

High School & Sixth Form

Gateways goes to Barcelona!



Twenty pupils from Upper 4 and Lower 5 arrived at Leeds Bradford Airport at 4 am on Monday 3 June to start our visit to Barcelona. We had been excited about it for weeks! Our hotel was modern and comfortable and its location was superb: just off the main street Las Ramblas and in the heart of the Old Gothic Quarter with great cafés, shops and sights.

After using their Spanish skills to buy lunch, the pupils took it in turns to be tour guides using Mrs Wilson's notes about the Gothic Quarter. Jacob was particularly impressive in this role and won points for his team in the first of several Apprentice - style challenges. Dinner consisted of traditional tapas, then we walked to the beach for some chilling time.

Day 2 started with the famous La Boquería market, which wowed us all with the beautiful displays of fruit, sweet treats, Spanish hams and cheese and the odd lobster still moving. We then braved the underground (guarding our belongings carefully against the notorious potential pickpockets) to head up Montjuïc hill where we took the cable car to enjoy the panoramic views, then ate our food from the market.

The Juan Miró Art museum opened the pupils' eyes to modern art as they saw many sculptures, paintings and tapestries in his colourful and fun style. Mrs Harrison provided a really helpful worksheet to guide their thoughts and reactions and try to imitate his art. Next on the packed itinerary was a visit to the Olympic Stadium, interactive sports games in the museum, walking the streets of the Poble Espanyol where different buildings from all over

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Spain have been reproduced and finally more tapas and an amazing energetic and dramatic flamenco show.

Day 3 was a Gaudí day – the world-famous Spanish architect whose original creations cannot fail to inspire us all. We strolled down the main shopping streets (with a stop at the Lego store for Otto), marvelling at the apartment buildings Gaudí designed (Casa Batlló and La Pedrera) ending up at the Sagrada Familia Cathedral, started in 1882 and still unfinished. Despite the crowds, you just have to look up at the stone columns splaying out like trees and the light pouring in from the stained-glass windows and you are transported into a magical world. Everyone was in awe. The last Gaudí visit was to Park Güell with its mosaic seats, walls and animals and curvy stone architecture- the perfect place to relax and watch the view towards the sea. Then back to the Gothic Quarter to visit the beautiful building housing the Picasso museum, which showed how his style changed from being relatively traditional to slightly impressionistic, then to his own brand of cubism and surrealism - lots for our GCSE Art pupils to absorb. Paella and chicken were for dinner, followed by some free time in groups relaxing and shopping near the main square, where the Spanish usually congregate in the evening.

Our last full day was at one of the best theme parks in Europe: PortAventura world. Some were braver on the rides than others (Sgt Berry gets the staff prize), but everyone had a great time. We celebrated our last evening in Spanish style around a long table all together on Las Ramblas.

We have had some lovely comments from some parents :

"They all said you made the trip very special and they've enjoyed every moment!"

"I can't believe how much you managed to do, a truly wonderful experience for them all and a trip she will remember with lovely memories."

"He had a fabulous time and came home on cloud nine telling us all about it. You managed to fit so much in, and kept them going - I think I want to go on the next trip!"

A huge thank you to Mrs Boyle, Sgt Berry and Dr Johnson for all of their support and good company. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the pupils better and it is always special spending time together in a completely different environment. The fact that it was in such a fantastic city as Barcelona only added to the experience.

Mrs Fiona Wilson

Scroll down for photos...

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Day 1



The Gothic Quarter

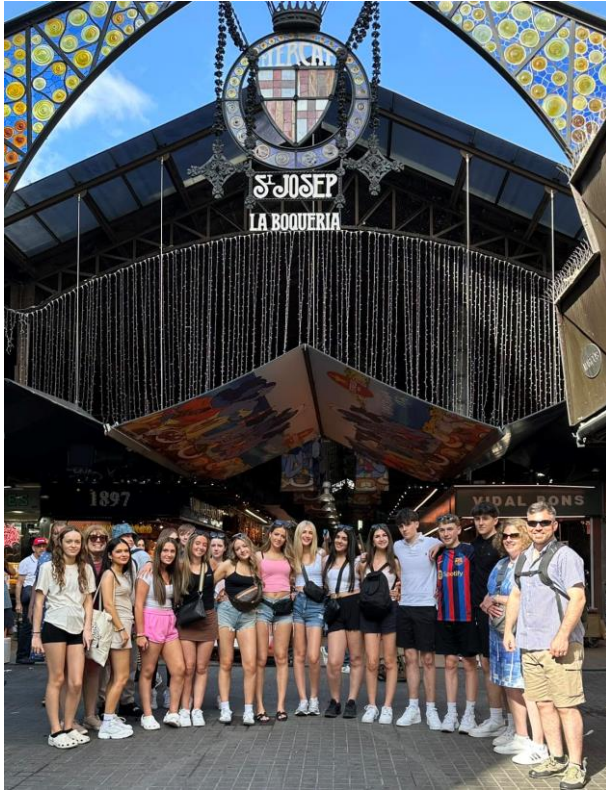


Tapas



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Day 2



La Boqueria Market



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Day 2



Miró Art Museum



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Day 2

Olympic Museum



Poble Espanyol



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Day 3

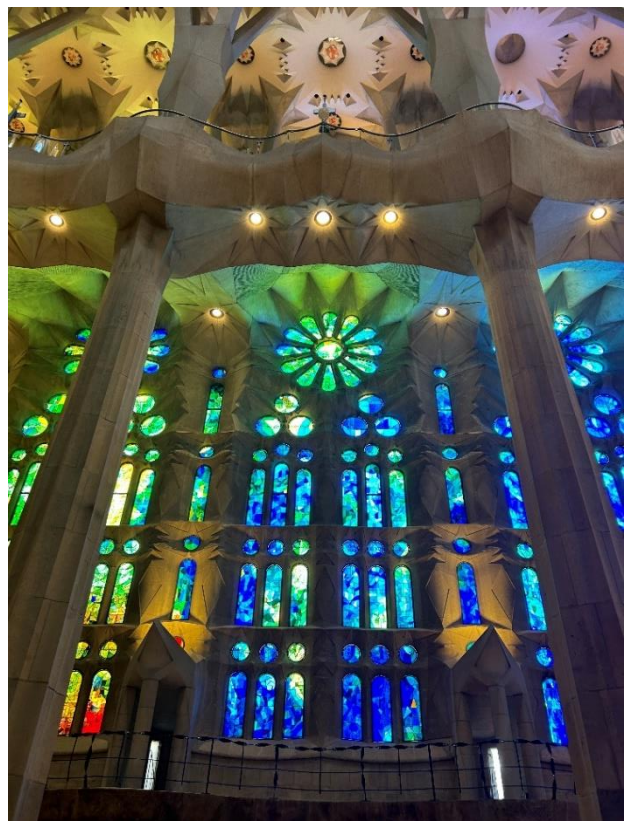
Casa Batlló



La Pedrera



La Sagrada Familia

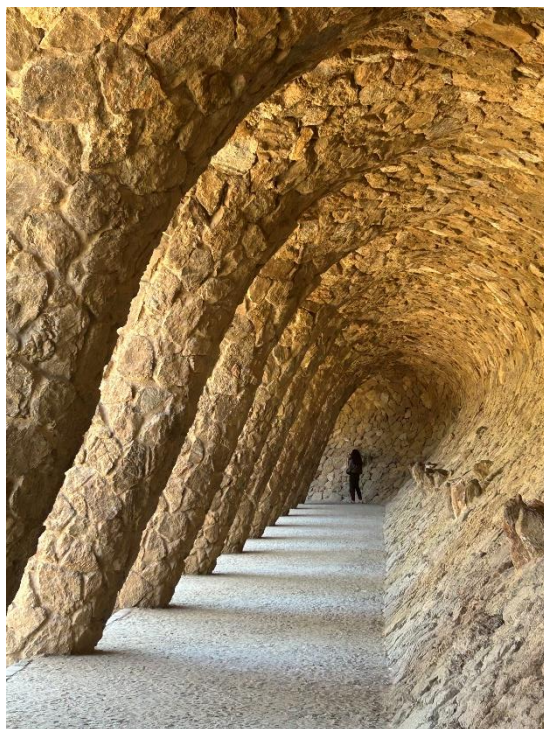


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Park Güell



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Picasso Museum



Day 4

PortAventura World



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