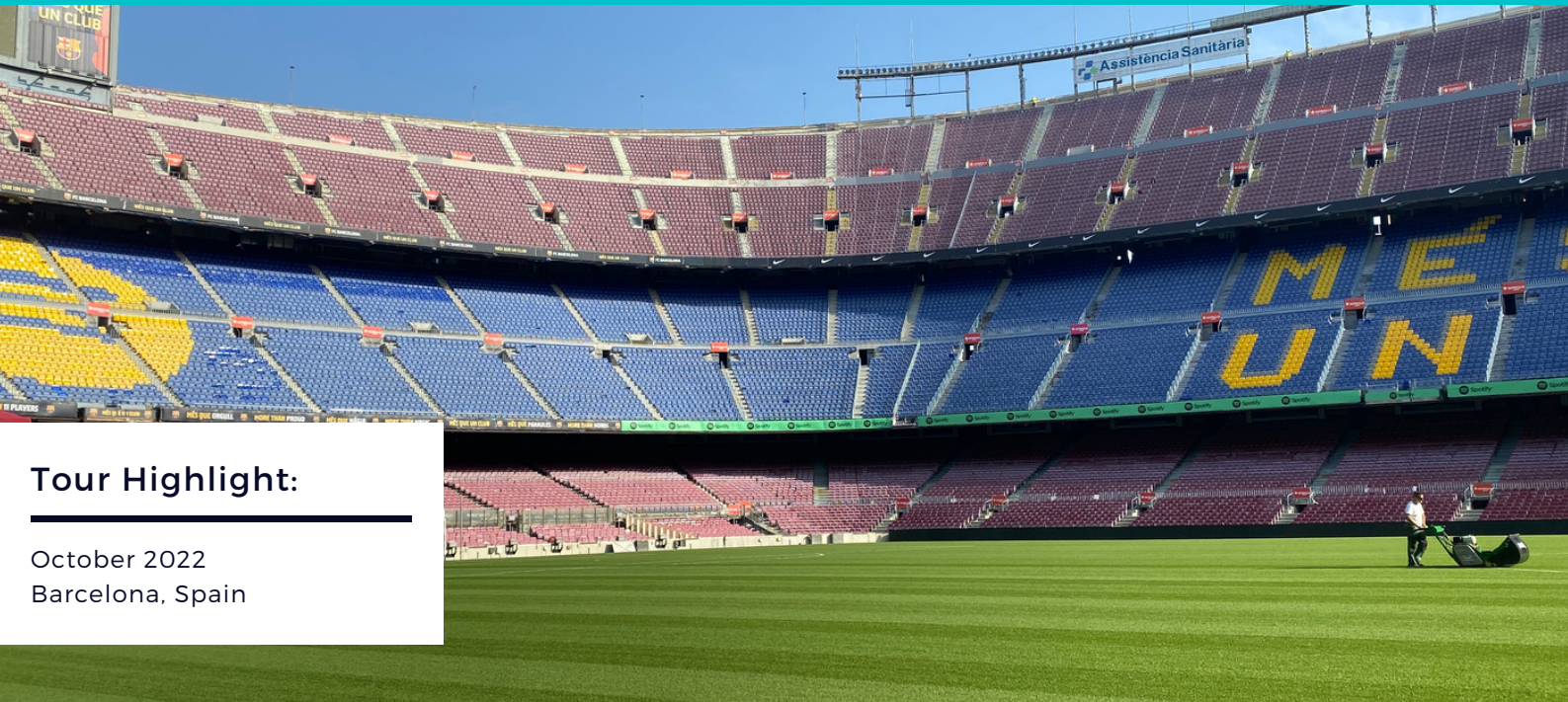




# TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour



## Tour Highlight:

October 2022  
Barcelona, Spain

## A spooky weekend in Barcelona

Contributed by Michael Davis



## A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

From 1833 until 1939 Spain had a parliamentary government with a written constitution. The Spanish Civil War from 1936-1939 led to the rule of Dictator Francisco Franco where the legislature called the Cortes brought harsh rule upon the country. Once Franco died in 1975 King Juan Carlos I returned the country to its traditional democracy and a new constitution was written. Life expectancy in Spain is one of the highest in the world due to government sponsored health care instituted in the 1960s. Politically Spain has faced protests from regions such as Catalonia and the Basque region which wish to be independent nations. The culture of Spain is from Roman rule, but influences from the MENA region is prevalent from Muslim rule. FreedomHouse gives Spain a rating of 90 meaning free, but free speech related to Catalanian independence is a controversial topic.

# Barcelona, Spain

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## Some quick tips for Barcelona :

- Barcelona is notorious for pickpocketing so keep a close watch on your phone and wallet
- The clubs are very fun but you need a ticket to enter which can get expensive

## FOOD & DRINK

### 100 MONTADITOS



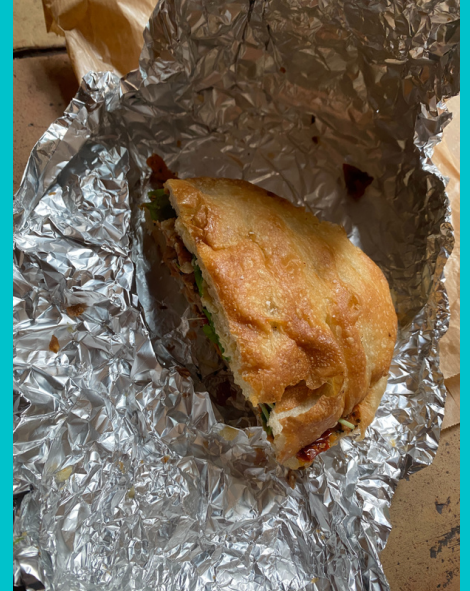
100 Montaditos is also in Madrid, but once I saw that it was in Barcelona too I knew I had to go. They have \$1 sandwiches here that are actually fire. They have 100 different sandwich options to choose from, and I recommend getting 3-4 or if you are really hungry 6. If you are in Spain or Barcelona coming here is a must because it is so cost friendly and the sandwiches are actually so so so good.

### PAELLA



I have mixed views on eating paella when I am not in Andalusia (southern Spain). This is because paella is native to southern Spain and the costs. However, I wanted to try the paella in Barcelona to see how it compares to the paella in Sevilla and Madrid. To my suspicions, the paella here was good, but nothing compared to the paella in Sevilla. If you want good paella I recommend going to the coasts of Spain.

### NARCISO



When looking for a place to have lunch we happened to stumble upon this sandwich restaurant called Narciso. The sandwiches here were very very very good. However, they took almost 30 minutes to make, and the service at the restaurant was not the best. If you are willing to wait the time for the sandwiches and suffer under subpar service, try this restaurant out.

# Barcelona, Spain

## EXPERIENCES

There is a lot to do in Barcelona, so make sure to plan ahead before you go. Further, many of the main attractions are on opposite sides of the city, so try and visit places that are in the same locations on the same day. The public transport system is very easy to use, so definitely try and use that as an option in getting around. Food and drinks are very affordable in Spain, so go explore the great restaurants!

### SPOTIFY CAMP NOU



Home to the legendary FC Barcelona team, Camp Nou was built in the 1950s and can host almost 100,000 fans for games. The stadium was also the home of the 1992 summer olympic gold medal match for soccer. In March of 2022 Spotify acquired the naming rights to the stadium for over \$300 million (crazy right). It is currently the largest stadium in Europe and Spain. Construction of the stadium costed over \$1.2 billion and the stadium has been expanded twice since construction. In 2026 a renovation is expected on the stadium that will further expand the stadium capacity of the stadium.

### PARK GÜELL

Park Güell was built from 1900 to 1914, and officially was opened in 1926. It is a UNESCO world heritage sight under the works of Antoni Gaudi. It is a private park made to showcase the works of Gaudi. It is supposed to represent his art and architecture during the time representing Catalan Modernism. The park consists of architectural elements as well as various gardens.



# Barcelona, Spain

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## LA SAGRADA FAMILIA



Sagrada Família is the largest unfinished Catholic Church in the world, and is a UNESCO world heritage sight. It was designed by Antoni Gaudi, but the church began constructed in 1882. By the time Gaudi started construction in 1883, he decided to dedicate his life to designing the church. In 1926 Gaudi died and is now buried in the church's crypt. The church relied only on private donations during its construction, but was interrupted by the Spanish civil war. The church was supposed to be finished in 2026, but has further been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a lot of controversy relating to the church due to the continued delays in construction. Further, Spain wanted to build a high speed rail to France which could potentially destabilize the church.

## TEFLEFÈRIC DE MONTJUÏC

The cable car was put into operation in 1970, and is connected to a nearby park. Riding on the cable car gives panoramic views of Barcelona. If you are trying to get good views of the entire city, the tickets to ride the cable car are only \$15. It was closed from 2004 to 2007 in order to increase the capacity of the rail so that more people can ride. It is not a part of the Barcelona rail network, so visitors need to get a separate ticket in order to ride the cable car.



*See You On the Next Step on the Tour!*