

## Useful information for living in Barcelona

- Get to know Barcelona

Barcelona is one of the most attractive cities in the world; situated on the beautiful Mediterranean coast in northeastern Spain (in Catalonia), it is the perfect blend of sun, beach, culture, history, gastronomy, city and nightlife.

Barcelona was originally a small Roman city called Barcino, which over the centuries has developed until becoming a huge metropolitan area of about four million people with a very dynamic economy and a great architectural and artistic heritage from over 2000 years of history. The city is divided in 10 districts, each one reflecting different historical periods: Ciutat Vella, Eixample, Sants-Montjuic, Les Corts, Sarrià-Sant Gervasi, Gràcia, Horta-Guinardó, Nou Barris, Sant Andreu and Sant Martí, the first two being the most important.

Some of our apartments are located in the district “Ciutat Vella”, which is the historical center of the city, as well as one of the most beautiful areas, reminding us from its Roman and Medieval heritage. In this district there are many emblematic buildings like the “Palau de la Generalitat”, the “Palau de Música” or the “Catedral de Barcelona”.

We also have apartments in l’Eixample, which gives birth to the modern Barcelona and where the streets are very wide with a lot of urban life, contrary to “Ciutat Vella”. It is the most cosmopolitan area of Barcelona, with tons of stories on every street. Some of the most beautiful architectural heritage of the city can be found in this district.

The heritage of the streets are complemented with a wide artistic, scientific and humanistic range represented by more than 30 museums, like the National Museum of Catalan Art, the Picasso Museum and the Miró Foundation. However, Barcelona’s cultural dynamism goes far beyond its museums and architecture; the city is also a privileged space for theater, opera and contemporary music and dance.

Another important aspect to mention about Barcelona is its fantastic climate all year long; its location on the Mediterranean coast allows climate moderation, leading to mild winters and warm summers, with very little rain during the year.

Barcelona is also very well known for its amazing gastronomy, based on fresh and local ingredients from the sea, the mountain and gardens. Some of the capital specialties are

seafood and fish dishes, “escudella” and “pa amb tomàquet”, which is toasted bread with fresh tomatoes and olive oil. You can’t miss these!

Last but not least, the nightlife is also very popular. You’ll find more than enough going on after the sun goes down... in fact, if you want to keep pace with the locals, you’d best be prepared to see the sun come back up again!

- **Public transportation**

Barcelona is a city that has all kinds of public transportation services (buses, trains, subways...), which will allow you to get to any point of the city in just a few minutes.

In this section we briefly explain how the public transportation system in Barcelona works and give you some tips about what tickets you should purchase so you can get the best deal!

The system is very similar to the one in London; there are different zones, and the further away you go the more expensive it will get; however zone 1 is very large, and you will hardly ever go to a different one. For instance, all metro and bus stops are included in zone 1; you will only be able to get to other zones by using the train or special buses. The most common tickets used are<sup>1</sup>:

- Billet senzill: It gives you just 1 ride, and costs 2.15 € for zone 1.
- T-10: It gives you 10 rides on any public transportation without any time limit (you can use the rides in 3 days or 3 months, they won’t expire). The price for zone 1 is 9.95 €. As you can see this ticket is better than the previous one.
- T-50/30: It gives you 50 rides in 30 days. It costs 42.50 € for zone 1. Each ride on this ticket is cheaper than with a T-10, but it may not be useful for those that don’t use public transportation every day.
- T-Mes: It gives you unlimited rides during one month, however it is personal and non-transferable, which means if anyone else that isn’t yourself uses it and they get caught, they will get a fine. The cost of this ticket is 52.75 € for zone 1.
- T-Trimestre: It gives you unlimited rides during 90 days, and it is also personal and non-transferable. The cost of the ticket is 142 € for zone 1.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note that prices may change

- **T-Jove:** It is the same as the previous one; gives you unlimited rides during 90 days and it is also personal and non-transferable. The difference is that it is only valid for those who are younger than 25 years old, and costs 105 € for zone 1.

If you are coming to Barcelona to study during a semester or the entire school year we strongly recommend you purchase a T-Jove. It will cost you 35€/month and you will have unlimited bus, metro and train rides in zone 1.

Like I said before, the price of these tickets will depend on the zone you are travelling in. In the following webpage you can find more information about these tickets and their prices: <http://www.tmb.cat/ca/abonaments-integrats>.

The working hours of the metro service in Barcelona are:

#### **General working hours**

**Monday - Thursday** 5:00 - 24:00 h

**Friday:** 5:00 - 02:00 h

**Saturday:** 05:00 – doesn't close

**Sunday:** doesn't close - 24:00 h

Another important thing to mention is the availability of **bicing** service, which is a company that provides bikes that are parked all around the city. For just 47.50€/year you can ride the bike to work/school every day. It is important to mention that this price includes bike rides that are less than 30 minutes (going to school for instance). If you don't return the bike in 30 minutes they will charge you 0.74 € for every next 30 minutes until 2h go by, and then 4.49€/h if you exceed 2h. Despite this, many students that live in the city contract this service because it allows you to enjoy the city's beauty and weather while you go to school, instead of riding the metro which goes underground. You can find more information in their webpage: <https://www.bicing.cat/>

- **Medical assistance**

All foreign students who come to study in a Spanish University must possess a health insurance. Those students who come from countries belonging to the European Union, the EEE or Switzerland, and that have the right to social security in their home countries, will receive

the health assistance in equal conditions to national citizens of Spain. For any emergency the best public hospitals you can go to are:

1. Hospital Sant Pau (metro L5, stop “Hospital de Sant Pau”)
2. Hospital Clinic (metro L5, stop “Hospital Clinic”)
3. Hospital del Mar (metro L4, stop “Ciutadella Vila Olimpica”)
4. Hospital Universitari de la Vall d’Hebrón (metro L3 and L5, stop “Vall d’Hebrón”)

In the following map you can find the location of these Hospitals to see which one best fits you in case of emergency.



- **Carnet Jove – La Caixa**

One of the things we strongly recommend you to do if you are going to stay in Barcelona is to get a “Carnet Jove”. It is a service offered by the Catalan government aimed to improve the quality of life of the young ones through discounts and special offers. You will be able to save a lot of money in a huge variety of activities!

The “Carnet Jove” gives its owners the right to enjoy many proposals and services, as well as more than 8000 discounts in Catalonia related to culture, tourism, mobility... and more than

60000 discounts in Europe. You can check out the discounts you have both online and on the app you can download in Apple Store or Play Store. Some of the most popular discounts it offers are: 2x1 in Port Aventura (amusement park), 2x1 at Skating Club, 2x1 in forfeits, 10% discount in FresCo and McDonalds...

Everyone between the ages of 12 and 30 can get it, no matter what country you come from (however you do need to ask for it in one of the offices in Catalonia). In order to make a petition to get your "carnet Jove" you must show your ID card and pay an annual fee of 7.90 €. Your "Carnet Jove" will be valid until the next 31/12.

# EAT LIKE A LOCAL IN BARCELONA

Rent Room Barcelona wants to share with you our recommendations to try Barcelona's best cuisine and our favorite restaurants in the city.

## 12 MEALS YOU SHOULD TRY AT LEAST ONCE

### 1. *Pà amb tomaquet*



Bread with rubbed tomato over it and seasoned with oil and salt.

### 2. *Patates braves amb all i oli*



Fried potatoes with a dressing made of garlic and olive oil. It's great to pair this tapa with a beer!

### 3. *Truita de patates*



Omelet with fried potatoes inside, served as tapas or in a sandwich.

### 4. *Croquetes*



Typical starter found in a Spanish menu. You can find different types: ham, tuna, mushroom or chicken.

### 5. *Pernil Serrà*



A type of dry cured-Spanish ham served as tapas or in a sandwich.

### 6. *Fideuà*



A seafood dish similar to paella but with noodles instead of rice. Season it with lemon, you won't regret it!

### 7. *Arròs negre*



Catalan dish made with cuttlefish (or squid) and rice.

### 8. *Paella*



Don't miss the traditional Catalan paella, unlike the Valencian, it consists of white rice, seafood (prawns, lobster, clams...). We recommend you to try it with a glass of rose wine.

### 9. *Crema Catalana*



We also have our version of *crème brûlée*. Although, our is sweeter! The origin of its name came from the 17<sup>th</sup> century when they offered a dessert to the bishop. The sugar was still hot when he took it, so he exclaimed 'Crema!', which in Catalan means 'Burn!'.

### 10. *Mel i mató*



A famous Catalan dessert which consists in a piece of goat cheese served with honey!

### 11. *Escalivada*



For the veggie ones, try this traditional dish prepared with red pepper and eggplant. You can also do it at home!

### 12. *Sopa de galets*



If you will be here for Christmas, don't forget to add it in your menu. It's a soup prepared with snail-shaped pasta filled with minced meat.

## 10 RESTAURANTS YOU CAN'T MISS

### 1. Can Punyetes



There is not a better place where to try grilled meat!



From 25€



<https://goo.gl/maps/qMc1zopois32>



### 2. Cal pintxo



Best seafood in town! Enjoy a Mediterranean lunch with the beautiful views of the Barceloneta beach.



From 50€



<https://goo.gl/maps/XWjf8pXZc2S2>



### 3. Cheriff



Paella is their speciality, they're considered as the best of the city! We also recommend you their "caldereta de langosta".



From 50€



<https://goo.gl/maps/8h6t2oeGKA62>



#### 4. Moritz



Ideal for a Friday afternoon jam with your friends in the old factory, enjoy a Catalan craft beer with your favorite tapas!



10€



<https://goo.gl/maps/g8x9BLMhnm92>



#### 5. The Green Spot



Healthy food, lively atmosphere, and live music on Thursday nights! Don't miss one of the best vegetarian restaurants in BCN!



From 30€



<https://goo.gl/maps/pDrPe9SH38u>



#### 6. Totoro



Here's the perfect place if you're craving for sushi! Exquisite food and affordable price in a cozy restaurant. Don't forget to book a table!



From 20€



<https://goo.gl/maps/UeCjbWgHt4C2>



## 7. Copasetic



Very good option for brunch! Organic food, gluten-free, healthy menu and generous portions. We recommend you to try their delicious homemade cakes!



From 25€



<https://goo.gl/maps/DvMQgXwZ5d92>



## 8. Paco Meralgo



Casual Spanish atmosphere where you can find authentic Spanish tapas and dishes. Totally recommendable!



From 15€



<https://goo.gl/maps/jYv8t97Y3ZF2>



## 9. La Bella Napoli



It's like being in Naples! Casual, large place with checkered table clothes and Italian waiters. Desserts are homemade and outstanding!



From 25€



<https://goo.gl/maps/Cz65hzNHzR82>



## 10. La Cova Fumada



This authentic tavern invented the best autochthonous dish of Barceloneta: "La bomba" (battered potato stuffed with minced meat).



From 15€



<https://goo.gl/maps/DN33iDWXG5o>



Don't hesitate to contact us for more recommendations!

[contact@rentroombarcelona.com](mailto:contact@rentroombarcelona.com)

We hope you enjoy your stay!