



Barcelona Top 10 for kids.....

1. Tibidabo is a must for thrill-seeking!

http://www.tibidabo.es/default_eng.asp#

The Tibidabo Amusement Park is located at the highest point of Barcelona. When you look eastward, you'll see the Collserola communications tower to the left, and what looks like a castle to the right. That is actually the Sagrado Corazon Basilleca. Take an elevator up to the top of the Christ statue that sits atop the church, Rio de Janeiro-style. Next to the church is the Tibidabo Amusement Park, open Saturdays and Sundays in May, 12h00 to 20h00. Prices:

General Admission	24€
Children	11€
Children under 120 cm in height	7€

How to get there:

* Tibidabo Funicular. Take the L7 train (Avinguda Tibidabo) from Plaça Catalunya to the end of the line. Cross the street and take the trolley car (Tramvia Blau - roundtrip ticket 3,90€) or the city bus to the mountain rail (Funicular de Tibidabo - round trip 3€).

* TibiBus. Leaves Plaça Catalunya starting at 10h30 every day the amusement park is open.

Single ticket: 2,50€

* Tourist Bus stop at Plaça John F. Kennedy, switch to trolley car or bus and then funicular

* If you want to see the area, take the FGC train from Plaça Catalunya, S1 to Sabadella or S2 to Terrassa, to the Vallvidrera/Peu del Funicular stop. Transfer to the funicular. Take the BarriBus 111 to Tibidabo. Not bad for 0.72 on a T-10 pass.

2. L'Aquarium

<http://www.aquariumbcn.com/AQUARIUM/index.php?wlang=en>

In the Maremagnum complex (close to the Imax Theater, too), the L'Aquarium of Barcelona has the most important collection of Mediterranean sea life in the world, with 35 tanks, 11,000 animals and 450 different species, an underwater tunnel 80 metres long, six million litres of water and an immense Oceanarium, Open all year round, 9h30 to 21h00. Prices:

General Admission	16€
Children 4-12	11€
Senors (over 60)	12.50€

How to get there:

* Green metro line L3, Drassanas stop, walk to the waterfront past the Columbus Monument and walk across the pedestrian bridge.

* Yellow metro line L4, Barceloneta stop, walk past the Catalunya History Museum and the marina toward the Imax Theater.

* BUS: 14, 17, 19, 36, 38, 40, 45, 57, 59, 64, 91, 157.

* Tourist Bus stop at the Aquarium

3. Cosmo Caixa – Science Museum

http://obrasocial.lacaixa.es/centros/cosmocaixabcnmuseo_es.html

One of the best science museums we have found! Divided into different “museums” – geology, material, and a planetarium. Very large tropical rainforest to walk through, and “touch, touch” section where you can touch the plants and animals. The biggest block of ice you’ll ever see! Open year round, from Tuesday to Sunday, 10h00 a 20h00. Closed Mondays except holidays. Prices:

General Admission	3€
Children 4-12	2€
Additional cost for planetarium	

How to get there:

* Take the L7 train (Avinguda Tibidabo) from Plaça Catalunya to the end of the line. Cross the street and take the trolley car (Tramvia Blau - roundtrip ticket 3,90€) or the city bus 3 stops to Teodor Roviralta Avenue.

* Buses 17, 22, 58, 73, 75, 60 y 196

* Tourist Bus stop at Plaça John F. Kennedy, switch to trolley car or bus and then funicular

4. Poble Espanyol

<http://www.poble-espanyol.com/pemsa/en/03-poble-dels-nens/vine-teva-familia.html>

Both old and young have lots of things to discover and can play together while they share fun times. Craft workshops are available to learn to make things - discover ancient crafts that are still very much alive! You can also go to shows, games and story-telling sessions which are held in the Village's streets and squares. And you can come here with the whole family completely safely, because cars can't drive in the open-air museum. That means you'll have an even better time here! Open all year round, Monday: 9:00 - 20:00; Tuesday to Thursday: 9:00 - 02:00; Friday: 9:00 - 04:00; Saturday: 9:00 - 05:00; Sunday : 9:00 -24:00. Prices:

General Admission	8€
Children 4-12	5€
Family	20€

How to get there:

* Green metro line L3 or Red metro Line L1, Plaça Espanya. Walk to the magic fountains, to the right.

* BUS: 13, 50.

* Tourist Bus stop at Poble Espanyol

5. The Castle at Montjuic

The imposing Montjuic castle has overlooked Barcelona since 1640. Its fortress houses a military museum that displays weapons and military artifacts from a variety of historical periods and many different countries. It is also hosues the Museum of Comics and Illustration and is home to the Spanish children´s comic characters. The castle itself sits on top of a cliff overlooking the port, with fabulous panoramic views of the coastline and the city. No charge to enter the castle grounds. Entry to the museum is 2,50€ Closed Mondays except holidays. Hours Tuesday through Sunday, 10h00 to 19h00.

How to get there:

* Metro green line L3 or purple line L2 at Parallel, switch to the Montjuic Funicular (the mountain rail part of the TMB public transportation system, regular metro fare). Switch to the Montjuic Teleferico (cable cars) to the top of the mountain. One way- 3,40€ round trip 4,80€ children 3,70€

After you are done at the castle, you can take a leisurely walk down to Plaça Espanya through the gardens, past the botanical gardens, the olympic pool complex and arrive at the MNAC art museum.

- * City bus 51 and the Montjuic Bus from Plaça Espanya on weekends.
- * Tourist Bus stop at the Parallel metro station, switch to cable cars
- * Taxi at Plaça Espanya

6. Golondrinas catamaran - boat rides

<http://www.lasgolondrinas.com/angles.html>

Take a catamaran tour of the Port of Barcelona or take a tour of the coast, from the waterfront to the Forum. Nice and relaxing. Covered boats. Saturdays and Sundays, every 35 minutes from 11h25 to 19h00. Prices:

Port tour, adults, students and seniors	5,50€
Port tour, children 4-10 years of age	2,50€
Port and coast tour, adults	11,50€
Port and coast tour, seniors and students	9,00€
Port and coast tour, children 4-10 years of age	5,00€

Other companies also offer harbor/coast tours at the same embarkation point. If you are interested in boats, you can go aboard the Santa Eulalia schooner, moored at the waterfront, that also offers sailings along the coast.

How to get there:

- * Green metro line L3, Drassanas stop, walk to the waterfront past the Columbus Monument.
- * Tourist Bus stop at the Columbus Monument

7. Observation tower, Columbus Monument

The Columbus Monument is located at the end of "Las Ramblas", and you can take an elevator to the top (up 60m, right beneath Columbus's feet) for a great panoramic view over the city. On each window there is an indicator of the outstanding features of the city in that direction. It was built in 1888 for the Universal Exhibition and commemorates the discovery of America. It is supposed to be pointing toward the New World, but is actually pointing in the wrong direction. Entrance fee: 3€

How to get there:

- * Green metro line L3, Drassanas stop.
- * Tourist Bus stop at the Columbus Monument

8. Cable Cars across the port

The Teleferico Cable Car transport service links the Tower of Sant Sebastià (Sant Sebastià beach) with the Jaume I Tower (World Trade Center) and Miramar (Montjuïc mountain). Service is operated by Teleféricos de Barcelona S.A., with service beginning at 11h00. Prices: Round trip ticket: 12,50 € Closed during rain or high winds.

How to get there:

- * Green metro line L3 or purple line L2 to the Paral.lel stop, walk to Avinguda Miramar to the hotel. The entrance to the cable cars is behind the hotel.
- * Tourist Bus on Montjuic

9. Barcelona Zoo

http://www.zoobarcelona.com/ZOO_Barcelona/English/English.asp

Unfortunately we lost Snowflake, the world's only albino gorilla, but we have lots of other curiosities.... a dolphin show, creatures of the night, and the only urban colonization of hedgehogs! Also the usual monkeys, tigers and big cats, and elephants. Rent a motorized gold cart to zip through the park. Opens at 10h00. The Zoo is located at the Ciutadella Park. While visiting the park, you can rent a row boat for the lake or a pedal surrey bike with a fringe on the top!

Prices:

General Admission	15,40€
Children 3-12 years of age	9,300€
Seniors	8,15€

How to get there:

- * Metro yellow line L4, Barceloneta or Ciutadella-Vila Olimpico and metro red line L1, Marina or Arc de Triunf stops
- * Tram Besos T4, Ciutadella - Vila Olímpica stop
- * Buses 14, 17, 36, 39, 40, 41, 45, 51, 57, 59, 100, 141 & 157
- * Tourist Bus stop at the zoo

10. Bike riding at the beach

There are bike rentals along the Barceloneta beach, with bike paths up and down the entire beach, from the Barceloneta to the Forum! Great family fun. Look for the bike shop under the board walk at the Barceloneta.

How to get there:

- * Yellow metro line L4, Ciutadella/Vila Olimpica stop, walk toward the bronze whale sculpture and go down the stairs to the beach.

* * * * *

And don't forget the Magic Fountains at Plaça Espanya, a delightful show of colors and music with dancing waters. Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings beginning at 19h00 every half-hour.

June, 2008 Calendar of Events for Kids

- June 20-24th Barcelona's second largest festival, Sant Joan. See below for full details.
- Until June 15th Workshops, focus on Starfish, and "A Sea Full of Stories" Family Show, Barcelona Aquarium
- Until June 27th Circ Crac Circus, Sant Esteve de Palau Tordera
- Until June 1st "Dancing on Air", Teatro Nacional de Catalunya
- June 1-29th Paper Month at El Poble Espanyol
- June 8-30th Make your own Music Workshop, Fundació Joan Miró
- June 13-22nd Puppetry at La Puntual
- June 22-July 6th Family Dance sessions at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània
- June 22-September 21st Hamaka Outdoor Festival and Concerts
- June 24th The Buckhead Youth Orchestra, from Georgia USA, At Sant Jaume Church (on C. Ferran / Metro Liceu), free admission
- June 25-September 10th Children's Workshops at the MNAC Art Museum

If you are lucky enough to be in town during one of Barcelona's major fiestas – Sant Joan. If you are planning to get any sleep on Monday night, you should remember that the rest of the city isn't. It may be one of the shortest nights of the year because it occurs right after the summer solstice, but during the hours of darkness from sunset on the 23rd June through to Sant Joan's day on the 24th June, the skies will be lit up with colour and fire. The metros and trains will be running continuously from the "verbena", or Sant Joan eve, throughout Sant Joan on the 24th.

You may have heard talk around town about the "Revetlles" or seen many bakeries in town selling the traditional "Coca" cake. Let us explore both significant customs...

The city of Barcelona is at its most vibrant during, "La Nit de Sant Joan", when the streets are filled with parties and outdoor celebrations known as "Revetlles", or, "Verbenas".

As well as bonfires, fireworks and music, people also eat "cocas", traditional cakes as well as other sweet foods at home and around bonfires in order to ward off bad luck. In fact, much of the symbolism that surrounds the festivities of Sant Joan, including the noise and fires themselves, are intended to fend off bad spirits. Every barrio of the city will have its own street celebrations that you will find hard to miss. If you would like to know where specific celebrations are in your area, here are a few suggestions:

The best bonfires take place at the Barceloneta and Villa Olímpica beaches, which is the best viewing of the fireworks, too. Street bonfires are taking place at various locations around the city including the following:

- ❖ Lepant with Ribes (with party), by the Teatro Nacional (metro L1 red line at Glories or the Tram Baixes, TNC/L'Auditori stop)
- ❖ Parc de Joan Miró (with party), by Plaça Espanya (metro L3 green line at Tarragona)
- ❖ Via Augusta with Dolors Monserdà (FGC train L6, Reina Elisenda)
- ❖ Diputació between Urgell and Villarroel (with music and dancing) (metro L1 red line at Urgell)

"Revetlles" or street parties are taking place at various locations around the city including the following:

- ❖ Casa Orlandai, C/ Jaume Piquet, 23, FGC trains, station Sarrià
- ❖ Pg. de Sant Joan (between Còrsega and Indústria), metro L4 yellow line at Verdaguier
- ❖ Moll de La Fusta, metro line L3 at Drassanes and walk across the pedestrian bridge
- ❖ Mercat de Sant Antoni (metro L2 purple line at Sant Antoni)

Get full details of the Revetlles and all Sant Joan activity at the city's website at <http://www.bcn.es/santjoan/ca/welcome.html>. And the best way to find the quickest route is to go to the www.tmb.net site, look for English and the tab "I want to go to". Insert the address you are at in the first section and the address you wish to travel to in the second. They will then provide you with the quickest combination of public transportation available to wish you to your destination.

Now for information about Sant Joan. The fiesta focuses on three important symbols – fire, water and herbs. The Nit del Foc, or "night of fire" as Sant Joan is referred-to, promotes purifying flames frighten off and force back the imaginary beings that abound during the hours of darkness. They also ward off bad luck. The second symbol of Sant Joan is water. It is said that, on this night, water has curative powers, so it is the custom for many people to swim in the sea or moisten themselves with dew from the fields at the crack of dawn. According to tradition, medicinal plants multiply their curative properties this night, so it is the custom to collect thyme, rosemary and verbena at the first hour of the morning.

Verbenas are the fiestas which liven up the few hours of darkness from sunset on the 23rd to sunrise on the 24th June, which is the day of Saint Joan. The Spanish word verbena comes from the plant of the same name, which was offered to the gods in ancient times, with a very strong smell and believed to have aphrodisiac properties.

All these symbols and legends come together in a night of fiesta and brotherhood, with the great stars being fireworks. The younger ones have fun with rockets, firecrackers and flares, and enjoy the spectacular light and colour of firework displays.

The strong tradition of pyrotechnics in Catalan culture comes from the Arabs, and was revived in the 12th and 13th century. The "Coca" cake itself is more of a sweet bread topped with pine nuts and filled with cinnamon, cherries and glazed fruits. It comes in many different forms and can also be savoury, filled

with cured meats and peppers. Bakeries are brimming with a whole range of versions of this traditional dessert at this time of year. Another feature of the Sant Joan festivities is the brightly coloured decorations and bunting which you will see hanging around the city. This includes your local stores and supermarkets, where they will most probably remain for a few weeks yet to come.

With crackers, bangers and fireworks being so liberally launched in public places, safety is obviously of key concern at this time of the year. For those of us coming from countries where fireworks are not even on sale to individuals or where public displays take place at controlled distances and even safety norms at home displays are most strictly adhered to, the wild, almost pyromaniacal, attitude of Sant Joan can be quite disconcerting. If you are planning to get any sleep on Monday night, just remember that the rest of the city isn't so, whatever you do, don't forget those earplugs.

The Grec 2008 Festival starts on June 25th. Theatre, music, dance and circus acts throughout the summer. See full details at <http://www.barcelonafestival.com/eng/programme>. The city is also hosting its "Music in the Park" series, classical, jazz and band music at several parks throughout the city. Full details at <http://w3.bcn.es/fixters/premsa/080604musicaalsparcs.567.pdf>

Barcelona happenings at the city's website, in English, at <http://w3.bcn.es>

Have fun!