

Travel programme

Phosphorus GA Meeting
7th - 10th April 2008, Barcelona

Description of the city

Barcelona is the capital and most populous city of Catalonia and the second largest city in Spain and it is located on the Mediterranean coast.



History

The foundation of Barcelona is the subject of two different legends. The first attributes the founding of the city to Hercules 400 years before the building of Rome, and that it was rebuilt by the Carthaginian Hamilcar Barca, father of Hannibal, who named the city Barcino after his family, in the 3rd century BC. The second legend attributes the foundation directly to Hamilcar Barca.

About 15 BC, the Romans redrew the town as a castrum (Roman military camp) centred on the "Mons Taber", a little hill near the contemporary city hall (Plaça de Sant Jaume). Under the Romans it was a colony, with the surname of Faventia, or, in full, Colonia Faventia Julia Augusta Pia Barcino or Colonia Julia Augusta Faventia Paterna Barcino. Mela mentions it among the small towns of the district; but it may be gathered from later writers that it gradually grew in wealth and consequence, favoured as it was with a beautiful situation and an excellent harbour. It enjoyed immunity from imperial burdens. The city minted its own coins; some from the era of Galba survive.

Some important Roman ruins are exposed under the Plaça del Rei, entrance by the city museum (Museu d'Història de la Ciutat), and the typically Roman grid-planning is still visible today in the layout of the historical centre, the Barri Gòtic ("Gothic Quarter"). Some remaining fragments of the Roman walls have been incorporated into the cathedral. The cathedral, also known as basilica La Seu is said to have been founded in 343. The city was conquered by the Visigoths in the early fifth century, by the Moors in the early eighth century, reconquered from the emir in 801 by Charlemagne's son Louis who made Barcelona the seat of Carolingian "Spanish Marches", a buffer zone ruled by the Count of Barcelona. Barcelona was still a Christian frontier territory when it was sacked by Al-Mansur in 985.

The Counts of Barcelona became increasingly independent and expanded their territory to include all of Catalonia, later the Crown of Aragon which conquered many overseas possessions, ruling the western Mediterranean Sea with outlying territories in Naples and Sicily and as far as Athens in the thirteenth century. The forging of a dynastic link between the Crowns of Aragon and Castile marked the beginning of Barcelona's decline.

Climate

Barcelona has a Mediterranean climate, with mild, humid winters and warm, dry summers.

Parks

Barcelona contains 68 municipal parks, divided into 12 historic parks, 5 thematic (botanical) parks, 45 urban parks and 6 forest parks. They range from vest-pocket parks to large recreation areas. The parks cover 10% of the city, growing about 10 ha (25 acres) per year.



The entrance to Gaudi's "Park Güell"

Beaches

Barcelona has seven beaches, totalling 4.5 km of coastline. Sant Sebastià and Barceloneta beaches, both 1,100 m (3,610 ft) in length, are the largest, oldest and the most frequented beaches in Barcelona. The Olympic port separates them from the other city beaches which were opened as a result of the city restructuring to host the 1992 Summer Olympics.

Economy

Barcelona has a long-standing mercantile tradition. Less well known is that it was one of the earliest regions in continental Europe to begin industrialization, beginning with textile related works at the end of the eighteenth century but really gathering momentum in the mid nineteenth century, when it became a major center for the production of textiles and machinery. Since then, manufacturing has played a large role in its history. The traditional importance in textiles is still reflected in Barcelona's importance as a major fashion center. In summer 2006, Barcelona became an host for the prestigious Bread & Butter urban fashion fair. The fair was so successful that, starting in 2007, Barcelona became the only host for Bread & Butter, that closed its original Berlin location.

As in other modern cities, the manufacturing sector has long since been overtaken by the services sector, though it remains important. The most important industries today are textile, chemistry, pharmaceutical, motor, electronic and printing. In the services sector, the most important are the logistics, publishing, telecommunications and computer sectors.

Drawing upon its tradition of creative art and craftsmanship, Barcelona is nowadays also known for its award-winning industrial design. Barcelona also has several congress halls, notably Fira de Barcelona (Trade Fair), that host a quickly growing number of national and international events each year, which had also meant the opening of new hotels each year. The Port of Barcelona is an important Mediterranean port, both for general containers cargo and for cruise ships.

Barcelona has one of the highest costs of living in Spain, and occupying the 31st position in the world rank according to a report by Mercer Human Resource.



International Convention Centre

Administrative divisions

Since 1997, the city has been divided into 10 administrative districts (districtes), each one with its own council led by a city councillor. The composition of each district council depends on the number of votes each political party had in that district, so a district can be led by a councillor from a different party than the executive council.

The administrative divisions are based mostly on historical divisions. Several of the city's districts are former towns annexed by the city of Barcelona in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that still maintain their own distinct character. The official names of these districts are in the Catalan language.

Districts: Ciutat Vella "Old City", Eixample, Sants-Montjuïc, Les Corts, Sarrià-Sant Gervasi, Gràcia , Horta-Guinardó, Nou Barris, Sant Andreu and Sant Martí.

Culture

Barcelona's cultural roots go back 2000 years. To a greater extent than the rest of Catalonia, where Catalonia's native Catalan is more dominant, Barcelona is a bilingual city: Catalan and Spanish are both official languages and widely spoken. The Catalan spoken in Barcelona, Central Catalan, is the one closest to standard Catalan. Since the arrival of democracy, the Catalan culture (very much repressed during the dictatorship) has been promoted, both by recovering works from the past and by stimulating the creation of new works. Barcelona is designated as a world-class city by the Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network.

Entertainment and performing arts

Barcelona has many venues for live music and theatre, including the world-renowned Gran Teatre del Liceu opera theatre, the Teatre Nacional de Catalunya, the Teatre Lliure and the Palau de la Música Catalana concert hall.



The façade of the Liceu, as viewed from La Rambla

Museum

Barcelona houses a great number of museums, which cover different areas and eras. The National Museum of Art of Catalonia possesses a well-known collection of Romanesque art while the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art focuses on post-1945 Catalan and Spanish art. The Fundació Joan Miró, Picasso Museum and Fundació Antoni Tàpies hold important collections of these world-renowned artists. Several museums cover the fields of history and archeology, like the City History Museum, the Museum of the History of Catalonia, the Archaeology Museum of Catalonia, the Barcelona Maritime Museum and the private-owned Egyptian Museum.

Architecture

The Barri Gòtic ("Gothic Quarter" in Catalan) is the centre of the old city of Barcelona. Many of the buildings date from medieval times, some from as far back as the Roman settlement of Barcelona. Catalan modernisme architecture (often known as Art Nouveau in the rest of Europe), developed between 1885 and 1950 and left an important legacy in Barcelona. Especially remarkable is the work of architect Antoni Gaudí, which can be seen throughout the city. His best known work is the immense but still unfinished

church of the Sagrada Família, which has been under construction since 1882, and is still financed by private donations. As of 2007, completion is planned for 2026.



The Sagrada Família church, Gaudi's masterpiece,

Transportation and infrastructures

Airports: Barcelona is served by Barcelona International Airport in the town of El Prat de Llobregat, about 3 km (2 mi) from Barcelona.

Seaport: The Port of Barcelona has a 2000-year history and a great contemporary commercial importance.

Public transportation: Barcelona is served by a comprehensive local public transport network that includes a metro a bus network, two separate tram networks (one of them, the Tramvia Blau, connects to the Tibidabo funicular), and several funiculars and aerial cable cars. The Barcelona Metro network comprises nine lines, identified by an "L" followed by the line number as well as by individual colours. Most of the network is operated by the Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona (TMB), but three lines are FGC commuter lines that run through the city. When finished, the L9 will be the second longest underground metro line in Europe with 42.6 km; only shorter than London's 76km Central Line.

The Estació del Nord (Northern Station), a former train station that was renovated for the 1992 Olympic Games, now serves as the terminus for long-distance and regional bus services.

Monday, 7	Tuesday, 8	Wednesday, 9	Thursday, 10
<p>12:00-13:30 Registration 13:30-14:30 Lunch buffet 15:00-17:00 Start GA meeting</p> <p>meeting planning (15min)</p> <p>WP's update</p> <p>WPO (15min) WP1 (20min) WP2 (20min) WP3 (20min) WP4 (20min)</p> <p>17:00-17:20 Coffe break</p> <p>17:20-19:00 GA meeting</p> <p>WP5 (20min) WP6 (20min) WP7 (20min) WP1 and WP3 DEMO (40min)</p> <p>19:00-21:00 Spare Time</p> <p>21:00 Hall Hotel meeting point</p> <p>21:30 Dinner at the seaport</p> <p>Finished the evening, free back to the hotel or by bus</p>	<p>8:00-9:00 breakfast 09:00-11:00 Start GA meeting</p> <p>Room A: wp1 internal meeting (1h) wp4 internal meeting (1h)</p> <p>Room B: wp2 internal meeting (1h) wp5 internal meeting (1h)</p> <p>11:00-11:30 Coffe break</p> <p>11:30-14:00 GA Meeting</p> <p>Room A: wp2-wp5 meeting (1h) wp1-wp5 meeting (1h) wp1-wp2-wp5 internal meeting (30min)</p> <p>Room B: wp1-wp3 meeting (1h) wp3-wp2 meeting (1h) wp3 internal meeting (30h)</p> <p>14:00- 14:15 closing remarks</p> <p>14:15-15:30 Lunch buffet</p>	<p>8:00-8:30 breakfast 08:30-11:00 Start GA meeting</p> <p>Room A: wp1-wp2 meeting (1h) wp2-wp4 meeting (1h)</p> <p>Room B: wp1-wp4 meeting (1h) free slot (available for internal discussions)</p> <p>11:00-11:15 Coffe break</p> <p>11:15-13:45 GA Meeting</p> <p>Room A: TB meeting (1h45min)</p> <p>Room B: wp3-wp4 meeting (1h) wp6 internal meeting (45min)</p> <p>Room A + B: GA members closing meeting (45min)</p> <p>14:00-15:00 Lunch buffet</p>	<p>8:00-9:00 breakfast 09:00-11:00 AB+TB Start meeting</p> <p>11:00-11:30 Coffe break</p> <p>11:30-13:30 AB+TB Meeting</p> <p>13:30-15:00 Lunch buffet</p> <p>15:00-17:00 AB+TB meeting & closing remarks</p> <p>17:00-17:20 Coffe break</p> <p>21:30 Dinner</p>
		<p>SOCIAL ACTIVITY 1</p> <p>BARCELONA TOUR</p> <p>17:30-20:00 Barcelona bike Tour</p> <p>20:00-21:15 Spare time</p> <p>21:15 Hall Hotel meeting point</p> <p>21:30 Dinner at the BCN city center</p> <p>Finished the evening, free back to the hotel</p>	<p>VISIT TO THE LAND OF WINE AND CAVA</p> <p>15:15 Meeting point at the Hotel lobby</p> <p>16:30 Visit Local tradiational Wine Winery and wine degustation</p> <p>18:00 Visit International Cava Winery and Cava degustation (Codorniu)</p> <p>19:45 Return to Barcelona</p> <p>21:15 Hall Hotel meeting point</p> <p>21:30 Dinner with BCN night views</p> <p>Finished the evening back to the hotel by bus</p>



Hotel Torre Catalunya ****
Avda. Roma, 2-4
08014 Barcelona

In an excellent location, Hotel Torre Catalunya is just a few steps from the central railway station and the Trade Fair, and only a few minutes from the emblematic Avenida Diagonal, Barcelona's financial and shopping centre.



Services:

- Rooms with bath and shower
- Restaurant with view
- The Lounge Bar.
- Conference rooms and one Auditorium.
- Spa, with two massage cabins, hidro-ludic space, Turkish bath, sauna, hydro-massage, solarium... and gymnasium
- Parking and Car rental
- Laundry service

Lounge Bar.

Is a place to relax in a friendly setting, an inviting place where you can unwind. Enjoy our wide selection of drinks.



Time to indulge...

Reward yourself with a moment just for you, where rest and relaxation are guaranteed. Discover the benefits of the spa with its massage cabins, inside pool/Jacuzzi, Turkish bath, sauna and snow shower ...



One of the most attractive gastronomic offerings in the Ciudad Condal, the hotel's Visual

Restaurant on the 23rd floor offers an incredible panoramic view of Barcelona while you enjoy Mediterranean cuisine with excellent quality ingredients, original taste combinations and tantalising specialities.

Or if you prefer, you can enjoy the

Barcelona night while sipping a glass of wine in bar area. The Visual Restaurant is a pleasure in all senses ...



Rooms:

All rooms are designed to guarantee your maximum comfort. They are elegantly decorated in earth colours with natural light and offer exceptional views over all four cardinal points of the city.

- Air-conditioning
- Heating
- TV, Satellite TV
- CD Player
- Direct telephone
- Minibar
- Safe
- Marble bathroom with bath, shower and hairdryer
- 24-hour room service



Meeting rooms

- Internet connection
- Technical equipment for computer presentation
- Videoconference equipment
- Sound system
- Air-conditioning

- Tables with computer connections



Location

In an excellent location, Hotel Torre Catalunya is just a few steps from the central railway station and the Trade Fair, and only a few minutes from the emblematic Avenida Diagonal, Barcelona's financial and shopping centre.

Distances from hotel:

- . Sants station: 50m from hotel
- . Airport: 15 minutes by taxi
- . City centre: 7 min. by train or 10 min. by metro
- . Financial district la Illa Diagonal: 5 min. by metro or 20 min walk
- . Commercial district Pg. de Gràcia: 15 min. by metro
- . Metro : L3 and L5 ('Sants Estació' station), 50m from hotel
- . Bus: Several bus stops about 50m from hotel

Food & Beverage Hotel

COFFEE BREAKS

7th Monday / 10th Thursday 17.00h zone of meeting rooms

Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Milk and
Tea Selection
Selection of Soft Drinks
Mineral Water
Chocolate Chip Cookies

8th Tuesday / 9th Wednesday 11.00h zone of meeting rooms

Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Milk and
Tea Selection
Orange Juice, Pineapple Juice and Peach Juice
Mineral Water
Selection of Pastries

MENUS FOR LUNCH

7th Monday 13.30 - 14.30 (23rd floor)

Green Salad with Mustard Vinaigrette
Farm Chicken with Dried Fruit and "Barbeque" Sauce
Pineapple Curd with Chocolate Sherbet

(Vegetarian option: Hake with Grilled Vegetables)

8th Tuesday 14.15 - 15.30 (23rd floor)

Tagliatelle of Eggs with Vegetables and Vinaigrette of Dried Fruits
Giltthead with Pure of Celery, Vanilla and Caramelized Onions
Home made Tiramisu

9th Wednesday 14.00 - 15.00 (23rd floor)

Thousand Layers of Grilled Vegetables with Anchovies and Black Olive Oil
Cannelloni of Veal with Aubergine and Sauce of Mushrooms
Carnival of Fresh Fruit with Infusion of Mint and Orange Juice

(Vegetarian option: Salmon with Eggplant, Pine Nuts and Yakitori Sauce)

10th Thursday 13.30 - 15.00 (23rd floor)

Carpaccio of "Montserrat" Tomatoes, Feta Cheese and Oregano
"Butifarra" sausage with Pure of Apple and Roasted Pine Nuts
Chocolate Brownie with Vanilla Sauce

(Vegetarian option: Codfish with Potato, Tomato Grandmothers Style and Garlic Sauce with Quince)

MENUS FOR DINNER

10th Thursday 21.30 (23rd floor)

Vegetal Lasagne with Parma Sauce and Red Tomato Coulis
Grilled Salmon with Prawns and Garlic with Basil Oil
Orange Cold Mouse with Pomegranate Parfait and Vodka Froth
Coffee and Tea Selection
Petit Fours

Activity 1 (8th Tuesday)

BARCELONA BY BICYCLE, AN INTIMATE AND ORIGINAL WAY TO DISCOVER THE CITY

A different way to discover Barcelona, by bicycle, tours which take you to the best corners of the city accompanied by a monitor-guide and a monitor-mechanic.

The bicycle tours offer an intimate, original and privileged way to discover Barcelona; its squares, monuments, beaches, people, because cycling is a direct and enriching means to absorb the environment.

The tours are interesting for different reasons: cultural, pleasure, as a tourist, gastronomic ... and they take place in a city that has over 100 km of cycle lanes and an extensive pedestrian old town, which means one can cycle in absolute safety.



Activity 2

Visit a Local Traditional Wine

Winery and tasting



Parés Baltà is a family owned winery in the Penedès region with traditions that goes back to 1790.

They produce wines of high quality and the grapes come from theirs own vineyards - five estates, situated around the winery ant in the mountains of Penedès. The altitude varies from 170 to 750 meters and offers a diverse mixture of soils and microclimates that gives a special personality to their wines.

At Parés Baltà they have been cultivating their vineyards in an ecological way since 1790, and since the 2004 harvest the vineyards have been certified as ecological/organic. They have their own flock of sheep to fertilize the soils and beehives to encourage pollination. The close proximity of the Mediterranean Sea also influences the quality of their grapes for the better.



Activity 2

Visit an International Cava Winery

Cava tasting



Codorníu is the story of a wine-producing family that dates back to the 16th century. It is the story, therefore, of a region and its progress, of the people of an area, of their creative and innovative ability, and their talent for constant improvement.

In 1872, Josep Raventós Fatjó - pioneer of the cava industry - produced his first bottle of cava by applying the traditional method to a blend of classic Penedès varieties.



A tribute in stone to the silence of cava

The imposing Codorníu winery buildings in Sant Sadurní d'Anoia were constructed between the end of the 19TH century and the beginning of the 20th (1895-1915). They were declared a Monument of Historical and Artistic Interest in 1976 and represent one of the most outstanding examples of winery architecture designed specifically for the production and ageing of cava. The winery is not only an impressive architectural complex - it continues to be the neuralgic centre, and indeed symbol, of Codorníu's tradition and values.



Restaurants

The crazy crab - BCN Seaport (7th Monday)

On 16th July 1992, as a consequence of the Olympic Games of Barcelona 92, "El Cangrejo Loco" began its activity in the Olympic Port of Barcelona, a marina created to hold the Olympic sailing events. Currently it is considered one of the leading enclaves of the new post-92 Barcelona.



Tapa-Tapa - BCN Traditional Dinner (8th Tuesday)

Tapa Tapa is located on a privileged site, on Passeig de Gràcia. It was opened in 1993 and is one of the most emblematic restaurants in the centre of Barcelona.

At Tapa Tapa you will find the best offer in "tapas" in Barcelona. Salads, casseroles, charcuterie, fried foods, brochettes and classics, as well as a large selection of beers.



El Xalet - BCN Night Views (9th Wednesday)

The restaurant is a fully restored old building night in the middle of Montjuïc and surrounded by natural open spaces. The Mediterranean décor and warm and functional style, with its modern and elegant touch turn it into an exclusive location.

The differential feature of Montjuïc El Xalet, apart from its excellent culinary quality, is the large panoramic terrace and revolving room from where spectacular views of the city can be enjoyed.

