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HISTORIC CURIOSITIES

1. THE STREETS OF BARCELONA

Initially, Barcelona's streets had no names. The city's population was so small that almost everybody knew one another, and when people asked you for an address, all you had to say was that the person they were looking for lived in the house opposite, the house next door or three doors down. Barcelona didn't pass the 164,000-inhabitant mark until 1850, so this gives us an idea of how low the population was at that time.

In the old days, humble dwellings had no signs to identify them. However, the mansions of the nobility would display their shields on their façades, some of which can still be seen today. Tradesmen also carved the emblems of their particular profession on the lintels of their front doors; these usually consisted of the characteristic tool or tools of their trades.

- Relief carvings of shoes and a lion representing Saint Mark, the patron saint of shoemakers, can still be seen between the windows on the façade of the Museu del Calçat (Footwear Museum), in the Plaça de Sant Felip Neri. The museum used to be the home of the Guild of Shoemakers.
- Did you know that the city's official street signs date from 1770? At the time, the walls of buildings featured tiled plaques with a white background, on top of which the name of the street, district, neighbourhood and parish was picked out in blue letters.
- The majority of street names in the old town, Ciutat Vella, descend from the Middle Ages. Some of them are named after former landowners or eminent families from the city's past. Examples are Lledó, Serra, Bacardí and Quintana.
- The increase in the number of streets was the result of the expansion of the city in the early 19th century. Each residential development brought about the creation of new streets. Did you know that some street names could be chosen by the owner of the land? The naming of streets after their owner or owners, as well as their relatives, was a deeply rooted custom in Barcelona.
- Did you know that the task of assigning names to the streets of the Eixample district was given to the Catalan politician and author **Víctor Balaguer**? Some are named after the conquests carried out in the 13th century by **Jaume I**.
- **Streets named after conquests:**
 - **Carrer d'Aragó: Aragon.** Region located in the north of the Iberian Peninsula. It used to be part of the former confederated Kingdom of Catalonia.

- **Carrer de València: Valencia.** The main city in the Valencian Region, conquered by Jaume I in 1238.
- **Carrer de Mallorca: Mallorca.** One of the Balearic Islands. The street name commemorates the conquest of the island by Jaume I in 1229.
- **Carrer del Rosselló: Roussillon.** A former Catalan territory in the far north-east of the principality, it was annexed to France in 1659 (Treaty of the Pyrenees).
- **Carrer de Còrsega: Corsica.** Mediterranean Island which had historic links with Catalonia. Its associations with the Crown of Catalonia and Aragon ended in 1458 on the death of Alfons IV.
- **Carrer de Provença: Provence.** Occitania, a region governed since 1125 by Ramon Berenguer III, from the Barcelona Dynasty. The street name commemorates the union between Provence and Catalonia as a result of the marriage of the Countess Dolça de Provença to the Count of Barcelona, Ramon Berenguer III.
- **Streets named after eminent personalities:**
 - **Carrer de Viladomat: Antoni Viladomat i Manald (1678-1755).** Painter and religious man. Name suggested by Víctor Balaguer.
 - **Carrer de Roger de Llúria: Roger de Llúria (1250- 1305).** Admiral of the Catalan fleet with which he achieved major victories in the defence of Catalan interests in the Mediterranean.
 - **Carrer de Roger de Flor: Roger de Flor (1268-1305).** Knight and adventurer. He headed the expedition to the East by the Catalan frontiersmen and foot soldiers known as Almogavars.
 - **Carrer de Villarroel: Antoni de Villarroel i Peláez (1656 -1742).** Supreme commander of the Catalan forces who defended Barcelona from the Castilian army in 1714.
 - **Carrer de Pau Claris: Pau Claris i Casademunt (1586 -1641).** Politician and cleric. President of the Catalan Government (1638-1641). He proclaimed the Catalan Republic under the protection of France.
 - **Carrer de Balmes: Jaume Lluçà Balmes i Urpià (1810-1848).** Cleric, philosopher, politician and writer.
 - **Carrer d'Aribau: Bonaventura Carles Aribau i Farriols (1798-1862).** Writer, economist, stenographer and politician.

- **Carrer d'Enric Granados: Enric Granados i Campiña.** Composer and pianist. Together with Albéniz, he was the creator of the Catalan modern school of piano.
- Did you know that under the **Dictatorship of Primo de Rivera** (1923) the street names associated with the city's history were replaced by others related to the history of Spain?
- A great many street names had been changed by the end of the Civil War (1939). Did you know that, with the advent of democracy, some 60 street names were standardised and translated into Catalan?

2. THE CHARMS AND HIDDEN CORNERS OF BARCELONA

2.1. LA RAMBLA

La Rambla was a stream and its waters came from the mountains above the city plain.

- Did you know that the word *rambla* is the Catalanised form of the Arab term *ramla*, which means “sandy ground”, “stream” or “watercourse”?
- Did you know that Barcelona was famed for its sewer systems, which were remarked upon by visitors? According to local legend, it was one of the first modern cities to have such a system, and people from many towns and cities came to see the layout of the sewers in Barcelona before building their own systems.
- Did you know that La Rambla is one of Europe's busiest thoroughfares?
- Did you know that the first of the plane trees that provide La Rambla with shade was transplanted in 1859 from Girona's Parc de la Devesa, the biggest and most leafy city park in Catalonia?

2.1.1. Rambla de Canaletes

This is the first stretch of La Rambla and it is located between the Plaça de Catalunya and the corners of Carrer Santa Anna and Carrer Bonsuccés. This part of La Rambla was named after the towers of the 14th-century city walls, known as “canaletes” because of the water channels that passed below them to supply this part of the city with water. They are believed to have been used to defend a palace or castle.

- Did you know that these towers were used as military prisons and that the writer **Jovellanos** and **General Lacy** were imprisoned there?
- Did you know that, according to local legend, it was a tradition for first-time visitors to the city to drink from the Canaletes water fountain, thereby ensuring that they would fall in love with the city and return some day?
- Nowadays, the Canaletes fountain is a meeting place for the supporters of Barcelona Football Club who also come here to celebrate after the match. This tradition for celebrations began in the thirties when football fans, who lacked the means to find out the results of Catalan team matches, went to the head office of the newspaper *La Rambla* to read the results from a blackboard displayed opposite the fountain. This meant that the celebrations were held in the same spot, until this part of La Rambla became the established place to celebrate major sporting triumphs.
- On the corner of La Rambla and Carrer Tallers stands the **Cocteleria Boadas** (1 Carrer Tallers): the first bar to serve cocktails in the city. It opened in 1933.

2.1.2. Rambla dels Estudis (Rambla dels Ocells)

This section of La Rambla is bounded by Carrer del Carme and Portaferriassa. In the 16th century it was the site of the Edifici d'Estudis General (General Studies Building) or university, from which it takes its name. **Felip V** had the building demolished and built a barracks on the site.

- The sunny side of the Rambla dels Estudis has traditionally been the city's bird market.
- Did you know that, nearby, on Carrer Canuda, which leads to the Plaça de la Vila de Madrid, you can visit a Roman necropolis which was revealed after a bomb fell on the site during the Civil War in 1936?
- On the corner of Carrer Portaferriassa stands the Palau Moja, a mansion house also known as the Palau del **Marquès de Comillas**. Did you know that this was one of the first buildings to be granted permission to have windows on its façade?
- Did you know that the writer **Àngel Guimerà** lived at number 4, Carrer Petritxol?
- Have you ever noticed the mask embedded in the pavement just across from Carrer Portaferriassa? It is a tribute by the artist **Joan Brossa** to La Rambla. In 1991 he won the Sebastià Gasch Prize, which is awarded by the decorative arts association FAD.

2.1.3. Rambla de les Flors (Rambla de Sant Josep)

This section is also known as the Rambla de Sant Josep, because it is the former site of the Convent of Sant Josep (Saint Joseph).

- Did you know that the Rambla de les Flors was named by the writer **Josep Maria de Sagarra**?
- Did you know that during the 19th century it was the only place in Barcelona that sold flowers and that during the intellectual discussions that took place around the florists' stalls, the painter **Ramon Casas** met his favourite model, who later became his wife?
- Did you know that this section of La Rambla is one of the few places in Barcelona devoted solely to selling flowers?
- Did you know that four women, called Carolina, from the same family, have run the same stall on La Rambla for over a century?
- Next to the Palau de la Virreina stands one of the city's oldest shops, the **Casa Beethoven** (97, Rambla de Sant Josep), where you can find all kinds of sheet music, both old and new.
- Did you know that the Mercat de la Boqueria is the city's most important food market?
- The Palau Nou de la Rambla stands at number 94. Today, it is a state-of-the-art building, with a mechanised underground car park set out on 11 levels.
- The **Casa Gimeno** (100, La Rambla) stands at number 100. It specialises in Havana cigars, the best in Barcelona and perhaps the rest of Europe.
- Have you ever noticed the Oriental-style building known as the Casa dels Paraigües, or House of Umbrellas, with the Chinese dragon protruding from its façade?

2.1.4. Rambla dels Caputxins (Rambla del Centre)

This section of La Rambla is also known as the Rambla del Centre, and takes its name from the convent of Capuchin friars that used to stand on the site.

- Have you ever noticed the multicoloured mosaic section of pavement by **Joan Miró** below the Pla de la Boqueria?

- Did you know that the Hotel Oriente, which dates from 1842, is the oldest in the city?
- This part of La Rambla is the site of the Cafè de l'Òpera , one of the city's oldest cafés, which dates from 1929.
- One of the oldest theatres in Barcelona and Spain, the Teatre Principal, survives today. Although this name dates from 1868, we know that a small theatre, for 800 people, was opened on this site in 1667.
- Close by, in the middle of the Plaça Reial, stands the fountain of the Three Graces. Did you know that the streetlamps in the middle of the square were designed by **Antoni Gaudí** in 1878?

2.1.5. Rambla de Santa Mònica

This part of La Rambla opens onto the harbour and is the site of the former convent for the Order of Barefoot Augustinians (1626). It has been converted into the Centre d'Art Santa Mònica, which stages temporary art exhibitions.

- Did you know that Carrer Escudellers is named after the people who made or sold *escudella* (a typical Catalan broth), plates and other earthenware goods? This was the street where the potters lived and worked during the Middle Ages.
- The world's biggest and most complete medieval shipyards, known as the Drassanes, survive intact today. They were built in 1378, and are the city's most important civilian Gothic building. They are currently home to the Museu Marítim (Maritime Museum), which was created during the Civil War (1936-1939) and opened in 1941. Highlights include *El Ictíneo*, the world's first submarine, built by the Catalan **Narcís Monturiol**.

2.2. THE GOTHIC QUARTER

The perimeter of the former Roman colony of Barcino bore witness to the splendour of the county of Barcelona and Catalonia from the 9th to the 12th centuries. The kings and queens of Catalonia and Aragon transformed the Roman town into an important medieval city, now the site of the Gothic Quarter, one of the city's most beautiful and romantic spots.

- Did you know that the name Gothic Quarter dates from the early 20th century? It was precisely at this time that Barcelona was beginning to be an important, modern city, and decided to "restore" the area known today as the Gothic Quarter.

- Did you know that the ancient Roman city of Barcino wasn't discovered until the early 20th century? Due to building work on the Via Laietana, it was decided to move the Casa Clariana Padellàs (now the Museu d'Història de la Ciutat or City History Museum) from Carrer dels Mercaders to its current site. While the construction workers were digging the foundations of the new site, they discovered the ancient city of Barcino by chance.
- The bell tower of Santa Àgata still stands in the Plaça del Rei. It is shaped like a crown because it used to be a royal chapel. Inside was a secret passageway which connected it to the royal palace.
- Did you know that the Palau del Lloctinent was built as a home for the lieutenant or viceroy, although he never actually lived there? It has been used for different purposes throughout the city's history: it was a prison and also the site of the Archive of the Crown of Aragon.
- Did you know that the *Call*, or Jewish Quarter, was the most important cultural centre in Catalonia during the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries and had five synagogues? At number 1, Carrer del Marlet, you can still see the Hebrew plaque, discovered in 1820, following building work, which refers to the rabbi Samuel Hassardi.
- Did you know that the house of Sant Domènec del Call (6, Carrer de Sant Domènec del Call) is documented as the oldest building in the city? It has been inhabited since the 12th century. It is said to have been a famous brothel during the post-war era.
- You can still see the walls, which formed the façades of the buildings on Carrer Sant Domènec del Call. They lean outwards due to an earthquake that occurred in 1428.
- The façade of the church of Sant Felip Neri still bears the scars of bomb damage following an air raid in 1938, during the Civil War. It is said that the bomb was dropped by one of **Mussolini's** planes that were looking for the government building, the Palau de la Generalitat.
- Did you know that you can still see a bomb from **General Prim's** revolution of 1868 against **Isabel II**, embedded in a building at number 2, Carrer de **Sòcrates** in the neighbourhood of Sant Andreu?
- Did you know that **Antoni Gaudí** attended mass at the church of Sant Felip Neri every day? He used to go there on foot from the Sagrada Família, and it is said that on the day he died in a tragic accident he was on his way to the church.

- Did you know that the Museu del Calçat (Footwear Museum) is located in the same square? One of its more curious exhibits is the mould used to cast the shoes for the statue of Columbus which stands at the end of La Rambla. The mould is 1.22 metres long.
- Did you know that the Roman walls of Barcino are the strongest, most modern and technically advanced of the Roman era?
- Did you know that the Roman walls defended the city for almost a thousand years? Despite their imposing solidity, they were unable to withstand the siege and attack by Almansor in the year 985.
- Did you know that, for many centuries, the Plaça Nova was the scene of public executions? According to folklore, the bandit **Joan de Serrallonga** was executed on this spot.
- Did you know that the façade of Barcelona Cathedral is neo-Gothic (19th and 20th centuries) but was built according to the project designed by **Mestre Carllí** dating from 1408, which is preserved in the Chapterhouse Archive?
- In the Cathedral cloister you can still see 13 white geese, which guard the cloister and also remind us that Santa Eulàlia died at the age of 13 and was martyred 13 times.
- The cloister contains the tomb of **Manuel Girona** who financed the Cathedral façade. He wanted to be buried inside the Cathedral but only bishops and kings could be interred there.
- The Gothic bell tower of Santa Àgata can be seen from the Plaça de **Ramon Berenguer el Gran** and stands on top of a Roman tower. Although the ensemble is seemingly harmonious, the bell tower was built a thousand years after the Roman one.
- Did you know that the services and shops on the Portal de l'Àngel, today a busy shopping thoroughfare, were built between 1910 and 1920 and are some of the oldest in the city?
- The café **Els Quatre Gats** (3 bis Carrer Montsió) , a *modernista* building designed by **Josep Puig i Cadafalch**, is still standing. It opened on 12th June 1897 and is now a restaurant serving Catalan cuisine. The café was the meeting place for artists of the *modernista* period, such as **Picasso**, **Casas**, **Rusiñol** and **Nonell**, and it is said that when they got together they would have a few drinks too many and then find inspiration for their works. The café hosted the first exhibition by **Pablo Picasso**.
- Did you know that the Portal de l'Àngel was a path leading out of the city via one of the gates in the 13th-century city walls?

- The fountain of Santa Anna, which used to be a drinking trough for horses, still stands at the end of the Portal de l'Àngel. It is one of the few remaining examples from the era before the motor car.
- Did you know that the Plaça de Catalunya was built on in the early 20th century in order to connect the old town with the Eixample district? It covers a surface area of 50,000 m², comparable with other major squares, such as Saint Peter's, in the Vatican, or the Place de l'Étoile, in Paris.
- The Sala Parés (5, Carrer de Petritxol), the art gallery where **Picasso** exhibited his paintings, is still open today.
- According to legend, the church of Sants Just i Pastor is the oldest in Barcelona. It was founded during the rebuilding of the city by **Lluís I "The Pious"**, in 801. Did you know that this church enjoyed a unique special privilege known as a "sacramental will"? This meant that if someone died intestate, but had at least two witnesses who would declare under oath, before the altar, the final wishes of the deceased, a notary would accept their declaration as a valid will and testament.
- Did you know that, in the Roman era, the Roman Forum stood in the area of the Plaça de Sant Jaume and that the city has been governed from the same site for over two thousand years?
- Did you know that the remains of a Roman baths have been found behind City Hall, in the Plaça de Sant Miquel?
- The house where the painter **Joan Miró** was born still stands at number 4, Passatge del Crèdit, just off Carrer Ferran.
- Did you know that **Joan Fiveller**, a Barcelonian who was the city's chancellor, lived at number 4, Carrer de Lledó? He was the only person able to levy the tax on eating meat from King **Ferran I**.
- Did you know that one of Europe's first zoological gardens, built by **Pere III "The Ceremonious"**, stood nearby, on Carrer de la Lleona?
- The church of Sant Jaume, which survives today, was originally a Jewish synagogue that was turned into a Christian church by converted Jews in 1394.

2.3. LA RIBERA

- Did you know that the church of Sant Pere de les Puelles was one of the late-medieval monastic foundations to be built outside the city walls?

- The Plaça de les Basses de Sant Pere survives today. It was the result of the conversion, in 1825, of the old water tanks into the Rec Comtal, a major canal that brought water from the River Besòs to the city.
- Did you know that the Rec Comtal brought water as far as the suburb of Montcada and that most of the canal followed the course of an old Roman aqueduct?
- Did you know that Carrer dels Carders resulted from the urban development of the old Roman road that led to Barcino? During the Middle Ages it was known as the *Strata Francisca*, as it was the road to the Frankish Lands.
- Did you know that the ensemble formed by Carrer de la Bòria and the Plaça de la Llana, together with Carrer Corders and Carrer Carders, followed an ancient Roman way?
- At number 23, Carrer de la Bòria, there is a curious little shop, **Col·leccionisme Coixet**, specialising in old badges, posters, postcards and picture cards.
- Did you know that at number 16, Carrer de la Princesa, there is the **Llibreria Almirall**, a bookshop dating from 1773 which has specialised, for over 25 years, in sacred and religious themes? This was the first street to be paved in the mid-19th century.
- The chapel of Marcús, named after **Bernat Marcús**, a wealthy, upper-middle-class banker, still stands today. He is said to have owned a lot of properties and land, including Montjuïc Hill, and was one of the few commoners to be a member of the Council of Count **Ramon Berenguer IV**. The Guild of Postmen, the first postal service set up in Europe in 1187, met in this chapel, which is dedicated to the Virgin of La Guia.
- Did you know that, according to legend, the bandit **Joan de Serrallonga** lived at number 5, Carrer dels Mirallers?
- Did you know that Carrer de Montcada was the home of Barcelona's nobility during the 14th and 15th centuries? This explains the great number of mansions that line the street. It features the city's most important ensemble of civilian Gothic architecture.
- The courtyard of the Museu Picasso, housed in the Palau Aguilar, is very similar in design to the central courtyard of the Catalan government building, the Palau de la Generalitat.
- Did you know that at the end of Carrer Montcada is Carrer de les Mosques, which is less than a metre wide? It is the narrowest street in the city.

- Did you know that during medieval times the Born district was one of the biggest open spaces in the city? It was the venue for popular festivals, jousting matches and tournaments. At that time, fighting in a tournament was referred to in Catalan by the verb *bornar*.
- Did you know that the Born Market (1873) was one of Barcelona's most important iron buildings? It was the city's central market until 1967.
- Close to the Born and the church of Santa Maria del Mar, stands the Fossar de les Moreres, the church's former cemetery. It is the burial ground for many of the people who defended the city from the Castilian army's attack during the siege of 1713-1714. Today the Fossar de les Moreres is considered a major monument, as it is an important symbol of Catalonia.
- Did you know that the first stone of the church of Santa Maria del Mar was laid in 1329 as an act of thanksgiving for the Catalan conquest of Sardinia? This is written on the stone plaques at the entrance opposite the Fossar de les Moreres. The church was the cathedral of the La Ribera district, which was the home of tradespeople and sailors. It took a little over 50 years to build the church, and the final stone was laid in 1383. The entire community of La Ribera took an active part in the building work. This is the only Catalan Gothic church with a fully completed façade.
- Did you know that the church of Santa Maria del Mar, together with Mallorca Cathedral, has the most spacious interior of any three-nave European Gothic church? It is arguably the most beautiful Gothic church in the world.
- At number 20, Plaça del Born, you can still see a wrought iron balcony decorated with dragons. It is one of the few surviving examples of medieval wrought ironwork.
- Did you know that the nearby Plaça del Duc de Medinaceli was the location for a number of scenes in the film *All About My Mother*, directed by **Pedro Almodóvar**?
- Did you know that in front of the old stock exchange building, La Llotja, there was a small breakwater, which was part of Barcelona harbour? In fact, Barcelona had never had a proper harbour and most boats dropped anchor on the seafront, between the Drassanes and La Llotja.
- The triple-armed streetlamps designed by **Antoni Gaudí** in 1878 still stand on the Pla de Palau.
- Did you know that the flagship store of the Barcelona designer **Custo BCN** is in the Plaça de les Olles?
- Did you know that building work in the Barceloneta district began in 1753 to provide accommodation for the people who, after the fall of the city on 11th

September 1714, had been forced to demolish their homes in La Ribera to build the military citadel? Six churches and eight hundred homes were razed to the ground.

- The builder of the Suez Canal and consul in Barcelona, **Ferdinand de Lesseps**, lived in the house that still stands next to the church of Sant Miquel del Port.
- Did you know that the famous flamenco dancer **Carmen Amaya** was born in the Barceloneta district?
- Can Ramonet was the first “tasca” to be built in Barceloneta in 1763, and has been a bar and restaurant even since.
- The Clock Tower is the oldest building in the harbour. It was built in 1722 and operated as a lighthouse until the mid-19th century.
- Did you know that the Museu d’Història de Catalunya (Museum of the History of Catalonia) opened on 29th February 1996? It was designed by the architects **Josep Breda** and **Agustí Mateos**.

2.4. EL RAVAL

- Barcelona’s first city walls date from the Roman era and defended the city for almost a thousand years. In the 13th century another wall was built around the new towns that had sprung up outside the city walls.
The neighbourhood of El Raval became a part of the city proper as a result of the building of a third wall, during the time of Pere III “The Ceremonious” (14th century).
- Did you know that *raval* is a word of Arabic origin (*rabad*), which means “outside the city walls”?
- Did you know that during the Middle Ages, there were a great many convents throughout the district, such as the convents of El Carme, Jerusalem, Montalegre and Els Àngels? From the late 14th century onwards a ban was placed on the building of new convents in the city.
- Did you know that a workhouse, known as the Casa de la Caritat, and an orphanage were built around the Plaça dels Àngels in the modern era? The site is currently home to two major cultural facilities: the city’s contemporary art museum, the Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA) and the centre for contemporary culture, the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB).
- Did you know that in 1919, on Carrer dels Àngels, Isidre Carasso made the first industrially produced Danone yoghurt in Spain? This product was said to have magical, therapeutic properties.

- In the Plaça del Pedró you can see the main façade of the chapel of Sant Llätzer, a former leper colony. It dates from the 12th century, and was built on the orders of the bishop **Guillem de Tarroja** as a way of keeping lepers away from the city. The chapel is currently used for exhibitions.
- The building that once housed the old Hospital de la Santa Creu, which was begun in 1401, still stands between Carrer del Carme and Carrer de Hospital. The *modernista* Hospital de Sant Pau, designed by **Lluís Domènech i Montaner**, is the successor of the old Hospital de la Santa Creu and today bears the name Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau.
- Did you know that one of the city's oldest hotels, the Hotel Peninsular, still stands on Carrer de Sant Pau? It dates from 1888. The hotel known as the Fonda Espanya is also located on this street. Its ground floor was designed by the architect Domènech i Montaner, and the building won the Top Hotel Award in 1904.
- The Romanesque monastery of Sant Pau del Camp is the oldest religious building in El Raval, and one of the oldest in the city. Records of the monastery date back as far as the year 912. The monastery was partially destroyed in the attack by Almansor in the 10th century, because it was outside the city walls and on the road leading to Barcelona.
- Did you know that the Visigoths called Barcelona *Barchinona* and the Arabs, *Barshiluna*?
- The city's oldest *granja* (a café and shop selling dairy products and cakes), the **Granja M. Viader** (4-6 Carrer Xuclà), which was founded in 1870, is located in this neighbourhood, just off Carrer del Carme (4-6, Carrer de Xuclà). The first Cacaolat (a chocolate milk drink) was made here in 1931, although the product was not launched until 1933.
- Did you know that Carrer dels Tallers is named after the butchers who moved into the street during the Middle Ages? Today it is one of the city's busiest shopping streets, and is renowned for its record shops and alternative fashion outlets.

2.5. THE EIXAMPLE

The Eixample district sprung up as a result of the city's growth. Barcelona was encompassed by medieval walls until the 19th century. It is now one of the city's smartest neighbourhoods and comprises an ensemble of *modernista* (Catalan art nouveau) architecture which is unique in Europe.

- Did you know that the city walls were demolished between 1854 and 1856? Nevertheless, permission to draw up the urban plan to "expand" the city was not granted until 1858.

- Did you know that in 1859 Barcelona Municipal Council issued a call for entries in an urban planning competition and that the winner was the architect **Rovira i Trias**? However, at the same time, the central government commissioned the project from **Ildefons Cerdà**. Finally, the Cerdà Plan was imposed by decree, thereby overriding Barcelona Municipal Council's decision.
- Did you know that the Eixample was built at the same time as the industrialisation of Catalonia, between the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries?
- Did you know that the centre and right-hand side of the Eixample was the district where the Catalan bourgeoisie lived, and that they competed with one another to see who had the best house in the district? This is how they created a style of their own: Catalonia's home-grown art nouveau, known as *modernisme*.
- Did you know that Barcelona is the only city in the world with nine **UNESCO World Heritage sites**? In 1984, this distinction was awarded to Park Güell, the Palau Güell and the Casa Milà, in 1997 to the Palau de la Música Catalana and the Hospital de Sant Pau. In 2006, the crypt and the Nativity façade of the Sagrada Família, the Casa Vicens, the Casa Batlló and the crypt of the Colònia Güell have taken their rightful place on the UNESCO list.
- Did you know that the Catalan painter **Ramon Casas** moved to the Eixample in 1899? The artist **Santiago Rusiñol** also lived in Casas's house.
- **La Carte du Vin** (169, Carrer de Pau Claris) is located nearby. It specialises in wines and cava, and stocks over 1,200 brands as well as 50 wines bearing the regional quality wine classification.
- Did you know that the **Casa Francesc Ferreras** (248, Carrer de Mallorca) was the first building in Barcelona to have lift?
- The former publishing house, the Editorial Montaner i Simon, is considered to be the first example of *modernista* architecture. It was designed by **Domènec i Montaner** and built in 1879.
- It is currently the home of the **Fundació Antoni Tàpies**.
- Did you know that there is an area called the Pink Eixample on the left-hand side of the Eixample, with nearly a hundred bars, restaurants and shops run by gay people for gay people?
- Did you know that the district of Gràcia was a separate town until 1897?
- Did you know that there used to be an air-raid shelter under the Plaça **del Sol**? A car park now stands in its place.

- The **Casa Vicens** (24, Carrer de les Carolines) was the first building in Barcelona to be designed by Gaudí.

LITERARY CURIOSITIES

DON QUIXOTE IN BARCELONA

- Did you know that chapters 60 to 66 of the second part of *Don Quixote* are set in Barcelona?
- According to the novel, people kept a lookout from the top of Montjuïc for attacks by Turkish pirates and warned of their presence.
- According to the novel, Don Quixote entered Barcelona from the beach, guided by the bandit Roque Guinart.
- According to the novel, the bandit Roque Guinart lived in Carrer Perot lo Lladre when he hosted Don Quixote
- Did you know that the printer's visited by Don Quixote has been identified as that of Sebastià de Comellas, which was located at number 14, Carrer del Call?
- **Did you know that the Casa de Cervantes, at number 2, Passeig de Colom, is the place where Cervantes is thought to have lived during his stay in Barcelona in 1610 or thereabouts?**
- Did you know that Don Quixote was defeated by the Knight of the White Moon on Barcelona beach? After this, he fell ill and began his journey home, where he regained his lucidity and later died.

HISTORIC ESTABLISHMENTS

1. THEATRES, CAFÉS AND ENTERTAINMENTS

- The city's opera house, the **Gran Teatre Liceu** (51-59 La Rambla) , was originally built in 1847 and is one of Barcelona's oldest venues. Unfortunately it was partially destroyed by a fire on 31st January 1994, but was restored and reopened on 7th October 1999.
- From its beginnings as a *café-concert* called La Pajarera in 1899, Barcelona's **Teatre Molino** went on to become a legendary music hall on the Paral·lel, the heart of Barcelona's theatreland. After 1910, it was renamed the Petit Moulin Rouge, but a subsequent decree by Franco's government insisted on a Spanish name for the venue and renamed it El Molino. They decided to leave out the word *rouge* (*red*) due to its historic and political connotations at the time. The interior of the building, a beautiful *modernista*-style auditorium, was designed by Joaquim Raspall. To mark the 1929 International Exhibition, the characteristic outline of a windmill with its sails was added to the façade, based on a design by Josep Alemany. This, together with the auditorium, is a "City Heritage Site". The windmill's sails did not begin turning until 1930, and they were switched off between 1936 and 1989.
- The **Teatre Romea** (51 Carrer Hospital) was built 142 years ago in 1863 and is one of the city's oldest theatres. It stands on the site of the old convent of Sant Agustí, and, when it opened, was popular with Barcelona's lower-middle and working classes. It was named in honour of the Murcian actor **Julián Romea**.
- Did you know that there is a small sculpture on a corner of the façade of the **Teatre Lliure**(1, Plaça de Margarida Xirgu)? It depicts two cherubs and commemorates the premature death of **Manuel Maria Mayol** (1899-1929), one of the architects who designed this building, which was the Palace of Agriculture during the 1929 International Exhibition.
- The façade of the **Teatre Poliorama** (115, Rambla dels Estudis) on La Rambla, still has the clock that displayed the city's official time. At the end of the 19th century, it was difficult to know what the official time was, and this is why the clock was fitted. The Reial Acadèmia de les Ciències i les Arts reached an agreement with the Municipal Council in 1891 to provide this service. The scientist Eduard Fontserè was responsible for seeing that the clock worked properly.

- The dance hall **La Paloma** still stands at number 27, Carrer del Tigre. It was founded by three friends in 1903 and given its name by **Ramon Daura**, after one of the building's three guard dogs. The dogs were called after the neighbouring streets (*Tigre [Tiger]*, *León [Lion]* and *Paloma [Dove]*).
- The pleasure boats known as **Golondrinas** have been taking people on rides around Barcelona harbour for over a hundred years. They were launched in 1888 for the Universal Exhibition, taking advantage of their proximity to the Columbus Monument, another of the Exhibition's attractions.
- The **Cafè de l'Òpera** on La Rambla is one of the oldest cafès in the city. When it opened at the end of the 18th century it was an inn, but in the mid-19th century it became a Vienna-style chocolate house. It still retains the mirrors and décor of this period. Did you know that it was once known as "La Mallorquina" (the Mallorcan girl) and became the preferred meeting place for Barcelona's aristocracy and bourgeoisie? It opened under the name Cafè de l'Òpera in late 1928, and is now one of the city's historic heritage sites. Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí and Terenci Moix were among its customers.
- The **Cafè Zurich**, at number 1, Plaça de Catalunya, is one of the preferred meeting places for the people of Barcelona. It dates back over 80 years and although it was modernised several years ago, it still remains one of the city's most popular cafès.

2. RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS

- Did you know that the **Restaurant 7 Portes** (14, Pg. Isabel II) was originally known as the Cafè de les 7 Portes and opened in 1836? In 1942 the business was taken over by **Paco Perellada**, the founder of a prestigious dynasty of Catalan restaurateurs.
- The **Restaurant Los Caracoles** (14, Carrer Escudellers) has been run by the Bofarull family for more than four generations. It was founded in 1835 as a tavern and served snails to accompany its drinks, hence the name *caracoles*, the Spanish word for snails. The dish was so successful that the bar came to be known as Los Caracoles by its customers. The sign displaying the new name was not fitted until 1915, tying in with the extension of its premises, which still stand on the corner of Carrer dels Escudellers. It wasn't awarded the category of restaurant until 1934.
- A mosaic by Miró can be seen on the façade of the **Restaurant Orotava** (335, Carrer Consell de Cent). It is said that the painter was very generous and one day did a sketch on a paper napkin, which was later enlarged and turned into a mosaic.

- The **Hotel Ritz** has been a five-star, de luxe hotel since it opened in 1919. The hotel was **Salvador Dalí's** Barcelona “home”. Whenever he visited the city, he stayed in the same suite. He sometimes spent long periods of time there (weeks and months). As a tribute to the painter, the suite where he used to stay has been named the Salvador Dalí Royal Suite.

3. SHOPS

- Did you know that the **Pâtisserie Foix**(12-13 Plaça de Sarrià) in Sarrià opened in 1886 and is one of the city's oldest pâtisseries? It was founded by Josep Foix i Riera, the father of the eminent Catalan poet Josep Vicenç Foix.
- Did you know that Doctor Alexander Fleming visited the **Laboratoris del Doctor Esteve** in Barcelona? Penicillin had been administered as an experimental treatment at the Hospital de Sant Pau, and this was the reason for Fleming's visit. The laboratories originated from the pharmacy that the Esteve family opened in the city of Manresa in 1787.
- Did you know that the **Confiteria Llibre i Serra** closed in 1986. The famous confectioner's and baker's opened in 1900 and became a purveyor to the Spanish royal household, the Royal Palace of Pedralbes and the Royal Palace in Madrid?
- Did you know that **Tomás Cebado** opened the first ladies' hair salon in Spain on La Rambla in 1892?
- Did you know that the jeweller's, the **Joiera Roca** (18, Pg. de Gràcia), dates back over a hundred years, spanning four generations? The first shop, at number 50, Carrer Ample, sold watches and clocks and opened in 1888. In 1909, it moved to La Rambla, where it specialised in jewellery. Another shop opened in 1934 and stands on the corner of Passeig de Gràcia and Gran Via. Its interior was designed by the architect **Josep Lluís Sert**.
- Did you know that the aniseed liqueur manufactured by the **Vicenç Bosch** distillery was christened Anís del Mono (monkey anis) by the locals in the town of Badalona where it was produced? Based on an original, home-made formula, it was originally called Anisado Refinado Vicente Bosch, and featured a monkey on the label.
- The old taxidermist's shop known as the **Taxidermista** (8, Plaça Reial) (1889) still stands in the Plaça Reial. It dates back over one hundred years, and today is a café and restaurant. Did you know that, on one of his trips to Barcelona, **Salvador Dalí** visited the shop and asked them to provide him with two hundred thousand ants? They also stuffed a tiger, a lion and a rhinoceros for him.

- The candle shop, the **Cereria Subirà** (7, Carrer Baixada de la Llibreteria), is the oldest shop in Barcelona and has remained virtually unchanged since 1847. The third generation of the Subirà family run this historic candle shop which was founded in 1761.
- Did you know that the **Herbolari del Rei** (1, Carrer del Vidre) , is one of the city's oldest herbalist's and dates from 1823? At that time, herbalists, the precursors of pharmacists, used medicinal herbs to cure people. In 1858 the shop became the official purveyor to the Spanish Royal Household. Curiously enough, until 1994, it was run by the Ballart family, who founded the shop in the 19th century.
- The **Mercat de la Boqueria** (91, La Rambla) is the biggest food market in Spain. Its official name is the Mercat de Sant Josep (Saint Joseph), in memory of the convent of Barefoot Carmelites of Saint Joseph, which stood on the site until the 19th century. It was officially opened as a covered market on Saint Joseph's Day (19th March) 1840, and was designed by the architect Mas Vilà. Nevertheless, documents from 1217 state that people were selling meat from tables near the current site of La Boqueria. The metal roof dates from 1914. Most of today's stalls are run by the third or fourth generation of vendors. The market features a vast array of quality produce, and recently a stall opened where you can even buy ants, and another which stocks 90 varieties of eggs.
- The **Casa Gispert** (23, Carrer de Sombrerers), master roasters since 1851, specialises in coffees, nuts and dried fruit. It still uses the original wood oven to roast its produce, making it unique in Europe, and retains its original furnishings. In 1999, the French association, Les Gourmands Associés, awarded the shop the prestigious *Coq d'Or* prize in Paris. The *Coq d'Or* is awarded to products of exceptional quality and recognised this shop as one of Europe's finest artisanal food outlets.
- The **Farmàcia Bolós** (77, Rambla de Catalunya) , founded in 1902, still retains its original *modernista* period décor. Its founder, Antoni Novellas, sold the pharmacy to Antoni Bolós in 1927. The chemist's is currently owned by the 17th generation of this family of pharmacists. Did you know that, during the Civil War, the shop was forced to remain open during bombing raids, and this meant that the owner had to live in a guesthouse in the same building? It is considered to be one of the most beautiful *modernista* buildings in Barcelona.

FILMS

LIST OF FILMS

- *ESPAÑA OTRA VEZ* (1969), directed by Jaime Camino
- *LA REDADA* (1971), directed by José A. De la Loma
- *LA PLAÇA DEL DIAMANT* (1982), directed by Francesc Betriu
- *BAR-CEL-ONA* (1987), directed by Ferran Llagostera
- *BARCELONA LAMENTO* (1991), directed by Luis Aller
- *BARCELONA* (1994), directed by Whit Stillman
- *ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER* (1999), directed by Pedro Almodóvar
- *EN CONSTRUCCIÓN* (2001), directed by José Luis Guerin
- *GAUDÍ AFTERNOON* (2001), directed by Susan Seidelman
- *SHANGHAI SPELL* (2001), directed by Fernando Trueba
- *HIJOS* (2001), directed by Marco Bechis
- *UNA CASA DE LOCOS* (*L'auberge espagnole*) (2002) directed by Cédric Klapisch
- *AMOR IDIOTA* (2004), directed by Ventura Pons