



## The CAPA Barcelona Center Neighborhood

The CAPA Barcelona Center is located right in the center of Barcelona, in the Eixample district, which borders the city's historical old town ("Ciutat Vella").

Eixample (pronounced eh-SHAM-plah) is characterized by broad tree-lined avenues and is home to some of Barcelona's most iconic modernist-style buildings, notably the Casa Batllo and La Pedrera, just two of Gaudi's creative works in stone and mosaic. We're also surrounded by shops, cafes, and restaurants, and near famous landmarks like the Arco de Triunfo, the Cathedral, Plaza Catalunya, and Las Ramblas, to name a few.

There are three underground stations near the Center:

- Arco de Triunfo
- Tetuan
- Urquinoana

The Barcelona Center is within walking distance of the *Casco Antiguo* where you can find:

- Las Ramblas
- La Boqueria Market
- The Picasso Museum
- The Cathedral

The center is close to the city's central park, Ciutadella Park, which offers:

- The City Zoo
- Museum of Natural Sciences
- Historical artwork, architecture, and gardens

The Barcelona Center is also just a short walk from the central square, Plaza Catalunya, which borders Spain's main department store El Corte Ingles, and is connected to the popular shopping street Puerto de Angel

### HISTORY OF THE AREA

Barcelona is the cosmopolitan capital of Spain's Catalonia region, known for its art, architecture, and fantastic location between the mountain and the sea.



We are in Eixample, within a short walking distance of the old town, which is full of historical landmarks. Eixample was built between the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries to the pioneering design of engineer Ildefons Cerda, at a time when Catalonia was rapidly industrializing. “Eixamplar” means “widen” in Catalan, and the aim was to accommodate rapid growth.

### **Plaza Catalunya**

This large square is generally considered both the city center and the place where the old town and the 19<sup>th</sup>-century-built Eixample meet. Some of the city's most important streets and avenues meet at Plaza Catalunya, including Passeig de Gracia, Rambla de Catalunya, and Puerto de Àngel, to name a few. Plaza Catalunya is especially known for its fountains and statues, along with its proximity to some of Barcelona's most popular attractions. The plaza was established in the late 19th century and was further modified in 1929 due to the 1929 Barcelona International Exposition.



### **La Rambla**

Also known as Las Ramblas, La Rambla is a tree-lined pedestrian street, stretching 0.75 miles and connecting Plaza Catalunya in the center with the Christopher Columbus Monument at the port. La Rambla can be crowded, especially during the height of the tourist season. The streets of La Rambla are lined with various vendors and some of the most popular shops Barcelona offers. Many tourists come to La Rambla for the shopping experience and to enjoy La Boqueria, one of the most popular activities in the area. The Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca once said that La Rambla was "the only street in the world which I wish would never end."





### **La Boqueria Market**

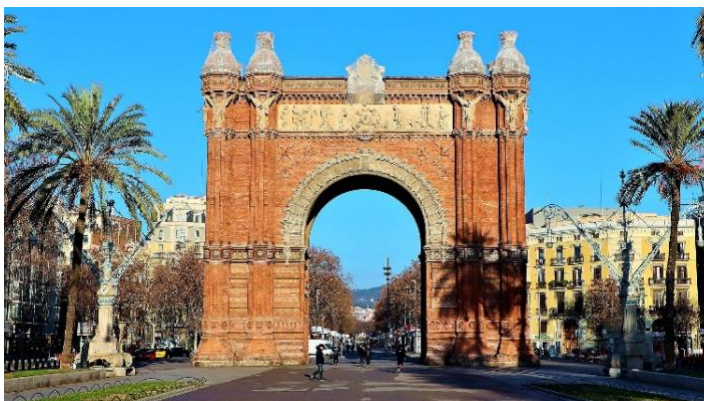
This large [public market](#) in the old town is one of the city's biggest tourist landmarks. The market has a lively atmosphere and offers a diverse selection of goods. The first mention of the Boqueria market in Barcelona dates from 1217 when tables were installed near the old city gate to sell meat. In 1826 the market was legally recognized, and it was built into an official structure after a convention in 1835. The inauguration of the structure finally took place in 1853. A new fish market opened in 1911, and the current metal roof was constructed in 1914.



*Read about CAPA alum Isha's experience in La Boqueria [here](#).*

### **Ciutadella Park**

The park was designed in the mid-19th century under the command of Josep Fontserè, who employed the young and then-unknown architect Antoni Gaudí to design the waterfall near the lake. The water basin in front of the park's fountain is guarded by winged dragons, a figure quite commonly found in his work. Other attractions at the park include the zoo, the Catalan Parliament, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Geology Museum.



### **Arco de Triunfo**

Massive arches like this one can be found in many cities throughout Europe. Barcelona's Arco de Triunfo was built by architect Josep Vilaseca I Casanovas to serve as the main access gate for the 1888 Barcelona World Fair.



### **Barcelona Cathedral**

The Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia, also known as Barcelona Cathedral, is a Gothic cathedral and the seat of the Archbishop of Barcelona. The cathedral was built between the 13th and 15th centuries, but the [neo-Gothic](#) façade was constructed in the late-19th century, a common occurrence in Catalan churches. The roof is notable for its [gargoyles](#), which feature a wide range of local and mythical animals. The cathedral is dedicated to [Santa Eulalia of Barcelona](#), the co-patron saint of Barcelona and a young woman who, according to Catholic tradition, suffered martyrdom during Roman times in the city.

