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Map

Get an overview of the city with our handy map, helping you get to grips with the key areas covered in this guide.

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Need to know

From tips on tipping to the thorny issue of Catalan independence, here are the basics for navigating the city's streets and sights.

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Hotels

There's no shortage of places to stay in Barcelona – the trick is narrowing down the many options to the very best. From big names to boutiques, our guide focuses on top-notch places to rest your head.

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Food and drink

While it goes without saying that you should sample traditional Catalan cuisine during your stay, Barcelona is also home to everything from soup dumplings to Venetian seafood. Here's our digest of the top tables.

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Sample the city's unique blend of well-established retailers and up-and-coming artisans with our round-up of the shopping scene here.

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Mixed

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Womenswear

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Books and records

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Things we'd buy

In Barcelona you can fill your hand luggage with first-class purchases without even trying. Here are a few essential take-homes, from rustic ceramics to polished design pieces.

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Essays

The many facets of Barcelona can be a challenge to assimilate. Here, Monocle family and friends impart their passion for various elements of the city, helping to paint a detailed picture of what life in the Catalan capital is really like.

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Culture

The cultural scene is nothing if not diverse, offering internationally fêted artists, magnificent music venues and trailblazing arthouse cinemas. Take a tour of our must-visit galleries and venues.

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Catalan art

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Commercial galleries

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Barcelona is blessed with myriad architectural periods, from enchanting *modernisme* to the reshaping of the city for the 1992 Olympics. Delve into its delights.

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Sport and fitness

Staying active in Barcelona is a pleasure, from biking along its beaches to sneaking in a few lengths at the pool. Our list of options lets you make the most of the sun before indulging in a bit of pampering when you're done.

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With an awe-inspiring range of architecture, plentiful shops and countless cultural destinations, Barcelona is best explored on foot. These four neighbourhood walks invite you to experience its charms up close.

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Poblenou

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Be in the know with our bite-size guide to events, slang and the city's soundtrack, plus hints on what will keep you occupied on a rainy day.

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About Monocle

Find out more about our global brand from groundbreaking print, radio, online and film output through to our cafés and shops.

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Acknowledgements

The people who put this guide together: writers, photographers, researchers and all the rest.

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