Modern Barceloneta : the Playground Waterfront of Barcelona

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This area of Barcelona was formed when the inhabitants of la Ribera were forcefully moved and made to live in slum-like conditions for the occasion of the International Exhibition of Barcelona in 1888. La Barceloneta became a poor neighborhood, famous for its obscure shops where smugglers and black market vendors would sell cheaper products and jewelery. It was a place where on Sundays the citizens of Barcelona would go eat at one of the many traditional restaurants offering fresh seafood dishes, grilled shrimps and sardines and typical Catalan cuisine. Families would take their children for a short cruise on the Golondrinas across the harbor to fish for crabs in the rocks of the Rompeolas, or just buy a cheap fishing rod with a live black crab hanging on the line!

The 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona

The first Olympic Games in Barcelona were held in 1992. A massive regeneration of this area allowed it to become a modern tourist waterfront. This very famous fashionable part of Barcelona is now full of shops, bars, clubs and restaurants for all budgets.

The Puerto Olimpico of Barcelona

Full of yachts and sailing boats, the Olimpic Port offers a waterfront with seafood restaurants and nightlife. The original copper sculpture of a fish and a sphere by Frank Gehry, graces the port.

The beaches of la Barceloneta

The most popular is la Platja de San Sebastia right beside the Barcelona Swimming Club, a centennial gym, and the Platja de la Barceloneta. Those areas are now kept very clean and are a wonderful addition to the tourist attractions of the city. The temperate climate of Barcelona is such that all year round, the beaches are full of sunbathers and swimmers.

On two sides of the square we can see ornate medallions representing important personalities in the Spanish history, like kings, sages, saints, artists, etc. These medallions top each of the 88 arcs of the square.

The Old Port: Port Vell

Totally transformed to accommodate the millions of tourists that visited Barcelona during the Olympic Games of 1992, Port Vell is now a modern complex. The area is home to one of the best European aquariums, a massive IMAX movie theater, restaurants, bars and cafes. La Rambla del Mar, a footbridge made of wood, takes the visitor to the Mall of Spain and the Maremagnum.

The amazing building of the World Trade Center houses a shopping center and a top of the line 4-star Hotel.

From this area, you can also travel by cable car and go all the way up to Montjuic.

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