

2-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

Barcelona in 2 Days: Gaudí, Gothic Quarter & Tapas

A 2-day Barcelona itinerary through Gaudí's Eixample and Passeig de Gràcia, then the Gothic Quarter, La Boqueria and Barceloneta Beach.



AT A GLANCE

01*Day One***Gaudí's Eixample**

Sagrada Família Basilica / Casa Batlló / Sips Cocktail Bar

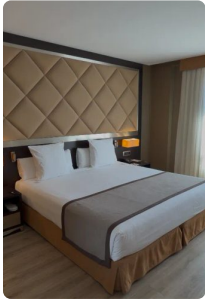
02*Day Two***Gothic Quarter, then the beach**

Cathedral of Barcelona / Mercat de la Boqueria / Barceloneta Beach

EIXAMPLE

Day One: Gaudí's Eixample

Today's all about the Eixample, starting with a walk down Passeig de Gràcia. We'll grab a cortado at RIPA and paella at Can Plaça, then spend the afternoon inside the Sagrada Família and Casa Batlló. We'll end with tapas and cocktails at Sips, a few blocks from where we started.



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Hotel HCC St. Moritz

This four-star hotel is tucked inside a restored 1800s building one block off Passeig de Gràcia. Okay, I loved it. Our room was spacious and beautifully designed, with a gorgeous bathroom,...

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STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

RIPA Coffee

Tiny specialty coffee bar that roasts its own beans, and the motto is "nice people drink good coffee" - shop the beans. There's no seating inside, just a bright yellow counter and a couple of benches out front where you can...



STOP 3 / 12:00 PM

Can Plaça

This is a tapas and paella house right by Plaça de Catalunya. We went in for paella and - no exaggeration - got the BEST one of our whole Barcelona trip. The grains had soaked up this deep seafood flavor but still came out al...



STOP 4 / 1:30 PM

Sagrada Família Basilica

Gaudí's unfinished basilica in the Eixample, 140 years in and still going! From the outside, it looks unlike any other basilica I've ever seen. Inside, the light streaming through the stained glas...

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STOP 5 / 3:00 PM

Casa Batlló

Gaudí's 1904 apartment-block rebuild on Passeig de Gràcia, one of the city's main attractions. A dragon theme runs throughout the building, inside and out, like no other house you'll ever walk...

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STOP 6 / 4:30 PM

Massimo Dutti

So it's a clothing store - but it's inside an 1898 modernista house on Passeig de Gràcia, and the floors are still laid out like rooms someone actually lived in. You end up browsing past old fireplaces and tall...

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STOP 7 / 6:00 PM

Local Tapas

This is a tiny tapas place on Carrer d'Aribau where the kitchen takes Catalan bar plates somewhere way more creative. The baked cheese with fig and jam was my favorite thing on the table - and then the eggplant tempura showed...



STOP 8 / 7:00 PM

Sips Cocktail Bar

Sips was named the World's Best Bar in 2023, and the main room doesn't even have a counter-the bartenders mix drinks right among the crowd. We opted to book the tasting menu instead. It's...

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GOTHIC QUARTER · EL RAVAL · BARCELONETA

Day Two: Gothic Quarter, then the beach

Today we're walking through the Gothic Quarter before heading toward Barceloneta. We'll start with Basque cheesecake at Jon Cake, then visit the cathedral and hidden arcade at Les Galeries Maldà before stopping for oysters and cava at La Boqueria. After the beach, we'll finish with tapas and a late drink.



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Jon Cake | Santa Caterina

This is a tiny store that does one thing: Basque burnt cheesecakes. Best cheesecake I've ever had. HANDS DOWN. Velvety, sweet and salty at once, with real depth of cheese flavor. Get the classic - the pistachio's great too,...



STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

Cathedral of Barcelona

Barcelona's Gothic cathedral, right in the heart of the Gothic Quarter. We only saw it from the outside and I was floored, all that classic old European cathedral feel. Inside, the cloister opens into a shaded...

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STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Les Galeries Maldà

This is Barcelona's oldest shopping arcade, tucked into the Gothic Quarter behind a doorway so narrow you'll walk right past it - look for the colorful hallways. And inside? Almost entirely...

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STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Mercat de la Boqueria

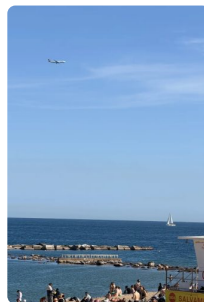
Barcelona's big food market sits right off La Rambla, and it's not just for tourists. There are fishmongers, butchers, nuts, fruit, candy, all under one iron roof. We got two oysters, a sea urchin, and cava...

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STOP 5 / 2:30 PM

B-ONE

This is a Mediterranean spot by the Barceloneta marina, with big terraces looking straight out at the moored yachts. We grabbed a table outside and people-watched while the yachts drifted...

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STOP 6 / 4:00 PM

Barceloneta Beach

This is the city's own beach - a short walk from the Gothic Quarter, right at the foot of the old fishermen's quarter. I LOVED wandering around here. It feels like a whole beach town: yachts out on the...

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STOP 7 / 5:30 PM

Sensi Tapas

Modern tapas in the Gothic Quarter. Every single thing we ordered was a HIT! This was my FAVORITE restaurant in my entire Barcelona trip. The truffle pasta was delicious, and the little bites were so...

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STOP 8 / 7:00 PM

El Nacional Barcelona

Okay, picture a giant restored hall just off Passeig de Gràcia - four restaurants and a handful of bars sharing one room, each its own island for meat, fish, tapas or drinks. Go after dark. It was BUZZING, people standing...