

BARCELONA

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play in Barcelona this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. To avoid pickpockets, keep expensive photo gear in your hands rather than in an easily stolen backpack, or go with disposable or cheap cameras. "If you leave your **camera** at home you will be making a big mistake!" — TripAdvisor Member, Staffordshire, England
2. "Don't use the same clothes you use on the beach when you are visiting the city. Most locals don't use shorts, and men wearing tank tops can be considered bad taste. For women, tank tops are more accepted. Skirts and three-quarter long pants are better options than shorts."—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona
3. "Buy one of the **passport/money pouches** that hangs from your neck," to keep valuables and vital travel documents out of the reach of pickpockets.—TripAdvisor Member

Inside BARCELONA

With stunning beaches, world-class museums, bountiful shopping opportunities, sizzling nightlife and the uniquely preserved medieval Barri Gòtic, Europe's best preserved Gothic quarter, vibrant, chic Barcelona is the epitome of European cool.

With so much to say about Barcelona, it's little wonder there are two official languages: Catalan and Castilian. Located on the Mediterranean coast, Spain's second-largest city attracts millions of tourists each year. Hot summers and cool, but not freezing, winters make Barcelona a year-round destination. With the explosion of budget airlines, the city that Gaudí, Picasso and Miró called home has become Europe's favorite weekend break destination.

Antoni Gaudí's legendary buildings are not the only masterpieces found in the Catalan capital. Famed for "market fresh" Mediterranean cuisine, often from the colorful Boqueria market, the city boasts some of the country's top chefs, and restaurants offer everything from traditional fare to edgy, experimental cuisine.

Top VIEWS



BARCELONA'S BEST VIEWS



"You can sit inside **La Fitora**, whose upstairs dining room has a view over sea, or on the terrace with a nice view of the marina."—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

La Fitora, Moll de Gregal 18 - 19, 932 212 243

Soar over "water and city and see for miles" in a cable car up to the top of **Montjuïc**, home to museums and attractions, including the **Magic Fountain of Montjuïc**.—TripAdvisor Member

Magic Fountain of Montjuïc, Parc de Montjuïc

"**Tibadabo** has one the best views of Barcelona. I think the more astonishing view is from the viewpoint located in the Vallvidrera Road, though the more usual way is by Arrabassada Road. The little borough of Vallvidrera is nice; just imagine a town perched on the big city. It was an old holiday town, and the modernist architecture is noteworthy."—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

Tibidabo Mountain

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. CosmoCaixa, Teodor Roviralta 47 - 51, 932 126 050
2. Palace of Catalan Music (Palau de la Musica Catalana), Carrer de Sant Francesc de Paula 2, 932 957 200
3. Church of the Sacred Family (Templo Expiatorio de la Sagrada Familia), Placa Sagrada Familia, 934 550 247
4. Casa Batllo, Passeig de Gràcia 43, 932 160 306
5. Magic Fountain, Parc de Montjuïc
6. Guell Park (Parc Guell), Carrer Olot
7. Nou Camp, Avinguda Aristides Maillol
8. Passeig de Gracia, from Placa Catalunya to Carrer Gran de Gràcia
9. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya - MNAC, Parc de Montjuïc Palau Nacional, 936 220 376
10. La Pedrera - Mila House (Casa Mila), 92 Passeig de Gracia L'Eixample, 934 845 900

FAMILIES



"**CosmaCaixa** is the most fantastic science museum. Lots of demonstrations in wave physics, gravity and air flow, as well as biological and archaeological exhibits. Everything is user-controlled and very interactive. Great for all ages!"—TripAdvisor Member, Haifa, Israel

CosmaCaixa, Teodor Roviralta 47-51, 932 126 050

The city's highest hill is also home to its oldest amusement park. **Tibidabo** "is quite old-fashioned, but the kids loved all the rides, despite them being a lot tamer than average."—TripAdvisor Member, Wirral, England

Tibidabo Amusement Park, Plaza del Tibidabo 3 - 4, 932 117 942

Parc Guell, a playful urban park designed by Gaudí, is a big hit with kids. "You can see all of Barcelona" from the scenic point at the top.—TripAdvisor Member, Loughborough, U.K.

Parc Guell, Carrer Olot

"It's full of surprises"

"...the kids loved all the rides"

ROMANCE



"The **Carpe Diem Lounge Club** is the place to see and be seen when it comes to nightlife in Barcelona." Have a drink with the "cool, sexy, trendy crowd."—TripAdvisor Member, United States

Carpe Diem Lounge Club, 32 Passeig Maritim, 932 240 470

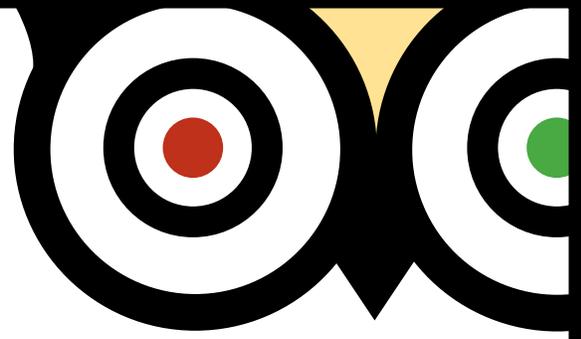
Stroll through **Parc de la Ciutadella** or rent pedaloos for a spin on the lake. The park is "small but beautiful! It's full of surprises and has a magnificent fountain."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Parc de la Ciutadella, Avenida del Marques de l'Argentera

Passeig de Gràcia is Barcelona's grand avenue. "What a wonderful street full of fabulous architecture! Gaudi on both sides and all around. Love the place!"—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Passeig de Gracia

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

“Do not miss **La Boqueria**. Make sure you try the famous Jamon Serrano (ham) at their many food stalls. Buy the expensive cuts (Jabugo) for less money than in restaurants and enjoy in your apartment.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cuenca, Spain

Mercat de Sant Josep de la Boqueria, Plaza de la Boqueria, 933 182 584

“We loved walking in the **Barri Gòtic** or **Gothic Quarter**. The Cathedral almost brought a tear to my eye. Simply incredible. We loved the little shops and all the beautiful old buildings. So much character and soul.”—TripAdvisor Member, Victoria, British Columbia
Gothic Quarter

“So much character and soul.”

Bar Marsella is a great place to people watch or dare to sample some absinthe, the house special. It “opened in 1820, and looks like it hasn’t been changed much since then.”—TripAdvisor Member

Bar Marsella, Sant Pau 65, 934 427 263



ADVENTURE

“If you prefer an organized tour, I recommend the **Spanish Trails** Village Explorations and Walking Excursions for a good taste of the Catalan farms, traditional architecture and landscapes. Perhaps you will see the Pyrenees.”—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

Spanish Trails, Vidre 7, locale 3, 935 001 616

“**Sardana** is a circle dance, a symbol of unity. You can watch the dancers for awhile, and if you’re confident enough, even participate. Do not expect a ‘folk dance’ with traditional dresses, or a tacky performance for tourists—just normal people, with their everyday clothes, having some fun.”—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

Sardana performances, Cathedral of Santa Eulalia, Barri Gotic

A **bicycle** is “the ultimate transport in Barcelona, fast enough to see all in one afternoon, slow enough to enjoy it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Netherlands

Fat Tire Bike Tours, Plaza Sant Jaume, 933 013 612

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

Casa Batlló is often overshadowed by La Pedrera, Gaudí’s other masterpiece on the same street. “I am partial to the color blue, so **Casa Batlló** would always win in comparison to the gray La Pedrera. But it was more than just color. Casa Batlló is just stunning.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Casa Batlló, Passeig de Gràcia 43, 932 160 306

Barcelona’s signature attraction is Gaudí’s unfinished **La Sagrada Família**. “Even with the cranes and all the work going on there, the wacky details and colors make you giddy with the type of excitement you may remember from childhood.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família, Plaça Sagrada Família, 932 073 031

“...the wacky details and colors make you giddy”

The **Picasso Museum** focuses “on the very early works of Picasso and his growth as an artist. The museum building is stunning, with a great mix of old and new.” Make sure to book the free guided tour. “The guide was very knowledgeable and takes you around the museum in a certain order that is hard to figure out otherwise.”—TripAdvisor Member, United States

Picasso Museum (Museu Picasso), Montcada 15 - 23, 932 563 000



RELAXATION

“A great Gothic church, **St. Mary of the Sea Cathedral** has a purity of line and design that is very pleasing to the eye. I found it a lovely spot to rest and relax after a long day of sightseeing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rochester, Minn.

St. Mary of the Sea Cathedral, Placa Santa Maria, 933 102 390

“**Barri Gracia** was a separate township in the 19th century. It’s full of narrow streets and small squares and has great charm. Home to Verdi, one of the city’s first arts cinemas, English second-hand bookshop, British Market. Lots of bars and restaurants.”—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

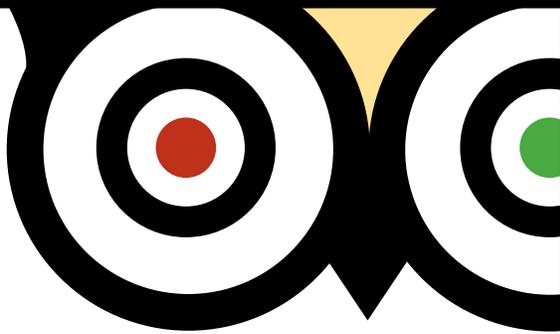
Barri de Gracia

Palau de la Musica Catalana, a concert hall and UNESCO World Heritage Site, is an ideal place to experience music. Enjoy a performance at the palace: “It’s about the same price if not cheaper than the tour.”—TripAdvisor Member, Oxford, U.K.

Palau de la Musica Catalana, Calle Palau de la Música 4-6, 932 957 200

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



Hop on and off the **Barcelona City Tour** buses. The two routes will take you to all the major attractions, and you'll get "a booklet that gives you money off various entrance fees."—TripAdvisor Member

"**Watch your bags**" while buying tickets and in the metro. Pickpockets can target tourists in these locations.—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

"Cut down the traveling time and walking distance" with multiday **Barcelona Cards**.—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Want more information on Barcelona? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Barcelona or any other destination you choose.

WHERE to eat

"Try one of the kiosks in the Boqueria for interesting local food in the day time."— TripAdvisor Member

FAMILIES

"The food and atmosphere was great at **Gusto Ristorante Pizzeria** and the servers were patient with our poor Spanish and with our kids."—TripAdvisor Member, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Gusto Ristorante Pizzeria, Calle Rosello 108, 933 236 575

Els Pollos de Lull is "a great restaurant for families with children. There is a special area, designed for children, with blank paper and colored pens to draw chickens."—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

Els Pollos de Lull, Napsols 272, 931 622 250

Belgious is well worth tracking down. They offer waffles, crepes, and many flavors of homemade ice cream."—TripAdvisor Member, Sheffield, U.K.

Belgious, Avinyo 50, 934 124 965

"Heaven!"

ROMANCE

"Tucked away in a side street, **Pla** is beautifully lit and seductive. The waiter runs through the menu, detailing the ingredients and explaining how the dish is cooked. The most personal service I have ever received in a restaurant."—TripAdvisor Member, Bath, U.K.

Pla, Bellafila 5, 934 126 552

"We went to **Cinc Sentits** on our anniversary, and it was an incredibly special meal—from the amazing tastes and attention to detail by the staff to the menu and wine pairings."—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Cinc Sentits, 58 Aribau, 933 239 490

"Quick, cheap and healthy..."

BUDGET

"If you're looking for great food at a good price, you have to stop at **La Bombeta**. We had the steak and potato platter and the beef tendon. Everything was so good. And the best part? It was great value at 35 euros!"—TripAdvisor Member

La Bombeta, Maquinista 3, 933 199 445

Try **Maoz** "if you want to eat quick, cheap and healthy. They serve do-it-yourself pitas, where you can make your own sandwich with fillings they have at the food bar."—TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona

Maoz, Multiple locations

"We loved everything about **Montiel**. The restaurant is on a beautiful little lane off the tourist beats. It's beautifully lit for a romantic and intimate dinner, and the food was amazing. Heaven!"—TripAdvisor Member, Australia

Restaurante Montiel, Flassaders 19, 932 683 729

"The food at **La Creme Canela** is all an absolute bargain for what you get! The wines by the bottle are cheap and great. The tiramisu is out of this world. And all the entrees are hot, fresh and delicious."—TripAdvisor Member, Valencia, Spain

La Creme Canela, Ptege. Madoz 6, 933 182 744

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Juicy Jones is a juice bar and restaurant with retro 1970s décor and serving “good food and excellent organic wines. Not expensive either.”—TripAdvisor Member, Edinburgh, Scotland

Juicy Jones, Cardenal Casañas 7, 933 024 330

“**Petit Bangkok** is delicious and remains honest to its Thai roots. The vegetarian spring rolls were fantastic, as was the pad Thai. Both meat eaters and vegetarians are well catered to.”—TripAdvisor Member, Colchester, U.K.

Petit Bangkok, Carrer Saragossa 85, 616 185 196

“**Mayura** has great ambiance, greater food and plenty of options for us veggies. Do try their vegetable mixed grill. The presentation is great, and the taste is even better.”—TripAdvisor Member, Stockholm, Sweden

Mayura, 57 Calle Girona, 934 814 536

HIDDEN GEMS

“**Biblioteca** is a quaint little restaurant. Not a lot of people have discovered it yet, so we were able to get in with no problems. The food is delicious, and the atmosphere is unique and full of character. The tuna tataki and the slow cooked lamb were fabulous.”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Biblioteca, Calle Junta de Comerc 28, 934 126 221

“**Maitea Taberna** is perfect for sitting at the bar with a friend and feasting on the most amazing and reasonably priced pinchos.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

Maitea Taberna, Casanova 157, 934 395 107

“**Casa Calvet** is housed in one of Gaudi’s buildings and, naturally, has a beautiful interior. They bent over backwards to make my birthday a lifetime memory. The staff were fantastic. Oh, and the food was truly stunning. My partner and I are both dedicated foodies and have eaten at umpteen places in the city. Casa Calvet still ranks with the best.”—TripAdvisor Member, Glasgow, Scotland

“...a lifetime memory.”

SPECIAL EVENTS



Wake up to the sights and sounds of the **Barcelona International Festival of Contemporary Art (BAC!)**, a citywide exhibition of cutting edge works, from photography to murals to installations, that break the boundaries of the mainstream. (October – November)

Barcelona International Festival of Contemporary Art (BAC!), Various venues, 609 221 338, <http://www.bacfestival.com>

Celebrate diversity on film at the **Barcelona International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**, featuring a variety of Spanish and international films, from features to shorts and docs, with a special focus on films from countries where homosexual expression is severely limited or censored. (October 27 – November 6)

The Barcelona International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (FICGLB), Filmoteca Catalunya, 973 664 421, <http://www.barcelonafilmfestival.org>

One of Europe’s longest running music festivals, the **Barcelona International Jazz Festival**, celebrates its 43rd anniversary this year with performances in styles varying from big band and bebop to Latin and acid jazz. (October 20 – December 1)

Barcelona International Jazz Festival, Palau de la Música, 934 817 040, <http://www.barcelonajazzfestival.com>

Celebrate Christmas in Barcelona style at **Fiesta de Santa Llucia**, a Christmas market at Barcelona Cathedral featuring over 300 vending stalls with all sorts of goodies on sale, as well as parades, music and activities for kids. (November 26 – December 22)

Fiesta de Santa Llucia, Barcelona Cathedral, Plaça de la Seu, Barri Gòtic, 933 151 554

Watch in wonder at the arrival of the Three Wise Men during **Cabalgata los Reyes Magos**, or Twelfth Night. The procession, led by the Mayor, arrives by boat at Moll de Fusta, greeted by fireworks and foghorns, then proceeds through the city to arrive at the floodlit Montjuïc Fountains. (January 5)

Cabalgata los Reyes Magos, Moll de Fusta, Montjuïc Fountains

On Saint Anthony’s Day, witness the blessing of a procession of animals ranging from dogs and cats to donkeys and horses at the **Cabalgata dels Tres Tombs**. (January 17)

Cabalgata dels Tres Tombs, various locations, 93 301 7775

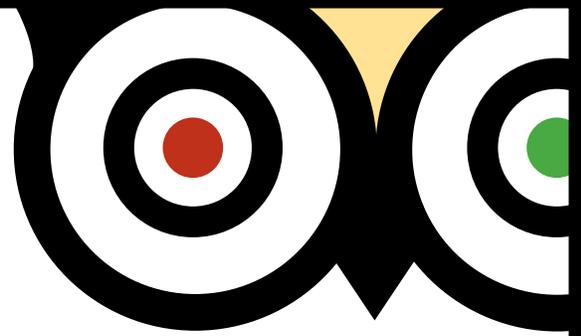
Indulge in food, drink, dancing and revelry at Barcelona’s **Carnaval**, a week-long feast of fatty foods and exciting entertainment. Some events include parades, sausage sampling, and tortilla competitions. (March)

Carnaval, throughout the city center, 933 017 775, <http://www.bcn.es/carnaval>

Take an energetic foot tour of the city at **Marató Barcelona**, a marathon whose course passes many of the city’s most famous landmarks, including Pedrera, Sagrada Familia and the Parc del Forum. (March 25)

Marató Barcelona, begins at Playa Espanya, Avinguda Maria Cristina, 902 431 763, <http://www.barcelonamarato.es>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

Urban Suites is “THE place to stay in Barcelona. It’s well furnished, the location is superb, and the staff are friendly and helpful.”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

The Urban Suites, C/ Sant Nicolau I - 3, 932 015 164

“We wanted something a little different. **Casa Camper** is very cool but comfortable. Has a very ‘Barcelona’ feel to it. The design is fantastic.”—TripAdvisor Member, Spain

Casa Camper, Carrer Elisabets 11, 933 426 280

The staff of the central **Hotel Montecarlo** “made us feel that we had a safe place to be, and there were people who cared.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

Hotel Montecarlo, La Rambla 124, 934 120 404

“...very cool but comfortable”



Have questions about Barcelona? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“I love contemporary architecture and design, so I felt perfectly at home at **Hotel Jazz**, surrounded by linear furniture, black, brown and white decor and a clean wooden floor that felt so much nicer than the worn out carpets that usually cover hotel room floors.”—TripAdvisor Member, Milan, Italy

Hotel Jazz, Pelai 3, 935 529 696

Villa Emilia “left a smile on my face. My room was so calm that I was able to sleep with open windows. The roof top area is absolutely spectacular—fresh air, cool drinks, relaxing lounges—the nicest way to end your day and start your evening!”—TripAdvisor Member, Zurich, Switzerland

Villa Emilia, Calabria 115-117, 932 525 285

“**Hotel Bagues** has been finished to a unique and incredibly high standard and the rooms are as luxurious as I’ve seen anywhere. The icing on the cake is the roof top terrace where you can sunbathe, order a drink, or cool off in the pool.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bath, U.K.

Hotel Bagues, La Rambla 105, 933 435 000

“Super cozy and full of art.”

BUDGET

At **Residencia Australia**, the “room was very nice, and the view from the balcony was awesome. The best thing about this place is the location; you can see Placa Catalunya from the balcony. Overall we had an amazing time and would highly recommend people stay here.”—Winchester, U.K.

Residencia Australia, Ronda Universitat 11, 401a, 933 174 177

Hostal Goya “is a little gem, set in the best part of Barcelona.” It has been “carefully restored to provide clean, uncluttered, well-designed rooms.”—TripAdvisor Member, Warwickshire, U.K.

Hostal Goya, Pau Claris 74, 933 022 565

“...a haven of peace and calm”

Hotel 1898 is “a haven of peace and calm compared to the fun and craziness of the day and night entertainment outside the front door.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brighton, U.K.

Hotel 1898, La Rambla 109, 935 529 552

BarcelonaBB is “super cozy, full of art and crafts works from all over the world. Best of all, the owner was VERY kind, giving directions, solving little problems, making us feel as if we were from his family. Recommend? Absolutely!”—TripAdvisor Member, Sao Paulo, Brazil

BarcelonaBB, Mallorca, 637 977 263

LUXURY

“**U232** is a wonderful hotel. We were able to stay in one of the rooms on the top floor, which was amazing. There’s a large king size bed and a HUGE washroom complete with a jetted tub and two rain showers. The room also has a large patio with a table for dining and lounging.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver, British Columbia

U232 Hotel, Comte d’Urgell 232, 933 224 153

ABaC Barcelona was “pure bliss. The rooms were gorgeous, stylishly designed with extreme comfort in mind. The best thing was the wonderful staff who were charming, considerate, never intrusive and supremely helpful.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

ABaC Barcelona, Avenida Tibidado 1, 933 196 600

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

“We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in **Marina View**—we could have watched the view from the window all day! The room was comfortable and well-appointed, and Jose, a thoughtful and caring host.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cambridge, England

Marina View B&B, Paseo de Colón, 609 206 493

Anita's Bed & Breakfast is “is located in the hills (Zona Alta) overlooking Barcelona and was the perfect spot to unwind after full days of hitting the sights in the city. The terrace provided a beautiful panorama of city and the Mediterranean Sea.”—TripAdvisor Member, Stuttgart, Germany

Anita's Bed & Breakfast, C/ August Font 24, 932 546 793

“**Hostal L'Antic Espai** is something very special—my second home. The personal service of Abel and Sergio is highly appreciated. Each of the rooms is individually decorated with antique furniture and other antique items on a high level.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ibiza, Spain

Hostal L'Antic Espai, C/ Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes 660, 933 041 945

“My second home.”

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