



BARCELONA, SPAIN

Factsheet 2024

DESCRIPTION

Barcelona is one of the most popular destinations in the world, and for good reason. With over 2000 years of history, the

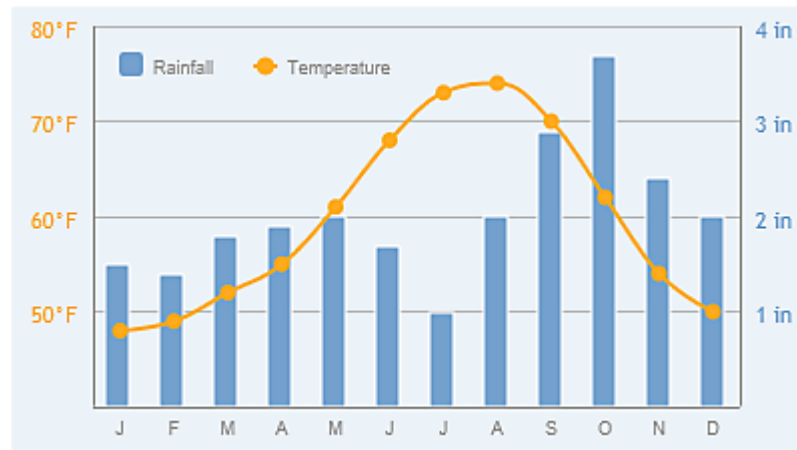
The lively city of Barcelona reflects the fact that Spanish people love to have a good time – the city is filled with art museums, theatres, bars, nightclubs, cafés, cinemas, etc. Spanish people are known for being friendly and for spending lots of time socializing. It is very common for friends to sit for long hours in the late afternoon chatting over coffee or drinking beer/wine. Although Mediterranean cuisine dominates the local palate with paella and seafood dishes galore, it is easy to find a variety of types of food in the city.

Although Mediterranean cuisine dominates the local palate with paella and seafood dishes galore, it is easy to find a variety of types of food in the city. Meat is a staple in the diet as Spain is known for its tapas and jamon iberico , but it is also vegetarian friendly as well. It is common to eat dinner between 8:30pm – 11:00pm. Most restaurants will open at about 8:00 pm and serve food until 1:00am.

Late nights
 Tapas, cava, Mediterranean food
 Flamenco
 Catalanian Region vs rest of Spain
 Old city
 Gaudi
 Fútbol

CLIMATE

Barcelona has mild, humid winters and warm to hot summers, with rainier periods during autumn and spring. The average temperature for the year is 21°C / 70°F during the day and 15°C / 59°F at night.



LANGUAGE

Catalonia has two official languages - Catalán and Spanish. Upon first arriving to Barcelona, foreigners often notice that public signs are in Catalán and locals often speak both Spanish and Catalán to each other. Spanish is still a predominant language and used interchangeably.

LOCAL TERMS TO KNOW

- **Tapa(s)** – is an appetizer or snack and translates to small portion of any kind of Spanish cuisine.
- **Caña** – a beer (a half pint) or caña pequeña (a quarter pint)
- **Flamenco** – a traditional dance from the Andalusian region of Spain
- **Adeu / Merci** – Catalan way to say goodbye/thanks but popularly used even for Spanish speakers
- **Vale** - Popular way to say okay or understood
- **Lado mar / Lado montaña** - In the city, instead of getting directions north /south, local people orient themselves towards the sea (mar) or towards the mountain (montaña). It's really important to know where these are to orient yourself
- **Bikini** - Hot ham and cheese sandwich
- **Guay** - A ways to say something or someone is cool

Things to See in Barcelona

Top 5 Cultural Activities

- Watch a Flamenco show or, better yet, take a Flamenco class!
- Visit Palau Nacional, and the Picasso Museum
- Don't miss seeing La Sagrada Familia before it is completed in 2028
- Explore all of Antoni Gaudí's masterpieces including Parc Güell, Casa Milà, and Casa Batlló
- Watch the Castellers (Barcelona's famous "human towers") perform during festivals and major celebrations

Top 5 Nights Out

- Learn how to make paella in a fun and interactive cooking class
- Enjoy Barcelona's gastronomic scene and tapas bar culture
- Attend an outdoor concert or movie on the beach
- Develop your palate with a wine tasting experience
- Dance the night away at a salsa club

Top 5 Sports Activities

- Go to an FC Barcelona match at Camp Nou stadium
- Kayak, paddleboard, surf, or kiteboard in the sea
- Play a game of beach volleyball
- Join an amateur football league

Top 5 Sights Outside of Barcelona

- Go horseback riding in Catalonia
- Explore nearby Andorra or Girona
- Visit Spain's capital city, Madrid, and get to know Spain's largest city
- Hike Montserrat, just one hour outside of Barcelona
- Enjoy the beaches of the Costa Brava
- Visit Figueres (the Dali museum)

Holidays and Festivals

Spain and the Catalonia region celebrate a diverse range of annual festivals throughout the year. They range from traditional to contemporary and no matter when you plan your trip, there is always something going on. Here are just a few of the bigger ones:

MONTH	FESTIVALS
January	Día de los reyes magos (King's Day)
February	The Calçotada, Fiesta mayor de Santa Eulàlia, Barcelona Carnaval (also part of March)
March	La festa més dolça (the Sweetest Festival)
April	Dia de Sant Jordi (Book Festival)
May	Formula One in Barcelona
June	San Juan, Fiesta de Barceloneta, Sonar Festival
July	Monegros, Benicassim (outside of Barcelona)
August	Les festes de Gràcia, Gay Pride
September	Fiesta de la Mercè
October	In-Edit Beefeater
November	Manga Fair Barcelona
December	New Year's Eve (fireworks on the beach!)

Other Useful Information

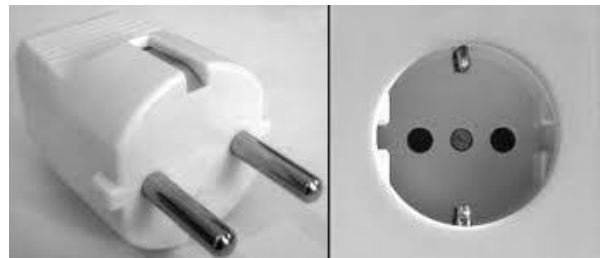
SAFETY

Barcelona is a very safe city in Europe. Nonetheless, students should practice street smarts to avoid any potential problems. Expanish conducts a safety orientation on the first day of classes to help keep students safe and healthy during their program. Here are some quick safety tips:

- Use a money belt for important documents and large amounts of cash.
- Carry a photocopy of passport at all times while leaving the original in a safe place.
- Be wary of pickpockets in crowded areas and on public transportation.
- Becoming intoxicated while out in the city makes students an easier target for thieves, so we advise students to drink moderately.

ELECTRICITY

Spain uses 2 pronged round European plugs with 220 volts at 50 Hertz. You can buy electrical adapters/converters at most hardware stores, pharmacies, and travel stores.



STUDENT BUDGET

We understand that making a budget is an important step when planning your client's trip. In general, we recommend students to budget **200€ per week** for meals, snacks, cell phone data, transportation and miscellaneous incidentals.

TIPPING

Tipping, although modest, is considered polite. It is custom to leave the small change behind to tour up to the nearest Euro or even at an extra Euro or two if the service was especially good. At upscale restaurants, tipping can be expected and is usually around 10%.

Note: Taxis are not customarily given a tip.

CURRENCY

The currency in Spain is of course the Euro (€). It is always handy to have a bit of cash in euros when travelling but students can also easily use credit and debit cards at most grocery stores, restaurants and business.

INTERNET

Wi-Fi is available for free almost anywhere in the city. Expanish has free Wi-Fi, our housing has guaranteed free Wi-Fi, most restaurants have free Wi-Fi and now public spaces do as well (parks, subway and bus stops, etc.).

CELL PHONES

Expanish recommends that students bring an unlocked cell phone with them and just purchase a local SIM card for their phone. This costs around 15€ and includes data in an initial package.

POSTAL SERVICES

If students would like to receive mail while abroad, please provide any friends and family with our Expanish office address. All mail can be sent to:

Attn: Student Name
c/o Expanish
Carrer de Pau Claris 186, 2nd Floor
Barcelona 08037
Spain

Please be advised that most larger packages may be held at customs where it can be time consuming to obtain, so Expanish only recommends receiving letters and postcards.

TRANSPORTATION

The public transportation in Barcelona is fantastic. Public buses run 24/7 and students can get anywhere in the city. There is also a subway system that runs 5am to 11pm and comes every 5 minutes or so. To use any public transportation, students will need a SUBE card, a rechargeable card that you swipe for both bus and subway. Public transportation is paid for by the ride (no weekly or monthly passes) and is about US\$0.50 per ride.

SHOPPING

Retail stores are typically open:

- Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm
- Saturday - 10am to 1pm
- Sunday – Most stores are closed

Larger grocery stores are open 7 days per week as well as cafes and restaurants

VISAS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For detailed visa requirements, please re-confirm information with your local Spanish embassy/consulate as they will be able to provide accurate and up-to-date visa information. Students are responsible for their own legal status while studying.

Students with European Union member passports can enter Spain for any length of time without a visa.

Non-European Union students with programs of less than 90 days should enter the country on a tourist visa. Requirements for the tourist visa varies by country and should be consulted with a local embassy/consulate.

Non-European Union students with programs of 90 days or more will need to obtain a student visa before departure. Expanish can provide an enrollment confirmation as part of the required documents. In order to emit the document, Expanish requires the full payment for the program (including document courier fee). Upon payment, we will emit an enrollment confirmation and send via courier directly to the student. The cancellation policy for denied visas or other reasons in this case can be found on our Terms & Conditions on our Price List. Visas typically take 8 weeks to process so students need to plan ahead. Visa information can be found on the Spanish Immigration website [HERE](#).