

# Barcelona

SAS City Portrait



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**This is the 9th edition of Barcelona City Portrait printed in 35,000 copies – with information based on facts available in February 1981. Main changes from 8th edition: Increase in taxi and train fares, and hotel rates; one hotel added; two restaurants deleted and six added; several changes of street names on city map; three nightspots added; additional information added to entertainment section; one public holiday deleted and two added.**



Front cover: Young Catalan girl in traditional dress.

## Introduction

In a picturesque location on the Mediterranean coast, Barcelona is Spain's leading commercial and industrial center, as well as a busy port – but it is also famed for its many historical buildings.

With a university founded in 1450, Barcelona is a cultural and educational center with a number of fascinating museums. Don't miss the collection of paintings by El Greco, Rembrandt and Velasquez housed in the former Royal Palace, the most important collections in the world of Picasso and Miró – and try, too, to see the magnificent Romanesque and Gothic Catalan art at the palace in Montjuich Park.

Spacious squares and wide boulevards, including the famous *Rambles*, are characteristic of the modern part of the city, and in contrast the old quarter lures the visitor with charming, narrow streets and ancient monuments.

Among the buildings worth seeing are the 14th-century churches of Santa Maria del Pino and Santa Maria del Mar, the 14th–15th century Gothic Cathedral, the Bishop's Palace and the church of San Pablo del Campo.

Barcelona's history dates back to the days of Carthage and tradition says the city was named after Hamilcar Barca, father of Hannibal. It certainly came under Roman and Visigoth control and was an important seaport when captured by the Moors in the 8th century. Charlemagne took the city from the Moors in 801 including it in the Spanish March.

Christopher Columbus also features in the city's history for he was received here by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand V in 1493 on his return from his discovery voyage of the Americas. A Columbus monument and full-scale replica of his ship commemorate this historic event.

Today Spain's second largest city is a busy center of fairs and conventions with a year-round calendar of commercial events including the International Fair in June.

It is also a great tourist center being the gateway to the Costa Brava and the ski resorts of the Spanish Pyrenees.

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia. This region has now become officially bilingual, Spanish and Catalan being spoken and written on equal terms. Several streets in the city have been renamed in Catalan; although the change is a slow process more alterations will gradually take place.

## Your arrival in Barcelona

Your plane arrives at Barcelona Airport. After passport and customs control you will be able to exchange your money into the local currency at the airport. The monetary unit is the "Peseta", divided into 100 "céntimos".

There is no bus between the airport and city – but taxis are available.

To order a taxi, please inform the ground hostess and she will arrange it. Taxi fare from the airport to almost any point in town is about 600–800 pesetas.

There is also an electric train service from "Sants" railway station to the airport – 52 pesetas one-way fare – with trains departing every 15 minutes.

## Hotels

Barcelona has many modern and comfortable hotels and pensions, but it is always advisable to book in advance.

Your travel agent or SAS can offer you detailed information on hotels of all classes with immediate confirmation of accommodation in most.

Many hotels operate on the "American plan" (rates include room and full board), but there are many hotels, where you may book accommodation without full board.

Here is a list of approximate prices for rooms only for various hotel categories in Barcelona:

	Single	Double
5-star .....	Ptas 4,800	Ptas 7,000
4-star .....	Ptas 3,300	Ptas 4,800
3-star .....	Ptas 1,700	Ptas 2,500
2-star .....	Ptas 1,200	Ptas 2,000
1-star .....	should not be used.	

These prices include all taxes.

The following list of hotels should prove useful:

**Avenida Palace** (G3)  
605 Gran Vía de las Cortes  
Catalanas.  
Tel. 222 6440.

**Barcelona** (H3)  
1–13 Caspe.  
Tel. 231 5100.

**Calderon Hotel** (G3)  
26 Rambla Cataluña.  
Tel. 301 0000.

**Colón** (I4)  
4 Avenida del la Catedral.  
Tel. 222 8707.

**Cristal Palace** (G3)  
257 Diputación.  
Tel. 222 2181.

**Cristina** (E1)  
458 Avinguda Diagonal.  
Tel. 229 2301.

**Diplomatic** (G2)  
122 Carrer Pau Claris.  
Tel. 317 3100.

**Gala Placidia** (off map)  
112 Via Augusta, Barcelona 6.  
Tel. 227 9119.

**Majestic** (F2)  
70 Paseo de Gracia.  
Tel. 215 4512.

**Manila** (H5)  
111 Ramblas.  
Tel. 318 6200.

**Presidente** (C2)  
570 Avinguda Diagonal.  
Tel. 227 3141.

**Princesa Sofia** (A3)  
Plaza Pio XII.  
Tel. 250 3047.

**Regente** (F2)  
76 Rambla Cataluña,  
Barcelona 8.  
Tel. 215 2570.

**Ritz** (H2)  
668 Gran Vía de las Cortes  
Catalanas.  
Tel. 221 4701.

**Roma** (E3)  
163 Mallorca.  
Tel. 253 3500.

**Sarria** (A3)  
50 Avenida de Sarria.  
Tel. 239 1109.

Hotels of lower categories can be quite good, even though they do not offer the same standard of comfort and service. If you prefer hotels of this type, we suggest you consult your local travel agency or inspect the hotel personally, before you make your decision.

**Note:** the voltage in most Barcelona hotels is 125 A.C. with 220 A.C. in the new ones.

## Restaurants and cuisine

Dining in Spain is a charming and interesting experience. The food is excellent and the service very good. Spanish cuisine is a firm favorite with most visitors from overseas.

### WHAT TO EAT

When visiting Barcelona, be sure to order some of the delicious seafood dishes including lobster and grilled cuttlefish – and the Spanish speciality "zarzuela", a soup which features black grouper, goosfish, lobster, prawn, squid and mussels to name some of its ingredients... served with a spiced sauce.

The Spanish "paella" with rice and fish, chicken or meat is, of course, a popular dish, but if you like snails try the Bagur variety – ask for them "Garriguense" style.

There is a wide selection of tasty meat and sausage dishes with tender onions.

In Catalonia in particular white and black Butifarra sausages plus Vich salami and "sobrasada" sausages are just a few of the delicacies to tempt the visitor and surprise the gourmet.

### WHAT TO DRINK

With meals choose one of the wide variety of Spanish wines; those of the Rioja and the Priorato districts are particularly famous. You might try Viña Ardanza, Pomal and Tondonia, Marques del Riscal or Conde de Caralt among the red wines –



Cepa Rhin or Monopol among the white. The Torres red and white wines are also excellent products from this district. Sangría is wine mixed with fruit, sugar, soda and ice. Málaga or a Jerez dulce (sweet sherry) are both good dessert wines. Catalonia also produces a very good champagne both for export and for the home market.

Breakfast is normally a simple meal consisting of coffee with milk (café con leche) and one or two croissants. If you stay at an "international" hotel, you will, however, be able to order a more substantial meal.

## MEAL TIMES

Lunch is served from 13.00 to 15.30 hrs. It is normal to take an apéritif (sherry) around 13.30 hrs.

Dinner or supper is served as late as 21.00 or 22.00 hrs. If you feel hungry between 16.00 and 20.00 hrs., when the restaurants are closed, you can get a snack in one of the numerous bars.

Here are some restaurant suggestions:

### *De luxe category*

**Finisterre** (C2)  
469 Avinguda Diagonal.

**La Masia** (C2)  
58 Avinguda Diagonal –  
Esplugas.  
(Open-air terrace).

**Orotava** (F3)  
335 Consejo de Ciento.

**Reno** (D1)  
27 Tuset.

### *First class*

**Agut d'Avinyo** (I5)  
3 Trinidad.

**Baviera** (H4)  
127 Rbla. Canaletas.

**Guria** (E3)  
97–99 Casanova.

**Koldobika** (H2)  
46 Bruch.

**Quo-Vadis** (H5)  
7 Carmen.

**Saks** (off map)  
128 Via Augusta.

**Siete Puertas** (J5)  
14 Paseo Isable II.

**Solé** (J6)  
17 Paseo Colón.

**Soley** (I2)  
29 Bailén.

**Tres Molinos** (off map)  
9 Avinguda Diagonal S/N.

### *Catalonian*

**Casa Chus** (G1)  
339 Avinguda Diagonal.

**Casta Costa** (L7)  
(On the beach in the Barceloneta  
district).

**Catalonian Porc Alegre** (B2)  
280 Urgel.

**Los Caracoles** (I6)  
3 Nueva San Francisco.

**Torre San Sebastián** (L8)  
At the harbor.

**Tramontana** (I5)  
2 Plaza San Miguel.

## Sights and excursions

An easy and pleasant way to get to know the city is to join a guided tour with, generally, pick-up at hotel, organised by one of the travel agencies in Barcelona.

## THE CITY ON YOUR OWN

Should you prefer to explore the city on your own, this list of sights, which can be found on the map by using the reference in brackets, will prove useful:

**The Cathedral** (I5). Built between 1298 and 1450, it presents a fine example of Gothic styles as interpreted in Spain. The front and the cupola are modern. Inside the church, note the sacramental vase and King Martin's chair, both masterpieces of Spanish craftsmanship.

**Plaza del Rey** (I5) is the center of Barcelona's Gothic district. The Palacio Real Mayor was once the residential palace of the kings of Aragón. Today, one of the wings is the **Federico Marés Museum**. Note the 13th-century **Royal Chapel of Santa Agueda**. In the **Casa Clariana-Padellás** is the Municipal Museum of History.

**Town Hall** (I5). The original parts of the building, dating back to the 14th and 16th centuries, are the façade on Calle de la Ciudad, the courtyard and the Salón de Ciento. The modern part includes the façade on Plaza de San Jaime.

**Palau de la Generalitat** (I5), seat of the Catalanian Government, Plaza de San Jaime. The Gothic parts of this building were constructed during the 15th and 16th centuries. See the central courtyard, the **Chapel of San Jorge** and the lovely **Patio de los Naranjos** (Orange Courtyard), the façade and door on Bishop Irurita Street.

**La Pedrera** (F1). Designed by architect Antonio Gaudí at Paseo de Gracia on the corner of Provenza Street.

**Church of San Pedro de las Puellas** (J3). This is the oldest Christian monument in Barcelona, founded in the year 945, thoroughly restored in 1945.

**Arch of Triumph** (J2), on the boulevard Salón de Víctor Pradera. It was erected for the World Exhibition of 1888.

**Templo de la Sagrada Familia**. Begun in 1882, this unusual and enormous church building was never completed. Plans called for 16 tall towers, and a large cupola, but only four of the towers, the eastern entrance and the crypt have been completed.

**Parque de la Ciudadela** (K3), the town park, is laid out in the grounds where the Castle of Barcelona once stood. The Botanical and Zoological Gardens form part of the park, as do the Municipal Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Modern Arts.

**Estación de Francia** (K5), the Main Railroad Station.

**Church of Santa María del Mar** (J5). This Gothic church was burned down in 1936 and subsequently rebuilt. Moncada Street nearby, was once the leading business street and valuable specimens of Gothic and baroque architecture can be seen there today.

**La Lonja** (K5), the Stock Exchange. Founded 1382.

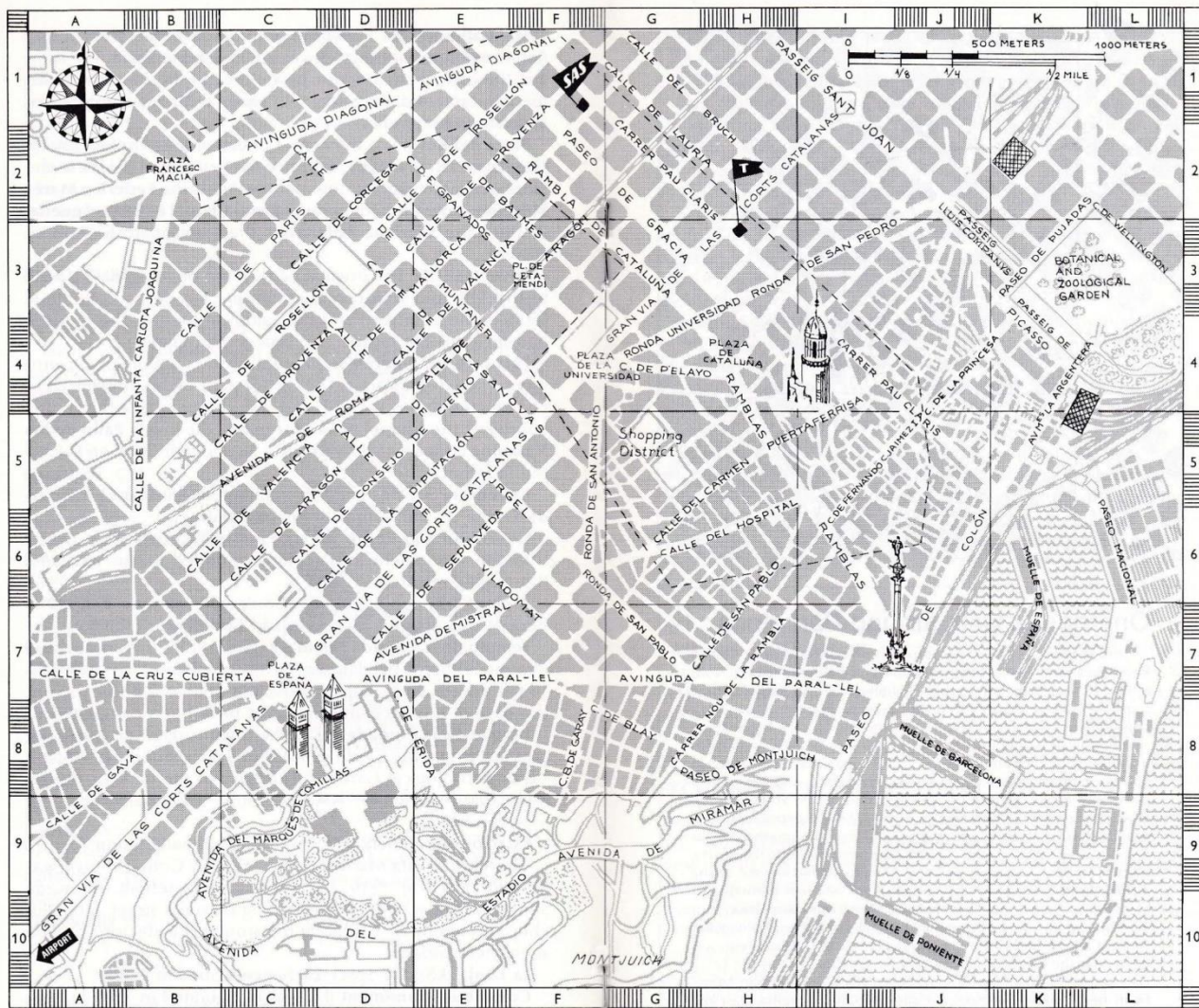
**Columbus Monument** (I7) was inaugurated in 1888 in connection with the World Exhibition. There is an elevator inside the tall column, and the view from the top is worth seeing.

**Maritime Station** (K8). Passenger vessels for foreign countries depart from here (for Mallorca, from Puerta del la Paz).

**Maritime Museum** (I7). This interesting collection illustrates maritime life and its development through the ages.

**Church of San Pablo del Campo** (H7), Calle de San Pablo. A very old church with an inscription on the frontispiece in Merovingian capitals (7th and 8th centuries). The adjoining cloister dates from the 13th century.

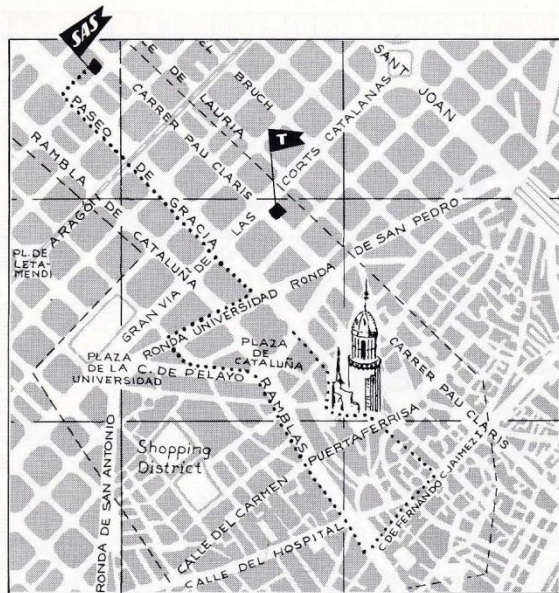
(cont'd on page 11)



Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (F1) is located where lines drawn from "F" and "1" cross each other.

### Interesting sights in Barcelona

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| (15) The Cathedral.  | (J2) Arch of Triumph. Temple de la Sagrada Família (Church of the Holy Family).   | (J5) Church of Santa María del Mar and Moncada Street.   | (E9) Archaeological Museum.  |
| (15) Plaza del Rey (with the Federico Marés Museum, the Royal Chapel of Santa Agueda and the City History Museum). | (K3) Parque de la Ciudadela (The City Park with the Botanical and Zoological gardens and the Museum of Natural History, Museum of Modern Arts). | (K5) La Lonja (Stock Exchange).                          | (D9) Palacio Nacional (Museum of Catalonia) and Main Entrance to Montjuich Park.           |
| (15) Town Hall.  | (K5) Estación de Francia (Main Railroad Station).   | (K8) Columbus Monument.                                  | (B9) Pueblo Español (The Spanish Village), with the Museum of Industries and Popular Arts. |
| (15) Palau de la Generalitat (Government Building).  |   | (K8) Maritime Station.                                   | (H7) Church of San Pablo del Campo.  |
| (J3) Church of San Pedro de las Puellas.   |   | (H5) Palacio de la Virreina (Museum of Decorative Arts). | (L8) Torre de San Sebastian.   |
|  |   |  | (K4) Picasso's Museum.   |




## One hour's walk around Barcelona

From the SAS Office a few steps to the right will bring you to Paseo de Gracia, one of the most important shopping streets. Note a little to your right the strange building called La Pedrera. Now turn left, walking down Paseo de Gracia to Plaza de Cataluña, a large square bubbling with life. It is dominated by the big building of the Spanish Telephone Company, and there are pavement cafés inviting you to have an "aperitivo". The Ronda Universidad leads to another famous square, Plaza de la Universidad, and Barcelona's University. However, turn to the left a little before you reach the "Plaza", following Calle de Pelayo, a good shopping street. Arriving again at Plaza de Cataluña, turn sharply to the right into the famous Rambla, where citizens and tourists alike promenade. In the center, rows of trees give shadow and according to legend anyone taking a drink from the Canaletas Fountain there will feel immediately at home in Barcelona. Flower stalls, shops and bars draw your attention while you walk past the Opera House (Liceo). Turning left to the Calle de Fernando, once Barcelona's main street, you will come into the Barrio Gótico, the Gothic Quarter, with its old Town Hall and the Catalanian Government Palace in Plaza San Jaime. From here follow the narrow Calle del Obispo Iruita, past the Bishop's Palace to the Gothic Cathedral. Pass through the Calle del Archs and Avenida Puerta del Ángel and so back to Plaza de Cataluña.

## Useful addresses

 **SAS Ticket Office:** 277 Mallorca (F1). Tel. 215 3900/04/08.

 **Tourist Information Office:** 658 Gran Via de las Corts Catalanas (H3). Tel. 222 1135.

Distance from city center to airport: 12 km (7 miles).

(cont'd from page 7)

**Palacio de la Virreina** (H5). The Municipal Museum of Decorative Arts. Admission: 10.00 to 14.00 hrs. and 18.00 to 21.00 hrs.

**Archaeological Museum** (E9). Located in the Montjuich Park, this museum houses fine collections from prehistoric periods. One section is devoted to the primitive Balearic people, another to the Ampurias. Other sections illustrate the Greek and Roman epochs. Admission: weekdays 10.00 to 14.00 hrs. and 16.00 to 18.00 hrs.; Sundays and holidays 10.00 to 13.00 hrs.

**Palacio Nacional** (D9), Montjuich Park: Arte de Cataluña Museum. Close to it stands a famous fountain, attractively illuminated at night. One of the main attractions of this museum is its unique collection of Romanesque paintings. Admission: 10.00 to 14.00 hrs.

**Pueblo Español** (C9 – The Spanish Village). Built for the World Exhibition in 1929. Reproductions of typical buildings from various parts of Spain form a small Spanish town or village. Individual buildings are true copies of real houses. The workshops in the Pueblo Español offer a fine selection of reasonably-priced souvenirs.

**Güell Park** (off map), Calle Larrard. This municipal park was originally planned by Antonio Gaudí y Cornet, the creator of the Church of the Holy Family and many other outstanding buildings.

**Torre de San Sebastián** (L8). Here you can enjoy a panoramic view of the whole town. The restaurant on the top of the tower is well known.

**Picasso's Museum** (K4), Calle Montcada, has a unique collection of paintings by the famous Spanish artist.

**Harbor Aerial** (H9, J8, L7) from Miramar in Montjuich to Muelle de Barcelona (J8) and to the Beach (L8) and vice versa.

**Miro's Museum** (D9) in Montjuich Gardens offers a collection of paintings and ceramic works by yet another famous Spanish artist.

## EXCURSIONS FROM BARCELONA

**Montserrat.** The excursion to Monasterio de Montserrat is a real "must". This famous monastery is in the mountains northwest of Barcelona, about 700 meters (2,300 ft.) above sea level, 61 km (38 miles) from the city. Buses run daily throughout the year, departing from the Plaza Universidad. You may also go by train from Plaza de España (The Catalanian Railroad) or via the Northern Railroad (Plaza de Cataluña). If you wish, you may stay overnight. (Hotels: Abad Cisneros and Colonia Puig.) The most famous treasure of the monastery is the "Black Madonna".



**The Tibidabo Mountain.** From here, you enjoy a magnificent view of the city. You can also visit the Church of the Sagrado Corazón, the worldwide poster exhibition, and the children's park. Go by car or by buses No. 22, 23, or 17 to Avenida del Tibidabo. Here change to the blue streetcar which takes you to the funicular.

**Costa Brava** is a lovely stretch of coast north of Barcelona with excellent beaches and scenery. Allow at least two days to get the most from this trip. Most popular places in this district are Lloret, Tossa, San Feliu and S'Agaró, where there are good hotels. Regular coach services connect Barcelona with Costa Brava.

**Nearby beaches.** There are popular beaches northeast and southwest of Barcelona. And while, in general, the coast here is rugged, you can find quiet coves ideal for bathing.

**Rio Leon Safari.** Especially for the children an 80 km (50 miles) excursion south to this open-air zoo. Regular departures. Contact your travel agent.

**Sitges,** 37 km (23 miles) south of Barcelona is one of the most popular bathing resorts in northeastern Spain, with a fine sandy beach and many good hotels. Castelldefels, about halfway between Barcelona and Sitges, is also good.

## MALLORCA

Mallorca is the largest of the Balearic Islands, the cluster of islands southeast of Barcelona. The capital, Palma de Mallorca, is reached by plane in less than 35 minutes from Barcelona, and overnight by ship. If you plan a visit, book well in advance, for it is a world-popular holiday center. Mallorca is an enchanting island with much to offer the visitor: the capital with its old cathedral; the Castle of Bellver; golden beaches; mysterious grottoes; interesting folklore; and lovely natural scenery.

The hotels offer the best of comfort and service. Some are really de luxe with swimming pools, garden terrace, and open-air dancing.

There are many interesting excursions from Palma; to the Valldemosa monastery where Frederic Chopin lived with George Sand; to the idyllic port of **Soller**; to the impressive and beautiful promontory of **Formentor**; and to the **Grottoes of Drach**, a fantastic glimpse of the underworld. On this excursion you also visit the fishing village **Porto Christo** and **Manacor**, renowned for beautiful "pearls" made from fish scales.

## Entertainment and night life

Though floor shows, in the usual sense of the word, are scarce, there are plenty of opportunities to see Spanish dancing at La Bodega del Toro (H7), 103 Carrer Nou de la Rambla, La Macarena (J6), 5 Nueva San Francisco, Las Cuevas (J6), 2 Gignás (gipsy dances) or Los Tarantos (I6), Plaza Real.

Among the numerous discotheques are Metamorfofis, Beethoven St. (A2), Trauma, Consejo de Ciento St. (F3) and Boccaccio, Muntaner St. (B1). For dancing, try the Las Vegas (C1), 230

Aribau, the Bikini (571 Avinguda Diagonal), Caesar's (C6), 2 and 4 Av. de Roma, Cugat Palace (H2), 770 Gran Via Corts Catalanas or Parrila del Ritz (H2), 668 Gran Via Corts Catalanas. In summer, La Masía is one of the best.

The Opera House (I6) season is from November to February and in April and May foreign ballet companies usually give performances here. A seat costs from Ptas 900 at regular performances.

Local folk dancing – La Sardana is the Catalonian national dance and the most popular of the regional dances. The dance is very ceremonious, although this does not prevent the dancers from giving anyone, who wishes to join in, a very warm welcome. La Saradana is performed in a circle, the dancers holding each others' hands. You can watch La Sardana at the Cathedral Square (I5) Wednesdays from 19.00 to 21.00 hrs. and on Sundays from 10.00 to 12.30 hrs. Also at St. James' Square (I5) Sundays from 18.00 to 20.00 hrs.

Ancient Greek tragedies are presented on the open-air stage in the Greek Theater (E9) at Montjuich Park during the summer season.

At Montjuich there is also an Amusement Park (F10) for all-year-round fun, and a fortress with a military museum.

There are many modern cinemas, all of them being air-conditioned. Although you may see American or English films advertised, remember foreign pictures are usually shown with a Spanish sound-track. All cinemas with the name "Salas de Arte y Ensayo" show films in their original version. Performances in theaters and cinemas usually begin at 17.00 or 18.00 hrs. and at about 22.00 hrs.

## Tipping

Although a service charge of 15% is added to the bill, the hotel porter and the waiter expect approximately 10% more. It is also customary to tip the chambermaid and other employees, who serve you. If you use a valet, tip him Ptas 50 per call. The baggage porter is usually tipped Ptas 25 per suitcase. Taxi drivers expect 5 Ptas for a short drive, or 10% of the amount shown on the meter. Theater and cinema ushers are usually tipped Ptas 5–25.

## Shopping and souvenir hunting

The best shopping area is marked on the map by a broken line. Elegant shops line the Avinguda Diagonal, Paseo de Gracia and Rambla de Catalunya, while other typical shops are to be found in Plaza de Catalunya, Calle de Pelayo, Plaza Universidad, in the Rambla and in Calle de Fernando. The leading department stores are Sepu (H5), Jorba-Preciados (H4), Pedrerol y Bofill (D1), El Corte Inglés (H4), Sears (B2) and a new El Corte Inglés (A3), 573 Avinguda Diagonal.

## WHAT TO BUY

Shoes and embroideries are particularly fine. Tailors are very skilful and their prices are reasonable. Typical souvenirs are porrón (wine bottle with a long side spout); mantilla (hand embroidered Spanish lace); abanico (fans, in all qualities, some ornamented with mother-of-pearl); antelopeware; and colorful castañueles (castanets).

## Business hours

**Shops:** Open throughout the year from 09.30 to 13.30 hrs. and from 16.00 to 19.30 hrs. The leading department stores do not close for lunch, remaining open throughout the day. The Drugstore at 71 Paseo de Gracia (very close to SAS office) is open 24 hours a day. Its facilities include restaurant, bar, cafeteria, newspaper stand, chemist shop, souvenirs, tobacconist, post, etc.

**Banks:** Open 09.00 to 14.00 hrs. the whole year round.

**Business houses:** Office hours for most firms and companies are from 09.00 to 13.30 hrs. and 16.00 to 19.00 hrs. During summer – early June to end of September – from 08.00 to 14.30 hrs.

**Government offices** work from 09.00 to 14.00 hrs. all year round.

## Transportation

Buses and an underground railroad are the principal means of transportation in Barcelona. There are funicular railroads to the Montjuich Park, to Vallvidrera and to Tibidabo, and ferry boat services across the harbor. These services are operated from early morning until late at night, and the fares are inexpensive.

Taxis are readily available and easy to recognize because of their bright yellow color. When free, "Libre" shows on the sign at the windshield (at night a green light is the indicator). You can order a taxi by telephone, and there are plenty of taxi stands. All taxis have meters, officially controlled by the authorities. The normal hire charges are published on a list inside the cab.

If you want to explore the city and its environs on your own, you can also hire a self-drive car.

## Sports

Although today more Spaniards watch football (soccer) matches than bullfights, the latter are still highly popular and are a traditional and very typical part of Spanish life. Before going to a bullfight, ask your travel agent or the local tourist office for a booklet describing the rules. Your hotel porter will obtain seats for you for a small tip and it would be best to let him order seats in the sombra (shadow). They're more expensive than those in the sol (sun), but they are worth the difference. Barcelona has two arenas, The Plaza de las Arenas seating 15,000 and the Plaza Monumental, 23,000. Usually a seat will cost from 400–2,500 Ptas. Bullfights take place every Sunday afternoon and practically every Thursday between April and October.

The most popular sport is football, and over the past few years Barcelona has maintained its reputation as one of the leading teams in Europe. The city also has good reason to be proud of its football stadium with capacity for 100,000 spectators.

A wide variety of sports (baseball, rugby, track and field events, etc.) are held at the Estadio Municipal de Montjuich in Montjuich Park. Another attraction of this park is the public swimming pool, Piscina Municipal.

Golf-loving visitors are welcome at the 18-hole golf course at the Real Club de Golf del Prat. Tennis courts are to be found throughout the city. You may also go horseback riding, join a shooting party, or watch go-cart races.

## Climate and clothing

Barcelona enjoys a pleasant climate. Temperatures tend to be rather high in summer, average 23°C (72°F), but the average in winter is 10°C (51°F). Spring and autumn are the favorite seasons for European visitors from north of the Alps. Then temperatures average 16°C (60°F). In summer, dress lightly; during spring and autumn, dress as you would in summer in most European countries north of the Alps. In winter a cardigan and an overcoat are needed. Spaniards dress conservatively though not formally. Few women in Spain wear hats. Men should always wear jackets in church. Few occasions require formal dress. Should you, however, be attending a formal occasion, gentlemen's evening dress can easily be hired.

There are dry cleaning shops and laundries throughout the city and most provide a 24-hour service.

## Public holidays and special events

January 1, New Year's Day; January 6, Epiphany; May 1, Labor Day; June 24, St. John's Day; July 25, Feast of St. James; August 15, Feast of Our Holy Lady; September 11, National Day of Catalonia; September 24, Day of Our Lady of Merced; October 12, Hispanicity Day; November 1, All Saints' Day; December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception; December 25, Christmas Day; December 26, St. Stephen's Day.

In addition there are Easter and Whitsun, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi Day. Easter is an especially important celebration in Spain, and Holy Week is characterized by numerous religious processions, the most impressive taking place in the region of Andalucía.

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*Edited by Mike Simon*

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