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IAAC STUDENT HAND BOOK

—Barcelona

iaac

Institute for
advanced
architecture
of Catalonia

BARCELONA

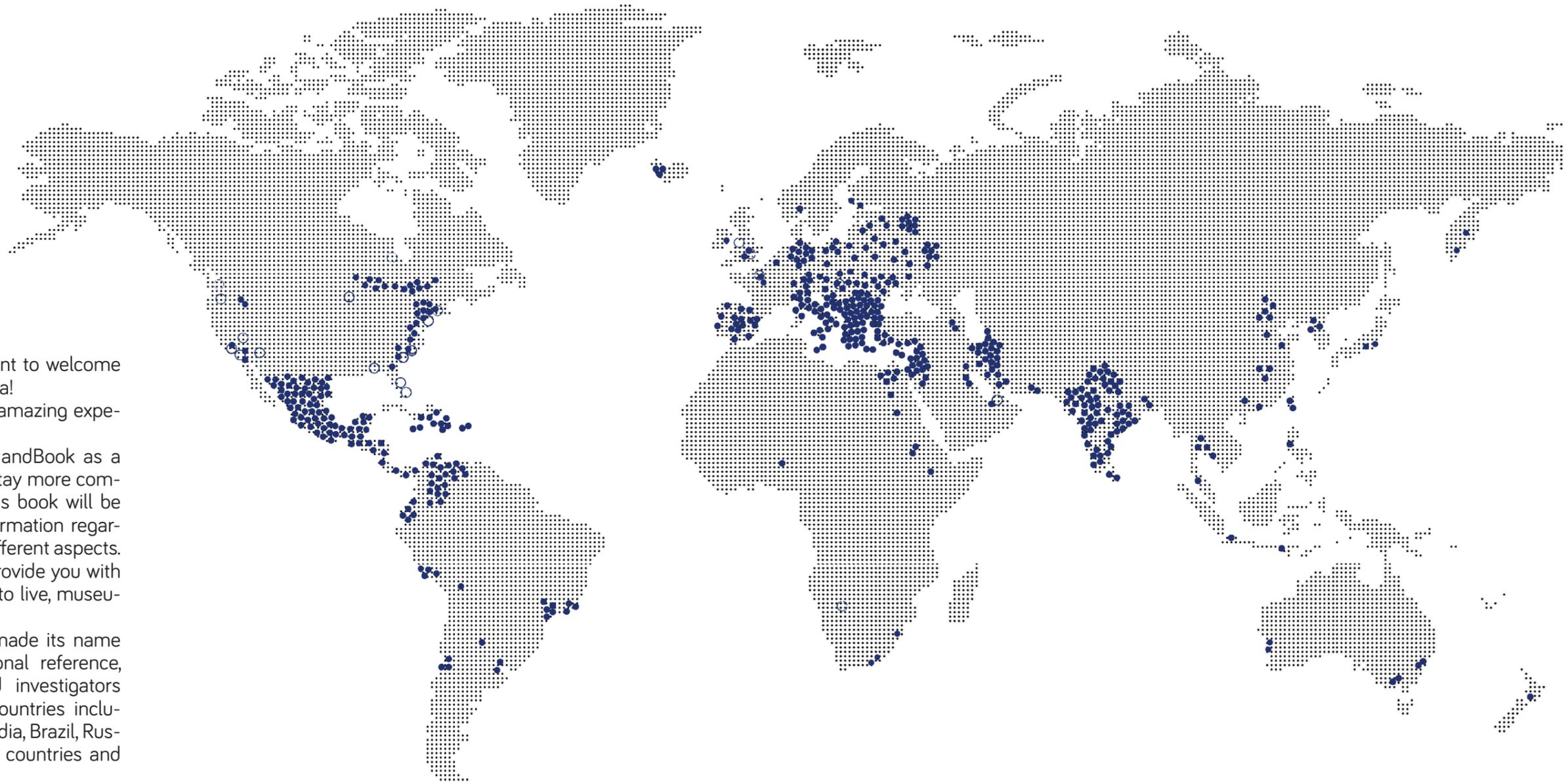
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INTRODUCTION – WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome students!!
On behalf of IAAC we want to welcome you to the city of Barcelona!
You are going to have an amazing experience living abroad.
We have designed this HandBook as a **gift to you** to make your stay more comfortable and pleasant. This book will be useful for you to find information regarding Barcelona in many different aspects. It has been prepared to provide you with information about places to live, museums and student life.
As you know, IAAC has made its name as a centre of international reference, welcoming students and investigators from over 60 different countries including: Australia, the USA, India, Brazil, Russia, Ethiopia, all European countries and many others.
So be prepared to get in touch with the world!

IAAC HAS MADE ITS NAME AS A CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE, WELCOMING STUDENTS AND INVESTIGATORS FROM OVER 60 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES INCLUDING: AUSTRALIA, THE USA, INDIA, BRAZIL, RUSSIA, ETHIOPIA, ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND MANY OTHERS.



1.1 WHAT IS IAAC?

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED ARCHITECTURE OF CATALONIA (IAAC) IS

a centre for research, education, production and outreach, with the mission of envisioning the future habitat of our society and building it in the present.

IAAC FOLLOWS THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION AT ALL SCALES to expand the boundaries of architecture and design and to meet the challenges faced by humanity.

IAAC IS AN EXPERIMENTAL AND EXPERIENTIAL CENTRE WHERE ONE LEARNS BY DOING, through a test methodology that promotes real solutions.

IAAC IS OPEN, INDEPENDENT AND RADICAL; inspired by the values of Barcelona, the capital of architecture and design, where urbanism was invented and where local high-quality and innovation-oriented research is connected to an international network of excellence in technology, architecture and society fields.

IAAC, BEYOND ITS EDUCATIONAL AND PRO-RESEARCH WORK, IS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY AND MULTICULTURAL STABLE COMMUNITY that seeks permanent contact and cooperation among the hundreds of teachers, researchers, institutions and companies that have worked with us or that pursue the objective of providing solutions to the great challenges of humanity.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED ARCHITECTURE OF CATALONIA (IAAC) IS

EDUCATION

with a community of more than 2.000 alumni who studied in one of its educational programmes in the past 17 years. The **Master in Advanced Architecture**, the **Master in City & Technology**, the **Master in Advanced Interaction**, the **Master in Advanced Ecological Buildings**, the **Master in Robotics and Advanced Construction**, the **Master in Design for Emergent Futures** and the **Open Thesis Fabrication programme**, are giving the next generation of architects and changemakers the space to imagine, test and shape the future of cities, architecture and technology. This is also possible through the **Fab Academy**, a distributed educational model aiming at introducing anyone to Digital Fabrication. Not to mention the workshops and the short programmes, implementing global agendas developed through local solutions, such as the **Global Summer School**.

FABRICATION

with the **Fab Lab Barcelona**, the first and most advanced digital production laboratory in EU, and the **Green Fab Lab**, the first digital fabrication laboratory geared towards self sufficiency: two places where you can build almost anything. The Fab Lab House is a living example of the combination of digital manufacturing and self-sufficiency. It is a building developed at IAAC, exhibited at the Solar Decathlon 2010 in Madrid and given the Public Choice Award, which showed the feasibility of a dwelling able to produce twice as much energy as it consumes. After hosting the FAB10 in 2014, the 10th annual worldwide Fab Lab conference, Fab Lab Barcelona has consolidated its role within the **Fab Lab Network** as one of the worldwide leaders of the Digital Fabrication Revolution, as well as the Coordinator of the Fab Academy programme.

RESEARCH

thanks to a series of projects and research funded by the **European Union** and developed in collaboration with public and private partners from the whole of Europe, oriented towards exploring the role of technology in our societies and cities, and making sense of it.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

with the **Valldaura Labs**, a self-sufficient research centre located in the Collserola metropolitan park, 20 minutes away from the centre of Barcelona and surrounded by 140 hectares of forest, where a series of laboratories are implemented for the production and testing of energy, food and things.

OUTREACH

through lectures, publications, exhibitions and competitions. Thanks to initiatives like the **IAAC Lecture Series**, or the **Advanced Architecture Contest**, IAAC promotes its values within the discussion about architecture, cities, society and technology, nowadays facing worldwide challenges.



1.1 WHAT IS IAAC?

1.1.1 HOW IS IAAC ORGANISED?

The Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia is a **private nonprofit foundation**, with **17 years of activity**, organised in four departments, all of them dedicated to research, education, production and outreach, with the mission of imagining the future habitat of our society and building it in the present.

These departments are:

- The **Advanced Architecture Group**, directed by **Areti Markopoulou**
- The **Fab City Research Laboratory**, directed by **Tomás Diez**
- The **Urban Sciences Lab**, directed by **Willy Müller**
- The **Valldaura Labs**, directed by **Vicente Gullart**

All IAAC departments encourage innovation and human habitat construction, contributing to a working environment based on the following approaches:

- **Education** through academic programmes for graduate students and international faculty and students, continuous education programmes in design, interaction, architecture, urbanism and landscape.
- **Research** by developing projects to expand the boundaries of architecture, in collaboration with experts from multiple disciplines.
- **The development of innovation projects** with companies and institutions that define role models, responding to global realities.
- **The promotion of projects and innovative solutions** through publications, public conferences, exhibitions and competitions to connect the IAAC's community to the worldwide specialist and general public.

IAAC sets out to take Research and Development (R+D) to architecture and urbanism and create multidisciplinary knowledge networks. To this end, the institute works in collaboration with several cities and regions, industrial groups and research centres, including the **City Council of Barcelona**, the **Collserola Natural Park**, the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, the **Centre for Information Technology and Architecture (CITA)**, **Fab Foundation**, **Sonar**, the **Southern California Institute of Architecture (Sci-Arc)**, the **Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)**, the **School of International Studies (ESCI-UPF)** as well as diverse companies among which **CISCO**, **ENDESA**, **TECNALIA**, **ACCIONA**, **SONY**, **ABB**, **CRICURSA** and many others.

Together with these, the Institute develops various research programmes and projects bringing together experts in different disciplines such as architecture, engineering, biology, sociology, anthropology and other fields of investigation.



1.1 WHAT IS IAAC?

1.1.2 IAAC 22@ CAMPUS

The Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia is located in the Poblenou neighbourhood of Barcelona, in the recently created district known as 22@, a focus for companies and institutions oriented toward the knowledge society. The neighbourhood is close to the historical centre, the sea-front, the Plaça de les Glòries Catalanes and the Sagrera APT station, making it the most dynamic enclave in the city.

IAAC is housed in two historical factory buildings, with a 4.000 m² space for research, production and dissemination of architecture, so that the space itself is a declaration of principles, embodying an experimental and productive approach to architecture.

The building in Pujades 102 is the place where you can find the offices (open from Monday to Friday, from 9 to 18), the Design Studios and Classrooms, the Auditorium (home of the IAAC Lectures Series) and the Fab Lab Barcelona (an architecture and design oriented fabrication laboratory which is part of the global network of Fab Labs set up by The Center for Bits and Atoms at MIT).



At **IAAC Atelier**, the other building in Pujades 59, you can find more Design Studios and Classrooms, the VR room and more working spaces regarding to the Fab Lab Barcelona. In the IAAC Atelier you can find the Master Lab, an equipped laboratory for digital fabrication totally devoted to help the students in the realisation of their prototypes.

Depending on where you are staying, you can get there by metro (L4 Line, stop at BOGATELL station); by bus (B20, B25, H14 or H16), by taxi, by bike or walking.



1.1.3 IAAC VALLDAURA CAMPUS

Valldaura is IAAC's countryside campus located in the Collserola Park, the natural centre of the metropolitan area of Barcelona. Valldaura campus is a large park and testing ground for innovation that features the latest technologies in the fields of energy, information and fabrication.

The core of this innovative project developed by IAAC is a laboratory to implement investigation and set a new benchmark for self-sufficiency. Its aim is to create a sustainable, consciously designed ecology using both cutting edge technology and traditional craftsmanship.

The Valldaura Self Sufficient labs and its three laboratories (Food Lab, Energy Lab and Green Fab Lab) allow to research the production specificities of key elements involved in self-sufficiency: food, energy and things, combining ancestral knowledge that connects us to nature with the latest advanced technology.

The Green Fab Lab, hosted in IAAC's forest campus in the Valldaura Labs, is also part of the Fab Lab Network, a fabrication laboratory this time oriented towards self-sufficient and productive solutions.

Valldaura is the place where students have their workshops related to nature and where most of the Master in Advanced Ecological Buildings (MAEB) takes place. Valldaura also hosts the Graduation Ceremony and party that takes place at the end of the Master programmes.

The easiest way to get there is by taxi. But if you feel like walking a bit, you can take the metro line L3 to Mundet or Valldaura and enjoy a walk surrounded by nature till there (it's gonna take around 30 minutes). Don't forget to bring comfortable shoes!



BEFORE LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY

Before leaving your country make sure to have all the papers you need to enter the country! That means your VISA, if you are not a EU student, your Medical Insurance, and the application requirements.

2.1 VISA

Non-European students accepted to the programme are advised to contact the nearest Spanish embassy to start the Visa procedure.

Be aware! that the application procedure for a Student Visa can take months. Each embassy will provide, according the country of residence, the list of requirements you need to obtain your Visa. They will probably give you the visa for 3 months, **but don't panic!** that it's ok.

Later, when you arrive to Barcelona and start your studies, you **would have** to obtain your NIE, that is your ID number while you are in Spain; with that you would extend your permission to stay here!

2.2 MEDICAL INSURANCE

Participants are responsible for their own health insurance and other personal insurance.

It is mandatory to acquire a Medical Insurance to cover your stay here in Barcelona. The Catalan Public Health system does not cover students, and will charge you for any visit or consultation.

You will need an European Health Card or a private health insurance that covers all risks in Spain during your studies.

Once you get to Barcelona you should contact your health insurer to make sure what places you can go in case of any emergency.



2.3 ONCE YOU ARE AN ENROLLED STUDENT

Make sure to be in contact with the person in charge of applications to ask any doubt about the documents you have to submit before starting the course.

Please, check [here](#) or go to [iaac.net](#) and read the procedure for legalizing and translating your degree, as this will be needed in order to be able to issue your diploma after the completion of your studies at IAAC.

If you didn't send these documents at the moment of your application, please remember to submit the following documents through this [form](#) before the 1st of November of each academic year:

1 / Both sides of your **legalised Bachelor's Degree** (if you haven't received your Bachelors Diploma yet, you can submit an official statement issued by your university certifying that you're currently studying your last year) in PDF format.

2 / For degrees in languages other than Spanish: a **sworn translation** of your legalised **Bachelor's Degree** in PDF format.

If you have any questions or doubts with regards to the application process, please feel free to contact us at applications@iaac.net.



ACCOMMODATION

IAAC does not provide accommodation for students. It's recommended to book it before arriving to ensure that you will find a good place for living. If you intend to look for accommodation upon arrival in Barcelona, you should book a hotel, hostel or Airbnb well in advance.

We also recommend you to get in touch with your future classmates to book an apartment in a group or to get some recommendations through a Facebook group we open every year for enrolled students.

You can find below useful addresses and contact information.

The monthly average for the rent of a room or an apartment can be listed as follows:*

- Shared flats: €350 - €600 /room
- Residence halls: €380 - €900/room
- Apartments €850 - €1200

Master in Advanced Ecological Buildings students will have the accommodation option at IAAC Valldaura Labs campus. The centre has two accommodation options for a total of 23 students: shared room between two with individual shower and toilet for 350 €/month per person (10 beds) and an attic with shared rooms and bathrooms for 250 €/month - (13 beds).*

The distance from the closest metro station (Mundet or Valldaura) to Valldaura Labs is 10 minutes by car, taxi or motorbike, 25 minutes by bike and 45 minutes walking.

*These prices don't include utility bills (water, electricity).

3.1 PAGES WHERE TO FIND AN APARTMENT// ROOM

If you are looking for an apartment on your own try these options that offer the coolest places in town.

*Craigslist
<https://barcelona.craigslist.es>

*Idealista.
<https://www.idealista.com/en/alquiler-viviendas/barcelona-barcelona/>

*Fotocasa
<https://www.fotocasa.es/es/alquiler/casas/barcelona-capital/>

*Airbnb
<https://it.airbnb.com/>

3.2 RESIDENCES

On the other hand, you can choose to live with more people and exchange cultural and social experiences in art or student residences. Here is a selection for you!

*Cacis / Residencia. /Residencia de Arte en las afueras de la ciudad.
http://www.cacis.cat/indexcast_web_files/residencia.html

*P 52. (Art Residence)
<http://studiop52.com>

*Hangar (art Residence)
<https://hangar.org/es/residencia/>

*Redpoint (art Residence)
<http://www.barcelonaarte.com>

*Espronceda
<http://www.espronceda.net/es/la-residencia/>

*Unihabit (art Residence)
<http://www.unihabit.com/alojamiento/barcelona-ciutat-vella/>

*Homesession (art Residence)
<http://www.homesession.org/wordpress/international-artist-in-residence-programme/>

*ResaHousing. (student residence)
<http://www.resahousing.com>

*Barcelona Resident
<http://www.barcelonaresident.cat>

*Residencia La Ciudadella
<https://www.resa.es/es/residencias/barcelona/residencia-universitaria-la-ciudadella/residencia/>

*This is only a reference list, IAAC is not responsible for any issue related to accommodation of the students.



ARRIVING IN BARCELONA

We are now closer to enjoying the city!

Before, you have to pay attention to this useful information about the NIE: an important document you have to do in the city council to live here in Barcelona.

4.1 NIE

4.1.1 WHAT ARE THE NIE AND THE TIE?

Foreign identification number (NIE) and foreign identification card (TIE)

The NIE is the unique and exclusive personal identity number granted to foreigners to proceed with their identification and can be requested for economic, professional or social reasons, granting all foreigners who remain or reside in Spain.

If you are from a European Union member state you are entitled to free movement and residence in Spain. However, all EU citizens residing in Spain for a period exceeding three months must apply for registration in the Central Registry of Foreigners. This registration leads to a certificate of registration that is issued and includes a NIE number.

For citizens of the EU:

Citizens of the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland, whether they are self-employed workers or employees, students, pensioners or family members (spouse, ascendant or descendant), may reside in Spain without a special permit. Likewise, when the residence period is longer than three months, they are obliged to personally request, before the Foreigners Office of Barcelona, the inscription in the Central Registry of Foreigners. They will immediately issue a certificate of registration, which will include the name, nationality, address, NIE and the date of registration.

For citizens of other countries:

Citizens of countries that are not part of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland need a specific authorisation if they want to work or reside in Spain for more than three months.

These citizens must obtain the Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) that certifies the legal residence status, when they got the NIE number.

The Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) is the physical document that contains the identification data, the photography and the NIE number as well as the type of authorization to stay or reside in Spain. This condition of residence or stay, accredits the legal permanence in the country and, according to the type of residence, it will allow to work or not.

4.1.2 HOW TO OBTAIN MY NIE?*

1 - Take your empadronamiento

The Empadronamiento is the legal procedure to register yourself in the census register of the city where you are living in. You have to do this procedure after finding your definitive accommodation and before going to your appointment for cita previa.

To do it, you have to attend to the sub-office of the City Hall located in your district/neighbourhood, "Oficina d'Atenció al Ciutadà". You can check the list of offices and Opening Times through this link: <http://www.bcn.cat/sac/canals-cas.html>

You have to prepare all the papers in advance.

You will need:

- Valid Passport or identity card from your origin country (original one and photocopy)
- Document related with the address (where the person wants to be registered in). You can present one of the following items:

- Private contract of rent of the flat, between the owner of the flat and yourself (this contract has to be for at least 6 months, or for less than 6 months but indicating the possibility of an extension). You will also have to provide a photocopy of the ID card with the signature of this person.

- Authorisation from a person over 18 years old and already registered in the address you want to be registered. You will also have to provide a photocopy of the ID card with the signature of this person.

- In case that your accommodation is in a residence or hotel, you have to present an authorisation, duly signed and stamped by a representative of the company. The document has to include the name and the "CIF" of the company.

NOTE: There are others documents that are accepted, but these are usually the main ones. Please check with the corresponding town hall office which would be valid in your case, as from one office to another there could be slight differences.

2 - You have to make an appointment (Cita Previa)

The procedure must be done through the "Cita Previa" method: this means that you must ask for an appointment through the website <https://sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es/icplusplus/>. It can be a bit of a nightmare trying to get an appointment in the first place so we highly recommend you to book an appointment as soon as possible – sometimes it can take up to 3 months to get one.

You have to make an appointment online before going in person; otherwise you will not be served. To do that, go to the link below and press **"Acceder al Procedimiento"** at the bottom.

1. Go to the link: <https://sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es/icplusplus/>
2. In the next page... In **"Provincias disponibles"** select: *Barcelona*.
3. In **"Tramites disponibles para la provincia seleccionada"** select: **"Expedicion de tarjeta de identidad de extranjero (huella) (the third option)"** or "Certificados UE". Select: **"Aceptar"**.
4. Select: **"Entrar"**
5. In the next page you have to Fill in your information.
6. Choose PASAPORTE and enter your passport number below.

7. *Nombre y apellidos*= name and surname.
8. *País de nacionalidad*= your nationality.
9. In *Caracteres* enter what you see on the picture above.
10. Select: **"Aceptar"**.
11. Select on **"Solicitar Cita"** ("Ask for an appointment").
12. Select an office inside Barcelona depending on your location.
13. Select: **"Siguiente"**.
14. Fill in your telephone, e-mail and repeat your e mail. Select **"Siguiente"**.
15. Choose and appointment among the three possible choices (you have to choose one of the three appointments that are offered). Select **"Siguiente"**.
16. Tick the two check box ("I confirm that the information showed above is right" and "I want to receive an e-mail confirming the appointment"). Select **"Confirmar"**.

You **MUST** bring your printed appointment confirmation with you on that day.

3 - Fill the forms

EU citizens: the Spanish NIE number application form you need to fill out is called *"EX - 18 Solicitud de inscripción en el Registro Central de Extranjeros, Residencia Ciudadano de la UE"*

LINK: <http://www.ub.edu/uri/Documents/ex18.pdf>

Non-EU citizens: you need the form *"EX-15 Solicitud de Número de Identidad de Extranjero (NIE) y Certificados"*

LINK: https://www.citizensadvice.org.es/wp-content/uploads/15-Formulario_NIE_y_certificados_imprimible.pdf

Both forms are in Spanish, but don't panic!

*This is only an schematic procedure, IAAC is not responsible for any issue related to Foreigner Identity of students. Check the website of the Ajuntamiento to look for updates related to the procedures.

4 - Prepare all the necessary documents

Once you have the appointment and you have filled the forms, you have to prepare all the papers in advance in order to check them and have the time to make changes or get what you need.

You will need:

For EU citizens:

- Application form (EX-18 model): the original one and a photocopy.
- Valid Passport or identity card from your origin country (original one and photocopy)
- Your census register: "Empadronamiento" – you will need to go to the town hall and register yourself as living in the area. The original one and a photocopy. You can find more information below.
- Proof of health insurance – this can be private health insurance or an EHIC card. This should cover all the risks in Spain during your studies (original and copy). If you take a private health insurance policy issued in your origin country, it must be translated into Spanish by an Official Translator.
- Document* proving why you need a Spanish NIE number, in this case it is the **registration in IAAC + certificate of Enrollment**. (original and photocopy)
- The receipt of NIE fee paid (check the update price in the web).

* Any documents **must be** translated into Spanish or Catalán (unless they are official EU documents) and you must bring the original.

For NON-EU citizens:

- Valid Passport or identity card from your origin country (original one and photocopy)
- Application form (EX-18 model): the original one and a photocopy.
- Your census register: "Empadronamiento" – you will need to go to the town hall and register yourself as living in the area. The original one and a photocopy. You can find more information below.
- Non-EU citizens will need the additional proof of legal entry into Spain (for instance a landing card, known in Spanish as "declaración de entrada")
- Proof of health insurance – this can be private health insurance or an EHIC card. This should cover all the risks in Spain during your studies (original and copy). If you take a private health insurance policy issued in your origin country, it must be translated into Spanish by an Official Translator.
- Two passport size photos.
- Document* proving why you need a Spanish NIE number, in this case it is the **acceptance letter from IAAC** plus proof of payment the fee.
- The receipt of NIE fee paid (check the update price in the web).

*Any documents **must be** translated into Spanish or Catalán (unless they are official EU documents) and you must bring the original.

5 - Go to your appointment

Once you have everything checked and your appointment day has arrived, you have to go to the address of your appointment. It's recommended for you to arrive at least 20 minutes before, just in case. After you have had the interview and once you have been accepted, they will give you a paper with the dates and procedures to pick up TIE/NIE when it will be done (this should be between 2 or 3 months).

READ instructions carefully for getting your TIE/NIE because some places have strict rules about turns and hours of picking.

4.2 BANK ACCOUNT

Opening a bank account is not essential but perhaps useful during your stay.

Choosing the right bank is certainly not an easy task. There are many factors that affect when taking a decision regarding a bank account opening in Spain such as the DNI, the NIE/TIE, and even the expected commissions.

Some banks allow foreigners to open a bank account as "non-residents", without needing the NIE/TIE. You only have to present your identification document and/or passport. The only difference is in the management costs, which are a little higher.

On the other hand, most banks ask only for a passport or identity document; others ask for another type of documentation as a cover letter sent by the authorities of your country of origin or a justification of non-resident status every two years.

For some banks, the accounts of non residents could be available only for six months.

In order to choose your bank you should verify and look for it in the official pages of the banks, in order to find the most suitable for your needs.

LIVING IN BARCELONA



LIVING IN BARCELONA

After all this protocol, now it's time to enjoy Barcelona. In this section there is a summary (otherwise this handbook will be infinite) of ways of transport, neighbourhoods and things to do.

5.1 WAYS OF TRANSPORT

In general, it's incredibly easy to move around Barcelona: it's a big city but everything feels close.

If you like to ride a **bike**, you can buy your own bicycle and enjoy the city by bike. Otherwise when you got your **NIE/TIE**, you can also access to the "**bicing**" service that the city provides. **Bicing** is an urban transport based on bicycle sharing. A simple, practical and sustainable service that you can use in your journeys around the city. To go wherever you want and whenever you want. You can take the bicycle from any of the stations, use it during the journey and return it at the closest station to your destination.

This system works very well and has a price of €47,16 for year approximately, plus the hours of use. Nevertheless the prices change every year so you can check the uploads in the web page!



You can check the bicing web here: <https://www.bicing.cat/es/>

Also travelling by **metro** is very simple and comfortable. The metro of Barcelona is the second biggest in Spain. It has 8 lines, 156 stations and more than 140 trains operating at rush hour every working day. Each of the lines is identified by a number behind the letter L and a color. Each travel costs €2,20 approximately, but you can also take special tickets with discounts if you are planning to use it many times per month. It's **important** for you to know that the same ticket works also for the bus. This is a reference price, but you should look for the updates at the web page.

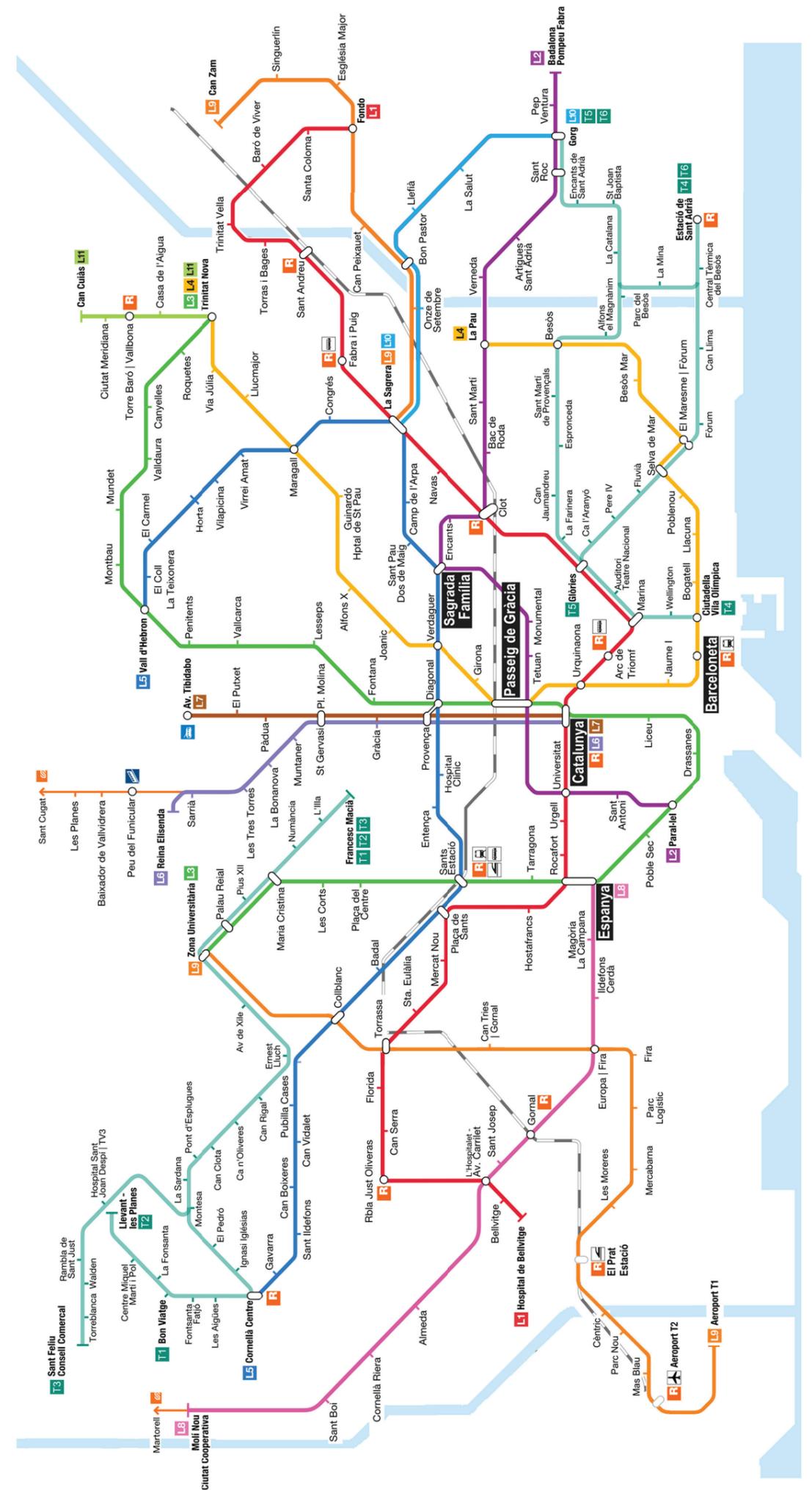
Bus network also works very well: many bus routes originate in or pass through Plaça Catalunya, Plaça Universitat and Plaça Urquinaona. However, they often run along parallel streets, due to the city's one-way system.



You can find timetables, maps, prices and all related to the transport here:

<http://www.tram.cat/en/tickets-and-fares/tickets-to-travel/all-tickets/>

<https://www.tmb.cat/es/transporte-barcelona/mapa/bus>



5.2 NEIGHBOURHOODS

Barcelona has a wide range of neighbourhoods: each one is special and different, having its own personality. The most known are **Poblenou, Gràcia, El Born, Gòtic, El Raval and Eixample**.

POBLENOU

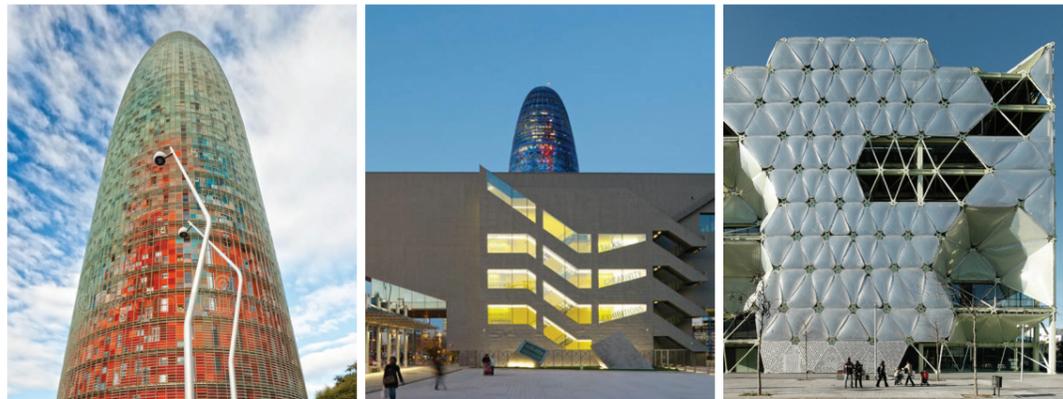
20 minutes walking from Born and close to the beach, it is the neighbourhood where IAAC is located. It's industrial, popular, full of creativity, design studios and art galleries. Poblenou is an area which has grown a lot in recent years as a part of the 22@ urban renewal programme, that aims to convert Poblenou into the technological and innovation district, as well as to increase leisure and residential spaces.

In recent years, a series of creative hubs have found their home in **Poblenou**: cultural and commercial spaces that offer similar innovative proposals, becoming part of the neighbourhood's future without giving up its industrial past. To the mission of the neighbourhood's normalization, the work of the entrepreneurs has been added, raising the area's value and adding it to the map of alternative cultural circuits.

Poblenou has its own Rambla that remains authentic, so you can find that there is a kind of mixture, which makes the neighbourhood multicultural. The architecture looks futuristic for a neighbourhood that is built little by little, keeping its soul with other classic buildings.

Do not miss:

- Torre Agbar: located at the confluence of Avinguda Diagonal and Carrer de Badajoz next to the Plaça de les Glòries Catalanes and marking the entrance to the technological district of Barcelona known as 22@. This building has become a symbol of Barcelona: it has 34 floors above the surface plus four underground floors for a total of 145 meters in height. It was built by Jean Nouvel and Fermín Vazquez Huarte-Medioca, inspired by the original Gaudí work.
- Disseny Hub: the Museu del Disseny de Barcelona is a new centre of Barcelona's Institute of Culture, which works to promote better understanding and good use of the design world, acting as a museum and a laboratory. It was designed by MBM architecture firm, formed by Oriol Martorell, Oriol Bohigas and David Mackay.
- Districte 22@: this area reflects the future of the district with its old warehouses transformed into modern offices. New buildings have emerged, such as the Media-Tic by Enric Ruiz-Geli.
- Museu de la Música: this museum shows the evolution of music with more than 500 instruments (Carrer de Lepant 150).



GRÀCIA

10 minutes walking from the famous street "Passeig de Gràcia" and bordered by the district of Eixample, Gràcia is a vibrant neighbourhood which reflects the Catalan life and the young spirit life of students.

Gràcia has a lot of cultural life, from buildings and streets to squares; many things in Gràcia are on a smaller scale than those in the centre of town. It is said that Gràcia is self-sufficient, which means once you stay here, you don't need to leave because the area has everything you want: great bars, cafes, lovely restaurants, fashion stores and art galleries.

Do not miss:

- Plaça de la Vila de Gràcia: with its Relotge tower, this square is one of the most charming places in the neighbourhood.
- Casa Vicens: a modernist building located in Barcelona, on Carrer de les Carolines 18-24. Work of Antoni Gaudí, it was the first important project of the architect after his degree as an architect in 1878. It was built between 1883 and 1888. On the date the building was built, Gràcia was still an urban nucleus, independent of Barcelona and possessor of its own Town Hall, with the category of a town although at the moment it is a district within the city.



EL BORN

In the heart of Barcelona, it is one of the most popular and antique neighbourhoods of Barcelona. **El Born** sports an artistic edge with ties to a noble past. Once a seaside property for the medieval aristocracy, this neighbourhood now hosts a thriving creative community. Dozens of small museums and galleries complement revered attractions like Museu Picasso. Between narrow streets you will find a lot of shops, restaurants and historical points. It's very well communicated and located in the historical centre of the city, so it is easy to move walking.

Do not miss:

- Palau de la Música Catalana: the concert hall, built between 1905 and 1908, is the work of the modernist Lluís Domènech i Montaner. It's known for its original architecture (Carrer de Sant Pere Més Alt).
- Mercat de Santa Caterina: this market, inaugurated in 1848, was the first covered market in Barcelona. Recently renovated thanks to a project by Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue, it is today characterized by its colourful and wavy roof (Avinguda de Francesc Comió, 16).
- Parc de la Ciutadella: this park is the largest in Barcelona, created for the universal exhibition of 1888 to replace the citadel built by Philip V. It is a beautiful place to walk, with many activities inside, such as the zoo or the Museu de Geologia y Ciencias Naturales (Arc de Triomf).
- El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria: this cultural space with museum exhibits the ruins of the La Ribera neighbourhood in a restored market of the 17th century XIX.
- Fundació Foto Colectania: this center has a photography collection that brings together more than 3.000 works by Spanish and Portuguese authors from 1950 to the present (Carrer de Julià Romea 6).



GÒTIC

The narrow and labyrinthine medieval streets of the **Gòtic** quarter of Barcelona reveal the glorious past of the city. The imposing Cathedral is in the heart of the neighbourhood, parallel to the important Via Laietana, and it is surrounded by important buildings that shape the neighbourhood with a truly gothic aura.

This neighbourhood also hosts different shops, restaurants, from many styles. From designer fashion to souvenirs shops you can find the urban variety that characterises Barcelona.

Do not miss:

- Catedral de la Santa Creu i Santa Eulàlia: also known as the Seu, the Cathedral of Barcelona is a famous example of Catalan gothic architecture dating from the fourteenth century.
- Plaça de Sant Jaume: political center of Barcelona, it is the place where the City Hall (Ajuntament) and the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya are located.
- Carrer del Bisbe: pleasant pedestrian street that joins the Plaça de Sant Jaume with the Cathedral.
- Plaça Reial: located next to Les Rambles, this surprising neoclassical square is one of the most pleasant and lively in the area.



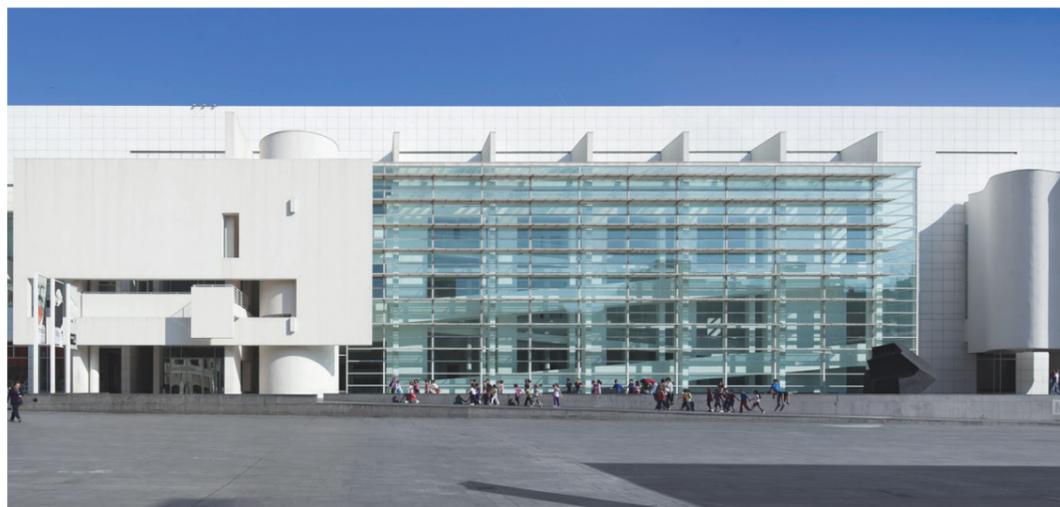
EL RAVAL

Local alleys, green spaces and kilometric interior markets converge in the old town.

El Raval is on the other side of the touristic Les Rambles and the El Gòtic neighbourhood. Its attractive combination of avant-garde art, indomitable atmosphere and street life attract cosmopolitans, both visiting and living here. In the past it was famous for its decadent night scene but now it is an important cultural space of the city, where its old cabarets have become museums. The mood of this neighbourhood continues to transform but without losing its rebellious essence that its inhabitants celebrate. In addition, it is the centre of two of the most important contemporary spaces in Barcelona: MACBA (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona) and CCCB (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona). Both places, besides being known for their exhibitions, are emblematic for youth meeting and cultural events and happenings.

Do not miss:

- The Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona in Catalan), also known by its acronym MACBA: it is dedicated to the exhibition of works made during the second half of the 20th century. The main building of the MACBA, with 14.300 useful m², is the work of the American architect Richard Meier.
- The FilMOTECA de Catalunya: it is a cultural institution managed by the Department of Culture of the Generalitat of Catalonia, which since 1981 has been dedicated to the preservation of film material and the diffusion of the cinematographic culture.



EIXAMPLE

Eixample is famous for being one of the most dynamic districts of Barcelona. Three of the most important roads in Barcelona pass through it: Passeig de Gràcia, Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes and Avinguda Diagonal. In addition, it hosts many of the most important attractions of the city such as the Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló and La Pedrera. It is the district of the main promenades, of the most emblematic buildings and of the modernism route with the Golden Square (Quadrat d'or) as the epicenter. At the same time it is a residential and quiet district, with hidden gardens in island's interiors, schools, squares and bars, where daily life goes by with a pleasant routine. Thanks to its configuration, it is possible to find restaurants, bars, supermarkets or any type of trade in the same block.

Do not miss:

- Basílica de la Sagrada Família: it is a catholic basilica, designed by the architect Antoni Gaudí. Started in 1882, it is still under construction. It is the masterpiece of Gaudí, and the greatest exponent of Catalan modernist architecture.
- Casa Batlló: it is a building designed by the architect Antoni Gaudí. It is a complete remodeling of a previously existing building on site: the work of Emilio Sala Cortés.
- Arc de Triomf: it is a monument located at the confluence of the Passeig de Lluís Companys, the Passeig de Sant Joan and the Ronda de Sant Pere. It was designed by the architect José Vilaseca as the main entrance to the Universal Exhibition of Barcelona in 1888. Unlike other arcs of triumph of marked military character, the Arc de Triomf of Barcelona has a greater civil component, characterized by artistic, scientific and economic progress.





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