



TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

Tour Highlight:

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Andorra la Vella, Andorra



Where is that?

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A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Andorra's independence is thanks to Charlemagne in 803 who took the land back from the Muslims. The country was run under the feudal system until 1993 when it adopted a constitution and joined the UN. Andorra uses the Euro as its currency despite not being a member of the EU. No railway system exists in the country and there is a small airport that is generally not used often by tourists. It attracts millions of shoppers every year that are taking advantage of the country's duty free purchases. It is very connected to Catalonia in Spain and many of its governmental documents are in Catalan. Most of its residents come from France and Spain. According to FreedomHouse Andorra has a rating of 93 meaning free, and a transparency law in 2021 has helped its democracy.

Andorra la Vella, Andorra



Some quick tips for Andorra :

- The only way to get to Andorra is by bus from Barcelona or Toulouse
- Most of the city is fairly walkable from the bus station

EXPERIENCES

Although a small city in a microstate within Europe, there are a lot of things to do in Andorra la Vella. In three short hours I was able to walk throughout the capital city and see most of the main attractions. Andorra is known for its shopping due to its tax code, but there are a lot of other things to see while you are there.

LA NOBLESSE DU TEMPS & PUENTE DE PARIS



The Noblesse Du Temps statue was donated by Salvador Dali to Andorra and represents the passage of time over humans. It is situated in the middle of the city. On one side of the clock is a woman which represents the body, flesh, and material whereas the other side is an angel representing the spirit, memory, and intangible. The puente de Paris connects the main part of Andorra la Vella over the river. These two attractions are in the heart of the city, and an easy walk from the train station.

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PARC CENTRAL



The central park in the city has a great view overlooking the river, and is a great place to enjoy the nature in Andorra. It also has great views of the mountains surrounding you in the city.

SANT ESTEVE CHURCH

The church was built in the 12th century, and was modified in the 20th century. Inside the church is the Painting of the Souls from the 18th century. It is from Romanesque times which is why the church has the semi-circular apse which is the largest in the principality.



CASA DE LA VALL



The house was built at the end of 16th century as a manor house for the Busquets family. In 1702 it was acquired by the Consulate General and was used as the main seat of government until 2011. Meetings of government officials and between international officials and Andorrans were also held here. It also was the main judicial seat of the country. In the pictures you can see the rooms within the house that were used by the government as well as the courtroom for the judiciary.



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7 POETS



The seven poets is a composition of sculptures flying above the ground placed in front of the administration building for the country. They represent the seven parishes of Andorra and represent the connection of art and politics within the country. At night the statues are illuminated making a pretty sight for tourists within the city.

PYRENEES

This famous department store in Andorra is a must visit for tourists. It gives the same vibes as the Corte Ingles in Spain, but it is just Andorra's version. They have everything from clothes, makeup, jewelry, and houseware goods. It really is a nonstop shop for anything you need in your daily life.



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!