

BARCELONA



THE LAST IN THE SERIES OF I & E PUBLICATIONS ABOUT THE PORTS WE VISIT
AND WHAT THERE IS TO SEE AND DO

NOT TO BE TAKEN ABOARD

GENERAL INFORMATION

Barcelona is the principal city of the region of Catalonia, which forms the northeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula and ranks second in importance of cities in Spain. Lying between two rivers and two mountains in a fertile and unusually beautiful plain, the city has a population of about 1,400,000 and is the center of the chief textile manufacturing region in Spain. Overlooking Barcelona, the two hills, Tibidabo and Montjuich, offer fine views of the city and harbor. The region is noted for its perfect climate, with fogs being unknown and snow very rare. Altogether, the region differs widely in character, climate and language from other parts of Spain. This is revealed in the startling differences between the two sides of the coastal mountains. The inland side is characterized by loneliness, exclusiveness, and poverty, while the seaward side, with all its contacts with the outside world, lives in cities and ports thriving with industry.

The city of Barcelona is made up of two distinct towns. The "old town", in the center of the city, is especially picturesque with its many small and winding streets of the Barrio Gotico surrounding the Cathedral. The "new town" (or - Etsanche), which surrounds the "old town", is carefully laid out in squares with wide avenues intersecting at right angles. Barcelona's important thoroughfares are: The Plaza de Cataluna, considered the center of the city and where Barcelona's chief hotels are located; Paralelo, where the city's main theatres, night clubs, and music halls are found; the Paseo de Gracia, which is lined with luxury shops and fine homes; and the Ramblas, one of the most picturesque streets in Europe with a permanent bird and flower market along its center.

Barcelona is the provincial capital, the seat of a bishopric, the site of a large university, and the headquarters of a military region.

HISTORY

The Carthaginian city of "Barcino" was founded by Hamilcar Barca, the father of Hannibal, about 230 B.C. Later under the Romans the town became the capital of a district of the Tarragona Province, and in 451 A.D. it was made a capital by the Visigothic Kings. The Moors held Barcelona from 713 until the early part of the 9th century.

In 1137 the city became the capital of the Kingdom of Aragon and Catalonia. It was during this period that the port became the great trading center of the region. During the 14th and 15th centuries it rivaled Venice and Genoa as one of the great ports of the world. Interesting to note is that a council of Jaime I of Catalonia in 1259 promulgated the Libre del Consulat de Mar - the earliest code of European maritime laws and which was used as a model for other Mediterranean countries. It is also in Barcelona that Ferdinand and Isabella received Columbus on his return from the West Indies in the summer of 1493.

The decline of Barcelona as a port was hastened by Queen Isabella's edict which forbade the Catalonians to trade with the new world. This restriction remained in effect until 1788, at which time trade again began to make Barcelona prosperous.

In 1929, Barcelona was the scene of the great International Exhibition.

During the Spanish Civil War both city and harbor suffered considerable damage, but, in 1942, the harbor was finally cleared of all sunken vessels, and Barcelona began to climb back to its present position as one of Spain's largest cities, her chief port, and an important shipping and industrial center on the northern coast of the Mediterranean.

CURRENCY

The monetary unit of exchange is the Spanish peseta, divided into 100 centimos. Their rough equivalent exchange values are as follows:

1 centimo	1/60¢
60 centimos	1¢
100 centimos	1 2/5¢ = 1 peseta
60 pesetas	\$1.00
300 pesetas	\$5.00
600 pesetas	\$10.00

TRANSPORTATION

Street cars and bus lines are available to all points in Barcelona. Taxis are numerous, have meters, and are inexpensive. Barcelona also has subway system, and there are two separate funiculars up to hills on the northeast outskirts of the city.

RESTAURANTS

Food in Barcelona is good, and the price of a meal varies between \$1.00 and \$5.00. A 12% service charge is usually included, which, theoretically, eliminates the need of tipping, but it is customary to leave a 7 to 10 per cent tip over and above the 12% service charge. When dining in first class restaurants, there is a 20% luxury tax and a 10% tax on wines served with the dinner. As a rule the best meals are to be had in any of the larger hotels, but there are many famous small restaurants as well. Whiskey and gin are expensive and poor, but brandy and wines are excellent. Drinking water is believed safe. Meal hours are late with lunch served from 1330 to 1530 and dinner from 2100 to 2300. The following restaurants are recommended:

- Parellada, - Ave. Generalisimo Franco 389 (1st Class)
- El Sole, - Paseo de Colon 17 (1st class)
- El Canario de la Garriga, - Lauria 23 (2nd class)
- Los Caracoles, - Escudillars 14 (2nd class)
- Equestrien, - oldest and most select gentleman's club in city.
Windsor, Ave. Generalisimo Franco 472 (1st class)
- Cau Ferrat, - Calle de Paris 213 (1st class)
- Cie de Puertes, - Paseo de Gracia 65 - good place for snacks
- Cafeteria Kansas, Paseo de Gracia 65 - " " " "

NIGHT CLUBS

Listed below are recommended night clubs with information concerning:

- La Bodega, - Rambla de Catalunya 26 - dinner and dancing from 2230 with floor shows at midnight and 0100.
- La Parilla, - Hotel Ritz - dinner and dancing from 2230 with floor shows at midnight and 0100.
- Rio, - Florida Blanca 137 - dancing and a floor show beginning at 2300.
- Rigat, - Plaza de Catalunya 24 - floor show beginning at 2400 at 0115, good music, Latin Quarter atmosphere, drinks highly expensive, main club divided from isolated bar.
- Bolero, - Republica de Catalunya 24 - dancing, floor show beginning at 2300, largest and most exciting cabaret, -EXPENSIVE.
- Rosaleda, - Ave. Generalisimo Franco

SIGHTSEEING

Barcelona has many public gardens, the largest and most modern of which is Montjuich Park on the mountain of the same name. Ciudadela Park, in which the Catalonian House of Parliament stands, is another. The city has numerous famous churches and notable buildings including: the Cathedral, an interesting example of Catalan - Gothic style and containing unusually fine sculptures; the Chapel of Santa Lucia, which dates from the 13th century; the churches of Santa Maria del Mar, Nuestra Senora del Pino, Santos Justo y Pastor, Santa Ana, San Pedro de las Puellas, San Jaime, and the Church of the Holy Family; buildings such as San Pablo del Campo, with its beautiful facade and cloister; Bishop's Palace and facade; Canonry; Palacio de la Disputacion, noted for its 15th century artistic beauty; Provincial Hall; Lonja Market; Casa del Arcehdiane, now used to house the City archives; Castle of Belles Guart, former palace of the Kings of Aragon; and the Palacio de la Virreyna, Renaissance period. The Town Hall, with a fine Gothic facade, contains the historic Hall of the Hundred. The concert hall, opera house, university, and Palace of Justice are also well worth seeing.

There are many museums in Barcelona, the most important being the Museo del Arte de Cataluna which is located in the National Palace. Catalonian art from the 10th century to the present time is dully represented, and a special feature is the museum's collection of Romanesque art. The Archeological Museum, the Museum of Music, the Laboratory of Numismatica, and the Museum of Popular Spanish arts, all in Montjuich Park, are also well known. The Historical Museum, Maritime Museum, and City Muscum all contain very valuable collections from all over Spain and abroad.

Worthwhile excursions include the following:

To the summit of Tibidabo and neighboring town of Vallvidrera or to the wooded mountain scenery of Las Planas.

Southern Beaches along the Costas de Gerrafr.

Northern Beaches - Caldetas and Arenys de Mar and on the Costa Brava, Spain's Northern Riviera in the province of Gerona, to Tossa and Sagaro through coast scenery as beautiful as any in the world.

City of Tarragona which contains pre-Roman and Roman remains, while the Cathedral and the Royal Museum at Vich are justly famous.

Monastery of Montserrat.

Tours will be announced while in-port.

SHOPPING

The shops of Barcelona offer a wide variety of nationally made goods, which are very reasonable and are considered some of the best buys available in the Mediterranean. Of particular interest would be the wide variety of Spanish dolls, linen and lace, and leather goods. Since Barcelona is the center of the Spanish cloth industry, many beautiful materials are also available.

Barcelona is also the center of Spanish falsified imitations. Personnel are warned that "English" materials, "Parker" pens, "French" perfume, "American" cigarettes, "Dunhill" lighters and many other items might be falsely marked.

REMEMBER

You represent the finest Navy and Nation in the world. It is human nature for other people to judge both the U.S. Navy and our Country not so much by the good we do as by the bad or thoughtless acts we commit. Bear this in mind. Don't over indulge in intoxicants, keep a clean record, and make it possible for your shipmates to enjoy a more generous liberty policy.