

TRAVEL PLANNING MADE EASY

THE EXPERT EXPLORER

Barcelona
July 23 - July 29



THE EXPERT EXPLORER

Where to Stay



From airport to city: a taxi ride from the airport to the city center should cost around 25-35 euros.

Neighborhood:

The Eixample District is one of the most comfortable areas to stay in Barcelona. Mainly because there's always a restaurant, shop, supermarket or bar at walking distance. Centrally located, but not super touristy; calm, but just in the heart of the city.

AirBnbs

Option 1: Elegant Apartment in City Center

The apartment has two double rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, with dishwasher, microwave, washer-dryer. Two large bathrooms with showers for the convenience of guests. The bathrooms have been renovated with the best quality to make your stay as pleasant as possible. The apartment has air conditioning both in the living room and in the main room.

Price: \$2,287 before taxes

Option 2: Rooftop with private terrace and sea views

It's located in the CENTER of Barcelona, few minutes far from Plaza Catalunya, Paseo de Gracia, Ramblas and the Old city. Eixample (or Gayxample) is the name of the area, full of cool shops, restaurants, bars and clubs.

Price: \$2,377 before taxes

Option 3: Exclusive location next Gaudi.

Comfort and design come together in this modern and fantastic apartment with two double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a double sofa bed in the living room with the capability to host up to 6 guests. The kitchen is spacious and fully equipped with utensils and necessary appliances.

Price: \$2,200 before taxes

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Gaudi Sights

DAY 1



La Sagrada Familia

The Basílica de la Sagrada Família is a large unfinished Roman Catholic minor basilica, considered the best example of Modernist architecture. Guided and audio tours are available in several languages.

Note: Purchase tickets online in advance. It's recommended to visit either during the morning or late afternoon, when the sunlight will stream in through the stained glass windows at an angle.

Parque Guell

In this park with stunning views over the city, you can admire several impeccable works of Gaudí. Actually, the entire park was designed by the artist himself. Statues and buildings in different colours and shapes stand side by side, and the park is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Note: The park does have opening and closing hours, but you can still enter and exit outside those hours – you just don't need to pay! I recommend visiting either during the early morning or early evening.

Casa Battlo and La Pedrera

Located just three blocks from each other, both buildings are icons of the Barcelona architecture, and belong to any list of the 10 must see in Barcelona. But which one should you choose? While Casa Batlló is more colorful and appealing from inside, Casa Mila offers maybe more to see inside (plus it's a couple of euro cheaper). **TIP:** Even if you don't go inside, it's worth it to walk by outside.

TIP: Sandeman's New Europe is a company that does free walking tours - I've done a few in various cities. They operate on tips, but I would highly recommend taking one. They're great and you learn a lot of history about the area.

Gothic Quarter

DAY 2



La Catedral

Located in the center of the historic Gothic Quarter of Barcelona, the cathedral is dedicated to the martyr Santa Eulàlia – the patron saint of Barcelona – who was tortured to death in late Roman times. Her corpse is buried under the main altar.

Be sure to climb to the roof for a nice view of the city, and don't forget to visit the serene and beautiful courtyard, which is occupied by thirteen white geese representing the years of Saint Eulalia's life before she was martyred.

Picasso Museum

One of the most popular and visited museums in Barcelona, the Picasso Museum offers valuable insight into the formative years of the renowned 20th-century Spanish artist. The museum houses a permanent collection of over 4,000 pieces, showcasing Picasso's connection to Barcelona and its impact on his artistic development.

Opening hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Thursdays, the museum is open till 9:30 p.m. However, if you visit on Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m., or anytime on the first Sunday of each month, admission is free. For more information, check out the [website](#).

Plaça Reial

Plaça Reial, a beautiful square in the Gothic Quarter and one of Barcelona's busiest, most vibrant spots (especially so at night), is known for its many outdoor venues, restaurants, and nightclubs. During summertime, it becomes an even more popular meeting place when open-air concerts take place. Stroll around or sit down with a tasty drink at one of the bars and just enjoy the moment.

Las Ramblas

Las Ramblas stretches from the Plaça de Catalunya to the Columbus Monument, a distance of less than one mile. To the east is the Gothic Quarter, and to the west is the neighborhood of El Raval. [La Boqueria food market](#) and the Columbus Monument are worth seeing. **Note:** be aware that there are many pickpockets in this area of Barcelona!

Around Town

DAY3



Palau de la Música Catalana

A concert hall that is one of the most popular sites in Barcelona among tourists. The Palau de la Musica is open for tours daily from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Parc de la Ciutadella

Parc de la Ciutadella is not only the most central park in the city but also a park that includes a zoo, a lake, a large fountain, and a couple of museums.

El Born Neighborhood

Do you want to go for a drink where the locals go? Then El Born is where you need to head to. Officially the neighborhood is called “Barrio de la Ribera”, but everyone likes to refer to it as “Born” or “El Born”. It’s full of artists and unique shops and seems to be loved by students as well.

Bunkers of Catmel

The Bunkers del Carmel view point is located on a 262-meter-high mountain with the remains of fortifications erected on it during the Spanish Civil War. The view is especially beautiful at sunset, but for people who especially like quiet, it is recommended to arrive in the early morning.

Mercat Encants

Don’t miss this flea market if you’re looking for a vintage bargain. From jewelry, paintings, and other curiosities – Mercat Encants has it all (on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays).



Food & Flamenco



Sol Soler

Small tapas bar - Sol Soler is located in Vila de Gràcia, a neighborhood off of the tourist trail. The menu is small, the food is superb, and they serve amazing carrot cake.

Alaire Terrace Bar

For views over Passieg de Gràcia and La Pedrera (Casa Milà) this is your place. Alaire Terrace Bar is located on the rooftop of Hotel Condes de Barcelona. This is a great place to unwind after a day of sightseeing with some of the best views of Casa Milà.

Churrería Laietana

Traditional churros & dipping chocolate dominate the menu at this warm, petite counter-serve.

Bar la Plata

This little bar in the neighborhood of El Born was founded in 1945. The walls have the typical 'azulejo' (tiles) pattern that is typical for bars in Spain. Very beautiful!

For more restaurant and bar recommendations, see [here](#).

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El Tablao de Carmen

El Tablao de Carmen truly does its namesake justice. It's named after Barcelona-born flamenco dancer Carmen Amaya, one of the best in the world. The venue boasts a unique location inside the Spanish Village (Poble Espanyol) on Montjuïc Hill. From the moment you walk in, you're in for a true Spanish treat.

- \$70 a person, includes dinner

Tablao Flamenco Cordobés

This venue's seemingly touristy location right on Las Ramblas might fool you. While its location does make it quite accessible for an international crowd, it's pure Andalusian flamenco at its finest. Shows take place in a small, intimate venue inspired by the gypsy flamenco caves of southern Spain. You won't even see any microphones or amplifiers—every aspect of the performances is done according to the most traditional standards.

- \$50 a person, includes a drink



Montserrat

DAY TRIP I



Montserrat is a spectacularly beautiful Benedictine monk mountain retreat about one hour North West from Barcelona by train. Not only is the monastery of significant religious importance, but the natural beauty surrounding the monastery is simply breathtaking.

Tour Options

- **Option 1: Montserrat Monastery Visit and Farmhouse Lunch**
 - Semi-Private Option: Shared Transfer and Private Guide. This option includes pickup and drop-off in a shared transfer and the tour with a private guide.
 - 7.5 hours / \$93.80 a person
- **Option 2: Full-Day Montserrat & Wine Small Group Tour**
 - 9-10 hours / \$113 a person
- **Option 3: Montserrat Tour, Monastery & Optional Wine/Lunch**
 - 5-9 hours / \$69 a person
- **Option 4: Montserrat Private Tour with Pickup & Boys' Choir**
 - 5 hours / \$218 a person

All trips are similar, but it depends if you want to spend more time at the monastery or more time at the vineyards.

Famous Boys Choir

L'Esconia Montserrat, the Boys Choir, is famous for their world-renowned performance. The first performances date back to 1223. There are now 50 boys in the choir, and they perform here on a daily basis, and around the world.

There are two daily performances that are typically held in the afternoon. They perform in the Basilica of Montserrat. You can learn more about the Boys Choir on the [official website](#) and purchase tickets [online in advance here](#).



Girona

DAY TRIP 2



Getting to Girona

The most convenient way to get to Girona from Barcelona for a day trip is the **AVE high-speed train**, which gets you there in about 38 minutes.

- There are slower trains as well, and trains that do not travel directly to Girona, so make sure to pick the AVE for the shortest travel time.
- In Girona, the train station is just a 10-minute walk from the city center.

Use **Omio** to book train travel in Europe. The website is in English and easy to navigate and the booking and payment process is hassle-free. To get the best prices on train fares, book well ahead of your visit.

Things to See

- Walking the walls of the medieval city, also known as the **Passeig de la Muralla**, is one of the best things to do in Girona. Bring a hat, and drinking water, and plan to do the walk early in the day.
- Visiting the gorgeous **cathedral** is one of the best things to do on your day trip to Girona, especially if you enjoy history and art.
- **El Call de Girona** is one of the most wonderfully preserved Jewish Quarters in the world, and wandering the alleys is a must.
- Designed by Gustave Eiffel and built in 1877, **the Eiffel Bridge** in Girona is a striking red, made for photos.
- One of the best photo spots in Girona's Old Town, **the Pujada de Sant Domènec** is a set of steep steps that leads up to the Iglesia de Sant Marti Sacosta. The area can be very crowded during the day in season, so visit in the later part of the afternoon.
- If you walk from one side of the river to the other, the **Plaça de la Independència** is a good place to stop for a drink to people watch.
- Go to **Rocambolesc Ice Cream** and stroll along to one of the nearby bridges, where you can enjoy your sweet treat with a side of gorgeous architecture.
- You could also book a **tour**, but depends on if you want the freedom to wander by yourselves.

Thanks for booking!

HAPPY TRAVELS!