

## **WHY BARCELONA?**

### **IT'S SPAIN'S HIP CITY**

- Its popular with the college educated, urban Spanish youth. It's home to numerous Spanish start-ups, successful Spanish companies, and large international corporations.
- It is unique in Europe -There is a lot of influence from French and Italian cultures mixing with Spanish heritage creating the distinct Catalan language and culture.
- It is home to Spanish fashion- Desigual, Tous, Mango, Massimo Dutti

### **CULTURE**

- Barcelona gave us World Book Day- Every year, on 23rd April, Barcelona celebrates the patron saint of Catalonia with roses and books. Also known as El Día de los Amantes (Lovers' Day), La Diada de Sant Jordi (Saint George's Day), which coincides with the death of both Cervantes and Shakespeare, inspired UNESCO to create the World Book
- It has 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Two of them – Palau de la Música Catalana and Hospital de Sant Pau – have been designed by Modernista architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner, while seven belong to Antoni Gaudí, Barcelona's most famous son. These are part of the "Works of Antoni Gaudí" list and include Park Güell, Palau Güell, Casa Milà, Casa Vicens, La Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló, and the Crypt of the Church at Colonia Güell.

### **IT HAS 2 MILLENIUMS OF HISTORY**

- Barcelona was first founded by the Phoenician and then Carthaginians. It was also inhabited by the Roman and then Visigoths. The city was conquered by the Moors, re-conquered by the Franks and then the Spaniards when Wilfred the Hairy created the Catalan kingdom. [Tourism of Barcelona webpage](#).

### **INTERESTING, COLORFUL ARCHITECTURE**

- Modernism- Barcelona is really the home of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish Modernism architecture with amazing examples of homes, churches and public buildings throughout the city in neighborhoods such as L'Eixample.
- Gaudí- Antoni Gaudí's works such as La Sagrada Família church, the Parc Guëll park, La Pedrera and Casa Batlló homes... famous tile mosaics and unique forms and shapes

### **CUISINE**

- Churros con chocolate
- Tapas
- Tortilla española
- Paella
- Pescaito frito
- **La Boquería** food market

### **FÚTBOL** (Don't call it soccer!)

- Barcelona is the home of the famous FC Barcelona club and world-famous players (current and former) like Messi, Iniesta, Xavi, Ronaldinho, Pujol, Piqué, Luis Suarez, Neymar, Lewandoski, Gavi...
- Camp Nou (home of FC Barcelona) is the largest football stadium in Europe and the Club Museum is the most visited museum in the city with 1.5 million visitors per year.

### **IT IS LOCATED ON THE COAST**

- Barcelona has outstanding beaches- 4 km of beach including the famous *La Barceloneta*. The climate of the city is generally warm, and the beaches are nice and clean. They are easily reachable by local transportation and you can spend a lovely afternoon on the sand and sun after a hard day's work in the city.

### **THE PEOPLE**

- Barcelona is the largest city on the Mediterranean Sea with a population of 1.6 million.
- The Barcelonenses, or natives of Barcelona enjoy a "tranquilo" lifestyle. Evenings socializing in an outdoor café, strolling Las Ramblas or the port, they really know how to enjoy life!
- Your homestay families will be a great way to integrate and learn about their culture.