

A cheat sheet for newbies who want to begin their Spanish saga in full swing

# Joining our Kingdom in Barcelona?



King

# For those that go the extra mile

We know moving to another country is a life changing decision. That's why we've gathered everything essential in this easy-to-read-guide. This way you can enjoy your time fully when you get here – like rolling down the Ramblas, taking a siesta or finding your seat (out of 99.786) at Camp Nou.

Joking aside, all we want is to be there for you. Whether you need help finding your way around or need inspiration for places to eat, live and sleep – King is at hand.

## Contents

Barcelona – more than football, pintxos and kooky architecture	5
Catalan culture – a long history of ambition and family first	5
Benefits, vacation and learning how to pronounce ‘Pa Amb Tomaquet’	5–7
Where the little monsters go	7
How to keep your health bar full	7
Where you hang your hat	7–9
Ready to play?	9
Barcelona – the bullets	11
Spain – the bullets	11
Wanna know more?	11





## Barcelona – more than football, pintxos and kooky architecture

Barcelona is the economic, cultural and administrative capital of Catalonia, one of Spain's autonomous communities located in the north east of the Iberian Peninsula. Barcelona has around 1.6 million inhabitants and is famous for its creative architecture (pioneered by Antoni Gaudi), passion for one of the most successful and richest football clubs in the world (FC Barcelona), fashion and its rich culture, bustling social life and infamous clubbing scene. A normal night out usually starts late by hitting the club after midnight and partying until sun rise.

Barcelona is also one of the most dynamic cities in Europe that combine thousand years of heritage and narrow medieval streets with modern cosmopolitan traits such as skyscrapers and wide avenues. It's diversified, vibrant environment and large foreign community, making up at least 18 % of the city's population, provides the perfect back-drop for creativity and innovation. Barcelona, and its inhabitants, is also known to foster a solid entrepreneurial culture and great ambition. So if you want to live and work in a sunny and happy city, then this place will make you dig deep for its gems – like Diggy!

## Catalan culture – a long history of ambition and family first

With Barcelona being the capital of Catalonia it is a given that the Catalan culture is the foundation of the city's entrepreneurial spirit. Throughout Spain, Catalans are known for being thrifty, highly motivated and committed to their work. The Catalans' strong commitment to work has clearly established a division between their professional and personal lives where they often come off as serious and reserved at work. On the other hand, this clear division couldn't be more obvious outside the office where they are highly extrovert and lively with the most important part of life being 'family first'.

Having been oppressed for several years during Franco's regime (1939-1975), Catalan culture nowadays is a highly important part of life in Catalonia. For example, the official language is not Spanish but the closely related Catalan. However, most Catalans

speak Spanish as well. All street signage is in Catalan and most family relationships are often made up around the language.

### Food

Naturally, another main part of the culture is the food – one of the most famous dishes being Pa Amb Tomaquet, which is toasted bread with rubbed tomato and seasoned with olive oil and salt. Doing! Yummy!

The Spanish tapas (small portions shared in group) is one of the most famous type of dishes around the world and you will be able to find it everywhere in Barcelona. Paella and Sangria are some other quintessential Spanish cuisine stars, however not necessarily in Catalonia where the cuisine is rather more earthy and rustic. Catalonia is also the Cava country of Spain, with the Penedes region hosting several vineyards producing sparkling wine.

## Benefits, vacation and learning how to pronounce 'Pa Amb Tomaquet'

### Parental leave

A total of 20 weeks with 100 % pay are provided for maternity leave. The mother must take the first six weeks and the remaining weeks can either be taken by any of the parents or by both. Paternity leave is 30 days, which includes two days (day of birth and next day) with full pay and 28 days to be distributed as preferred during the maternity leave.

To benefit from paternal leave both parents must have contributed to Social Security for at least 180 days prior to the start of the leave. Mothers between the age of 20-26 must have contributed with at least 90 days.

### Vacation

As employee you are entitled to four weeks of vacation in addition to the average annual 14 public holidays. Traditionally, most Spaniards take their vacation in August but this is changing and more people nowadays begin their vacation in July. Naturally, as Spain has several great beaches people goes either along the Spanish coast or head to any of the several hot spots of the Canary and Balearic Islands where they will get a shimmering tan to the sound of the equally shimmering balearic beats.

During the year you will have the opportunity to take part in any of the public holidays, such as celebrating the summer solstice, La Diada, with bonfires and







fireworks – not unlike a Papa Pear fiesta! You can also take part in honouring those who lost their lives in the battle against Philip V of Spain, in which Catalans' independence was taken away. You can also join in on the important celebration of Barcelona's patroness during La Mercè Festival, a large street party featuring costumed devils and fire-breathing dragons.

### Community Day

To show our love to the community we also offer one paid day to be used for community or charity purposes. This is organised by the local departments together with HR.

### Learning English, Spanish and Catalan

We offer free language courses in both English, Spanish and Catalan (English is our official business language).

## Where the little monsters go

### Pre-primary

Pre-primary schooling is divided into two sections by the age groups 0-3 years and 3-6 years. The first years are only accommodated by private centres and state-funded private schools (concertadas). From age three pre-primary (parvularis) can also be found free of charge in public schools.

### School

All children living in Catalonia have the right to free education and the Spanish school system offers three types of schools: public, private and state-funded private schools (concertadas). Public schools are tuition free, private schools are privately financed and state-funded private schools are privately financed but receive some government funding, although there might be additional fees for extracurricular activities.

At least 80% of public and state-funded private schools teach in Catalan. However, both Spanish and another language, usually English, are also taught. The year is divided into three semesters: September to December, January to March/April and April to June with the major holidays being summer, Christmas and Easter. Enrolment for September opens up around March.

School is compulsory between the age of 6 to 16, which includes Primary education (Educació Primària) and Secondary education (Educació Secundària

Obligatòria or ESO). After compulsory education students can either start working or go onto Upper Secondary education through the Academic programme (Batxillerat) or Vocational training programme (Cicles Formatius De Grau MIG). Next step includes graduate and post-graduate studies at University level, which follows the European Higher Education Area system with a four-year Bachelor's degree (Grau).

## How to keep your health bar full

Barcelona provides one of the best public health care systems in the world that includes hospitals, general practitioners and some dental services. In order to take part of the system you need to register for a health card from the Catalan Health Services (CatSalut). To do this you need to present your Social Security and City Council registration as well as a form of identification to your local public health centre/general practitioner, Centre d'Atenció Primària (CAP).

For the full details on the registration for your CatSalut Card, please ask our HR team or have a look at Kingfluence for the latest updated information.

### Social security

The HR team will help you attain a social security number so that you can access and contribute to the public health system. This will cover sickness and maternity benefits, pensions, industrial-injury compensation, invalidity and survivor benefits.

Read more about City Council registration under **Ready to play**.

## Where you hang your hat

### Housing in Barcelona

King will help you find a permanent home and assist you with short-term accommodation. Buying a home in Spain requires you to have your NIE identity number (see below) and bank account in place. Generally, maximum loans are 75% of the purchasing price. Also note that real estate debts can be passed on between owners. You will be able to find bilingual real estate agents who will help with translating documents and carry out property checks.

If you are planning to rent you will need to have your work contract, proof of income, and a copy of passport/resident card ready. As a rule of thumb you will pay a down payment of one month's rent – used as a deposit – for an unfurnished property and two month's rent for a furnished. The rent will increase annually in line with the Consumer Price Index and if you are renting through an agency you will be charged an extra 10% of the annual rent plus the value added tax. If you are planning to terminate your contract you need to send a written notification two months in advance.

Rental contracts should include a clause stating that all necessary utilities are installed. King will assist you in setting up your utility accounts.

## Ready to play?

You do not need a visa to enter Spain if you are from within the European Union, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland. However, if you are a Non-EU citizen you need to apply for a one issued by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Spanish Embassy/Consulate in your country.

Follow the link at the end of the document. Alternatively you can ask the HR team or have a look at Kingfluence for the latest updated information.

### Getting your Número d'identificació d'estranger (NIE)

In order to file tax, open a bank account, set up various utility contracts, be paid for employment and buy or rent a property you will need an identity number,

Número d'identificació d'estranger (NIE). You need to get your NIE before you start working at King. To do this, you need to apply in person at your local National Police Station in Barcelona. You need to present your passport together with a copy of it and a filled out version of Solicitud de Número de Identidad de Extranjero (NIE) y Certificados (EX-15). Be aware that the administrative processes often are changed so don't hesitate to contact our HR team in Barcelona for how to proceed. We will help you in through all the administrative steps.

Don't forget that you also need your social security number. The HR team will help you with this as well.

### 'Empadronamiento' or City Council Registration

In Spain everyone has to be registered with the local city hall in the community where they live. This is known as 'Empadronamiento' or 'Padrón Municipal de Habitantes', which is the official record of citizens and accredits your stay in Spain. There are no restrictions on eligibility to apply, however you are only allowed to register a maximum of four people at your address.

The certificate is only valid for three months from the date of issue. As such you may need to request for an updated version after each three month period, would it be that you need one for an administrative procedure. Please ask for more than one copy, as many places will ask you for the original.

If you want more details on this procedure please do not hesitate to contact the HR team. For the latest updated information, you can also have a look at Kingfluence.











## Barcelona – the bullets

- **Area:** 102 km<sup>2</sup> (39 sq mi)
- **Population:** 1.6 million (city)  
Population: 3.2 million (greater Barcelona)
- **Language:** Spanish and Catalan
- **Average annual daily temperature:** 20°C
- **Beaches:** 7 making up a total of 4.5 km (3 mi)

## Spain – the bullets

- **Area:** 505.992 km<sup>2</sup> (195.364 sq mi)
- **Population:** 47 million
- **Capital:** Madrid
- **Currency:** Euro
- **Languages:** Spanish
- **Recognised regional languages:** Basque, Catalan, Galician and Occitan
- **Form of government:** Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- **Religion:** Roman Catholicism
- **Life expectancy:** Men 79, Women 85

## Wanna know more?

### The Local

Spanish news in English  
[thelocal.es](http://thelocal.es)

### Eures

European Employment Services  
[eures.europa.eu](http://eures.europa.eu)

### Your Europe

Useful information and checklists  
[ec.europa.eu/youreurope](http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope)

### Solvit

Solving problems on the EU/EEA market  
[ec.europa.eu/solvit](http://ec.europa.eu/solvit)

### Getting your NIE

Ministry for domestic affairs  
[interior.gob.es](http://interior.gob.es)





# Where the magic happens

King's first Barcelona studio was created in the summer of 2012 to build casual games for web and mobile. Already home to numerous games studios and our Global Services Centre, our familia in Barcelona is growing ever greater.

A true chameleon of a city, you can soak up culture in the morning, sunbathe on the beach in the afternoon and stroll down Las Ramblas by night. It really does offer something magical for everyone, just like the games the studios based here create. It is the home of our hit game Bubble Witch Saga with more in the pipeline!

