



## **Seaside Romance in Barcelona, Spain**

Nestled along the majestic, tranquil Mediterranean coast lies the romantic Spanish city known for its ancient culture and awe-inspiring historic architecture. The capital of Catalonia, Barcelona has mild, comfortable winters and dry, smoldering summers. The best time to vacation, weather-wise, is during the Spring and Fall, March through June or September through January.

When visiting this romantic city with your amour, you'll want to absorb as much of its arts and culture as possible. The city blends ancient with modern, offering a unique and eclectic experience. Beginning in the Gothic Quarter, visitors are captivated by Barcelona's quaint, narrow streets, magnificent Gothic architecture, peaceful squares and fragmented remains of what were once the Roman walls surrounding the city.

The elaborate Barcelona Cathedral is one of the most impressive structures you'll behold, with its striking peaks and pointed rooftops piercing the skyline in its characteristic, Gothic tradition. A tour of the passionate Barcelona arts and culture would not be complete without a visit to local medieval palaces like La Pia Almoina and Casa dels Canonges, or the nearby Palau Reial Mayor and Chapel of Santa Agata. Say 'I love you' again and again amidst halls and surroundings which have watched generation after generation, era after era, pass before their eyes.

Being seaside, Barcelona offers a unique marine feel, with former dockyards turned Museums and ancient, medieval port facilities. Watch the sunset in her eyes before you settle in for a late dinner and cocktail. The Barceloneta is the city's fishermen's quarter adjacent to the beach. Just a short stroll or subway ride

away, you can lie near the waves and escape into delicious dining facilities serving an array of seafood, black rice and Catalan dishes. While menus are in Spanish, waiters are friendly and accommodating to tourists. Other urban sections of interest include Ciutat Vella, the city's old town and Eixample, the city's Modernist quarter.

Top off your romantic get-away with a stroll through the city's unique shopping conveniences. Barcelona's wealth of commerce includes quaint street markets and craft shops as well as prestigious stores near Eixample's passeig de Gracia and the Rambia de Catalunya. Discover the elegance and exclusivity of the world's finest jewelers, specialized book stores and internationally acclaimed designer fashion.

Throughout the city, residents and tourists dine on Mediterranean cuisine, sip fine wine and eat scrumptious deserts. Enjoy seasonal produce which changes daily to rice with pigeon and wild mushrooms. Plus, don't forget the superb selection of cigars, served at many local dining establishments.

The Barcelona Card offers discounts on common tourist attractions including entertainment, restaurants and museums. Each card is valid for one to five days. The Articket is a similar pass focusing on Barcelona's most popular museums and cultural centers.

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