


Spain's biggest tourist attraction is a unique, extraordinary piece of architecture. Conceived as a temple as atonement for Barcelona's sins of modernity, this giant church became Gaudí's holy mission. A work in progress for more than a century, when completed it will have capacity for 13,000 faithful and is, in medieval fashion, a work of storytelling art, rich in iconography and symbolism, at once ancient and modern. (www.sagradafamilia.cat; Carrer de Mallorca 401; adult/child under 11yr €14.80/free; ☀ 9am-8pm Apr-Sep, to 6pm Oct-Mar;  Sagrada Família)




 **Michael Collins Pub** (Plaça de la Sagrada Família 4) is an unusually authentic Irish pub, frequented by locals.

MORNING

From  to your afternoon destination

 35min  15min  15min  10min  10min  30min  15min  10min  5min  25min  30min  20min  50min

Completed in 1914 with a Modernisme-influenced design, this is one Barcelona landmark where the architecture is overshadowed by what lies within – the freshest produce from around Spain, the evocative starting point of many a memorable Barcelona meal, and a hum of activity unlike anywhere else in the city. (www.boqueria.info; La Rambla 91; ☀ 8am-8.30pm Mon-Sat;  Liceu)

★ **Top tip** Many stalls, including most of those selling fish, are closed on Mondays.




 For market-fresh food and some of the market's best cooking, pull up a stool at **El Quim**.

AFTERNOON

From  to your evening destination

 5min  10min  5min  25min  25min  5min  20min  5min  30min  15min  25min  5min  20min

Everyone walks La Rambla during a Barcelona stay. In just a 1.25km strip you'll encounter food stalls, flower stands, street performers, grand public buildings, a pungent produce market, pickpockets, prostitutes and a veritable United Nations of passers-by. More than anywhere else this is where the city's passion for life as performance finds daily expression, as a relentless tide of people courses down in a beguiling counterpoint to the static charms of Gaudí's architectural treasures. ( Liceu)

★ **Top tip** Take an early morning stroll and another late at night to sample La Rambla's many moods.



 **Cafè de L'Òpera** (at no 74) has had a front-row seat on La Rambla since 1929 and is the perfect old-city rest stop.

EVENING

## 2 CASA BATLLÓ



**One of  
the most  
beautiful  
buildings  
in a city of  
many**

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## 15 MUSEU PICASSO



**Picasso  
in five  
medieval  
stone  
mansions**

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## 28 SEAFOOD IN BARCELONETA



**A bulwark  
of busy bars  
and fish  
restaurants**

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From the playful genius of its facade to its revolutionary experiments in light and architectural form (straight lines are few and far between), Casa Batlló, which was built as an anything-but-humble apartment block, is one of the most beautiful buildings in this city where competition for such a title is fierce. Highlights include the facade, sala principal, back terrace and roof. ([www.casabatllo.es](http://www.casabatllo.es); Passeig de Gràcia 43; adult/child under 7yr €21.50/free; ☹️ 9am-9pm; 🚇 Passeig de Gràcia)

★ **Top tip** Buy tickets online and go early to avoid the queues.



🍴🕒 Two short blocks down the hill and just off the other side of Passeig de Gràcia, **Tapas 24** is one of Barcelona's most innovative tapas bars.

MORNING

From 2 to your afternoon destination

🚶 30min 🚶 20min 🚶 5min 🚶 5min 🚶 20min 🚶 40min 🚶 10min 🚶 5min 🚶 5min 🚇 40min 🚶 40min 🚇 35min 🚶 70min

The setting alone makes the Museu Picasso unique: the permanent collection is housed in three 14th century mansions; while the 18th-century Casa Mauri, built over medieval remains, and the adjacent 14th-century Palau Finestres accommodate temporary exhibitions. The pretty courtyards, galleries and staircases preserved in the first three of these buildings are as delightful as the collection inside. ([www.museupicasso.bcn.cat](http://www.museupicasso.bcn.cat); Carrer de Montcada 15-23; adult/child €14/free, temporary exhibitions adult/child €6.50/free; ☹️ 9am-7pm, to 9.30pm Thu; 🚇 Jaume I)



🍴🕒 On Picasso's last visit to the city in 1934, **El Xampanyet** (Carrer de Montcada 22) had already been open five years; it's still great for tapas.

AFTERNOON

From 15 to your evening destination

🚶 20min 🚶 15min 🚶 15min 🚶 35min 🚶 40min 🚶 20min 🚶 10min 🚶 20min 🚶 15min 🚶 15min 🚶 40min 🚶 20min 🚶 35min

A bulwark of busy bars and fish restaurants where old-style cooking prevails, the former fisherfolk district of Barceloneta is a seaside peninsula with an enduring relationship with the sea. The lanes bristle with everything from good-natured, noisy tapas bars to upmarket seafood restaurants. Vaso de Oro (Carrer de Balboa 6; ☹️ 10am-midnight) brews its own beers and the tapas are delicious (try the grilled prawns); tiny, unsignposted Cova Fumada (Carrer del Baluard 56; ☹️ 6-8.20pm Thu & Fri) cooks mouthwatering small plates to perfection in its open kitchen. (🚇 Barceloneta)



🍴🕒 The Maremàgnum complex on the Moll d'Espanya boasts a handful of fun, if fairly slapdash, joints close to the water's edge.

EVENING



### 3 PASSEIG DEL BORN



**Cool bars,  
trendy  
restaurants,  
a fascinating  
collection of  
shops**

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### 16 LA CATEDRAL



**A facade  
laced with  
gargoyles  
and stone  
intricacies**

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### 29 PALAU DE LA MÚSICA CATALANA



**The city's  
most  
traditional  
venue for  
classical and  
choral music**

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This compact pocket of La Ribera has cool bars, trendy restaurants and – for haters of modern chain stores – chic indie boutiques. In addition to the hip little fashion boutiques, these medieval lanes hide a fascinating collection of shops, from magic stores and early-20th-century coffee roasters to hallowed wine cellars and picture-perfect patisseries. (M Barceloneta, Jaume I)

★ **Did you know?** Leafy Passeig del Born was the old town's epicentre in medieval times.



One of Barcelona's culinary delights, **Casa Delfin** (at no 36) serves Catalan and Mediterranean cooking.

MORNING

From 3 to your afternoon destination

35min 15min 10min 5min 10min 60min 15min 5min 5min 45min 35min 40min 70min

Barcelona's central place of worship presents a magnificent image. The richly decorated main facade, laced with gargoyles and the stone intricacies you would expect of northern European Gothic, sets it quite apart from other churches in Barcelona. The facade was actually added in 1870, although the rest of the building was built between 1298 and 1460. (Plaça de la Seu; **FREE**, special visit €6, choir admission €2.80; ☀ 8am-12.45pm & 5.15-7.30pm Mon-Sat, special visit 1-5pm Mon-Sat, 2-5pm Sun & holidays; M Jaume I)



A short walk away, local favourite **Café de l'Acadèmia** (Carrer dels Lledó 1) serves great lunch specials and tasty traditional dishes at night.

AFTERNOON

From 16 to your evening destination

10min 10min 5min 20min 35min 20min 20min 15min 25min 10min 35min 15min 15min

A feast for the eyes, this Modernista confection is also the city's most traditional venue for classical and choral music, although it has a wide-ranging program, including flamenco, pop and jazz. Just being here for a performance is an experience. Sip a preconcert tippie in the foyer, its tiled pillars all a-glitter. before heading up the grand stairway to the main auditorium, a whirlpool of Modernista whimsy. (www.palaumusica.org; Carrer de Sant Francesc de Paula 2; M Urquinaona)

★ **Top tip** The palau, like a peacock, shows off much of its splendour on the outside; take some time to admire the principal facade.



**Le Cucine Mandarosso** (Carrer Verdaguera i Callis 4) does Italian comfort food to perfection.

EVENING

## 4 SANTA MARIA DEL MAR



**Barcelona's  
most  
stirring  
Gothic  
structure**

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## 17 LA PEDRERA



**In the top  
tier of  
Gaudí's  
successes**

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## 30 EL RAVAL NIGHTLIFE



**Eccentric,  
trendy and  
downright  
ancient bars  
and clubs**

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