

# ANTEA 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE

Barcelona. 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013



## Introducing Barcelona

Barcelona, located at the Mediterranean Sea in the very north of the Spanish coast, is certainly the most cosmopolitan and economically most active city in this country. The city is on a plain approximately 5 km (3 mi) wide limited by the mountain range of Collserola, the Llobregat river to the southwest and the Besos river to the north. This plain covers an area of 170 km<sup>2</sup> (66 sq mi), of which 101 km<sup>2</sup> are occupied by the city itself. It is 120 km (75 mi) south of the Pyrenees and the Catalan border with France.

It has always proved its will to be modern, to follow the latest international tendencies or be ahead of them. To the tourist this is evident especially in its architecture, which so well reflects the general approach to life in this always pulsating city.

Of course, Barcelona has an old history, and there are monuments of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance periods or still before, but most characteristic is what has been built during the last, say, 100 years.

Barcelona has been a center of Modernist architecture and is distinguished specially by the works of genial Antoni Gaudí, who together with his great contemporaries gave new and exciting looks to it, but has remained since then at the top of modernity.



## CULTURE

The Catalan flair for beauty, which has evolved into a unique style, is evident all over Barcelona. Once the most powerful city in the Mediterranean, Barcelona suffered the regime of General Francisco Franco in the 1970s and had to overcome governmental attempts to erase the Catalan language and culture altogether. The city has only been experiencing cultural independence over the last few decades, nevertheless, Barcelona is currently a lively metropolis flourishing with bilingual signposts, newspapers and TV programmes. It has reclaimed its individuality and charm, all the while displaying traces of its difficult history.

Serious renovation of the city started in the early 1990s following an attempt to rebuild Barcelona to its former glory by the 1992 Olympic Games. The result was a glittering beach-metropolis with a distinctive Mediterranean flair. The centerpiece of this renovation was Barri Gòtic, the city's historic district laden with architectural treasures and atmospheric narrow lanes.

The city offers a feast of sculptures, paintings, mosaics, impressive architecture and fashion. It is here that one would most likely find the highest density of 20th Century iconic art, including museums dedicated to Picasso, Miro, Tapies and Dali. Moreover, one can find the Art Nouveau-meets-Modernist buildings by Gaudí, as well as the cutting edge structures by Gehry and Nouvel.



## SIGHTS

Sagrada Familia, a Giant Temple designed by the master architect Antonio Gaudí. This building has been under construction since 1882 and they've still got another 30 to 80 years (depending on funding and resources) to go before it will be finished.

La Pedrera- Casa Mila: Another one of Antonio Gaudí's creations once again hits the top 10 most visited attractions in Barcelona. This building used to be called Casa Mila but nowadays it's more commonly known as La Pedrera which means "quarry". Gaudí was instrumental in completing this building and his characteristic wavy brick work and colourful tiles are also evident on this masterpiece.

Parc Guell: Parc Guell by Antoni Gaudi. Parc Guelli is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and considered one of Gaudí's top works. Parc Guell is a top attraction and definite must see. It is on Carmel hill and seeing this site means some uphill walking. The original plan for Parc Guell was to build a private and exclusive residential garden city with 60 houses on the grounds. The plan to sell houses on this development failed due to



lack of interest, and in 1923 the site was given to the city council and it became the public park we can all marvel at today.

### More Barcelona Information/ Fast Facts and Orientation

- Area: 101.90 km<sup>2</sup> (Municipal) /803 km<sup>2</sup> (Urban)
- Population: 1 620 943 hab. (2012)
- Language: Catalan ,Spanish
- Currency: Euro (EUR)
- Time zone: Central European Time (CET) UTC+1
- Country dialing code: 93
- Telephone area code: +34
- Average daily October temperature : 21.5 °C maximum/ 12.6 minimum

### Links of Interest

- Catalonia Tourism: [www.catalunyaturisme.com/](http://www.catalunyaturisme.com/)  
 Barcelona Tourism: [www.barcelonaturisme.com/](http://www.barcelonaturisme.com/)  
 Transport Barcelona: <http://www.tmb.cat/en/home>  
 Map Barcelona: [www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/en/maps/barcelona-map.html](http://www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/en/maps/barcelona-map.html)  
 What to do: [www.timeout.com/barcelona](http://www.timeout.com/barcelona)

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