

CURIOUS

BCN Magazine

Before / after

This photo review takes you back years to discover another vision of Barcelona.

Historic facts p.6

Historical facts, mysterious events and mystical legends ... we have brought together the cream of the crop for you.



February, 6, 2020.



Editor's letter

La Rambla is the busiest street in Barcelona, due to the mass tourism where more than 78 million people come to walk this street every year, but also due to the shops open all along this street, the kiosks and the street artists. Yet few people know the history of this site. Our team has been looking into the matter, researching what happened at La Rambla, a busy street with many dark and bewitching secrets. Prepare yourself for an expedition into ancient times and understand the various histories, understand this place but also be able to understand the artistic as well as historical beauty of this place and the buildings that make it up.

6

- Historic facts

The map

This small map indicates the places that we show you that you will come across on your journey.

Opera Liceu

An article about the most prestigious theatre of Barcelona. It will give you the envy to discover more about this place and its strange story.



Mercat de La Boqueria

This place is a large public market in the Ciudad Vieja district of Barcelona, and one of the city's foremost tourist landmarks, with an entrance from La Rambla, not far from the Liceo, Barcelona's opera house. The market has a very diverse selection of goods.

Fontaine Canaletes

This fountain is an ornate fountain, crowned by a lamp post, in Barcelona, in Rambla de Canaletes, the upper part of La Rambla, near Plaça de Catalunya.



El Bosc del Fades

A unique and magical place: a forest inhabited by strange trees, gnomes and other unexpected creatures. Discover the secrets that this place can offer: every detail and every nook and turn conceals a treasure, a bewitching story... Would you like to discover a magical tale ?



16

- What do you think ?

An interview with a resident of Barcelona questioned on the subject, which we crossed at random on The Ramblas.



18

- Before / after

This photo review takes you back years to discover another vision of Barcelona. It will be an opportunity to discover the places you see every day.

26

- Tips and hints

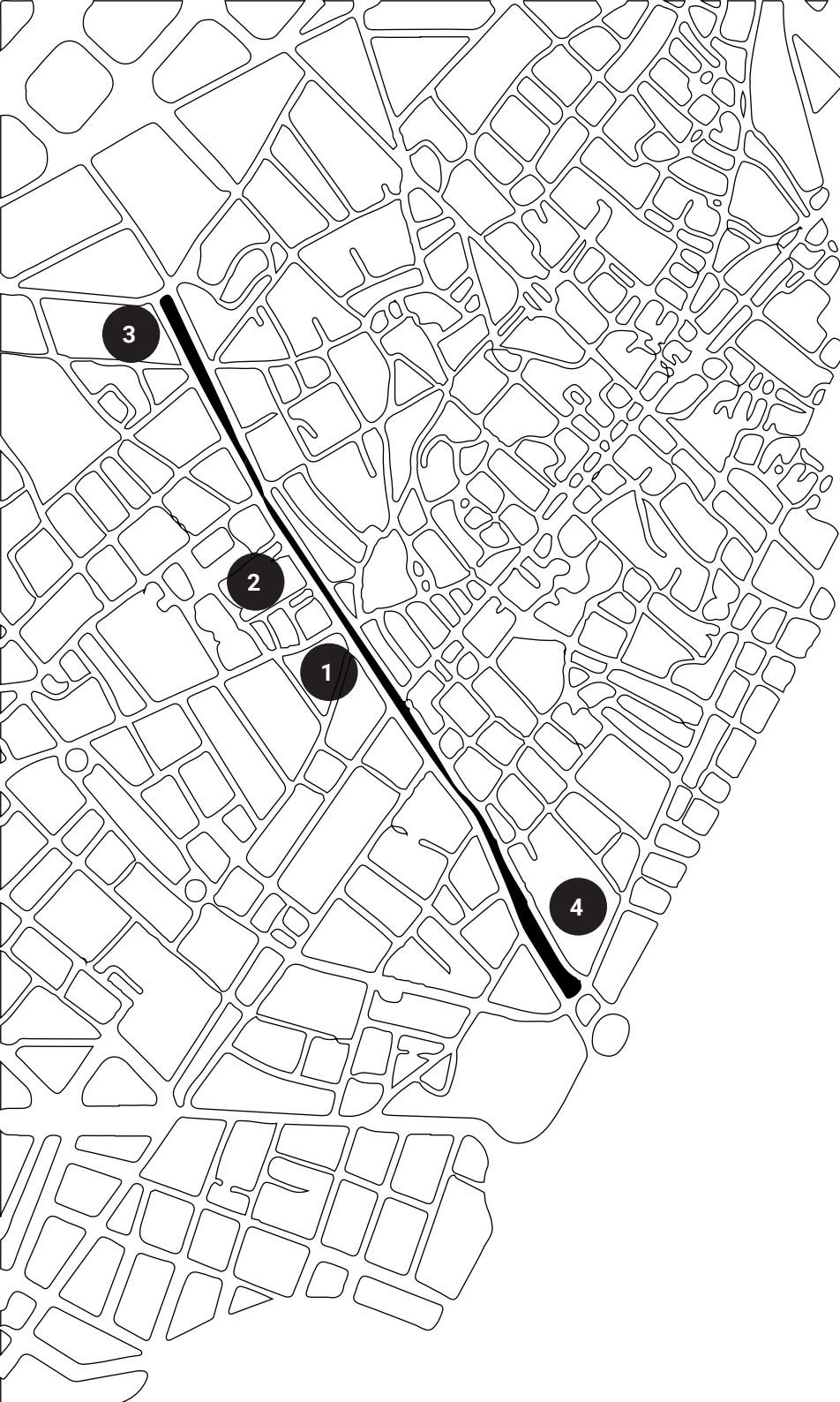
Discover some tips and hints to take full advantage of your journey in this city !

28

- Safety guidelines

To take full advantage of your trip in Barcelona, follow our advises !





1

Opera del Liceu

Because of its strange story, some people think that this theatre is maybe haunted and cursed since decades.

La Rambla, 51-59,
08002 Barcelona

2

Mercat de La Boqueria

Formely, the Couvent of Sant Jose is home to a legend. A group of dead friars once appeared to the brothers of the covent singing to them. After that they died ten days later on the 25th July. Since then, at the same period, you can hear singing in the market.

La Rambla, 91,
08001 Barcelona

4

El bosc de les fades

La Rambla harbors an enchanted forest inhabited by fairies and goblins where you can always see the stars.

Passatge de la Banca, 7,
08002 Barcelona

3

Font de Canaletes

According to the legend, whoever drinks water from the Canaletes Fountain will come back to the city so if you like Barcelona don't hesitate to drink the water from the fountain.

La Rambla, 133,
08002 Barcelona

- Historic facts

The map

These articles will make you discover Barcelona under a new eye. Historical facts, mysterious events and mystical legends ... we have brought together the cream of the crop for you.

Opera Liceu



The Liceu Opera is the oldest and most prestigious theatre in Barcelona, known above all for its opera theatre for over 150 years. Like La Boqueria, this place was once a convent, which was only inaugurated in 1847 as a theatre and which will keep this occupation for the rest of the decades.



But obviously if we talk to you about this place, it is not because of its architectural beauty, nor even its works (although you should go and see it at least once), but because of its secrets, its room with mirrors and the predictions of a nun when she was still living in the convent. Unfortunately, the opera has had many tragedies, such as two deadly fires and a terrorist bomb attack during the disputes with the communists in which 20 people died.

However, what is important to know is that the fires were predicted long before by a nun who lived in the convent. Explaining that this place would end up under ashes and that the roof would collapse, until then, she had never been wrong and everything she had predicted really happened, fortunately at that time they no longer burned witches, let alone a woman of God. But the myth would say that on the night of the first fire, the screams of the victims could be heard through the mirrors, but no one could ever really know this from the evening performances or persons that could tell a testimony .

Mercat de La Boqueria



At first glance, La Boqueria looks like a common market, a fruit and vegetable stall, crowded with people, but also a special atmosphere.

Going back a bit in its history, we can discover that La Boqueria means « goat » in Spanish, because it was a market for the poor. Beef, horse or veal was considered as an expensive commodity.



But what is important to know is that in this place, before it became the most famous market in Barcelona, it was a convent, that of the San José brothers, a convent that is located right in the Plaza de la Boqueria (which is El Mercat del San José in Catalan) but this story does not stop there, according to a legend the José brothers heard laughter and death songs on the evening of July 15, from unknown people, no presence was detected that night. However, about ten days later, the José brothers died in terrible circumstances. Legend has it that on the 25th of July, on the very evening of this terrible incident, we could still hear the singing and laughter of the spirits that struck the convent, but beware of the overly curious adventurer.

Font de Canaletes

It is around this fountain that fans of Soccer Club Barcelona gather every time the club wins a victory. This tradition dates back to the 1930s, when fans used to go to the political and sports newspaper La Rambla, located just in front of the fountain, to ask for the results. On the front door was a slate with the results of the day's matches. When Barcelona won a match, all the fans celebrated the victory around the fountain.



The fountain is famous for the legend that says that « whoever drinks from its water will return to Barcelona ». That's how all those who love the city or intend to return to it one day drink this water out of superstition.



But this fountain was once known for something else, a story as beautiful as it is sad. Women came to draw water from it in the 18th century, but a voice kept calling out to harass them. However 200 men had had enough and went on a ghost hunt. Despite all this time the legend says that it would be a broken-hearted soul or a lover who had lost his beloved and waited for him until his death near this fountain. This would explain why women would hear a male voice calling out, but once the hunt was over, there was no sound or whispering.

El Bosc de les Fades



After this walk full of emotions and twists and turns in the history of La Rambla, it is often customary to want to rest a little, due to the excess of people, but also due to all that can be found there, a strong cerebral stimulation. So our tour will continue in a quieter place or rest. You never felt like meeting fairies, goblins or any magical creatures in an enchanted forest?



If so, we have the perfect place for you, a little bit away from the Rambla, in its continuity, hides a small café called : El Bosc de les Fades (the fairy grove), an enchanting place, which allows you to cut yourself off from the world to enter a different and cosy universe, this café has no macabre history or a sad reputation, we took it because when we entered it, for us, we were no longer in La Rambla but in a magical world. We strongly advise you to go there to taste the best Mojitos in Barcelona, but be careful not to have your stuff stolen by a wood elf or a mischievous fairy !

What do you think ?

Does Las Rambla is too overpopulated for the local people to go there ?

Yes pretty much, there is too much tourist to be in that place and be really tranquil when you go ahead to this place, it's kind of crazy.

Do you think it's important to know what happened there , but also do you think it's possible to make local people to go back there in a way of learning something or in another way ?

The Historia of La Rambla is pretty much important but it's also something that is forgotten with time I think, I don't remember much of this place, expect the origins and also the terrorist attack . But for the local people to come back it could be interesting to learn it in a good way like this but it need also to stop the massive tourism for the local people to come back there, because of the pick-pocket and also cringe people it's not a sure place to be by day or night it's a big place to feel insecure inside, in summer we cannot enter ourself as we want to go take some groceries at Boqueria for exemple, it's too overpopulated.

If a little magazine explaining the fact that happened here, would you read it and also if there would be a little map to follow would you do it ?

I kinda like to learn, if it's well played and interesting I could eventually take a

...do things by yourself is preferable, and in Barcelona, it's better to take this way out than follow someone that explain in a boring way to know a beautiful city like this. Being curious it's better than knowing the surface...

look, it only need to don't be like those tourist trap dark tour, around the night, looking in every spot of barcelona for creepy story to tell. But I need to see it, I can't tell if I will follow it or not without seeing it.

If this tour could be about history of places like opera liceu, and other important place of this street, how would you see the thing ?

I would think it's interesting to not make La Rambla, the star of this magazine, because it only could sound too clichés and others things like this, learning fact like this could be more interesting than those pigeons goes into those ridicule museum of fun, something

like this, it's not even fun tho. But fact that make you learn history is interesting because you're not like flashing about all the architecture, art in that place, but you learn what this is really about and it's only about the true path of this place.

Using dark fact is a good way to interest someone, picking their curiosity and make them go on, it could even interest the young people of Barcelona, the adulte would be more septic about all of this.

You're an adult that's right ? So why this could interest you and also not interest you ?

I'm interest because that's an other way to see La Rambla, but I also know that there is too much people in there and it's kind of disturbing. We want to live in the best tranquillity possible. But with all of those people how could it be ? Being harass by cringe and 100 persons asking where is la Boqueria, don't let you pass because you're pressed. Those kind of thing can be repulsive and people a less educated to let people live happily, would you think you will like it if they do the same in one of your city street ?

In a sort of experimentation way would you try an sort of booklet wich is like a chase and hunt ?

It's more interesting that listen to a guide when you do a tour, do thing by yourself is preferable, and in barcelona, it's better to take this way out than follow someone that explain in a boring way to know a beautiful city like this. Being curious it's better than knowing the surface.



La Rambla de Sant Josep, 2020, 08002, Barcelona

WHERE IS
WALLY



La Rambla de Sant Josep, 1930, 08002, Barcelona



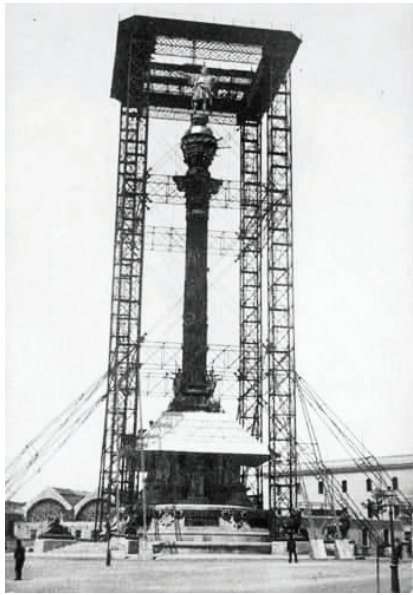
Spot the differences!



Café de l'Opera de Barcelona, 2020, La Rambla, 74, 08002 Barcelona.



Café de l'Opera de Barcelona, 1974, La Rambla, 74, 08002 Barcelona.



Mirador de Colom, 1888,
Plaça Portal de la Pau, Barcelona



Mirador de Colom, 2020,
Plaça Portal de la Pau, Barcelona

*Hello,
it's me!*



Hotel Oriente, 1931, Rambla dels Caputxins, Barcelone, Espagne



Hotel Oriente, 2020, Rambla dels Caputxins, Barcelone, Espagne



Patisserie Escribà, 2020, La Rambla, 83, 08002 Barcelona, Espagne



Patisserie Escribà, 1986, La Rambla, 83, 08002 Barcelona, Espagne



Font de Canaletes, 2020, La Rambla, 133, 08002 Barcelona



Font de Canaletes, 1925, La Rambla, 133, 08002 Barcelona

Tips and tricks

1 Eat paella in Barcelona, yes... but Thursday ! Thursday is the official day of paella (which is not a Barcelona specialty), you can eat it at the best price this day, indeed a lot of restaurant schedule it in the meal of the day. P.S. : Eat on terrace will add a 10% extra on your bill.

2 At the end of the Rambla, beside the sea, you can see the Christopher Columbus monument. This column is gigantic : 60 meter. All around the column, there are lions, you can ride them for a pic ! You might ignore it, but you can climb on the top of the monument to enjoy the 360 view of Barcelona for only 5,40 euros.

3 The Rambla connects the Cataluña place to the Vell Harbor. The avenue measures 1200 meters, which allow you a pleasant walk.

4 The Boqueria is a huge market of Barcelona that you need to visit. You can find butcher who sell different type of traditional meat, cheesemonger, baker and fruit seller. If you are thirsty, you can taste fresh fruit smoothies for only 1,5€ ! I recommend you the banana strawberry one.

5 If you want to go to the restaurant, favor far from the center. Little restaurant in uncrowded alleys are the best !



Safety Guidelines

1 Pickpockets prefer to choose easy victims - if you look like you're paying attention and don't have any valuables on show it's less likely that you will be pick pocketed.

2 Pickpockets and scam merchants often work in groups. This can confuse people - one person (or a group of people) would cause a distraction while another takes your valuables. If you are confronted with a group of people attempting to gain your attention promptly turn your back and walk away.

3 Only carry around as much money as you need for that day no more. Leave valuables that you aren't going to use on the day in the hotel safe.

4 Do not carry around a haversack on your back - be especially aware of this on the metro. Pickpockets have been known to steal from haversacks on people's backs when on the metro. If you have a haversack wear it the other way around with the bag in front of you.

5 Do not have a camera slung around your neck (or any other expensive items like video cams) I was once witness to someone snatching a camera from around someone's neck and running off with it.

6 Keep any valuables out of sight. If you have a camera put it in your inside jacket pocket. If it's too big for this then put it in a small bag and have the bag strap go diagonally over your neck and shoulder so that it goes under your arm -this makes it much more difficult for someone to snatch your bag. Keep the bag in front of you - not at your side. The bag should not be a camera bag - choose a small ordinary day bag with a zip fastener top. Do not put your wallet in the bag - keep that separate.

7 If you need to look up anything on a map go into a café and sit down rather than look up your destination in the streets. This is like advertising that you are new to the area and a tourist and that is exactly what pickpockets are looking for.

8 Only carry around as much money as you need for that day no more. Leave valuables that you aren't going to use on the day in the hotel safe.

9 In Cafes and restaurants pay attention to your bags/purses and wallets. This may seem obvious but when you're on holiday it's easy to «switch off» and not pay attention to where your belongings are. Typical places where bags are stolen are in cafes when tourists put them down

at their feet, or if they leave their wallets in their jacket pockets and put their jackets on the back of a chair. When you put your bag down keep it in sight. If you can't keep it in sight all the time wrap the bag strap around something so that it can't be easily picked up. Watch out for distraction / theft scams - these start with a distraction e.g. someone asks for directions, drop money in front of you, asks you to make a donation -and variations on these distractions. Then once your attention is taken either the person involved or someone else will steal from you. Watch out for the famous bird poo distraction/theft scam. Someone will come up to you claiming that you have had bird poo on your back. They will attempt to «help» you wipe it off, whilst pick pocketing you of course! This is now an infamous and all too common scam. (see site visitor feedback below) or read one site visitor's experience of this scam.

10 Pay particular attention at stations. Stations are hotspots for pickpockets and thieves. There are many reasons for this:

- You have identified yourself as a likely tourist by being there.
- You are also likely to be a little disoriented in a new place.
- There are legitimate reasons for someone to press up against you or to be in close vicinity to you, e.g. getting on or off a train or metro.
- You have to either pay for tickets or

take your tickets out from a purse or wallet. The pickpockets will be watching for this because then they will know exactly where you keep your money. They will watch where you put your purse or wallet after you have paid for your tickets. e) You are most likely loaded up with all your belongings at this point. Unlike when you have made it to your hotel you can take out just what you need. So what can you do? The tip here is to keep your purse / wallet out of sight. Keep your tickets separate from your purse or wallet. If you can obtain your tickets in advance of your arrival in Barcelona (see the tip below) that way you do not need to take out your purse or wallet to pay for tickets. Read one account of a tourist couple that was targeted at a station by thieves. They had read our safety tips and were prepared in advance and avoided the theft.

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Carrer de Joan Miro, 21,
8008 Barcelona

Publication Director : Chloé Tittellion
Redaction Director : Chloé Tittellion
Journalist : Larrieu Maïté
Photographe-Webmester : Maëlys Royal
Photographe : Maëlys Royal
Model Maker : Loan Cannard

Impression :
CURIOUS STUDIO
Carrer de Joan Miro, 21,
8008 Barcelona



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