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Brief but Rich Insights on Barcelona by James Purefoy

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The capital of Catalonia is Barcelona which is also the second largest city in Spain. Its strategic location at the north eastern side of the Mediterranean and Pyrenees Mountains makes it a most popular holiday destination. It is home to over 1.5 million inhabitants today.

Although Madrid is Spainâ€™s current capital, Barcelona sometimes overshadows Madrid; it has much to offer especially in terms of its colorful past, traditions and fiestas. Catalonia with its own language has become a polemic spot in Spain with its delightful offerings to tourists and the economy. The official languages in Catalonia are Catalan and Spanish; Catalan is quite similar to Spanish.

History

Barcelona was first called Barcino by its Carthaginian ruler who established the city. The Phoenicians, Romans, Visigoths and Moors also played a prominent role in developing the rich history of Barcelona since 1 B.C.

Barcelona became more prominent globally through the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century as Catalonia expanded in its territory and political power. Barcelona established its international renown when it hosted the Olympic Games in 1992 with great success. It also hosted many international events successfully after that to secure its fame.

This great city has well planned streets with structured housing and buildings. Its city centre houses a famous â€œLa Ramblaâ€• main avenue which runs from the famous Square of Catalunya to the Mediterranean Sea and Old Port.

Holiday offerings

There is no lack of offerings to thrill the tourists while holidaying in Barcelona. Enchanting sights of ancient monuments plus natural wonders such as unadulterated beaches, bays and coves draw millions of tourists here every year especially in the summer.

Although business activities are a high priority at Barcelona, there is always time for its beautiful beaches which offer fantastic sand and weather conditions with a plethora of beach activities throughout the year. The 10 degrees Celsius winter or 25 degrees Celsius summer is attractive enough to flood the place for a short vacation.

Besides the beaches, there are many interesting ancient monuments to sight in Barcelona such as the Holy Family cathedral, the famous Sagrada Familia and Gaudi's works of Park GÃ¼ell. Tourists would be thrilled with the varied eccentrically shaped monuments made from ceramic and stones that bring on a reflection of nature.

Families would love Barcelona which offers parks and zoos for great family bonding times. Art lovers would enjoy the famous Picasso Museum that houses modernism masterpieces as well as the local culture and arts where frequent displays of inspiration through music, singing and dancing are common with theatrical performances at the â€œel Liceuâ€• theatrical venue.

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