



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



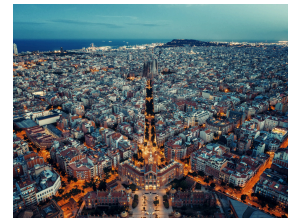
6. 22@ Innovation District & Urban Tech Ecosystem

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's Expos and Olympics: The Power of Urban Transformation

Sustainable Architecture. Circular Design. Green Buildings

Format: Walking | **Start:** Plaça Espanya (towers) - [See map](#)

End: Montjuïc Communications Tower | **Time:** Monday, Nov. 2, 10:00 - 12:00

This walking tour explores Barcelona's transformation through its major urban milestones: the **1929 International Exposition**, the **1992 Olympic Games**, and its ongoing evolution into a **Smart City**. We'll uncover how architecture, landscape, and urban planning have shaped the city's sustainable future from industrial reuse and retrofitting to green infrastructure and technological innovation.

Through this tour, participants will trace how the successful synergy of architecture, landscape design, and public policy have transformed Montjuïc into both a cultural park and a prototype for resilient urbanism. We'll uncover how Barcelona continues to use its historical landmarks not as relics of the past, but as catalysts for innovation, linking its architectural heritage to the global dialogue on **Smart Cities and sustainable futures**.

Our journey ends overlooking the **Olympic Village (1992)**, a model of **urban regeneration** that turned an obsolete industrial waterfront into a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood. The district set the stage for Barcelona's ongoing **Smart City initiatives**, emphasizing sustainable mobility, renewable energy, and digital infrastructure, connecting the city's historical evolution to its future vision.

KEY TOPICS

- Geography and connection to Montjuïc's topography
- The 1929 International Exposition
- The 1992 Olympic transformation
- Industrial heritage and adaptive reuse
- Landscape and public space design
- The Cerdà grid and urban evolution
- The arrival of modern architecture
- From brownfield sites to botanical gardens
- Barcelona's path toward smart urbanism



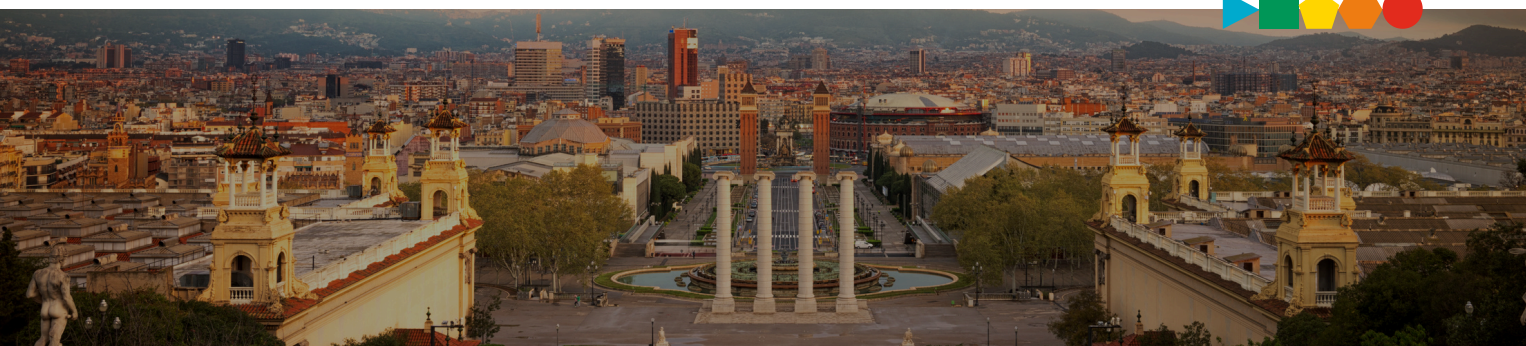
Barcelona's Expos and Olympics: The Power of Urban Transformation

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ITINERARY

1. *Plaça d'Espanya*, Josep Maria Jujol & Nicolau Maria Rubió i Tudurí, 1929
2. *Les Arenes*, August Font i Carreras, 1900; Conversion: Richard Rogers Partnership & Alonso Balaguer, 2011
3. *Barcelona International Exposition*, 1929
4. *German Pavilion (Pavelló Alemany)*, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, 1929; Reconstruction by Cristian Cirici, Fernando Ramos & Ignasi de Solà-Morales, 1986–1987
5. *Magic Fountain (Font Màgica de Montjuïc)*, Carles Buïgas, 1929
6. *CaixaForum Barcelona*, Josep Puig i Cadafalch, 1911 (original Casaramona Factory); Renovation by Arata Isozaki, 2002
7. *Palau Nacional (National Palace)*, Enric Català & Eugenio Cendoya, 1929
8. *Olympic Stadium (Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys)*, Pere Domènech i Roura, 1929; Renovation: Vittorio Gregotti, 1989–1992
9. *Palau Sant Jordi*, Arata Isozaki, 1990
10. *Torre de Comunicacions de Montjuïc*, Santiago Calatrava, 1992

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.