

# BARCELONA - GRANADA - SEVILLA

Lindsey & Family,

Enclosed you will find travel research for three of the most beautiful cities in Spain, Barcelona, Granada, and Sevilla. The three cities are all full of rich culture, beautiful architecture, and amazing gastronomy. They each have unique characteristics that make them their own. This research was created to make your travel planning process SMPL, help you feel confident in your booking process, and insure you are ready for the trip of a lifetime. I have also included some insider tips to help you along the way. Happy planning!

-Madeline, Founder of Travel Made SMPL





# BARCELONA

MONTHS VISITING: APRIL - MAY 2024

## ACCOMODATIONS

Barcelona boasts a variety of captivating neighborhoods, each offering it's own unique charm and conveniences, here are my top recommendations:

**Barri Gòtic (Gothic Quarter)** - The heart of history, Barri Gòtic enchants with its medieval streets and a central location that's only a 20-minute walk away from numerous attractions.

**El Born** - Another medieval gem, El Born is a hub of cafes, bars, upscale boutiques, and just a 10-minute stroll from the beach. Perfect for those seeking to explore the city on foot and still enjoy quick access to the shoreline.

**Barceloneta** - Nestled next to the beach, Barceloneta provides a beachfront experience. While not centrally located, it's a prime choice if you're interested in beginning and ending your days by the water's edge.

**La Rambla/El Raval** - Offering another central option, La Rambla and El Raval buzz with pedestrians and are teeming with shops and restaurants. If you thrive in lively environments, this is the ideal setting for you.

**Gràcia** - A budget-friendly district situated north of the main attractions, Gràcia is well-connected by public transportation. Here, you'll find a more residential and relaxed ambiance.

My suggestion: I have visited Barcelona over 5 times and have stayed in various neighborhoods. My top choice for first time visitors is Barri Gòtic, and after that, El Born.

I recommend exploring options on platforms like Airbnb and Booking.com to discover the best combination of quality and price. Barcelona allows for some flexibility in accommodation choice, particularly for those mindful of their budget. Just ensure that your lodging provides excellent connectivity to public transportation if you decide on a location outside the city center.

## TOURS/EXCURSIONS

**Free Walking Tours** - Opting for a free walking tour is a smart move to acquaint yourself with the city's layout and gain insights from a local perspective. Online you will find a variety of options, with the concept of these tours being that you pay what you feel the experience was worth at the end of the tour.

**Food, Wine, and Tapas Tours** - A fun way to learn about the history of the city and meet new people is to go on a food tour. Spain's renowned tapas, small flavorful bites of diverse foods, are often accompanied by the country's exceptional wine and beer selection.

**Sagrada Familia** - Be sure to secure your tickets in advance on the Sagrada Familia official website, as this is one of the most popular tourist attractions! Guided tours are also available for those interested in learning more about the history behind the architectural masterpiece.

**Electric Bike Tours** - If walking the city isn't your preference, check out an electric bike tour. This mode of exploration enables you to cover more ground in a shorter span while soaking in the city's charm.

**Boat Day** - If the weather is ideal, spend a leisurely day on the water enjoying Barcelona's vistas from the comfort of a boat. Both small group and private boat tours can be conveniently booked online.

**Costa Brava Day Trip** - Just north of Barcelona lies the captivating Costa Brava, a scenic Spanish coastline comprising charming towns, breathtaking beaches, and stunning panoramas. Discover this gem through day tours from Barcelona or by renting a car to fully explore its wonders.

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## TRANSPORTATION

**Public Transportation** - Barcelona has a great public transportation system including the metro, tram, and buses. It is the quickest, most affordable, and sustainable way to get around the city. This network offers the quickest, most cost-effective, and eco-friendly means of transportation around the city. Navigating the public transportation is straightforward if you have prior experience with such systems and are familiar with Google Maps. Additionally, City Mapper is a great app that provides detailed, step-by-step transit guidance.

**Walking** - With careful planning and a central accommodation, much of the city can be explored on foot. It is not a huge city but covers a considerable area.

**Taxi/Uber** - Taxis often offer a quicker and marginally cheaper option than Uber or other ridesharing apps in Barcelona. The FreeNow app enables convenient taxi prebooking.

**Car Rental** - It is not necessary to rent a car in Barcelona if you plan to stay in the city center.

## SIGHTSEEING

**Picasso Museum** - An art museum housing extensive collection of Pablo Picasso.

**Las Ramblas** - Stroll down this 1 kilometer long street which has many outdoor markets and street performers.

**Mercat de la Boqueria** - A famous indoor market located at Las Ramblas which has lots of food, especially fruit!

**Barri Gotic (Gothic Quarters)** - This is the old Jewish Quarter, it is one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the city.

**Plaza Catalunya** - A famous plaza in the city center, filled with fountains, statues, restaurants, and stores. It is also known for the flocks of pigeons that gather there. People even feed them, there is normally food for sale if you want to partake!

**Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia** - 14th century Neo-Gothic Cathedral in the Gothic Quarters.

**Plaça Reial** - Royal Plaza in the Gothic Quarters which has an iconic fountain.

**Sagrada Familia** - designed by famous architect Gaudí, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a beautiful one of a kind masterpiece. It is beautiful from the outside, but also worth going in. There is mass held every Sunday free of charge, but seating is limited so you have to get there early.

**Casa Mila/La Pedrera** - Gaudí's most iconic and last work of civic architecture. You can appreciate the work from the outside, and also enter for a fee.

**Casa Balto** - Another iconic work of architecture made by Gaudí, you can stroll by and admire the outside and/or enter for a fee.

**Parc Güell** - Parc Güell is situated north of the city center. It is best reached by bus or taxi due to the steep path up to the park. It is a beautiful park filled with Gaudi's work, it also has a panoramic view of the city and great for photos. There is a fee to enter.

**Bunkers del Carmel** - Another area offering panoramic views of the city. The Spanish Civil War era bunkers are away from the city center.

**Arco de Triunfo de Barcelona** - A famous arch built by Joseph Vilaseca. It was the main entrance for the 1888 Barcelona World Fair.



## SIGHTSEEING CONTINUED

**Ciutadella Park** - After seeing the Arco de Triunfo, you can stroll through this famous park. For decades it was the only green space in the city after it was built in the mid-19th century.

**Barceloneta** - Barcelona's beach neighborhood, it is a great place to enjoy a drink watch the sunset. It is a bit further from the city center so it would be best to take public transportation if you don't want to walk a lot.

**Poble Espanyol (Spanish Village)** - A replica of a classic Spanish Village. It is an open air museum filled with shops and restaurants.

## RESTAURANTS

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**Miam** - breakfast, only about 6 tables so you have to make a reservation. Check out their insta, delicious food and in a great area if you want to go to Sagrada Familia before or after! @miam.bcn <https://goo.gl/maps/tn26VU3AzLqZ2ML5A>

**El Nacional** - Super cool place, different restaurants inside, the tapas place is the one I recommend <https://goo.gl/maps/Ca5KoQDYUdJiiX1SA>

**Mirandoalmar** - mediterranean seafood with great harbor views <https://goo.gl/maps/SXu1XukdtZT8xSMk7>

**Maná 75 degrees** - Paella and local Catalan dishes with a great ambiance. <https://goo.gl/maps/J9Uw434dkwG2YhBHA>

**Oaxaca Cuina Mexicana** - best mexican restaurant <https://goo.gl/maps/MrnY6VZQB5V5Y6kEA>

**7 Portes** - Well known paella and Catalan restaurant. <https://goo.gl/maps/rFTLKazf7LyQGosp7>

**Mirablau** - Go for dinner to enjoy tapas, wine, and the mountain views. It is open late and turns into a bar with dance music and club vibes at night. <https://goo.gl/maps/ZqfCv7fAcNW6Mq8k6>

### BARS

**Bobby Gin** - Offers house-infused fin and specialty gin & tonic cocktails in a sophisticated pub ambiance. <https://goo.gl/maps/umv5dueZuKEdAX24A>

**Dr. Stravinsky** - Upscale cocktail bar with innovative drinks <https://goo.gl/maps/GuZZ5ZNRyD58N4Qg5>

**El Bosc de Les Fades** - Well known among tourists, but the atmosphere does not disappoint. <https://goo.gl/maps/VMrBz1ZdaFEyu5WA7>

**L'Ovella Negra Ramblas** - A casual bar with small bites and a fun atmosphere, often full of people. <https://goo.gl/maps/siS5DjSCyxmSSU5K6>

**Paradiso Barcelona** - Great cocktails with classic bar bites, dimly lit setting. <https://goo.gl/maps/bMrRNxEzH8fCJEWA8>



# GRANADA

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For the purpose of this sample piece, I am only including travel research for 1 of the 3 cities in this research package. Please contact me for any questions regarding my services. Thank you for your interest in Travel Made SMPL!



# SEVILLA

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## INSIDER TIPS

**Currency:** Spain uses the euro, international credit cards are widely accepted, but it is always nice to have cash on you. ATMs are available throughout the city center.

**Tipping etiquette:** It is not necessary to tip in Spain, but people sometimes leave a small tip to show their appreciation for the service. Check out [this article](#) by Becca Blonde, on afar.com for a more comprehensive explanation of this matter.

**Safety:** Spain is an overall safe country with a low crime rate. The biggest concern for tourists is pickpocketing. Larger cities that are known to have more tourists, like Barcelona, tend to have higher rates of pickpocketing and theft. It is best to carry a purse or backpack that has zippers and to keep valuables in areas that are not easily accessible (i.e. the bottom of the bag/purse). Some people also use fanny packs or cross bodies so that their phones and valuables are closer to their body if

**Outlets/Converters:** Spain uses Plug types C and F. The country operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. Be sure to bring a travel adaptor so that you can charge and use your electronics as needed. Here is [an article](#) explaining the matter further

**Other:** Flamenco shows are common throughout Spain, hold-off on the salesmen who may try to entice you into a flamenco show in Barcelona. I suggest you go to one in Seville, the birthplace of flamenco for a more authentic experience.

## TRANSPORTATION CITY-TO-CITY

**BARCELONA to GRANADA:** The quickest and cheapest way to travel from Barcelona to Granada is by plane. There is a 1 hour and 35 minute direct flight. A second option is to take a direct Renfe AVE high-speed train, which takes approximately 6 hours and 51 minutes.

**GRANADA to SEVILLA:** The quickest and most convenient way to travel from Granada to Sevilla is buy high-speed train, It takes approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes by direct train. One other option is to rent a car and drive 153 miles, which takes approximately 2 hours and 32 minutes. A bus takes 4 hours and 30 minutes, A rideshare service like [BlaBlaCar](#) takes about 3 hours (subject to availability).



THANKS FOR CHOOSING



HAVE AN AWESOME TRIP!