

BARCELONA

Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain in both size and population. It is also the capital of Catalonia. Site of the 1992 Olympics, Barcelona underwent a thorough facelift, with the result that it is today an elegant and harmonious city, waiting to be enjoyed to the maximum. Barcelona is famous for its excellent Romanesque art; and of course it contains the most famous examples of works of architect Antonio Gaudí.



TRANSPORTATION

Metro; the city has five different subway lines. Tickets may be purchased at the metro stations or in the offices of savings banks *Caja de Ahorro* or *Caixa de'Estalvis*. Buses; the majority of the bus lines run between 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. The T-1 ticket can be used for either the Metro or the bus.



BANKS & CURRENCY

Spain's currency is the Euro. Coins in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents and 1 & 2 Euros. Bank notes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 & 500 Euros are legal tender. A good number of hotels and travel agencies will change currency. Banking hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and until 12:30 p.m.



POSTAGE

Airmail letters to the United States cost approximately one Euro up to 15 grams.

Postcards are charged the same rate as letters. Stamps can be bought at post offices and government-run tobacco shops. Mailboxes are yellow with red stripes and the slot marked **EXTRANJERO** is for mail going abroad.



TELEPHONES

Public telephones operate with coins or telephone cards, purchased at local tobacconist shops or post offices.

Emergency medical: tel. 061

City police: tel. 092



SHOPPING

There are no special handicrafts associated with Barcelona, but you will have no trouble finding typical Spanish goods anywhere in town. For typical Spanish-style shops, explore the area between *Ramblas* and *Via Laietana*, especially around *Carrer Ferran*. There is an artists' market held on Saturday mornings in the *Placeta del Pi* just off the *Rambla* and *Boquería*. The *Centre d' Antiquaris* has some 75 antiques stores.



EATING

Catalan cuisine can not be summarized with a few local dishes. It ranges from varied seafood dishes to fowl and game as well as snails and mushrooms. The most typical dessert are *crema catalana* (custard with a caramel crust) and *mel i mató* (cottage cheese with honey).



PARKS AND GARDENS

Guëll Park, designed by Antonio Gaudí, is the most famous park in Barcelona. The main entrance to the park and the stairway leading to the *Hundred Columns Room* are structures where Gaudí clearly let his imagination run free. *Labyrinth Park* was built in 1791 on different levels with stairways, pavilions and richly ornamented railings. *Cervantes gardens* boasts over 240 varieties of roses. *Citadel park* is the largest park in the city. A romantic garden bordered by two tree-lined paths, the enormous "cascade" fountain and a lake can be found on the grounds. There are several museums within the park, including Barcelona's zoo. *Guinardó Park* clearly resembles a forest and has intricate topography.



NIGHTLIFE

In the area of *Av. del Tibidabaco*, there are several musical and dance spots in a more relaxed environment which are very popular in the summer. The *Gràcia* district has a myriad of small night spots with lots of personality and a good number of outdoor cafés in the squares.