

Thursday (2/18) (High 56, Low 45, partly cloudy)

Arrive Barcelona in the evening

Check into Hotel Regina Barcelona

HOTEL REGINA Barcelona

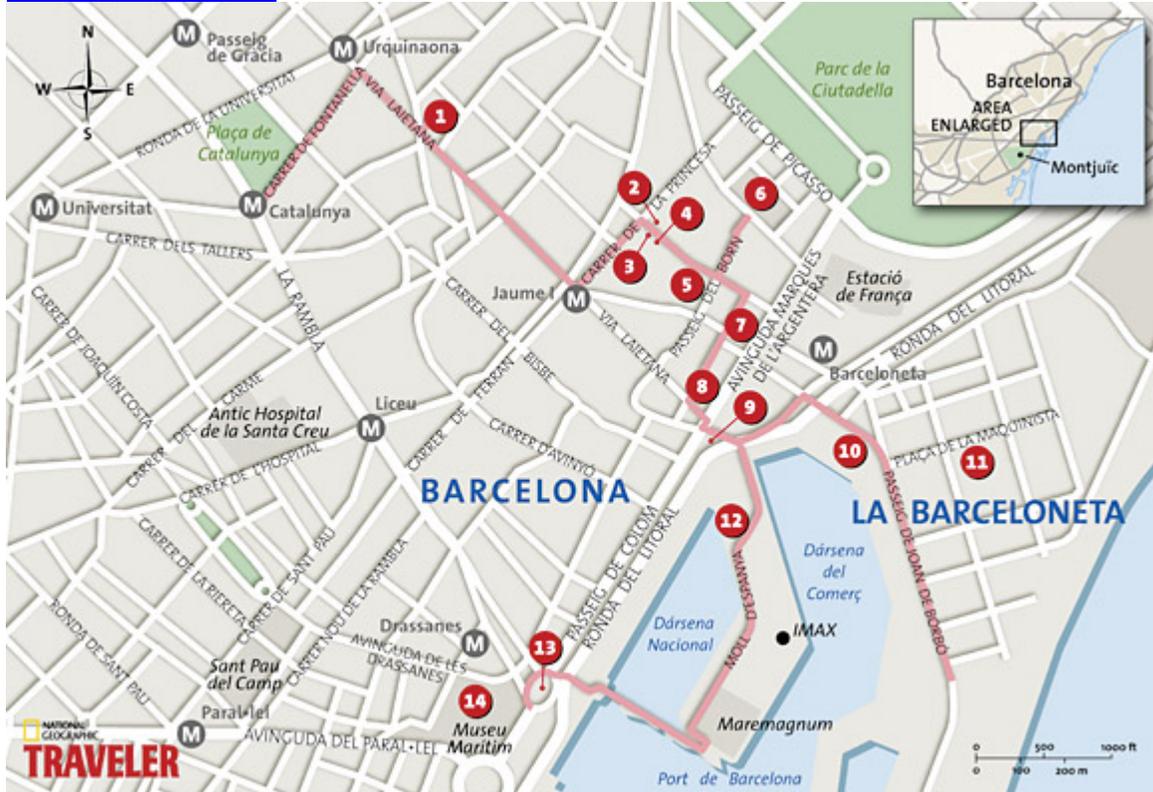
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HOTEL
REGINA

Barcelona Walking Tour: The Waterfront

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/places/places-of-a-lifetime/barcelona-walking-tour-3.html>



This part of the old city brings you to the water—to the medieval age of Barcelona's maritime empire, and the rebirth of its modern waterfront.

Purchase T10 (10 rides within zone 1)

- 7.85 Euros per 10 rides (cards can be shared) → Purchase 2 cards
- Can be used for the RENFE train to the airport as well

Take the metro to Drassanes. (Ride 1)

At the far end, at Port Vell, where cruise boats depart for tours of the harbor, cross the footbridge to the Plaça del Portal de la Pau and the (13) **Monument Colom**. (p.94, #4 B4) Nearly 200 feet (61 meters) high, the monument was erected for the Universal Exhibition in 1888; the statue of Columbus points—a classic misdirection—out to sea, to North Africa, and not North America. Take the elevator inside to the top, for a fine view of the port.





Turn left on Passeig de Colom to (9) **Roy Lichtenstein's sculpture "Barcelona Head,"** (C3) and walk east and then south along the Passeig de Joan de Borbó past the (10) **Palau de Mar**—the only building of Barcelona's old port still standing, now home to the Museu d'Història de Catalunya at Plaça de Pau Vila 3 (www.mhcat.net)—to where the mini-grid of (11) **Barceloneta** begins on the left. This working-class barrio was once the

fishermen's quarter; its narrow streets have some of the city's cheapest and best tapas bars and seafood restaurants. At the far end of the barrio begins the first of Barcelona's public beaches, stretching nearly three miles (4.8 kilometers) along the Passeig Marítim to the north.



Food and Drink to try:

- Habas a la Catalana: a spicy bean stew
- Pinacas a la Catalana: spinach with pine nuts, raisins and bacon
- Cava: local sparkling white wine known; not the Fijian liquor

Dinner Options in Barceloneta (see guide book map):

- #10: El Vaso De Oro (tapas)
- #9: Can Mano (Spanish)
- #11: Suquet de L'Almirall (seafood)

Take metro back to hotel (Catalunya). (Ride 2)

Friday (2/19) (High 57, Low 44, Mostly Sunny)

Park Guell (p.130, #4 B1)

- Plan for a ½ day
- Hours: November to February from 10 to 18 h
- Fees
 - General entrance: free
 - House where Gaudi lived and museum: 5 Euros
- Take metro and cab to summit (20 minute climb on foot) or take bus (busses can be found at Place de Catalunya) (Ride 3)
 - Buses: 24, 25
 - Metro: L3 (Lesseps)
- Gaudi's strangely psychedelic park
 - Antoni Gaudi's most ambitious project after the Sagrada Familia church. Though commissioned as a private housing complex, only two houses were every built on the site. What remains, can only be described as the most psychedelic of Spain attractions. Twisting



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ceramic benches, a vast hall of pillars, giant lizards and sloping pathways all provide an amusement park feel.

- See pictures at http://www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com/en/albums-en/gaudi-park-quell/pages/antoni-gaudi-park-quell-01_jpg.html or just wait and be surprised.

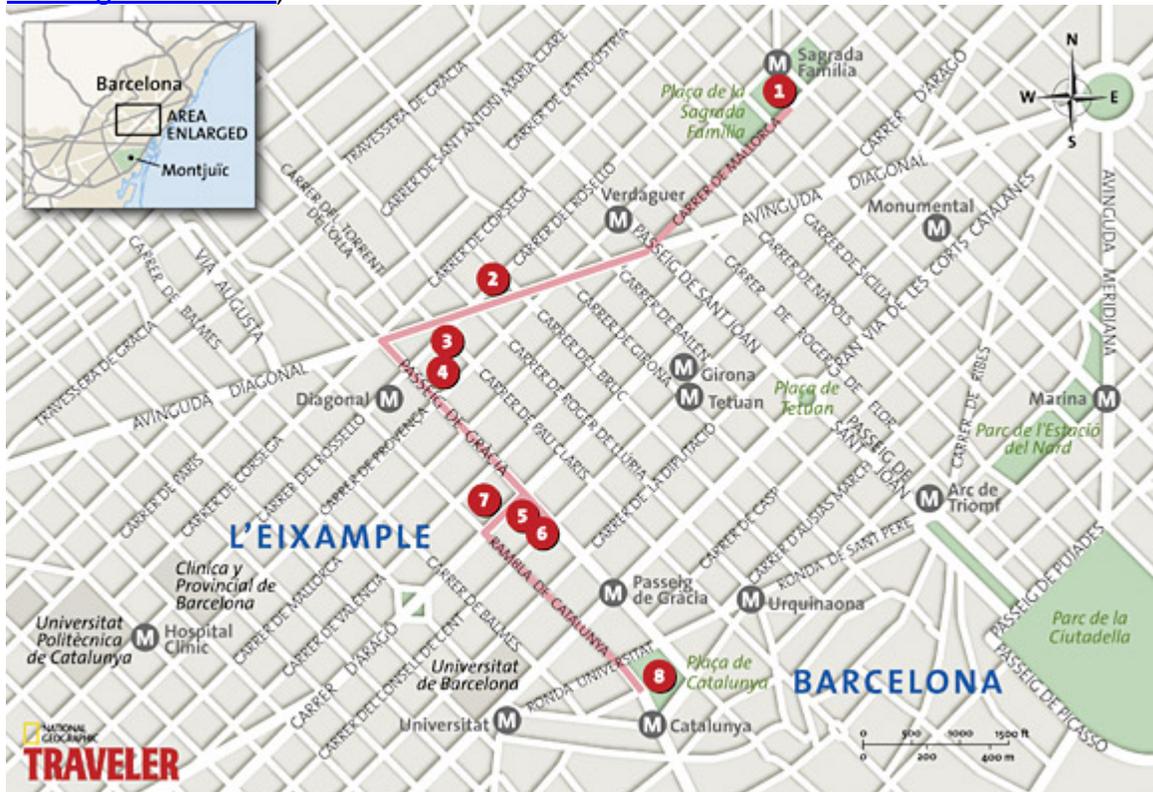
Take Metro to Sangrada Familia (Ride 4)

Lunch Alkimia (p. 119, #41, E1)

- 79 Calle de la Industria
- Serves creative El Bulli – inspired cuisine in an intimate space

Barcelona Walking Tour: L'Eixample (approximately 2 miles)

(<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/places/places-of-a-lifetime/barcelona-walking-tour-1.html>)



Start your walk at Antoni Gaudí's (1) **Sagrada Família** (p. 110, #10 E1) church (Carrer de Mallorca 401); everybody does.

Hours: 9 AM – 6 PM, Admission: 11 Euros

Sagrada Família

Monumental church dedicated to the Holy Family, Gaudí's most famous work, the finest example of his visionary genius, the worldwide symbol of Barcelona and the Cathedral of the third Millennium. The architect undertook the task in 1883. He dedicated his life to carrying out this ambitious project which he left unfinished in 1926 when he died. The Cathedral is a synthesis of his architectural knowledge with the complex system of symbolism and a visual explication of the mysteries of faith. There would be extraordinary façades representing the birth, death and resurrection of Christ with eighteen towers symbolizing the twelve Apostles, the four Evangelists, the Virgin Mary and the Christ. The work was interrupted in 1936 when the crypt and Gaudí's studio were burnt. The project was resumed in 1952 using existing drawings and models. The Sagrada should be able to accommodate more than 13,000 people, and the platforms, on the sides, a chorus of 1,500 people. The whole of the building is an allegory of the Christian religion. The 170 height meters arrow will incarnate Christ. The uniqueness and complexity of the project, make practically impossible to give a precise date of time necessary to build the remaining ten domes. The most important factor is the firm will of a great number of people who wish to contribute to the completion of the temple. And carry out the wishes of Gaudí, "a Cathedral open for every buddy, a place of spirituality with the Christian message, a place of fraternity for all.



Take Carrer Mallorca from there to where it meets Avinguda Diagonal, turn right, and walk west along the Diagonal to the Passeig de Gràcia. Along the way, on the right at Avinguda Diagonal 416-420, is the (2) **Casa de les Punxes** (p.108, #3 D2) (House of the Spikes), the turreted, Gothic-quoting apartment building by Gaudí's contemporary, Puig i Cadafalch.

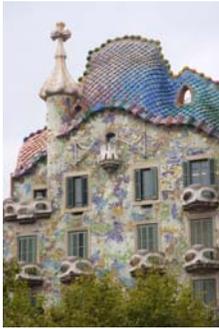


Farther along, at Avinguda Diagonal 373 on the left, poke a nose into (3) the **Palau Baró de Quadras** (p.112, #14 C3), also Puig i Cadafalch's, built as an aristocratic family home, now headquarters for the cultural foundation Casa Asia (www.casaasia.es).

Turn left on the Passeig de Gràcia—L'Eixample's fashionable central artery. Two blocks down, on the left, at Carrer de Provença 261-265, is the (4) **Casa Milà**, (p. 110, #9 C3) also known as "La Pedrera" (the stone quarry), with its wavy walls like ocean waves in stone. Allow at least an hour to explore this UNESCO World Heritage site (see "Must-Dos") before continuing.



Hours: 9 AM – 6:30 PM, Admission: 9.50 Euros



Continue down the avenue to (5) **Casa Batlló** (p.105, #1 D4) (Passeig de Gràcia 43, on the west side—another Gaudí masterpiece (www.casabatllo.es). The façade is covered in mosaics of colored tiles, with wrought-iron balconies like rows of grinning skulls; one apartment, the lobby, and rooftop are open to the public. (Tip: Compared to "La Pedrera," the admission ticket is a bit expensive for what you get to see.)

Next door, at Passeig de Gràcia 41, is Puig i Cadafalch's (6) **Casa Amatller**, where you can explore the first-floor exhibition space for free—and buy some of Barcelona's best chocolate. Antoni Amatller, who commissioned the house, was heir to one of the oldest chocolatiers in Europe. Also here see **Manzana de la Discordia** (p. 111, #11 D4).



Retrace your steps to Carrer d'Aragó, and walk one block west to the Rambla de Catalunya. On the way, at Aragó 255, is the (7) **Fundació Antoni Tàpies** (p. 109, #5 D4) (www.fundaciotapies.org), a cultural center and museum established by one of Barcelona's best-known modern painters. The building, an early work in the evolution of Catalan modernism, was originally the Montaner i Simon publishing house; publishing was—and still is—an important part of Barcelona's culture and economy.



Turn left on Rambla de Catalunya and stroll down this divided boulevard, lined with boutiques and cafés, to the (8) **Plaça de Catalunya**—the heart of the city—where you end your walk.



Dinner
Elisabets (p.68, #17 B3)

Saturday (2/20) (High 56, Low 44, Partly Cloudy)

Barcelona Walking Tour: Ciutat Vella

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/places/places-of-a-lifetime/barcelona-walking-tour-2.html>



This walk takes in part of medieval Barcelona, filled with detours and labyrinths of narrow streets and small squares, easy to get lost in; you'll need the better part of a day to do it properly.



From **Plaça de Catalunya**, walk south on

(1) **Las Ramblas**, the long promenade to the port—filled at all hours with strollers, human statues, con artists, fortune tellers, and portrait painters. Carrer de Bonsuccés, the second street on the right, affords a worthwhile detour through El Raval.



(2) **El Raval**—until recently one of the city's darker and more dangerous areas, now a funky ethnic mix approaching gentrification.

El Raval: Barcelona's Raval was historically the red-light zone and a slum of Old Barcelona. However, it's quickly becoming the city's new "in" area. Numerous bars and clubs frequented by young artists and bohemian types now fill formerly sketchy alleyways.



(3) **Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona**, (p. 64, #4 B3) at Plaça dels Àngels 1 (www.macba.es).



Return to Las Ramblas and continue south. Turn left on Carrer de la Portaferriça, and right on Carrer de Petritxol. This short street lined with galleries, art supply shops, and chocolatiers leads to the 14th-century Gothic church.



(4) **Santa Maria del Pi** (p. 45, #6 A3) (Plaça del Pi), a serenely simple space with a single wide nave and superb stained glass; the adjacent Plaça Sant Josep Oriol has an artists' market on weekends.

Return to Las Ramblas, and continue south.

(5) Pass the **Palau de la Virreina** on the right, at Las Ramblas 99—a baroque palace built for the ex-vice-roy of Peru, now housing the municipal department of culture.



Next door, join the throngs of shoppers and casual noshers in the 167-year-old

(6) **Mercat de Sant Josep (la Boqueria)** (p. 55, #34 A3) produce market, at Las Ramblas 91.

Lunch Options

- Bar Central (p.67, #11 C4) (Catalan) – go for grilled fish or meatballs
- Bar Pinotxo (p. 67, #13 C3) (Tapas)
 - Has marvelous cortados, hearty plates of meat and seafood, and heavenly doughnuts in the morning

A block farther on is the (7) **Gran Teatre del Liceu** (p. 46, #8 A4) (opera house), opposite the Metro station at Las Ramblas 51-59. Tip: guided tours are in Spanish, but at 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1 p.m., you can explore the main building on your own.



Continue down Las Ramblas to the (8) **Palau Güell** (p. 65, #5 C4) at Carrer Nou de Las Ramblas 3-5, the grand residence Gaudí designed for his immensely wealthy patron Eusebi Güell.



Cross the promenade and wander into the (9) **Plaça Reial**, (p. 49, #17 B4) a classical square of mid-19th-century apartments, with towering palm trees, Gaudí street lamps, and a ground-floor arcade of shops and restaurants. On Sundays the square has a coin and stamp market.

Leave the Plaça Reial through the arch on the north side, turn right on Carrer de Ferran, and walk up to the (10) **Plaça de Sant Jaume**, the heart of the Barri Gòtic. On the right side of the square, at Plaça Sant Jaume 1, is the (11) City Hall—the **Ajuntamentor Casa de la Ciutat**. (p.44, #1 C3)



On the left, at Plaça Sant Jaume 4, is the (12) **Palau de la Generalitat**, (p. 48, #15 C3) seat of the government of Catalonia.

From the Placa, take Carrer de Juame I to **Esglesia de Santa Just I Pastor** (p.46, #7 C3). This church was built in 1342 in Catalan Gothic style. It boasts some fine stained glass windows. On Placa de Sant Just, in front of the church, bubbles a water fountain dating from 1367. Gaudi was arrested here one day for not speaking Spanish to a copper.



Continue on Carrer de Jaume I to the (13) **Museu d'Història de la Ciutat** (p.47, #13 C2) (Plaça del Rei 7-9: see "Must-Dos"); allow an hour to discover Roman-era Barcelona.

??? Carrer de Jaume becomes Carrer de la Princesa to the **Picasso Museum** (p. 79, #8 D4)

Hours: 10 AM – 8 PM, Admission: 9 Euros

The museum has arranged Picasso's paintings in chronological order from his early days to his final works. Arranging the paintings in this way gives you a fascinating insight into the development of Picasso thinking over time and shows how he developed the distinctive designs that he is famous for today.



From the (14) **Saló del Tinell** and (15) **Plaça del Rei**, where you exit the museum, walk through the lovely courtyard of the (16) **Palau del Lloctinent** (p. 49, #16 C2) ("viceroy's palace"), to the back of (17) the **Catedralde Santa Eulàlia** (p. 46, #9 C2) (Plaça de la Seu). Walk around to the Catedral's square—where sardanes folk dances take place on Sunday mornings—and explore (if you dare) the narrow streets off the square leading into the Barri Gòtic.



Leave the square by Carrer de Bisbe toward the Avingudadel Portal de l'Angel. Take a left on Carrer de Santa Anna to see **Esglesia de Santa Anna** (p. 45, #5 A1), a 12th century Romanesque chapel.

Continue on Avingudadel Portal de l'Angel to the Plaça de Catalunya and the end of the walk.

Olympic Area Walking Tour

Take metro to Espanya. (Ride 5)

Go south on Av de la Reina Maria Cristina to **La Font Magica** (p. 138, # 8) (show every half hour until 8:30 PM)



Continue southwest to **Poble Espanyol** (p. 142, #17 C3)

Hours: 9 AM to 5 AM, Admission: 8.50 Euros

This Barcelona attraction is a small Spanish village with different quarters that replicate the style of houses and architecture from different parts of Spain.



Poble Espanyol is also home to a whole host of specialist craft shops and workshops where you can see some traditionally made Spanish goods.

Note: This is the site for the flamenco performance (**Tablao de Carmen**)



Continue east to **Estadi Olímpic** (p.139, #9).

Head east on Av de Miramar and wander through some of the following:

- Jardí de les Escultures (#3, on left)
- Jardins de Mossen Cinto de Verdaguer (#6, on right) (free, open until sunset)
- Jardins de Joan Brossa (#5, on right) (free, open until sunset)
- Jardins de Miramar (#7) (free, open until sunset)
- Jardins de Mossen Costa I Llobera (#7) (free, open until sunset)

Dinner

Take Carretera de Miramar north to Carrer de Vila I Vila to **Elche** (Catalan food) (#20)

Take metro from Paral·lel to Espanya and head south to **Tablao de Carmen** (flamenco dancing – 35 Euros) (p.144, #29 C3) (show at 10 PM)

Take metro back to hotel (Catalunya).

Sunday (2/21)

Metro and Train: Catalunya to Passeig de Gracia; RENFE train to Aeropuerto (Ride 6)

- Train takes about 25 minutes and runs every 30 minutes
- Train fare is included in Barcelona Card and T10, otherwise 3 Euros
- Train drops you about 5 minutes walk from airport main entrance for Terminal 2 (shuttle bus from train station to Terminal 1)

DL 115 BCN to ATL

Departs BCN at 10:25 AM

Arrives ATL at 3:10 PM