



BARCELONA

SPAIN

Barcelona is the most important city of Catalonia as well as being the administrative capital. With a population of approximately 3 million, it is the second largest city in Spain and the largest on the Mediterranean coast. Nestled between the Pyrenees and the Mediterranean, Barcelona enjoys a mild sunny climate. It's a bustling city, an important sea port and center of commerce.

The people are lively and active, immensely proud of their Catalonian culture, as seen by the use of their own Catalonian language in books, newspapers, television and radio programs.

Barcelona was the host of the 1992 Olympics which helped to rejuvenate some areas of the City, improving the roads and tourist facilities.



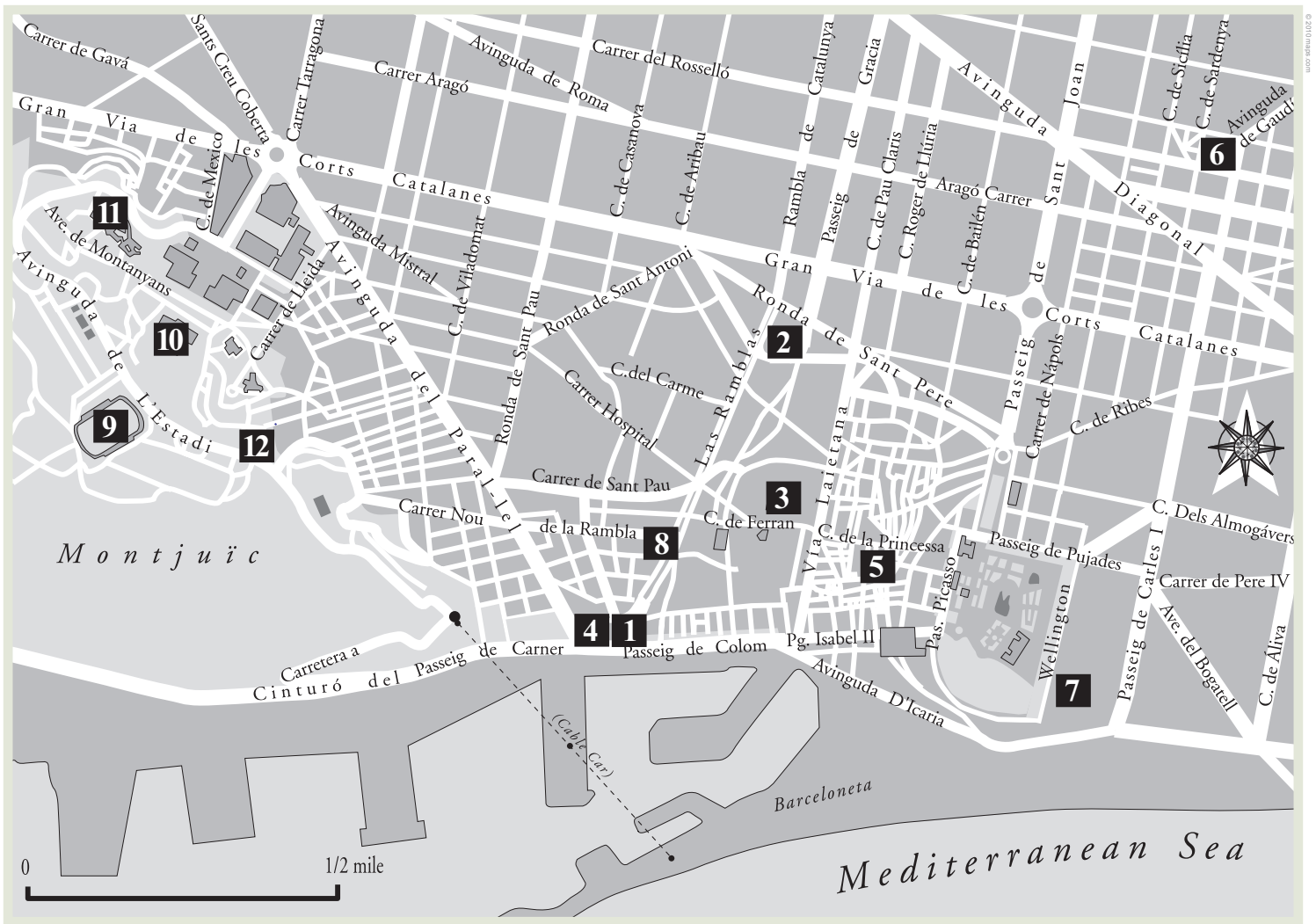
HISTORY

Settlement can be traced as far back as the 4th century B.C. when the Greeks and Phoenicians first inhabited the area. The Romans came and conquered and remained in occupation until the 5th century A.D.

In 711 the Moors came from Africa bringing with them their Muslim religion and influence. Independence was gained in the latter part of the 9th century and Catalonia underwent a period of growth and development, with the building of a vast fleet of ships and the defeat of various Mediterranean territories. Wealth was reflected in the building of churches and the creation of great works of art. This was followed by a period of decline, brought about by the discovery of the New World.

Barcelona lost importance as a trading port until the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. In the early 1900's, following the decline of the Spanish Empire, Catalonia achieved autonomy for a short-while. The Civil War followed and the Nationalist Party, led by General Franco, defeated the Republicans and banned the use of the Catalonian language, as Catalonia came under Spanish rule.

It is only since Franco's death in 1975, and the crowning of King Juan Carlos I, that the Catalonian language and culture has again, been allowed to flourish and regional autonomy granted.



BARCELONA PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Monumento a Colón (Columbus Monument) is situated at the bottom of Las Ramblas, on the water-front. It is possible to take an elevator to the top for a view of the entire city.

Las Ramblas, stretching from the water-front to . . .

2 Plaça de Catalunya is a delightful, tree-lined boulevard and center of activity. A variety of shops, particularly flower stalls, are to be found here making it a pleasant place to stroll or watch the world go by from one of the many sidewalk cafes.

3 The Gothic Quarter is the older part of the City, mainly a pedestrian area. The buildings here date from the 13th century and create a truly medieval atmosphere. The Cathedral of Santa Eulalia, located within the Gothic Quarter, was built between 1298 and 1454, although the main facade and the spire were 19th century additions. The Cathedral was named after the 13 year old martyr, whose sarcophagus can be seen, carved in bas-relief, depicting her torture and execution. The Cathedral is built in classic, Catalonian gothic style, with 500 year old stained-glass windows.

4 The Maritime Museum occupies the Royal Medieval Dockyards, and is a naval museum containing ships, fig-

ureheads and nautical exhibits as well as details of Columbus' Voyages of Discovery.

5 Picasso Gallery is located on Carrer de Montcada, several adjoining 15th century palaces house a collection of over 2,000 exhibits of Picasso's earlier works, as well as paintings done later in his lifetime. Picasso came to Barcelona at the age of 14 to study art.

6 La Sagrada Família on Calle de Cerdana is one of the architect Gaudí's most famous works. The Cathedral, begun in 1882 is still under construction although Gaudí died in 1926. Gaudí is buried in the crypt. It is possible to take an elevator to the top of one of the towers for a panoramic view.

7 The Barcelona Zoo is located in the Parc de la Cuitadella is ranked among the top zoos in Spain. The Zoo is also one of the oldest and most modern zoos in the world. Founded in 1892, the enclosures at the Barcelona Zoo are of open construction.

8 Palau Güell Just off Las Ramblas, is another of Gaudí's works. Built between 1885 and 1890, this mansion is of unique design with interesting ironwork. Palau Güell is also the home of the Museum for the Performing Arts, and as such, is open to the public.

Parc Güell is on the outskirts of the City and represents Gau-

di's attempt at a garden city designed to house 60 families. It remains unfinished.

Montjuïc is named for a Jewish community that once lived on its slopes, is a rather small mountain, reaching no more than 700 ft. Montjuïc was the site for the . .

9 Main Stadium for the 1992 Olympic Games.

10 Museum of Catalan Art is located on Montjuïc and contains medieval frescoes dating from the 12th and 13th centuries, romanesque and gothic art.

11 Pueblo Español on Montjuïc is a mock Spanish village representing architectural styles and cultures from all over Spain. There are souvenir shops and cafes for refreshments.

12 Miro Foundation is also located on Montjuïc and provides an exhibition of the works of Joan Miro, the famous Catalan artist.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Barcelona and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult azamarclubcruises.com or contact the on-board Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Prices listed in shops are not negotiable. It is only possible to bargain in flea markets or perhaps with an Antique Dealer.

Tipping: In most restaurants a 10% gratuity is acceptable.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Paella is the Spanish national dish, a combination of seafood, chicken and vegetables mixed together in a saffron-flavored rice. Typical Catalan cuisine focuses on fish dishes such as Zarzuela. Up to a dozen different types of seafood are used in this dish which is served in a brandy and wine sauce. Pa amb tomàquet is a peasant-style bread, topped with fresh tomato and grilled. For dessert try Crema Catalana, the local version of Caramel Custard.

Priorato is a popular local red wine. Cava is the world-renown Spanish Champagne produced in the Penedés region just outside Barcelona. Try a Sangría, a blend of red wine, brandy, orange juice, mineral water and fruit. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING

Barcelona is a large city with several different areas for shopping. The main area, however, could be described as that between Plaça de Catalunya, Las Ramblas and Porta de l'Angel, approximately 1/2 a mile from the Columbus Monument. The Upper Rambla and Passeig de Gràcia are where the more expensive, designer boutiques are located, about 1 mile from the Statue. Most stores are open from 10:00am – 1:00pm, 4:30pm – 8:00pm Monday through Saturday. Some of the bigger department stores such as El Corte Inglés do not observe Siesta and remain open all day. All stores close on Sunday except for some of the souvenir stores on Las Ramblas.

Barcelona is an international fashion center, noted for leather, jewelry and Lladro. Very few stores will accept U.S. Dollars, although most accept major credit cards.

Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCI cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Spain is the euro. There are 8 euro coins with a common face. On the reverse, each member state contributes a design. There are 7 euro notes. All euro coins and notes are legal tender in member states. Most stores accept major credit cards. ATM's are usually available, especially in heavily trafficked tourist areas. At smaller establishments cash may be required. Traveler's Checks are widely accepted.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

The main Post Office is located on Plaça Antonio Lopez at the bottom of Via Laietana, approximately 3/4 of a mile from the Columbus Statue. The Telephone (Telecom) Center is located La Rambla, 88. It is possible to place international calls from here. You can also place a call with your personal calling

