

# visitBarcelona

## #DontLetPlansGo

**56**  
Things to do  
in Barcelona  
in 2017





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**Things to do**  
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01

## Festival Guitar BCN

**Jan 23-Jun**

This may essentially be a festival based on only one instrument, but the sounds, performers and styles on the programme could scarcely be more wide-ranging. The skill of the organisers, leading Spanish music promoters The Project, in bringing together Catalan, Spanish, European and international performers from a variety of musical genres is quite something. Flamenco to pop, classic Cuban to contemporary Catalan, acoustic and electric, emerging and veteran acts – all this and more fills the many city venues that take part in Guitar BCN. This year marks its 28th edition and the lineup is as exciting as ever. The inaugural concert features Lamb Chop, the alt-country band from Nashville that's headed up by Kurt Wagner while the other members regularly change. Also on the bill are Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox (Apr 8), a project that features a variety of musicians doing jazz and other genre covers of pop songs, and US jazz guitarist Pat Metheny.

**theproject.es**

02

## Peter Hujar. Speed of Life Exhibition

**Jan 28-Apr 30**

Although it only opened its Barcelona exhibition venue (in the modernista building Casa Garriga i Nogués) in autumn 2015, the Fundació Mapfre has already welcomed a stunning selection of artworks to this city centre site in its various shows to date: paintings by the likes of Renoir, Van Gogh and Matisse, and photos from Bruce David-

son and Hiroshi Sugimoto. Now it hosts the world premiere of a retrospective of US photographer Peter Hujar. For 30 years, he captured numerous images of New York City's creative community, of which he was a key figure; his black-and-white shots include friends like Susan Sontag and William Burroughs. Through his explorations of what such portraits could achieve, Hujar sought to reveal the truth of the person in front of the camera, and some of his most famous photos feature drag queen Candy Darling on her death bed. While he published just one book and died young, his singular images, of which some 160 are on show here, continue to captivate.

Fundación Mapfre:  
**[fundacionmapfre.org](http://fundacionmapfre.org)**





**03**

## **Gergiev conducts Shostakovich's Symphony N° 4**

**Jan 28-29**

Classical music fans can start 2017 in style with this enticing event at L'Auditori, one of Barcelona's leading concert venues. Russian conductor Valery Gergiev visits the city with his Mariinsky Theatre orchestra for two performances of Shostakovich's three-part symphony, which was completed in 1936 but not premiered until 1961. Gergiev, who is also principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and Munich Philharmonic, is regarded as one of the greats and he can captivate audiences with his energetic, passionate style of leading the musicians under his command. The symphony requires a large orchestra, with over 100 musicians featured in the score, and is a complicated piece to play, technically and physically, meaning that it has tended to be performed less regularly than other Shostakovich works. That plus the opportunity to see Gergiev in action, add up to make this an unmissable event for music lovers.

L'Auditori: **[auditori.cat](http://auditori.cat)**

# 04

## Picasso and Romanesque Art exhibition

Until Feb 26

Barcelona's special relationship with Pablo Picasso is highlighted once more in this exhibition at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya that explores a specific area of the artist's work. Looking at the period between 1906 (when Picasso visited the town of Gósol in the Catalan Pyrenees) and 1934 (the year the Spanish artist first saw the Museum's Romanesque collection), the show delves into three themes found both in Picasso's work and the Romanesque art that is such a key part of Catalan history. The first is the piece 'Virgin from Gósol', which Picasso saw during his visit to the town and is now part of the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya

collection; the second is the Crucifixion, often found in traditional Romanesque art and Picasso's creations from the 1930s; and the third is skulls. Ultimately, the objective of this show, organised with the Picasso Museum in Paris and including some 40 works, is not so much to seek out influences or a standard relationship but rather to identify 'possible affinities'.

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya:  
[museunacional.cat](http://museunacional.cat)



05

## 080 Barcelona Fashion

Jan 30-Feb 3

The city bursts into style once more with a new edition of its key fashion event, 080. Held twice a year, it's an excellent showcase for Barcelona's extensive pool of creatives who make clothes and accessories. The first gathering of 2017 will focus on the autumn-winter 2017/18 season, giving you the chance to see what local designers believe will be the essential, cutting-edge looks for when the weather once more turns cool. What makes 080 such a singular event is the way that fresh faces rub shoulders with internationally established brands, giving audiences the chance to get a feel for a whole spectrum of style, trends and concepts. So whether you're an aficionado of Catalan labels like Mango, Custo Barcelona and Desigual, you've already discovered classic names such as Josep Abril, Sita Murt and Antonio Miro, or like seeking out exciting fashion school graduates and the hottest young creatives, you're guaranteed to find fashion to love at 080.

**080barcelonafashion.cat**



06

## Opera 'Quartett'

Feb 22, 26, 27 and Mar 2, 3

There are many good reasons to go and see this opera, not least the fact that it's being staged at Barcelona's Liceu theatre. Founded in 1847 and once the largest opera house in Europe, it was restored in the late 1990s following a fire and it's a splendid sight that combines its original glamour with modern technology. Another incentive is that *Quartett* is a prime example of contemporary opera, the work of Italian composer Luca Francesconi

that premiered in April 2011 at La Scala. A reworking of *Dangerous Liaisons* based on the 1980 play *Quartet* by late German playwright Heiner Müller, its themes include seduction, cruelty, decadence and emotional isolation. It's set in Paris during the French revolution and features just two performers, although, according to Francesconi, they each play at least five characters, 'as we all do'. Finally, the artistic director is Alex Ollé of La Fura dels Baus, a Catalan theatre company that's renowned for its energetic creations.

Gran Teatre del Liceu:  
**liceubarcelona.cat**

07

## Mobile World Congress

**Feb 27-Mar 2**

In an age when most of us apparently touch our mobile phones over 2,600 times a day, it doesn't feel like an exaggeration to say that this annual gathering of mobile industry insiders will have an impact on all our lives in the months and years to come. Barcelona (which is now known as the Mobile World Capital) has hosted this event for the past 12 years, making it the global hub for discussions, networking, training, forums and demonstrations for anyone and everyone who's involved in mobile technology (Mark Zuckerberg has been a regular attendee in recent years). Themes covered include mobile broadband, public policy, personal data and digital commerce, while entrepreneurs and start-ups bring their innovative apps and multinational companies introduce their latest hardware with which they hope to appeal to the ever-growing number of mobile phone users. No wonder attendee numbers broke the 100,000 barrier last year!

**[mobileworldcongress.com](http://mobileworldcongress.com)**

08

## Zurich Marató de Barcelona

**March 12**

As running becomes increasingly popular with millions of people around the world, the numbers coming to take part in Barcelona's marathon grows each year. In 2016, it had over 20,000 registered runners and almost 17,000 finishers; it's now the fourth largest marathon in Europe after Berlin, London and Paris. Doubtless part

of the appeal is the idea of running a 42.2km route around one of the continent's most aesthetically pleasing cities. The number of globally recognised landmarks passed by participants, such as the Sagrada Família and Camp Nou, as well as noteworthy vistas including the seafront, historic port and Ciutadella Park, make this a one-of-a-kind sporting event. But that's not all. The Barcelona marathon is much more, with entertainment for the crowds, a Breakfast Run the day before the race, which takes in the final 4km from the marathon route when the Catalan capital hosted the 1992 Olympic Games, and Expo Sports, with numerous stands related to distance running.

**[zurichmaratobarcelona.es](http://zurichmaratobarcelona.es)**







09

## Beethoven Marathon

March 12-15

Every now and again, an event comes along that impresses with its ambition and, at the same time, its simplicity. Such is the case with this feast of classical music, which sees distinguished conductor Gustavo Dudamel and his Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar return to the beautiful Palau de la Música Catalana to perform over four days all nine of Beethoven's completed symphonies (there is a tenth, assembled in 1988 by Barry Cooper from fragments left by the composer). Written between 1801 and 1824, the works trace the development of

the German musician's style and technique, with the first symphony featuring clear influences from predecessors such as Haydn and Mozart, followed by the gradual establishment of Beethoven's accomplishments in his own right and culminating in one of the most famous classical compositions of all time, Beethoven's Ninth. This is a fantastic opportunity to immerse yourself in historical musical heritage courtesy of one of the world's top orchestras.

Palau de la Música Catalana  
[palaumusica.cat](http://palaumusica.cat)

10

## Picasso. Portraits Exhibition

**March 17-Jun 25**

Arriving from a four-month run at London's National Portrait Gallery, where it was variously described by critics as 'must-see', 'lively and engrossing' and a celebration 'of his general greatness', this exhibition focuses on the Spanish artist's portrait work, one of the foundations of his career throughout his life but that went through constant change and evolution. It includes more than 80 artworks where the protagonists are Picasso's family, friends and lovers (while past explorations of his portraits tended to focus on women, this one features a good number of male as well as female subjects), and covers the numerous stages his creativity went through and the varied approaches he took to portraiture, such as realism, classical style and caricature. The show also explores Picasso's rejection of standard Western ideas of portrait, his reaction to the expanding art of photography, and how he was influenced, both as subject matter and technique, by the Old Masters.

**[museupicasso.bcn.cat](http://museupicasso.bcn.cat)**



11

## Saló Internacional del Còmic (International Comic Fair)

**March 30-Apr 2**

Pow! Zap! Comic book lovers rejoice. It's time once more for Barcelona's celebration of anything and everything to do with graphic novels. This year marking its 35th anniversary, the International Comic Fair has become an unmissable event for fans of the likes of Captain America, Tintin and Doraemon. It's an all-encompassing festival that includes guest authors and

illustrators from Spain and around the world, workshops, exhibitions, stands selling memorabilia as well as hundreds of books new and old, awards, video games and activities for kids. But where the real atmosphere comes from is the costumes that many of the attendees dress up in. From Princess Leia to the Joker, Super Mario and Klingons, they create a colourful, amiable and lively universe where an addiction to comic books is the uniting force. From November 2-5, Ficom also organises the Saló del Manga (Manga Fair), which features manga and anime authors, as well as a range of other activities.

Fira Barcelona (Montjuïc):  
**[ficomic.com](http://ficomic.com)**

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12

**Exhibition:  
Akram Zaatari.  
Against  
photography.  
An annotated  
history of the  
Arab Image  
Foundation**

**Apr 6-Sep 24**

Lebanese photographer and film-maker Akram Zaatari is one of the four creators of the Arab Image Foundation (AIF), an organisation set up in Beirut 20 years ago to archive photographic material from the Middle East, North Africa and the Arab Diaspora. It's an ongoing project driven forward by artist and scholar-led undertakings; so far, it has collected some 600,000 images from countries including Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Mexico and Senegal. However, this show at the MACBA is not a history of the AIF or a celebration for its 20th anniversary (although it does look at how the AIF has evolved

new practices of collecting photographs as an artist-led enterprise and its impact on wider society), but rather an exploration of photographic documents and their function in today's world from the perspective of one artist. Zaatari reflects on the different roles that a photo can play, whether it be for describing, remembering or simply looking appealing, while telling stories about people and society.

MACBA, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona:  
**macba.cat**



# 13

## Inauguration of Ferrari Land at Port Aventura World

**Apr 7**

Already declared the best theme park in Spain by TripAdvisor users, PortAventura World now takes visitor experiences to a whole new level with the opening of Europe's first ever Ferrari Land. As you might expect from one of the world's leading carmakers, this is an adrenaline-filled place with

thrills for all ages. Numerous attractions have been designed within its 60,000m<sup>2</sup>, such as the Vertical Accelerator that offers a lifelike Formula 1 experience as you accelerate in your F1-style cars from 0 to 180km/h in just five seconds and climb to a height of 112m along a 1km-track! The Bounce-Back Towers are a pair of 55m-high towers created to represent a giant model of engine pistons that will send you travelling at full speed up and down as though you were actually inside a Ferrari. Add to that the 570m circuit, eight simulators, Italian trattoria and shop built in the style of the Enzo Ferrari factory, and everything is in place for the most incredible adventure a car lover could have.

Port Aventura World:  
[portaventuraworld.com](http://portaventuraworld.com)

# 14

## Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell, 65th Trofeu Conde Godó

**Apr 22-30**

Created back in 1953 by the then Count Godó, Carlos Godó Valls, this tennis contest has become a popular event on the ATP World 500 (the third highest series of competitions for professional male players; other tournaments in this part of the World Tour include the Queen's Club Championships, the China Open and the Dubai Tennis Championships) and is as much a social event for fans of the sport as a key clay fixture. Taking place in the warmth of the Barcelona spring in one of Spain's leading clubs, the Reial Club de Tennis Barcelona, which has 18 clay courts including a stadium one with capacity for almost 8,500 spectators, this is an excellent chance to discover another side to the city's sporty character.

Reial Club de Tennis  
Barcelona:  
[barcelonaopenbancsabadell.com](http://barcelonaopenbancsabadell.com)





# 15

## Sant Jordi Festival

**Apr 23**

Sant Jordi (Saint George in English) is a popular man. The patron saint of numerous countries, he is also venerated by agricultural workers, sufferers of skin diseases and the Scouts. In addition, he is the patron of Catalonia and his feast day on April 23 is one of the most popular on the calendar, with its

combination of romance and literature. Tradition dictates that men gift a rose to their lover while women buy a book for their partner. It's a glorious day when the city streets are filled with book and flower stalls, and couples stroll around enjoying the special atmosphere. Fittingly, in December 2015, UNESCO named Barcelona among the latest intake for its City of Literature programme. Get into the spirit of the day by taking a literary tour ([visitbarcelona.com](http://visitbarcelona.com)), and if visiting with children, check out Món Llibre, a festival aimed at youngsters aged up to 12 that includes stories, films, exhibitions and magic.

[barcelona.cat](http://barcelona.cat)

# 16

## Barcelona Bridal Fashion Week

**Apr 25-30**

For anybody planning a wedding or working in the bridal industry, this is a must-visit event on Barcelona's 2017 agenda. The city has a long tradition of creating dresses for those special days, thanks to local brands such as Pronovias and Rosa Clará, and this event attracts close to 300 labels from almost 90 different countries, making it one of the biggest shows in the world dedicated to this sector. Whether you're looking for a classic style of dress, want to discover cutting-edge trends or simply need some inspiration, the fashion shows offer four days of beautiful outfits for the whole bridal party as well as party dresses and accessories for any special occasion. What's more, the trade fair is the perfect moment for professionals to network with and meet designers and manufacturers. So prepare to be wowed by romantic, trendy, avant-garde and generally breathtaking creations that will make any wedding day one to remember.

[barcelonabridalweek.com](http://barcelonabridalweek.com)



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17

## Loop Festival

**May 18-27**

Created in 2003, Loop is a platform that focuses on the possibilities and challenges presented by video art, one of the key artistic movements of modern times. Each year, Loop hosts professionals (including curators, collectors and gallery-owners) and the public for a gathering where they can discover the latest technological and other developments in the moving image sector as well as the work of new and established creatives who

use video as their main tool. Loop Festival runs for some two weeks and includes screenings, exhibitions, concerts, talks and other live events at numerous venues around the city (highlighting the flexible character of the format). Running concurrently is Loop Fair, a shorter but just as intense event that features work selected by an international committee of specialised collectors, and looks for new ways to present art considering the rapidly changing ways that audiences have of experiencing moving images nowadays.

**[loop-barcelona.com](http://loop-barcelona.com)**

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18

## Barcelona Obertura Classic & Lyric: Spring Festival

**May 11-25**

Among Barcelona's many musical assets are three classical music venues: the *modernista* Palau de la Música Catalana, the historic Liceu opera house and the modern L'Auditori. Barcelona Obertura Classic and Lyric is a venture created in 2015 to promote the array of events that this trio put on. As part of its 2017 programme, Barcelona Obertura hosts this seasonal festival that features eight different concerts with prestigious international musicians, orchestras and conductors. The inauguration sees Russian pianist Arcadi Volodos give a recital of works by Schumann, Brahms and Schubert at the Palau de la Música, while the Liceu has stagings of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* (18) and Gaetano Donizetti's *La Fille du Régiment* (21). At L'Auditori Kazushi Ono leads the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and Orfeó Català choir for a rendition of Verdi's *Requiem* (19), and the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra performs at the Palau de la Música under conductor Yuri Temirkanov and with violinist Leticia Moreno (23).

**[barcelonaobertura.com](http://barcelonaobertura.com)**

19

## Spanish Formula 1 Grand Prix

**May 12-14**

Those loud engines are getting ready to rev once more, as Barcelona again plays host to Spain's Formula 1 event. This is by far one of the biggest sporting dates on the city's yearly calendar, and the streets fill with fans from all over the world, come to support their team. Once the two days of qualifying on the Montmeló circuit are over, race day is always the source of great excitement. For starters, it's one of the more challenging

tracks that drivers like Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg and Sebastian Vettel have to face over the season, making the final outcome always something of an unknown entity – the past decade has seen 10 different winners step up to the podium. In addition, the local crowd will be cheering on Spanish hero Fernando Alonso, hoping that he will repeat his wins from 2006 and 2013. But many eyes will doubtless also be on Max Verstappen, the Dutch driver who last year became the youngest ever victor at the Catalan circuit.

Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya:  
**[circuit.cat](http://circuit.cat)**



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**20**

## The Night of Museums

**May 20 (tbc)**

As the weather gets warmer and the nights become a more inviting time to be out and about, The Night of Museums is an excellent excuse to get an evening dose of culture. The concept is simple: one Saturday in May, the city's museums keep their doors open late into the night offering a different way to see the permanent and temporary exhibitions currently on show, as well as the chance to enjoy specially organised activities, such as family workshops, live performances and guided tours. It's actually a global event, one that started in Berlin in 1997 and is now celebrated in around 120 European cities. Here in Barcelona, the number of participating entities has grown significantly, and you'd be hard-pressed to find a museum that's not taking part. To make it easier to decide which ones to visit, check out the itineraries mapped out on the event website, which group together various institutions, providing an alternative late-night tour of the city.

**[lameva.barcelona.cat/lanitdelsmuseus](http://lameva.barcelona.cat/lanitdelsmuseus)**





21

## David Bowie Is

**May 25-Aug 20**

Almost 18 months since the sudden death of David Bowie, this acclaimed touring exhibition that delves deep into his career, artistic roots and achievements touches down in Barcelona. It was inaugurated in 2013 at London's Victoria & Albert Museum, with curators Victoria Broackes and Geoffrey Marsh given exclusive and extensive access to the musician's archive from which they selected 300 objects to tell a singular story about this man who was so influential and so meaningful for people around the world almost right from the start of his creative endeavours. The exhibition explores the way Bowie originated and evolved his concepts, constantly changing his style, both in terms of performance and appearance, and always looking for fresh ways to embrace and enlighten audiences. The items on display include handwritten lyrics, original costumes, set designs, instruments and album artwork, many of them personal belongings that had not been shown in public before.

Museu del Disseny de Barcelona:  
**[ajuntament.barcelona.cat/museuldisseny/en/](http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/museuldisseny/en/)**



22

## Barcelona Primavera Sound

**May 31-Jun 4**

It seems fair to say that music is experiencing something of a golden age at the moment. New sounds seem to emerge on a weekly basis, and the creation of streaming and sharing technology has made it a more democratic sector allowing an amazing spectrum of performers

to emerge to entice and delight our senses. Music festivals are riding the wave of this talent, giving fans the chance to revel in live shows from their favourite acts while discovering numerous others. And when it comes to festivals, it's generally accepted that Barcelona's Primavera Sound is one of the biggies. Each year, the roster of acts, both home-grown and from around the world, gets longer, more diverse and more inviting. Hundreds of concerts, thousands of fans [many from abroad], and one fantastic festival. They also organise Primavera Pro, a global meeting for music industry professionals, and includes debates, networking sessions, conferences, workshops and showcases.

**[primaverasound.com](http://primaverasound.com)**

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23

## Barcelona Design Week

### Start of June

This hub of originality was launched back in 2006 by the Barcelona Design Centre (BCD) for professionals and businesses in the creative sector, as well as students and anyone interested in the world of design, to get together to discuss innovation, learn about new trends, share knowledge and make new contacts. It's grown to such an extent over the past 10 years or so, it now welcomes over 10,000 attendees and has become a leading event on the global design stage. On the programme are thematic workshops, conferences, presentations, exhibitions, talks and round tables, art shows, tours and installations, as well as networking and other business events. Its main venue is the Disseny Hub Barcelona, (where the BCD is based; *disseny* means 'design' in Catalan) although other parts of the city play a key role, with special activities organised with studios and creative companies in different neighbourhoods.

[barcelonadesignweek.com](http://barcelonadesignweek.com)

24

## Tast a La Rambla

### June 8-11

Barcelona's global reputation as a city where you'll find some of the finest food you can eat is well-established. Around every corner, it seems, is a much-more-than-decent eatery serving up traditional Catalan recipes, creative cuisine, international fusion, snacks and sweet treats. It's no real surprise then that world-class events such as

Tast a La Rambla spring up (the name means Tasting on La Rambla). This is basically four days of heaven for foodies that takes place on Barcelona's most famous street. And it's advisable to head there with an empty stomach because there will be so much deliciousness on offer. Choose among tastings of signature dishes, Barcelona sandwiches, pastries and cakes, tapas and traditional cooking, all prepared by some of the city's best chefs and food experts. If you feel an itch to get creating yourself, there are also workshops and cooking demos, and the cherry on the top is the live music that will accompany this culinary celebration each evening.

[tastalarambla.cat](http://tastalarambla.cat)





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**25**

## **A Vista d'Hotel. Barcelona Hotel Terrace Week**

**Start of June**

The sights of Barcelona are a pleasure to behold, from the mix of architecture to the seemingly endless lines of trees, the café terraces full of people enjoying the al fresco Med lifestyle to the seafront with its bars, bustle and bathers. But there is another side of Barcelona that deserves to be seen, and that's the view across its rooftops. Now in its sixth year, Barcelona's Hotel Terrace Week is the perfect time to head to the top of some of the city's finest hotels and appreciate the expansive panoramas you can enjoy from these

privileged terraces. What's more, it's not just a question of savouring a fine mojito or refreshing G&T accompanied by lip-smackingly good tapas (although that is clearly worth doing), because all the places taking part lay on special events to make the experience even more memorable. Live music performances, DJ sets, magic shows, wine and other tastings, even synchronised swimming displays – this is no ordinary way to watch the sun set over the city on a balmy summer evening.

**[masquehotelbarcelona.com](https://www.masquehotelbarcelona.com)**



26

## Sónar

June 15-17

For music fans, June in Barcelona has special meaning. It's the month when, for the past 24 years, the Sónar festival has filled the city with rhythm, creativity and technology. A unique energy swirls around Sónar weekend thanks to its mix of cutting-edge performers, big-name pop acts, and both experimental and star DJs combined with digital culture and enthusiastic crowds. Always held close to the longest day of the year, many of the daytime events turn into exciting outdoor sessions, while the doors open for night shows just as the sun is setting and close as it rises the next day. Sónar encompasses a variety of spaces including an R&D area at the daytime venue, (Fira Montjuïc) and also Fira Gran Via L'Hopitalet. It's also enticing for music professionals, thanks to Sónar+D, an international conference that attracts experts from around the world. Sónar is three days to let loose, experience the meeting of creative minds, and celebrate the incredible results.

[sonar.es](http://sonar.es)



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27

## Bona Nit Festival

June (tbc)

With hundreds of festivals taking place across Spain each year, it's no small accolade to be twice named the country's most sustainable one. As such, Bona Nit [which means 'Good Night' in Catalan] has much to be proud of. Organisers' efforts to ensure that the event is as environmentally friendly as possible are extensive: energy-saving measures, waste recycling, sustainable information and communication methods, and serving food made using locally sourced, seasonal products, while they also seek to educate audiences about topics related to being 'green'. But we shouldn't forget the music! Last year's lineup was headed by pop prince Mika, while up-and-coming US acts Brika and Caloncho both made their Spanish debuts at the event, and Londoners Molotov Jukebox performed their unique mix of rhythms and genres that they call 'gypstep'; the evening opened and closed with local acts Acció and Two Smoking Fellaz, completing not just a good but a great night.

[bonanitbarcelona.es](http://bonanitbarcelona.es)



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## Festival Jardins de Pedralbes

mid-June to mid-July

In a recent poll to find Spain's best festivals, which included an incredible 1,000 events to choose from, the Festival Jardins de Pedralbes was placed among the top three. Only created in 2013, it's enjoyed a rapid rise to success thanks to three key features. The first is the setting. Pedralbes Palace is a splendid 1920s building located in the uptown part of

the city, and its landscaped gardens of fountains, statues, lawns and many types of flora play host to the festival's concerts. The second key is the programme. From esteemed stars such as Tom Jones to cult figures including Patti Smith and relative newcomers like The Lumineers, the bill is always carefully curated. In addition, there's a special day dedicated to families and another focusing on electronic music. Finally, festival organisers Concert Studio have consistently made gastronomy a priority, collaborating with top chefs to ensure the whole festival experience is one to remember.

Jardins Palau Reial de Pedralbes:

[festivalpedralbes.com](http://festivalpedralbes.com)

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## Gran Premi Monster Energy MotoGP de Catalunya

June 9-11

Another big sporting weekend on Barcelona's calendar arrives as the Moto GP World Championship returns. There's always a lot of local interest for this event, thanks to Catalonia's tradition of producing world-class motorbike drivers such as Marc Márquez (who took the

2016 world title), Dani Pedrosa and Pol Espargaró, while other Spanish stars include Jorge Lorenzo. This race was added to the championship schedule in 1991 despite the fact that there was already a Spanish MotoGP event because of the level of local success in the sport. It's run over 25 laps and last year's winner, the popular Italian driver Valentino Rossi, says it's one of his favourite tracks. Indeed Rossi has won it six times since 2001, with Australian Casey Stoner the only other man to have any impact (in 2007 and 2011) on the Spaniards' hegemony over this course. So join the excited crowd and see if a home favourite can once more regain this particular crown.

Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya:  
**[circuit.cat](http://circuit.cat)**



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30

## Patum Berga

June 14-18

Experience one of Catalonia's longest-running cultural traditions, an annual event that in 2008 UNESCO declared to be part of its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage: the Patum of the north Catalan town of Berga. The festivities, which

date back to medieval times, take place during the week of Corpus Christi and originated as part of the Catholic Church's efforts to educate congregations about the lessons contained in the holy scriptures; in the face of general illiteracy, theatrical representations of the fight between good and evil were employed, and over time, these gradually became more elaborate and the focus of the celebrations. A *patum* is defined as a figure that represents a fantastical creature and appears in processions and traditional festivities, although it's also the sound (['pa-tum']) made by the

drums that play a key role in the numerous parades involved. Today's Patum is an amazing sight, with various celebrations taking place that feature fireworks, live music, acrobatics and a multitude of characters including eagles, dwarves and giants, angels and demons, and many locals in historical outfits.

Berga: **[lapatum.cat](http://lapatum.cat)**



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## Nits d'Estiu (Summer nights)

End of June to Sept

Throughout the summer, most evenings see special cultural and gastronomic activities held at venues around the city. Many *modernista* spaces such as Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, Palau Güell, Casa Amatller, La Pedrera, Torre Bellesguard and Casa Batlló host concerts, suppers, drinks and audiovisual shows. In turn, several cultural venues, including Poble Espanyol, CaixaForum and El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria, open late at least one night a week, allowing you to enjoy their exhibitions and special

activities away from the daytime crowds and heat. Film fans can head to open-air screenings such as Sala Montjuïc, which shows movies at the castle on top of Montjuïc, Gandules, a free event at the CCCB where the audience sits in deckchairs (*gandules* in Catalan), and Cosmonits, a programme of sci-fi films at CosmoCaixa. Finally, the city's parks host evening concerts and the Liceu goes al fresco with the screening of one its operas at the Arc de Triomf.

**[visitbarcelona.com](http://visitbarcelona.com)**



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# Grec Festival de Barcelona

Jul 1-31

For many Barcelona culture lovers, summer means one thing: the Grec Festival, a wide-ranging arts event that sees the city through one of the hottest months of the year and into its traditional holiday period. Theatre, dance, music, circus and children's activities fill Barcelona's venues, although it is the iconic Teatre Grec that not only gives the festival its name but also provides the location for some of the most atmospheric performances. Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the festival and was inaugurated with a

performance of *Les bruixes de Salem*, based on Arthur Miller's classic play, *The Crucible*. Other highlights included contemporary dance from the Alonzo King Lines Ballet Company and the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, and musicians such as Dorian Wood, Scott Matthews and Myles Sanko. It's a fantastic celebration of creativity that provides an artistic backdrop to the long, languid days and nights of summer in this city.

[lameva.barcelona.cat/grec/en](http://lameva.barcelona.cat/grec/en)





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**33**

## European Balloon Festival

**Jul 6-9**

Get a new view of Catalonia as the sky above the town of Igualada fills with hot air balloons during the four days of this annual event. It's the largest of its kind in Spain and one of the biggest balloon gatherings in Europe; thousands of spectators come to see the more than 50 balloons that arrive from around the world. However, they're not just there to be admired; there's also a competitive part, one of which includes balloons taking off from various points across Igualada, and another that sees them start at a given place just outside town with the aim of landing on a specific point. Flights happen around 7.30am and 8pm, when the weather is best suited to balloons. In between there are many family activities such as bike courses, soccer sumo and juggling workshop, as well as a display of 'wind igloos', which are old balloons used as temporary structures for concerts, swimming pools and social events. On Saturday evening, the Night Glow event sees the balloons filled with light and a firework display.



Igualada: **ebf.cat**

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**34**

## Cruïlla Festival

**Jul 7-8**

Perhaps not as well-known as its Barcelona music festival peers, Primavera Sound and Sónar, Cruïlla is ideal for those people looking for top-notch, interesting bands that tend towards the indie and alternative, along with smaller crowds and a more compact programme. Based in the same venue as Primavera, the Parc del Fòrum, recent lineups have been featured a broad

mix for music lovers of all ages: 2016 welcomed Robert Plant, Alabama Shakes, Skunk Anansie and Cat Power as well as local acts like Animal, Adrià Puntí and Ramon Mirabet. Anyone wanting a kid-friendly festival should certainly consider Cruïlla, which has a real family vibe, particularly on the Sunday. As well as the music, additional activities are laid on including puppets,

traditional games, painting and sessions at the nearby Urban Forest adventure park. Add in food trucks, a market with clothes, accessories and beauty treatments, free WiFi and a cashless payment system, and your perfect summer weekend is set!

Parc del Fòrum:  
**cruillabarcelona.com**





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## Mas i Mas Festival

**From the end of July  
to the start of September**

While most of the people involved with organising live music in Barcelona head off on a well-deserved holiday this month, the yearly Mas i Mas festival keeps the city's concert scene going with a packed programme of events. Mas i Mas is one of Barcelona's most emblematic music companies, as the owner of the historic Jamboree jazz club, as well as techno club Moog and the flamenco venue Tarantos, all of which are located in the very heart of the city. These three all host shows

during the August festival along with equally iconic venues as the Palau de la Música Catalana and El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria. Last year's event saw over 200 concerts take place throughout the month, with acts that included local favourites such as Maria del Mar Bonet, Sílvia Perez Cruz and Martirio, as well as numerous international jazz musicians like Kevin Mahogany, John Abercrombie and Lee Konitz.

**[masimas.com/festival](http://masimas.com/festival)**

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**36**

## **Circuit Festival and Girlie Festival - 10th anniversaries**

**August 5-20 and August 15-20**

With the beaches full and holiday season in full swing, Barcelona welcomes back two of its most emblematic summer events, Circuit Festival and Girlie Circuit, which this year are celebrating their 10th anniversaries. Billed respectively as the biggest international gay festival and the biggest international lesbian festival, and both produced by Barcelona's Matinee Group, they see thousands of visitors from across the world come to the Catalan capital for days of parties. Circuit is two weeks of fun with a programme that includes pool parties, including the biggest and most popular event of the festival, the Water Park Day (which lasts all day and goes on into the night) at the nearby Illa Fantasia water park, DJ sessions (with performances by some of the biggest names on the gay scene) and club nights, while Girlie follows a similar pattern albeit for fewer days. Doubtless with a decade of good times to celebrate, this year will see some extra special guests and even more partying than usual.

**[circuitfestival.net](http://circuitfestival.net)**



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**37**

## **200th anniversary of the Festa Major de Gràcia**

**Aug 15-21**

Gràcia is one of the most popular areas in Barcelona, thanks to its bustling squares, alternative ambience and this neighbourhood festival (*festa major*), which sees locals decorate many of its streets and is this year celebrating its 200th anniversary. But the decorations don't just

involve throwing up some bunting and balloons. Associations for each street involved spend months coming up with a theme, collecting the items needed for their decorations (often recycled objects) and creating the papier-mâché constructions that they hope will win them one of the prizes for best dressed street. Beach scenes, creatures of all shapes and sizes, characters from literature, and simple but beautiful, light-filled abstract images – the fact that they will only be up for a week or so doesn't ever mean that participants stint on ideas and effort. It's not just about the décor though, with concerts, stalls selling food and drink and much more attracting visitors throughout the day and especially at night.

**[festamajordegracia.cat](http://festamajordegracia.cat)**

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## Trofeu Joan Gamper

**August**

FC Barcelona gets a new season of football underway with its traditional friendly that is named after the club's founder. In recent years, the Joan Gamper has been played towards the middle of August, once the players return from their summer break, and it provides fans a great opportunity to see some of Barça's new signings in action before the serious business of leagues and competitions begins. It's also a fantastic

chance to visit the majestic Camp Nou stadium, Europe's largest and a must-see for any real soccer aficionado; indeed it's one of the most-visited places in Catalonia. To contest the 'trophy' (until 1996, it was actually a four-team competition with two semi-finals and a final played, but a rise in other pre-season events meant that it was scaled back), the club usually invites an international challenger: among those that have taken part in the past five years are the Italian sides U.C. Sampdoria and A.S. Roma, and Santos F.C. from Brazil.

**[fcbarcelona.com](http://fcbarcelona.com)**



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## Castells de Sant Fèlix de Vilafranca

Aug 30

Of all the memorable Catalan traditions, which include 'fire runs' and dancing 'giants', it's arguably the human towers that have the most impact on those watching them. To enjoy a true festival of these *castells*, head to Vilafranca de Penedès for its annual  *festa major* at the end of August, which commemorates the town's patron Sant Fèlix. Some of Catalonia's leading *casteller* groups, including the local Castellers de Vilafranca, take part, showing off their amazing skills. Each human tower is an exemplary example of team work, from the crowd forming the supporting *pinya* at the bottom via the columns formed as each level rises and culminating with the youngest members of the crew scampering right to the very top to crown the construction, which is officially completed once the smallest of all (*J'auxaneta*) raises his or her hand. Last year's event made history with the execution of four towers of 10 levels each, two of which were, to the particular joy of those watching, by the town's castellers.

[festamajor.vilafranca.cat](http://festamajor.vilafranca.cat)



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## New Opening Casa Vicens (Gaudí)

October (tbc)

Antoni Gaudí is synonymous with Barcelona, and places like the Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló, La Pedrera, Park Güell, Torre Bellesguard and Palau Güell are visited by hundreds of thousands of people from across the world each year, firmly establishing Gaudí as one of the foremost architects of his time. As such, it's exciting to know that this month sees the opening

up of the first house he designed, with the public finally getting extended access to Casa Vicens (in the past it was open only on May 22, the feast day of Saint Rita), which was completed in 1888. Gaudí had actually received the commission from Manuel Vicens i Montaner, a brick and tile factory owner, some years earlier; Vicens had inherited the land, which at the time stood in the independent village of Gràcia, and wanted to build a summer house there. In its design, the recently graduated Gaudí makes extensive use of colour and tiles, with Arabic, oriental and neoclassical influences. The beginnings of his singular style and inventiveness are clearly on show.

[casavicens.org](http://casavicens.org)



## **Mercat de Música Viva, Vic**

**Sep 13-17**

Every September, the beautiful central Catalan town of Vic hosts an extensive 'market of live music', aimed at giving both professionals and the public the chance to hear a wide range of different genres and discover up-and-coming acts, as they enjoy four days of concerts and related activities. A lot of the focus is on bands from Catalonia, Spain and the Mediterranean area, but musicians from other places can also be found on the programme. Performances, some of which are free, are given across the city at venues both indoors and out, including the emblematic Plaça Major, and throughout the event, the streets will be filled with buskers, adding to the musical extravaganza taking place. While there, it's also worth taking the time to explore Vic, a place rich with history, from the Roman temple to the cathedral, ecclesiastical museum, and medieval and modernista buildings. And don't forget to try the local gastronomic speciality, cured meats.

**mmvv.cat**



## **150th anniversary of Puig i Cadafalch**

**2017**

Among the pantheon of modernista architects responsible for many of the elegantly splendid buildings around the city, Josep Puig i Cadafalch is undoubtedly one of the stars. Several of his Barcelona works are unmissable highlights of that movement's legacy: Casa Amatller, Casa de les Punxes, Palau Baró de Quadras and Casa Martí, home to Els Quatre Gats café, a popular



## **Festival of La Mercè**

**Sep 24**

Barcelona celebrates the end of summer in style each year, with a city festival to honour one of its patron saints, La Mercè, whose feast day is September 24, although events last for a few days around that date. It's a huge party with many free activities for all ages that take place across the city. Among the most popular are the procession of 'giants' and 'big heads', elaborate papier-mâché

meeting-place for artists and intellectuals at the turn of the 20th century, and Casa Ramona, which is now home to the CaixaForum cultural centre. But Puig i Cadafalch wasn't just an architect: he was also a politician, an archaeologist and expert in Roman art, and director of the Institute of Catalan Studies. In the 150th anniversary of his birth, 2017 will see a range of activities related to his life and work in both Barcelona and his nearby home town of Mataró. Exhibitions, conferences and guided tours are just part of the plans for what promises to be a memorable celebration.

**[anypuigicadafalch.cat](http://anypuigicadafalch.cat)**  
**[visitbarcelona.com](http://visitbarcelona.com)**



constructions that represent both historical characters and fantastical beasts, the display of *castellers* ('human towers') in front of City Hall, and the *correfoc*, which literally means 'fire run' and sees demons with firecrackers dancing with well-protected members of the public under their showers of sparks. There are also concerts, audiovisual shows and contributions from a guest city, while Ciutadella Park hosts numerous events including theatre and dance shows. At night, fireworks fill the sky with fabulous pyrotechnic displays befitting such an important fixture on the Barcelona calendar.

**[barcelona.cat/merce/en](http://barcelona.cat/merce/en)**

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## Mostra de Vins i Caves de Catalunya

**Sep 22-25**

Wine and cava aficionados shouldn't miss this fair, which this year marks its 37th edition and is an excellent opportunity to get to know many of the locally made vintages, along with some typical regional foods. Catalonia has a long history of wine-making, with the Greeks first introducing vines to the northern Empordà area, and the Romans following suit albeit further south in Tarragona. In recent times, the profile of Catalan winemakers has grown significantly among both the critics and the general public, and the quality of their output is generally agreed to improve year on year. Areas such as Priorat, Montsant and Costers del Segre are renowned for their products, while the one with the largest number of vineyards, Penedès, is the source of many popular cava varieties. The weekend wine fair, which coincides with Barcelona's Festival of La Mercè in honour of its patron saint, promises once more to be a time of sampling fine wine, brilliant bubbly and appetising bites to eat.

**incavi.cat**



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## Ancient Greece from the British Museum

**Sep-Dec**

Hundreds of years after the Ancient Greek period ended, we're still as fascinated as ever with the extraordinary exploits, developments and legends of that time. The literature, sport and theatre, not to mention the political systems and philosophy, continue to resonate today along with many other of its facets. The British Museum in London is renowned as a holder of myriad artefacts dating from the 1,500

years or so that the Ancient Greek period lasted, and Barcelona's CaixaForum cultural organisation has reached an agreement with the museum for the display of a selection of those artefacts both here and at some of its other sites around Spain. Specifically, the exhibition will explore the world of Ancient Greece through the subjects of competition and rivalry. It will cover themes such as the *polis* ('city states'), war and the origins of the Olympic Games via pieces such as those from the Mausoleum of Halikarnassos, which are shown outside London for the first time.

CaixaForum:  
**[obrasociallacaixa.org/en/cultura](https://obrasociallacaixa.org/en/cultura)**



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## Fira de la Mediterrània, Manresa

October 5-8

Located in the heart of Catalonia, the historical town of Manresa hosts this yearly festival dedicated to local culture and global music. For industry professionals, it's promoted as a 'market of performances', which for the general public means it's a great opportunity to discover visual arts, circus, dance, art, music, narration and theatre that combine tradition with contemporary creativity, and that can be difficult to find in a single event such as this. The programme is understandably packed, with acts running

both during the day and at night, and with both street performances and shows in various local venues. So you might one moment see a display of hip hop and the next a concert by a Congolese band, followed by a new take on acrobatics and then a sword dance. All of which is interspersed with some of the most classic elements of Catalan culture such as 'human towers' (*castells*), 'fire runs' (*correfocs*) and 'giants' (*gegants*).

[firamediterrania.cat](http://firamediterrania.cat)



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## 50th Sitges International Film Festival

October 6-15

It's a big year for the town of Sitges, situated just half an hour down the coast from Barcelona, as its international festival of fantastic and terror cinema celebrates its 50th edition. Already an attraction for movie fans from around the world, especially those who like to see gore, guts, shocks and fantasy on screen, this auspicious anniversary promises to present something really special. Hundreds of films are shown during its ten days, with both blockbusters and small-budget indie productions included on the programme, while various stars of the silver screen also make appearances; last year, Max Von Sydow, Christopher Walken and Dolph Lundgren were among the guest stars. Running in parallel to the screenings are exhibitions, master classes and Q&A sessions, special events focused on television series, the chance to see films using new virtual reality technology, plus a crowded Zombie Walk, which welcomes thousands of the living dead for a stroll through the streets of Sitges.

[sitgesfilmfestival.com](http://sitgesfilmfestival.com)





4.8

## Barcelona Triathlon by Santander

**October 8**

The profile of this three-pronged sporting event is definitely on the up; it's now part of both the Olympics and the Paralympics, and athletes such as the British Brownlee brothers have raised audience interest in the swimming, cycling and running challenge. It's also becoming popular among amateurs looking for a more varied exercise endeavour than that offered by just sticking to one sport. Unsurprisingly, then, the

Barcelona Triathlon attracts thousands of competitors each year to its beachfront setting. With three distances available, participants can choose between supersprint, sprint and Olympic and take part either as individuals, in pairs (where the two complete the course together) or as a relay team (with two or three members sharing the effort). As well as the sporting action, there is also Triexpo, a one-day show of the latest in triathlon trends and accessories, ideal for stocking up on new kit and meeting some of the other people taking part.

**[barcelona-triathlon.com](http://barcelona-triathlon.com)**

4.9

## Saló Nàutic

**October 11-15**

Prepare to set sail. Well, to at least imagine yourself setting sail on one of the magnificent vessels on display at this year's Barcelona Boat Show. This will be the 56th edition for this event that sees the city's Old Port fill up with some of the latest yachts, speedboats and catamarans for potential buyers to peruse, and the interested to ogle. All the principal makers of sporting and leisure boats are represented, with hundreds of gleaming crafts on show, alongside numerous stands where you can try the latest technological advances in the sector along with the newest must-haves. You can also sample a variety of water sports, including paddle surf, kayak and canoeing, and try your hand at Stand Up Paddle, all at the Fun Beach area. At night, the Salon stays open for live musical performances, dance and fashion shows, and visual spectacles. And if you've worked up an appetite, head to the Food Plaza or exclusive One Ocean Club for something delicious to eat and drink.

Port Vell  
**[salonnautico.com](http://salonnautico.com)**



## Mercat de Mercats

**October**

This 'market of markets' has become an unmissable event on Barcelona's calendar for lovers of good food and drink, featuring three days of the best that the city's many fresh food markets have to offer. Anyone who's been in Barcelona for more than about a day knows full well that its food markets (of which there are an impressive 39), are a joy to behold. From the smallest neighbourhood establishments to the world-famous Boqueria, the products on sale are varied, colourful and endlessly enticing. Fish, meat, fruit and vegetables, eggs of all sizes, pre-cooked legumes, dried fruits... and all served by really knowledgeable stallholders. Visit the Mercat de Mercats to try tapas, buy fresh, healthy food, and see some of the best chefs in the city and from around Catalonia show off their know-how and the traditions of local cooking. If you're so inclined, there are also wine, cava, vermouth, coffee and even olive oil tastings, among numerous other such activities.

Avinguda de la Catedral:  
**[somedemercat.cat](http://somedemercat.cat)**



## Festival Internacional de Jazz de Barcelona

**End of October  
to start of December**

This year sees Barcelona's annual jazz festival reach its 49th edition, a notable tribute from the city to what is surely one of its favourite musical genres. What makes this festival really stand out is its commitment to both

acclaimed, world-class names and up-and-comers that it's worth keeping a close eye on. Last year's edition included appearances by British pianist and writer James Rhodes (his original show sold out so quickly a second date was added later in the schedule), opera soprano Barbara Hendricks, Kyle Eastwood and Chucho Valdés. In addition, there's a growing number of extra activities that run alongside the classic musical performances; activities such as Jazz & Food, with 12 hours of live music accompanied by a host of world food and dishes from a number of local restaurants, and special tie-in sessions with the Magic Fountains on Montjuïc, when the light and water show goes all out jazz!

**[jazz.barcelona](http://jazz.barcelona)**





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## **Beefeater Festival In-Edit**

**End of October**  
**to start of November**

One of Barcelona's most popular film festivals, In-Edit focuses on music documentaries with productions that take in the whole spectrum of popular sounds. Created back in 2003, its audience numbers more than doubled in size for the 2004 edition, from 1,200 to 2,800, and less than ten years later more than 30,000 people streamed through the doors of the various venues that host In-Edit screenings. It all goes to prove that the organisers were spot on in thinking that there was a ready-made audience that loves the partnership of

music and film. Doubtless part of its appeal is the range of musicians featured; you might catch the behind-the-scene story of Blur, The Stooges, Frank Zappa, Gary Numan or Keith Richards. You could also discover some of the more unusual acts that have emerged over the years and whose fascinating history has been captured on film, as well as delve into the background of rhythms and sounds from parts of the world whose music can often be overlooked.

**[in-edit.org](http://in-edit.org)**



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# 53

## Festival del Mil·lenni

End of November 2017

to start of May 2018

Further proof that Barcelona attracts the most incredible range of musicians to perform here comes in the shape of this popular music festival. Starting in late autumn and spread out over various months through to the spring, the 'Millennium Festival' (the name comes from the fact that it was inaugurated back at the turn of the millennium) features an average of 50 concerts, bringing joy into the lives of music fans during what is the quietest time of year for such happenings. Its appeal is increased ten-fold by the effort by organisers Concert Studio to create an eclectic programme that really lives up to the adage 'something for everybody'. So in the 2016-2017 season, the bill included hot young thing Michael Kiwanuka, Spandau Ballet frontman Tony Hadley giving a solo performance, Ocean Colour Scene marking 20 years since the release of their 'Moseley Shoals' album, and The Divine Comedy promoting their just-released record, 'Foreverland'.

[festival-millenni.com](http://festival-millenni.com)

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# 54

## Christmas in Barcelona

December-January

The festive season in Barcelona is special for many reasons. Firstly there are the traditional elements, like the Christmas markets, particularly the Santa Llúcia one by the cathedral, which has been held since 1786 and is where local families go to buy pieces for their cribs. Talking of which, *pessebres* (which is what they're called in Catalan) can be seen in places around the city including

Plaça Sant Jaume, City Hall and the Reial Monestir de Pedralbes. And *pessebres vivents* feature real people (and animals) acting out the Christmas story – if the chance comes up to see one, for example at Poble Espanyol, don't miss it. On a more modern note, Barcelona is conscious of the need to be environmentally aware at this time of year, and Plaça Catalunya hosts a fair promoting responsible consumption, as well as fun and games for all ages. As the glittering lights brighten the streets at night, why not feast on some roasted chestnuts from one of the stalls around town before enjoying a concert of Christmas music?

[barcelona.cat/nadal](http://barcelona.cat/nadal)

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## Christmas Shopping

**December-January**

Barcelona is renowned as a great place to shop, with a variety of places to buy that make up the city's unique identity, so it's a great choice for getting those all-important Christmas gifts. 'Barcelona Shopping City' offers the chance to walk around seeing the history and architecture while discovering neighbourhood commercial areas and markets that have local, Mediterranean and artisanal products, as well as shopping centres and department stores that bring together numerous international brands under one roof. During the 'Barcelona Christmas Shopping' period, you'll find everything from unique, traditional objects made in Catalonia to exclusive national and international labels, as well as a huge range of festive food, traditions and special activities to enjoy. In early December, Barcelona Shopping Night sees the shops and restaurants of Passeig de Gràcia and the surrounding streets open late into the night.

**[barcelonashoppingline.com](http://barcelonashoppingline.com)**







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## **New Year's Eve**

**December 31**

Say 'hola' to 2018 by celebrating New Year's Eve in Barcelona. For the past few years, the crowds have flocked to Avinguda Reina Maria Cristina, just off Plaça Espanya and at the foot of Montjuïc. That's the site for the city's main bash, which starts around 9pm and includes music, audiovisual performances and, of course, some serious fireworks. You can also join in with the local tradition of eating 12 grapes before the clock finishes chiming at midnight – it's said that if you manage it, you'll enjoy a lucky

year ahead. Many venues around the city host special festivities to mark the start of the new year, with big clubs like Razzmatazz and Sala Apolo putting on parties into the early hours of January 1, while Poble Espanyol, just up the road from Avinguda Reina Maria Cristina, is popular with the city's youth. Alternatively, check out venues such as restaurants and flamenco clubs, which often put on a full night of entertainment including food, music and dancing (plus those all-important grapes).

**[www.barcelona.cat/nadal](http://www.barcelona.cat/nadal)**

# OPEN THE DOOR AND DISCOVER THAT BARCELONA IS MUCH MORE

Photographies: El Montseny Natural Park, Pedraforca, Penedes Vineyards, Gavuti's Colonia Gual (Cognit (Santa Coloma de Cervelló), Cardener, Casils, Sau Reservoir, Pineda de Mar, Caselle (human towers), and Sant Jaume de Frontanyà.



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