the Mediterranean Sea and Catalonia's coastal hills and bordering Vallès Oriental to the west. It has over 400,000 residents, 100,000 of which live in the capital and largest city, Mataró.

El Maresme is well connected to Barcelona by the old Royal Way (*Camí Reial*), now the N-II main road, and by the Barcelona-Mataró railway, which was the first ever on the Iberian Peninsula when it was finished in 1848. More recent constructions are the Barcelona-Mataró section of the C-32, the first motorway in Spain, and its subsequent enlargement, the Mataró-Palafolls section.

El Maresme features long sandy beaches and beautiful hills. Its main sources of income are its vineyards, its textile and fishing industries, and tourism. Its tourist spots and residential areas are well equipped with hotels, restaurants, camping and leisure areas and sports facilities.

## THE BARCELONA RENTAL AND PROPERTY MARKET

Barcelona is a major tourist destination and convention venue. In addition, it has become one of the most preferred destinations for a large number of multinational companies, organizations and individuals who decide to settle or start operations here. It is also a popular choice for foreigners looking for second or holiday homes.

### BUYING PROPERTY IN BARCELONA

The NIE is a legal requirement when buying property in Spain, so make sure you have obtained this before starting the buying process. You will also need a Spanish bank account to pay not only for the property itself, but also the applicable professional fees, taxes and charges on the purchase.

Another important step is to hire a reputable and independent solicitor (*advocat*). If you do not speak Spanish or Catalan, a bilingual solicitor can also translate essential documents and explain things you may not understand.

It also helps to consider your means of finance early on. Many overseas buyers in Spain purchase in cash, but you also have the option to take out a mortgage, either with a Spanish bank or your local bank's

subsidiary business in Spain. Maximum loans are generally 75% of the purchase price.

Once you have chosen a property to buy, your solicitor should then carry out all the necessary checks on it to ensure that the sale is legal and that there are no debts secured against the property.

Be aware that in Spain mortgages can be passed on to the new owner. Once your solicitor has provided you with written confirmation that everything is in order and checked that there are no burdens on the property, you should sign an earnest money contract setting the term of the final sale before a notary, stating the price and the method of payment. You do not need to sign anything else until the signing of the title deeds (*escritura pública*).

When you sign the earnest money contract, you pay a sum which is usually 10% of the sale price. The contract must provide a comprehensive description of the property's specifications and characteristics. If the owner then decides not to sell or is in breach of the earnest money contract, they have to refund double the amount paid as earnest money, i.e. multiplied by two. If the buyer breaches the earnest money contract they will forfeit the amount paid.

The full title deeds are signed by the seller, the buyer and a notary on the completion date and usually take a few months to process.

From 1 June 2013 properties for sale or rent must have an energy performance certificate which specifies CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to the dimensions of the building on a scale from A to G. This means the new buyer or tenant can consider energy efficiency as a factor in their decision to buy or rent. Owners who wish to sell or rent housing have to give this certificate to the buyer or tenant before closing the transaction.

## RENTAL CONTRACTS

Once you have chosen a flat to rent and the owner agrees to rent the property to you, the first thing to do is make a down payment. The down payment is equal to a month's rent and becomes part of the deposit once the lease is signed.

Owners reserve the right to choose a tenant based on their references and specific conditions. You should be able to show the owner your work contract and other proof of income, as well as a copy of your passport or residence card.



A tenant wishing to leave the property and terminate the contract is required to send written notification to the landlord at least two months in advance, specifying the date of cancellation of the contract.

Rent increases annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (*Índex de Preus al Consum* or IPC).

## Payments

The following are payments associated with rental contracts.

- **CURRENT MONTH'S RENT.**
- **SECURITY DEPOSIT.** The tenant must pay a security deposit (*fiança*) equivalent to one month's rent for an unfurnished apartment and two months' rent for a furnished one. The deposit will be reimbursed to the tenant upon termination of the contract.
- **BANK GUARANTEE.** Another possible requirement for renting an apartment is the bank guarantee (*aval bancari*). This requires the tenant to deposit three to six months' rent in a separate bank account for the duration of the rental contract. This amount will remain untouched, while still earning interest, as a guarantee to the landlord. This is to provide the landlord with cash to cover outstanding rent and any legal expenses incurred in the eviction of a non-complying tenant. The full amount plus earned interest is reimbursed to the tenant upon termination of the contract. The guarantee is separate from the security deposit.
- **AGENCY FEE.** Those renting through a rental agency must also pay a commission

equivalent to 10% of the annual rent plus 21% value-added tax (*Impost del Valor Afegit* or IVA).

You can make all the necessary payments by bank transfer from your Spanish bank account. You can also pay in cash or with a Spanish bank cheque, but not with a credit card.

Rent must be paid during the first five days of the month. The rent and utility bills are usually paid by direct debit from your Spanish bank account (see “Money and banking” section).

### ➔ **Tenant and landlord responsibilities**

After an initial inspection of the flat and a review of the inventory (if furnished), tenants have 15 to 30 days to report any damage found in the apartment and any repairs needed. Owners are obliged to take the necessary action. After the first month, tenants are responsible for normal wear and tear and repairs, with the exception of damage caused by structural faults, water-pipe breakage and flooding from outside sources. A good relationship with your landlord or administrator is highly recommended to ensure good communication and prompt solutions.

### ➔ **Pets**

In general not many owners accept pets in their apartments. Those who do may ask for an extra deposit.

## **UTILITIES**

Rental contracts include a clause stating that utilities are installed. This means that all you need to do is call the utility companies to request a name or account change. Administrators usually offer to take care of this.

If the utilities are not available, it can take up to a week for them to be set up. Charges may apply.

To get your utility service connected, you are required to present your NIE or passport number, your bank account details, the number and signing date of your rental contract, the last bill and a *Cèdula d'Habitabilitat*, a document that certifies the property's fitness for occupation. Connection fees may apply.

All utilities (gas, water, electricity and telephone) are usually paid by direct debit (see “Money and banking” section). You should receive a bill before the money is deducted from your account, so remember to check that the amount deducted matches the bill.

### ➔ **Electricity**

Electricity is priced using the international system of a small standing charge and a further charge per kilowatt-hour consumed. This rate decreases as consumption increases. Electricity is billed every month based on the power rating and the kilovolt, which in Spain is 220 volts AC with a frequency of 50 hertz.

The main power suppliers in Barcelona are:

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#### **FECSA ENDESA**

TEL : +34 800 76 09 09

→ [www.endesa.es](http://www.endesa.es)

→ [www.endesaonline.com](http://www.endesaonline.com)

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#### **GAS NATURAL**

TEL : +34 902 200 605

→ [www.gasnaturalfenosa.es](http://www.gasnaturalfenosa.es)

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#### **IBERDROLA**

TEL : +34 900 11 00 11

→ [www.iberdrola.es](http://www.iberdrola.es)

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Spain uses Type C or Europlug power outlets, with two round pins. Those from outside Europe may need an adapter for any appliances from their home country they wish to use in Spain. Those from countries using the 110-volt system also need a voltage converter.

#### **Gas**

Mains or bottled gas is available in Barcelona. Many homes have a combined gas hot-water and heating system. You are billed for gas every two months. Like all utility bills, gas bills can be paid by direct debit.

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#### **GAS NATURAL**

TEL : +34 902 200 605

→ [www.gasnaturalfenosa.es](http://www.gasnaturalfenosa.es)

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With the progressive deregulation of the energy sector in Spain and the distinction between energy distributors and retailers, companies such as Endesa, Iberdrola and Gas Natural can offer their customers combined rates for electricity and gas.

#### **Water**

In Barcelona, water is supplied exclusively by Aigües de Barcelona. Bills are sent out every three months.

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#### **AIGÜES DE BARCELONA**

TEL : +34 900 710 710

→ [www.aiguesdebarcelona.es](http://www.aiguesdebarcelona.es)

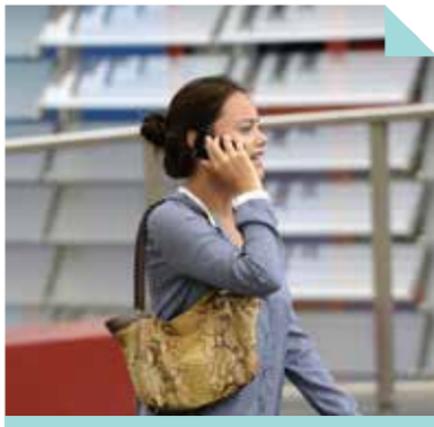
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Tap water in Barcelona is safe to drink, but is quite hard and has a mineral taste. Most residents prefer to drink bottled water.

#### **Landline telephones**

There are several national and a few regional providers of fixed-line telephone services in Spain. Different providers offer a wide range of plans, including flat-rate charges (*tarifas planes*), and it is up to you to shop around for the best deal. Remember, however, that most fixed lines are still provided by Telefónica-Movistar, the long-standing national telephone company, even if you decide to use another provider for your calling charges.

Providers also offer standard services such as call waiting, call redirect and voice mail.



Having a landline installed generally takes four to five days, but it can take longer in some cases. All calls within Spain are billed in the same way. You pay an amount for establishing the call and then a per-minute charge applies. All charges are subject to VAT.

Spain's country code is 34. All major cities in Spain have their own prefixes. Barcelona's prefix is 93, while Madrid's is 91.

## ➔ Mobile phones

Spain operates on a GSM network. If you currently own an unlocked GSM phone, it will work in Spain with a new SIM card.

When choosing a mobile-phone service provider and pricing plan, consider when and where you usually call. Prepaid and contract rate plans can either be hourly or universal. With hourly rates, tariffs are much lower in the early morning and late

in the day and are higher during business hours. Universal rates offer one fixed rate regardless of the time of day, but this is typically more expensive. There are also different rates depending on where you call: calls to mobiles with the same operator are the cheapest while calls to landlines and mobiles with other operators are more expensive.

Providers also offer special promotions that are worth looking into.

You can choose between a prepaid phone and a contract.

A prepaid phone offers more flexibility. To get more credit for your prepaid phone, you can buy recharge cards or buy credits through your phone, from any cash dispenser or online. All prepaid-phone users are required by law to present their ID (identification) to their mobile-phone provider.

Alternatively, you can sign a contract. With a contract, you get monthly bills, lower calling rates and better deals on new phones. The typical length of a contract is one year. If you cancel before this, you will usually have to pay a penalty. To sign a contract, you are required to present an identity document and a recent bank statement. Your phone bill is also paid through direct debit.

## ➔ Internet

It is fairly easy to get high-speed Internet access in Spain. The two options available are ADSL or cable modem (up to 50 Megabytes per second). Besides the monthly fee, providers often charge a signup fee (*quota d'alta*), but many operators waive or reduce this to attract more customers. High-speed access usually requires a contract of at least one year, with associated penalties for early termination. Many Internet packages are bundled with telephone and television services.

There are also several Wi-Fi (pronounced *wee-fee* in Spanish and Catalan) options in Barcelona. The city has 500 hotspots with free access in every city neighbourhood, mostly municipal premises such as public libraries, civic centres or markets. In addition, an increasing number of establishments in the city are making wireless Internet connections available to their customers.

Telephone and Internet companies also offer monthly subscriptions to their Wi-Fi services, which usually work with a USB Wi-Fi modem.

Those with Internet-enabled smart phones can also take advantage of Barcelona's 3G and more recently 4G networks. Access to a 3G or 4G network is usually included in your mobile phone's pricing plan.

Those who do not have access to a computer can go to Barcelona's many Internet

cafes, which charge per hour or using multi-hour passes called *abonaments de connexió*. They also offer other services such as printing, scanning and using basic programs.

Barcelona City Council has launched a range of ICT-based services to offer Barcelona's residents an improved public service with greater flexibility, accessibility and speed. For instance, mobile phones can be used to access the city agenda of what's on, the map or the directory of facilities, centres and services. The City Council also has information services specially designed for access using mobile devices.



For more information, visit

➔ [www.bcn.cat/bcnmobil](http://www.bcn.cat/bcnmobil)



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

Bins sited throughout the city enable easy and accessible separate waste collection. There are bins for organic waste (brown), glass (green), packaging, plastic and cans (yellow), cardboard and paper (blue) and other waste (grey). Waste separation is rounded off with a number of green point recycling centres (permanent facilities in each district and mobile ones). Other types of waste require specific handling: furniture and junk are collected from the street one day a week, depending on the street, while the city also has special bins for used clothing and collection systems for debris and asbestos cement.

Barcelona currently has three different types of waste collection:

- **Bin system**, the most widespread in the city's various neighbourhoods
- **Pneumatic system**, cleaner and used in Gràcia, Vila Olímpica and Diagonal Mar
- **Door to door system**, especially in the historic centre as their streets are too narrow for bins and rubbish collection vehicles.



For more information on waste management, visit

→ [www.bcn.cat/mediambient](http://www.bcn.cat/mediambient)

→ [www.amb.cat](http://www.amb.cat) *Medi Ambient* (Environment) section

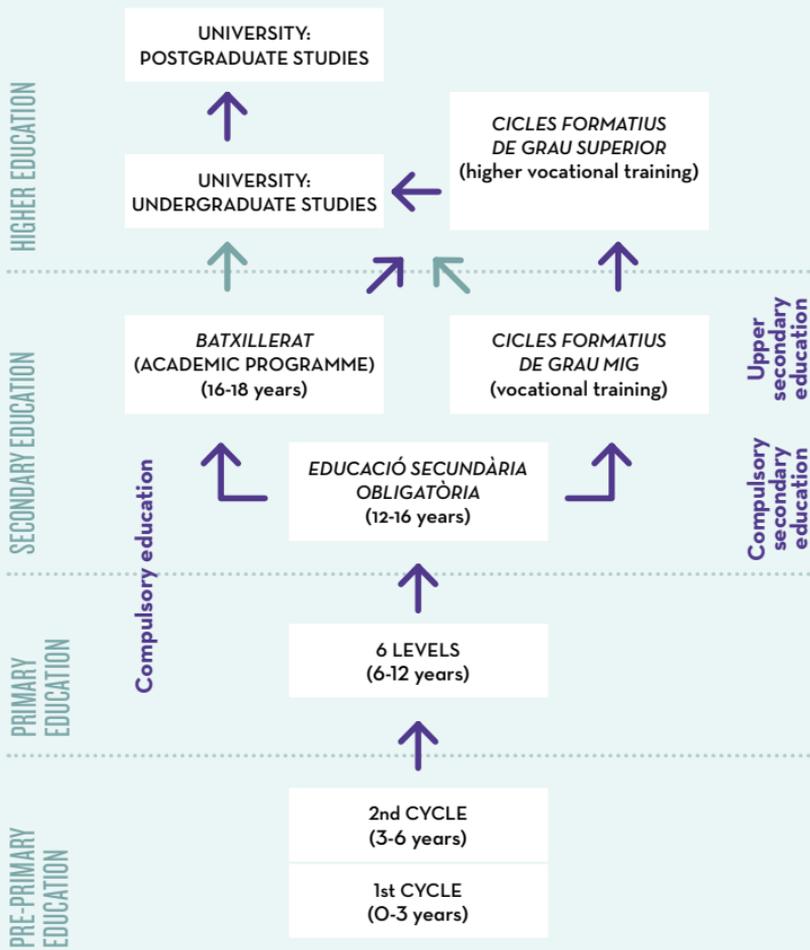
→ [www.arc.cat](http://www.arc.cat) Agència de Residus de Catalunya

## DOMESTIC SERVICES

If you need domestic help you can choose to hire a live-in service person, daytime help, part-time help or a cleaning person. A professional agency can find the right person for you and help you with administrative issues. Babysitting services are also offered by individuals and agencies.

## SPANISH EDUCATION. SIMPLIFIED CHART.

→ RESTRICTED ENTRY → ENTRANCE TEST REQUIRED



SOURCE: Own compilation based on the Spanish Ministry of Education

## EDUCATION

## CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Choosing a school in Barcelona for your children depends on their previous educational experience and how long you plan to stay in Spain.

Families who are likely to move frequently from one country to another during the children's school years tend to choose an international school so that the children will have some degree of educational continuity regardless of the family's location.

If you plan to live in Spain for a number of years, you may want to enrol your children in a regular Catalan school. If you plan to be in Spain for a short while, then return to your home country, you may want to give your children the experience of a year in a Catalan school, or you may want them to continue with the kind of programme they followed back home.

## THE SPANISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

There are three types of schools in the Spanish school system: state, private, and state-funded (*concertada*). Tuition is free in state schools, which are completely funded by the government. Private schools are privately financed. *Concertada* schools are privately run schools that receive some government funding. Tuition is also free in *concertada* schools, though there may be

voluntary fees and expenses for extracurricular activities.

Primary education (*Educació Primària*) is compulsory in Spain from the age of six. After finishing primary school at age 12, children then move on to a secondary school to study Compulsory Secondary Education (*Educació Secundària Obligatòria* or *ESO*) from age 12 to 16. This is followed by the *Formació Post-Obligatòria* where students can choose to leave school and start working, or do two years of *Batxillerat* and then enter university, or gain more practical vocational training through the *Formació Professional* or FP programme.



For more information, visit → [www.bcn.cat/educacio](http://www.bcn.cat/educacio) (Spanish and Catalan only)

## PRE-PRIMARY

Pre-primary education is for children between 0 and 6 years old. It is organised in two cycles of three courses:

- **FIRST CYCLE** (0-3 years old): the schools that only provide pre-primary or nursery education are called *llars d'infants* or *escoles bressol*. This first level of education is not free of charge. There are state schools (whose cost is partially funded by the government) and private schools.

• **SECOND CYCLE** (3-6 years old): the schools that provide this second cycle are called *parvularis*, although there are also infant and primary education schools (CEIP) that cover children's education from 3 to 12 years old. In this second level education is universal and free of charge in state and *concertada* schools (but not in private schools).

There are also a number of multilingual nurseries and day care centres throughout Barcelona and its surrounding areas.



To look for nurseries and preschools in Barcelona, go to Consulta de centres

→ [www.bcn.cat/educacio](http://www.bcn.cat/educacio)

You can also visit

→ [www.bcn.cat/barcelonabressol](http://www.bcn.cat/barcelonabressol)

## INTERNATIONAL AND BILINGUAL SCHOOLS

There are two types of international schools: schools that follow their country's curriculum with or without Spanish and/or Catalan as second languages, and schools that teach in foreign languages while following a Spanish curriculum. Although these latter schools are classified as international, most of its students are Spanish, so your children will be exposed to Spanish and Catalan through their classmates.

English-language international schools either follow a particular educational curriculum throughout, such as the British or American system, or switch after primary level to the local curriculum. A Spanish secondary system means that students are taught the Compulsory Secondary Education (*Educació Secundària Obligatòria* or ESO) curriculum from ages 12 to 16 and then Batxillerat from ages 16 to 18 if they wish to enter university.

In Barcelona there are French, American, British schools. There is also a German school, an Italian school, a Japanese school and a Swiss school. These country-specific international schools are funded by their respective countries and follow these countries' curriculums. Although they are open to students of all nationalities, priority is given to nationals of the country funding the school. Those of a different nationality who have done part of their schooling in that country are also given priority.

Schools based outside the city offer school bus services.

Waiting lists for international schools are long and there is limited capacity. It is therefore recommended that you apply as soon as possible.

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN BARCELONA AREA

SCHOOL	TOWN	AGES					LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION						IB*	
		0-2	3-5	6-11	12-15	16-18	ENGLISH	FRENCH	HEBREW	ITALIAN	JAPANESE	GERMAN		
Àgora International School Barcelona	Sant Esteve Sesrovires	2a	x	x	x	x	x							
Àgora Sant Cugat International School	Sant Cugat del Vallès	x	x	x	x	x	x							x
American School of Barcelona	Esplugues de Llobregat		x	x	x	x	x							x
Aula Escola Europea	Barcelona		x	x	x	x	x	x						x
Benjamin Franklin International School	Barcelona		x	x	x	x	x							x
British School of Barcelona	Castelldefels		x	x	x	x	x							
Colegio Hatikva	Valldoreix (Sant Cugat)	2a	x	x	x		x		x					
Colegio Japonés de Barcelona	Sant Cugat del Vallès		x	x	x							x		
Colegio Mary Ward Barcelona	Barcelona		x	x	x									x
Colegio Montserrat	Barcelona		x	x	x	x	x							x
Colegio Xaloc	L'Hospitalet de Llobregat	x	x	x	x	x	x							x
Deutsche Schule Barcelona (DSB)	Esplugues de Llobregat		x	x	x	x							x	
École Française Bel Air	Sant Pere de Ribes		x	x	x	x		x						
École Française Ferdinand-de-Lesseps	Barcelona		x	x				x						
English Academy Santa Claus	Barcelona		x	x			x							
English School	Barcelona		x	x			x							
ES International School	El Prat de Llobregat				10-11	x	x	x						
Europa International School	Sant Cugat del Vallès	x	x	x	x	x	x							
Hamelin International Laie School	Alella	x	x	x	x	x	x							x
Highlands School Barcelona	Esplugues de Llobregat	x	x	x	x		x							
International School of Barcelona	Sitges	x	x	x	x	x	x							x
International School of Catalunya	La Garriga		x	x	x		x							
John Talabot School	Barcelona		x	x	x		x							
Kensington School	Barcelona		x	x	x	x	x							
Lycée Français de Barcelone	Barcelona		x	x	x	x		x						

SCHOOL	TOWN	AGES				LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION						IB*		
		0-2	3-5	6-11	12-15	16-18	ENGLISH	FRENCH	HEBREW	ITALIAN	JAPANESE		GERMAN	
Lycée Français de Gavà Bon Soleil	Gavà		x	x	x	x		x						
Oak House School	Barcelona		x	x	x	x	x							x
Princess Margaret School	Barcelona		x	x	x		x							
Santa Clara International College	Barcelona	2a	x	x	x	x	x							
Schweizerschule Barcelona	Barcelona		x	x	x	x								x
Sek-Catalunya	La Garriga		x	x	x	x	x							x
St Paul's School	Barcelona		x	x	x	x	x							
St Peter's School	Barcelona	18a	x	x	x	x	x							
Scuola Italiana di Barcellona	Barcelona		x	x	x	x				x				
The Olive Tree School	Sant Pere de Ribes				x		x							
Zürich Schule	Barcelona	2a	x	x	x									x

\* International Baccalaureate

Below is a list of international schools in alphabetical order:

#### ÀGORA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BARCELONA

Carrer Puig de Mira 15-21  
 Urb. Masia Bach  
 08635 Sant Esteve Sesrovires  
 TEL : + 34 93 779 89 28  
 E-MAIL : info@agoraisbarcelona.edu.es  
 FGC : Sant Esteve Sesrovires R6  
 → www.agoraisbarcelona.edu.es

#### ÀGORA SANT CUGAT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Carrer Ferrer i Guardia s/n  
 08174 Sant Cugat del Vallès  
 TEL : + 34 93 590 26 00  
 E-MAIL : info@agorasantcugat.edu.es

FGC : Sant Joan S2 S55  
 → www.agorasantcugat.edu.es

#### AMERICAN SCHOOL OF BARCELONA

Carrer Jaume Balmes 7  
 08950 Esplugues de Llobregat  
 TEL : +34 93 371 40 16 / +34 93 371 50 12  
 E-MAIL : info@a-s-b.com  
 → www.a-s-b.com

#### AULA ESCOLA EUROPEA

Avinguda de la Mare de Déu de Lorda 34  
 08034 Barcelona  
 TEL : + 34 93 203 03 54  
 E-MAIL : secretaria@aula-ee.com  
 FGC : Reina Elisenda L6  
 → www.aula-ee.com

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

Carrer de Martorell i Peña 9

08017 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 434 23 80

E-MAIL : info@bfischool.org

FGC : Sarrià L6

→ www.bfischool.org

**BRITISH SCHOOL OF BARCELONA**

Carrer Ginesta 26

08860 Castelldefels

TEL : +34 93 665 15 84

E-MAIL : info@bsb.edu.es

RENFE : Castelldefels Centre R2

→ www.britishschoolbarcelona.com

**COLEGIO HATIKVA**

Avinguda Mas Fuster 128

08197 Valldoreix (Sant Cugat del Vallès)

TEL : +34 93 211 91 16

E-MAIL : info@colegiohatikva.com

FGC : Valldoreix: S1 S2 S5 S55

→ www.colegiohatikva.com

**COLEGIO JAPONÉS DE BARCELONA**

Camí de Can Graells 61

Polígon Can Graells

08174 Sant Cugat del Vallès

TEL : + 34 935 893 247

E-MAIL : info@colegiojaponesbcn.org

→ www.colegiojaponesbcn.org

**COLEGIO MARY WARD BARCELONA**

Carrer de Copèrnic 55-59

08006 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 201 85 55

E-MAIL : centre@marywardbcn.com

→ www.marywardbarcelona.net

**COLEGIO MONTSERRAT**

Avinguda de Vallvidrera 68

08017 Barcelona

TEL : + 34 932 038 800

E-MAIL : secretaria@cmontserrat.net

FGC : Peu del Funicular S1 S2 S5 S55

→ www.cmontserrat.org

**COLEGIO XALOC**

Carrer de Can Tries 4-6

08902 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat

TEL : +34 93 335 16 00

E-MAIL : xaloc@xaloc.org

FGC : Europa i Fira S8

METRO : Bellvitge L1

RENFE : Bellvitge R2

→ www.xaloc.org

**DEUTSCHE SCHULE BARCELONA (DSB)**

Avinguda Jacint Esteva Fontanet 105

08950 Esplugues de Llobregat

TEL : +34 93 371 83 00

E-MAIL : dsbarcelona@dsbarcelona.com

→ www.dsbarcelona.com

**ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE BEL AIR**

Carretera C246, Km 42 Vilanoveta

08812 Sant Pere de Ribes

TEL : +34 93 896 22 67

E-MAIL : info@ecole-belair.com

→ www.ecole-belair.com

**ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE FERDINAND-DE-LESSEPS**

Gran Via de Les Corts Catalanes 707

08013 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 232 16 12

E-MAIL : lesseps@lesseps.net

METRO : Monumental L2

→ www.lesseps.net

**ENGLISH ACADEMY SANTA CLAUS**

Carrer de Lleó XIII 12

08022 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 417 18 47

E-MAIL : mail@academysantaclaus.com

FGC : Avinguda Tibidabo L7

→ www.academysantaclaus.com

**ENGLISH SCHOOL**Carrer de Gustavo Bécquer 50 (Kinder) y  
Carrer de Montornès 37 (Primary)

08023 Barcelona

TEL : + 34 93 213 88 64

E-MAIL : englishschool@colegioingles.net

METRO : Penitents L3

→ www.colegioingles.net

**ES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

c/o Academia Sánchez-Casal

Autovia de Castelldefels (C-31) km 191

Apartado de Correos 176

08820 El Prat de Llobregat

TEL : +34 93 479 16 16 (ext. 242)

E-MAIL : admin@es-school.com

→ www.es-school.com

**EUROPA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

Avinguda Pla del Vinyet 110

08172 Sant Cugat del Vallès

TEL : +34 93 589 84 20

E-MAIL : info@europais.com

FGC : Sant Cugat S1 S2 S5 S55

→ www.europais.com

**HAMELIN INTERNATIONAL LAIE SCHOOL**Carrer de Núria 30, Carrer de la Riera  
Fosca 3-5 08328 Alella

TEL : +34 93 555 67 17 ; +34 93 555 22 96

E-MAIL : laie@escolessas.com ;

hamelin@escolessas.com

RENFE : El Masnou R1

→ www.escolessas.com

**HIGHLANDS SCHOOL BARCELONA**

Carrer de Manuel Florentín Pérez 26

08950 Esplugues de Llobregat

TEL : +34 418 09 00

E-MAIL : secretaria@colegiohighlands.net

→ www.highlandsbarcelona.es

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BARCELONA**

Passeig Isaac Albéniz s/n

08870 Sitges

TEL : +34 93 894 20 40

E-MAIL : information@ischool.com

RENFE : Sitges R2

→ www.internationalschoolbarcelona.com

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CATALUNYA**

Carrer del Passeig 9

08530 La Garriga

TEL : + 34 93 841 40 77

E-MAIL : info@iscat.es

RENFE : La Garriga R3

→ www.iscat.es



**JOHN TALABOT SCHOOL**

Carrer de les Escoles Pies 136 (primary and secondary)

Carrer dels Quatre Camins 83 (pre-primary)

08017 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 212 34 99 (primary and secondary),

+34 93 434 05 42 (pre-primary)

E-MAIL : info@johntalabot.com

FGC : Sarrià L6, Avinguda Tibidabo L7

→ www.johntalabot.com

**KENSINGTON SCHOOL**

Carrer dels Cavallers 31-33

08034 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 203 54 57

E-MAIL : info@kensingtonschoolbcn.com

METRO : Zona Universitaria L3

→ www.kensingtonschoolbcn.com

**LYCÉE FRANÇAIS DE BARCELONE**

Carrer de Bosch i Gimpera 6-10

08034 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 203 79 50

E-MAIL : lfb@lfb.es

FGC : Reina Elisenda L6

→ www.lfb.es

**LYCEE FRANÇAIS DE GAVA BON SOLEIL**

Camí de la Pava 15

08850 Gavà

TEL : +34 93 633 13 58

E-MAIL : courrier@bonsoleil.es

RENFE : Gavà R2

→ www.bonsoleil.es

**OAK HOUSE SCHOOL**

Carrer de Sant Pere Claver 12-18

08017 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 252 40 20

E-MAIL : sec@oakhouseschool.com

FGC : Sarrià L6

→ www.oakhouseschool.com

**PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL**

Passeig de la Font d'en Fargas 15-17

08032 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 429 03 13

E-MAIL : colegio@princessmargaret.org

METRO : Vilapicina L5

→ www.princessmargaret.es

**SANTA CLARA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**

Carrer de Pomaret 17-19

08017 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 212 35 93

E-MAIL : santaclara@santaclaraic.com

FGC : Sarrià L6

→ www.santaclaraic.com

**SCHWEIZERSCHULE BARCELONA**

Carrer d'Alfons XII 95-105

08006 Barcelona

TEL : +34 93 209 65 44

E-MAIL : info@escuelasuizabcn.es

FGC : Plaça Molina L6, Sant Gervasi L7

→ www.escuelasuizabcn.es

**SEK CATALUNYA**

Avinguda Els Tremolencs 24-26

Urb. Els Tremolencs 08530 Barcelona

TEL : + 34 93 871 84 48

E-MAIL : sek-catalunya@sek.es

RENFE : La Garriga R3

→ www.sek.es

**ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL**

Avinguda de Pearson 39

08034 Barcelona

Tel: +34 93 203 05 00  
 E-MAIL: [secretaria@stpauls.es](mailto:secretaria@stpauls.es)  
 FGC: Reina Elisenda L6  
 → [www.stpauls.es](http://www.stpauls.es)

#### ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

Carrer d'Eduard Toldrà 18  
 08034 Barcelona  
 Tel: +34 93 204 3612  
 E-MAIL: [stpeters@stpeters.es](mailto:stpeters@stpeters.es)  
 FGC: Reina Elisenda L6  
 → [www.stpeters.es](http://www.stpeters.es)

#### SCUOLA ITALIANA DI BARCELONA

Passatge de Méndez Vigo 8  
 08009 Barcelona  
 TEL: +34 93 487 46 65 or +34 93 203 00 06  
 E-MAIL: [segreteria@liceoamaldi.com](mailto:segreteria@liceoamaldi.com)  
 METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L3, Girona L4  
 → [www.scuollaitalianabarcelona.com](http://www.scuollaitalianabarcelona.com)

#### THE OLIVE TREE SCHOOL

Carrer de les Modistes 8  
 08810 Sant Pere de Ribes  
 Tel: + 34 93 188 62 15  
 E-MAIL: [admin@olivetreeschool.cat](mailto:admin@olivetreeschool.cat)  
 RENFE: Sitges R2  
 → [www.olivetreeschool.net](http://www.olivetreeschool.net)

#### ZÜRICH SCHULE

Avinguda de Pearson 73  
 08034 Barcelona  
 Tel: +34 93 203 76 06  
 E-MAIL: [info@zurichschule.com](mailto:info@zurichschule.com)  
 FGC: Reina Elisenda L6  
 → [www.zurichschule.com](http://www.zurichschule.com)

## LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Spanish curriculum is followed in local schools. Catalan is the official medium of instruction in schools in Catalonia. Eighty percent of teaching in public and *concertada* schools is conducted in Catalan. All correspondence between parent and school is also in Catalan. Spanish and a foreign language, usually English, are also taught in schools.

All children living in Catalonia have the right to free education. School places are distributed, first through a point system, then through a draw.

School enrolment for September generally begins around March. There is a single pre-enrolment process for the whole of Catalonia for state and *concertat* schools which takes into account proximity to the school, availability of places, financial and family situation, etc. Before enrolling your child in any school, you must have the following essential information:

- School regulations, procedures and timetables.
- Number of places offered by the school.
- Criteria for admission of pupils.
- Territorial map of proximity (*Àrees territorials de proximitat*). This is an important prioritisation criterion for schools with limited places. You can consult your territorial map of proximity on the website of the Barcelona Education Consortium (*Consortori d'Educació de Barcelona*).

- Assignment between schools.
- The school's educational goals and methods.
- School services and out-of-school activities.



To consult your territorial map of proximity, go to *Centres i serveis educatius > Àrees territorials de proximitat* at  
 → [www.edubcn.cat](http://www.edubcn.cat) (Catalan only)

For additional information on the pre-registration process in the state and concertat education system visit *Estudiar a Catalunya > Preinscripció* where you will also find information in other languages:  
 → [www.gencat.cat/ensenyament](http://www.gencat.cat/ensenyament)

To look for schools (primary and secondary schools, *Batxillerat* and *Formació Professional*), go to the *Consulta de centres* page on  
 → [www.bcn.cat/educacio](http://www.bcn.cat/educacio) (Spanish and Catalan only) or  
 → [www.edubcn.cat](http://www.edubcn.cat) (Catalan only)

## SCHOOL TERMS

The school year is divided into three terms: September to December, January to March or April and April to June. There are three major holiday periods: Summer, Christmas and Easter.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Spain is a member of the European Higher Education Area, which was created by its member states to ensure more comparable, compatible and consistent systems of higher education in Europe. Spanish universities have adopted a new system of four-year Bachelor's degrees (*Grau*) and postgraduate degrees that include EHEA-adapted Master's degrees (*Màster Oficial*) and doctorate (*Doctorat*) degrees.

Barcelona has several world-class universities and higher-education institutions, both state and private. They are known for excellent academic programmes and cutting-edge research in a wide range of fields.



For more information on higher education and research, visit: Barcelona Centre Universitari → [www.bcu.cesca.es](http://www.bcu.cesca.es)

University services and centres  
 → [www.bcn.cat/educacio](http://www.bcn.cat/educacio)

For study and research grants, visit *Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca* → [www.gencat.net/agaur](http://www.gencat.net/agaur)

The following are the five state universities in the Barcelona area. Visit the official websites of each university for admission requirements and academic programmes.

**UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA (UAB)**

Campus de Bellaterra  
 08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès)  
 TEL : +34 93 581 11 11  
 E-MAIL : [informacio@uab.es](mailto:informacio@uab.es)  
 FGC : Universitat Autònoma S2 S55  
 → [www.uab.es/english](http://www.uab.es/english)

**UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA (UB)**

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 585  
 TEL : +34 93 402 11 00  
 FGC : Catalunya L6 L7  
 METRO : Universitat L1 L2  
 → [www.ub.edu/en](http://www.ub.edu/en)

**UNIVERSITAT OBERTA DE CATALUNYA (UOC)**

Avinguda Tibidabo 39-43  
 TEL : +34 93 253 23 00  
 FGC : Avinguda Tibidabo L7  
 → [www.uoc.edu/portal/english](http://www.uoc.edu/portal/english)

**UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA (UPC) (BARCELONA TECH)**

Carrer de Jordi Girona 31  
 TEL : +34 93 401 62 00  
 METRO : Palau Reial L3  
 → [www.upc.edu/eng](http://www.upc.edu/eng)

**UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA (UPF)**

Plaça de la Mercè 10-12  
 TEL : +34 93 542 20 00  
 METRO : Drassanes L3, Jaume I L4  
 → [www.upf.edu/barcelona/en](http://www.upf.edu/barcelona/en)

There are also three private universities in Barcelona:

**UNIVERSITAT ABAT OLIBA - CEU**

Carrer de Bellesguard 30  
 TEL : +34 93 254 09 00  
 E-MAIL : [info@uao.es](mailto:info@uao.es)  
 → [www.uaoceu.es](http://www.uaoceu.es)

**UNIVERSITAT INTERNACIONAL DE CATALUNYA (UIC)**

Carrer de la Immaculada 22  
 TEL : +34 93 254 18 00  
 E-MAIL : [info@uic.es](mailto:info@uic.es)  
 → [www.uic.es](http://www.uic.es)

**UNIVERSITAT RAMON LLULL (URL)**

Carrer de Claravall 1-3  
 TEL : +34 902 053 010  
 FGC : Avinguda Tibidabo L7  
 → [www.url.edu](http://www.url.edu)

The University Qualification Recognition Mentoring Service (SARU), run by the Catalan Government, advises people on the process of getting their qualifications from foreign universities recognised.

**SARU**

Via Laietana 2  
 TEL : +34 93 552 69 89  
 E-MAIL : [saru@gencat.cat](mailto:saru@gencat.cat)  
 METRO : Jaume I L4, Liceu L3 L1  
 → [www.saru.gencat.cat](http://www.saru.gencat.cat)

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOLS

Barcelona is an internationally accredited brand with a high concentration of prestigious business schools. The Financial Times Global MBA Rankings 2014 includes two of Barcelona's schools in the list of the top 25 business schools in the world: ESADE and IESE. IESE is 7th in the world rankings while ESADE is in 22nd place. In the European Business School Rankings, ESADE is in 3rd place, IESE 6th and EADA 25th.

### ESADE

Avinguda Pedralbes 60-62  
 TEL : +34 93 280 61 62  
 METRO : Maria Cristina L3  
 FGC : Reina Elisenda L6  
 → [www.esade.edu/web/eng](http://www.esade.edu/web/eng)

### IESE BUSINESS SCHOOL

Avinguda Pearson 21  
 TEL : +34 93 253 42 00  
 FGC : Reina Elisenda L6  
 → [www.iese.edu/en](http://www.iese.edu/en)

### EADA

Carrer d'Aragó 204  
 TEL : +34 93 452 08 44  
 METRO : Universitat L1 L2  
 FGC : Provença L6 L7  
 → [www.eada.edu/en](http://www.eada.edu/en)

### BARCELONA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Carrer Ramon Trias Fargas 25-27  
 TEL : +34 93 542 12 22  
 METRO : Ciutadella-Vila Olímpica L4  
 → [www.barcelonagse.eu](http://www.barcelonagse.eu)

## LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

The Consorci per la Normalització Lingüística (CPNL) offers free introductory courses in Catalan, as well as higher levels at a minimal cost.



Visit → [www.cpnl.cat](http://www.cpnl.cat) for more information

There are classroom and distance courses and also online and by blended learning on the → [www.parla.cat](http://www.parla.cat) platform.

Official Language Schools (*Escola Oficial d'Idiomes*) offer courses in Catalan, Spanish and foreign languages.

Catalan universities and cultural institutions of different countries also offer language courses. In addition, there is a thriving business of private language schools throughout the city.

### ESCOLA OFICIAL D'IDIOMES BARCELONA - DRASSANES

Avinguda Drassanes 14  
 TEL : +34 93 324 93 30  
 METRO : Drassanes L3  
 → [www.eoibd.cat](http://www.eoibd.cat)

### ESCOLA OFICIAL D'IDIOMES BARCELONA - VALL D'HEBRON

Avinguda Jordà 18  
 TEL : +34 93 418 68 33  
 METRO : Vall d'Hebron L3  
 → [www.eoibcnvh.cat](http://www.eoibcnvh.cat)

**GOETHE INSTITUT**

Carrer de Manso 24-28

TEL : +34 93 292 60 06

METRO : Sant Antoni L2, Poble Sec L3

→ [www.goethe.de/ins/es/bar/esindex.htm](http://www.goethe.de/ins/es/bar/esindex.htm)

**BRITISH COUNCIL**

Carrer d'Amigó 83

TEL : +34 93 241 97 00

FGC : Muntaner L6

→ [www.britishcouncil.org/spain/](http://www.britishcouncil.org/spain/)

**INSTITUT FRANÇAIS BARCELONE**

Carrer de Moia 8

TEL : +34 93 567 77 77

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7 S1 S2

→ [www.ifbcn.cat](http://www.ifbcn.cat)

**ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA DI BARCELLONA**

Passatge Méndez Vigo 5

TEL : +34 93 487 53 06

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

→ [www.iicbarcellona.esteri.it/IIC\\_Barcellona](http://www.iicbarcellona.esteri.it/IIC_Barcellona)

For courses in Asian languages:

**CASA ASIA**

Recinte Modernista Sant Pau

Sant Antoni M. Claret 167

TEL : +34 93 368 08 36 / +34 93 368 03 20

METRO : Sant Pau/Dos de Maig L5,

Guinardó/Hospital de Sant Pau L4

→ [www.casaasia.es](http://www.casaasia.es)

**OTHER COURSES**

The city and its surrounding areas offer countless other opportunities for learning. Cooking classes, music lessons, computer classes, dance lessons and much more: you can find them all in Barcelona.

The city has several community centres (*centres de barri*), civic centres (*centres cívics*) and centres for the elderly, children and young people (*casals per a gent gran, casals infantils, ludoteques* and *casals juvenils*) that offer a variety of courses and workshops.

The following are just two of the main civic centres in Barcelona:

**CENTRE CÍVIC GOLFERICHS**

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 491

TEL : +34 93 323 77 90

METRO : Urgell L1

→ [www.golferichs.org](http://www.golferichs.org)

**LA CASA ELIZALDE**

Carrer de València 302

TEL : +34 93 488 05 90

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

FGC : Provença L6 L7

→ [www.casaelizalde.com](http://www.casaelizalde.com)



To search for more civic and community centres, go to → [www.centrescivics.bcn.cat](http://www.centrescivics.bcn.cat)

It is also interesting to visit the Cibernàrium, a Barcelona City Council facility for starting out in new technologies and for getting up-to-date with the latest technological trends. All the courses and seminars are free of charge.

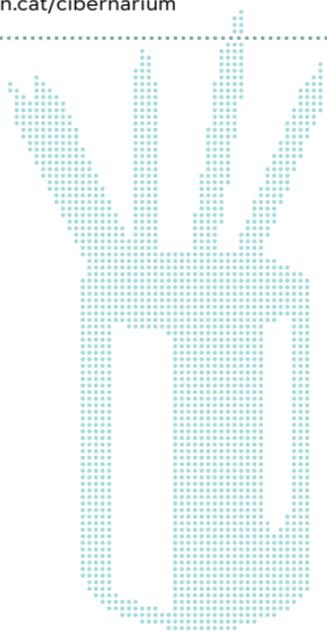
#### CIBERNÀRIUM

Barcelona Growth Centre (MediaTic) 1a planta  
Carrer de Roc Boronat 117

TEL : +34 93 291 76 10

METRO : Glòries L1, Llacuna L4

→ [www.bcn.cat/cibernarium](http://www.bcn.cat/cibernarium)



## HEALTHCARE

### PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

Spain has one of the best public health systems in the world which provides universal care to all of its citizens.

The *ambulatori*, or, officially, the *Centre d'Atenció Primària* (CAP), is a public health centre where medical care is provided for free. Each district of Barcelona has its own CAP, whose patients are determined by area of residence. When you register, you will be assigned a general practitioner and, if you have children, a paediatrician. Doctors work at certain hours and you will be asked to choose a regular time slot that suits you for a visit to your doctor. Usually you can get to see your primary-care doctor within a day or two after calling for an appointment.

Except in the case of emergencies, it is through your primary-care doctor that you can have access to a specialist. Also note that public dental care only covers preventive, diagnosis and therapeutic care (such as dental extractions in case of infection or inflammation and preventive exploration to pregnant women), and services such as dental extractions of healthy teeth, dental implants or orthodontics are excluded.

To register and receive your health card from *Catsalut*, the Catalan Health Service, you need to go to your nearest CAP and present your City Council registration

certificate (*empadronament*), some form of identification and proof you are working as an employee or freelancer in Spain and your Social Security registration. People who are not registered in the Social Security system must have public or private health insurance which covers them while they are resident in Spain.



For more information on the Catalan healthcare system, visit the official website of Catsalut → [www.gencat.cat/salut](http://www.gencat.cat/salut)

## HOSPITALS

Public hospitals in Barcelona provide excellent emergency services and elective and non-elective medical treatment. They are staffed by some of the best medical professionals in the country and are equipped with the latest in medical technology.

Visit the website of each hospital for more information.

### HOSPITAL CLÍNIC DE BARCELONA

Carrer de Villarroel 170

TEL : +34 93 227 54 00

METRO : Hospital Clínic L5

→ [www.hospitalclinic.org](http://www.hospitalclinic.org)

### HOSPITAL DE SANT PAU

Carrer de Sant Quintí 89

Carrer del Mas Casanovas 90

TEL : +34 93 291 90 00

METRO : Hospital de Sant Pau-Guinardó L4

→ [www.santpau.es](http://www.santpau.es)

### HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARI VALL D'HEBRON

Passeig de la Vall d'Hebron 119-129

TEL : +34 93 489 30 00, 93 274 60 00

METRO : Vall d'Hebron L3

→ [www.vhebron.net/esp.htm](http://www.vhebron.net/esp.htm)



For more information on hospitals and medical centres in the Barcelona area visit → [www.bcn.cat/salut](http://www.bcn.cat/salut)

## PHARMACIES

For minor aches and pains, you can go to your nearest pharmacy and ask a pharmacist for advice. Spanish pharmacists are highly qualified and can give you advice on which over-the-counter drugs to take and how to take them. Late-night pharmacies, called *farmàcies de guàrdia*, are open during weekends and holidays. Some pharmacies are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.



For information about pharmacies in Barcelona visit → [www.bcn.cat/salut](http://www.bcn.cat/salut) in the Pharmacies section



The **Farmaguia** app locates pharmacies in real time so you can find open and late-night pharmacies

## PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Another available option is the private healthcare sector. Private insurance providers (*mútues*) usually have their own network of hospitals, clinics and laboratories. Note that most companies only cover care provided by medical professionals on their list, called a *quadre mèdic*, although some refund a certain percentage of the fees charged by professionals not on the list.

## MATERNITY AND PATERNITY

Barcelona offers high-standard maternity facilities that range from large hospitals to smaller clinics.

Parents must register their child in person at the Civil Registry within eight days of birth. Each birth is registered in a document called Family Book, the *Llibre de Família*.

## → Maternity

The leave period is 16 weeks with full pay, the first six weeks of which must be taken by the mother. The remaining 10 weeks may be taken by the mother, the father or both. The mother must fulfil the following requirements to qualify for a leave:

- Those between 21 and 26 years of age on the date of the birth must have contributed to Social Security for 90 days within the seven years immediately prior to the start of the leave period or for 180 days throughout their working life prior to that date.
- Those over 26 years of age on the date of the birth must have contributed to Social Security for 180 days within the seven years immediately prior to the start of the leave period or for 360 days throughout their working life prior to that date.

## → Paternity

The father is entitled to a 15 days leave as follows:

- 2 days of work leave, with full pay, at the child's birth (the day of birth and the following).
- Plus the right to take a leave of 13 uninterrupted days (either full or part-time) and to receive a paternity benefit covered by the Social Security System. This leave must be taken during the 16 weeks of the maternity leave or immediately after.

Requirements are:

- Being affiliated or in a situation assimilated to affiliation.
- Having contributed for 180 days in the 7 years immediately prior to the date of the start of the suspension of the work contract, or alternatively contributed for 360 days in all your working life before the above mentioned date.



For more information on maternity and paternity leaves, visit

→ [www.seg-social.es/Internet\\_6/index.htm](http://www.seg-social.es/Internet_6/index.htm)



## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Barcelona is considered to be a friendly city for people with disabilities. It has one of the best accessible urban environments amongst European cities. As an example, nearly 90% of the streets are accessible for wheelchair users and quite a lot of the traffic-lights are adapted for people with visual disabilities.

Public transport is easily accessible: all bus lines are accessible, as well as an increasing number of underground stations. Other special services are the support service at the beaches in summer, adapted municipal information services, accessible sports facilities and accessible game zones for children with disabilities.



Visit → [www.bcn.cat/accessible](http://www.bcn.cat/accessible)

## PETS

All pets should have the necessary vaccinations and certificates before they can be brought into Spain. Requirements vary depending on the country of origin and may take some time to process, so you are advised to contact the Spanish consulate in your area well in advance of your departure.

The European Pet Passport lets eligible pets cross borders in Europe. This booklet,

which is issued by a licensed vet, contains obligatory information concerning each animal and is valid for its lifetime.

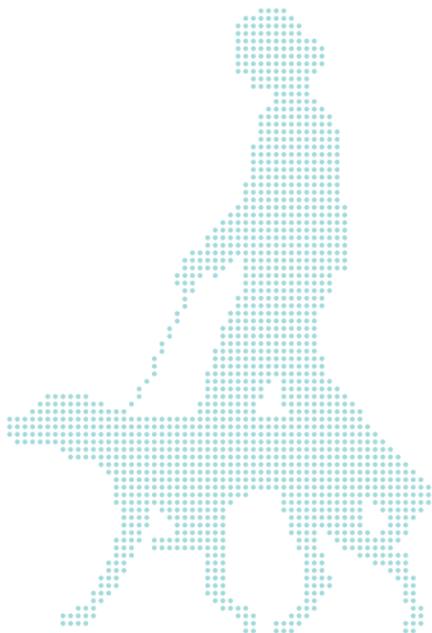


For more information, visit the Travel section of the European Commission website → [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu) (Only available in English, French and German)

The Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) allows eligible pets to travel to and from the United Kingdom without undergoing quarantine.



Visit → [www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad](http://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad) for more information (Only available in English)



*Welcome to  
our galaxy  
of unlimited  
attractions*



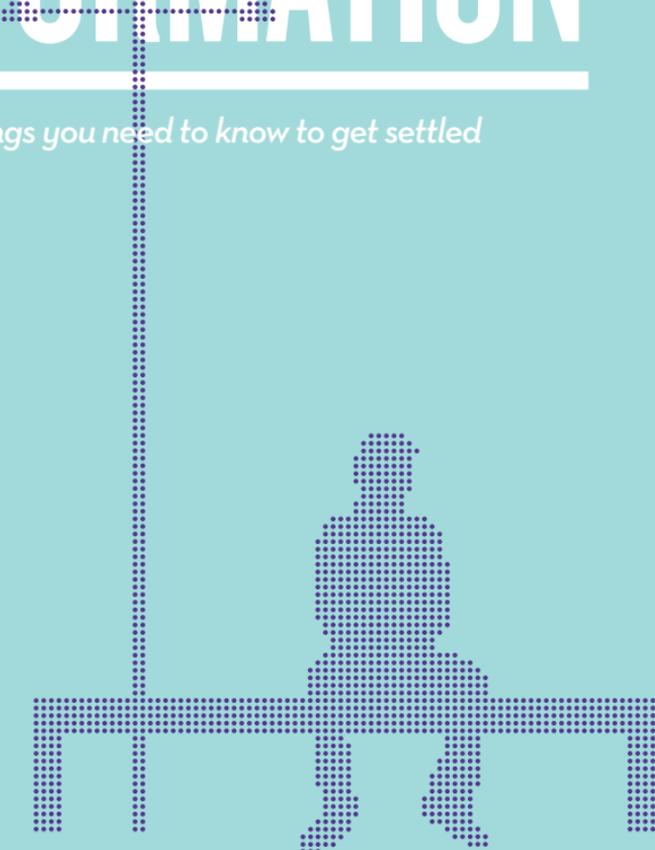


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# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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*Things you need to know to get settled*



## USEFUL INFORMATION

## ADDRESSES

The standard address format begins with the street name and number, followed by the floor number and the flat or unit number. For example, the address Carrer d'Aragó 137, 2n 3r corresponds to flat number 3 on the second floor of building 137 on Aragó street.

In Spain, the ground floor is either marked O or PB (*planta baja* in Spanish and *planta baixa* in Catalan). Ground-floor flats are usually called *bajos* in Spanish and *baixos* in Catalan, often abbreviated *bjos/bxs*. Some buildings also have a mezzanine (*entresuelo* or *entresòl, entl*), which is one floor up from the ground floor. One floor above this is the *principal (pra)*. Successive floors are then marked 1, 2, etc. Negative numbers are used for floors below ground. The topmost floor is commonly called an *ático* in Spanish and *àtic* in Catalan.



## HOLIDAYS

Spain has both public and religious holidays. Some are celebrated nationwide while others are celebrated only in Catalonia or in Barcelona.

## Bank holidays in Barcelona

1 January – Any Nou\* / New Year's Day

6 January – Dia de Reis\* / Epiphany

March-April (movable) – Divendres Sant\* / Good Friday

March-April (movable) – Dilluns de Pasqua\*\* / Easter Monday

1 May – Dia del Treball\* / Labour Day

May (movable) – Pasqua Granada\*\*\* / Pentecost Monday

24 June – Sant Joan\*\* / Feast Day of St. John

15 August – L'Assumpció\* / The Assumption

11 September – Diada Nacional de Catalunya\*\* / Catalan National Day

24 September – Festa de la Mercè\*\*\* / La Mercè Festival

12 October – Dia de la Hispanitat\* / Spanish National Day

1 November – Tots Sants\* / All Saints' Day

**6 December** – Dia de la Constitució\* / Constitution Day

**8 December** – La Immaculada\* / Immaculate Conception

**25 December** – Nadal\* / Christmas Day

**26 December** – Sant Esteve\*\* / Feast Day of St. Stephen

\* National holiday

\*\* Regional holiday (Catalonia only)

\*\*\* Local holiday (Barcelona only)

The following are holidays of cultural significance in Barcelona.

### ➤ **Dia dels Reis**

On the night of 5 January, Spanish towns and cities hold a Three Kings Procession. In Barcelona, the Three Kings, Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar, arrive by boat and are formally welcomed by the mayor. They parade in the streets of Barcelona in a magnificent, five-kilometre procession called the *Cavalcada*. The Three Kings distribute sweets and presents to both young and old, accompanied by costumed characters and dancers with their elaborate floats and carriages.

### ➤ **Diada de Sant Jordi**

St. George, locally known as Sant Jordi, is the patron saint of Catalonia. Catalans celebrate his feast day on 23 April by exchanging books and roses. On this day, Barcelona's main shopping streets are filled with book and flower stalls decorated with the Catalan colours of red and yellow.

Despite the importance of this day all over Catalonia, it is not a public holiday.

### ➤ **Revetlla de Sant Joan**

On 23 June, the eve of the Feast Day of St. John, Catalans celebrate the summer solstice with bonfires, fireworks and a traditional pastry called *coca de Sant Joan*.

### ➤ **La Diada**

This holiday commemorates the fall of Barcelona to the Bourbon troops during the War of the Spanish Succession on 11 September 1714 after a siege lasting 14 months. The Catalan Parliament declared 11 September to be a Catalan national holiday and on that day events are organised in the streets and the Catalans display flags on their balconies.

### ➤ **La Mercè Festival**

Locals celebrate the feast day of Barcelona's patroness on 24 September with a large street party. Highlights include the *Correfoc* or Fire Run, featuring costumed devils and fire-breathing dragons, and the fireworks display near the Montjuïc fountain.

### ➤ **New Year's Eve**

Spaniards usually celebrate New Year's Eve or Cap d'any by going out and partying. At midnight, they wait for the twelve strokes that mark the beginning of the New Year. They eat one grape at each stroke to bring luck for every month of the year. Since 2013 Barcelona has celebrated New Year's Eve with a show featuring L'Ésser del Mil·lenni (The Millennium Soul)



devised by the Fura dels Baus and which combines music, water and fire.



For more information, visit the Tourism section at → [www.bcn.cat](http://www.bcn.cat)

## LOCAL TIME

Local time in the Spanish peninsula is one hour ahead of GMT, six hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and nine hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time. When it is 6:00 p.m. in Barcelona, it is 5:00 p.m. in London and noon in New York.

Spain, like the rest of Europe, observes Summer Time. Clocks go forward one hour on the last Sunday in March and go backward one hour on the last one in October. This time change takes place simultaneously in all EU member states.

## MEALTIMES

Spaniards tend to eat later than other Europeans. They usually have a light breakfast of fruit juice, coffee and a pastry or sandwich between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Lunch is between 2:00 and 3:00 pm. Dinner starts between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m.

## OPENING TIMES AND WORKING HOURS

Most establishments are open from Monday to Saturday and are closed on Sundays. They open between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and close between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. They then reopen between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. and close between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. Markets open earlier, between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. Smaller shops close by 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. Some shops do not open on Saturday afternoons.

Major shopping centres and a growing number of shops open all day, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. A few shops and shopping centres are open on Sundays and holidays, mostly around Christmas.

In summer, many restaurants and shops close for all or part of August. Many businesses adopt a different work schedule from June to September, usually from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The typical work day starts between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. Workers usually go on break

at 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. Work starts again between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. and finishes between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. Many workers also enjoy a shortened work schedule from June to September.

## POSTAL SERVICES

Correos (*Sociedad Estatal de Correos y Telégrafos*) is the national postal service of Spain. Through Correos, you can send letters, documents, telegrams, faxes and parcels. You can even send money by postal order or through Western Union. Correos also offers national and international express delivery services and an online tracking system.

The main post office in Barcelona is on Plaça d'Antoni López, at the end of Via Laietana near Barceloneta and Port Vell. Here you can buy stamps, send letters and parcels, and ask for a post office box. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays.

There are numerous post offices throughout Barcelona, all with a distinctive yellow sign. Be aware that not all post offices have the same opening times, so be sure to check the Correos website for this information.

You can also buy stamps at tobacconists (see the Tobacconists section) and drop your mail in one of the yellow post boxes found all around the city.



Visit → [www.correos.es](http://www.correos.es) for more information

## TIPPING

Restaurants are required by law to include service charges in their menu prices. There is no expected rate for tips. Most people leave small change if they are satisfied with service.

It is also customary to tip hotel porters and washroom attendants. Five percent is the usual tip for taxi drivers, more for longer journeys and if the driver helped with your luggage.

## TOBACCONISTS

Tobacconist shops (*estanc*) are identified by a brown and yellow sign with the words Tabacos or Tabacs. Considered a Spanish institution, tobacconists not only sell tobacco, cigarettes and smoking articles but also postage stamps and many official government forms for minor bureaucratic procedures. They also sell sweets, postcards, public transport cards and phone cards.

## GETTING IN



Barcelona International Airport

## BY PLANE

### ➔ Barcelona International Airport

Barcelona International Airport (IATA: BCN, ICAO: LEBL), also known as El Prat, is a major transport hub where more than 100 airlines operate. It handles domestic and international flights. Most international and domestic airlines as well as low-cost carriers operate from this airport.

The airport has two terminals, T1 and T2. T2 is further subdivided into sectors A, B, and C. Both terminals are linked by a free shuttle bus that runs every six or eight minutes, with a travel time of 10 minutes. A new metro line connecting the airport to the city centre is currently under construction.

The airport's policy is to use terminals by companies, irrespective of the origin or

destination of the flight. T1 mainly hosts flights by companies belonging to the One World, Star Alliance and Sky team alliances, their associates and those operating intercontinental flights. The Barcelona-Madrid *Pont Aeri* (Shuttle) also has its own area in the T1 north pier. T2 is more geared towards non-associates and low-cost carriers.

Be aware that you can check in for your flight only at the terminal where it is going to depart, so make sure you know where to go before arriving at the airport.



For more information, visit → [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)

The airport is about 10 kilometres away from the city centre. Public transport options to and from the airport include rail and bus.

The rail service from the airport is on the RENFE R-2 Nord: Aeroport Maçanet-Masanes suburban train line which leaves every half hour and calls at Sants Estació (19 minutes), Passeig de Gràcia (26 minutes) and El Clot (30 minutes) in the city centre. The train stops at T2, from where you can take the free shuttle bus to T1. Ticket vending machines are available at the airport station.

The Aerobús stops at T1 (A1) and between T2A and T2B (A2) and travels along Gran Via to Plaça Catalunya with a minimum

travel time of 35 minutes. The service operates from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., with higher frequencies at A1. Buses run every 5-10 minutes during most of the day.



For more information visit  
→ [www.aerobusbcn.com](http://www.aerobusbcn.com)

Between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., you can catch a night bus service (Nit Bus N17) from Plaça Catalunya to the airport. It runs every 20 minutes and the minimum travel time is 40 minutes.

Bus 46 also runs from both terminals to Plaça Espanya. Travel time is about one hour.

Taxis are widely available outside the terminals. There is an additional airport fee and a charge for each piece of luggage placed in the boot.

Private airport transfers can also be arranged for groups.

## ➔ Girona Airport

The airport of Girona, nearly 100 kilometres to the north, handles domestic and international flights by low-cost airlines, notably Ryanair.



For more information, visit → [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)

The Barcelona bus service, run by Sagalés, offers a shuttle-bus transfer service between Estació del Nord in Barcelona and Girona Airport. Bus departure times are arranged in accordance with the arrival and departure times of Ryanair flights. The trip takes around one hour and ten minutes.

Girona Airport is also directly connected to Barcelona by the AP7 motorway. Driving time is approximately one hour.



For more information and bus timetables, visit → [www.sagales.com](http://www.sagales.com)

## ➔ Reus Airport

The airport of Reus, around 100 kilometres to the south of Barcelona, is also used by low-cost carriers.

Hispano Igualadina operates a shuttle bus service between Estació de Sants in Barcelona and Reus Airport. You can buy tickets in the ticket office in the arrivals terminal or from the bus driver. The journey time is approximately one hour and a half.



For more information and bus timetables, visit → [www.igualadina.com](http://www.igualadina.com)

Alternatively, you can take the train from Barcelona Sants station to Reus and then take a local bus to the airport. The trip also takes about an hour and a half.

Reus Airport is also directly connected to Barcelona by the AP7 motorway. Driving time is approximately one hour

## BY SEA

Barcelona has one of the busiest ports on the Mediterranean. Numerous cruise ships set sail from the port of Barcelona to other destinations. Ferries also dock and depart from the port. You can get to Barcelona by boat from the Costa Brava, the Balearic and Canary Islands, Genoa and Rome.







## GETTING ORIENTED

The following geographical references will help you easily find your way around Barcelona.

The centre of the city is Plaça Catalunya, to the south of which you can find the old town and most of the museums and other places of historical interest in Barcelona. The famous Rambla stretches from Plaça Catalunya down to the statue of Columbus near the port. To the east of the Rambla is the beautiful Barri Gòtic, and to the west, the Barri del Raval.

From the Columbus monument you can follow Passeig Marítim on the seafront to the east, past Moll de la Fusta and Port Vell to colourful Barceloneta beach and Port Olímpic. To the west, following Avinguda Paral·lel, you get to Plaça Espanya at the foot of Montjuïc hill.

Tibidabo hill marks Barcelona's northern limit. Avinguda Diagonal runs diagonally across the whole city. Between Diagonal and Plaça Catalunya is most of the grid-patterned Eixample, which joins the old town with the neighbourhoods of Gràcia, Les Corts and Sarrià-Sant Gervasi. The main boulevard of the Eixample is the modern and stylish Passeig de Gràcia.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Barcelona's excellent transport system makes it easy for everybody, even tourists and newcomers, to get around the city. The city's transportation network extends from the city centre to other parts of the metropolitan area and to surrounding towns and cities.

The city has an integrated tariff system that allows users to switch from one form of transportation to another using a single fare.

Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona (TMB) offers a wide range of travel cards to suit different needs. There are single tickets, transferable travel cards valid for 10 rides and personal travel cards valid for one, 30 and 90 days. There are also tourist travel cards and special travel cards for students, families and seniors.

Transport fares also vary by zone. The farther out from the city centre you go, the more expensive the fare.

Tickets and travel cards can be purchased at metro ticket booths and vending machines.



For more information visit the Tickets and fares section at → [www.tmb.cat](http://www.tmb.cat)

## BY RAIL

### Metro and FGC

The Barcelona metro system is the easiest and fastest way to get around. The city's underground trains are clean, efficient and comfortable.

The metro network currently has 11 lines. It is jointly run by TMB and the Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya (FGC). TMB operates Metro lines 1 to 5 and 9 to 11 while the FGC operates FGC lines 6 to 8. The FGC system has lines within Barcelona and others that go to nearby towns and cities, such as Manresa, Terrassa and Sabadell.



For route maps, timetables and other information, visit → [www.tmb.cat](http://www.tmb.cat) and → [www.fgc.cat](http://www.fgc.cat)

### Local and long-distance rail

RENFE, Spain's national train operator, operates both local and long-distance train links.

Local trains, known as Rodalies RENFE, run all across Catalonia. Some destinations are integrated into Barcelona's single-fare system and thus accept normal travel cards. Tickets can be bought at the stations' ticket windows or ticket machines.

RENFE also operates train links to other parts of Spain, notably the AVE high-speed trains to Madrid and other Spanish cities.

Estació de Sants is the main rail hub of Barcelona, with services to the rest of Spain including the AVE. Suburban, regional and French-border trains also use this station.

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#### ESTACIÓ DE SANTS

Plaça dels Països Catalans s/n  
METRO: Sants Estació L5

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International trains, as well as most regional rail lines with service to the rest of Catalonia, depart from Estació de França.

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#### ESTACIÓ DE FRANÇA

Avinguda Marquès de l'Argentera s/n  
METRO: Barceloneta L4

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For more information on RENFE services and to buy tickets online, visit → [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es)

You can also get information and reserve tickets by calling → **Tel: +34 902 24 02 02** and **+34 902 32 03 20**



## → Tram

Barcelona has two tram lines: Trambaix, which connects the Baix Llobregat area to Barcelona, and Trambesòs, which links Sant Adrià de Besòs and Badalona to Barcelona. The system is integrated into Barcelona's single-fare system.



For more information visit → [www.tram.cat](http://www.tram.cat)

## → Funicular

TMB operates the Montjuïc funicular railway, which takes passengers from the Paral·lel metro station to the area of Montjuïc hill, where popular attractions such as the Olympic Stadium, Palau Sant

Jordi and the Miró Foundation are located. This railway is integrated into Barcelona's single-fare system.



For more information visit

→ [www.tmb.cat](http://www.tmb.cat)

## BY BUS

### → Day buses

Barcelona has over a hundred bus lines that provide transport links throughout the Barcelona metropolitan area. Each line has its own timetable, but buses generally run from 6:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. You can look at the information panels on bus stops to check the route and timetable, and in some cases waiting times due to the progressive introduction of dynamic information screens at stops and inside buses. Double check for special holiday schedules. The bus network is integrated into Barcelona's single-fare system.

Recently, starting in October 2012 and in successive stages, Barcelona has implemented a new system for organising its bus services by integrating into its existing network 28 new high-performance lines arranged horizontally (8 new H lines), vertically (17 new vertical lines, identified by the letter V) and diagonally (3 new D lines). This new system has higher occupancy vehicles, increases the

frequency and offers a faster and more rational service while at the same time gaining in sustainability and efficiency. These new lines entail the gradual removal of some existing lines with similar routes.



For route maps, timetables and other information, visit → [www.tmb.cat](http://www.tmb.cat)

For additional information on the new bus network visit → [www.novaxarxabus.bcn.cat](http://www.novaxarxabus.bcn.cat)



## 🚌 Night buses

Barcelona is served by a network of night buses called Nitbus at night and in the small hours of the morning. These buses have their own routes, all of which stop at Plaça Catalunya. Night buses are integrated into Barcelona's single-fare system.



For night bus route maps, timetables and other information, visit the Nitbus section at → [www.ambmobilitat.cat](http://www.ambmobilitat.cat)

## BY TOURIST AND LEISURE TRANSPORT

TMB operates the Bus Turístic, a hop-on, hop-off tourist bus service with stops all over the city. Tickets can be bought onboard.

Private companies also offer a similar service.

The TMB's Montjuïc Cable Car (*Telefèric de Montjuïc*) runs between Port Vell and Montjuïc hill and lets passengers enjoy fantastic views over Barcelona.

TMB also runs the *Tramvia Blau*, an old-fashioned tram that connects Plaça Kennedy on Avinguda Tibidabo to the Tibidabo funicular railway station.



For more information about leisure transport operated by TMB, visit → [www.tmb.cat](http://www.tmb.cat)

In addition to the Montjuïc funicular integrated into Barcelona's single-fare system, another funicular railway runs to the top of Tibidabo hill, which has an amusement park with spectacular views of the city.



For more information visit → [www.tibidabo.cat](http://www.tibidabo.cat)

The FGC operates the Montserrat Rack Railway (*Cremallera de Montserrat*), Vall de Núria Rack Railway (*Cremallera de Núria*) and the two funicular railways in Montserrat, Sant Joan and Santa Cova.



For more information, visit → [www.fgc.cat](http://www.fgc.cat)



## BY TAXI

Taxis in Barcelona are yellow and black and show a green light when free. Fares are charged per kilometre.

Extra fees are charged for every piece of luggage stored in the boot and for trips to and from the airport, cruise-ship terminal and *Fira Barcelona* (The Barcelona Trade Fair). Taxi fares also vary depending on time of day and are higher on holidays.

Fares are displayed on the taximeter, the use of which is obligatory. At the end of the trip the driver will press a button that will automatically add all charges and show the total fare.

Taxis do not accept reservations except to go to the airport, but you can call for one a few minutes ahead.



For more information visit → [www.taxibarcelona.cat](http://www.taxibarcelona.cat)



There are several apps that offer taxi-related services, such as *Calcula tu Ruta* (it calculates your route and prices) and **By-Taxi** (to ask for one). For more information visit the Transport section at → [www.apps4bcn.cat](http://www.apps4bcn.cat)

## BY BIKE

Barcelona is a bicycle-friendly city with numerous bicycle paths.

Bicing is urban transport based on shared use of bicycles and is part of its public transport system. Residents with a yearly membership simply swipe their user cards at a service station to unlock and use a bicycle. The public bicycle network is spread throughout the city and currently includes 6,000 bicycles and 420 stations. Bicing stations are located near metro stations and bus stops, since the Bicing system is designed to complement other means of public transportation. For this reason, use of Bicing bicycles has a time limit. Users cannot be on the same bicycle for more than two consecutive hours.



The Bicing programme started in March 2007 and has since been growing in number of stations and users. It currently has nearly 100,000 subscribers and over 1 million monthly uses. The City Council's transport policy has also prioritised the construction of bicycle paths in recent years to promote this means of urban transportation.

Note that Bicing is part of the city's public transport system and is not for tourists or temporary visitors. There are, however, private bike-hire companies that offer similar services to visitors.



For more information visit

→ [www.bicing.cat](http://www.bicing.cat)



You can also download the app which monitors the status of bicycles and stations in real time.

→ [www.bicing.cat](http://www.bicing.cat)

## PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION

### CAR IMPORTATION

You can drive your car without registering it in Spain for six months, after which time it is necessary to import your vehicle. The process normally takes two months.

To import a vehicle, it needs to have been in your possession for more than 12 months from the time you get consular registration. You are required to present the original title of the vehicle, the original registration card, valid licence plates, a valid international insurance certificate, the car-purchase invoice, your NIE and your City Council registration certificate.

EU nationals do not need to pay import fees, only registration taxes. Non-EU nationals have to meet certain requirements to be exempt from import taxes.

### DRIVING LICENCE

EU citizens do not need to change their driving license.

Non-EU nationals can use an international driving license during the first year after arrival in Spain. After a year, they are required to get a Spanish license.

To get one, you need to attend classes as well as take theoretical and practical driving tests. You can study for and take these tests in English with certain driving schools.

In some cases and for some countries, the Dirección General de Tráfico (General Directorate of Traffic) has a system for exchanging driving licences from a particular country for a Spanish one. To do this you have to ask for an appointment with the DGT and provide the required documentation.



For more information on driving licences valid in Spain and the exchange process visit → [www.dgt.es](http://www.dgt.es)

### PARKING

Barcelona is a densely populated city with a high number of private vehicles on its roads. To control this high demand and meet the needs of both citizens and visitors, for many years the City Council has



been promoting a sustainable, efficient transport policy that helps make Barcelona a liveable, modern and competitive city. The municipal company BSM is responsible for regulating underground parking in the city, as well as building and managing municipal parking facilities. It offers both pay-by-minute parking for short stays and different types of payment options for regular, long-term use.



For more information, visit  
→ [www.bsmsa.cat/mobilitat](http://www.bsmsa.cat/mobilitat)

Apart from municipal facilities, Barcelona also has private parking garages that charge from €12 to €25 a day according to the zone. The parking rates depend on the location of the car park and if it is in the open air or underground.



To find public and private car parks visit  
→ [www.bcn.cat/onaparc](http://www.bcn.cat/onaparc)

As an additional option to underground parking, the city of Barcelona also regulates street parking to improve traffic flow, decrease noise and air emissions and make better use of public spaces. This system, known as the Green Area (*Àrea Verda*), establishes different parking zones depending on each area of the city.

There are different kinds of parking spaces within the Green Area. In the Blue Area (*Àrea Blava*) within the Green Area, all vehicles can park for a maximum of two, three or four hours as indicated on the signs.

Also within the Green Area, there are Exclusive Areas reserved for residents. There are also Preferred Zones where non-residents are allowed to park for one or two hours.



For more information visit  
→ [www.areaverda.cat](http://www.areaverda.cat)

To apply for parking within the Green Area, your vehicle must be registered with the City Council. You can apply by calling 010, at the City Councils' Virtual Office or in person at the following address with your passport number or NIE, the technical data of your vehicle, your car insurance and your registration document.

#### “ÀREA VERDA” AND “ÀREA BLAVA”

Plaça Carles Pi i Sunyer 8-10  
OPENING HOURS: Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



There are several mobile apps for transport and parking. They include **apparkB** (to pay for Àrea Blava parking with your mobile) and **WeSmartPark**. To learn about them visit the Transport & Traffic section at [→ www.apps4bcn.cat](http://www.apps4bcn.cat)

## CAR RENTALS

Several local and international car-rental companies offer their services in Barcelona, with competitive rates and a number of pickup and drop-off points throughout the city. Cars can also be reserved online through the companies' respective websites.

## CAR SHARING

Car sharing allows its members to enjoy the benefits of using a car without the hassles of owning one. It is a convenient, economical option for people who do not need a car every day.

Members pay a yearly membership fee and use their user cards to access car-sharing vehicles parked in different underground parking lots throughout the city. Vehicles need to be reserved online at least an hour in advance. Users are charged hourly and per kilometre travelled.



For more information, visit [→ www.avancar.es](http://www.avancar.es)



## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

## FOREIGN CONSULATES IN BARCELONA

Barcelona, along with Hong Kong and Hamburg, is the city with the most consulates in the world.

Here are the addresses and telephone numbers of the consulates-general and honorary consulates in Barcelona.

**Albania, Rep.** – Elisenda de Pinós 10

TEL : +34 93 205 10 00

METRO : Reina Elisenda L6

**Algeria, Democratic People's Republic**

Carrer Garcia-Mariño 7

TEL : +34 93 270 35 51

FGC : Avinguda del Tibidabo L7

**Argentina, Rep.**

Passeig de Gràcia 11, Esc. B, 2º

TEL : +34 93 304 12 00

METRO : Catalunya L1, Passeig de Gràcia L2 L4

FGC : Catalunya L6 L7

**Armenia, Rep.**

Carrer d'Alí Bei 25, 1º 2ª

TEL : +34 902 88 66 40

METRO : Arc de Triomf L1

**Australia** – Av. Diagonal 433 Bis, 2º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 362 37 92

METRO : Diagonal L5

FGC : Provença L6 L7

**Austria** – Carrer de Marià Cubí 7, 1º 2ª

TEL : +34 93 368 60 03

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

**Bangladesh** – Carrer de Londres 35, 2º 4ª

TEL : +34 93 410 83 89

METRO : Hospital Clínic L5, Entença L5

**Belgium** – Carrer de Diputació 303, 1º

TEL : +34 93 467 70 80

METRO : Girona L4

**Belize** – Av. Diagonal 467, 6º 2ª

TEL : +34 93 430 30 44

FGC : Provença L6 L7

**Benin, Rep.** – Carrer d'Aragó 290, 1º B

TEL : +34 93 467 70 36

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L3, Girona L4

**Belorrusia, Rep** – Av. Diagonal 535, 1º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 611 11 04

TRAM : L'illa

**Bolivia** – Carrer de Trafalgar 6, Pral. 1ª

TEL : +34 93 322 65 12

METRO : Urquinaona L1 L4

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Carrer de València 227, 4º 2ª

TEL : +34 93 487 85 38

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L3

**Brazil** – Av. Diagonal 468, 2º

TEL : +34 93 488 22 88

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

**Burkina Faso**

Carrer de Muntaner 261, 5<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>  
 TEL: +34 93 200 99 09  
 FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

**Canada** – Pl. de Catalunya 9, 1<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 270 36 14  
 METRO: Catalunya L1 L3  
 FGC: Catalunya L6 L7

**Chad** – Carrer de Tuset 5-11, 5<sup>o</sup>

TEL: +34 93 200 66 99  
 FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

**Chile** – Carrer de Casp 33-B, 2<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 318 85 86  
 METRO: Urquinaona L1 L4

**China, People's Rep.** – Av. del Tibidabo 34

TEL: +34 93 434 29 50  
 FGC: Avinguda Tibidabo L7

**Colombia** – Carrer de Pau Clarís 102, 1<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 412 78 28  
 METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3

**Costa Rica** – Av. Sarrià 2, 1<sup>o</sup>

TEL: +34 93 363 22 57  
 METRO: Hospital Clínic L5

**Croatia** – Carrer de Carbonell 1, Bajos

TEL: +34 93 272 00 43  
 METRO: Barceloneta L4

**Cuba** – Passeig de Gràcia 34, 2<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 902 999 506  
 METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3

**Cyprus** – Carrer de Muntaner 259, 2<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 414 06 85  
 FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

**Czech Republic**

Travessera de Gràcia 50, Entlo. 1<sup>a</sup>  
 TEL: +34 93 241 32 36  
 FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

**Denmark** – Rbla. Catalunya 45, 4<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 488 02 22  
 METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L3 L4

**Dominican Republic**

Carrer de París 211, 7<sup>o</sup>  
 TEL: +34 93 237 92 13  
 METRO: Diagonal L3 L5  
 FGC: Provença L6 L7

**Ecuador, Rep.**

Carrer de Nàpols 187, plantes 4<sup>a</sup> y 5<sup>a</sup>  
 TEL: +34 93 245 74 65  
 METRO: Girona L4, Monumental L2

**Estonia, Rep.** – Av. Diagonal 401, 1<sup>o</sup>

TEL: +34 93 416 00 11  
 METRO: Diagonal L3 L5  
 FGC: Provença L6 L7

**Finland**

Carrer de Puig i Xoriguer 17, Bajos  
 TEL: +34 93 443 15 98  
 METRO: Paral·lel L3

**France** – Ronda Universitat 22 B, 4<sup>o</sup>

TEL: +34 93 270 30 00  
 METRO: Catalunya L1 L3  
 FGC: Catalunya L6 L7

**Gambia, Rep.**

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 657, 1<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>  
 TEL : +34 93 265 37 96  
 METRO : Tetuan L2, Girona L4

**Georgia** – Carrer de Muntaner 48-50, 3<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 687 661 274  
 METRO : Universitat L1 L2

**Germany, Fed. Rep.**

Carrer de Marina 16-18  
 TEL : +34 93 292 10 00  
 METRO : Ciutadella-Vila Olímpica L4

**Ghana, Rep.**

Carrer de Calvet 36-38, Entlo. 2<sup>a</sup>  
 TEL : +34 93 209 07 43  
 FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

**Greece** – Carrer de Freixa 6

TEL : +34 93 200 20 36  
 FGC : La Bonanova L6

**Guinea Bissau, Rep.** – Av. Diagonal 449, 4<sup>o</sup>

TEL : +34 93 302 79 66  
 FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

**Guinea Conakry**

Carrer de Mandri 38, 4<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>  
 TEL : +34 93 802 49 22  
 FGC : Les Tres Torres L6, El Putxet L7

**Haiti, Rep.** – Rbla. Catalunya 38, 8<sup>o</sup>

TEL : +34 93 200 05 55  
 METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

**Honduras** – Via Augusta 48-54

TEL : +34 93 237 31 71  
 FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

**Hungary, Rep.** – Av. Diagonal 477, 19<sup>o</sup>

TEL : +34 93 405 19 50  
 METRO : Hospital Clínic L5  
 FGC : Muntaner L6

**Iceland** – Carrer de Canàries 21

TEL : +34 93 232 58 10  
 FGC : Sarrià L6, Avinguda Tibidabo L7

**India** – Carrer de Doctor Fleming 21, Local 4

TEL : +34 93 212 04 22  
 FGC : La Bonanova L6

**Indonesia** – Carrer d'Aragó 174-176, 1<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 323 61 14  
 METRO : Urgell L1

**Ireland** – Gran Via de Carles III 94, 10<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 491 50 21  
 METRO : Maria Cristina L3

**Italy** – Carrer de Mallorca 270

TEL : +34 93 467 73 06  
 METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

**Ivory Coast** – Av. Diagonal 477, 12<sup>o</sup> B

TEL : +34 93 410 23 34  
 METRO : Hospital Clínic L5  
 FGC : Muntaner L6

**Japan** – Av. Diagonal 640, 2<sup>o</sup> D

TEL : +34 93 280 34 33  
 FGC : La Bonanova L6

**Jordania, Kingdom**

Carrer de Muntaner 279, Entlo. 1<sup>a</sup>  
 TEL : +34 93 454 48 50  
 FGC : Muntaner L6

**Kazakhstan, Rep.**

Carrer de la Santíssima Trinitat del Mont 10  
 TEL: +34 93 470 51 60, +34 93 515 00 15  
 FGC: Reina Elisenda L6

**Latvia – Carrer d'Iradier 22**

TEL: +34 93 252 30 97  
 FGC: Sarrià L6

**Lebanon – Via Augusta, 125, 5º**

TEL: +34 93 202 21 21  
 FGC: Muntaner L6, Plaça Molina L7

**Lithuania, Rep. – Av. del Tibidabo 6**

TEL: +34 93 254 41 01  
 FGC: Avinguda Tibidabo L7

**Luxemburg – Carrer de Tuset 8, 8º**

TEL: +34 93 292 22 68  
 FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

**Macedonia, Rep.**

Carrer del Mont d'Orsà 35  
 TEL: +34 93 406 76 48  
 FGC: Vallvidrera Superior (Funicular Vallvidrera)

**Madagascar, Rep.**

Carrer de Roger de Llúria 85, Pral. 2ª  
 TEL: +34 93 272 21 25  
 METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

**Malaysia – Passeig de Colom 11, 3º 1ª**

TEL: +34 93 310 20 20  
 METRO: Drassanes L3, Barceloneta L4

**Malawi, Rep.**

Carrer de Sant Josep de Calasanç 14  
 08328 Alella  
 TEL: +34 93 540 31 76

**Malta – Carrer de Tuset 32, 7º 2ª**

TEL: +34 93 415 66 00  
 FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

**Mauritius, Rep.**

Rbla. Catalunya 53-55, 7º A  
 TEL: +34 93 410 75 75  
 METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

**Mexico – Passeig de la Bonanova 55**

TEL: +34 93 201 18 22  
 FGC: Sarrià L6

**Monaco, Principality – Via Augusta 158, 3º 1ª**

TEL: +34 93 209 70 90  
 FGC: Muntaner L6, Plaça Molina L7

**Mongolia – Carrer de Rocafort 29, Bajos B**

TEL: +34 93 423 78 87  
 METRO: Poble Sec L3

**Morocco, Kingdom – Carrer de la Diputació 68**

TEL: +34 93 289 25 30  
 METRO: Rocafort L1

**Nepal**

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 583, 5º  
 TEL: +34 93 452 63 60  
 METRO: Universitat L1 L2

**Netherlands – Av. Diagonal 611, 4º**

TEL: +34 93 419 95 80  
 METRO: Maria Cristina L3

**Nicaragua – Passeig de Sant Joan 25, 3º 2ª**

TEL: +34 93 231 47 33  
 METRO: Tetuan L2

**New Zealand** – Trav. de Gràcia 64, 2º

TEL : +34 93 209 03 99

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

**Norway** – Carrer de Balmes 184, 5º 2ª

TEL : +34 93 218 49 83

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

**Pakistan** – Av. de Sarrià 27

TEL : +34 93 451 27 56

METRO : Hospital Clínic L5

**Panama** – Passeig de Gràcia 20, 4º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 302 00 73

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

**Paraguay**

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 529, Pral. 2ª

TEL : +34 93 200 71 80

METRO : Urgell L1

**Peru** – Av. de Roma 157, 1º

TEL : +34 93 415 49 99

METRO : Urgell L1

FGC : Provença L6 L7

**Philippines** – Carrer del Vidre 4, 1º

TEL : +34 93 116 11 62

METRO : Liceu L3

**Poland, Rep.** – Av. Diagonal 593-595

TEL : +34 93 322 72 34

METRO : Maria Cristina L3

**Portugal** – Ronda de Sant Pere 7, 1º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 318 81 50

METRO : Catalunya L1 L3, Urquinaona L1 L4,

Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

FGC : Catalunya L6 L7

**Romania**

Carrer de Sant Joan de la Salle 35 Bis

TEL : +34 93 434 43 45

FGC : Avinguda Tibidabo L7

**Russia** – Av. de Pearson 34

TEL : +34 93 280 02 20

FGC : Reina Elisenda L6

**Senegal, Rep.** – Carrer de Balmes 185

TEL : +34 93 200 97 22

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

**Serbia, Rep.** – Carrer de Casp 61, Entlo. 1ª

TEL : +34 93 265 26 27

METRO : Tetuan L2

**Seychelles** – Carrer de Sabino d'Arana 27

TEL : +34 93 510 13 00

METRO : Maria Cristina L3

**Singapore, Rep.**

Carrer de Buenos Aires 42, 1º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 363 42 37

METRO : Hospital Clínic L5

**Slovakia** – Pl. Urquinaona 6, 19º

TEL : +34 93 317 94 65

METRO : Urquinaona L1 L4

**Slovenia** – Via Augusta 120, 3º 2ª

TEL : +34 93 727 36 39

FGC : Sant Gervasi L6, Plaça Molina L7

**Sri Lanka, Rep.** – Carrer de Mallorca 192

TEL : +34 93 453 44 02

FGC : Provença L6 L7

**South Africa, Rep.** – Parc Empresarial Mas Blau II - Carrer Alta Ribagorça 6-8  
08020 El Prat de Llobregat  
TEL : +34 93 506 91 00

**South Korea, Rep.** – Pl. Urquinaona 6,  
Planta 13  
TEL : +34 93 013 06 35  
METRO : Urquinaona L1 L4

**Sweden** – Carrer de Mallorca 279, 4<sup>o</sup> 3<sup>a</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 488 25 01  
METRO : Diagonal L3 L5  
FGC : Provença L6 L7

**Switzerland** – Gran Via de Carles III 94, 7<sup>o</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 409 06 50  
METRO : Maria Cristina L3

**Thailand** – Av. Diagonal 339 Bis, 4<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 458 14 61  
METRO : Verdaguer L4

**Togo, Rep.** – Carrer d'Aribau 168, 6<sup>o</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 241 94 70  
FGC : Provença L6 L7

**Tunisia** – Carrer de la Diputació 400, 1<sup>o</sup> 4<sup>a</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 231 53 79  
METRO : Monumental L2

**Turkey** – Passeig de Gràcia 7, 1<sup>o</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 317 92 31  
METRO : Catalunya L1 L3, Passeig de Gràcia  
L2 L3 L4  
FGC : Catalunya L6 L7

**Ukraine** – Carrer de Numància 185, Bajos 2<sup>a</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 280 40 09

METRO : Maria Cristina L3  
TRAM : Numància

**Uganda, Rep.**  
Carrer de Sant Bartomeu 2, 10<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>  
08913 Badalona  
TEL : +34 669 388 095  
METRO : Llefià L10

**United Arab Emirates**  
Carrer de Balms 7, 7<sup>o</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 240 85 50  
METRO : Catalunya L1 L3  
FGC : Catalunya L6 L7

**United Kingdom** – Av. Diagonal 477, 13<sup>o</sup>  
TEL : +34 902 109 356  
METRO : Hospital Clínic L5

**United States**  
Passeig Reina Elisenda de Montcada 23  
TEL : +34 93 280 22 27  
FGC : Reina Elisenda L6

**Uruguay** – Passeig de Gràcia 55, 5<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>  
TEL : +34 93 551 49 84  
METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

**Uzbekistan** – Av. de Sarrià 130-132  
TEL : +34 93 252 37 01  
METRO : Maria Cristina L3  
TRAM : L'illa

**Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic**  
Pl. Urquinaona 6, 6<sup>o</sup> A  
TEL : +34 93 342 71 55  
METRO : Urquinaona L1 L4



Information about consulates in Barcelona is in the Tourism > Meet BCN > Barcelona Practical info section at

→ [www.bcn.cat](http://www.bcn.cat)

## SOCIAL INTERACTION AND BUSINESS NETWORKING

Barcelona is a diverse and multicultural city with a large and active expatriate community of 150 different nationalities.

Around 18% of the city's population is composed of its thriving foreign community. Barcelona's openness and hospitality attract people from all over the world, many of whom decide to stay. This is thanks to the city's cosmopolitan atmosphere and the exceptional quality of life and outstanding career opportunities it offers.

One way to get involved in the international community is to join one of the many expatriate clubs and organisations that have been formed in Barcelona. These associations regularly organize a wide variety of events for both social interaction and business networking. These events and activities can connect you with fellow expatriates who can give you information and tips about life in your new home.

The international community also provides a growing number of activities and support groups for relocating families.

Chambers of commerce organise seminars and conferences and provide business people with networking opportunities.

Social groups, networking sites and forums are widely available on the Internet. They offer help and information in English and other languages, as well as opportunities to meet new people.



Some entrepreneurial networks in the city:

**22@ NETWORK BARCELONA**

→ [www.22network.net](http://www.22network.net)

**NETWORKING BARCELONA**

→ [www.networkingbarcelona.com](http://www.networkingbarcelona.com)

**EO (ENTREPRENEURS ORGANISATION)**

→ [www.eoaccess.eonetwork.org/Barcelona/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.eoaccess.eonetwork.org/Barcelona/Pages/default.aspx)

**BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL NETWORK**

→ [www.bcnin.com](http://www.bcnin.com)

**FIRST TUESDAY**

→ [www.firsttuesday.es](http://www.firsttuesday.es)

**BARCELONA ENTREPRENEURSHIP CITY**

→ [www.foundum.com/ecosystems/Barcelona](http://www.foundum.com/ecosystems/Barcelona)

**MOBILE MONDAY**

→ [www.mobilemondaybarcelona.com](http://www.mobilemondaybarcelona.com)



For more information on business collaboration activities and services visit

→ [www.barcelonanetactiva.com](http://www.barcelonanetactiva.com)

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

There are religious organisations and places of worship in Barcelona with services and activities in foreign languages.



To search for organisations and houses of worship of a particular religion or denomination, go to Barcelona City Council's Office of Religious Affairs (OAR) at

→ [www.bcn.cat/dretscivils](http://www.bcn.cat/dretscivils)

You can also contact or visit the OAR at:

**OFICINA D'ASSUMPTES RELIGIOSOS**

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 958

TEL : +34 93 307 04 59

OPENING HOURS: Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m



## SPORTS AND LEISURE

**PUBLIC SPORTS AND FITNESS CENTRES**

Several Barcelona districts have their own public sports and fitness centres (centre esportiu). They are well maintained and equipped with indoor and/or outdoor swimming pools, fitness and exercise equipment and facilities for a variety of sports. They also offer a wide range of activities for adults and children at very competitive prices.



For more information on sports in Barcelona and searching the public sports facilities nearest to your location go to Barcelona City Council's sports website at  
→ [www.bcn.cat/esports](http://www.bcn.cat/esports)

**PRIVATE SPORTS AND FITNESS CLUBS**

A number of private sports and fitness clubs are also available in Barcelona. They range from small clubs to large international franchises and offer various sport, exercise and spa facilities and fitness programmes.

**FOOTBALL**

Football is by far the most important sport in Spain. The football season starts in September and ends in May, and during this period hundreds of thousands of Spaniards flock to stadiums to watch Spanish football league games, with millions more watching them on television and listening to commentaries on the radio.

Spain became football world champions for the first time in the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and are also the current European champions, having won again in 2012 the title they first won in 2008.

The country also boasts some of the best football clubs in Europe, one of them being Barcelona's own Fútbol Club Barcelona, known familiarly to fans as "el Barça".

FC Barcelona holds a long-standing rivalry with Real Madrid and matches between the two teams are much-anticipated events.

Any triumph of FC Barcelona is cause for citywide celebration, complete with fireworks, honking cars and rowdy street parties.

Barcelona's other first-division club is RCD Espanyol, the sixth most successful football team in Spain. The team currently plays in the Cornellà-El Prat Stadium, which was inaugurated in 2009.

## OTHER SPORTS

### → Golf

Barcelona has several good golf courses located near the city, near Sant Cugat and Castelldefels and in the countryside of the Costa Brava.

### → Skiing

The Pyrenees offer ski enthusiasts plenty of snow and blue skies many days of the year. Barcelona skiers head to ski resorts in the Spanish Pyrenees, many of which are connected to Barcelona by RENFE and FGC train links. Andorra is also a popular ski destination among locals. A two-hour drive will take you to the nearest French ski resort.

### → Sailing and water sports

The beaches of Barcelona and its surrounding areas are home to several nautical and yacht clubs offering boat rentals, sailing lessons and a variety of water sports.

The city also has a municipal sailing school.

#### **BASE NÀUTICA MUNICIPAL DE LA MAR BELLA**

Passeig Marítim del Bogatell 102

TEL : +34 93 221 04 32

→ [www.basenautica.org](http://www.basenautica.org)

### → Corridas de toros

In a landmark vote, the Catalan Parliament passed a law banning bullfighting in Catalonia which came into force on 1 January 2012.

The vote was brought to the agenda by a petition (Popular Legislative Initiative) signed by 180,000 people. The decision sparked controversy throughout the country and a debate between animal rights activists and bullfight supporters.



## CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

### MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES

Art enthusiasts will have plenty to admire in Barcelona's museums and art galleries. The city's extensive art and heritage collections cover a broad range of styles and periods.

Most museums are open during the weekend but close some other day in the week, usually Mondays. They stay open in the summer. Some museums offer free entrance on the first Sunday of every month and in some special celebrations.

#### CAIXAFORUM

Avinguda Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia 6-8

TEL : +34 93 476 86 00

FGC : Espanya L8

METRO : Espanya L1 L3

→ [www.obrasocial.lacaixa.es](http://www.obrasocial.lacaixa.es)

The gallery features changing exhibitions of art and photography.

#### CENTRE DE CULTURA CONTEMPORÀNIA DE BARCELONA (CCCB)

Carrer de Montalegre 5

TEL : +34 93 306 41 00

METRO : Catalunya L1 L3, Universitat L1

→ [www.cccb.org/en](http://www.cccb.org/en)

Originally a centre of urban development and urban culture studies, the CCCB soon became a museum of eclectic subjects ranging from photography to sculpture and audiovisual art

#### COSMOCAIXA

Carrer Isaac Newton 26

TEL : +34 93 212 60 50

FGC : Avinguda Tibidabo L7

→ [www.obrasocial.lacaixa.es](http://www.obrasocial.lacaixa.es)

Barcelona's science museum with many interesting exhibits and hands-on activities for children and adults.

#### FUNDACIÓ CATALUNYA LA PEDRERA (SALA D'EXPOSICIONS DE LA PEDRERA)

Passeig de Gràcia 92

Carrer de Provença 261

TEL : +34 902 202 138

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5 FGC : Provença L6 L7

→ [www.lapedrera.com](http://www.lapedrera.com)

This foundation sponsors various art exhibits throughout the year.

#### FUNDACIÓ ANTONI TÀPIES

Carrer d'Aragó 255

TEL : +34 93 487 03 15

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

→ [www.fundaciotapies.org](http://www.fundaciotapies.org)

This museum displays artist Antoni Tàpies' collection of modern and contemporary art.

#### FUNDACIÓ JOAN MIRÓ

Parc de Montjuïc s/n

TEL : +34 93 443 94 70

METRO : Espanya L1 L3, Paral·lel L2 L3

→ [www.fundaciomiro-bcn.org](http://www.fundaciomiro-bcn.org)

This museum on Montjuïc hill houses the most important collection of this Catalan artist's work.

**LA VIRREINA CENTRE DE LA IMATGE**

La Rambla 99

TEL : +34 93 316 10 00

METRO : Liceu L3

→ [www.lavirreina.bcn.cat](http://www.lavirreina.bcn.cat)

This gallery hosts changing art exhibits.

**MUSEU D'ARQUEOLOGIA DE CATALUNYA**

Passeig de Santa Madrona 39-41

Parc de Montjuïc

TEL : +34 93 423 21 49

METRO : Espanya L1 L3, Poble Sec L3

→ [www.mac.cat/eng](http://www.mac.cat/eng)

This museum takes visitors on an archaeological journey from prehistory to the 6th century AD.

**MUSEU D'ART CONTEMPORANI DE BARCELONA****(MACBA)**

Plaça dels Àngels 1

TEL : +34 93 412 08 10

METRO : Catalunya L1 L3, Universitat L1

→ [www.macba.cat](http://www.macba.cat)

This museum is dedicated to the various art movements of the second half of the 20th century.



Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona

**MUSEU DEL DISSSENY DE BARCELONA**

Plaça de les Glòries Catalanes 37-38

TEL : +34 93 256 6713

METRO : Glòries L1

→ [www.dhub.cat](http://www.dhub.cat)

This museum hosts collections of decorative arts, ceramics, industrial design, textiles, clothing and graphic arts. Located in the DHUB building, it was inaugurated in November 2013.

**MUSEU FREDERIC MARÈS**

Plaça de Sant lu 5-6

TEL : +34 93 256 35 00

METRO : Jaume I L4, Liceu L3

→ [www.museumares.bcn.es](http://www.museumares.bcn.es)

This museum displays the collection of sculptor Frederic Marès.

**CASA-MUSEU GAUDÍ**

Parc Güell, carretera del Carmel 23A

TEL : +34 93 219 38 11

METRO : Lesseps L3, Alfons X L4

→ [www.casamuseugaudi.org](http://www.casamuseugaudi.org)

This building, located in the famous Parc Güell, was where Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí lived for 20 years. It is now a museum devoted to his life and work.

**MUSEU D'HISTÒRIA DE BARCELONA**

Plaça del Rei s/n

TEL : +34 93 256 21 00

METRO : Catalunya L1 L3, Urquinaona L1 L4,

Liceu L3, Jaume I L4

→ [www.museuhistoria.bcn.es](http://www.museuhistoria.bcn.es)

This museum dedicated to the history of the city of Barcelona includes part of the excavated remains of the original Roman city of Barcino.

**MUSEU D'HISTÒRIA DE CATALUNYA**

Plaça de Pau Vila 3 (Palau de Mar)

TEL : +34 93 225 47 00, 93 225 47 26

METRO : Barceloneta L4

→ [www.es.mhcat.net](http://www.es.mhcat.net)

It traces the history of Catalonia from prehistory to the present time.

**MUSEU MARÍTIM DE BARCELONA**

Avinguda de les Drassanes s/n

TEL : +34 93 342 99 20

METRO : Drassanes L3

→ [www.mmb.cat](http://www.mmb.cat)

Barcelona's Maritime Museum is housed in the Royal Shipyards of Barcelona, a Gothic architecture ensemble dating from the late 13th century.

**MUSEU NACIONAL D'ART DE CATALUNYA (MNAC)**

Palau Nacional - Parc de Montjuïc

TEL : +34 93 622 03 60, 93 622 03 76

METRO : Espanya L1 L3

→ [www.mnac.cat](http://www.mnac.cat)

One of the best museums in Barcelona, the MNAC is internationally known for its fine collection of Romanesque and Gothic art.

**MUSEU PICASSO**

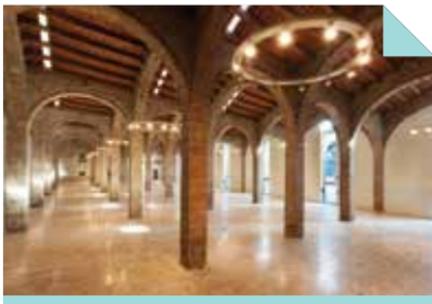
Carrer de Montcada 15-23

TEL : +34 93 256 30 00

METRO : Jaume I L4, Liceu L3, Arc de Triomf L1

→ [www.museupicasso.bcn.cat/en](http://www.museupicasso.bcn.cat/en)

The museum's five Gothic palaces showcase works from Pablo Picasso's youth, as well as his artistic output from other periods, such as the Blue Period and the Las Meninas series.



Saló Comillas de les Drassanes

**SAGRADA FAMÍLIA**

Carrer de Mallorca 401 - TEL : +34 93 513 20 34

METRO : Sagrada Família L5 L2

→ [www.sagradafamilia.cat](http://www.sagradafamilia.cat)

The Sagrada Família is a large Roman Catholic Church designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí in the Catalan Modernist style. It is unfinished and under construction thanks to private donations.



For more information on Barcelona's museums and cultural heritage centres, visit the City Council's Museums and Cultural Heritage page at → [www.bcn.cat/cultura](http://www.bcn.cat/cultura)



There are various apps presenting the museums and their collections. The **BCN Museus** app groups them by categories. You can find the various apps at → [www.apps4bcn.cat](http://www.apps4bcn.cat)

## MUSIC AND DANCE

Barcelona is home to world-class venues that host a variety of music and dance performances throughout the year.

### L'AUDITORI

Carrer de Lepant 150

TEL : +34 93 247 93 00

METRO : Glòries L1, Marina L1

→ [www.auditori.cat](http://www.auditori.cat)

This impressive concert hall is the resident venue of the OBC, Barcelona Symphony and Catalonia National Orchestra, the Municipal Band and the Museum of Music. It also hosts visiting classical and contemporary artists.

### GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU

La Rambla 51-59

TEL : +34 93 485 99 00

METRO : Liceu L3

→ [www.liceubarcelona.cat/en](http://www.liceubarcelona.cat/en)

Barcelona's grand opera house begins its season in October and ends in June.



Teatre Nacional de Catalunya

### MERCAT DE LES FLORS

Carrer de Lleida 59

TEL : +34 93 256 26 00

FGC : Espanya L8

METRO : Poble Sec L3

→ [www.mercatflors.cat](http://www.mercatflors.cat)

This theatre offers an intensive programme of avant-garde dance and drama.

### PALAU DE LA MÚSICA CATALANA

Carrer Palau de la Música 4-6

TEL : +34 902 442 882

METRO : Urquinaona L1 L4

→ [www.palaumusica.cat/en](http://www.palaumusica.cat/en)

This beautiful concert hall, designed in the Catalan Modernist style by Lluís Domènech i Montaner, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Musical performances in the Palau range from symphonic and chamber music to jazz and traditional Catalan music.



For more information on Barcelona's music and dance offerings, visit the City Hall's Music and Performances pages at

→ [www.bcn.cat/cultura](http://www.bcn.cat/cultura)

For information on where to enjoy flamenco in Barcelona, visit

→ [www.flamenco.cat](http://www.flamenco.cat)

## THEATRE

Theatre productions in Barcelona are in either Catalan or Spanish, except for some performances in other languages

### TEATRE LLIURE

Plaça Margarida Xirgu 1 / Passeig de Santa Madrona 40-46

METRO: Espanya L1 L3, Poble Sec L3

Carrer de Montseny 47

METRO: Fontana L3

TEL: +34 93 289 27 70

→ [www.teatrelliure.com](http://www.teatrelliure.com)

Teatre Lliure is Catalonia's prestigious independent theatre.

### TEATRE NACIONAL DE CATALUNYA

Plaça de les Arts 1

TEL: +34 93 306 57 00

METRO: Glòries L1

→ [www.tnc.cat/ca/tnc-english](http://www.tnc.cat/ca/tnc-english)

This building, one of Catalonia's paramount cultural centres, shows different types of productions in the Catalan language.



For more information on Barcelona's music and cultural offerings, visit the City Council's website at → [www.bcn.cat/cultura](http://www.bcn.cat/cultura)



The **BCN Cultural** app reports the cultural activities of the city by placing them on the map and locating the main facilities

## LIBRARIES

Barcelona has a network of 39 public libraries open to all. With a free, non-transferable library card you can use a range of services including borrowing physical or digital media (books, magazines, audio books, music CDs, movies), reading at home, internet access, Wi-Fi networks, viewing specialist collections and other activities (taking part in book clubs, specific courses, etc.). The libraries are spread across the city's various districts and their opening hours are generally from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Recently the Institut de Cultura de Barcelona has launched the BCN Cultural card that lets you enjoy the services offered by Barcelona's libraries (books, courses) and additional services such as discounts at museums, theatres, cinemas and bookshops. It also offers a range of exclusive services including guided visits to exhibitions, previews, discussions and readings with writers.



For more information on the location of libraries in Barcelona and their services, visit → [www.bcn.cat/biblioteques](http://www.bcn.cat/biblioteques)



The new **BibliosBCN** app shows you where the nearest library is, its opening hours and activities and basic information. You can view the apps available at → [www.apps4bcn.cat](http://www.apps4bcn.cat)

## SPORT AND OTHER LIVE EVENTS

Barcelona has world-class stadiums for large-scale sports and musical events, as well as more intimate venues for smaller events. Major names in sports and entertainment make frequent stops here.

### CAMP NOU

Avinguda Arístides Maillol s/n

TEL : +34 902 18 99 00

METRO : Palau Reial L3, Collblanc L5

→ [www.fcbarcelona.cat](http://www.fcbarcelona.cat)

This football stadium is home to the famous FC Barcelona team.

### CIRCUIT DE CATALUNYA

Mas La Moreneta

08160 Montmeló (Barcelona)

TEL : +34 93 571 9700

→ [www.circuitcat.com](http://www.circuitcat.com)

The Montmeló racetrack to the north of Barcelona is home to the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix and the Moto GP Catalan Grand Prix.



### ESTADI OLÍMPIC LLUÍS COMPANYS

Passeig Olímpic 17-19

TEL : +34 93 292 77 00

METRO : Espanya L1 L3

→ [www.bsmsa.cat](http://www.bsmsa.cat)

This was the main stadium for the 1992 Olympics.

### PALAU SANT JORDI

Passeig Olímpic s/n

TEL : +34 93 426 20 89

FGC : Espanya L8

METRO : Espanya L1 L3

→ [www.bsmsa.cat](http://www.bsmsa.cat)

This indoor sporting arena is used for major live events.

## TICKETS

Tickets for the main sports and cultural events can be purchased from the following sources

### SERVICAIXA

TEL : +34 902 33 22 11

→ [www.servicaixa.com](http://www.servicaixa.com)

### TELENTRADA DE CATALUNYA CAIXA

TEL : +34 902 10 12 12

→ [www.telentrada.com](http://www.telentrada.com)

### TICKETMASTER

TEL : +34 902 150 025

→ [www.ticketmaster.es](http://www.ticketmaster.es)

**OFICINA DE TURISMO**

Plaça Catalunya 17 - S

TEL : +34 906 30 12 82 / +34 93 285 38 34

FGC : Catalunya L6 L7 METRO : Catalunya L1 L3

→ [www.barcelonaturisme.com](http://www.barcelonaturisme.com)**FOR THE KIDS**

Barcelona offers a wealth of kid-friendly attractions and activities.

**L'AQUÀRIUM DE BARCELONA**

Moll d'Espanya del Port Vell s/n

TEL : +34 93 221 74 74, 628 26 59 08

METRO : Drassanes L3, Barceloneta L4

→ [www.aquariumbcn.com](http://www.aquariumbcn.com)

This aquarium features 35 tanks, 11,000 animals of 450 different species, an 80-metre underwater tunnel and six million litres of water.

**FONT MÀGICA DE MONTJUÏC**

Plaça Carles Buïgas s/n

FGC : Espanya L8 METRO : Espanya L1 L3

→ [www.bcn.cat/fontmagica](http://www.bcn.cat/fontmagica)

This illuminated fountain was originally built for the 1929 Barcelona Universal Exposition. Kids love its music and light show held from Thursday to Sunday in the summer and on Fridays and Saturdays the rest of the year.

**ZOO DE BARCELONA**

Parc de la Ciutadella s/n

TEL : +34 902 457 545

METRO : Ciutadella, Vila Olímpica L4

→ [www.zoobarcelona.cat](http://www.zoobarcelona.cat)

The zoo has a wide variety of animals on show. It also has a restaurant, picnic area, electric cars, ponies and a mini-train.

**PARC D'ATRACCIONS DEL TIBIDABO**

Plaça Tibidabo 3-4

TEL : +34 93 211 79 42

FGC : Avinguda Tibidabo L7

→ [www.tibidabo.cat](http://www.tibidabo.cat)

Adults and kids can take the Tramvia Blau and the Funicular to the top of Tibidabo hill, where fun awaits at the Tibidabo Amusement Park.



Parc d'Atraccions del Tibidabo

## MASS MEDIA

### → Radio

Barcelona's locals are avid radio listeners. There are a number of high-quality radio stations, most of them broadcasting on FM. Many stations broadcast in Catalan; in fact, the language has greater presence on radio than in any other medium.

### → Television

If you are planning to take your television set with you to Spain, make sure that is equipped to view PAL television signals. Local programmes are in Spanish or Catalan. Foreign shows, especially American series, are also very popular, but they are usually dubbed into Spanish or Catalan. However, some modern televisions have the capability of handling two audio channels. To see foreign shows in their original version, look for programmes marked VO (*versió original*) on TV listings or a dual symbol at the top of the screen and switch audio channels.

The main public TV channels are:

#### **TVE 1 (LA PRIMERA)**

State broadcaster with emphasis on news and light entertainment.

#### **TVE 2 (LA DOS)**

Another state-run channel focused on sports, live cultural broadcasts, documentaries and films.

#### **TV3**

Regional network broadcast entirely in Catalan. Features mainstream programming.

#### **CANAL 33**

Another Catalan network mainly showing documentaries and sports programmes.

#### **BTV**

The Barcelona city television channel.



Analogue television service was discontinued throughout Spain in April 2010. Since then, all national and regional terrestrial channels have been digital.

Since 2005, Digital Terrestrial Television (*Televisió Digital Terrestre*) has been offered as a free service with many channels and 14 radio stations, along with 23 regional and local language channels in their respective areas. Currently about between 96% and 98% of the population can receive DTT.

Subscription services for satellite television with several foreign-language channels are also available. Packages are often bundled with telephone and Internet services. Digital television offers superior picture and sound quality and widescreen cinema format.

## Cinema

Like television shows, foreign films are dubbed into Spanish or Catalan, except in original-version cinemas where films are screened in their original languages with subtitles in Spanish or Catalan. These cinemas show an eclectic mix of films, from mainstream Hollywood blockbusters to European art films.

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### **BALMES MULTICINES**

Carrer de Balmes 422-424  
TEL: +34 902 510 500  
FGC: Putxet L7

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### **BOLICHE**

Avinguda Diagonal 508  
TEL: +34 93 624 31 27  
METRO: Diagonal L5

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### **ICÀRIA YELMO CINEPLEX**

Carrer de Salvador Espriu 61  
TEL: +34 902 220 922  
METRO: Ciutadella-Vila Olímpica L4

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### **MALDÀ**

Carrer del Pi 5  
TEL: +34 93 304 39 99  
METRO: Liceu L3

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### **MÉLIÈS CINEMES**

Carrer de Villarroel 102  
TEL: +34 93 451 00 51  
METRO: Urgell L1

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### **RENOIR-FLORIDABLANCA**

Carrer de Floridablanca 135  
TEL: +34 934 263 337  
METRO: Sant Antoni L2

**VERDI**

Carrer de Verdi 32  
 TEL : +34 93 238 79 90  
 METRO : Fontana L3

**ZUMZEIG CINEMA**

Carrer de Bejar 53  
 TEL : +34 93 250 91 40  
 METRO : Tarragona L3

**📖 Newspapers, magazines and books**

Local and international newspapers and periodicals are sold at newsstands and bookstores. You can also get subscription services and have your favourite newspapers and magazines delivered to your doorstep.

Bookstores are dominated by books and other publications in Spanish and Catalan, but many of them have well-stocked foreign language sections. There are also some stores dedicated entirely to books in English.

A good way to get acquainted with Barcelona and its history is to read a novel set in the city.

**LA CATEDRAL DEL MAR (CATHEDRAL OF THE SEA)**

Ildefonso Falcones

This is an historical novel set in 14th-century Barcelona, at the height of the Inquisition and during the construction of the church of Santa Maria del Mar. It follows the son of a fugitive peasant

as he defies feudal order and rises to the highest ranks of medieval society.

**LA CIUDAD DE LOS PRODIGIOS (THE CITY OF MARVELS)**

Eduardo Mendoza

This novel is about a man caught between ambition and love, in the years between Barcelona's Universal Expositions of 1888 and 1929.

**LA SOMBRA DEL VIENTO (THE SHADOW OF THE WIND)**

Carlos Ruiz Zafón

This novel, set in post-Spanish Civil War Barcelona, tells the story of a boy and his fascination with a mysterious author.



## BEACHES

In 2007, Barcelona was named the top beach city in the world by National Geographic and continues to lead the ranking ahead of cities such as Nice, Cape Town, Rio and Sydney. The multitudes that flock to the city's beaches can attest to this. Beachgoers hit the sands during the daytime to relax and play and in the night time to enjoy the beachfront's buzzing nightlife. Barcelona's beaches are easily accessible from the city centre by metro and by bicycle.

### SANT SEBASTIÀ

This 1,085-metre stretch of beach is the closest to the city centre. It is the oldest and most traditional beach in the city together with Barceloneta. This beach is frequented by Barcelona locals. Many important water sports clubs are based here.

### BARCELONETA

This beach, which is approximately 901 metres long, is a favourite among foreign visitors. It is one of the biggest and most traditional beaches of the city. It features plenty of leisure and sports equipment.

### NOVA ICÀRIA

This beach, one of the quietest in Barcelona, is where beachgoers prefer to linger. It is right in the centre of the city's coastline. It has equipment for different sports such as table tennis and volleyball.

### BOGATELL

This beach, a result of Barcelona's seafront revitalization in the early 1990s, is a safe and quiet beach bordered by a bicycle track.

### MAR BELLA

This beach was developed during the preparations for the 1992 Olympic Games. It has loyal following, especially among young people and residents of the Sant Martí district. It has a bicycle path, a children's play area and other recreational facilities. It also has a designated nudist beach area.

### NOVA MAR BELLA

This beach also came into existence during Barcelona's seafront restoration for the 1992 Olympics. It is a peaceful beach popular with women and young beachgoers.

### LLEVANT

This is Barcelona's newest beach. It was provisionally opened to the public in the summer of 2006 and was fully equipped by 2007. It is the last of the beaches on Barcelona's coastline.



For more information, visit the Beaches page at → [www.bcn.cat/parcsijardins](http://www.bcn.cat/parcsijardins)



Apart from the beaches in Barcelona, locals and tourists alike are drawn to nearby seaside towns such as Castelldefels and Sitges and to beaches on the Maresme coast. Further afield are the beautiful coastal regions of the Costa Brava, in the province of Girona, and the Costa Daurada in the province of Tarragona.



The **iBeach** app shows you the status of the beaches of Barcelona and nearby towns. It is available at  
→ [www.apps4bcn.cat](http://www.apps4bcn.cat)



## PARKS AND GARDENS

Barcelona has an extensive network of lush parks and gardens, many of them of important cultural and historical value.

### JARDINS DE CAN CASTELLÓ

Carrer de Castelló 1-7

FGC: Muntaner L6

These elegant, romantic gardens used to be the grand entrance to an old country house.

### JARDINS DE CAN SENTMENAT

Carrer de Can Caralleu 16-18

FGC: Reina Elisenda L6

This is a romantic, classical garden with beautiful views of Barcelona and the Collserola hills.

### JARDINS DE JOAN MARAGALL

Avinguda de l'Estadi s/n

METRO: Espanya L1 L3

These gardens feature wooded avenues, vast lawns, ornamental fountains, outdoor sculptures and a small palace.

### JARDINS DE LARIBAL

Passeig de Santa Madrona 2

METRO: Espanya L1 L3

These gardens include beautiful terraces, pathways, small squares, ponds and lush plant life.

### JARDINS DE LA TAMARITA

Passeig de Sant Gervasi 47-49

FGC: Avinguda Tibidabo L7

This serene, restful garden has as its centrepiece a small pathway guarded by

statues representing America, Africa, Asia and Europe.

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#### **JARDINS DE LA UNIVERSITAT**

Carrer de Diputació 230

**METRO:** Universitat L1

These classical gardens form a large, green semi-circle around the University of Barcelona's historical campus. It features two enclosed patios similar to a monastery cloister, around which rise the beautiful buildings of the Mathematics and Philology faculties.

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#### **JARDINS DEL PALAU DE LES HEURES**

Passeig de la Vall d'Hebron 171

**METRO:** Montbau L3

These gardens stretch in front of the emblematic Les Heures Palace, built at the end of the 19th century at the foot of the Collserola hills.

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#### **JARDINS DEL PALAU DE PEDRALBES**

Avinguda Diagonal 686

**METRO:** Palau Reial L3

The stately, English- and French-inspired gardens of the Pedralbes Royal Palace feature romantic bridges and verdant areas.

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#### **JARDINS DEL TEATRE GREC**

Passeig de Santa Madrona 36

**METRO:** Espanya L1 L3

These gardens were created on Montjuïc hill for the Universal Exposition of 1929. It is home to the amphitheatre that hosts many of the performances during the Grec Festival of Barcelona.



Parc de la Ciutadella

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#### **PARC DE LA CIUTADELLA**

Passeig de Picasso 1

**METRO:** Ciutadella L4

This eclectically designed park is famous for its magnificent waterfall, elegant 19th century buildings, beautiful landscaping and rich vegetation.

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#### **PARC DEL GUINARDÓ**

Carrer de Garriga i Roca 1-13

This park combines lush woodland with an elegant garden. It is one of the most extensive green areas of Barcelona.

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#### **PARC DEL LABERINT D'HORTA**

Passeig dels Castanyers 1-17

**METRO:** Mundet L3

This park is known for its maze of cypress bushes. It is also home to the city's oldest garden, a neoclassical treasure from the 18th century.

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#### **PARC GÜELL**

Carrer d'Olot 7

**METRO:** Lesseps L3

This is the city's most famous park, one that has come to symbolise all of Barcelona. It is

a testament to Antoni Gaudí's genius and his skill in blending architectural elements with the natural environment. This park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. It is the only park mentioned in this section where you have to pay to go in.



For more information

→ [www.parkguell.cat/en](http://www.parkguell.cat/en)

## TURÓ PARC

Avinguda de Pau Casals

FGC: Muntaner L6 METRO: Hospital Clínic L5

This is one of Barcelona's most emblematic parks. Visitors are welcomed by the statue of the Catalan cellist Pau Casals. The park also has an oval pond surrounded by poplars and plane trees, a large, grassy lawn, an open-air theatre and a bowling green.



Jardins del Teatre Grec

Apart from these culturally significant parks, Barcelona is dotted by dozens of urban and botanical parks.



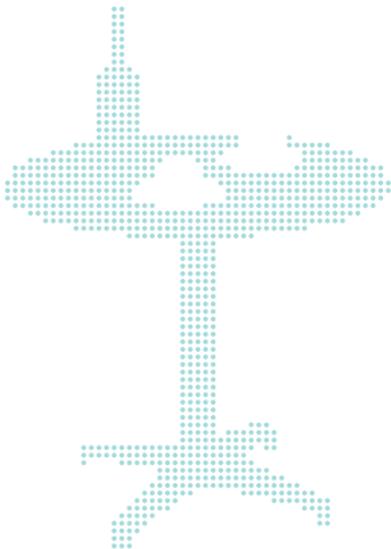
For more information on the status of the various parks and gardens of Barcelona visit

→ [www.bcn.cat/parcsijardins](http://www.bcn.cat/parcsijardins)



There are some apps for Barcelona's parks, such as **BCN Paisatge**, **rutesBCNverda** and **Barcelona corre**. They are all available at

→ [www.apps4bcn.cat](http://www.apps4bcn.cat)



## RESTAURANTS AND NIGHTLIFE

In Barcelona, you will be spoilt for choice when it comes to dining out.

There are restaurants for every taste and budget in the city. Barcelona's dining establishments offer traditional Catalan and Spanish fare, seafood specialties and a variety of international franchises and ethnic cuisines.

Barcelona is also the place to go for exquisite fine dining. Catalonia boasts no less than 61 restaurants with Michelin stars in the 2014 guide, and 23 of them are in Barcelona. The city is also home to some of the world's most innovative chefs and restaurateurs.

Just be aware that Spanish mealtimes are different. Lunch is served from around 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Dinner service usually starts at 9:00 p.m. onwards, although some restaurants open a little earlier in the evening.



Also remember that many restaurants close in the summer, as well as at Easter and in the first week of January, so you are advised to call in advance to avoid disappointment.

For lunch, many restaurants offer a daily menu or *menú del día*, a set meal consisting of two courses, a drink, plus a dessert or coffee.

And don't forget to try Barcelona's excellent tapas, which you can have at any time of the day.



To search for restaurants by origin, speciality and type, go to the City Council's restaurants page in Discover BCN/Gastronomy of BCNTurisme → [www.bcn.cat](http://www.bcn.cat)

You can also visit the Where to eat section in the Practical Guide at → [www.barcelonaturisme.com](http://www.barcelonaturisme.com)



Turisme de Barcelona has also developed an app which selects the best restaurants

There are also plenty of clubs, discos, bars and pubs to choose from in Barcelona. The city's vibrant nightlife is mostly concentrated in the areas of Barri Gòtic and La Rambla, the Eixample and Port Olímpic.

## SHOPPING

Barcelona has become a magnet for shoppers from all over the world thanks to its many fabulous shopping opportunities: around 35,000 shops spread throughout the city.

The city has many department stores and shopping centres and shopping streets with exclusive designer boutiques and interesting international and local brands. But here you can also find lesser known shopping areas and neighbourhood shops, as well as markets and street fairs offering quality products at bargain prices.



To look for shopping options in Barcelona, visit Discover BCN/Shopping at  
→ [www.bcn.cat](http://www.bcn.cat)

Also worth visiting is the specific information about the city's main shopping zones at  
→ [www.barcelonashoppingline.com](http://www.barcelonashoppingline.com)

## FOOD AND GROCERIES

You can buy your food and groceries from large chain supermarkets, neighbourhood grocery stores, convenience stores and markets. There are also a large number of shops selling European, Asian, South American and Middle Eastern food products.

## MUNICIPAL MARKETS

Barcelona has over 40 municipal markets scattered throughout its neighbourhoods. Barcelona's charming markets offer more than just fresh produce and excellent local products. Their beautiful architecture and unique atmosphere make them tourist destinations in themselves. The following is a list of some of the city's most visited markets.

### MERCAT DE LA BOQUERIA

La Rambla 91

TEL : +34 93 318 20 17

OPENING HOURS : Monday to Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

METRO : Liceu L3

Food.

### MERCAT DE LA CONCEPCIÓ

Carrer d'Aragó 311 Bis

TEL : +34 93 457 53 29

OPENING HOURS: Mondays, 8:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Food.

### MERCAT D'ENCANTS DE SANT ANTONI

Carrer del Comte d'Urgell 1 Bis  
(temporarily at Rda. Sant Antoni 46)

TEL : +34 93 423 42 87

OPENING HOURS : Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

METRO : Sant Antoni L2

Home textiles, children's, men's and women's clothing, bags, shoes, accessories.

**MERCAT DEL NINOT**

Carrer de Casanova 160

(temporary location Jardins Dr. Duran)

TEL : +34 93 453 65 12

OPENING HOURS : Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

METRO : Hospital Clínic L5

Food, cleaning supplies, kitchen utensils, clothing, underwear, perfume, old books.

**MERCAT DE SANT ANTONI**

Carrer del Comte d'Urgell 1 Bis

(temporary location Rda. Sant Antoni 18)

TEL : +34 93 423 42 87

OPENING HOURS : Monday to Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays and days before holidays, 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

METRO : Sant Antoni L2

Food, old books and comics, collectibles.

**MERCAT DE SANTA CATERINA**

Avinguda de Francesc Cambó 16

TEL : +34 93 319 57 40

OPENING HOURS : Mondays, 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

METRO : Jaume I L4

Mostly food.



The **Mercats BCN** app provides information about the markets such as location, opening hours, services, activities and news. For more information visit → [www.apps4bcn.cat](http://www.apps4bcn.cat)



For more information about Barcelona's markets, visit

→ [www.mercatsbcn.com](http://www.mercatsbcn.com)



Mercat de Santa Caterina





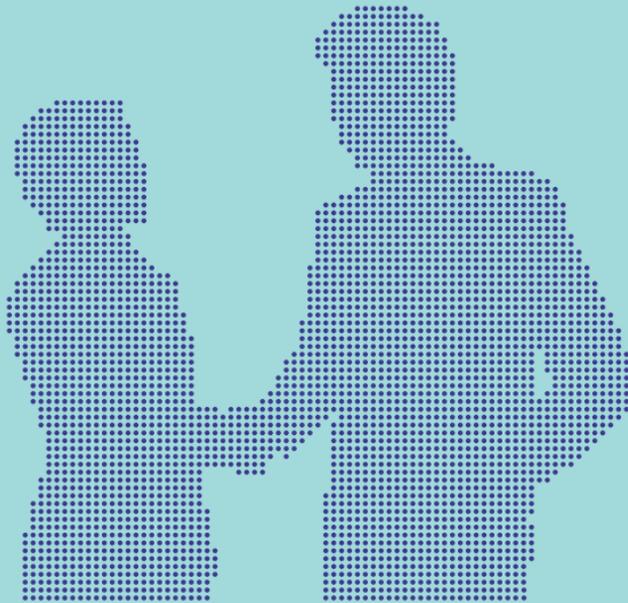
*Welcome to  
our informal  
chats to  
change the  
world*



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# DOING BUSINESS IN BARCELONA

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## WHY BARCELONA?

### 1. A privileged location

Barcelona is the southern gateway to the European market (500 million consumers), the centre of an emerging economic Euro-region, capital of the Euro-Mediterranean area (a market with 461 million consumers), a bridge with the Maghreb and a platform which links with Latin America.

### 2. Accessible and well connected

Barcelona is the only city in the south of Europe that brings together on 5 linear kilometres one of the largest multi-modal Mediterranean ports, a high-speed train station, a large intercontinental airport, motorways connected to the European and Maghreb networks, the second largest trade fair facility in Europe and one of the largest logistics areas in southern Europe.

### 3. Motor of a major economic, dynamic and diverse area

Barcelona is the leader of a large economic area with a 175-year-old industrial tradition and a dense business network. The city is committed to the economy and knowledge-intensive activities, especially in advanced services and economic activities related to new technology.

### 4. Successful foreign investment

Traditionally Catalonia has been and remains one of the favourite locations for foreign investors coming to Spain. Currently more than 5,000 foreign companies are based in Catalonia, of which 88% are located in the Barcelona metropolitan area. Catalonia concentrates more than 50% of the foreign companies in Spain from countries including Japan, Italy, the USA, France, Austria and Switzerland.

### 5. Strategic economic sectors

With its highly diversified economy Barcelona is intensively developing various economic sectors related to new technologies and sustainability (mobile ICT, electric mobility, media, smart cities) which offer attractive business opportunities and investment.

### 6. Magnet for talent

Barcelona has well-trained human capital that fosters innovation and creativity. 48% of the city's labour force works in knowledge-intensive services. Barcelona has specialists in many different fields. The Barcelona area has 8 prestigious state and private universities offering excellent undergraduate and graduate programmes in a wide range of fields. Two of these uni-

versities are among the top three in Spain, and two of Barcelona's business schools are among the top ten in Europe.

## 7. Ambitious city projects

The city is committed to constant improvement and projects with great opportunities for the future. As a result Barcelona is always immersed in major urban transformation with significant public investment and great opportunities for the private sector. The main ongoing projects include the Sagrera high-speed train station and new central area and the Barcelona KEY (Knowledge Economy Yard) project, a new city of the knowledge economy where university and international research institutions are soon to be located.

## 8. Entrepreneurial and business-friendly city

Barcelona has an extensive business and commercial tradition and the locals are enterprising, responsible and serious people at work who are used to doing business in the global market. In order to facilitate business in the city, Barcelona City Council has made great efforts to reduce municipal procedures for starting up and running a company to the absolute minimum and has also set up its Business Support Office. In addition it pays its suppliers' invoices within 30 days from the date of the invoice.

## 9. Best quality of life in Europe

Barcelona is the European city with the best quality of life for employees according to the European Cities Monitor 2011, a position it has held for the past 14 years. Likewise, according to Forbes Magazine Barcelona is also the world's 3rd happiest city. This is because Barcelona is a very pleasant place in which to work and live, with sun and beaches all year round. The city has a splendid cultural and commercial offer, a quality, public and universally accessible health system, efficient and safe public transport, and a Mediterranean lifestyle in an urban setting with its own personality.

## 10. With a prestigious city brand that adds value

With its internationally recognised prestige, international independent studies and comparisons choose Barcelona. The Barcelona brand's positive perception and international renown bring value to companies operating in the city.

## MUNICIPAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS

Barcelona is an enterprising and entrepreneurial city, being home to more than 175,000 businesses.

Barcelona City Council provides municipal support services to people interested in starting up a business activity or doing business in the city through **Barcelona Activa**, the executive arm of its economic development policies. Set up in 1986, this municipal company promotes business and job creation in the city of Barcelona. Barcelona Activa started as a business incubator and has since become an international benchmark in supporting entrepreneurship, business incubation and acceleration, vocational and technological training and employment.

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### BARCELONA ACTIVA - AREA OF ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT AT BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL

Carrer de la Llacuna 162-164  
08018 Barcelona. METRO: Glòries (L1)

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For more information visit:

→ [www.barcelonactiva.cat](http://www.barcelonactiva.cat)

## SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS AND BUSINESS LANDING

Barcelona Activa provides personalised and totally confidential technical support and advice to foreign companies looking to set up in the city throughout the entire process from the investment decision to the installation and start-up of the business or branch.

First, the **City Promotion** service provides strategic guidance to the project to align it with the city's overall strategy and supports the search for the most appropriate internal and external stakeholders for connecting to the project. Additionally, in the case of new investment projects that ask for more specific mentoring, a needs assessment is carried out and the project is channelled through the **Business Landing Service**.

Through a customized business friendly contact this service delivers the following to foreign enterprises and entrepreneurs:

- Information about procedures (licences and permits to open business premises, procedures for obtaining work and residence permits, etc.)
- Founding limited companies remotely (PAE or Entrepreneur Service Points)
- Assistance in accessing funding
- Support for staff recruitment
- Support in the search for business premises/temporary office space to land in Barcelona
- Information about key private providers
- Support in the landing process and after-care service



For more information visit

→ [http://www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/growth-and-consolidation/Espais\\_temporals/index.jsp](http://www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/growth-and-consolidation/Espais_temporals/index.jsp)

## BUSINESS CREATION - ENTREPRENEURS

Barcelona Activa offers digital tools, services, programmes and quality facilities to mentor entrepreneurs from their idea and business plan to start-up and growth of their company. These resources are **free and freely accessible** to both Spaniards and **foreigners**.

### Resources available:

- Latest generation Entrepreneurship Centre featuring spaces for co-working, advice, networking and training at Carrer de la Llacuna 162-164, 08018 Barcelona. Metro Line 1: Glòries.
- A comprehensive programme of entrepreneurship training capsules available all year round.
- A practical entrepreneurship web portal in three languages (English/Catalan/Spanish) with digital tools to produce SWOT analysis of the business idea, business plans, self-assess entrepreneurial skills and analyse the city's market.
- Digital applications, training and advice about legal forms and procedures for incorporation, setting up a business and the tax system.

- A service providing expert advice, assessment of the feasibility of business projects and support in finding the funding sources best suited to each type of project.
- Tailored programmes for special groups and to support setting up businesses in strategic economic sectors.
- Programmes and social networks to promote business cooperation and networking with city institutions.
- Programmes and digital tools to design and plan the strategic growth of microenterprises.
- Activities and programmes for business growth and acceleration.

Barcelona Activa support services for entrepreneurs can be accessed via a 120-minute welcome session in which entrepreneurs learn about the range of services, digital resources and programmes available and how to use them.



You can sign up for an entrepreneur support service welcome session at:

→ [www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/company-creation/informative-sessions/index.jsp](http://www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/company-creation/informative-sessions/index.jsp)

For further information visit:

→ [www.bcn.cat/empresa](http://www.bcn.cat/empresa)



## BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICE

As part of the Barcelona Growth initiative the city has a **Business Support Office** (Oficina d'Atenció a l'Empresa) run jointly by Barcelona Activa - Barcelona City Council and the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce. The office is the point of contact for the city's SMEs and Barcelona City Council. It provides resources, information, advice, support and processing in remotely incorporating a company, getting operating licences, registration and payment of municipal taxes and charges, access to public procurement tenders and a wide range of corporate funding sources, personnel recruitment and finding business premises.

### OFICINA D'ATENCIÓ A L'EMPRESA

Planta baja Edificio MediaTIC

Carrer de Roc Boronat 117

08018 Barcelona (Distrito 22@)

METRO: Glòries L1 and Llacuna L4

## FINDING OFFICES AND PREMISES

### Barcelona Activa business facilities

Barcelona Activa offers foreign entrepreneurs more permanent office modules in its Glòries and Almagàvers Business Factory Business Incubators and the Barcelona Nord Technology Park. These spaces are open to highly innovative and technology-based microenterprises and SMEs.



For further information about Barcelona Activa innovation facilities visit:

Glòries Business Incubator

→ [www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/company-creation/incubadores/glories.jsp](http://www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/company-creation/incubadores/glories.jsp)

Almagàvers Business Factory Incubator

→ [www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/company-creation/incubadores/ABF.jsp](http://www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/company-creation/incubadores/ABF.jsp)

Barcelona Nord Technology Park

→ [www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/growth-and-consolidation/barcelona-north-technology-park/index.jsp](http://www.barcelonanetactiva.com/barcelonanetactiva/en/growth-and-consolidation/barcelona-north-technology-park/index.jsp)

### Search for other business spaces in Barcelona

The Barcelona Business Spaces online search engine allows users to search for retail properties, offices, business centres, industrial warehouses or industrial land, either for rent or sale.

The search engine categorises the supply of office space in Barcelona based on variables such as geographical location, the specific characteristics of the available space and the operational needs of the applicant companies.



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Through its Porta 22 Career Development Centre, Barcelona Activa offers tools, digital resources, customised consulting services and training for professional and academic careers guidance, the acquisition and improvement of occupational skills and abilities and job search strategies. The Porta 22 Centre is front-rank international benchmark in professional and academic careers guidance and offers free resources to Spaniards and foreign residents in the city of Barcelona and its metropolitan area. The centre provides a range of educational activities in English for foreign professionals.

### Resources offered by the Centre

- Barcelona Treball (Barcelona Jobs) digital platform in Catalan, Spanish and English, with a catalogue of nearly 1,000 emerging professional profiles in the city of Barcelona indicating the training, experience and skills needed to work in these profiles and connected with specific job offers for them in the city. The platform includes numerous digital tools for self-assessment of skills and abilities, guidance in occupational interests and staff recruitment process simulators. The platform has been used by over 600,000 users since its launch in 2010.
- Personalised careers guidance (walk-in and totally anonymous).
- Programme of training activities in professional skills and abilities and job search techniques and channels.

• Exclusively for foreign professionals, Barcelona Activa's Porta22 Career Development Centre offers a number of training capsules in English that deal with job opportunities in the city in emerging sectors, job search strategies, writing a CV and getting ready for job interviews, as well as business networking skills and guidance on how to approach the career change.



For more information visit  
→ [www.bcn.cat/treball](http://www.bcn.cat/treball)

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### CENTRE DE DESENVOLUPAMENT PROFESSIONAL PORTA 22

Carrer de la Llacuna 162-164  
08018 Barcelona  
METRO: Glòries L1

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## OTHER SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

### ACCIÓ

It is the agency for supporting the competitiveness of Catalan companies. ACCIÓ fosters innovation, internationalisation and attracting investment. It is attached to the Department of Enterprise and Employment in the Government of Catalonia and has 34 business promotion centres in the world's main innovation hubs.

Passeig de Gràcia 129

TEL : +34 93 426 72 87

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7 S1 S2 S5

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.accio.gencat.cat](http://www.accio.gencat.cat)

### Invest in Catalonia (ACCIÓ)

It is the area of ACCIÓ specialised in the promotion and raising of international investments which are economically and technologically solid for Catalonia.

Passeig de Gràcia 129

TEL : +34 93 426 72 87

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7 S1 S2 S5

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.catalonia.com](http://www.catalonia.com)

→ [www.investincatalonia.com](http://www.investincatalonia.com)

### Cambra Oficial de Comerç, Indústria i Navegació de Barcelona (*Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Barcelona*)

It is the autonomous organisation that defends the interests of the entrepreneurs, business leaders and companies of the area of Barcelona in their commercial and professional relations.

Avinguda Diagonal 452-454

TEL : +34 416 94 57

FGC : Provença L6 L7 S1 S2 S5

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.cambrabcn.org](http://www.cambrabcn.org)

### Fira de Barcelona (*Barcelona Trade Fair*)

It is a world leader and an international benchmark in the organisation of trade fairs and congresses and holds the third position in the world ranking of the organisation of industrial and professional trade exhibitions. Fira de Barcelona has two large venues, Fira 1 Montjuïc and Fira 2 Gran Via, with a total exhibition area of 400,000 m2 (the second largest in Europe). Trade fairs such as the Mobile World Congress, Alimentaria and Construmat are held at the Fira de Barcelona.

Avinguda Reina Maria Cristina s/n.

TEL : +34 902 233 200

FGC : Pl. Espanya L8 S4

METRO : Espanya L1 L3

→ [www.firadebarcelona.com.es](http://www.firadebarcelona.com.es)

### BCD - Barcelona Centre de Disseny (*Barcelona Design Centre*)

It is the Foundation that fosters design as a strategic element and key factor to promote business' innovation and competitiveness and as a discipline that improves the quality of life of the people.

Plaça de les Glòries 37-38

Edifici Design Hub

TEL : +34 93 218 28 22

METRO : Glòries L1

TRAM : Glòries T4 T5 T6

→ [www.bcd.es](http://www.bcd.es)



Fira de Barcelona

### BCM - Barcelona Centre Mèdic (Barcelona Medical Centre)

It is an initiative that provides information about the private health services of the city and facilitates access to internationally renowned hospitals, clinics and care units in Barcelona.

Avinguda Diagonal 612

TEL : +34 93 414 06 43

METRO : Maria Cristina L3

TRAM : Maria Cristina T1 T2 T3

→ [www.bcm.es](http://www.bcm.es)

### BDigital - Barcelona Digital

It is an advanced technology centre that promotes and contributes to the growth of the ICT sector and to the development of the information society in Barcelona and Catalonia.

Carrer de Roc Boronat 117, 5a Planta  
Edifici MediaTIC

TEL : +34 93 553 45 40

METRO : Glòries L1, Llacuna, Poblenou L4

TRAM : Ca l'Aranyó T4

→ [www.bdigital.org](http://www.bdigital.org)

### Fundació Fòrum Ambiental (Environmental Forum Foundation)

It joins the environment companies of Catalonia.

Fira de Barcelona. Palau de la Metal·lúrgia  
Avinguda Reina Maria Cristina s/n

TEL : +34 93 233 23 09

FGC : Pl. Espanya L8 S4

METRO : Espanya L1 L3

→ [www.forumambiental.org](http://www.forumambiental.org)

### Fundació Dieta Mediterrànea (Mediterranean Diet Foundation)

It is an entity that works on promoting the healthy habits of Mediterranean food.

Carrer de Johann Sebastian Bach 8, Entlo. 2a

TEL : +34 93 414 31 58

FGC : Muntaner L6 S1 S2 S5, La Bonanova L6 S5

TRAM : Francesc Macià T1 T2 T3

→ [www.dietamediterranea.com](http://www.dietamediterranea.com)

### Barcelona Innovació Tecnològica (b\_TEC) Barcelona Technological Innovation

It works towards the creation of an excellence core in the knowledge of the future: energy, water and mobility.

Jardins de les Dones de Negre 1, 2a Planta  
(Carrer Lluïl - Carrer Sant  
Ramon de Penyafort)

TEL : +34 93 356 09 80

METRO : El Maresme/Fòrum L4

TRAM : Can Llima T4

→ [www.btec.org](http://www.btec.org)

### Barcelona Media - Centre d'Innovació (Barcelona Media - Innovation Centre)

It is a technology centre focused on applied research in the media sector and mostly devoted to promote knowledge and technology transfer in the sector.

Av. Diagonal 177, 9a Planta

TEL : +34 93 238 14 00

METRO : Glòries L1

TRAM : Ca l'Aranyó T4

→ [www.barcelonamedia.org](http://www.barcelonamedia.org)

### Biocat: Bioregió de Catalunya (Biocat: Bioregion of Catalonia)

It is the organisation promoted by the Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City

Council which coordinates, boosts and promotes biotechnology, biomedicine and medical technologies to consolidate them as one of the economic driving forces of Catalonia.

Passeig de Gràcia 103, 3a Planta

TEL : +34 93 310 33 30

FGC : Provença L6 L7

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.biocat.cat](http://www.biocat.cat)

#### Turisme de Barcelona (Barcelona Tourist Board)

It is the consortium for the touristic promotion of the city abroad.

Passeig de la Concepció 7-9

TEL : +34 932 853 834

FGC : Provença L6 L7 S1 S2 S5

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.barcelonaturisme.cat](http://www.barcelonaturisme.cat)

#### Barcelona Convention Bureau

It is the Barcelona Tourist Board programme which promotes the organisation of meetings and congresses in the city.

Passeig de la Concepció 7-9

TEL : +34 93 368 97 00

FGC : Provença L6 L7 S1 S2 S5

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.barcelonaconventionbureau.com](http://www.barcelonaconventionbureau.com)

#### Fundació Institució Catalana de Suport a la Recerca (Catalan Foundation Institution for Research Support)

Its main mission is to improve the social recognition of science and try to identify new ways for public and private cooperation in scientific research projects and initiatives in Catalonia

Passeig de Lluís Companys 23

TEL : +34 93 268 77 00

METRO : Arc de Triomf L1

→ [www.fundaciorecerca.cat](http://www.fundaciorecerca.cat)

#### Xarxa de Parcs Tecnològics i Científics de Catalunya (Network of Science and Technology Parks of Catalonia)

It is the network that brings together technology and science parks located in Catalonia.

Parc Científic de Barcelona

Carrer de Baldri Reixac 10-12

TEL : +34 93 582 45 45

METRO : Palau Reial / Zona Universitària L3

TRAM : Avinguda Xile

→ [www.xpcat.net](http://www.xpcat.net)

#### Barcelona Regional

It is an agency that analyses and provides technical proposals for reflection in the field of infrastructure projects and the urban planning development of the Barcelona metropolitan region.

Carrer 60 25-27. Edifici Z, 2a planta

Sector A. Zona Franca

TEL : +34 93 223 74 00

FGC : Magòria-La Campana L8 S4

→ [www.bcnregional.com](http://www.bcnregional.com)



## INTERNATIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND TRADE OFFICES

### ARGENTINA, REP.

#### Argentina Chamber of Commerce in Spain

Carrer de València 227, 4<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 487 36 72

METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L3

FGC: Provença L6 L7

→ [www.carges.net](http://www.carges.net)

#### Promotion Centre for the Republic of Argentina in Barcelona

Passeig de Gràcia 11, Esc. B, 2<sup>o</sup>

TEL: +34 93 304 12 00

METRO: Catalunya L1, Passeig de Gràcia L2 L4

FGC: Catalunya L6 L7

→ [www.consuladoargentinarcelona.com](http://www.consuladoargentinarcelona.com)

### AUSTRIA

#### Trade Office of Austria - Advantage Austria

Avinguda Diagonal 420, 3<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 368 60 03

METRO: Verdaguer L4 L5, Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.advantageaustria.org](http://www.advantageaustria.org)

### BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG

#### Belgium-Luxembourg Chamber of Com- merce in Catalonia

Carrer d'Aribau 191-193, 3<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 696 327 192

METRO: Diagonal L3 L5

FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

→ [www.ccbcl.com](http://www.ccbcl.com)

### Wallonia Trade Office

Carrer de Pau Clarís 110, 3<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 487 77 26

METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

→ [www.awex.es](http://www.awex.es)

#### Trade Delegation of the Brussels Capital Region

Carrer de Pau Clarís 110, 3<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 272 26 05

METRO: Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

→ [www.brussels-spain.com](http://www.brussels-spain.com)

#### Economic Representation of Flanders

Avinguda Diagonal 523, 14 C, Edificio  
Atalaya

TEL: +34 93 439 66 96

METRO: Maria Cristina L3

TRAM: L'Illa

→ [www.flandestrade.com](http://www.flandestrade.com)

### BRAZIL

#### Brazil-Catalonia Chamber of Commerce

Avinguda Diagonal 433 Bis, 2<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL: +34 93 209 26 84

METRO: Hospital Clínic L5, Diagonal L3 L5

FGC: Gràcia L6 L7

→ [www.cambra-brasilcatalunya.com](http://www.cambra-brasilcatalunya.com)

#### Trade Promotion Sector of the Consulate of Brazil - SECOM

Avinguda Diagonal 468, 2<sup>o</sup>

TEL: +34 93 488 22 88

METRO: Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.brasilbcn.org](http://www.brasilbcn.org)

**CANADA****Trade Office of the Consulate of Canada**Plaça de Catalunya 9, 1<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 270 36 16

METRO : Catalunya L1 L3, Passeig de Gràcia L2 L4

FGC : Catalunya L6 L7

→ [www.espana.gc.ca](http://www.espana.gc.ca)**Quebec Government Office in Barcelona**Avinguda Diagonal 420, 3<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 476 42 58

METRO : Verdaguier L4 L5, Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.mri.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mri.gouv.qc.ca)**COLOMBIA****Colombian-Catalan Chamber of Commerce**

Passeig de Gràcia 118, Principal

TEL : +34 649 115 450

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

→ [www.colombocatalana.com](http://www.colombocatalana.com)**DENMARK****Trade Delegation of Denmark**Rambla de Catalunya 81, 5<sup>o</sup> 4<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 487 54 86

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L3 L4

FGC : Provença L6 L7

→ [www.spanien.um.dk](http://www.spanien.um.dk)**FINLAND****Spanish Finnish Chamber of Commerce**Carrer de Puig i Xoriguer 15, 1<sup>o</sup>

TEL : +34 93 474 11 60

METRO : Paral·lel L3

→ [www.camaraфинlandesa.com](http://www.camaraфинlandesa.com)**FRANCE****French Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Barcelona**

Passeig de Gràcia 2

TEL : +34 93 270 24 50

METRO : Catalunya L1 L3

FGC : Catalunya L6 L7

→ [www.camarafrancesa.es](http://www.camarafrancesa.es)**Ubifrance**Avinguda de Sarrià 102-106, 11<sup>o</sup>

TEL : +34 93 552 62 99

METRO : Maria Cristina L3

→ [www.ubifrance.fr](http://www.ubifrance.fr)**GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC****German Chamber of Commerce in Spain**Carrer de Córsega 301-303, 3<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 415 54 44

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

FGC : Provença L6 L7

→ [www.akk.es](http://www.akk.es)**Círculo de Directivos de Lengua Alemana-KDF**Carrer de Córsega 301-303, 3<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 415 54 44

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

FGC : Provença L6 L7

→ [www.kdf-online.org](http://www.kdf-online.org)**HONG KONG****Hong Kong Trade Development Council**Carrer de Muntaner 240, 5<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 236 09 30

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

→ [www.hktdc.com](http://www.hktdc.com)

**HUNGARY****Trade Office of the Consulate of Hungary**

Avinguda Diagonal 477, 19º

TEL : +34 93 405 19 50

METRO : Hospital Clínic L5

FGC : Muntaner L6

→ [www.mfa.gov.hu](http://www.mfa.gov.hu)**INDIA****Spanish Indian Chamber of Commerce**

Rambla dels Caputxins 42

TEL : +34 93 318 84 41

METRO : Liceu L3

→ [www.indospan.com](http://www.indospan.com)**ISRAEL****Catalonia Israel Chamber of Commerce**

Travessera de Gràcia 17-21, 5º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 511 31 67

FGC : Muntaner L6 L7

→ [www.camaracatalanoisraeli.com](http://www.camaracatalanoisraeli.com)**ITALY****Italian Chamber of Commerce in Barcelona**

Carrer de Balmes 195, 4º 2ª

TEL : +34 93 318 49 99

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

→ [www.camaraitaliana.com](http://www.camaraitaliana.com)**Trade Office of the Consulate of Italy**

Carrer de Mallorca 270, 1º

TEL : +34 902 050 141

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

→ [www.consbarcellona.esteri.it](http://www.consbarcellona.esteri.it)**NETHERLANDS****Netherlands Business Support Office (NBSO)**

Avinguda Diagonal 611, 6º

TEL : +34 93 419 46 89

METRO : Maria Cristina L3

→ [www.holanda.es](http://www.holanda.es)**Dutch Business Association-Kiring KNB**

Parc de Negocis Mas Blau – Edifici Muntadas

Carrer Solsonès 2, Escala B, 1º 4ª

08820 El Prat de Llobregat

TEL : +34 93 843 23 96

→ [www.dekring.org](http://www.dekring.org)**PORTUGAL****Spanish Portuguese Chamber of Commerce**

Carrer del Consell de Cent 246, 4º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 454 58 39

METRO : Universitat L1 L2

→ [www.chp.es](http://www.chp.es)**AICEP – Portugal Global – Investment and Trade of Portugal**

Carrer del Bruc 50, 5º

TEL : +34 93 301 44 16

METRO : Tetuan L2

→ [www.portugalglobal.pt](http://www.portugalglobal.pt)**ROMANIA****Office for the Promotion of Economic Trade - Consulate General of Romania**

Carrer Numància 187, 3º 1ª

TEL : +34 93 534 34 94

METRO : Maria Cristina L3

**RUSSIA****Spanish Russian Chamber of Commerce**

Avinguda Diagonal 640, 6º

TEL : +34 93 218 72 95

METRO : Maria Cristina L3

TRAM : L'illa

→ [www.hispanorusa.com](http://www.hispanorusa.com)

**SWEDEN****Spanish Swedish Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona**Carrer de Mallorca 279, 4<sup>o</sup> 3<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 488 05 03

METRO : Diagonal L3 L5

→ [www.cchsbcn.com](http://www.cchsbcn.com)**SWITZERLAND****Swiss Society of Barcelona**

Carrer d'Alfons XII 95

TEL : +34 93 209 47 85

FGC : Sant Gervasi L6, Plaça Molina L7

→ [www.clubsuizobarcelona.com](http://www.clubsuizobarcelona.com)**TURKEY****Trade Attaché of Turkey**Passeig de Gràcia 46, 3<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 215 78 11

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

→ [www.counsellors.gov.tr](http://www.counsellors.gov.tr)**URUGUAY****Trade Office of the Consulate of Uruguay**Passeig de Gràcia 55, 5<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 528 55 66

METRO : Passeig de Gràcia L2 L3 L4

→ [www.consuladouy-bcn.es](http://www.consuladouy-bcn.es)**UNITED KINGDOM****British Chamber of Commerce in Spain**Carrer del Bruc 21, 1<sup>o</sup> 4<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 317 32 20

METRO : Urquinaona L1 L4, Tetuan L2

→ [www.britishchamberspain.com](http://www.britishchamberspain.com)**British Consulate General, Trade & Investment Office**Avinguda Diagonal 477, 13<sup>o</sup>

TEL : +34 93 366 62 07

METRO : Hospital Clínic L5

→ [www.ukinspain.fco.gov.uk](http://www.ukinspain.fco.gov.uk)**UNITED STATES****American Chamber of Commerce in Spain**Carrer de Tuset 10, 1<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 415 99 63

FGC : Gràcia L6 L7

→ [www.amchamspain.com](http://www.amchamspain.com)**American Society of Barcelona**Carrer de Sant Eusebi 3, 2<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>a</sup>

TEL : +34 93 368 46 89

METRO : Fontana L3

FGC : Plaça Molina L6 L7

→ [www.amersoc.com](http://www.amersoc.com)

Information on Trade Offices and Foreign Chambers of Commerce appears at:

→ [www.bcn.cat](http://www.bcn.cat) (Business > Why Barcelona? > Economic Agents)



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# USEFUL INFORMATION

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## SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER

Health emergencies, fire fighting and rescue, police and civil protection:

TEL : **112**

Available 24 hours a day every day of the year.  
Free call.

## BARCELONA CITIZEN INFORMATION (BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL)

Within Barcelona and the Metropolitan area:

TEL : **010**

Outside the Metropolitan area:

TEL : **807 177 700**

From abroad:

TEL : **+34 807 177 700**

(\*) Conditions for use: 24 hours a day service, every day of the year.

Cost of the call:

010: Connection charge: €0.47 Cost/min: €0.06

Per second rate. VAT included.

807 177 700: Connection charge: €0.11 Cost/min: €0.41

Per second rate. VAT included.



Also visit the website: → [www.bcn.cat](http://www.bcn.cat)

## CITIZEN'S ASSISTANCE OFFICE (OFICINA D'ATENCIÓ CIUTADANA)

Plaça Sant Miquel, 3

TEL : 010

Offers assistance in different languages

## CATALONIA CITIZEN INFORMATION (GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA)

Within Catalonia:

TEL : **012**

Outside Catalonia:

TEL : **902 400 012**

From abroad:

TEL : **+34 902 400 012**

(\*) Conditions for use: 24 hours a day service, every day of the year.

Cost of the call:

Connection charge: €0.33

Per-minute billing: €0.087. VAT included.



Also visit the website: → [www.gencat.cat](http://www.gencat.cat)





[www.bcn.cat/barcelonagrowth](http://www.bcn.cat/barcelonagrowth)

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