



MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

Thank you for traveling with Music Contact International. We hope that you will find this travel handbook a helpful tool for providing information about your travel destination, as well as an easy resource for finding the details of your daily itinerary.

It took a tremendous commitment and investment by you and your whole group to get to this point of departing for a trip of this nature and we thank you for making the choice to share your music with a larger audience outside your local community.

Music can transcend the boundaries of differences whether in language, culture or ethnicity. By going out into the world to share your music you are making a real difference in people's lives. The common joy of music is a thread that links us all together and helps us experience our common humanity. With so many divisive forces at work in our society and in other countries, a group like yours can become a catalyst toward positive change by underlining those common human experiences.

Of course, after all the planning, saving and rehearsing we understand that this trip must also be wonderful, fun, uplifting and exciting. We are sure you will find it to be all those things and more. Again, thank you for giving us the opportunity to organize this trip and we wish you Bon Voyage!

Sincerely,

Jodi Breckenridge and Manfred Hilker
Directors
Music Contact International

**Chattanooga Girls Choir
International Music Festival—Spain
June 12—20, 2009**

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**Chattanooga Girls Choir
Concert Tour of Spain
June 12-20, 2009**

Friday, June 12

6:05 pm Depart Atlanta on Lufthansa flight #445 bound for Frankfurt.

Saturday, June 13

9:05 am Arrive in Frankfurt

1:00 pm Depart Frankfurt on Lufthansa flight #4454.

2:55 pm Arrive at the Barcelona airport. Your Music Contact International Tour Manager, Paige Betten, will be there to greet you. Together, board your motor coach and transfer to the coastal hotel just east of Barcelona for check in.

Hotel Espanya

C/ Anselm Clavé 80

08370 Calella, Spain

phone: 011 34 937 690 366

(when dialing from the USA)

Join your tour manager on an orientation walk of the hotel neighborhood prior to dinner.

8:00 pm A buffet dinner will be arranged at the hotel this evening.

Sunday, June 14

8:00 am Enjoy breakfast in the hotel dining room.

9:00 am Walk to the Esglesia Parroquial de Santa Maria I Sant Nicolau de Calella, the parish church of Calella, where your choir has been invited to sing as part of the Sunday Worship Service.

10:00 am The mass begins. Afterwards, perform a short concert for the congregation.

11:30 am Return to the hotel to change clothes and have lunch. There will be time this afternoon to go swimming and explore the town with your tour manager.

4:00 pm Walk to the Carpa Playa de Calella for the opening concert of the 3rd International Festival of Calella. Your choir will perform as part of the opening concert series.

8:00 pm Enjoy dinner in the hotel dining room.

Monday, June 15

- 8:00 am Enjoy breakfast in the hotel dining room.
- 9:00 am Depart on a full day guided tour of Barcelona. Throughout the day your English speaking guide will show you the many highlights of the city such as Las Ramblas, La Sagrada Familia, Parc Guell, and the Gothic Quarter.
A bagged lunch will be provided this day.
- 6:00 pm Return to the hotel in time for dinner.

Tuesday, June 16

- 9:00 am Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.
- 10:00 am Depart for Montserrat, an ancient monastery situated at 1235m above sea level , where the Black Madonna is venerated.
- 1:15 pm Your choir has been asked for a choral offering at the main altar of the Basilica.
Afterwards enjoy a boxed lunch.
- 4:00 pm Approximate arrival time back at the hotel.
The remainder of the afternoon is free for you to relax, do some shopping and continue your exploration of Calella.
- 9:00 pm The Festival Concert Series continues in the Carpa Playa di Calella. Your choir is invited to listen to the other groups.

Wednesday, June 17

- 8:00 am Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:00 am The morning is free for exploring, shopping and enjoying the beach in Calella.
- 1:00 pm Lunch will be served in the hotel dining room.
- 4:00 pm Meet the other choirs for the International Parade of Singers through Calella's Historic Town Center. The parade culminates in front of the town hall where each group is thanked for their participation and invited to sing a song for the town dignitaries.
After the parade, return to the hotel to relax and refresh before your night activity.
- 7:30 pm Tonight enjoy a special night out of Spanish entertainment and dinner at a live flamenco show.

Thursday, June 18

10:00 am Depart for Barcelona
Upon arrival in Barcelona your choir will enjoy a full day of activities. Possibilities include a visit to the Palau de Musica and the Picasso Museum. You will also have time for shopping and chaperoned exploration.
A concert will also be arranged at a local venue where you will perform for an appreciative audience. (Exact plan TBA when singing arrangements are firm)
A boxed lunch will be provided this day.

6:00 pm Return to Calella in time for dinner and to prepare for your concert this evening as part of the 3rd International Festival of Calella.

7:30 pm Enjoy dinner in the hotel dining room

9:00 pm Perform a concert for an appreciative audience at the Carpa Playa di Calella.

Friday, June 19

8:30 am Breakfast is served in the hotel dining room.

9:30 am Enjoy a cruise along the Costa Brava coastline. Visit Tossa de Mar, a lovely seaside town to see the Castle and old city walls. Also stop in beautiful Lloret de Mar, to see the Moorish style cathedral and historic town center. In the early evening return to Calella. A boxed lunch will be provided this day.

8:00 pm Enjoy dinner in the hotel dining room.

9:00 pm Walk to the Carpa Playa de Calella for the Closing festivities. There will be time to socialize and say goodbye to your new friends.
Following return to the hotel to pack.

Saturday, June 20

2:30 am Check out of the hotel and load the motor coach. A boxed breakfast will be provided this morning.

3:00 am Transfer to the Barcelona airport and your return flight to the United States.

6:55 am Depart on Lufthansa flight #4465 bound for Frankfurt, Germany.

9:05 am Arrive in Frankfurt.

12:00 pm Depart on Lufthansa flight #444 bound for Atlanta.

4:00 pm Arrive in Atlanta.
Welcome home!

Things To Know Before You Go...



Chattanooga Girls Choir
International Music Festival—Spain
June 12—20, 2009

WHAT TO BRING

This Music Contact International Tour Handbook

Passport

Airline Ticket

Concert Attire & Music

Luggage Tag on suitcase

Clothing appropriate for climate (current weather information is below). It can be breezy in the evenings so we suggest packing with dressing layers in mind.

A light waterproof jacket

Comfortable walking shoes

Plug adaptor for Europe

Camera with extra memory card, film, batteries and chargers as needed

Travel Alarm Clock

Personal toiletries

Washcloth (not always available in European hotels)

Eyeglasses or contact lenses with solution

Medications if necessary in original containers

PACKING

Please also place an ID tag on all garment bags and handbags.

Please refer to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website at www.tsa.gov or your individual airline carrier's website: www.lufthansa.com for up to date baggage restrictions. Due to recent policy changes from the airlines certain items are not allowed in your carry-on luggage. For a comprehensive list of these items, refer to your airline's website.

It is a good idea to carry all of your valuables in your carry-on luggage to reduce the chance of their being lost. All medication, tickets, jewelry, money, passport and cameras should definitely be carried onto the plane. Also, we recommend that you carry your cosmetic bag and a change of shirt or sweater. In the unlikely situation where you must spend a night without your suitcase these items will make your stay more comfortable.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

ONE BAG: We recommend that you bring ONE check-in piece of luggage. The ONE SUITCASE RULE makes it easier getting the luggage in and out of the hotel and coach and also reduces the risk of the airline losing your luggage.

AIRLINE RULES: The airline allows two checked bags not to exceed 107" total; the larger of the two bags may not exceed 62".

WEIGHT LIMIT: not to exceed 45 lbs. per bag.

ONE flight bag or other small bag is allowed as carry on. Hand baggage must not exceed 22x16x8 inch (55x40x20 cm) or 22x21x6 inch (57x54x15 cm) or weigh more than 18 lbs. (8 kg). One piece should be stowed overhead or under the seat in front of you.

***Note:** Due to heightened airport security, some items such as nail files, clipper and tweezers can not be carried on and may be confiscated if in carry-on luggage. Please pack appropriately, and be prepared to have your carry-on bags searched. All liquids, gels or pastes must be in a 3 oz. or smaller container and sealed in a sandwich size ziplock bag if they are going to be carried on. Larger containers of liquids, gels or pastes can be in your checked bag.

CLIMATE

The weather in Barcelona and along the coast in June varies from hot and humid during the day to cool and breezy during the evening. Temperatures average 60°F – 80°F during the time you will be traveling. Rainfall is minimal.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Together with your airline tickets and luggage tags, you have received a plug adapter from Music Contact International. This adaptor enables you to plug your US-purchased electronics into a European-style electrical outlet. Please note however, that this adaptor is NOT an electricity converter. Almost all European countries use 220 volt outlets, while in the Americas 110 volt is standard. Most modern appliances battery chargers, video cameras, I-Pods, digital cameras, and computers, for example, accommodate a range of voltage from 100V – 240V and automatically calibrate to whatever voltage the mechanism needs. If your electrical appliances (e.g. a hair dryer, curling iron, etc) are not designed to accommodate multiple voltages, you will need a voltage converter to use them in Europe. Converters are available in specialty shops such as Radio Shack and Circuit City. **NEVER plug a 110V only appliance into a 220V outlet – this can be extremely dangerous, can cause fire and will destroy the appliance.** Check the labels on your chargers and appliances to verify this information.

MEDICATION

It is advisable to wear a Medic Alert bracelet if you suffer from any of the following: diabetes, allergies, epilepsy, or heart conditions.

Individuals who must carry certain medications (such as insulin for diabetics) in large supplies are well advised to carry a letter on a physician's letterhead stating the following: full name of the drug(s), condition for which it was prescribed, dosage per day, quantity of drug necessary for the period of time outside the USA and that it is required for the well-being of the individual while traveling abroad.

It is also suggested that medications be carried in their original container, with the pharmacist's label attached. It may be required to show such documentation when passing through U.S. or Foreign Customs and Immigration Control.

Please refer to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website at www.tsa.gov or your individual airline carrier's website for proper instructions on transporting medications.

MONETARY REGULATIONS

You may carry an unlimited amount of American funds during your trip. However, you may not depart from a foreign country with more money in American funds than you brought into that country.

CURRENCY

In Spain the monetary unit is the Euro. There are coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents (centavos of euro) and of 1 and 2 Euro. The 1, 2 and 5 cents coins are of copper and those of 10, 20 and 50 cents have a golden color. The one Euro coin is silver with a golden crown on its edge. The 2 Euro coin is exactly the contrary, gilded on the inside and with a silver plated crown on the edge. Both the 1 and 2 Euro coins are thicker than the others.

With regard to the bills—denominations are 5, 10 and 20 Euro. They are of gray, red and blue color respectively. On the other hand those of higher denomination, which correspond to those of 50, 100, 200 and 500 Euro are in orange, green, yellow and bordeaux.

**The exchange rate as of June 2009 is:
U.S. \$1.00 = .70 EURO**

This rate is only temporary and can be updated by referring to the Foreign Exchange table in your newspaper or by asking at your bank.

CREDIT CARDS, ATM CARDS & TRAVELER'S CHECKS

ATM cards are increasingly becoming one of the easiest ways to get cash in Spain. The ATM machines in Spain work much the same as they do in the States, and the currency conversion rate you receive for ATM transactions and withdrawals is usually preferable to the exchange rate for traveler's checks or cash.

IMPORTANT: Music Contact recommends that you notify your home bank that you will be traveling in Europe and confirm that your credit cards and ATM cards will work in Spain. Please also double check with your bank to be sure that your PIN number will work in European ATM machines.

Credit cards are increasingly widely accepted in Spain and it is always helpful to have one in case you need it. Please know however, that there are still some shops, restaurants and markets that deal on a cash-only basis. There are also some vendors accept credit cards drawn on Spanish banks only.

Traveler's checks are NOT easily exchanged in Spain and many businesses DO NOT ACCEPT THEM.

CHANGING MONEY

Some people prefer to have a few Euros in their pocket when they arrive in Europe. If your local bank does carry foreign currency, it may be convenient to have, however it is fine to wait until you arrive in Spain to change your money. Your tour manager will help you understand the currency exchange system.

As a rule of thumb, Spanish banks are open on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Most all banks are closed on Saturday and Sunday.

If exchanging funds at other than bank-operated exchange booths (such as hotels, stores and privately run exchange firms) you should be sure to ask about what service charges they apply and what rate they offer.

STORE AND BUSINESS HOURS

In Spain, most large shops and shopping malls are open from 9 or 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. and do not close at lunchtime. Smaller shops tend to be open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., close midday for siesta and reopen from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 or 8:30 p.m.

MAIL AND POSTAGE

Post Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Note: European post offices generally close for lunch from 12 noon to

2:30pm. Besides post offices and the front desk at your hotel, stamps are available from newsagents and tobacconists.

TIME

Spain is in the Central European Time Zone (one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time). When in Spain you will be 6 hours ahead of East Coast time in the USA.

TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

We recommend that you DO NOT MAKE CALLS from your hotel rooms. Although it is convenient, it is also very expensive to phone from hotel rooms in Europe. Please know from the onset that hotels tend to put a high service charges on calls made from your room.

Calling Cards:

The most efficient way to call the U.S. is most often with a pre-paid calling card purchased while in Spain. These can be purchased at local Tabac shops, post offices and other newspaper stands in a variety of Euro amounts (5, 10, 20 Euros). These offer dialing instructions in English. As you use your card, the charges for the call are deducted.

Typically, using a calling card such as AT&T or MCI (purchased in the US) will avoid unnecessary charges on your hotel bill, but this needs to be verified with the hotel front desk, as they sometimes assess a connection or usage fee. Public phones may require a coin deposit or use of a prepaid card (even to place an AT&T or MCI call).

If you do purchase a calling card in the USA before travel, be sure your card allows you to make calls from Europe to the US and not just from the US to Europe!

To use an AT&T or MCI calling card in Spain to call the United States, you will need to dial the appropriate access numbers listed below to initiate the call. You may then follow the automated prompts or speak to an international operator to complete the call.

AT&T
900990011

MCI
800099357

HOW TO BE REACHED

You can easily be called from the States at your hotel. Friends and family should call the hotel and ask for you by name. They will take a message for you at the front desk if you are not available. Depending on the hotel's system, you may receive the message when you ask for your room key. Or, when

you return to your room, if the light on your phone is on, then there is a message for you at the front desk or saved in a voice mail system. In order to make a call to Spain from the United States you will need to enter the following two prefixes in this order:

The international dialing code from USA to Europe: **011**

The country code for Spain: **34**

IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY!

You can call Music Contact International and our office will contact the choir in Europe. To reach Music Contact International in the States call either 1-800-624-0166 or 1-802-862-2200. Music Contact International does have a 24 hour phone emergency hotline for urgent assistance while on tour and we ask that you respect the use of the hotline for emergency purposes only.

TIPPING:

Service is included in most restaurant checks but it is customary to leave 5-10% for the waiter. Most menus indicate whether or not gratuity is already included. For taxis, a 10% tip is customary.

Generally, in hotel rooms it is courteous to leave a tip for the chambermaid upon departure. Usually the equivalent of 1 euro per night per room is appropriate.

TOUR MANAGER, LOCAL GUIDES AND BUS DRIVERS

Your orchestra will have a Tour Manager exclusively for your group. It is customary that the group tip that person at the end of the tour \$1.50 - \$2.00 per person per day traveled. Your orchestra will also have a coach driver(s), and it is appropriate to tip drivers 1 – 2 euro per person per day. Local guides who join the group for city tours should be tipped est. 15 - 30 euro per tour. We recommend that one person in the group be designated to be in charge of tipping and that tips are preferably offered in cash, in either U.S. dollars or Euro, since checks and travelers checks are more difficult to cash.

U.S. CUSTOMS:

The United States Customs Office allows you to bring home up to \$800 worth of goods (retail value) without paying customs duty, if:

articles are for personal use or gifts

articles accompany you

you have not claimed an exemption within the preceding 30 days

You may include in this duty-free exemption:

100 cigars (not Cuban) or 200 cigarettes (1 carton)

one liter (33.8 ounces) wine, beer or liquor, if 21 years of age or over

You may choose to mail purchases to your home residence, but it will be necessary to pay the applicable customs duty on the merchandise upon arrival in

the U.S. Gifts worth up to \$100 may be sent, free of duty and tax, to friends and relatives in the US as long as the same person does not receive more than \$100 worth of gifts the same day. Gifts for more than one person may be shipped in the same package (called a consolidated package) if they are individually wrapped and labeled with each recipient's name. The package must be marked "unsolicited gifts and consolidated package" with the total value and nature of each gift and the name of the recipient, i.e, John Smith, leather belt, \$20. If any one gift is over \$100, duty will be charged on the entire package. These gifts will not reduce your duty-free allowance. Articles accompanying you in excess of your \$800 duty-free exemption will be assessed at graduated rates of duty based on the fair retail value in the country of acquisition. These articles must be for personal use or for use as gifts and not for sale.

To obtain a Travel Pack, a series of leaflets containing customs hints for returning U.S. citizens, contact your local U.S. Customs Office or write: U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC 20229.

PERSONAL SAFETY:

As a tourist in Spain, it is always important to take additional precautions. While most locals will be welcoming and accommodating, the risk to visitors is greater in any foreign country as they are not familiar with the streets and the language. Always keep your valuables in a safe place. Money and passports should be kept close to your body and out of sight of others. Trust your instincts; at night, stay in groups and walk on streets in well lit and populated areas. Purse-snatching and pick-pocketing occurs in all Spanish cities, so be very aware even in well traveled areas and near sites of interest.

HELPFUL VOCABULARY

Numbers:

0	Cero
1	Uno
2	Dos
3	Tres
4	Cuatro
5	Cinco
6	Seis
7	Siete
8	Ocho
9	Nueve
10	Diez
11	Once
12	Doce
13	Trece
14	Catorce
15	Quince
16	Dieciseis
17	Diecisiete
18	Dieciocho
19	Diecinueve
20	Veinte
30	Treinte
40	Cuaranta
50	Cincuenta
100	Cien
500	Quinientos
1,000	Mil
10,000	Diez Mil

Basic Phrases:

Good morning	Buenos dias
Good afternoon	Buenos tardes
Goodnight	Buenos noches
Goodbye	Adios
Please	Por favor
Many thanks	Muchas gracias

Not at all	Da nada
Yes	Si
No	No
Pleased to meet you	Mucho gusto
How are you?	Cómo está usted?
Fine, thank you	Muy bien, gracias
Do you speak English?	Habla usted inglés?
I don't speak Spanish	No hablo español
I don't understand	No entiendo
What is your name?	Cuál es su nombre?
My name is....?	Yo me llamo....
Do you have...?	Tiene usted...?
Where is (the)...?	Dónde está (el/la)...?
How much is...?	Cuánto es...

Drinks:

With / without ice	Con / sin hielo
Wine	vino
Red, white, rosé	Tinto, blanco, rosado
Beer	Cerveza
Mineral water	Aqua minerale
Sparkling water	Aqua con gas
Coffee	café
Tea	Te
Milk	Leche

Others:

Breakfast	el desayuno
Lunch	la comida
Dinner	la cena
The bill please	la cuenta, por favor

Spain



Spain

Though Tapas bars and olive trees might be the stereotype of Spain, they barely hint at the diversity that the country has to offer. Spain has four official languages, major cities and a greater variety of landscapes than any other European country. Separated from the rest of Europe by the Pyrenees, Spain has both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines including two archipelagos—the Balearics and the Canary Islands. The climate and landscape vary from snow-capped peaks and green meadows to orange groves and deserts.

The first signs of life on the Iberian Peninsula date back to 800,000 B.C. By 5000 B.C., the early hunters and gatherers had evolved into a primitive farming community. As these farming communities advanced and flourished, Spain became a prize for foreign conquerors. In 1100 B.C. the Phoenicians landed in Spain, followed by the Greeks and the Carthaginians. By 218 B.C., the Romans had made their way to the Iberian Peninsula and a 200 year struggle began to bring the local people fully under Roman control.

With the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th century, the people of the Iberian Peninsula were invaded by the Visigoths, who in turn were conquered by the Muslim invaders from North Africa known as the Moors. Lasting into the Middle Ages, this period of Moorish rule saw many innovations in agriculture, mathematics, science, and the arts. By the 11th century, however, Christian communities in the north were beginning to take shape. The wars between Muslim and Christian forces began slowly as the Christians moved down from the north. With growing Christian success, the intensity increased and North African Muslims rallied behind the Moors in the south. The battles became true Holy Wars with each side fighting for territory in the name of their religion. By the end of the 15th century, the Christians succeeded in commanding almost all of the lands on the Iberian Peninsula—expelling the last of the unconverted Moors in 1502.

The marriage of Fernando of Aragon and Isabel of Castille in 1469 fused the two largest Christian kingdoms in Spain. The final conquering of the Moors and the addition of Navarra brought unity to the peninsula and under the rule of Fernando and Isabel, Spain became a Nation-State. This unified rule of the Catholic monarchs, as the couple was called, saw the rise of the famous Spanish Inquisition, a result of their desire to bring the country to ideological conformity as well as political unity.

Simultaneously, however, the country was making tremendous strides in art, architecture and exploration. Columbus' famous voyage to Central America in

1492 was financed by the Catholic monarchs with the hopes of obtaining riches and converting heathens to Christianity. Throughout the end of the 15th century Conquistadors landed in the Americas, eventually conquering Mexico, Peru and Chile in the 16th century.

Despite the flow of gold and silver from the new world, Holy Wars with the Turks and battles to stop the spread of Protestantism from the rest of Europe brought Spain into a period of economic decline. In 1702, the death of Carlos II and the end of the Hapsburg line began the war of Spanish Succession. The 12 years of fighting that followed put further strains on the country. Though the battle for succession finally ended with the Bourbons taking the throne, the years that followed were turbulent both in Spain and in Europe as a whole.

In 1873, Spain began its first Republic. However, this new government was short-lived—ending after a year. The Bourbon monarchy again took the throne in 1875 but return to a monarchy did little to stabilize power in Spain. In the early 20th century, Anarchists staged numerous acts of rebellion—bombing theatergoers and assassinating two Prime Ministers. Following a relatively calm 7-year military dictatorship under Primo de Rivera, the Bourbon monarch was forced to abdicate and a Second Republic was proclaimed in 1931. Instability continued under this newly elected power as discontented industrial workers banded together and showed their support for the Communist party. When elections in 1936 shifted power from the right-wing leaders to the Republican Popular Front, the Nationalist Generals rose up against the newly elected officials, thus beginning the Spanish Civil War. The battles raged for almost three full years with Franco and the Nationalists receiving support from Hitler and Mussolini. In early 1939, Madrid fell to the Nationalists and by April, Franco demanded full surrender from the Republicans. In 1947, Spain was declared a monarchy with Franco as its regent.

After the war, Spain was predominantly a poor, rural country and the people suffered greatly from a shortage of food and the ravages of civil war. An agreement with the United States in the early 50's provided land for American military bases in exchange for badly needed foreign aid. Shortly after, Spain joined the United Nations thereby ending a period of diplomatic and political isolation.

By the 1960s, the country began to experience a spectacular economic growth, partly as a result of an increased tourist industry. After the death of General Franco in 1975, Spain briefly became a constitutional monarchy under King Juan Carlos I, but, with a population eager for change and new

growth, general elections were held only two years later beginning a relatively painless transition to democracy.

Calella

Located to the north-east of Barcelona on a stretch of coast known as the Costa del Maresme, part of the better known Costa Brava, the resort of Calella is a well known and beautiful destination.

The town of Calella was officially recognized in the 14th century when the King granted the town of the Calella the right to hold a weekly market. Sustained growth began after the War of Spanish Succession and ship building and textiles industries grew up to complement the existing agricultural and fishing industries. The 20th century saw an increase in textiles and the arrival of tourism.

The 2 miles of stunning beaches, and many historic buildings, provide visitors many opportunities for relaxing and exploring.

Barcelona

As the capital of the province of Catalonia and Spain's second-largest city, Barcelona has in some ways surpassed its long-standing rival Madrid in industrial muscle and business acumen. While Madrid, located in the heart of Spain, is known for its pulsating night-life, the fiercely independent Catalan Barcelona provides the traveler with a mix of Spanish-Catalonian festivity and the chance to relax and breathe in the salty Mediterranean breezes on the Balearic Sea. Preparations for the long-awaited achievement of hosting the 1992 Olympic Games pumped new life into the two-thousand year old city's infrastructure - while preserving its elegant and medieval aura. A walk through the narrow alleys and sidestreets conjures up colorful pictures of Barcelona's pre-Columbus heyday and is witness to its reputation as one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

Barcelona's population of ca. 35,000 boasts countless famous artists and musicians. One of the world's most well-known and talented tenors, Jose Carreras, is proud to call himself a Catalan. Both the surrealist Salvador Dali (1904-1989) and the famous cellist Pablo Casals (1876-1973) were natives of Barcelona. Pablo Picasso spent his formative years here, which is tributed in 'Museu Picasso', the museum devoted exclusively to his works. The architectural offshoot of Art Nouveau - Modernisme - was developed here and can be seen in many of the buildings, especially those of the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi i Cornet (1852-1926).

Barcelona's history can be traced back to the reign of the Roman Emperor Augustus (27 B.C. - 14 A.D.), who established the new colony 'Colonia Favencia Julia Augusta Paterna Barcino'. The meeting point of this colony's two main streets - the forum - remains even today the political hub of

Barcelona - the **Placa de Sant Jaume**. Parts of old city walls built by the Romans in the late 3rd and early 4th century can still be admired today. In the 5th century Visigothic period, the colony experienced a period of decline, which started to reverse itself only with the invasion of the Moors in the 8th century. In 801 the Franks under Charlemagne captured Barcelona, making it an important outpost of his empire south of the Pyrenees and the capital of the earldom of Barcelona. It became the most powerful of the Catalan earldoms which became even more dominant with the 1474 marriage of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. This brought the provinces of Aragon and Catalonia into a united Spain. The names Ferdinand and Isabella are familiar to American ears because of their willingness and eventual success in funding Christopher Columbus's famous trip across the Atlantic. Until the end of the 15th century, its strategic location on the Mediterranean coast provided Barcelona with a powerful maritime trade. The discovery of the New World shifted the sea trade's focus westward, and Barcelona's power and influence declined.

The entire central portion of modern-day Barcelona was enclosed by walls until the mid-19th century. This is the area known best for its Gothic architecture - and therefore aptly named Barri Gotic -Gothic Quarter. Few places can rival the narrow alleys of this Quarter for its medieval atmosphere or the elegance and distinction of the many boulevards.

The former residence of the Catalan royal family - **the Palau Reial Major** - is situated on two sides of the **Placa del Rei**, dating back to the 14th century. Also to be found in the Gothic Quarter is Barcelona's **Cathedral**, which is comprised of not only Gothic architectures, but also neo-Gothic and Romanesque. The purest example of Catalan Gothic architecture would be the 14th century church of **Santa Maria del Mar**, whose purity of lines and the harmony of proportions amaze all who gaze upon it.

A definite must for any visitor to Barcelona is the unique and colorful **Rambla**, which is the most lively part of Barcelona. Fountains and promenades, complete with trees with thousands of sparrows nested in their branches and stalls selling flowers, caged birds, tortoises, fish monkeys, and a wide assortment of other small animals delight passers-by and travelers of all ages. The most popular market, offering a wide selection of produce is the **Mercat de Sant Josep** (or de La Boqueria).

Also overlooking the **Rambla** is the facade of Spain's oldest and best opera house, the Liceu, where the afore-mentioned native Catalans Carreras, cellist Pablo Casals, and opera singer Montserrat Caballé have made many contributions to Barcelona's arts scene. Fashion also plays a major role in Barcelona - which boasts an industry hard on the heels of those of Paris and

Milan. Barcelona is renowned in the world of soccer, having one of the most lively and rambunctious soccer clubs.

Located a bit outside the Old City is the **Poble Espanyol (Spanish Village)**. This was created for the 1929 Exhibition. The popular local architecture of every part of Spain is exhibited here - enabling the traveler to experience all of Spain at one. Wander through the walls of Avila, stroll through the wine cellars of Jerez. Don't forget to stop by at the many interesting craft workshops, where engravings, articles in wood, glass, wrought iron are all crafted by local artisans and sold on the premises. This is a great time to obtain local Spanish treasures that are worth carrying across the Atlantic and displaying in your home.

A great example of Baroque and Renaissance style outside the Old City is the castle of **Montjuic**. Also situated on the rocky hill of Montjuic (many buildings in Barcelona are made this stone) on the south side of Barcelona, this 173 meter high Museu Militar (Military Museum) has a rich history that can be traced back to as early as the Middle Ages, when it was just a series of watch towers between the mouths of the Llobregat and the Besos rivers. It was gradually fortified in the 17th C. and the military engineer Juan Martin Cermeno started to rebuild it in 1751 in the classical star shape, with moats and fortlets. It was retained as a garrison until Napoleon's time, when it became a military prison - a symbol of subjugation for the natives of Barcelona. In 1929, in time for the International Exhibition, Montjuic hill was turned into a park and leisure area. The city gained the title and rights to the principality in 1960, when the Museu Militar was born.

Modern Barcelona enjoys an active cultural life and heritage. It boasts many festivals that turn the city and the seafront into an atmosphere of relaxed excitement. This Mediterranean city's unrivalled beauty and location fits the friendliness of its people. Travelers to Barcelona are greeted with open arms - the first visit, the second visit, the third...

A true organized community in what is now the city of Barcelona began with the Romans. The Roman city of Barcino was complete with a forum, circus and theater. Throughout the changing rule of the Visigoths, Moors and eventually the Catholic Monarchs, Barcelona continued to grow in both importance and wealth. With its prime location on the coast of the Mediterranean, the city quickly gained influence as a bustling commercial port. As early as the 12th century, a strong textile industry began to take shape in the city—reaching its height by the 14th century. The people of Barcelona developed a keen business sense, and the effects of the resulting wealth can be seen in the remaining gothic mansions that were built during this time of prosperity.

Though Barcelona's power waned during the 18th century, the 19th century brought resurgence in influence and development. With proposals for expansion of the city presented in 1859, Barcelona was ripe for the innovations of modernism and the newly graduated architect, Antoni Gaudi i Cornet. This new style of architecture, characterized by buildings of flowing, lava-like concrete, wrought iron grills and gates, became a means of expressing Catalan nationalism. Though the movement included men such as Josep Puig i Cadafalch, Lluís Domènech i Montaner, Antoni Gaudi's eccentric style is its highlight.

With its privileged location on the Mediterranean, Barcelona's beauty has not been damaged by modern development. While sleek, modern buildings exist, an Old World atmosphere remains. Barcelona is a city meant for strolling with wide tree-lined boulevards, plazas, sidewalks and many outdoor cafes.

Montserrat

About 25 miles northwest of Barcelona lies the mountain of Montserrat, with a beautiful Benedictine monastery perched atop its eastern peaks. Its oddly shaped rocks, rich history and religious significance make Montserrat one of Catalonia's most interesting destinations.

The Montserrat monastery, which houses "La Moreneta" (the Black Virgin), Catalonia's patroness, is a magnet for tourists and pilgrims the world over. The legend of the Black Virgin dates to the 9th century, when the monastery's first chapel was constructed. Jump to the 20th century and you find the monastery of Montserrat playing an important role in the Catalan nationalist movement. The first Catalan bible was published here during Franco's rule (1939-1975) and it was an important anti-Franco stronghold during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

HIGHLIGHTS:

Calella (Spanish region of Catalunya)

Calella is located in the Spanish region of Catalonia on the Costa Maresme, which is commonly regarded as being part of the better-known Costa Brava. This thriving modern town is just 50 kilometres north of Barcelona - its accessibility and three kilometres of sandy beaches make this the tourist capital of the Costa Maresme. The old part of Calella is worth a visit for its many ancient buildings, the beautiful Dalmau natural park and the old-style narrow streets where you can taste some of the "real Spain" in the tapas bars and restaurants serving local Catalan specialties

Parc Güell

Park Güell is a garden complex with architectural elements situated on the hill of el Carmel in the Gràcia district of Barcelona, Catalonia. It was designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí and built in the years 1900 to 1914. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Works of Antoni Gaudí".

Casa Milà

Casa Milà, better known as La Pedrera (Catalan for 'The Quarry'), is a building designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí and built in the years 1906–1910 (officially completed 1912). It is located at 92, Passeig de Gràcia ('passeig' is Catalan for promenade or avenue) in the *Eixample* district of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain. It was built for the married couple Rosario Segimon and Pere Milà. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Works of Antoni Gaudí". The building is owned by Caixa Catalunya.

Palau Güell

The Palau Güell is a town mansion (translated literally a "palace") in Barcelona, Catalonia, designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí for the Catalan industrial tycoon Eusebi Güell

La Sagrada Família

The Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família (official Catalan name; Spanish: *Templo Expiatorio de la Sagrada Familia*; "Expiatory Temple of the Holy Family"), often simply called the Sagrada Família, is a massive Roman Catholic church under construction in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain. Construction began in 1882 and continues to this day.

Montjuic

Barcelona's Montjuïc is a broad shallow hill with a relatively flat top overlooking the harbour, to the southeast of the city centre. The eastern side of the hill is almost a sheer cliff, giving it a commanding view over the city's

harbour immediately below. The top of the hill (a height of 173 metres) was the site of several fortifications, the latest of which (the Castell de Montjuïc) remains today.

National Museum in Montjuïc

The National Art Museum of Catalonia

set up under the Catalan Museum Law on October 17 1990, is made up of the old Museum of Catalan Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Drawings and Prints, the Numismatic Museum of Catalonia and the General Library of Art History. Some of these centres are housed in provisional premises awaiting a definitive move to the Palau Nacional on Montjuïc, at present undergoing rehabilitation.

The building work, begun in June 1990 and initially directed by the Italian architect Gae Aulenti, will convert this emblematic building -the centre of the International Exhibition of 1929- into a large museum and cultural complex where, as well as a centre for restoration and preventive conservation, we can find a centre for documentation and research and the centre for public diffusion, helping to make the Museum of Catalan Art one of the great museum centres of Catalonia and Europe.

Font Màgica

The Font Màgica or Magic fountain was part of a project built for the 1929 Universal Exhibition. The exhibition took place on Montjuïc, a hill on the eastern end of Barcelona.

The project, designed by the engineer Carles Buigas consisted of a series of cascades and fountains between the Palau Nacional, the main exhibition center on the Montjuïc, and the Plaça d'Espanya at the foot of the hill. It took one year to complete the project. The most spectacular part was the monumental Magic fountain. It was originally intended to show people what could be achieved with filtered electrical light.

Christopher Columbus Monument

The 19th century monument to Christopher Columbus was built to commemorate the return of Columbus from his first trip to North America. The monument was erected for the 1888 World Exposition.

Gothic Quarter

Despite several changes undergone in the 19th and early 20th century, many of the buildings date from Medieval times, some from as far back as the Roman settlement of Barcelona. Remains of the squared Roman Wall can be seen around Tapineria and Sots-Tinent Navarro to the north, Avinguda de la Catedral and Plaça Nova to the west and Carrer de la Palla to the south. El Call, the medieval Jewish quarter, is located within this area too.

The Barri Gòtic retains a labyrinthine street plan, with many small streets opening out into squares. Most of the quarter is closed to regular traffic although open to service vehicles and taxis.

Picasso Museum

The Museu Picasso (English: Picasso Museum) in Barcelona, Spain, has one of the most extensive collections of artworks by the 20th century Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. This is one of the most popular and most visited museums in Barcelona. The museum is housed in five adjoining medieval palaces in Barcelona's Barri Gòtic.

Palau de Musica

The Palau de la Música Catalana (Palace of Catalan Music) is a concert hall designed in the Catalan *modernista* style by the architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner. It was built in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, between 1905 and 1908 for the Orfeó Català, a choral society founded in 1891 that was a leading force in the Catalan cultural and political independence movement that came to be known as the *Renaixença* (Catalan Rebirth) (Benton 1986, 56; Fahr-Becker 2004, 199). It was inaugurated February 9 1908.

Montserrat Monastery

Montserrat is a mountain near Barcelona, in Catalonia, in Spain. It is the site of a Benedictine abbey, Santa Maria de Montserrat, which hosts the Virgin of Montserrat sanctuary and which is identified by some with the location of the Holy Grail in Arthurian myth.

"Montserrat" literally means "jagged (serrated) mountain" in Catalan. It describes the peculiar aspect of the rock formation, which is visible from a great distance. The mountain is composed of strikingly pink conglomerate, a form of sedimentary rock, popular with climbers

Trip Notes



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