



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



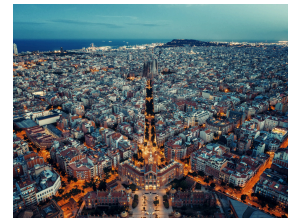
6. 22@ Innovation District & Urban Tech Ecosystem

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 Smart City Mastertour (4-hour tour)

A Powerful, City-wide Story of Urban Transformation

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

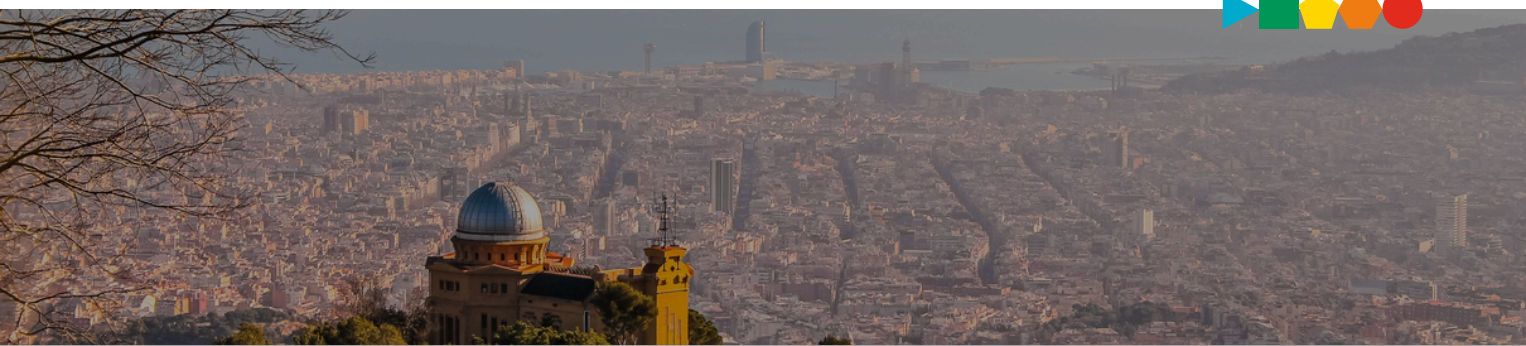
End: Plaça Catalunya | **Time:** Sunday, Nov. 1, 14:00 - 18:00

Barcelona stands as one of the **world's most influential laboratories for urban innovation**, where design, infrastructure, technology, and governance converge to shape a more **sustainable and human-centered city**. Over the past four decades, the city has undergone a **profound transformation**—from the industrial decline of the late 20th century to the Olympic reinvention of its waterfront, and more recently, to the development of digital infrastructure, climate-responsive public spaces, and innovation districts.

This tour offers a **comprehensive, city-wide perspective on Barcelona's evolution**, connecting key sites across different neighborhoods into a coherent narrative of urban transformation. Traveling between locations by private vehicle and short walks, participants will experience how **strategic planning, architectural design, mobility systems, and digital technologies** operate together as an integrated urban model.

From the coastal regeneration initiated for the **1992 Olympic Games** to the **22@ Innovation District**, from **superblocks** and multimodal mobility systems to smart infrastructure and **green public spaces**, Barcelona demonstrates how cities can integrate long-term vision with continuous experimentation. At the same time, the tour addresses the complexities of urban transformation, including housing pressures, tourism impacts, and the governance challenges of balancing growth with inclusion.

As a **synthesis of Barcelona's most important urban strategies**, this experience provides participants with a clear and actionable understanding of how cities can evolve in response to economic, environmental, and technological change.



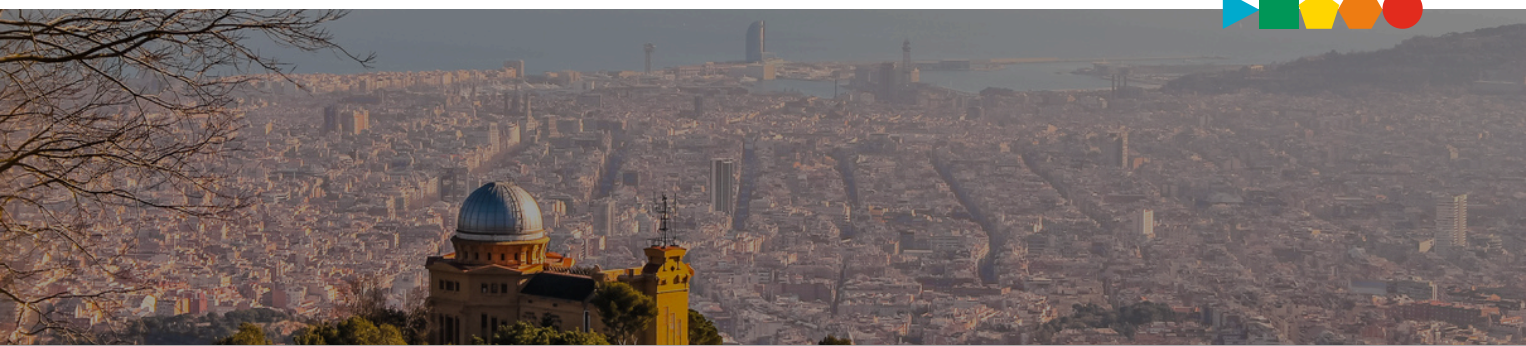
Barcelona Smart City Mastertour (4-hour tour)

A Powerful, City-wide Story of Urban Transformation

ITINERARY

1. *Montjuïc*, Urban landscape, infrastructure, and Olympic planning framework, major interventions 1980s-1992
2. *Port Olímpic & Olympic Village*, MBM Arquitectes (Oriol Bohigas, David Mackay & Josep Martorell), 1989-1992
3. *Barceloneta Waterfront & Beaches*, Urban redevelopment, 1990-1992; upgrades 2004-2020
4. *Plaça de les Glòries Catalanes & Parc de les Glòries*, Urban transformation and infrastructure redesign, 2007-2023
5. *Disseny Hub Barcelona*, MBM Arquitectes (Martorell, Bohigas, Mackay), 2014
6. *Torre Glòries*, Jean Nouvel, 2005
7. *MediaTIC Building*, Enric Ruiz-Geli (Cloud 9), 2010
8. *22@ Barcelona Innovation District*, Masterplan and zoning transformation, initiated 2000
9. *Poblenou Superblock (Superilla Poblenou)*, Ajuntament de Barcelona, 2016-present
10. *Barcelona Tram (Diagonal Corridor)*, Modern tram network, 2004-present
11. *Eixample District (Cerdà Plan)*, Ildefons Cerdà, 1859; ongoing adaptations and superblock interventions
12. *Passeig de Gràcia*, Urban axis of economic development and city branding, late 19th century; ongoing transformation
13. *Superblock (Eixample / Sant Antoni)*, Ajuntament de Barcelona, 2016-present

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.



Ivan R. Shumkov PhD

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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.