



JAHN SCHLOSSER

#BCN

by locals

WEEKEND

A FREE 3 DAY GUIDE – DISCOVER BARCELONA

#BCN

- weekend

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Jahn Schlosser

1st Edition

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THREE DAYS



This is a free 3-day guide to Barcelona. If you need more information about Barcelona... Get my book: www.bcnbylocals.com

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Introduction

Barcelona is marvelous. I am sure the Mediterranean light will convince you once you are there. It is the city of grand architecture, young design culture and a foodist capital. This guide shall be your tool in opening secret places all around town. Get to know the real Barcelona now!

Welcome

Hi there in southern Europe. We totally live in another rhythm down here. Breakfast starts when other people do brunch and dinner is only finished when everybody in your homeland is already fast asleep. To really experience Barcelona, you need to know the whole package. That's why I created a three day itinerary for you that covers tourism classics, lifestyle secrets and local favorites. The mix is eclectic and combines must sees with hidden gems, consider it to be the closest you can get to really living here, in only three days. Now let's dive into the action. I optimized locations and schedule for a classic long weekend, think day1=friday to day3=sunday...

Advice

If you want to follow this itinerary and don't want to queue at the one major tourist attraction spot I am mentioning, I suggest you get tickets online for your 1st days morning (e.g. 11:00 AM) venture Casa Mila: Buy this ticket "La Pedrera by day" here <http://www.lapedrera.com/en/buy-tickets/pedrera-by-day>

Map

There is a Google Map with all locations publicly available online: [LINK](#)

Print it, or take it with you by saving the places to your own Google account. Make sure to download the area to your mobile, in order to save on roaming costs ;-)

DAY ONE



perfect cafe con leche at CUP & CAKE Barcelona - photo by author

A light start

I suggest you start your day with a perfect cup of coffee. In the **Travel & Cake** ([Carrer Roselló 189](http://www.cupcakesbarcelona.com), +34932378765, <http://www.cupcakesbarcelona.com>, Monday to Sunday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM) coffee shop on Carrer Rossello you can find the best of its kind. The concept is the product of a project that combines the nicest inspirations from all over the US with the mediterranean cuisine. They are serving food at any hour of the day. Their homemade bread is a winner and their cupcakes are waiting to be devoured. Like it or love it.

From here we head on to dive into Gaudí's Barcelona. The **Casa Milà** ([Provença, 261-265](http://www.lapedrera.com), +34 902 20 21 38, <http://www.lapedrera.com>, 17 € for the general visit, Opening hours: November to February, 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM, March to November, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM) was commissioned by the industrialist Pere Milà i Camps from architect Antoni Gaudí in 1906. You

will find no rectangular construction at all in this place. The general layout of Casa Milà is two apartment blocks with independent entrances, which are linked by two large inner courtyards and a facade linking them into a common building. The façade is the resemblance of the interior rhythms of the construction. Pillars are the main structure of the house. In this building Gaudi went beyond his former architectural language. One amazing institution is the museum inside. It really explains the man and his concepts in an entertaining way. Make sure to plan time on the roof.

Market life and the park



Park Guell - photo by author

After all this architecture I suggest we head up into the district of Gracià and enjoy a lunch menu. If you get up here earlier than 2:00 PM, visit the Mercat de Llibertat ([Plaça de la Llibertat, 27](#), www.mercatsbcn.cat). You can walk through the food stalls and also stock up some jamon (ham) and pan (bread) for a later snack in the park. Is it time for lunch already? La Pubilla ([Plaça de la Llibertat, 23](#), +34932182994, <http://www.yelp.com/biz/la-pubilla-barcelona>) serves a economic and very tasty set menu during weekdays (usually between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM). You found yourself at another time of day? Their poached eggs on honey sobrasada (meat based spread from Mallorca) are the authors favorite in Barcelona. On Sundays market and restaurant are closed, so better go to Cantina Machito ([Calle Torrijos, 47](#), +34932173414 <http://www.cantinamachito.com/machito.html>) and enjoy Mexican food.

I hope you had a good time at the restaurant and are available for some astonishing views on the city. Our next reference point is another Gaudi masterpiece that resides above Gracia, the Park Güell ([Carrer d'Olot, 9](#), <http://www.parkguell.cat/en/>, 8 € for the general visit [cheaper if you buy online in advance]) was constructed between 1900 and 1914. The origins of the park lie in a

highly unsuccessful project of Count Eusebi Güell, eponym of the place. He wanted to create a garden city, being inspired by the English movement. As the site was only a rocky hill with little vegetation and few trees, but amazing views and fresh air (far from the then booming city's textile industry), it seemed perfect for his plan. Ultimately only two houses were constructed on the site, none of those by Gaudi. But he arranged the gardens and built the entrance area, which are really worth to check out.

Insider tip:

The park used to be free to visit for a long time, but recently rules changed. If you want to save some cash I suggest you enter the upper part of the park that can still be visited for free and skip the monumental zone. Enter here: [Carretera del Carmel, 17](#) - close to Bus Stop Parc Güell of the 92 bus line / Check out the views onto the monumental zone from here: [41.415039, 2.152414](#) - you will see everything (okay, from a distance) and enjoy a fantastic panorama of Barcelona, for free.

House Mountain



Sunset from Tibidabo - photo by author

In order to give you more premium views take a cab or the traditional Tramvia Blau (<http://www.tmb.cat/en/tramvia-blau>) up to Mirablau ([Plaça Doctor Andreu, S/N](#), +34934185879, <http://www.yelp.com/biz/mirablau-barcelona>). Taking in the views with a aperitif vermouth in your hand gives you time to concentrate on the meal and conversation in the garden style restaurant called La Venta ([Plaça Doctor Andreu, S/N](#), +34932126455, <http://www.restaurantelaventa.com>). It is situated on the other side of the street. Housed in a building of modernistic late 19th century Barcelona, this dining option has been up here on Tibidabo since 1975. It is far apart from the city buzz. The kitchen is proudly Mediterranean. The wine list not extensive but based in Spain and fits the meals perfectly. Don't try to have a meal Sunday night, they are closed then!

Filled the belly? Feeling like you want to party? Good to know I can show you a true classic: Luz de Gas ([Carrer de Muntaner, 246](#), +34932097711, <http://www.luzdegas.com/>) If you haven't been here, you can't tell how people from Barcelona party. Starts late, ends early in the morning.

The crowd is pretty beautiful, make sure to dress up. Starts to really fill up around 1:00 o'clock in the morning. Check schedule on the web to be sure what kind of party is moving.

DAY TWO



you won't be taking these, locals only! photo by author

Full Picture

We are back on to day two and we are trying to discover the town with our own pedaling power this morning. But lets go easy and have a small breakfast somewhere in town. There are severall outlets of Buenas Migas (I especially like the one at [Plaça del Bonsuccés, 6](http://www.buenasmigas.com/), +34933183708, <http://www.buenasmigas.com/>). It is the combination of Italian and Cornish dishes that makes this place a success. Grandmothers recipes have been recovered and updated. Focacias, tarts and flapjack, it is a nice bet anytime of the day.

Now lets get into the action. Most of the city is easily accessible with a bike. It doesn't matter if you like the convenience of an eBike or the classic FatTire style. There are tours with bikes for all needs in Barcelona. For the ones loving the relaxed cruising I suggest to go with Fattire ([C. Sant Honorat, 7](http://fattirebiketours.com), +34933429275, <http://fattirebiketours.com>). They have different tours and my

personal favorite is the Barcelona City Tour starting every day at 11:00 AM, covering the essentials of the city. With this tour you are a part of the city and not like all these other tourists in the bus tour. It will need around 4 hours to see the whole place. In case you already know everything, I suggest you to do Montjuic, which is done with an eBike. Just one interesting fact for you about those “bicing” bikes you can see all over the city. It is the most successful bike sharing system in Europe, but only open to locals. Your bikes will surely be in a better state, as they see less miles than those red bikes.

Park & Sea to table



fresh fish for you - photo by author

After biking the whole city you should be hungry right now. The freshest seafood should be perfect for you. There is an outlets of the La Paradeta ([Carrer Comercial 7](http://www.laparadeta.com/), +34932681939, <http://www.laparadeta.com/>) sea-to-table dining chain. You can choose from the daily catch, that is laid out on ice. All kinds of different fish from the Med for you to make the belly happy. Be it monkfish or crayfish that is your gusto. The preparation modes are: “A la plancha”- grilled or “a la romana” - in batter. When your table is called (let them tell you how the number of your table will sound in Spanish) you get to the counter and your fresh dish is served. If you want to know how it works, they have an animation on their homepage: <http://www.laparadeta.com/funcionamiento.html>. Take care, if the bike tour lasted to long, and it is going to be past 4:00 PM, they will not serve you anymore. Head to Euskal Etxea ([Placeta de Montcada, 1](http://www.euskaletxeataberna.com/), +34933102185, <http://www.euskaletxeataberna.com/>). They serve tapas all day. Just get a plate and help yourself. Keep the little wooden sticks, they will be counted for your bill.

I guess you are pretty tired now. Come on, you biked for 4 hours and had some good food. In my opinion it is time to chill in the park. The green lung of Barcelona is called Parc de la Ciutadella ([Passeig de Picasso, 21](#)). Any meadow in here is a good place to chill. Just lay out a blanket and relax. Main attractions for the ones searching for something to do are the fountain ([41.389761, 2.186559](#)) and some boats to rent on a tiny lake ([41.388699, 2.186624](#)).

Feel like you relaxed enough and have some time left till the dinner? One of the main magnets for tourists is the Picasso Museum ([Carrer de Montcada, 15](#), +34932563000, <http://www.museupicasso.bcn.cat/>, 11 € for the general visit, Sundays are free from 3 pm) While many people think about Picasso only connected to cubism I suggest you to visit the museum in order to truly understand how he got to this perception of the world. The museum was opened in 1963. The genius of the young artist is revealed through the 4,249 works that make up the permanent collection. Additionally this museum also reveals Picasso's deep relationship with Barcelona. Artwork by the artist found in this place has a coverage of everything he did up to the blue period. Furthermore the cubistic reinterpretation of a classic from Velazquez is presented. The series "Las Meninas" takes out certain parts of the original painting and performs a serious reinterpretation. Founding father of this museum is Jaume Sabartes, Picasso's lifelong friend and secretary. He intended to create the space in Malaga, Picasso's hometown, but the artist himself suggested that Barcelona would be a lot more appropriate. Picasso always felt more connected with the Mediterranean jewel. They opened in 1963 under the name Sabartes Collection. Naming the museum after the artist himself would not have been feasible due to his strong opposition to Franco's regime. Creating this space was a move of the Barcelona mayor against the wishes of the central government. Over the years the collection grew up to its current size. Famous donors' are Picasso himself and Dali.

Beach



Barceloneta - photo by author

Evening draws closer now and maybe you are even getting a bit hungry again. Tonight we want to stay close to the beach. El Filferro ([Carrer Andrea Doria, 34](#), +34932219836) is a tapas place where you can find a slight Italian touch in all the dishes. Freshness and local ingredients are at the forefront of this place with the strange name “barbwire”. It is hard to find and because the terrace is always full, you have to advise the waiter that you are willing to wait for a table there. One of my favorites there is the “tapa de tortilla de patatas”, which is an omelette with potatoes inside. They are also good on the vegetarian side of life, a quite rare find in Barcelona.

Dinner was nice and a little walk on the seafront with a refreshing breeze will get you in the right mood to party. I suggest to drop into a chiringuito at the Platja de Sant Sebastià ([Carrer de la Drassana, 12](#)) and have a Mojito. As the owners change every now and then, just sit down in the one that looks good to you (please take special care of your belongings here, pickpockets paradise is close). From your drinks place it is just a scenic walk along the beach to this nights party location. Once you reached Shoko ([Passeig Marítim Barceloneta, 36](#), +3493225920, <http://shoko.biz/en>, get in free before 1:30 AM via Shaz guestlist: www.barcelonaparties.com)

you are where the party is at. The crowd is a lot more tourist than yesterday, but the atmosphere is relaxed and fun.

DAY THREE



MNAC, the catalan art museum - photo by author

Vermut

Finally it is our last day and we should have a nice start. I guess that after two days of partying you gone wake up late today. The event, that is part of the weekly Catalan routine, is the Vermut. This drink, whose most familiar brand would be Martini, is taken on Sunday morning around 11:00 - 12:00 AM. Formerly it has been the refreshment after the church and before the Sunday feast at home. In order to start our day late (they open at 11:30 AM) we should check out Celler Cal Marino ([Carrer de Margarit, 54](#), +34933294592, <http://www.cellercalmarino.com/>). I suggest to have the classic drink and some tapas with it.

If you do get up earlier, go for the other Sunday morning tradition and have “churros con chocolate” (= cookies with hot chocolate) at Granja Dulcinea ([Carrer de Petritxol, 2](#), +34 933 02 68 24, <http://www.granjadulcinea.com/>). They open at 9:00 AM :-)

Now either walk to (if you are at Cal Marino) or take the Metro to Plaça d' Espanya. From there we head into the direction of MNAC ([Museo Nacional d'Art de Catalunya](http://museunacional.cat/en), +34 936 22 03 60, <http://museunacional.cat/en>, 12 € for the general visit, free entrance on the first Sunday of the month). This Palau Nacional was constructed for the 1929 International Exhibition in Barcelona. The building was erected between 1926 and 1928 and was destined for demolition afterwards. Eugenio Cerdosa and Enric Catà are the architects that won the contest to construct the building. On the 30th of June 1926 the first stone of the construction was placed. The design of the National Palace is a unified style of Spanish Renaissance architecture with an air of academic classicism. It is especially notable that the time-frame in which they had to construct a building that big, was very short. To realize those efforts on-time, the architects used lots of artificial stones, created on site, as well as concrete and iron. Due to the fact that it was being built to be demolished the building has undergone several renovations since then. The major one being carried out in 1934 before the MNAC entered the building with its art collection. MNAC is the short form of “Museo Nacional de Arte de Catalunya” and stands for National Catalan Art Museum.

Currently the art collection houses all the different periods of the 19th and 20th century and includes even some contemporary art. It is the most extensive collection of Catalan art in existence. The museum gives you a good view on the many important influences that Catalans had on art and how it impacts contemporary ideas.

A different view



Casa Migdia chillout - photo by author

Now we had our share of arts and architecture. In order to have a relaxed time, you should head up the mountain (either walk if you are fit, or take a cab if you can afford). La Caseta ([Mirador del Migdia, s/n](http://www.lacaseta.org/), +34693992760, <http://www.lacaseta.org/>, BBQ starting around 2:00 PM, crepes till late) is a secret of Barcelona. It is the alternative on a hot summer day, the fresh place not far from town where you can enjoy the sunset. There is always a BBQ happening here, but you can't bring your own, you gotta get their plate for only 12 € with local carnivore dishes. Else there is the option to have a picnic right next to it and have a canned beer or a good coffee in La Caseta afterwards. Maybe that option unites the best of all worlds.

Fully refreshed we can start our walk along the face of Montjuic, enjoy the views over the ocean and will arrive at Castell de Montjuic ([Carretera de Montjuic, 66](http://www.bcn.cat/castelldemontjuic/en/welcome.html), +34932564445, <http://www.bcn.cat/castelldemontjuic/en/welcome.html>) in no time. It has been erected up here by the Spanish kings in order to keep the city under control. They even bombed the town from here in one occasion, when the population tried to liberate itself back in 1842. Walk around the

fortress and enjoy a different angle on the city. When you are happy with your exploring walk down or take the cable car.

Finish Line



Barcelona drinks - photo by author

We are getting closer to the end of our Barcelona adventure. Let us have some tapas to celebrate all these new things we discovered in the last days. Café Alsur ([Plaza de Sant Cugat, 1](#), +34931825407, <http://www.alsurcafe.com>) comes with a slight Argentinian touch in all its dishes, which can especially be noted in the sugar heavy desserts. The little square right around the corner of the Mercat de Santa Caterina is a safe bet for some outdoor eating all year round. At least when it's not raining cats and dogs in February and March.

Need a digestif and you did not like the drink of the day in Alsur? I suggest you head to SPRITZ ([Carrer Tapineria, 6](#)) and have a cocktail here. Their classic being the Italian drink with Aperol whose name they bear. Alternatively Rosa Negra ([Via Laietana, 46](#), +34933101798, <http://www.rosanegrabcn.com/>) around the corner is a sure bet for economic drinks with good quality to finish a great day and connect with locals.

If you can't get enough and want to party tonight my suggestion is to go to Plaça Reial. You can find different nightclubs all around it. Ocaña ([Plaça Reial, 13](#), +34936764814, <http://www.ocana.cat/>) and Jamoboree ([Plaça Reial, 17](#), +34933041210, <http://www.masimas.com/en/jamboree-dance-club>) are there for you, even on Sundays.

WHO, WHY & WHEN



Roy Lichtensteins sculpture in the harbor - photo by author

Conclusion

O yeah, what a time we had these three days. You saw some of the inspiring places all around Barcelona, had great food and took so many photos. I hope you adjusted a little bit to the rhythm of the city. Come back with more time! So many more thing to explore.

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Jahn Schlosser

Barcelona

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jahn.schlosser@gmail.com

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Disclaimer

This Guidebook is comprised of firsthand accounts of the experiences of the author living in Barcelona. As the editor and writer has lived in the city, he is well-acquainted with it in many ways but that doesn't mean there isn't room for error.

The #BCN -by locals Guidebook is not affiliated with any official or government organization - I don't have fact-checkers working for me and no organization oversees the input of content into this guidebook. I am sure there are some inaccuracies in the guidebook, either due to out-of-date information or input of muddled information.

That said, 99% of what's in here is solid and you won't find this much info about living and visiting Barcelona in this quality.

About the Author



Jahn Schlosser - Freelancer, Writer, Surfer,...

The author lives with his wife and daughter in Barcelona for many years. Surfing the city beaches and climbing the surrounding mountains are part of his everyday routine. He fell in love with the city about 10 years ago during a casual weekend visit. He returned every year and never dropped the idea of once changing his primary residence to Spain.

Chasing light and color, finding that “moment”. Jahn almost never leaves home without his camera, much like he seldom leaves without shoes (okay, the beach is an acceptable exception). Photography has given him a means to express himself in ways he could never find through other creative mediums. He tries to weave a loose narrative that tells the tales of his travels and life. These photos are a story of the city’s texture, like the dawn closing in on the city, the special tone of the Mediterranean light and everything else that catches his eyes and attention.

All photos in this guide are taken by Jahn himself and if you want to use one in your publication, he would be very happy to talk about conditions ;-). Keep in mind that just using them would be a copyright infringement.

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