

Barcelona (pop. 1.7 million), located on the coast of the Mediterranean, is one of the most progressive cities in Spain. Influenced by the rest of Western Europe, this city has much to offer. As a major port, Barcelona has always been a center of trade and commerce. Located on a plain above the Mediterranean in the region of Catalonia, Barcelona is full of beautiful parks and surrounded by wooded hills. The eastern coastline is a journey from the Pyrenees Mountains that separate Spain and France to the vineyards and orchards of Catalonia. **Barcelona** was founded in 230 BC. It has since gone through many rulers, including the Carthaginians, the Visigoths, and the Muslims.



Ranging from medieval gothic castles to the surreal mosaic buildings of **Gaudí**, the construction of this city reflects its culture and history. The Catalan Gothic sculpture of the 13th - 15th centuries began the notable artistic accomplishments of this region. The best way to get to know Barcelona is following the so called **Modernism Route**. Strolling along the streets of Barcelona is like strolling through a living museum of architecture where the best halls hold its best works: the Catalan Modernist Style. Its stuccoes, mosaics, and latticed stain-glass windows enable us to reconstruct the years between the World Fair of 1888 and the first decade of the century, a period in which Modernism became an everyday art that helped Barcelona come of age and changed insignificant things into objects of art.



The enthusiasm of the turn of the century – the desire for renovation – produced a social use of art, an anonymous popular architecture that dignified everything it touched. As a result pastry shops, pharmacies and ordinary shops were treated with the same decorative respect as the mansions of the upper-class bourgeoisie. But **Modernism** is not something limited to Barcelona; it is a style that flourished in most Western European countries and is known by many different names: Floreale in Italy, and curiously Modern Style in France and Art Nouveau in England. The most outstanding, original, brilliant figure of Catalan modernism was **Antonio Gaudí** whose work surpassed the limits of the movement in expression and symbolism. This prosperous city was the host of the 1992 Olympic Games and has turned many of the facilities into permanent tourism centers. For the competition the 1929 Olympic Stadium was refurbished and expanded. Next to it, the futuristic Palau Sant Jordi was built without supporting columns for the huge monolithic roof and nowadays it has become a favoured concert venue.



FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY VALENCIA - BARCELONA

TIME TBA
MEETING & DEPARTURE POINT - TBA
At scheduled time, departure from Valencia.
Arrival to Barcelona and check-in at hostel.
Meeting in which useful details about the city are given as well as information regarding activities planned for the weekend, so that students can enjoy Barcelona to the full in order to see all of its essential monuments and sights, exploring hidden gems or arranging a trip out of town to visit the impressive Gaudi Museum located in Figueras.





SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY GAUDI TOUR & SAGRADA FAMILIA

TIME TBA

Visit to La Pedrera. Over 48 million euros invested and ten years of work in its restoration. Rehabilitating Gaudí's masterpiece made it possible to recuperate the building from the many serious mutilations it had undergone since 1912. This meant recuperating the original design of the attics and the roof, from which Gaudí's three emblematic works Casa Batlló, Sagrada Familia and Güell Park are visible. Free time for lunch.

As the years go by Gaudí legend, instead of fading away, is becoming stronger. To prove it, from all his works, the Sagrada Familia, stands out for its genius, its ambitious and its gigantic dimensions. The psychedelic tree-shaped roofs of the cathedral poke out into the city's skyline, portraying quite an alternative image for a religious landmark.

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY MONTJUIC - GAUDI PARC GÜELL

Free morning.

04:00 PM Afternoon visit to Güell Park & 1992 Olympics area. Another masterpiece projected by Barcelona's most famous artist and architect, Gaudí, Parc Güell features multi-hued mosaic tiles, sprinkling fountains and patches of green gardens. The main entrance to the park is flanked by a couple of buildings that look like they illustrate a fairy tale. Right across its famous staircase with a city symbol multi-coloured dragon leading the visitor to the impressive hypostyle hall. The park is specially perched on higher ground to give a bird's eye view of the city. On a cloudless day, which is rather frequent, you can see the Barcelona's major landmarks clearly from here.

Poised above the city is the district of Montjuic, a hilltop neighborhood packed with delectable works of art, museums and stadiums that has become one of the most typical postcards of the city. It held the 1929 Universal Exhibition when the present fairground, the sports facilities, and the parks and gardens scattered around were also built. Another important event, the Olympic Games of 1992, gave the city an excuse to bring parts of mountain up to date.



SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY BARCELONA - VALENCIA

Check-out before noon.

Free morning until departure.

Enjoy the main pedestrian street located off our hotel, Las Ramblas, an excellent spot to people watch. Along the thoroughfare, you will find plenty of caricature street artists, miming performers and flower vendors. On a Sunday, it's bustling with energy as locals and visitors stroll languidly along the street to get to Port Vell on one end and Plaza Cataluña on the other.

TIME TBA Meeting at hostel and departure from Barcelona.

Arrival to Valencia and end of our services.

Inclusive of:

- Valencia-Barcelona round trip tickets
- Hostel 2 nights (continental breakfast)
- Half day tour Montjuic & 92 Olympics facilities
- Travel Insurance
- Barcelona lodging taxes

Important notes

Minimum group size composed by 10 students
Transportation either by train or bus depending on number of students.

PRICE - 120 EUROS

