

#make the blu experience

# BARCELONA

*city guide*

**blu.**  
SELECTION

# WELCOME TO BARCELONA

Dear reader,

As an international recruitment team, we live with the spirit of the expatriate which makes us this passionate about travelling, learning new cultures, gaining new skills and habits, speaking a new language, making priceless memories and inspiring others to make the international experience.

If you have tons of questions or hesitations about moving abroad we understand: we all did when we took up this challenge. That's why we know how relocating feels, and we are ready to share your excitement and give you keys to overcoming your questions.

In this city guide, we have gathered the essential information on living and working in Barcelona. We hope you enjoy the city as much as we do!

## 1 - Barcelona Facts

## 2 - Cost of Living

## 3 - Transportation

## 4 - Accommodation

## 5 - Bureaucratic Tips

## 6 - Life in BCN

## 7 - Culture in BCN

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# BARCELONA FACTS

**180 different**  
NATIONALITIES

With a population of 35K  
**ITALIANS** are the biggest  
EXPAT community of BCN

**1.6 Million**  
POPULATION

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**  
Catalan (Català)  
Spanish (Castellano)

20% of the people living in the city  
have **FOREIGN** origins.

**Average Temperature**  
10°C in winter  
25°C in summer

+20 MILLION  
**VISITORS**  
EACH YEAR

**BEACHES**  
**10 Sandy**  
Beaches  
**4.8 KM**

with **3000 hr**  
of **sun** per year



# BARCELONA FACTS

## TIME TABLES

### Opening Hours for Stores:

Usually, Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 1:30pm and 4:30pm to 8pm with some variations. Many establishments have the same opening hours on Saturdays and some are open until lunchtime on Sundays. Shopping centres and many large stores do not close for lunch/siesta.

**1 January** – New Year's Day\*

**6 January** – Epiphany\*

**March-April** (movable) – Good Friday\*

**March-April** (movable) – Easter Monday\*\*

**1 May** – Labour Day\*

**May/June** (movable) – Pentecost Monday\*\*\*

**24 June** – Feast Day of St. John\*\*

**15 August** – The Assumption\*

**11 September** – Catalan National Day\*\*

**24 September** – La Mercè Festival\*\*\*

**12 October** – Spanish National Day\*

**1 November** – All Saints' Day\*

**6 December** – Constitution Day\*

**8 December** – Immaculate Conception\*

**25 December** – Christmas Day\*

**26 December** – Feast Day of St. Stephen (Boxing Day)\*\*

*Spaniards tend to eat later than other Europeans. They usually have a light **breakfast** of fruit juice, coffee and a pastry or sandwich.*

***Lunch** is between 2:00-3:30 pm.*

***Dinner** starts between 8:30 - 11:00 p.m.*

\* National holiday \*\* Regional holiday (Catalonia only)

\*\*\* Local holiday (Barcelona only)



# COST OF LIVING

## DINING OUT

Basic Breakfast Out : 3 - 5€

Menu of the Day : 10 - 15€

Sandwich: 2 - 4€

Basic Dining Out for 2 : 20 - 25€

Expensive Dining Out for 2 : 50 - 75€

Water (33 cl bottle) in bar/pub: 1 - 4€

Coke (33 cl bottle) in bar/pub: 1.5 - 4€

Coffee (espresso or with milk) : 1.5 - 3€

Beer (50 cl draught) : 2.5 - 3€

Beer (33 cl bottle) in bar/pub : 2.5 - 6€

Wine bottle in a restaurant : 8 - 20€

Cocktail : 4 - 10€



## SUPERMARKET

Bread/baguette : 1€

Milk (regular) : 1€

Water (1.5 L bottle) : 0.3 - 1.20€

Pack of cigarettes : 5 - 7€

12-pack (33 cl) Domestic Beer : 8 - 10€

Round Steak (500 gr) : 5 - 8€

Chicken Fillets (500 gr) : 3 - 4€



# COST OF LIVING

## ACCOMODATION

1 Bedroom Flat Rent in Center : 800 - 1500€

3 Bedrooms Flat Rent in Center : 1200 - 2200€

1 Room in a Shared Flat Rent : 400 - 750€

Basic Utilities for 3 Bedrooms Flat : 80 - 200€



## TRANSPORTATION

One-way Ticket : 2.4€

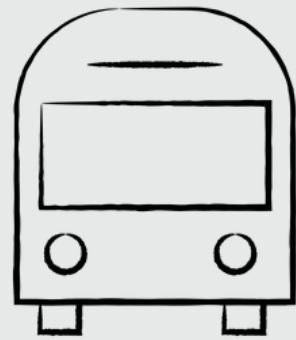
10-Journey Pass (T-casual) : 11.35€

Monthly Pass (T-usual) : 40€

Daily Ticket (T-dia) : 10.5€

Airport Ticket : 5 - 6€

Taxi Trip (5-10km) : 9 - 16€



## ENTERTAINMENT

Cinema Ticket for 1 : 5 - 12€

Gym Monthly Fee: 25 - 60€

Club Entry (some free before 2am) : 10 - 20€

Theatre or Music Concert : 10 - 50€



# TRANSPORTATION

## METRO, BUS & TRAM

The main public transport operator is  
**Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona (TMB).**

More Options:



No. of journeys: No limit  
Validity: Daily  
Price: 1 zone / €10.50  
*Single Person*



No. of journeys: Unlimited  
Validity: Monthly  
Price: 1 zone / €40  
*Single Person*



No. of journeys: 10  
Validity: When you finish  
Price: 1 zone / €11.35  
*Single Person*



No. of journeys: Unlimited  
Validity: Quarterly  
Price: 1 zone / €80  
*For Under 25-year olds*

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2022  
ENERO





# TRANSPORTATION

## CYCLING

**bicing** is the urban transport based on the shared use of the bicycle. A simple, practical and sustainable service that you can use on your trips around the city. The annual payment varies between 35€ or 50€ per year depending on your selection.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT**  
**71.6% of the city's population**  
**regularly exercises**

Barcelona City Council, 2017

**195 KM**  
**BIKE LANES**

GETTING YOUR **BICING CARD.**

Step by step guide

**52% walk or cycle**  
**for trips within the city**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2016

## WALKING

Although Barcelona is a big city, you can easily find an enjoyable route to walk around to city as a means of transportation as long as you have time. The surrounding neighbourhoods like Sants-Montjuïc, Gràcia or Poblenou are only 30 to 45 minutes away from the city center.


# TRANSPORTATION

## FROM/TO AIRPORT



The International Airport of Barcelona (El Prat) is located 12km from the city center.

### BY METRO, BUS & NITBUS

To get from the airport the newest and cheapest way to arrive in Barcelona is by Metro; is line L9 Sud. The ticket you need is included in T-dia, T-usual, T-verde or T-jove but if you want a single ticket, an Airport ticket it will cost you €5.15. The bus is very convenient if you are not in a hurry since the 1 zone bus/metro ticket will take you there. Depending on your travel time you can choose bus or night buses (Nitbus/N). Buses which have airports as one of their stations are 46, L77, L99, N16, N17, N18, PR1, PR2, and PR3. Don't forget to check out de time tables before! To be sure, have a look at: 

### BY TRAIN

The frequency is every 30 minutes, from approximately 6:00 am to 11:45 pm. The length of the trip is around 25 minutes. Normally you have to take R2, which stops at Sants, Passeig de Gràcia and Clot. This train leaves from Terminal 2. It costs the same as your metro pass. Check the schedule on *renfe*

### BY TAXI

It takes approximately 30 minutes to reach the airport from the city centre. The approximate price is around 30-40€. Extra fees for luggage may be added.

### BY AEROBUS

It is one of the most preferred ways of Airport transportation due to its central stations (Plaça Catalunya and Plaça Espanya), travel frequency (every 5-10 minutes) and short travel time (25-30 minutes). You can check the schedules below. A1 stands for Terminal 1 and A2 is for Terminal 2. The single ticket costs 5,90€.

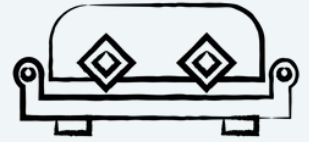
A1 Barcelona → Aeroport			
DE FROM DE CON	A TO A2 PR	CADA 5 MINUTS TOUTES LES 5 MIN	
5.00h	6.40h	10 min.	
6.50h	21.45h	5 min.	
21.50h	00.30h	10 min.	
A1 Aeroport → Barcelona			
DE FROM DE CON	A TO A2 PR	CADA 5 MINUTS TOUTES LES 5 MIN	
5.35h	7.20h	10 min.	
7.30h	22.20h	5 min.	
22.25h	1.05h	10 min.	

A2 Barcelona → Aeroport			
DE FROM DE CON	A TO A2 PR	CADA 5 MINUTS TOUTES LES 5 MIN	
5.30h	6.50h	20 min.	
7.05h	22.25h	10 min.	
22.40h	00.30h	20 min.	
A2 Aeroport → Barcelona			
DE FROM DE CON	A TO A2 PR	CADA 5 MINUTS TOUTES LES 5 MIN	
6.00h	6.40h	20 min.	
7.00h	23.00h	10 min.	
23.10h	1.00h	20 min.	

More info is at:



# ACCOMODATION



## HOUSING

There are two basic ways to find a flat or room here in Barcelona:

The first one is through Facebook groups, discover them!

The second option to find flats or rooms to rent is through web pages like Habitaclia, Idealista, Fotocasa or Badi. You will be able to filter your search according to your needs or possibilities, for example, filter by your budget or the area you want to live in.

habitaclia

idealista



fotocasa

badi

## CITY DISTRICTS OF BCN

WITH LARGEST AREA : Sants-Montjuïc

WITH LARGEST POPULATION : Eixample



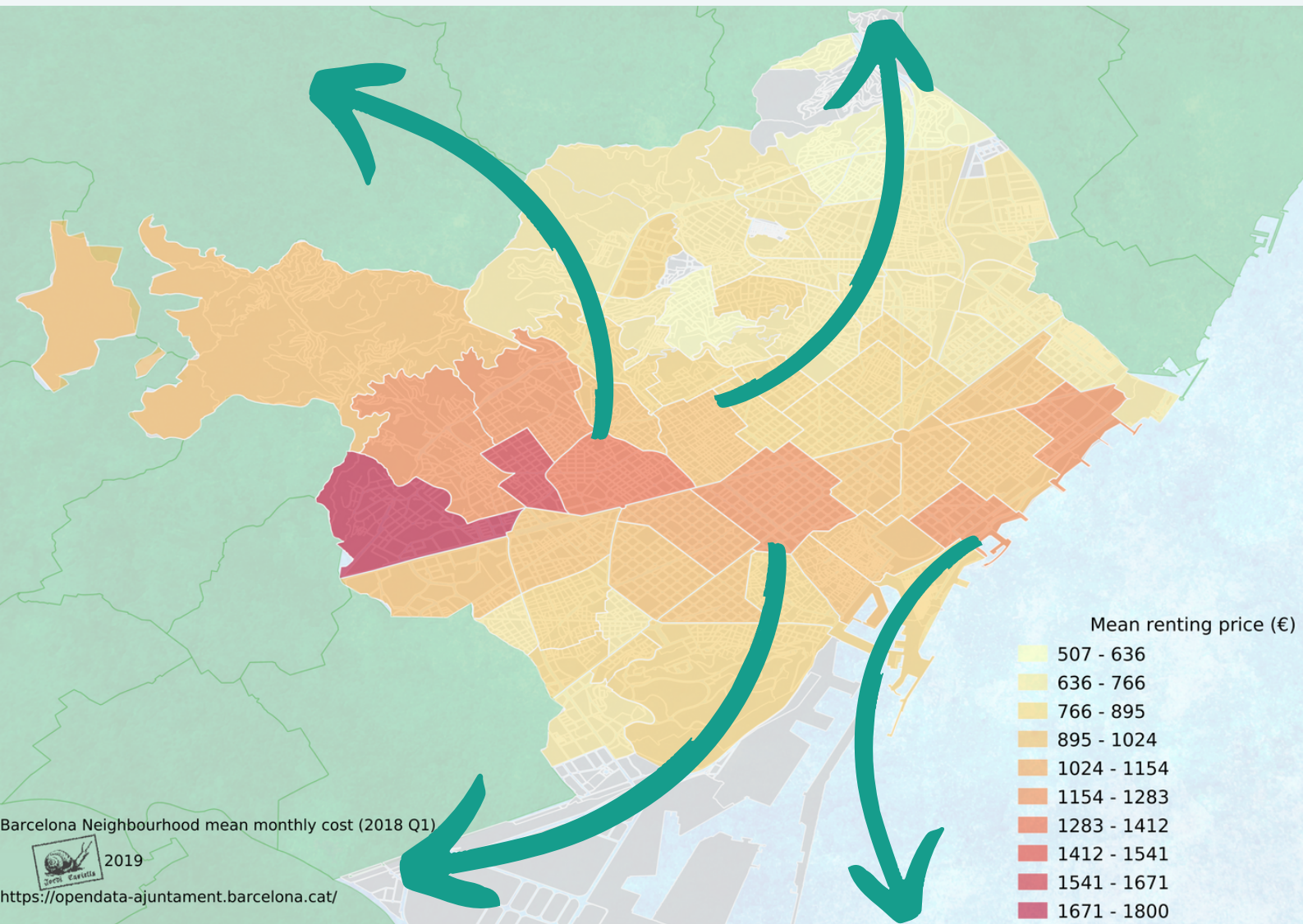
# ACCOMODATION

## Sarrià

The Sarrià combines spaces where you can easily recall the old rural town, especially near the main street of Sarrià. It is one of the richest and most expensive neighbourhoods.

## Gràcia

Gràcia is one of the districts where you can experience local Catalan culture at its best. The area is popular for its artists and a generally bohemian crowd.



## Eixample

The most populated district of the city, Eixample, also hosts 20% of the total foreign population. The engineer Cerda designed the neighbourhood with the famous grid layout of streets, octagonal blocks and with wide spaces for pedestrians and interior gardens

## Poblenou

Located in the Sant Martí district, Poblenou is an upcoming hood. While the remains of old factories give it an industrial look, the headquarters of big companies make it business chic. It's a mix of traditional and modern, fit for families and beach-lovers.

# BUREAUCRATIC TIPS

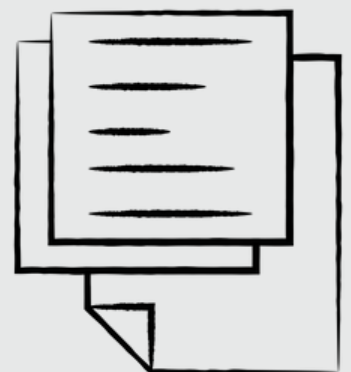
Moving to a new place might be complicated as much as it's exciting. You should prepare yourself for a bureaucratic journey including some document to make ready and appointments to attend. As long as you know what to do, you'll be just fine!

- 1- Get your visa/residence permit to immigrate**
- 2- After your arrival register yourself to the municipality**
- 3- Get a national identity**
- 4- Get a social security number for your work**
- 5- Obtain a health-care card**

## **Before Your Move**

### **Immigration**

Visa/residence permit If you are from outside the EU, you will have to apply for a permit to reside in the country. The type of permit will depend on your profile and the reason for your moving.



\*Look for the Spanish Consulate in your area **here**.

# BUREAUCRATIC TIPS



## **After Your Arrival**

### **Municipal Registration**

It is essential for you to register with the “padró”, which is the register of residents normally living in a town or city

### **Identifying Documents**

You are under a legal obligation to have a national identity document at hand. The type of document will vary depending on your nationality and the period of your stay in the country. Check out the documents for your NIE on the following page.

### **Social Security number**

You will need to request a Social Security number, without which you cannot work and/or pay your contributions to Spain’s Social Security system. You will also need to show you are paying your contributions before you can access the public healthcare system

### **Health-Care Card**

You can have the card that gives you access to the Catalan public healthcare system (CatSalut) and to the co-payment for pharmaceutical cover

### **+Pets**

If you want to bring your pet, you will have to carry out several procedures such as registering it with the animal register

### **+Vehicle and Driver’s Licence**

If you want to bring your vehicle or drive, depending on your nationality, you will have to exchange your driver’s licence and/or register your vehicle



# BUREAUCRATIC TIPS

## NIE APPLICATION

To be able to work in Barcelona you'll need a **NIE** (Número de Identificación de Extranjeros).

### How to Get a NIE Number



## WEBPAGE FOR APPOINTMENT

You can access the website to complete the process in this link:  
<https://sede.administracionespublicas.gob.es/icpplus/index.html>

- Choose “Barcelona” in “Provincias Disponibles”.
- In the menu that appears, click on “Certificados EU”.
- In the new page, click again on the section and choose to “Certificados EU”. Then click on “Aceptar”.
- Next page explains the documents you have to bring (don’t worry we have them in English below), then click on “Entrar” at the bottom.
- Choose Pasaporte and fill in your passport number, full name (same as on the passport), your country and press “Aceptar”.
- Click on “Solicitar cita” and click on “Siguiente” and follow the instructions.
- Save and print the confirmation (you will need it at the appointment).

# BUREAUCRATIC TIPS

Once you have booked your appointment, you have to be careful with all the documents you need in order to have a comfortable appointment.

- 1- Do not forget that you have to pay the 012 tax fee (model 790) which is 9.64 Euros in 2019. Access the online form [here](#), fill in your personal information, select “Asignacion de NIE”, fill in the city and date information and select “En efectivo” for the cash payment and go to the nearest bank with the printed document.
- 2- A document justifying why you need the NIE number. For example, an offer letter from the company hiring you. It MUST include the start date of the contract, type of contract, full company name and NIF (Tax Identification Number) with original signature.
- 3- The printed confirmation of your appointment
- 4- The EX15 document (you can find it [here](#)).
- 5- Your passport and a copy of all the pages of your passport!
- 6- Your European Social Security card or Private insurance card and a copy (for non-EU citizens the procedure is different and the information can be found [here](#))
- 7- Stamped tax payment form

*Be present in the given location on the day of your appointment and make sure you bring every document listed above!*

## SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

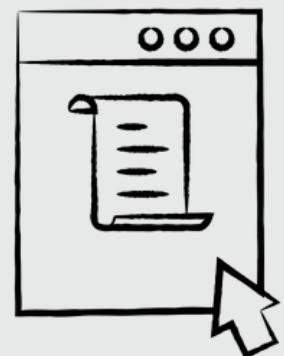
### DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- NIE number
- ID or passport
- Offer Letter from the company

### WHERE TO GO

Carrer Indústria, 114, 08025 Barcelona

You won't need an appointment, but we recommend you to go there in the mornings.



# LIFE IN BCN

## **The Plaza de Sant Felip Neri**

This small square became one of those places of serenity and silence full of meaning: A reflective space in the middle of the Gothic district. In the façade of the Church, one can still observe the holes caused by shrapnel impacts from the aerial attack of 1938.



## **Bunkers del Carmel**

Famously known as “the bunkers” is a viewpoint over the city of Barcelona that, until recently, was not well known by the people. In this lookout, we find the remains of an anti-aircraft battery of the Spanish Civil War. It is located at the top of Turó de la Rovira, in the neighbourhood of Carmel. Famous for their wonderful views over the city. You should not miss it!

## **The anti-aircraft shelters**

The civil war of 1936 and its bombings forced Barcelona to build these shelters in the subsoil of the city to assure the survival of the Catalan population. Today, some of these air raid shelters are open to the public. For example, the Refuge of the Plaza del Diamante was built at 13 meters in depth, with a length of 250 meters and a capacity for 200 people. To visit it you have to make a previous reservation.



# LIFE IN BCN

## **Laberint d'horta;**

It is a historic and protected garden in the city. It is a magical and mysterious park, located in the Horta-Guinardó district of Barcelona, on the outskirts of the city, at the foot of the Collserola mountain. It is formed by a neoclassical garden, another romantic garden and a spectacular labyrinth of cypresses, all dotted with statues with mythological allegories.



## **Parque de Montjuïc:**

The mountain of Montjuïc has been a testimony and protagonist of transcendental events, which has given it its current character. First, there was the International Exhibition held in Barcelona in 1929. More recently, there was the celebration of the 1992 Olympic Games which led to a major renovation. In Montjuïc, you can visit museums such as the Fundació Miró, the Museu d'Arqueologia, l'Etnològic and the National Art Museum of Catalunya-MNAC, housed in National Palau. Also interesting to visit are, the Pavello Mies van der Rohe, the CaixaForum exhibitions, the Magic Fountain, Poble Espanyol and Palau Sant Jordi.

# CULTURE IN BCN

## DID YOU KNOW THAT

**there are more than 2000**

buildings in the style of Modernism (Catalan Art Nouveau) in Catalonia

and there are  
**9 UNESCO**  
world heritage sites  
**and 56 museums**

UNESCO & Barcelona City Council, 2017

Barcelona is one of the most impressive places in Spain for art and architecture. From the Catalan Gothic, the Renaissance period or the Baroque until the 20th century artist like Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and Antoni Tàpies. Apart from the famous monuments as La Sagrada Família, L'Església de Santa Maria del Mar, Parc Guell, el Palau de la Música Catalana or la Torre Agbar; we can also find plenty other famous masterpieces such as La Casa Batlló, La Pedrera or el Pavelló Mies van der Rohe.

**We would like to give you some recommendations for some outstanding museums in Barcelona:**

**MACBA (Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art)** located in Ciutat Vella, with a collection of more than 5.000 masterpieces from the mid-20th century onwards.

**MNAC (National Art Museum of Catalonia)** located on Montjuic, near Plaza España. It includes Romanesque paintings as well as Modernism and Noucentisme styles.

**The Picasso Museum**, which is located in el Born and is housed in a medieval edifice. It includes the largest exhibition of the author.



## CELEBRATIONS

In Catalonia there are a variety of celebrations, most of them are very old. Here we have a list of the important ones:

- **Tió de Nadal:** It's a Catalan Christmas tradition involving hitting a trunk of a tree with a cane. During the Christmas period, kids "feed" the log with sweet snacks, take care of it with blankets and love to let it "defecate" all the candies on Christmas day.
- **The Twelve Grapes of Luck:** On New Year's Eve many families and friends come together to celebrate the new year with a countdown, so far familiar. Here, when you hear the twelve chimes, you should eat a grape each time it rings. It's believed to bring good luck, try not to choke on the grapes!
- **Els Reis:** Another religious celebration for children is on the night of the 5th of January when the Three Kings arrive from Jerusalem bearing gifts for everyone, young and old. Expect a Christmas gift from your Catalan friends on that day instead of December 25th.
- **Sant Jordi:** As the patron saint of Catalonia, Sant Jordi has a special celebration coming from its legend. This day, April 23, is also known as Catalan Valentine's day and traditionally women and men exchange roses and books. Learn more about it [here](#).
- **San Juan:** The night of the 23rd of June, the night before St. John's day is called "verbena". The tradition combines bonfires, firecrackers, and bakeries to sell a special cake called Coca de Sant Joan. If you like loud sounds and crowds, find the celebrations on the beach!
- **All Saints Day:** 1st of November is dedicated to death and the dead, as in "El Dia de Los Muertos". In Catalonia, the tradition is to eat "Panellets" and "castanyes", baked buns and chestnuts to celebrate "La Castanyera".



# CULTURE IN BCN

## TRADITIONS

Eat **“Pa amb tomàquet”**; it is one of the traditional tapas and it is made of a toast of bread with a squeezed tomato on it. It seems basic, but we are sure you will like it!



**Vermouth (Vermut in Catalan)**, it is a wine macerated in herbs served during aperitif, composed of white wine and other bitter substances. Traditionally, the locals drink vermouth before the meal, in order to arouse the appetite. Of course, and how could it be otherwise, always together with a good “tapa”.

In **“La Festa Major”**, which are town ceremonies of the different villages of Catalonia, there is the tradition to do two different important cultural celebrations. On the one hand, **“Els Castells”**, which is the famous human tower. On the other hand, there is the traditional dance called **“La Sardana”** which is a type of circle dance, normally combined with a Sardana band called “cobla”.



**The nap (La siesta in Spanish):** It is a period of time (approximately 20 to 30 minutes) when people sleep or rest after eating. It is gradually becoming very popular among foreigners. It is scientifically proven that siesta improves health, circulation, and concentration and prevent stress



# #MAKETHEBLU EXPERIENCE

## The Blu Experience? What is "Blu"? And why would you want to experience it?

When we speak about the "Blu Experience" we are talking about the experience you have with the members of our Blu Team during the whole recruitment process.

As we are working in a human-to-human business it is very important for us to have a good connection with our candidates. Therefore, we decided to make us, the Blu Team, more transparent to you. We want to share our passion and motivation that you see the behind Blu Selection there is more than just a voice on the phone.

We are here to help you with more support as you deserve, career know-how we have and the spirit of the expatriate we share together.

**Welcome to the Blu Experience!**

*Feedback matters, let's keep it mutual!*

**What you think about us matters.**

**Please let us and others know about your #bluexperience.**



leave a **review** . 

**CONTACT US!**

**LET'S START A NEW JOURNEY TOGETHER!**

[contact@bluselection.com](mailto:contact@bluselection.com)

+34 931 24 44 90



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