



Styletravel

Barcelona

Pack your most stylish clothes for a weekend
of arts, culture and cocktails

Written by Laura Dixon



If you needed proof that Barcelona is one of Europe's style capitals, get this. It's the home town of modern art revolutionaries Antoni Gaudí and Joan Miró; Picasso studied art here; and a couple of years ago, the city's oldest cocktail bar, Boadas, decided to ban 'tourist wear' – Tees and baggy shorts – because it was deemed



CASA BATLLÓ

not stylish enough. That ruling was overturned last summer – on the grounds that it's contrary to human rights, apparently – but the sentiment remains: if you're in Barcelona, you'd better dress for it.

Fashion is in the air in the early part of the year with the city's Bread & Butter fashion fair, showcasing anything from 7 For All Mankind and Citizens of Humanity designer denim through to local heroes, Custo.

This summer sees the release of Woody Allen's love letter to the city, his latest film *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. The

film follows painter Javier Bardem, who has a love triangle relationship with two American tourists, Penélope Cruz and Scarlett Johansson. Now those are two tourists you'd allow in any bar, regardless of the dress code.

A DAY IN THE CITY

Start off with a panoramic view of the city from the harbour cable car, which takes you across the city and up to Montjuïc for just a handful of euros.

You can't visit the city without visiting Gaudí's architectural masterpieces: the Sagrada Família, a towering cathedral in the Gothic Quarter, and Park Güell, a beautiful and flamboyant garden complex with plenty of shade at lunchtime.

At the end of Las Ramblas, the pedestrian street running from the Gothic Quarter to the beach, you'll find sand, sea, shops and plenty of beach bars. Then start the evening slowly with bread and olives on Carrer d'Aribau, just five minutes from Las Ramblas, known for its white-jacketed cocktail waiters and buzzy bars.

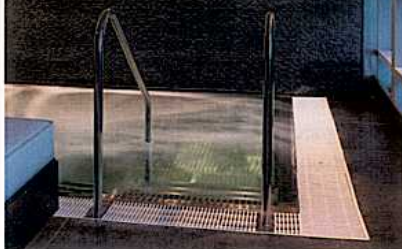
The Spa

SIX SENSES SPA

Hotel Arts Barcelona, Carre de la Marina 19-21, 08005 Barcelona
(00 34) 93 221 10 00

www.sixsenses.com/six-senses-spas/Hotel-Arts/index.php

The über-stylish five-star Hotel Arts naturally has a spa – and location – to match. On the 42nd and 43rd floors of this, one of the tallest buildings in the city, there are even views of the sea from the saunas. Just a hundred metres from the beach in the Marina/Olympic Village area, the Six Senses Spa is all about balancing your senses, with chromo therapy in every room including the sauna, plus an ice fountain and vitality pool as well as a range of treatments.



The TapasBar

INOPIA

Tamarit 104, Eixample Esquerra,
08015 Barcelona
(00 34) 93 424 52 31

www.barinopia.com

Run by Alberto Adrià, younger brother of the famous Barcelona chef Ferran Adrià, this gourmet tapas bar is like nothing you'll have experienced before. He wanted to create an old-fashioned tapas bar with a welcoming atmosphere and a menu of traditional dishes done exceedingly well and, by all accounts, he's succeeded...



The CocktailBar

DRY MARTINI

Aribau 162-166, 08036 Barcelona
(00 34) 93 217 50 72

www.drymartiniibcn.com

Get into the spirit of Barcelona in sophisticated cocktail bar Dry Martini. The wood-panelled bar with red leather booths and a display of antique bottles is a genuine experience: formally dressed bartenders whip up anything from a neat G&T to signature cocktails – try Blackbird Blues, Silver Clouds or a Rumba Numbas.



TheHotel

HOTEL OMM

Rosselló 265, 08008 Barcelona
(00 34) 93 445 40 00

www.hotelomm.es or book through
www.i-escape.com

Hotel Omm is so committed to design that its rooftop pool even overlooks the Sagrada Família. Sleek and minimalist, it sits on designer shopping street Passeig de Gràcia and has enough mod cons to make you feel like you're a starlet in a futuristic film. Check out the restaurant Moo, run by the Michelin-starred Roca brothers. If you can't afford the price tag, bar Moodern is open to all and the basement Ommsession nightclub draws beautiful people for electro-jazz, funk and house.



The Local Look

Barcelona isn't known as a stylish city for nothing. The cosmopolitan city embraces all kinds of style, from conservative and tailored through to boho and colourful, but one thing that it doesn't tolerate is bad dress sense. Just because tourist wear is

allowed in cocktail bar Boadas now, it doesn't mean that you can wear anything out on the town.

Many places still hold with the idea that you need to dress up to go out, and dressing for dinner is de rigueur – so a hard-working day-to-night outfit is essential...

The outfit

For a day's sightseeing in this stylish city, think clean lines and simple accessories

Premium slouchy zip-detail shoulder bag
£65, K654H

Oversized vintage style sunglasses
£10, K5GBB

KEEP COOL IN STYLISH
CHIFFON FABRICS

Butterfly flower shirt
£25, K6M8F

Turn-up shorts,
£22, K55Q5

Premium cut-out flat leather sandals,
£40, K61AC

Into the night

Night owls add platforms and metallics for evening chic

Metallic python effect tote bag,
£22, K669Z

Caged T-bar platform shoes,
£30, K6480



The Boutiques

COQUETTE

Calle Madrazo 153, 08021 Barcelona
(00 34) 93 414 51 06

www.coquettecollection.com

Born to be beautiful, so Coquette's slogan goes, and you can't argue with that. Selling international womenswear from the likes of See by Chloé, Vanessa Bruno, Tara Jarman and Pinko, just browsing amid the antique tables and capiz-shell chandeliers is enough to make you feel special.



LA MANUAL ALPARGATERA

Calle Avinyó 6 7, 08002 Barcelona
(00 34) 93 301 01 72

www.lamanualalpargatera.com

This famous espadrille workshop, a short walk from Cathedral Square, has been going since the 1940s and has won international acclaim for its classic designs. It might look like more of an artisan's shop than an A-list destination, but try telling that to Catherine Zeta-Jones, one of many happy shoppers.