

Christine Tsai unveils what the chic city of Barcelona and the neighboring ultra-hip Balearic Islands have to offer the stylish Spanish learner

Spanish Fashion

Spain is comprised of a collection of ancient kingdoms, many of which are now able to exhibit their individuality as autonomous regions under the nation's constitution. Thanks to this diversity, these regions have their own individual style, cuisine, and, often, even their own language.

The region of Cataluña (Catalonia) and its capital Barcelona are renowned for their style and entrepreneurial spirit. Spain's reputation as a trendsetter in design and fashion owes much to the cutting-edge fashionistas of Barcelona and Las Islas Baleares (the Balearic Islands), especially Ibiza, which has exported worldwide its look, music, and lifestyle.

Spanish is spoken throughout the area, but the Catalán language is also widely used. Over six million people in Spain can speak Catalán and it is the co-official language with Spanish in the regions of Cataluña, Las Islas Baleares, and Valencia. Catalán is a western romance language and is the official language of the tiny independent principality of Andorra on the Franco-Spanish border. It developed from Vulgar Latin between the 8th and 10th centuries in the Pyrenees mountains, later spreading to different regions in Spain. Today, many language schools in these regions of Spain offer courses in Spanish and Catalán for those who want to further enrich their language education.

Barcelona

Located on the northeastern coast

of the Iberian Peninsula on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Barcelona has a population of more than 1.6 million people living in the city itself. It is a Mediterranean city not only through its location, but also because of its culture, history, and heritage.

The city is divided into 10 city districts - each with its own distinct character - so visitors can sample what each district has to offer. Highlights include the Gothic quarter of Ciutat Vella or the breathtaking view of Montjuïc from Park Güell. Barcelona is also home to the dazzling architecture of Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech i Montaner. It is a bustling metropolis where students will have every opportunity to practice their Spanish while having the time of their lives.

Barcelona Spanish School offers Spanish courses in a friendly and professional environment with experienced teachers. Located in the Eixample neighborhood, it shares the same building with the Escola Universitaria de Turisme Mediterrani, which allows the school to offer its students unique services and facilities. The school offers a variety of language programs, including intensive Spanish courses, pri-





Barcelona

vate lessons, and conversation and culture classes. Class sizes do not exceed nine students per class and start throughout the year.

Centro de Estudio de Español of Barna House, established in 1979, is within walking distance of La Pedrera, one of Gaudí's magnificent buildings. Recognized by the Instituto Cervantes, Barna House offers intensive programs during the day and evening courses. Their instructors use the communicative approach, and the school's informal and relaxed atmosphere encourages students to speak in Spanish at all times. The school organizes trips around the city, cultural visits and social activities, which provide students with up-to-date information about the most interesting events taking place in Barcelona and its surrounding areas.

Founded in 1989, **Enforex Spanish** welcomes over 35,000 students every year to their academic centers in Spain and Latin America. Enforex has numerous academic centers in Spain, including Barcelona, Alicante, Granada, Madrid, Sevilla, and Valencia. **Enforex — Barcelona** is Enforex's largest Spanish school with a 550 student capacity. Located in the Eixample district, the school offers a wide variety of courses, such as general intensive Spanish, business and professional Spanish, Spanish art history, Spanish literature and summer camps. The school also offers students city tours and weekend excursions

to some of the most attractive places in Spain.

Located in Pedralbes, an attractive residential area of Barcelona, **ESADE — Executive Language Center** offers general Spanish courses all year round, a cultural and social program, business Spanish courses, DELE exam preparation courses, and an intensive Spanish summer course from June to September. It is a member of the International Association of Language Centres and is accredited by Instituto Cervantes. All teachers are highly qualified with a wealth of experience in teaching Spanish to foreigners. English/Spanish exchanges are organized with Spaniards of different ages and professional profiles from among those studying other languages at ESADE.

With headquarters in Alicante, **Proyecto Español** has locations in Barcelona, Granada and Madrid. The goal of the school is to combine teaching the Spanish language and culture with fulfilling holiday expectations at favorable prices. The school offers professional methodologically-sound language instruction as well as direct personal contact with the Spanish culture. In addition to numerous leisure activities, the school's free language exchange invites students to get to know the Spain outside the classroom.

Pylmon Languages, located in the center of Barcelona near the Plaza Cataluña, offers an enjoyable environment along with dedicated