

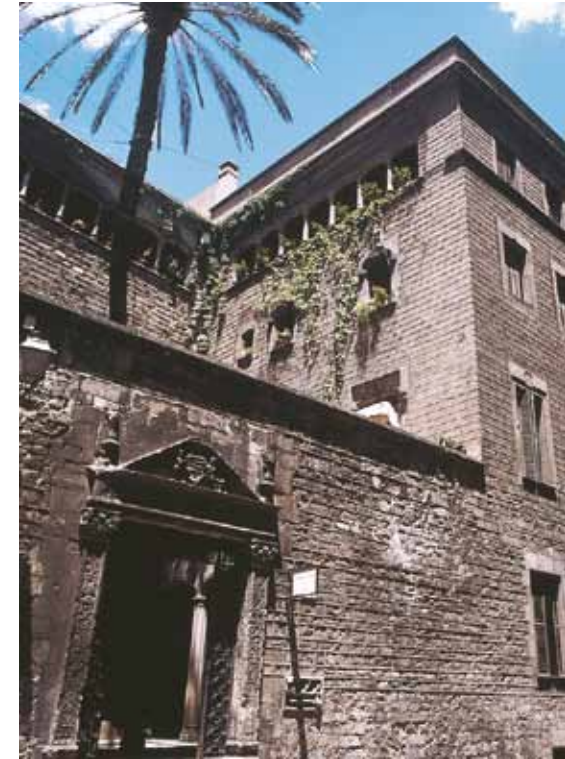
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Barcelona's Gothic Quarter offers the visitor a splendid combination of perfectly preserved medieval buildings and a lively commercial activity.

The Gothic Quarter is the heart of the city. We encourage you to stroll through the historical and political centre of Barcelona, we invite you to take a walk to explore the architectural heritage of yesterday and the political institutions of today. You will discover the remains of the ancient fortifications and the temple to Augustus built by the Romans on Mount Taber. These remains now rub shoulders with the old palace of the count-kings, the Cathedral and other Gothic buildings which mark the apogee of the city and its culture in the medieval period. You can end or start your walk at the Plaça de Sant Jaume, with a visit to the interior of the City Hall, where you can admire the historical Saló de Cent.

Casa de l'Ardiaca



Plaça del Rei



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Portal de la Pietat



Cathedral ambulatory



Cathedral stained glass



Santa Eulalia portal



Palau del Lloctinent. Photo: Fris



Portal de la Pietat detail

**CATHEDRAL**

Beautiful example of Catalan gothic, started in 1298. The complicated façade was added very much later, in the 19th century. There is a very interesting ancient crypt and a unique cloister where you can stroll and relax while you

admire the architecture and the geese. You can also visit the rooftop for a small fee, a lift takes you up and you get wonderful views of the city rooftops. You can climb the stairs up to the central spire for a breathtaking view.

PALAU DEL LLOCTINENT

An excellent example of very late gothic civil architecture (16th century).

PLAÇA DEL REI

This is one of Barcelona's favourite venues for concerts and artistic activities. It is an extraordinarily coherent

mixture of singular buildings, including the chapel of Saint Agatha, the Palau Reial Major, and the Palau del Lloctinent.

PIA ALMOINA

This was the residence of the 16th century canons and has recently had a complete rehabilitation.



Barcelona's Cathedral. Photo: Fris



St. Agatha Chapel

Palau Episcopal (Bishop's Palace) courtyard*Cathedral Cloister at night***ROMAN WALLS**

Remains from the 4th century A.D. These remains are visible as part of the walls of a series of gothic period buildings. The best vantage point is from the Via Laietana, as in the picture of the Plaça de Berenguer above right.

SANTA MARIA DEL MAR

Considered by many to be the most perfect example of Catalan Gothic architecture, it's harmonious interior boasts excellent acoustics that make it a preferred concert venue. Begun in 1329 by Berenguer de Montagut, and completed in 1383, this church was built during the height of Catalan overseas expansion. In July of 1936, during the Spanish Civil War a fire destroyed much of the interior.

Barcelona's Cathedral: exterior of ambulatory and belfry