

- 1* **Ships Berth** *
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- * 2 berthing possibilities ***



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BARCELONA

Barcelona, Spain

City Introduction

Barcelona boasts a background of distinctive art that has continued through the centuries. The city's second, and more recent passion, is 'the beautiful game'. With Barcelona FC not so much a football club as a way of life, its state of the art stadium ranks among the busiest sightseeing venues. Since the city hosted the '92 Olympics, another facet has been added to its cosmopolitan character and made it a place of pilgrimage for sports enthusiasts. But Barcelona had a lot going for it before these attractions were thought of: Spain's second largest city and the Catalanian capital, Barcelona's Barri Gotic old quarter is a maze of medieval streets, crammed with interest from ancient churches to tineworn alleys. There are Baroque buildings here as fine as any in central Europe. Las Ramblas, the main boulevard, dissects the city north to south, taking you from Plaça Catalunya to the harbour and Port Vell. A place to parade in the shade of the plane trees, it's busy with bookstalls, buskers and browsers, punctuated with pavement cafes, and splashed with extra colours by the flower sellers' buckets of blooms. There is usually a tourist information stand in the terminal building, providing maps and advice on the city.

Per Information

Language: The official language is Spanish and the local dialect is Catalan. English is widely spoken and understood in tourist areas.

Currency: Euro. Foreign exchange is available with cash only from the Exchange Desk on deck 5. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops, cafes and restaurants. Bank and ATM machines are available in the town centre.

'Arrival' & 'All aboard' times: Please check on your Island Chat.

Transportation

The Island Escape normally docks at the World Trade Centre. Inside the terminal there is a selection of shops selling perfumes and souvenirs. There are also card operated telephone kiosks. There is a tourist information stand providing maps of Barcelona at the exit of the terminal.

Walking: From the World Trade Centre the walk will take approximately 10 minutes.

We can also dock in one of the other three berths in Barcelona, if we do, a shuttle bus will be put on by the port authorities at a cost of approximately 4.00 euros per person for a return ticket. It is a 5 - 10 minute journey to the bottom of Las Ramblas on the shuttle bus.

Taxis: Taxis can be found in front of the terminal but can be expensive. A 10 minute journey will cost approximately €10. As much of Barcelona city is pedestrianised, taxis may not be the best option to explore.

Buses: The 'Barcelona Bus Touristic' is run by the Barcelona tourist board. It is an open top hop-on-hop-off bus that offers 3 sightseeing routes. Tickets can be purchased on the bus from outside the World Trade Centre or from the Christopher Columbus Monument. Tickets cost approximately €20 for adults and €11 for children (0-3 years go free).

Subway: The metro subway runs throughout Barcelona and is a quick and inexpensive way to travel. Individual journeys cost approximately €2.00. Tickets and maps will be available at the Metro station.

Local Services

Banks: The usual opening hours are Monday to Friday 08.30-13.30 and 14.45-16.00. All major credit cards are accepted. The nearest bank will be on Las Ramblas.

Shopping: Generally shops open from Monday to Friday 09.00-19.00. Las Ramblas is the most famous street; it is approximately 1.5 km long and is lined with street entertainers, artists and shops. El Corte Ingles, in Plaça Catalunya, at the top of Las Ramblas, is a large department store that sells everything that you might need. Shops can also be found along Avenue Portal L'Angel. Best buys include wine, clothing and handicrafts.

Places of Interest

La Sagrada Família: Barcelona's most popular and famous church was designed by Antonio Gaudi. The most unusual thing about it is that it's not finished yet. Gaudi began working on the church in 1882 and designed intriguing features such as the bell towers, covered in Venetian mosaics, and the nativity-themed facade, with doorways representing faith, hope and charity. The church is also the resting place of Gaudi. Open from 09.00-20.00. Entrance fee is approx €12.

Las Ramblas: This avenue encapsulates the spirit of Barcelona and is a buzz with street entertainers and stalls selling everything from food to flowers.

Park Guell: A hilltop park with stunning views over the city and harbour, a fantasy designed by Gaudi, complete with pavilions, giant lizards, colourful mosaics, a hall of columns and a little museum of Gaudi furniture.

Mount Tibidabo: At 550m high, the views from here are breathtaking. There's an amusement park at the top and a church with a mammoth statue of Christ.

Sports Stadiums: The Olympic and Barcelona FC Stadiums are both open to visitors. See the famous trophy room as well as the changing rooms, tunnel and pitch-side dugouts at Nou Camp.

Beaches: Barceloneta beach can be reached by cable car, or by Metro (Yellow line 4). **Please do not leave your possessions unattended on the beach.**

Montserrat: The uniquely shaped, serrated mountain of weather-hewn peaks can be reached by bus or train and then cable car. On a flat plateau amid this stunning scenery, the Benedictine monastery has been a place of pilgrimage for several centuries.

Shore Excursions: Visit the team at the Shore Excursions desk, Deck 5, if you prefer to let us organise a trip for you.

Safety Notices

Unfortunately the city's reputation for pickpockets is not undeserved. Keep your wallet and purchases safe. Don't tempt thieves to take your jewellery - leave it on board with other valuables. Avoid the not so pleasant areas of the city. When paying by credit card, keep the card in view at all times. Do not buy cameras & mobile phones or other electrical goods from street vendors.