

5 restaurants with a BREATHTAKING VIEW

1 MARTINEZ

Ctra de Miramar 38
Poble-Sec/Montjuïc ⑥
+34 (0)93 106 60 52
martinezbarcelona.com

A good seafood restaurant, but the reason to come here is the view: it's high up on Montjuïc and overlooks large parts of the city, the harbour and the sea. An ideal place for a romantic evening.



2 RESTAURANT OF THE CLUB NATACIÓ ATLÈTIC- BARCELONETA

Plaça del Mar s/n
La Barceloneta ④
+34 (0)93 221 00 10
cnab.cat

Overlooking the beach without being overpriced because of it, the restaurant on the ground floor of the CNAB gym serves a great lunch with a focus on fish (12 euro at the time of writing). It's right by one of the city's most popular beaches and within walking distance from several landmarks.

3 TORRE D'ALTA MAR

Passeig Joan
de Borbó 88
La Barceloneta ④
+34 (0)93 221 00 07
torredealtamar.com

The tower where you can get a cable car up to Montjuïc also houses a restaurant with a spectacular view of the city, its seaside, and Montjuïc. The restaurant, headed by chef Albert Dolcet, serves a highly refined local cuisine. If you're spending New Year's Eve in Barcelona, this is the place to be.

4 B-LOUNGE RESTAURANT

Rambla del Raval 17
El Raval ①
+34 (0)93 320 14 90
**[barcelo.com/en-es/
barcelo-raval](http://barcelo.com/en-es/barcelo-raval)**

This pretty swanky restaurant is part of the Barceló Raval Hotel and boasts a 360-degree terrace. The food is fine, decently priced and you get a wonderful view of one of Barcelona's busiest, most colourful neighbourhoods.

5 MIRABLAU

Plaça del Doctor
Andreu s/n
Gràcia ⑪
+34 (0)93 418 58 79
mirablaucn.com

If you take the Tramvia Blau up Tibidabo hill, this restaurant is where the streetcar will drop you off. The restaurant faces the sea, which makes for a view (the city, Sagrada Família, the sea, Montjuïc...) that never gets dull. Mainly tapas, with a slightly adventurous touch.

5 COFFEE BARS

baristas love

96 **CAFÉS EL
MAGNÍFICO**

C/ Argenteria 64
El Born ③
+34 (0)93 319 39 75
cafeselmagnifico.com

Freshly ground beans, straightforward advice and (if you can't wait until you get home) a coffee to go, made by a fine barista: El Magnifico is the real deal in coffee expertise. Prefer tea? They sell that too. The large cookies they keep enticingly close to the counter are a must.

97 **SATAN'S
COFFEE CORNER**

C/ Arc de Sant
Ramon del Call 11
Barri Gòtic ②
+34 666 22 25 99
satanscoffee.com

The espresso machine here has had the plastic case removed, so you can see its insides. It's a wink at the customers: Satan's Coffee Corner is about the content, not about the bow people can put around things. Lunch and breakfast suggestions are carefully rhymed with coffee types. Also sells an interesting collection of magazines.

98 **CAELUM**

C/ Palla 8
Barri Gòtic ②
+34 (0)93 302 69 93

Caelum Bakery sells pastries and cookies made by monks and nuns in Catalanian monasteries, and the adjoining coffee shop adds caffeine to that (already very convincing) offer. If you haven't reached heaven (*caelum*) by then, you can choose one of various liqueurs. Pick up a jar of artisan jam on the way out.

99 **MESÓN DEL CAFÉ
1909**

C/ Llibreteria 16
Barri Gòtic ②
+34 (0)93 315 07 54

Mesón del Café goes for a laidback approach. The interior basically hasn't been touched since 1909 and the coffee machine is supposed to be the oldest in town. It looks surprisingly like a German beer bar, but if you can get over the culture shock, you'll notice they do make a wicked cup of coffee.

100 **SYRA COFFEE**

C/ Mare de Déu
dels Desemparats 8
Gràcia ①
+34 666 72 07 43
syra.coffee

If you're visiting Gràcia, under no circumstance miss the opportunity to boost your caffeine intake at Syra Coffee. Excellent coffee, in traditional formats – no Starbucks eccentricities here. Have a *dulce de leche* cookie to go with your coffee and pick up a copy of *Syrazine*, Syra Coffee's bi-monthly fanzine with coffee facts and illustrations by local artists.





65 PLACES TO SHOP

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5 stunning MODERNIST MARVELS

256 CASTELL DELS TRES DRAGONS

Passeig Picasso 5
Parc de
la Ciutadella ③
+34 (0)93 256 22 00

Nicknamed 'Castle of Three Dragons' after a 19th-century play, this is one of the first examples of Barcelona modernism, designed by architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner. It originally served as a restaurant, during the 1888 World Fair. Contemporary detractors claim that the stern, citadel-like exterior didn't fit the function of the building.

257 CASA AMATLLER

Passeig de Gràcia 41
Dreta de l'Eixample ⑩
+34 (0)93 216 01 75
amatller.org

With two Gaudí buildings and dozens of high-end stores, it's not impossible to overlook the other marvels on Passeig de Gràcia. For starters: Casa Amatller. It was commissioned by the owner of a chocolate factory. References to his last name can be found on the façade: the initial A and almond tree branches (*amatller* is Catalan for 'almond tree').

256 CASTELL DELS TRES DRAGONS



The 5 most important ART GALLERIES

- 371 **3 PUNTS GALERIA**
C/ Consell de Cent 317
Dreta de l'Eixample ⑩
+34 (0)93 451 23 48
3punts.com
- The art-lover will find it convenient that in Barcelona so many good galleries can be found in the same street. Walking uphill from Plaça Universitat, Galería 3 Punts is your first stop. Young and established artists get confronted with each other in the shows here (circa seven per year).
- 372 **ADN GALERIA**
C/ Mallorca 205
Eixample ⑨
+34 (0)93 451 00 64
adngaleria.com
- Next up is ADN Galeria (that's Spanish for DNA), a gallery with a penchant for socio-politically active young artists. It also wants to be a platform, inviting artists for performances and organising talks about the links between art and society.
- 373 **GALERIA MARLBOROUGH**
C/ Enric Granados 68
Eixample ⑨
+34 (0)93 467 44 54
[marlbrough.com](http://galeria.marlbrough.com)
- The Marlborough gallery started in 1946 in London. Now they have galleries in Chile, Florida, Monaco and Barcelona (among other cities). Apart from a cutting-edge collection, they also boast a beautiful presentation place, bright and homely at the same time.

- 374 **SALA PARÉS**
C/ Petrixol 5
Barri Gòtic ②
+34 (0)93 318 70 20
salapares.com

How surprising, to find an art gallery in a street like this – Petrixol is known as 'chocolate street' and tends to be bursting at the seams with tourists. Sala Parés promotes contemporary art by Spanish artists and emerging foreign artists. Created in 1991 (then under the name Galería Trama) and now very well established.

- 375 **PROJECTESD**
Passatge de
Mercader 8
Dreta de l'Eixample ⑩
+34 (0)93 488 13 60
projectesd.com

Since 2002, ProjecteSD has been carving out its niche by on one hand combining well-known international artists with upcoming local talent, and on the other hand focussing on artist's books, building its own exclusive collection. Situated in lovely Passatge de Mercader, it's worth a visit for the surroundings as well.



The 5 best HOTELS BY THE SEA

- 436 BLACK SWAN HOSTEL** Let's start off with a budget option. Black Swan Hostel, right next to Arc de Triomf, is a clean, bright hostel, for those who want to spend a lot of time at the nearby beach and prefer to save their money for the nightlife. Black Swan also organises activities (like pub crawls) so it's a good place to meet new people.
- C/ Alfí Bei 15**
Dreta de l'Eixample ⑩
+34 (0)93 231 13 69
hotelesfind.com/black-swan-hostel-barcelona



- 437 HOTEL ARTS**
C/ Marina 19-21
La Barceloneta ④
+34 (0)93 221 10 00
hotelartsbarcelona.com
- Hotel Arts is a 44-storey building by the beach that seems to be wearing a metal harness, consisting of horizontal, vertical and crisscrossing bars. The inside looks just as futuristic. Arts boasts several bars and restaurants, at least two of which (Arola and Enoteca) are outstanding.
- 438 W BARCELONA**
Plaça de la Rosa dels Vents 1
La Barceloneta ④
+34 (0)93 295 28 00
w-barcelona.cat
- W was built to dazzle. The entrance hall is huge – it sucks your gaze upwards, whether you want to or not. The lounge area, the views... everything here is XXL. As a pleasant contrast, the rooms go for impeccable minimalism.
- 439 HILTON DIAGONAL MAR**
C/ Taulat 262-264
Poblenou ⑤
+34 (0)93 507 07 07
hilton.com
- A bit further away from the centre, in case you want to avoid the biggest flocks of tourists. Hilton Diagonal Mar is popular among businessmen because the Forum is close-by, but everyone should be able to enjoy the stylish rooms, the Purobeach rooftop pool and sunbathing terrace and the view of famous and less famous landmarks.
- 440 HOTEL SUBUR**
Paseo de la Ribera 66
Sitges
+34 (0)93 894 00 66
hotelsubur.com
- You may also decide to stay in nearby Sitges and discover Barcelona from there: a little less crowded, about two degrees warmer. In that case Hotel Subur comes highly recommended. Close to the beach and at night postcard-like San Bartolomé Church is within sight.

5 compelling URBAN LEGENDS

481 THE 33 SQUARE OF SAGRADA FAMÍLIA

C/ Mallorca 401

Dreta de l'Eixample ⑩

Entering the Sagrada Família by the Passion Façade Gates, you'll notice a square, comprised of 16 boxes filled with numbers. The sum of all lines (horizontal, vertical and diagonal) equals 33. Since Gaudí was rumoured to be a freemason, many have related that number to the 33 degrees of initiation. However, the artwork isn't Gaudí's – it's by Josep Maria Subirachs, who designed this gate of the church – and the number 33 refers to Jesus' age when he died on the cross.

482 CARRER DEL BISBE BRIDGE

C/ Bisbe

Barri Gòtic ②

This bridge across Carrer del Bisbe features a sculpture of a crossed skull. Urban legend has it the city will crumble if the dagger is removed. The bridge was only constructed in the 1920s, by architect Joan Rubió i Bellver, who wanted to turn the Gothic neighbourhood into a Gothic theme park. The project was shelved; for a consolation prize, Rubió i Bellver got to design the bridge.



482 CARRER DEL BISBE BRIDGE



BOTANICAL GARDEN