



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



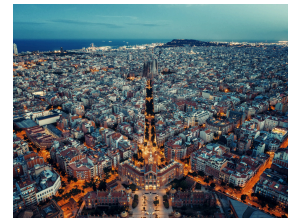
6. 22@ Innovation District & Urban Tech Ecosystem

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

Creative Barcelona: Culture, Public Space & Identity

Heritage Preservation. Social Innovation. Urban Regeneration

Format: Walking | **Start:** Sant Antoni Market - [See map](#) | **End:** El Born Market
Time: Monday, Nov. 2, 14:00 - 16:00

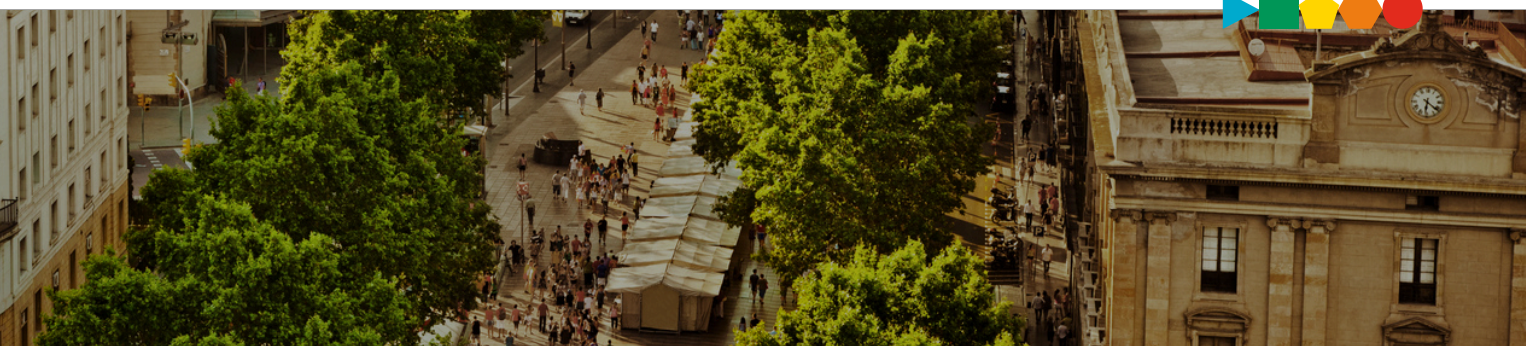
Barcelona's **Ciutat Vella** (literally "Old Town") reveals how centuries of history can coexist with 21st-century urban innovation. Once dense and deteriorated, the area underwent major transformations beginning in the 1980s, driven by urban "surgery," adaptive reuse, and social programs that revitalized public spaces and improved living conditions.

This walking tour explores how **heritage preservation, cultural institutions, and sponge urbanism** strategies have reimaged the city's medieval fabric, balancing authenticity and innovation.

Ending at **El Born**, we reflect on how Barcelona's historic center became a living laboratory for **social and sustainable urbanism**. By integrating digital infrastructure, cultural programs, and architectural conservation, Ciutat Vella exemplifies how cities can evolve — not by erasing the past, but by building upon it.

KEY TOPICS

- Living & Inclusion
- Culture as a driver of urban vitality and economic growth
- Urban regeneration and housing access
- Culture as a catalyst for urban transformation
- Sponge city principles and permeability
- Evolution from Roman Barcino to contemporary metropolis
- Adaptive reuse of historical buildings
- Urban "surgery" and civic renewal during the 1980s



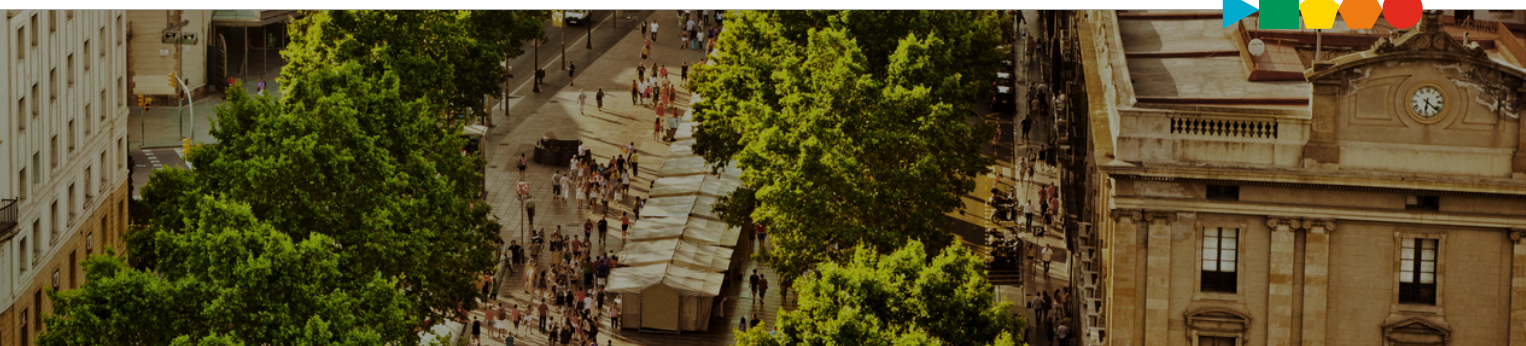
Creative Barcelona: Culture, Public Space & Identity

Heritage Preservation. Social Innovation. Urban Regeneration

ITINERARY

1. *Mercat and Superilla de Sant Antoni*, Antoni Rovira i Trias, 1882; Restoration by Ravetllat Ribas Arquitectes, 2018
2. *Rambla del Raval*, Urban redevelopment, 1998–2000, Barcelona Regional
3. *Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB)*, Original Convent del Carme, 1802; Renovation by Helio Piñón & Albert Viaplana, 1993
4. *Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA)*, Richard Meier & Partners, 1987–1995
5. *University of Barcelona (Historic Campus)*, Elies Rogent, 1863–1882
6. *Mercat de la Boqueria*, Josep Mas i Vila, 1840–1853; Canopy Renovation by Carme Pinós, 2007–2015
7. *La Rambla*, Urban boulevard, 18th century onward
8. *Barcelona Cathedral (Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Saint Eulalia)*, Construction 1298–1448; Neo-Gothic façade by Josep Oriol Mestres, 1888
9. *Mercat de Santa Caterina*, Original market, 1848; Reconstruction by EMBT Enric Miralles & Benedetta Tagliabue, 1997–2005
10. *Ajuntament de Barcelona (City Hall)*, Original Gothic building, Arnau Bargués, 1369–1373; Neoclassical façade by Josep Mas i Vila, 1831
11. *Centre Cívic Pati Llimona*, Ignasi de Solà-Morales, 1998
12. *Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar*, Berenguer de Montagut & Ramon Despuig, 1329–1383
13. *Fossar de les Moreres*, Urban memorial by Carme Fiol, 1989
14. *Mercat del Born (El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria)*, Josep Fontserè i Mestre, 1876; Restoration by Rafael de Cáceres Zurita & Enric Sòria Badia, 2013

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.