



Barcelona

Discovering hidden places and best curiosities

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Welcome to Barcelona!

We invite you to discover our city, one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, while starting your itinerary here, with Hostemplo.

Let our love for Barcelona show you the most secret corners and their best curiosities.

We are located in the center of the city, where Barcelona anxiously awaits you to explore its corners, squares and streets with the detail of an expert.

Enjoy Barcelona delving into its symbology
and discovering the myths it hides!

The Hostemplo team.

ROUTE Modernism

ESTIMATED TIME: 60 min

START: Sagrada Familia

FINISH: Passeig de Gràcia -
Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes



- Find this tribute to Gaudí in Passeig de Gràcia.

ROUTE Gothic

ESTIMATED TIME: 60 min

START: C/ Del Bisbe -
C/ Santa Llúcia

FINISH: Plaça de Sant Just



- Discover the first public lighting in Pl. del Rei.

Modernism

1

C/ de la Marina, nº 266

2

C/ de la Marina, nº 266

3

C/ de la Marina, nº 266

4

Passeig de Sant Joan, nº 108

5

Av. Diagonal, n° 420

6

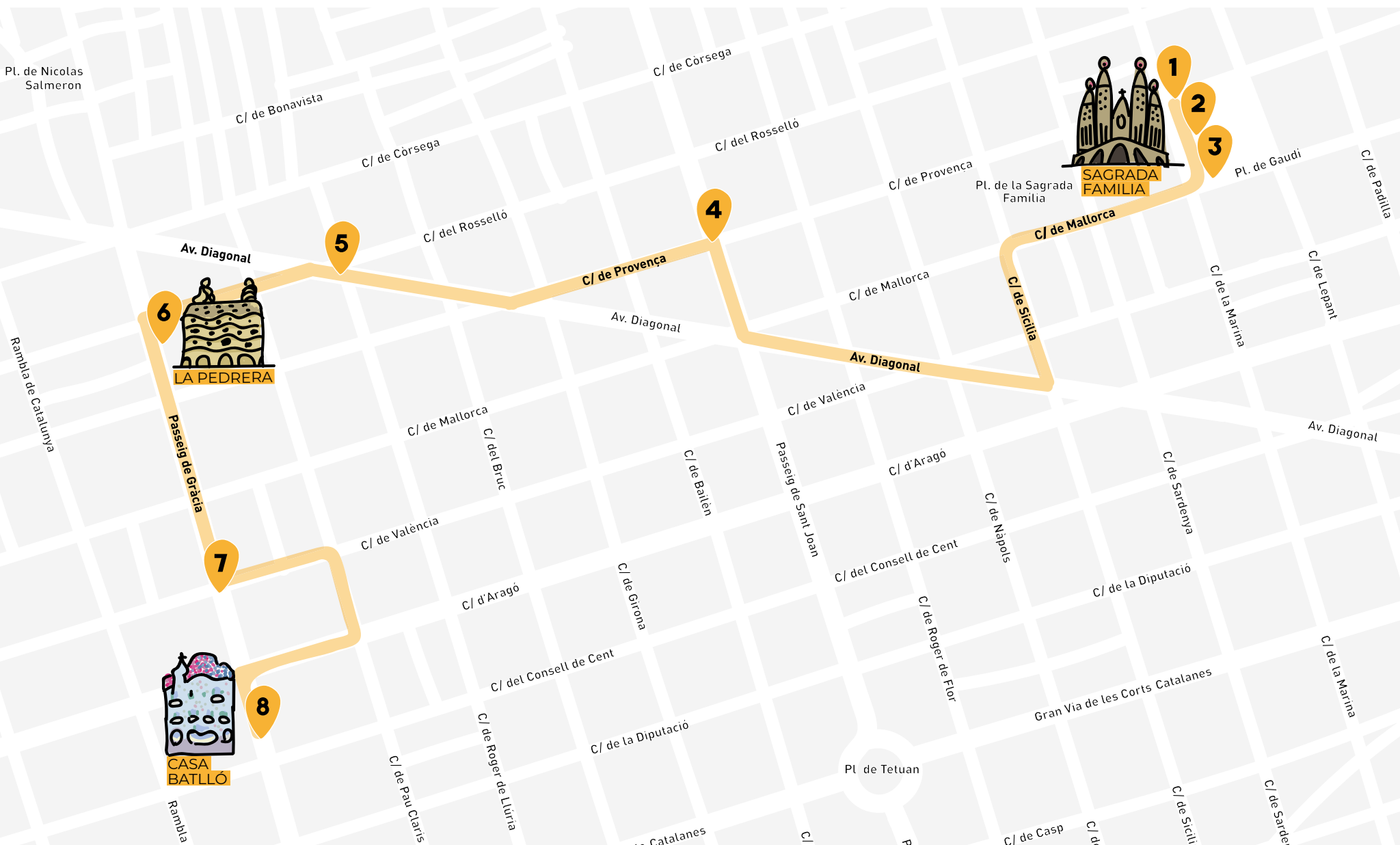
C/ Provença, nº 261-265

7

Passeig de Gràcia, n° 43

8

Passeig de Gràcia, n° 39



1 THE ORIGINAL PROJECT

The singular temple began to be built in March of 1882. **When the works began, that construction was in a empty ground at the outskirts of the city.**

Although the Sagrada Familia was built by the architect Antonio Gaudí, the foundation stone that was not laid by him, since the original project was commissioned to the architect Francesc de Paula Villar, who abandoned it due to disagreements with the city hall.



The completion of its construction is scheduled for the year 2026. If the forecast is met, it will have taken 144 years to build the temple.

2 THE SYMBOLISM OF COLORS

Gaudí said that color is an expression of life. The architect took care of each detail to give the temple great luminosity and make it colorful. **An example of this can be seen in the colors of the facades, each of them with a specific meaning:**



- The green tones represent the forests and the plants, the blue tones represent the rivers and the purples refer to the grape, from which the wine is made (Eucharistic symbols).

On the other hand, for the architect, the yellow symbolized God, the red refers to the blood of Jesus and the orange tones to the wheat, fundamental to make the Eucharist.

3 THE TWO TURTLES

On the façade of the Nativity, we can see that on both sides of the doors two turtles hold each of the columns. **In Eastern cultures, these animals are considered a symbol of patience and longevity,** something that Gaudí already knew and wanted to represent in this part of the Sagrada Familia.

The one on the left represents a sea turtle. It symbolizes the universe and immortality.

The one on the right is a tortoise. It symbolizes the earth, the mountain and the unalterable.



4 A CURIOUS DETAIL



In the capital of the left part of the entrance of the **Palau Macaya**, you can see the unprecedented figure of a cyclist; **what do you think it represents?**

This is a detail of the **sculptor Puig i Cadafalch**, who was then also building Casa Amatller and moved between the two works (Passeig de Gràcia and Passeig de San Joan) on a bicycle.

We suggest that you enter the inner courtyard of the palace and that in doing so you **raise your eyes, so you can observe the beautiful sky that sneaks through the stained-glass window of the ceiling.** Access to the building is free, although there are some restricted areas.

Would you like to know more details about the Sagrada Familia and Antoni Gaudí's creations?

You can not miss our posts on the Blog!

---> [Sagrada Familia, the jewel of Barcelona.](#)

---> [Curiosities about the Sagrada Familia that you do not know.](#)

---> [Gaudí Route. Discover Barcelona on foot!](#)

---> [The 9 wonders of Gaudí.](#)



And speaking of bicycles...

Would you like to discover Barcelona on two wheels?

---> [Look at these bike routes that we have prepared for you!](#)

5

A MEDIEVAL CASTLE?

Popularly known as Casa de les Punxes ("House of the spikes"), it owes its nickname to the pointed towers that crown the building and that make it one of the most striking modernist architectural works in the city, due to its resemblance to the form of a medieval castle.

The main entrance, Avinguda Diagonal 420, is the one most decorated.

It emphasizes the inscription of stone in a rectangular shape that says:

"A casa seva cadascú és el rei"
(in their own house, everyone is king)



Speaking of castles and the Middle Ages...
Would you like to visit the medieval jewel of Catalonia?
---> Then you cannot miss this excursion to Girona.

6

IN MEMORY OF THE MOUNTAIN

Although officially this peculiar building is Casa Milà, **it is popularly known as La Pedrera.**

It was baptized in this way since its wavy shapes reminded a mountain quarry, in Catalan "pedrera". La Pedrera was built between 1906 and 1910 and was harshly criticized by the citizens of the time, who did not understand the forms that Gaudí proposed.

Some people say that the Imperial soldiers of Star Wars are inspired by the curious chimneys of the roof of La Pedrera.



7 FROM TEACHER TO STUDENT

Although some people may be surprised, **Casa Batlló was not built by Gaudí.** In fact, it was built between 1875 and 1877 by his teacher, Emili Sala Cortés.

Gaudí simply remodeled the existing building. He began its restoration between 1904 and 1906, although it really would not have mattered if he had done it again because the result did not resemble the old one at all.

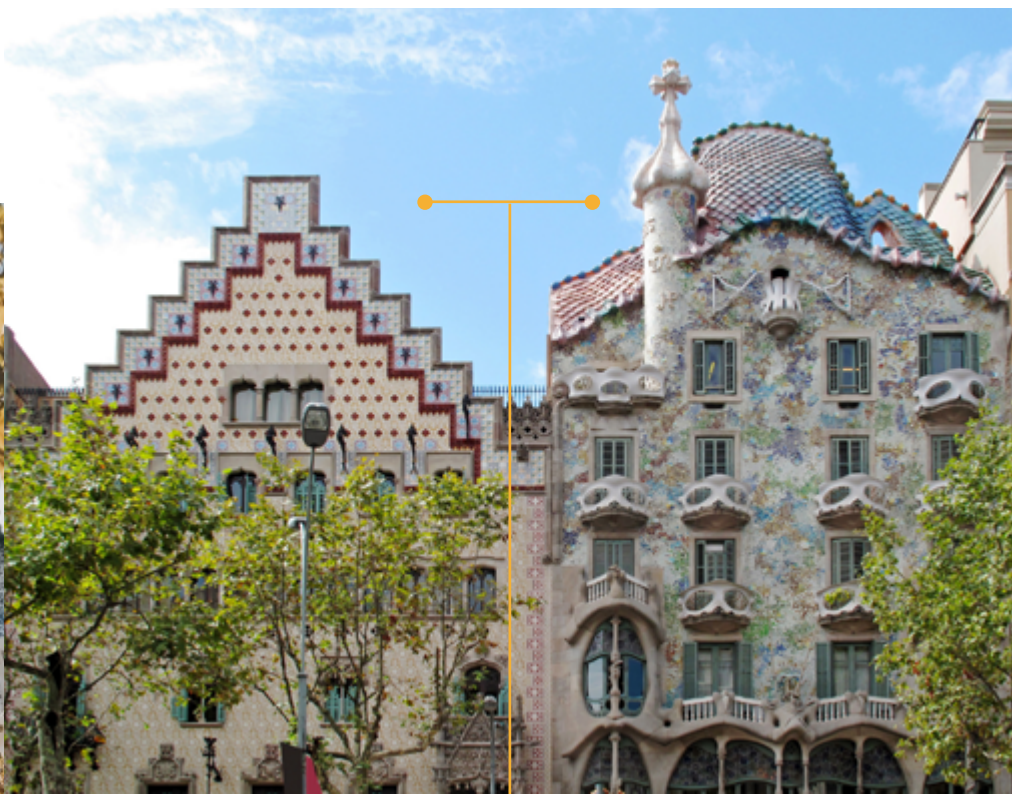
Once again, the architect wanted to evoke the sensations of nature in architecture, ceding, on this occasion, the prominence of the sea.



8 RIVALRY BETWEEN ARCHITECTS

The set of houses located on the Passeig de Gràcia, between the streets of Aragó and Consell de Cent, are known as the apple of discord.

This parallelism is due to the rivalry between the creators of the three modernist buildings in the area: **Lluís Domènech i Montaner** (Casa Lleó i Morera), **Josep Puig i Cadafalch** (Casa Amatller) and **Antonio Gaudí** (Casa Batlló), who fought to create the most beautiful buildings.



The area is considered the heart of Catalan modernism, since in a small space three large works are concentrated.

ROUTE **Gothic**

1 BARCINO'S WALL

Pl. Ramón Berenguer el Gran

2 THE EXECUTIONER'S HOUSE

Pl. del Rei

3 THE INQUISITION'S TERROR

C/ dels Comptes - Pl. Sant Iu

4 THE KING'S SECRET DOOR

Pl. Sant Iu

5 THE HIDDEN ROMAN TEMPLE

C/ Paradis, n^o 6

6 CIVIL WAR WOUNDS

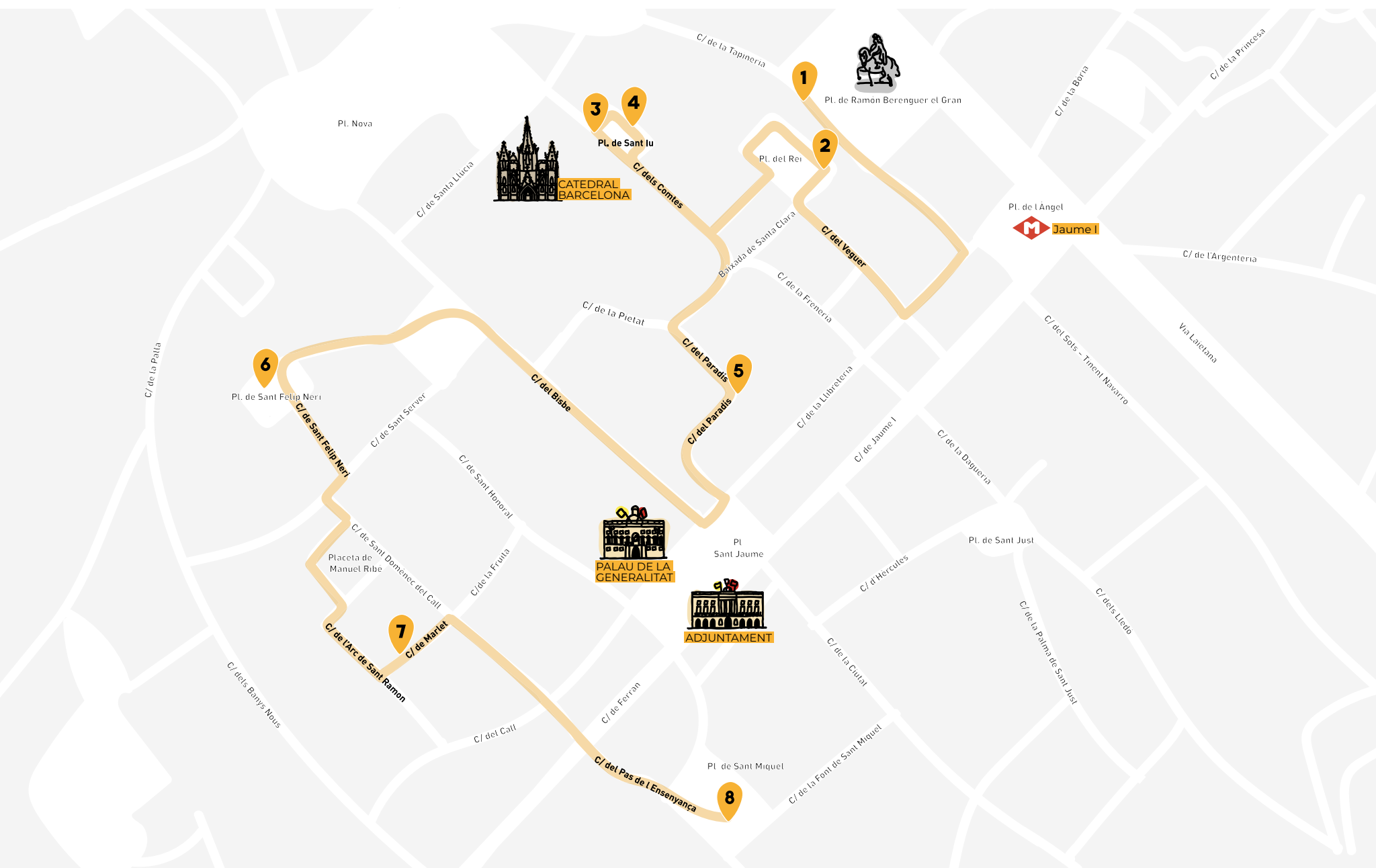
Pl. Felip Neri

7 THE ONLY SYNAGOGUE IN BARCELONA

C/ Marlet, n° 5

8 MONUMENTO ALS CASTELLERS

Pl. de Sant Miquel



1 BARCINO'S WALL

We are in front of the only section of wall which surrounded the city and that still stands, and that was used as a fortress to protect the city.

This wall **was built between the year 270 and 310 A.D.** Some of its characteristics are:



- -Perimeter: 1270 m
- -Shape: Ortogonal
- -Height: 8 m
- -Width: 2 m
- -Nº of guard towers: 66

2 THE EXECUTIONER'S HOUSE

Do you know who lived in this square?...
The executioner.

The Executioner **was the person in charge of executing those who were sentenced to death.** From the Middle Ages to the 19th century, the executions of those convicts were carried out in Plaça del Rei. By law, the executer **could not live either inside the city nor outside of it.** Because of this, he lived on the same wall. He was much respected by the citizens, since he was believed to have special powers.

To get a bonus payment, the executor used to sell the belongings or body parts of the victims, given that it was said that they served as amulets to the citizens.



- In the picture, it is shown the place where the person who did this job lived.

3 THE INQUISITION'S TERROR

With the aim of **wiping out the Jews**, in the year 1542, the king Ferran II implements the Holy Inquisition (where nowadays the museum Frederic Marés is found).

Even nowadays, if we take a closer look on the façade overlooking Carrer dels Comptes, we can observe the Holy Inquisition's emblem.

- Inside this building awful tortures were inflicted, the most terrifying one was the "donzella de ferro".



4 THE KING'S SECRET DOOR

In order to be able to visualise the upcoming interesting fact, **you must sit down on the stone bench** in Sant Lu's square. Once being sitting, you will be able to observe the picture on the left part of the cathedral.

This door that is currently suspended within the façade, **connecting** through a bridge **the cathedral with Santa Ágata's convent**, where the king used to live in the 15th century.

The already mentioned door was exclusively used by the monarch Ferran II, with the purpose of accessing the cathedral from his residence.



5 THE HIDDEN ROMAN TEMPLE

In 6 Paradís Street, where the Centre Excursionista de Catalunya is located, a lost crown jewel from the Gothic quarter can be found. It consists of **the original remains of Barcino's Roman forum** dedicated to the emperor Caesar Augustus.

- It was built in the highest point in Barcino, the Mont Taber, 16,9 m. above sea level.



6 CIVIL WAR WOUNDS

We are in the quietest and more solitary retreat in Barcelona.

During the Spanish civil war, on the 30th of January of 1938, **the national troops threw a bomb** in this precious spot. The consequences of this explosion were 42 fatalities, most of them children that were at school, which is still present in the square.

- The most interesting fact about the square is the erosion caused by the bombing.



7 THE ONLY SYNAGOGUE IN BARCELONA

Built in the 16th century, the “Sinagoga Mayor de Barcelona” **is the oldest in town.**

During the last centuries, this building has been used as a dry cleaner’s and as an electrical material warehouse.

Eventually “l’Associació del Call de Barcelona” got the building back to its initial activity as a religious temple.



8 CASTELLERS' MONUMENT

At the foot of this recent sculpture (2012) “castellers” get ready before their great performances in Sant Jaume’s square.

The sculpture, composed by some intertwined steel pipes forming a cylindrical tower, is meant to **express** both **the fragility and the strength** these human towers portray, which are raised with a lot of will and which always shake.

- Despite representing “Castellers” (Heritage of Humanity), the sculpture received a lot of criticism from public opinion given to its high cost. It was worth 630.000 Euros !



YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE A BUS ROUTE AFTER ENJOYING OUR DELICIOUS BREAKFAST



BLUE ROUTE

From Plaça de Catalunya to FC Barcelona's stadium via Passeig de Gràcia, Sagrada Família, Gràcia, Park Güell, Tibidabo and Pedralbes.

RED ROUTE

From Plaça de Catalunya to Ciutadella Park via Passeig de Gràcia, Avinguda Diagonal, Sants railway station, Montjuïc and Port Vell.

GREEN ROUTE

From the Olympic Port to the Fòrum via Poblenou and the best views of the city's beaches.

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Hostemplo is 200 meters away from the Tourist Bus stop, hop on hop off.





Dear guests,

It has been a honor to have you hosted with us, we hope that our establishment and service has met your expectations.

We wanted to reward your trust with this curious detail, with the intention of showing you a Barcelona unkown to the eyes of the majority, complementing your stay.

Receive a warm greeting, The Hostemplo team

We would greatly appreciate to know your opinion through our portals and social networks, about this detail and your stay in general.

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