

# Barcelona



## Barcelona with Reiner and Marianne

Saturday, 20 October 2007

### Barcelona – October 20 – 29

So we got up on Sunday morning for our first full day in BCN – how wonderful to relax in our own place having a leisurely breakfast. We spent the day walking around the city checking things out.

**Monday** – Reiner and Marianne arrived today – so we walked over to their hotel (Hotel Colon – a 4\* about 15 minutes walk away – right on the Cathedral Square). They seemed pretty fresh – since it was already nearly time for lunch we headed off to the Boquerie market to find Pinoxio's Tapa's bar – it was overflowing + R&M were not keen as it pretty much is a small corner with a few bar stools and stand up tables. We stopped at another place (Ra), had a drink and left as D&R did not like the menu. In the end we ended up with the worst of all worlds – a tourist rip-off place on the Ramblas. After lunch we walked around some more – before heading home then meeting R&M for dinner at another tapa's place (Cuines Santa Caterina where we had lunch on Sunday) – it was excellent.

**Tuesday** – we met up with R&M again and spent the day touring around (by taxi and on foot) – mainly visiting some of Gaudi's masterpieces – in particular the Segrada Familia cathedral then La Pedrera (an apartment building) and Casa Batllo as well as many other famous buildings. In the evening we all had dinner at one of Barcelona's hot restaurants called Cinc Sentits owned by some Canadians – unfortunately the only booking we could get was at 10pm so it was a late night – but well worth it – the 6 course tasting was 46€ pp but with 3 bottles of expensive wine/champagne it worked out to 300€ per couple.

**Wednesday** – Dieter and I headed out alone and spent the day touring (subway, cable car, funicular, and by foot) – mainly the Park Montjuic.

I must add a comment out the onsite manager here Miklos Beyer – he's been fantastic – tour guide, restaurant and bar expert, as well as network and PC wizard – he's so friendly and happy to provide advice and recommendations on Barcelona.

**Thursday** – we headed out with R&M taking a taxi to Monjuic (?) the church at one of the highest points around (500m) – it was freezing cold on top as well as very cloudy so the view, which would be great on a clear day, was a bit disappointing. Afterwards we went by taxi to find a tapas bar recommended in Time Out Barcelona (one of the excellent guide books provided by the apartment) – called Bo! In the Gracia area – we found it but R did not like the look of it so went to a small restaurant just opposite which was totally underwhelming. D&I headed back to our apartment to try and sort out our SQ booking – unfortunately we will not be able to leave from BCN (FC is booked out) and will need to proceed with our original plan to go via Paris with an overnight at CDG. We may or may not need to overnight in Sg – still WL'ed on the through flight to SYD.

**Friday** we hired a car from Pepecar – which was very close by – it looked dodgy but worked out fine and cheap (45€ for the day with FULL insurance). On R's request we drove to L'Escala to visit an old friend of his – fortunately the day wasn't a total bust as we stopped in Girona for an hour or two – a really nice ancient city. The visit to R's old friend was pretty predictable and a total waste of time in my opinion. We went out to lunch to a local bistro which had good fish but absolutely nothing else to offer in terms of venue and food. Poor Dieter who was doing all the driving had yet another relapse of his cold so was a bit miserable – we got back to Barcelona at 7pm – had a quick drink then headed home. Dieter even skipped dinner – I had a cheese sandwich. Must be time to go home!!

**Saturday** – we had a short sleep-in – we had the 'day off' – no touring about with R&M – Reiner is not a very relaxing person to travel with.