

5-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

Barcelona in 5 Days: Gaudí, Montjuïc, Montserrat

A 5-day Barcelona itinerary covering Gaudí's Eixample, the Gothic Quarter and beach, El Born, the Montjuïc museums and a day at Montserrat.



AT A GLANCE

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Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya / Castell de Montjuïc / FC Barcelona Museum

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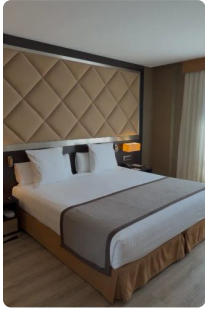
*Day Five***Head to the Mountain**

Montserrat

EIXAMPLE

Day One: Gaudí's Eixample

Today's all Eixample, strolling down Passeig de Gràcia. Coffee at RIPA and paella at Can Plaça first, then Gaudí back to back: the Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló, and La Pedrera. We'll finish with tapas and a late round of cocktails at Sips.



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, and we were right in the center of...

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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 Familia 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 glass is just otherworldly. I...

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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 through. The audioguide rebuilds...

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STOP 6 / 4:00 PM

La Pedrera - Casa Milà

Gaudí's rippling limestone apartment block on Passeig de Gràcia - everyone calls it La Pedrera. Its size and rippling stone facade make it feel unlike anything else on the avenue. Inside you pass a period apartment and the...

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STOP 7 / 5:30 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 windows, and...

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STOP 8 / 7:00 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...

EIXAMPLE

Day One: Gaudí's Eixample

Continued - stops 9-9



STOP 9 / 8:30 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 about 75 euros each with 10-15...

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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 down to Barceloneta. We'll start with Basque cheesecake at Jon Cake, then visit the cathedral and Les Galeries Maldà before stopping for oysters and cava at La Boqueria. After the beach, we'll end the night with tapas and cocktails at Sips.



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...



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...

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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...

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STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Mercat de la Boqueria

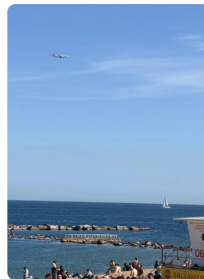
Barcelona's big food market sits right off La Rambla, and it's not just for tourists. There are fishmongers, butchers, nuts, fruit, candy, all under...

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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...

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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....

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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...

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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

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EIXAMPLE · PORT VELL · EL BORN

Day Three: Barcelona From Above & El Born

Today starts with brunch at Zenith before we see Barcelona from the air on a helicopter tour. Once we're back on the ground, we'll visit the Palau de la Música Catalana and the early rooms of the Museu Picasso, then finish with drinks at El Nacional.



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Zenith Brunch

Zenith is an all-day brunch place a few blocks off Passeig de Gràcia - huge, high ceilings, open kitchen. No reservations either, so you can usually just wander in and get a table without much of a wait. We got eggs Benedict...



STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

Helicopter Tour over Barcelona

A helicopter tour gives you a completely different view of Barcelona. From the air, you'll see the Sagrada Família, Montjuïc, Barceloneta, and the coastline spread...

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STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Palau de la Música Catalana

This 1908 concert hall was built for a Catalan choral society. It's the only Catalan Art Nouveau concert hall on UNESCO's World Heritage list. A stained-glass skylight hangs upside down through the ceiling like a golden drop...

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STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Kevabró

Kevabró is this tiny döner counter in Eixample - they stack the meat by hand and bake the flatbread on site all day. We ducked in for a light snack before our evening plans not expecting much, but it was a solid 9/10! We got...



STOP 5 / 3:00 PM

Museu Picasso

The Museu Picasso fills a row of medieval stone palaces in El Born with more than 4,000 works by Picasso. Go for the early years: teenage academic studies, Blue Period, everything before he broke modern art. The work is...

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STOP 6 / 4:30 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...

EIXAMPLE · MONTJUÏC · LES CORTS

Day Four: Modernisme & Montjuïc

We're starting at Sant Pau, the mosaic pavilions uphill from the Sagrada Família, then heading over to Montjuïc for the Romanesque halls at the MNAC and the castle ramparts. Poble Espanyol and the FC Barcelona Museum close out the day.



Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau

It's a walled garden city of brick-and-mosaic pavilions, ten minutes uphill from the Sagrada Família - a working hospital until 2009, built on the idea that light, air...

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Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 2 / 11:00 AM

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya

At the top of the Montjuïc steps, a domed palace holds Catalonia's national art collection. The Romanesque rooms are the real standout, with twelfth-century...

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Photo: Viator

STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

Castell de Montjuïc

This star-shaped fortress sits 173 meters above the harbor on Montjuïc, where it was built in 1640 and expanded in the 1750s. It went from military site to prison and is now a public cultural space with a garden in the old dry...

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Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 4 / 2:00 PM

Spanish Village (Poble Espanyol)

Poble Espanyol is an open-air village that brings architecture from across Spain into one walkable place. It was built for the 1929 Barcelona International...

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Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 5 / 4:00 PM

FC Barcelona Museum

FC Barcelona Museum is an interactive sports museum where you can learn about the history, trophies, and legendary players of the FC Barcelona Football club! You'll be able to see the major trophy's like Champions League...

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MONTSERRAT

Day Five: Head to the Mountain

We're escaping the city today for Montserrat, the serrated mountain about an hour northwest. The cable car takes us up to the Benedictine abbey to see La Moreneta in the basilica, then the ridge and its views get the rest of our time before we head back down.



Photo: GetYourGuide

STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Montserrat

Montserrat is a jagged mountain and historic monastery about an hour northwest of Barcelona, known for the rounded rock formations along its ridge. Halfway up sits a Benedictine abbey whose basilica holds La Moreneta, the...

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