

A Weekend in Barcelona

Friday night to Sunday afternoon, from a trip I take again and again.

BEFORE YOU GO

- ◆ Book Sagrada Família about a month ahead.
- ◆ Buy a paper metro ticket. No tap to pay.
- ◆ Plan dinner for 8 or 9. Most places open at eight.
- ◆ Bring euros. The airport bus takes cash only.

FRIDAY

EVENING

In from the airport: the metro or the bus is the cheap way.

DINNER

Al Koskat. Hidden and not touristy. €85 for two: paella, roasted vegetables, Spanish omelette.

LATE

Walk back through the Gothic Quarter. The narrow streets are the point.



Saturday

BREAKFAST

Jansana in Eixample, a gluten-free bakery.
Croissant about €3. Went twice.

MID-MORNING

Coffee and matcha at Indigo Café, near the university.

LATE MORNING

La Boqueria for lunch: jamón ibérico, chicken skewer, empanadas.

AFTERNOON

Casa Milà and Casa Batlló outside, then Park Güell in late afternoon.

EVENING

Sagrada Família + tower tour, about €35. Do the tower.

DINNER

Brisa Sin Prisa in El Poblenou, outside.
Gelato at Estación Helados.

Transit rules

- Buses and the metro are not tap-to-pay. Buy a paper ticket at a metro station: single, 10-trip or 30-day.
- Bus stops don't sell tickets. Riding without one risks a €100 fine.
- One metro trip is €2.90.
- Getting to the airport: the bus from Sitges is €5.40 and takes about 45 minutes. Cash only.



Sunday

MORNING

Montjuïc park and the art museum. Waterfalls, steps, a palace-like building I didn't know existed.

MIDDAY

Coffee and matcha at La Papa, outdoor seating.

AFTERNOON

Wander El Raval and El Born, or go back to La Boqueria for one more round.

BEFORE YOU GO

Dinner starts at 8 or 9 here, so a late lunch is the smarter last meal.

If you have an extra day: Sitges

- ◆ About an hour by train from Barcelona, and walkable end to end.
- ◆ Papaya Beach for inexpensive breakfast on the sand and a lounge for the day.
- ◆ Yamuna for tapas by the beach; Café Sardina in the center.
- ◆ Alfresco for dinner, down the street with the stairs. Gelato at Gelateria Italiana Oliver.
- ◆ Nightlife is a big gay party scene, busier than I expected in shoulder season. Start at Parrots.



The full guides live on the blog — madtravels.co