23 things to know before you go to Barcelona!

Language

There are official languages in Barcelona: Spanish (Castellano) and Catalan. Catalan is spoken by most of the population and is taught in schools, although its use has been declining over the last half-century. While both are mutually intelligible, Catalan is not a dialect of Spanish. Although the Barcelona authorities have taken the position that Catalan is an official language, the official language of Spain is Spanish, and all spoports are written in Spanish.

In addition, there is a large number of Spanish and English tourists in the city, and you will find English-speaking people in most businesses.

Girona

Spanish is the official language, but Catalan is also widely spoken.

Barcelona

The city is officially bilingual and Catalan is widely spoken.

Barcelona is the funnest city in Europe (if not the world). There is a proliferation of bars, restaurants, clubs and stores of all kinds. It has one-of-a-kind monuments and museums, and a continuous series of festivals. The Barcelona schedule may take some adjusting to. Breakfast is usually light: coffee and a pastry. Normal business hours allow the average working person to take a noon-hour lunch. Retail businesses open on Sunday, apart from tourist-oriented stores and corner shops. Restaurants and stores and businesses often keep shorter hours on Saturdays. Banks may only be open in the morning (until 2pm). Few businesses have lunch hours.

Barcelona is the cultural capital of Spain and brings world-class dance, theatre and music to the city throughout the month of July – tickets should be bought in advance.

Festivals and Events

Barcelona is a city for the arts and brings world-class dance, theatre and music to the city throughout the month of July – tickets should be bought in advance.

The official map of Barcelona is the best, but the cost of this is 1.25; it has a section of highlights in English.

Transport

There are official maps of Barcelona and the surrounding area, but none are particularly useful.

Local bus and metro

Barcelona has an extensive public transport system, with buses and metro lines.

Airport and city

There are no trains to Barcelona from the airport. You will need to take a taxi, a private transport service, or arrange for a car to pick you up.

Parking

There are many private parking garages in the city center.

Communication

There are no phone booths in the city center.

Fees

There are no telephone cards in the city center.

Watering holes

There are no parks in the city center.

Tourism

There are no museums in the city center.

Banking and Money

There are no banks in the city center.

Travel and Arrival

There are no rail stations in the city center.

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