BCN
2027

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EUROPEAN SERIES
MEDITERRANEAN SUMMER

Greetings from BARCELONA

48 hours, solo, at your own pace

POCKET EDITION · 2027

48-HOUR GUIDE · SAFETY GUIDE · PLANNING CALENDAR

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Welcome to Barcelona

Barcelona has a medieval heart, a Modernist grid, a mountain, and a beach, all within reach of each other. It is the city that Gaudí built and the Mediterranean softened, and it rewards both the planner and the wanderer.

Traveling alone here works because the city is built for strolling. Tapas bars are made for singles, parks and plazas are full of life, and nobody lingers over a table for hours until the evening. It is lively, but you can always find a quiet corner.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read through once before you go. Day One covers the Gothic Quarter, the Born, and the waterfront. Day Two covers the Eixample, Gaudí's best-known buildings, and Park Güell. Section 03 is the new-for-2027 guide to the Eixample grid. Book Gaudí sites in advance, and mind your pockets in the crowds.

ESSENTIAL QUICK FACTS

CURRENCY
Euro (€) · cards accepted nearly everywhere

TRANSIT
Metro, bus, and tram · T-casual or contactless

TIPPING
Optional · round up or leave a few euros

EMERGENCY
112

MEAL TIMES
Lunch around 2 p.m. · dinner after 9 p.m.

LANGUAGE
Catalan and Spanish · English in tourist areas

01 *Day One*

The Gothic Quarter · The Born · The Waterfront

The first day stays in the old city, with Roman streets, medieval lanes, and the sea.

MORNING · 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

9:00 AM

Barcelona Cathedral & the Gothic Quarter

A maze of lanes around the Gothic cathedral, with Roman walls and quiet plazas. Early morning is the best time.

Wander without a map for 20 minutes.

11:00 AM

Picasso Museum

A museum in medieval palaces in the Born, with a deep collection of Picasso's early work. Book timed tickets.

Allow about 90 minutes.

1:00 PM

Lunch — a menú del día

A fixed-price lunch is available at many restaurants in the Born and the Gothic Quarter.

Eat in a side street, away from the busiest squares.

AFTERNOON · 3:00 PM – 6:30 PM

3:00 PM

Santa Maria del Mar

A 14th-century Gothic church in the Born, with soaring, plain interior.

Entry is inexpensive; the rooftop tour has a separate ticket.

4:30 PM

Barceloneta Beach

The city beach, a short walk from the old town, with a promenade of cafés and a long, flat shoreline.

The beach is busy in summer; the evening light is best.

EVENING · 8:30 PM

8:30 PM

Tapas in the Born or El Raval

Many bars serve small plates at the counter. Order a few things and move on.

Dinner starts late; most places fill after 9.

Barcelona runs on a late clock. Eat lunch at two and dinner after nine.

02 *Day Two*

The Eixample · Gaudí · Park Güell

The second day takes in the city's Modernist side, with Gaudí's most famous works.

MORNING · 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

9:00 AM

Sagrada Família

Gaudí's unfinished basilica, under construction since 1882. Book a timed ticket well in advance, and go early for the best light inside.

Check current visiting rules and ticket availability.

11:30 AM

Passeig de Gràcia

A grand avenue with Casa Batlló, Casa Milà (La Pedrera), and luxury shops. Admire from the outside or book inside.

Choose one interior and enjoy the rest from the street.

1:30 PM

Lunch in the Eixample

The grid has many good lunch spots, from bakeries to tapas bars.

Look for a daily menu on a chalkboard.

AFTERNOON · 3:30 PM – 7:00 PM

3:30 PM

Park Güell

Gaudí's hillside park of mosaics and views. Book the monumental zone in advance; the surrounding park has free areas.

Check ticket rules before you go.

6:00 PM

Gràcia

A village-like neighborhood of plazas and small bars. A good place for an evening vermut.

Weeknights are calm; weekends are lively.

EVENING · 9:00 PM

9:00 PM

Dinner in Gràcia

Small restaurants around Plaça del Sol and Plaça de la Vila de Gràcia serve local dishes.

Reserve on weekends.

03 *The Grid*

The Eixample Grid

NEW FOR 2027

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that every corner in Barcelona's Eixample is cut off at an angle?

When the city expanded beyond its medieval walls in the 19th century, planner Ildefons Cerdà designed a grid of square blocks with chamfered, or cut-off, corners. The idea was to improve light, air, and visibility at intersections, and it gives the district its octagonal look from above.

HOW IT WORKS

Streets are wide, blocks are about 113 meters on a side, and corners open into small plazas. Cerdà also meant for blocks to have shared inner gardens, though many were built over.

HOW TO DO IT RIGHT

Walk a few blocks off Passeig de Gràcia, look up at the corner buildings, and notice how the intersections open. The grid makes navigation easy.

BEST TIME TO GO

Morning or late afternoon, when the light hits the facades.

04 *Where to Eat*

Barcelona's table — tapas, vermut and the market

Barcelona eats late and shares small plates. Bars welcome singles, and a counter seat is the friendliest way to eat.

€ under €15 · €€ €15–40 · €€€ over €40 — per person, excluding drinks

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

La Boqueria €€
EL RAVAL
A famous market, best for a quick snack. Eat at a counter.

Mercat de Santa Caterina €€
THE BORN
A local market with a colorful roof.

Menú del día restaurants €€
ALL AREAS
A fixed-price lunch of several courses.

Bakeries €
VARIOUS
Pastries and coffee for breakfast.

DINNER & LATE

Born tapas bars €€
THE BORN
Small plates in medieval lanes.

Gràcia plazas €€
GRÀCIA
Relaxed bars and restaurants.

El Raval bars €€

EL RAVAL

A mix of old and new.

Vermuterías €

VARIOUS

Vermut with olives and anchovies, a Barcelona tradition.

05 *Getting Around*

Getting around Barcelona

The old town is walkable. The Metro is fast and covers most places, and trams and buses fill the gaps.

Metro & bus	about €2.50	Single tickets cost more than multi-trip cards. Check current fares.
Barcelona Airport	Aerobús, train or Metro	The L9 Sud Metro, Aerobús, and a train all run to the city.
Sants Station	Train hub	High-speed trains to Madrid and France.
Bikes	by the day	Bike lanes are common; the beach path is flat.
Walking	free	The old town and the Eixample are best on foot.

Walk the old town, ride the Metro for the Eixample and Park Güell, and avoid taxis in rush hour.

06 *Backup Plans*

Barcelona in the rain

Barcelona is sunny, but when it rains, the museums and markets are ready.

Picasso Museum
THE BORN
Early work in medieval palaces.

Casa Batlló or La Pedrera
EIXAMPLE
Interiors by Gaudí.

MNAC
MONTJUÏC
The national art museum of Catalonia.

CCCB
EL RAVAL
A contemporary culture center.

La Boqueria
EL RAVAL
A covered market for lunch.

Design Museum
POBLENOU
Design and fashion in a modern building.

07 *Neighborhoods*

Know your neighborhoods

Gothic Quarter
MEDIEVAL
Lanes, plazas, and the cathedral.

The Born
TRENDY
Boutiques, bars, and the Picasso Museum.

El Raval
BOHEMIAN
Markets, galleries, and multicultural food.

Eixample
GRID
Gaudí buildings and wide avenues.

Gràcia
VILLAGE
Plazas, cafés, and a local feel.

Barceloneta
SEASIDE
Beach, seafood, and a promenade.

08 Good to Know

What nobody tells you

- Lunch is around 2 p.m., and dinner starts after 9 p.m.
- Book Sagrada Família, Park Güell, and the Gaudí houses in advance.
- Pickpockets work crowded areas, especially La Rambla, the Metro, and the beach. Keep your bag zipped and in front.
- Cards are accepted nearly everywhere, but carry a few euros for markets.
- Tipping is optional. Round up or leave a few euros.
- The beach is busy in summer; go in the evening or early morning.

WHEN TO GO

Best overall — **May–Jun**
Warm days, long light, and fewer crowds.

Peak season — **Jul–Aug**
Hot, humid, and crowded.

Second best — **Sep–Oct**
Warm sea and comfortable days.

Off-season — **Nov–Mar**
Mild and quiet, with sunny days.

09 Solo Traveler Safety

Is Barcelona safe?

Safe in terms of violent crime, but pickpocketing is a real and frequent problem. Barcelona has some of Europe's most active pickpockets, especially around La Rambla, the Metro, and the beach. Stay alert, use a zipped cross-body bag, and keep your phone out of back pockets.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

Eixample	◆◆◆◆◆
Gràcia	◆◆◆◆◆
Gothic Quarter (daytime)	◆◆◆◆◇
The Born	◆◆◆◆◇
La Rambla & Metro crowds	◆◆◇◇◇
El Raval at night	◆◆◇◇◇

COMMON SCAMS

Distraction tricks, like a spilled drink, a friendly stranger, or a petition, are common. Decline politely and hold on to your bag. Beware of fake taxis and overpriced restaurants on La Rambla.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

For emergencies call 112. Pharmacies (farmacia) show a green cross and can advise on minor problems. Carry travel insurance, and an EHIC card if you are from the EU.

SOLO TRAVELERS

Share your plans with someone back home and keep your phone charged. Dinner is late, so streets stay busy well past midnight; use a taxi if you are tired.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency	112
Local police	092
Catalan police (Mossos)	088
US Consulate (Barcelona)	+34 93 280 2227

10 *Planning Calendar*

Barcelona, month by month

A year-round look at the events that shape the city. Exact dates shift annually.

JAN *Three Kings*

- January 5 brings a parade of the Three Kings.

APR 23 *Sant Jordi*

- Books and roses are exchanged on the streets.

JUN 23 *Sant Joan*

- Bonfires and fireworks on the beach.

AUG *Festa Major de Gràcia*

- Streets are decorated, and neighbors compete for the best display.

SEP 24 *La Mercè*

- The city's biggest festival, with parades, human towers, and fireworks.

DEC *Holidays*

- Christmas markets near the cathedral and Sagrada Família.

Every Stop, Mapped

Scan the code to open the free interactive Barcelona map — every stop in this guide, filterable by day, food, and transport.

goingsolo.life/maps/barcelona

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