

BARCELONA

Benvinguts a Catalunya!

Welcome to sunny Spain! In order to facilitate planning your visit to Grand Prix Barcelona, local judges have prepared this short guide. We hope it proves useful and allows you to enjoy even more your stay in our country.

Quick Facts

- Electricity:** 220VAC, 50Hz, European-type plug.
- Calling code:** +34.
- Time zone:** GMT+1.
- Currency:** Euro (€).
- Cell phone network:** 3G at 900/2100 MHz (UMTS or WCDMA) and GSM.

Editor: Carlos Ho.

Contributors: Jorge Almeida, Sergio Pérez Marcos, Raül Rabionet, Daniel Solé.

Photos: Carlos Ho, except where noted. Some photographs are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 or 2.5 Generic license (CC-by 2.0 or CC-by 2.5.) License terms are available online:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

Wizards of the Coast, Magic: The Gathering, and their logos are trademarks of Wizards of the Coast LLC. © 2011 Wizards. All Rights Reserved. This publication is not affiliated with, endorsed, sponsored, or specifically approved by Wizards of the Coast LLC.

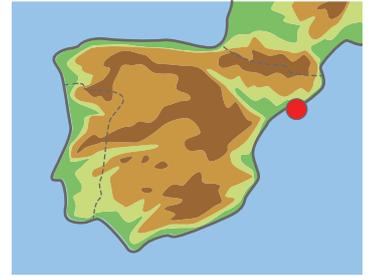
2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

Local Customs

There's a popular saying that states that Spain is different. That's true, but not always. Here we will explain some things that are slightly different from other countries.

Tipping

First of all, let's talk about tips. In Spain it's not mandatory to hand out tips, as service is usually included in the bill. However, when you go to a restaurant, it's very common to leave tips. Normally, customers leave between 1 and 2 euros. In other places, such as hotels, shops, or taxis, people seldom leave tips.



Opening Hours

Spaniards are known for their *siestas* or naps. Although this tradition is less and less common in urban centers like Barcelona, it still affects their schedules. That means that most places, except in tourist areas, will be closed at midday, between 14:00 and 17:00, more or less. This isn't the case in tourist areas, where shops open all day, well into the evening. Government buildings and bank offices are usually closed in the afternoon (after 14:00.) Shopping malls are usually open from 10:00 through 21:00.

Another important fact to keep in mind is when locals eat. It's usually later than in other countries. Lunch is usually taken between 14:00 and 16:00. In some restaurants you can get lunch earlier, but it isn't very usual. Normal times for dinner is between 21:00 and 23:00. After that, you can find lots of bars to have a drink or two. Bars are often open until 3:00, and discos or clubs until 5:00 or 6:00. For more information on eating and/or drinking, refer to the Food and Drinking sections.

Language and Communication

Spaniards don't speak English very well. If you go to tourist areas, you probably won't have many language issues, but outside of these areas, people rarely speak English. In addition, when communicating in English, you should speak very slowly, and be patient! Also, be aware that Spanish people enjoy having physical contact when meeting other persons. They usually kiss other people on the cheeks or shake hands when meeting them (shake between guys, kiss when at least one of them is a girl), even for the first time. And when they talk, they use to put their arms around each other's shoulders, grab hands, etc.

One last piece of advice. As you know, the Grand Prix is in Barcelona. Barcelona is a Spanish city, but it's within Catalunya, a region with its own culture. The official languages are both Spanish and Catalan. Be careful! Catalan is a language, not a dialect. Most catalans are proud of their language and culture, so they will find it rude if a foreigner refuses to recognize its singularity. Enter such an argument at your own risk.

Spanish players can understand most **Magic** words in English, such as tap, untap, instant, stack, damage, mulligan, life, and so on. You can normally play a game with a Spaniard without having to say anything in Spanish. However, you might want to know some Spanish sentences used by local players. Here they are, along with some other useful phrases:

Playing

Nice to meet you. — Encantado.
I play first. — Yo empiezo.
I play second (I draw). — Tú empiezas.
How many cards in your hand? — ¿Cartas en mano?
What's your life totals? — ¿Total de vidas?
Please wait a second — Espera, por favor.
I concede. — Concedo.
Thank you. — Gracias.

Numbers

zero — cero	eleven — once
one — uno	twelve — doce
two — dos	thirteen — trece
three — tres	fourteen — catorce
four — cuatro	fifteen — quince
five — cinco	sixteen — dieciséis
six — seis	seventeen — diecisiete
seven — siete	...
eight — ocho	nineteen — diecinueve
nine — nueve	twenty — veinte
ten — diez	

Traveling

Where's the toilet? — ¿Dónde está el servicio?
How much does it cost? — ¿Cuánto cuesta?
The bill, please. — La cuenta, por favor.
What time do you close? — ¿A qué hora se cierra?
Where can I find? — ¿Dónde puedo encontrar...?
Where's the metro / train station? — ¿Dónde está la estación de metro / tren?
Please take me to [the Catalonia Hotel.] — Por favor, lléveme al [Hotel Catalonia].

2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

Transportation

1) Arriving at Barcelona by plane

Barcelona has one main international airport, called Aeroport del Prat, with flights to and from all European capitals. It also has flights to other cities all over the globe.

Close to Barcelona you'll also find two other smaller airports. There is one in Girona, called Girona-Costa Brava, and one in Reus. The first one is 91km away from Barcelona's city center, and the second one is 110km away. You can find cheaper flights to both of these airports, because low cost companies operate from them.

Getting to Barcelona from the airports

a. From Aeroport del Prat

As explained above, Aeroport del Prat is the closest airport to Barcelona. You can get to Barcelona either by public transport or by taxi:

- **Bus:** There is a blue bus called Aerobús (A1 or A2, depending on your terminal) that goes to the city center every 6 minutes from each terminal. The trip takes about 20 minutes to Plaça Espanya (stopping just in front of the tournament site), and a ticket costs approximately 5 euros. It has still two other stops within Barcelona (Plaça Catalunya is the last one.) The timetable is everyday from 5.30 AM till 12.30 AM
- **Train:** A train leaves every 30 minutes from terminal A to Plaça Catalunya. The trip takes about 25 minutes, and a ticket costs approximately 3 euros.

From Plaça Catalunya, the easiest way to get to the Grand Prix venue is by taking the metro. Hop aboard line 1 (red line), towards Feixa Llarga, and get off at Plaça Espanya. Fares and tickets for the metro will be explained afterwards.

- **Taxi:** Taxis in Barcelona are yellow and black. They are available 24/7, and they can take you anywhere. However, it's more expensive than public transport, costing somewhere around the 25 euros mark.



© Nicole Ezell. Public Domain

expensive than public

b. From Girona-Costa Brava

- **Bus:** This is the most convenient way to get to Barcelona from Aeroport de Girona. The company operating the service is Sagalés ([HTTP://WWW.SAGALES.COM](http://www.sagales.com)). There are plenty of buses during the day to Barcelona, getting there somewhere close to 1:15 hours. ([HTTP://WWW.SAGALES.COM/PUBDOCS/2151_AEROPORT-GIRONA-COSTA-BRAVA---BARCELONA-%28ESTACIO-NORD%29-2010-12-02.PDF](http://www.sagales.com/pubdocs/2151_AEROPORT-GIRONA-COSTA-BRAVA---BARCELONA-%28ESTACIO-NORD%29-2010-12-02.PDF)) A single ticket costs 12 euros; a return trip, 21 euros.

This bus stops at Estació del Nord. To get to the Grand Prix venue from there, walk about 5 minutes to get to the metro station Arc de Triomf. Take line 1 (red line) towards Feixa Llarga, and get off at Plaça Espanya.

c. From Reus

- **Bus:** The most convenient way to get to Barcelona from Aeroport de Reus is also by bus. The company operating the service is Hispano Igualadina ([HTTP://WWW.IGUALADINA.COM](http://www.igualadina.com)). There are about 10 buses every day to Barcelona, and the trip takes about 1:30-1:50 hours. A single ticket costs 14 euros; a return trip, 24 euros.

This bus stops at Estació de Sants. To get to the Grand Prix venue, go inside the station and take the metro line 3 (green line) towards Montbau, getting off at Plaça Espanya.

2) Arriving at Barcelona by car

Barcelona has also very good connections with France. If you're traveling from this country, you should take motorway AP-7, from La Jonquera to Barcelona. The distance between Barcelona and the border with France is 155km.

2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

3) Within Barcelona

The best option to get around in Barcelona is by using its public transport system. If you don't know the city, it's much easier traveling by metro than by bus.

First of all, let's talk about tickets. A single ticket costs 1,35€, and a card worth 10 tickets costs 8,25€. As you can see, it's a much cheaper option. Additionally, you can take 3 different kinds of public transport (for example, metro and two different buses) without having to pay again during 1 hour and 15 minutes. We strongly recommend purchasing this card, which is called T10.

There are also cards valid for travel during one, two, three, four or five days. They are much more expensive, but if you plan to visit Barcelona throughly and will use public transport a lot, you should ask for one of these cards.

Barcelona's metro has 11 lines, each one with one different color. Lines 1 to 5, and lines 9, 10, and 11 belong to the company Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona, and lines 6 to 8 belong to Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat. Despite the fact that they are run by different companies, they both accept the same tickets, so you won't have to worry about anything. Plaça Espanya, where the Grand Prix will take place, is a convenient location with access to three different metro lines: lines 1 (red), 3 (green) and 8 (pink). You can find a complete map of Barcelona's metro at WWW.TMB.NET.

There are also plenty of bus lines, and you will be able to check their route at each stop. There are different buses, because several companies operate in Barcelona. However, once again, all buses use the same type of ticket, so don't worry about this. Additionally, several tram lines provide service in the city, although none of them operates close to the venue. Again, they belong to TMB and the same ticket system is used. For further information regarding buses and trams you can also visit WWW.TMB.NET.

Of course, you can also use taxis. They are much expensive than public transport, and using them will set you back between 5 and 10 euros, depending on where you go. Keep in mind that you have to pay what the taximeter says, not what the taxi driver says!

Food

Spaniards are known for their love for food, and you'll find good Spanish cuisine without problems around the city center. You should try at least once the well known *tapas* or *raciones*, a popular way of eating in small portions or by sharing larger plates.

A *tasca* or *taberna* is a traditional bar restaurant. They're easy to spot: they aren't located in tourist areas and they don't look very clean. However, don't be scared! The food is normally excellent, and the dirtier it looks, the better the place is, as local customs state that you should throw napkins and other rubbish to the floor. If you have the chance, try it out!

Everywhere around the church of Santa Maria del Mar and the Passeig del Born you can find small bars where you can try northern-style *tapas* and cider. You are expected to eat standing and keep your own count on how much you ate. Best places in the area: Sagardi, Euskal Etxea and Txakolí (in front of Estació de França). Actually, if you pick another one, it's likely to be great as well.

If you're interested in trendier food, some restaurants in Barcelona have taken a singular approach to eating. They serve elaborated dishes, but pay little attention to service. This allows for high quality food with a lower cost. Such restaurants include La Botiga or Hostal de la Mamasita.

There's also traditional Catalan food. If you want to get a taste of what they call "Mediterranean diet", you should try El Mussol. They have three or four restaurants around the city, its service is quick and not too expensive (20€ pp on average.) If you've got a higher budget, you might want to try 7 Portes, a restaurant close to the harbour, in the old customs building. Best rice in the city. Fideuà and arròs negre are two dishes that you might have difficulty finding elsewhere, so they are worth a try.

4 Spaniards are fond of drinking wine. If you'd like to emulate the locals and drink some as well, try D.O. at carrer Verdi.



© Evan Bench. CC-by 2.0
<http://flickr.com/photos/19762676@N00/1175376287>

2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

Sightseeing

Architecture

At the beginning of the XXth century, Barcelona lived an architecture hype, which turned the city into Antoni Gaudí's life museum. Some of the best architectural trips include:

Sagrada Família: Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece is unmissable. The visit to its interior takes about one hour, and it'll take one extra hour to tour the museum underneath (interesting if you are really into architecture.) For more information about prizes and opening hours, visit its official web page:

[HTTP://WWW.SAGRADAFAMILIA.CAT](http://www.sagradafamilia.cat)

Buying tickets in advance is highly advisable, as large queues tend to form in front of the entrance:

[HTTP://WWW.SERVICAIXA.COM/NAV/LANDINGS/EN/MUCHO_MAS/ENTRADAS_SAGRADA_FAMILIA](http://www.servicaixa.com/nav/landings/en/mucho_mas/entradas_sagrada_familia)



Parc Güell: Count Eusebi Güell's project was meant to provide luxury housing immersed in nature, but luckily, the idea wasn't met with enthusiasm. Luckily, because the fantastic complex designed by Gaudí ended up becoming a public park. Besides Gaudí's famous dragon fountain, you'll also find great views of the city and an amazing mix between architecture and nature. Transportation to get there is not very easy, but if you can devote around three hours to it, it is worth it.

Passeig de Gràcia: This is the street where most Art Nouveau (Modernisme) houses were built. La Pedrera (Casa Milà) and Casa Batlló are two of the best, but the whole street is worth a walk. The wide boulevards on either side of Passeig de Gràcia add to the feeling of opulence that this road exudes.



© Paola da Reggio. Public Domain

Santa Maria del Mar: Nothing to do with Art Nouveau, this is known for being one of the tallest pre-Gothic style buildings in Europe.

Plaça Espanya and Montjuïc: If you enjoy walking uphill, you can go to Plaça Espanya and walk between the



towers that mark the entrance to the 1927 International Expo area. From here, you can walk to the Alfonso XIII Palace, from which you can get a nice view over the city. Further up, you get a lot of nice buildings: The Olympic Stadium and the Olympic Ring, the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion (built for the Expo) and Poble Espanyol, a sort of life-museum where you can walk around streets recreating different types of architecture from all around Spain. This used to be nicer because more shops and bars were open around it. Now it's not really worth it. As Grand Prix Barcelona will be held within the Expo Area, taking this route is a great option, due to its proximity to the venue, and perhaps your hotel.

2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

Museums

Visiting museums is not the main thing you can do during your visit to Barcelona, but if you really need to visit one, you can try one of the following:

Museu Picasso: The best Picasso works are in New York and Paris, but they still have some nice stuff there.

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya: We had nice XII century churches in the Pyrenees, so someone decided to chop them down and bring them down to the capital. Very beautiful paintings, and it's located inside the Alfonso XIII Palace in Montjuïc, quite close to the Grand Prix venue.

Walking Around

At some point during your visit you might feel the urge to stop entering buildings and museums. Barcelona has a couple of neighbourhoods that are worth strolling around:

Ramblas and the Gothic Quarter: Not called Gothic because of vampire teenagers, but because of its origins in the XIV century. You can start the walk at Plaça Catalunya and walk down the Ramblas (they are trying to induce this street in UNESCO's World Heritage List because people go there and dress up as statues. Go imagine.) When you get to the Liceu (there is a metro stop), you want to turn left and sneak into the old quarter, through street Portaferriça or Ferran. Try to get to the Plaça del Pi (not so easy) and have a coffee there, then walk down to the Cathedral and back to the Ramblas to get down to the harbour. Keep your belongings in check when walking in the Ramblas and in Plaça Reial; those are well known pickpocketing areas.

Gràcia: This is the grunge neighbourhood in Barcelona. A mix of aged neighbours and young, politically involved people live in this area, which makes it special to walk around. Lots of small bars and restaurants, especially around Plaça Revolució and Plaça del Sol, and also along carrer Verdi. Step out at Fontana metro station and walk your way towards Verdi street (you can ask anyone for directions.)



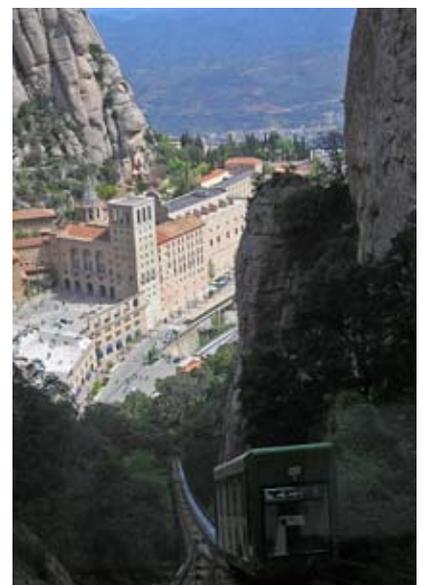
© Paola da Reggio. Public Domain

Parc de la Ciutadella: You can take the metro to Arc de Triomf and walk down through the arch until you get to the Parc. Barcelona doesn't have the best parks around, but this one is nice to visit in the morning. There's stuff like rowing boats and such. The zoo is also in this area, but it's not really worth your time.

Day Trips

Montserrat: This beautiful mountain houses the Santa Maria de Montserrat Benedictine abbey, Catalonia's most important pilgrimage site. The natural surroundings are spectacular, especially the curious mountain formations. You can get to the top either by taking a funicular or a cable car, and from there you can enjoy the many hiking trails available. Trains to Montserrat depart from Plaça Espanya, so it's quite convenient during your visit to Grand Prix Barcelona.

[HTTP://WWW.MONTSERRATVISITA.COM](http://www.montserratvisita.com)



© Deror Avi. Public Domain

2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

Sitges: This coastal town is known for its Film Festival and Carnival, and its legendary night-life: it was here that the first Pacha nightclub opened. Getting there from Barcelona is easy, by taking a suburban train from Sants Estació.

[HTTP://WWW.SITGESTUR.CAT/?LANG=EN](http://www.sitgestur.cat/?lang=en)



© Alberto Fernández Fernández. CC-by 2.5

Barcelona is a cosmopolitan city, packed with sights and entertainment options. We've offered just a few suggestions, but if you'd like to do something different, we encourage you to do some more research on internet, guidebooks, travel magazines, etc. We think that WikiTravel is an excellent site to discover what a destination has to offer, although it shouldn't be your only reference:

[HTTP://WIKITRAVEL.ORG](http://wikitravel.org)

Drinking

Nightlife in Barcelona runs at its own pace. Since Spaniards typically have dinner after 21:00, after-dinner drinks happen usually at around 23:00-00:00. Barcelonians don't hit the clubs' dance floors until 2:00-3:00! That's about when regular bars close. However, there are areas where you'll be able to find spots open earlier for drinking or dancing; one of these is the **Puerto Olímpico (Olympic Port.)**

The winding streets of the **Gothic Quarter** and the **Ramblas** are excellent places to have fun during the evenings. Most of the action takes place at the Plaça Reial. Keep in mind that since these areas are usually packed with tourists, they're sweet spots for pickpockets, so keep an eye on your belongings.

The **Passeig del Born** is a fashionable place to go, where you can spend the night away inside stylish bars and clubs after dining at any of the numerous restaurants around. Not far away, at about a 15-minute walk, you'll find plenty of nightspots with different styles and music in the **Maremagnum** shopping center, in the old port area. As mentioned before, the **Olympic Port** is also a good place to hang out, and both ports are frequented by tourists.

The modernism district, **L'Eixample**, is also a great place for drinking, and less touristy. **Aribau street** provides a great choice of bars and clubs, especially the closer you get to **Rosselló street**. If you want to go where the locals are, try the area between streets **Marià Cubi** and **Diagonal**.

It seems that with each passing day, the well-known **Barrio de Gràcia** offers more and better options for eating and then chilling out in an outdoors bar in any of the neighborhood's small and picturesque plazas. The **Plaça del Sol**, **Plaça Virreina** and **Plaça Rius i Taulet** are always full to the brim with people. Gràcia is definitely a well-loved place for expats.

If you're looking for a drink with a fantastic view of the city, you should head towards one of the most iconic hills in Barcelona: **Tibidabo** or **Montjuïc**. Prices tend to be on the higher range, but the backdrop is dramatic.

2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

Magic in Barcelona

Barcelona is a big city, so there is plenty of shops where you can play Magic. Furthermore, there are also places to play Magic in the suburbs. If you have been to Barcelona before, you would probably heard about or visited a shop called Black Lotus. The legendary Lotus was the oldest and most famous shop in the city. Unfortunately, you should know that it has closed recently. You can still go to that zone (L1 metro Arc de Triomf) if you want to find geeky shops, such as Norma Comics or Gigamesh, but you will not be able to play there. Luckily, one of Black Lotus's former owners has launched a new store called in the area where you can sit down for a match. Its name is inGenio, and it's located in Passeig de Sant Joan, 16.

The closest shop to the Grand Prix venue with playing space is El Nucli. It's a new shop, but their owners are friendly and experienced. It's located at C/ Vallespir, 24. You can get there by metro (L3 or L5 Sants-Estació), or even by walking, as it takes about 10 minutes to get there.

If you're closer to the Fòrum, you can buy and play Magic in a shop called Esmucsi. Its address is C/ Pujades 274. You can reach it by metro (L4 Poblenou.)

One of the oldest shops in the metropolitan area is La Màquina del Temps, in Badalona, which is quite close to Barcelona. Due to its long presence in the community, you'll always find there a lot of people playing Magic or other games. It's located in C/Napoles 40-42, Badalona. It's also reachable by metro (L2 Artigues/Sant Adrià.)

Additionally, you will find many shops in the surrounding cities. For example, another good shop in the region is Taiko Comics, in Mataró. You can scan the internet if you want more information, or you can use Wizards own store locator: [HTTP://LOCATOR.WIZARDS.COM](http://locator.wizards.com)

inGenio:

[HTTP://WWW.INGENIOBCN.COM/](http://www.ingeniobcn.com/)

El Nucli:

[HTTP://WWW.ELNUCLI.ES](http://www.elnucli.es)

Esmucsi:

[HTTP://WWW.ESMUCSI.COM](http://www.esmucsi.com)

La Màquina del Temps:

[HTTP://WWW.LAMAQUINADELTEMPS.COM](http://www.lamaquinadeltemps.com)

Taiko:

[HTTP://WWW.TAIKOCOMICS.COM](http://www.taikocomics.com)

Getting Ready for GP Barcelona

No, we are not going to talk any more about the city of Barcelona, or discuss any strategies in Magic. If you have never been to a big event such as a Grand Prix, you will find this information very useful.

The Fact Sheet

First of all, have you checked the fact sheet at WotC's web page? You will find a lot of very useful information there.

[HTTP://WWW.WIZARDS.COM/MAGIC/TCG/EVENTS.ASPX?X=MTG/Event/GrandPrix/Barcelona11](http://www.wizards.com/magic/tcg/events.aspx?X=MTG/Event/GrandPrix/Barcelona11)

Artists

There will be two artists at the event, John Avon and Jesper Ejsing, ready to sign your cards. And, of course, you will be able to buy products from these two artists. However, you should keep in mind the following tips when you interact with them:

- Loads of fans would like to get their cards signed. Therefore, you normally can't give more than 15 cards to sign each time. Otherwise, queues would be endless!
- If you want something special, for example an alteration, don't assume that artist will provide it to you. They have a lot in their hands, so ask nicely first.
- Artists are normal human beings, so they have to eat, rest a bit, etc. That means they won't be available all the time. There's usually a timetable next to each artist's booth.
- The best way to show your appreciation for their work and time is buying a print or an artist proof from them. This is especially true if you ask them to sign a lot of cards: be grateful and buy something from them.

2011 Magic: The Gathering® Grand Prix Barcelona Travel Guide

Public Events

Finally, you will find plenty of other tournaments to keep yourself busy in addition to the Grand Prix. We strongly suggest you to play in a bunch of them. You will have a lot of fun! Furthermore, there are other events, such as playing Duels of the Planeswalkers, or a team quiz game with prizes on the line. Don't miss any of them!

