

Touring with G.E.T.

Barcelona

Barcelona is the capital city of the autonomous community of Catalonia in Spain. It is Spain's 2nd most populated city (behind Madrid) with a population of 1.6 million and with its urban area; it is around 4.7 million people. It is the 6th most populous urban area in the European Union after Paris, London, Madrid, the Ruhr area (Germany) and Milan. After the death in 1977 of the cruel dictator, Francisco Franco, it resulted in the restoration of Catalan autonomy.



Weather:

The climate is mild year round. While we are there, it will be about 75 degrees. This is pleasant weather and we will be able to walk around comfortably.

Hotel:

We will spend the first 3 nights at the Barcelona Hilton. This is a 4 star hotel (Trip Advisor) or a 5 Star per Hilton®. There are 289 rooms. If you are interested, you can upgrade to a Jr Suite, Suite and/or the Executive Level for continental breakfast, evening snacks and drinks. Let me know if you want me to get a price for you. I would only suggest an upgrade for the hotels that we are staying at least 2 nights. Since we are staying 3 nights at the Hilton, this would be a good hotel for upgrades, but only if you desire. However, an upgrade would be simply because 'you' want to do that (I ain't mad at you®). The breakfast buffet is included and I understand that it is has a good variety of food and great service.

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Dining:

Spaniards are notorious for eating late. Even when dining at home, the typical Spanish family doesn't eat dinner until around 9 or 10pm- or sometimes even later! The main reason is that for most people in Spain, lunch is eaten between 1:30 and 4pm- it is the most substantial meal of the day. It makes sense then that they are not hungry until later. Most restaurants don't start serving dinner until around 9pm. This is why walking from one Tapas bar to another is a popular way to eat at night (just grazing). Tapas originated in Spain and consist of a variety of appetizers, or snacks. They may be cold or hot. In Spain, you can order many different Tapas and combine them to make a meal. More on this as time gets closer.



Night Life:

Barcelona is a city that never sleeps. The Spanish eat late, drink late and go out very late. During the weekends, the nightclubs are pretty much empty until at least 1:00-2:00AM in the morning, and they go on until about 6:00. Now that's some serious partying ya'll.

Things to do:

Our tour of the city is included. If you wish to travel outside of the city, there are several points of interest. These 'optional tours' cost extra. You will be provided with a list of optional tours in March, so you can budget for those that interest you. Perhaps you would like to go to Montserrat to see the Black Madonna??

This is just some basic information about Barcelona. I hope that all of you will read and learn more before we go. Stay tune for the next city in the November Newsletter.

