



URBAN INNOVATION TOURS IN BARCELONA



Smart City Expo World Congress and Build Tours offer a **curated program of guided tours across Barcelona** designed to connect Congress participants with the city's groundbreaking urban projects, public policies, and innovation ecosystems.

These Urban Innovation Tours provide an immersive experience aligned with SCEWC26 central themes. **Discover our 10 routes and book your tour today!**



URBAN INNOVATION TOURS IN BARCELONA

The Urban Innovation Tours will explore the real-life application of smart city principles in Barcelona, offering immersive experiences aligned with the Expo's central themes.



1. Barcelona Smart City Mastertour

Time: **Nov. 1, 14h**
Area: Citywide



2. Barcelona's Expos and Olympics

Time: **Nov. 2, 10h**
Area: Montjuïc



3. Creative Barcelona: Culture, Public Space & Identity

Time: **Nov. 2, 14h**
Area: Ciutat Vella



4. Streets for People: Mobility, Public Space, and the Green Axes

Time: **Nov. 2, 17h**
Area: Eixample



5. Smart Mobility Barcelona: From Streets to Systems

Time: **Nov. 5, 14h**
Area: TBD



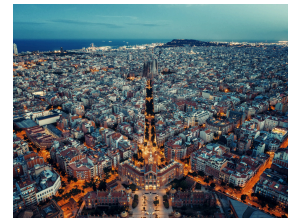
6. 22@ Innovation District & Urban Tech Ecosystem

Time: **Nov. 5, 17h**
Area: Poblenou



7. Housing & Urban Regeneration in Barcelona

Time: **Nov. 6, 10h**
Area: Sants, La Bordeta



8. Digital Barcelona: Urban Data, Sensors & AI

Time: **Nov. 6, 14h**
Area: TBD



9. Barcelona Coastal Resilience & Blue Economy

Time: **Nov. 6, 17h**
Area: Olympic Port



10. Conscious Tourism: Barcelona's Cultural Urbanism

Time: **Nov. 7, 11h**
Area: TBD

Tours designed and guided by:

BUILDTOURS

Barcelona Costal Resilience & Blue Economy

Climate Adaptation. Waterfront Urbanism. Tourism & Public Space

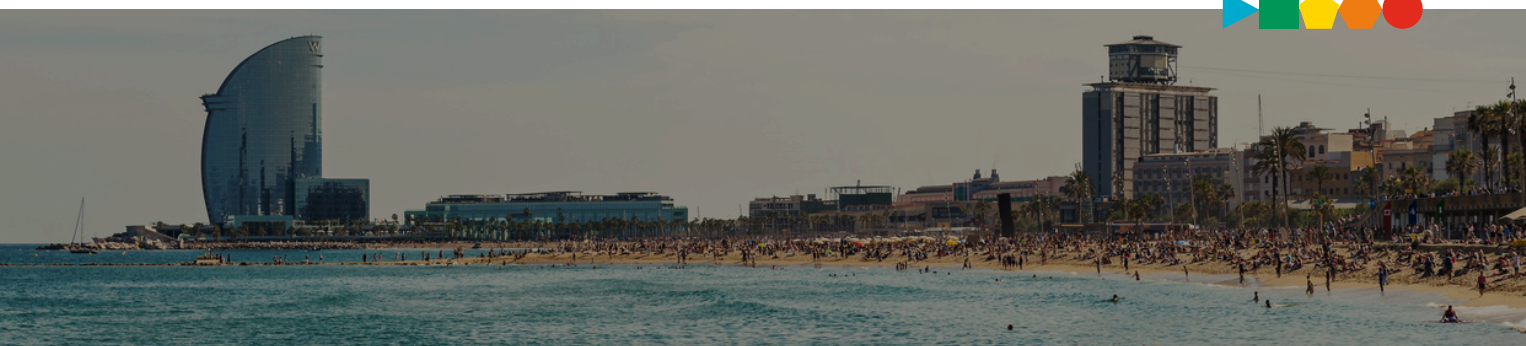
Format: Walking | **Start:** Barcelona Fish - [See map](#) | **End:** Moll de la Fusta
Time: Friday, Nov. 6, 17:00 - 19:00

Barcelona's relationship with the sea is one of continual reinvention—transforming from an industrial and infrastructural barrier into a **dynamic waterfront that balances public life, economic activity, and environmental resilience**. Since the 1980s, and most notably with the 1992 Olympic Games, the city has restructured its coastline through a series of coordinated urban design, infrastructure, and policy interventions, reconnecting the city to the Mediterranean while redefining its global identity.

This tour explores **Barcelona's waterfront as a living system**, where public space, mobility, tourism, and climate adaptation intersect. Moving along the coastline from Port Olímpic to Port Vell, participants will experience how beaches, parks, and promenades function not only as recreational amenities, but as critical urban infrastructure designed to manage environmental risk and support urban life.

From engineered beaches and integrated mobility corridors to cultural landmarks and port transformations, Barcelona demonstrates how cities can respond to climate pressures while maintaining accessibility, economic vitality, and high-quality public space. At the same time, the tour addresses the growing **tensions between tourism, environmental sustainability, and long-term resilience in coastal cities**.

As sea levels rise and climate risks intensify, Barcelona offers a compelling case study of **how urban design and infrastructure can mediate the relationship between city and sea**—highlighting both the achievements and the ongoing challenges of building resilient waterfronts.



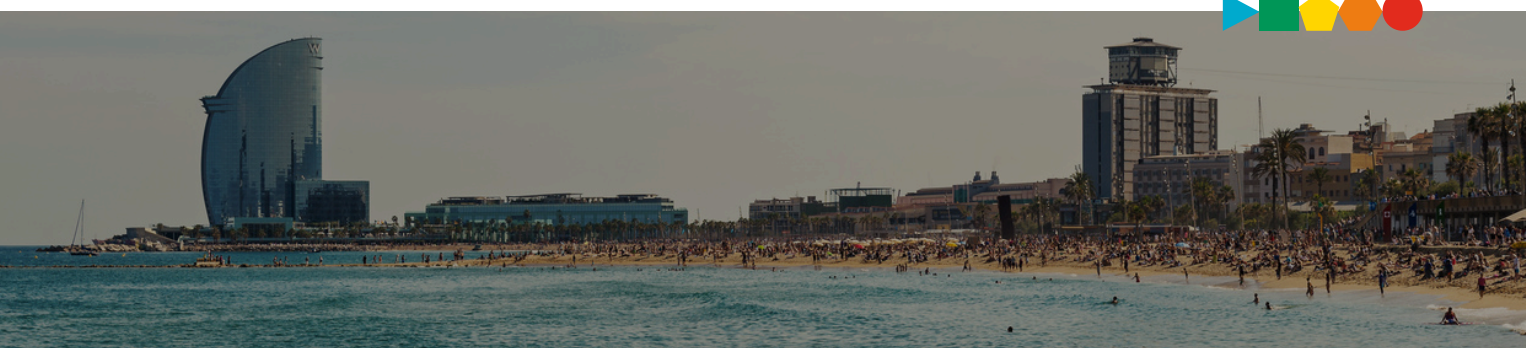
Barcelona Costal Resilience & Blue Economy

Climate Adaptation. Waterfront Urbanism. Tourism & Public Space

ITINERARY

1. *Port Olímpic*, MBM Arquitectes (Oriol Bohigas, David Mackay & Josep Martorell), 1989–1992
2. *Hotel Arts and Torre Mapfre*, Hotel Arts: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), 1994; Torre Mapfre: Iñigo Ortiz & Enrique de León, 1992
3. *Peix d'Or (Golden Fish Sculpture)*, Frank Gehry, 1992
4. *Parc del Port Olímpic and AEMET Building*, Álvaro Siza, 1992; AEMET (Meteorological Agency) Building, Álvaro Siza, 1992
5. *Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona (PRBB)*, Albert de Pineda, Manuel Brullet & Alfonso de Luna, 2006
6. *Hospital del Mar*, Manuel Brullet & Albert de Pineda, expansion 1999–2005
7. *Parc de la Barceloneta*, Jordi Henrich & Olga Tarrasó, 1996
8. *Barceloneta Waterfront and Beaches*, Urban redevelopment, 1990–1992; upgrades 2004–2020
9. *Casa de la Marina*, José Antonio Coderch & Manuel Valls Vergés, 1951
10. *Passeig Marítim de la Barceloneta*, Julià Espinàs, Olga Tarrasó, Jaume Artigues, Miquel Roig & Jordi Henrich, 1988–1992
11. *Torre Mare Nostrum (Gas Natural Headquarters)*, EMBT — Enric Miralles & Benedetta Tagliabue, 2006
12. *Mercat de la Barceloneta*, Josep Miàs, 2007
13. *Hotel W Barcelona & Platja de Sant Sebastià*, Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura, 2009
14. *Nova Bocana (New Port Entrance)*, Infrastructure redesign and urban realm improvements, 2012–2023, Port de Barcelona Authority
15. *Maremagnum and Port Vell*, Helio Piñón, Albert Viaplana & Rafael Coll, 1995
16. *Moll de la Fusta Wharf*, Manuel de Solà-Morales, 1981–1987
17. *America's Cup Barcelona 2024*, Ongoing urban and infrastructural improvements, 2022–2024

GUIDE: Ivan R. Shumkov PhD



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register for a tour?

All tours cost €50, except for our 4-hour mastertour, which costs €100, and require registration to SCEWC. If you don't yet have your event pass, you'll be able to add it during the registration process. If you're already registered for the event, [log in here](#) and click on 'ADD PRODUCT' to include a tour in your current pass.

How are the Urban Innovation Tours related to the Smart City Expo World Congress?

All the tours are curated based on the topics of the congress to bring those ideas into the city. Participants will see how some of the concepts are applied into Barcelona and understand them better.

Do I need an architecture or urbanism background to enjoy this?

Not at all. Our guides make the history and design of each site accessible and engaging for everyone, from architecture enthusiasts to first-time visitors.

What should I bring?

Comfortable walking shoes, water, weather-appropriate clothing, and a camera or phone if you'd like to take photos.

Is the tour suitable for groups?

Yes, it's perfect for individuals and groups. We also offer private tours for companies and organizations.

Can I sign up together with my colleagues?

Yes, we encourage you to sign up with your colleagues, but you'll have to get your tickets individually. We also offer private tour for large groups and companies.

Do tours run in all weather?

Yes. Our tours run rain or shine. In the case of severe weather, we will contact you to reschedule or provide alternative arrangements.

How much walking is involved?

Most tours involve 1.5-2 km of walking at a moderate pace with stops for discussion.

Are tours accessible for people with disabilities?

We strive to make our tours inclusive and accessible. Many of our routes can accommodate wheelchairs or mobility needs. Please contact us in advance so we can adjust the route if needed.

Do you provide headsets?

Yes. All participants on the tours are provided with individual headsets so they can hear the guide clearly, even in noisy or crowded areas.

In collaboration with **BUILDTOURS**

All tours are curated and guided by Ivan R. Shumkov PhD, Founder of Build Tours.

Build Tours' mission is to help people see, understand and experience Architecture, Art and Cities in a profound and unique way. Each tour explores a different part of the city, weaving history, urbanism and architecture in an engaging, story-telling manner. On each tour, we revisit landmarks and uncover some of the city's hidden gems and urban trends.



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Your PhD Architect Guide

Dr. Ivan Shumkov is a New York based architect, urban planner, entrepreneur, and professor. He is the **founder of Build Tours, Build World and Build Academy**, and professor of urban design at **Columbia University GSAPP**. Ivan earned his PhD in Architecture in 2009 at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and graduated with four master's degrees from ETSA Barcelona, University of Florence, and Harvard University GSD.

Ivan combines his **experience in architecture and urbanism** with his passion for discovering and sharing the **history and secrets of cities**. His tours provoke curiosity, show hidden urban gems, and provide opportunities for experiencing and understanding architecture and urbanism through the eyes of an architect.