

Catalunya



What is Catalunya?

- is an autonomous community in northeastern Spain. Catalonia comprises four provinces: Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, and Tarragona. Barcelona is the capital and the largest city in Catalonia.



Catalunya provinces

Barcelona

- **Barcelona** is the capital of Catalonia and the second largest city in Spain, after Madrid. It is also Europe's largest metropolis on the Mediterranean Sea. Barcelona is today one of the world's leading tourist, economic and cultural-sports centres. Barcelona is the 16th-most-visited city in the world and the fourth most visited in Europe after Paris, London, and Rome, with several million tourists every year. Barcelona is the 14th most "livable city" in the world. Also, the city is Europe's fourth best business city and fastest improving European city.



Barcelona

Location

It borders France and Andorra to the north, Aragon to the west, the Valencian Community to the south, and the Mediterranean Sea to the east. Catalonia covers an area of 32,114 km² and has an official population of 7,535,251 .



History

- The name *Catalunya* began to be used in the late 11th century . Catalonia was colonised by Greeks. Both Greeks and Carthaginians, briefly ruled the territory. After the Carthaginian defeat by Rome, it became, along with the rest of Hispania, part of the Roman Empire, Tarraco being one of the main Roman posts in the Iberian Peninsula.

Languages

- The official languages are Catalan, Spanish, Castilian and Aranese (Occitan).

Catalan	54.8 %
Castilian	40.9 %
Aranese	1.1 %
Other language	3.2 %

Climate

- The climate of Catalonia is diverse. The populated areas lying by the coast in Tarragona, Barcelona and Girona provinces feature a Mediterranean climate. The inland part show a mostly continental Mediterranean. The Pyrenean peaks have a mountain or even Alpine climate. In the Mediterranean area, summers are dry and hot. Winter is cool. The inland part of Catalonia is hotter and drier in summer. Nights are cooler there than at the coast.

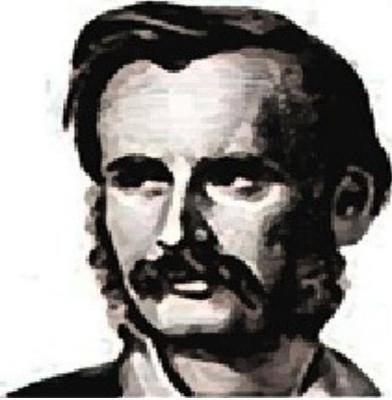
Economy

- Catalonia has a long industrial tradition. At the end of 2010, Catalonia had 10.1% unemployment. The main economic sectors in Catalonia are :industry, construction, tourism and other services. The main tourist destinations in Catalonia are the city of Barcelona, the beaches of the Costa Brava and Girona, the beaches of Costa Bercelona. In the Pyrenees there are several ski resorts, near Lleida.

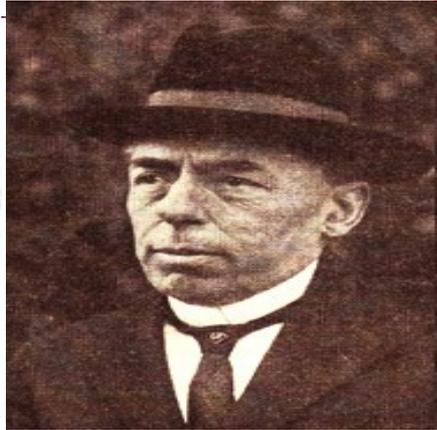
Science

- Scientific and technological research are pillars of development in Catalonia. Nowadays authorities and private Company invest heavily in scientific and technological research. The Tarras can be viewed Catalan museum of science and technology, in Barcelona you can viewed Scientific Museum.

famous Catalan scientists



Narcís Monturiol



José Comas y Solá



Eduard Fontserè



Fig. 1. Joan Oró (1923-2004).

Joan Oró

Painting

- Catalan painters are:
- Salvador Dalí,
- Joan Miró and
- Antoni Tàpies
- They are created in the 20th century.
- Catalan picturesque landscape has attracted a Pablo Picasso, who lived in Barcelona at a young age

Music

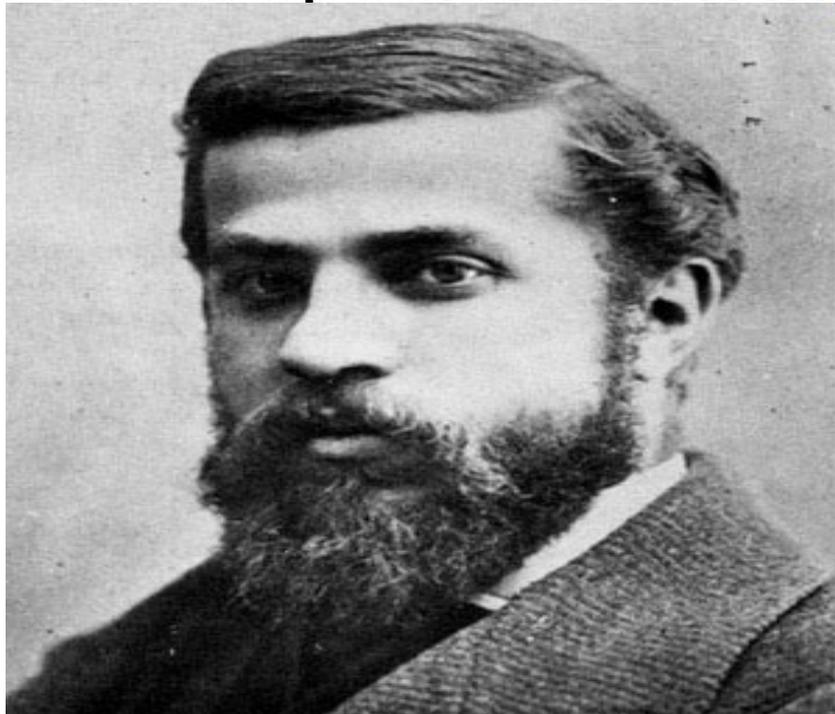
- Music is one of the most vibrant areas of cultural industries in Catalonia. The most famous catalan composers are:
 - Pau Casals,
 - Isaac Albéniz,
 - Enrique Granados and
 - Pascal Comelade.
- The most important musical events are in Barcelona.

Literature

- Literature in the Catalan language has a long tradition. Dating back to the 13th century. Catalan literature was revived in the 19th century. In the 20th century were the most prominent representatives of Catalan literature are poets, writers and essayists. In Catalonia, lives and works lots authors who write in Spanish.

Architecture

- Among the most famous Catalan architect is Antoni Gaudí , which, with its modernist works left a special mark in Barcelona.



Antoni Gaudí

Folk tradition

The *sardana* is the Catalan national folk dance and music, though originally only from the north of the region. It is a circle dance, popular since at least the 16th century.

Castles, spectacular human towers. Six tiers is considered child's play, nine is not uncommon. Competitions are held, and the real fun comes when they have to get down.



sardana



Castells

Cuisine

- **Catalan cuisine** is a Mediterranean cuisine from Catalonia. It relies heavily on ingredients found along the Mediterranean coast, including fresh vegetables (especially tomato and garlic), wheat products (bread), legumes (beans), mushrooms, all sorts of pork preparations (sausages , ham), all sorts of cheese, lamb, and many types of fish like sardine, tuna. the desserts is very famous Catalan cream.Catalunya have got very old viticultural tradition.

Typical dishes



suquets



Coques, a kind of pizza.



escudella



Esqueixada

Typical Catalan desserts



Catalan cream



Some *catànies*



Xuixo



Tortell

Sport

- **Sport** has an important incidence in Catalan life since the beginning of the 20th Century. The main sports in Catalonia are football, basketball, handball, tennis and motorsport.
- One of the main sport events held ever in Catalonia were the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Basketball

- Basketball was played for the first time in Catalonia in 1913. In 1922 was born the first club in Catalonia. Some Catalan players are or have been playing in the NBA, as Juan Carlos Navarro.



Handball

- In 1941 were played the first handball matches in Catalonia and one year later was founded a Handball Federation in Catalonia. Then handball was developed over Catalonia. FC Barcelona is one of the best clubs of Europe.



Football

- Football is considered the most important sport in Catalonia. Today, Catalan teams compete in La Liga, the Copa del Rey, and several European competitions as the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League. The biggest club is FC Barcelona, which has won 4 European Champions leagues, 4 UEFA Cup Winners' Cups. The Catalonia national team's first match was in 1912 in Paris, against France.



FC Barcelona stadium (Nou Camp)



Fc Barcelona football team



Lionel Andres Messi

Holidays

- Major holidays in Catalonia are:
- 23rd april: Sv. Jurij (Sant Jordi), patron of Catalonia. At the celebration, we gave the flowers to the loved. (like on Valentine's Day).
- 24th June: Feast of St. John (Sant Joan)
- 11th september: Catalan national day.

Public holidays

- In Catalonia have 15 no working days:
- First January: New Year
- 6th January: Arrive St. Epiphany.
- First May: Labour Day.
- Easter Week: Good Friday
- Easter Week: Easter Monday
- 24th June: St. Janez
- 15th August: The Assumption
- 11th september: Catalan National Day
- 12th October: The Spanish day
- First november: All Saints
- 6th december: Spanish Constitution Day
- 8th december: Immaculate Conception
- 25th december: Christmas
- 26th december: st. Stephen

cultural Heritage

- As cultural heritage protected by UNESCO:



Sagrada Família

- is a large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí .



- The **Palau de la Música Catalana** is a concert hall in Barcelona. Designed in the Catalan *modernista* style by the famous architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner, it was built 1908 for the Orfeó Català.

Palau de la Música Catalana



Park Güell is a garden complex with architectural elements. It was designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí and built in 1914. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The entrance to the park



- **Casa Milà** better known as ***La Pedrera*** is a building designed by the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí and built in 1912. It is located in the Barcelona.

La Pedrera (Casa Mila)



Poblet Monastery

- The **Poblet Monastery** is a Cistercian monastery, founded in 1151, located in Catalonia. The main architect was Arnau Bargués.
- This monastery was the first of three sister monasteries, known as the Cistercian triangle, that helped consolidate power in Catalonia in the 12th century.



- The **Churches of the Vall de Boí** are a set of nine Early Romanesque churches declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO and located in the Vall de Boí, in the Catalan (Province of Lleida).

Catalan Romanesque Churches of the Vall de Boí

Resources

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