SMARTCITY
EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

3 - 5 NOVEMBER 2026
BARCELONA

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



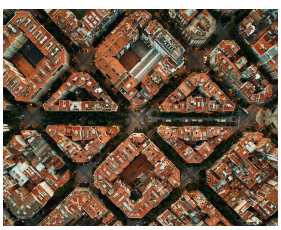
2. Barcelona's Expos and Olympics

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



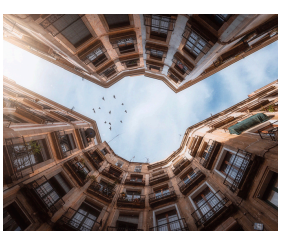
5. Smart Mobility Barcelona: From Streets to Systems

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



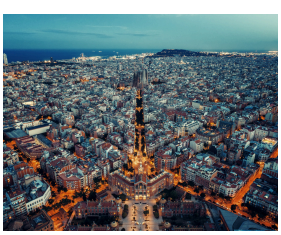
6. 22@ Innovation District & Urban Tech Ecosystem

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



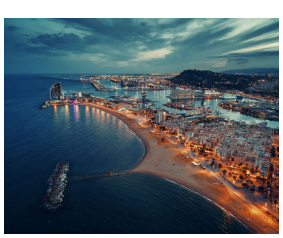
7. Urban Regeneration in Barcelona

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



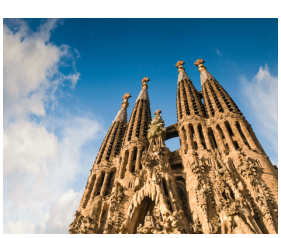
8. Digital Barcelona: Urban Data, Sensors & AI

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

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Urban Regeneration in Barcelona

Sustainable Construction. Cooperative Building. Affordability

Format: Walking | **Start:** Can Batlló - *See map* | **End:** La Bordeta
Time: Friday, Nov. 6, 10:00 - 12:00

Barcelona's **Sants and La Bordeta** neighborhoods offer one of the most compelling contemporary **models for rethinking housing in the city**. Emerging from the transformation of former industrial land, this area has become a **testing ground for cooperative housing, community-led development, and low-carbon construction**—proposing alternatives to traditional real estate models and addressing the growing challenges of affordability and displacement.

At the heart of this transformation is the redevelopment of **Can Batlló**, a former industrial complex reclaimed through civic activism and gradually converted into a **mixed-use neighborhood** combining housing, public space, and community infrastructure. Within this context, pioneering projects such as **La Borda Housing Cooperative** demonstrate how new ownership structures, shared spaces, and sustainable materials can redefine the way people live in the city.

KEY TOPICS

- Cooperative housing and alternative ownership models
- Community-led urban regeneration
- Adaptive reuse of industrial land
- Timber construction and low-carbon materials
- Shared spaces and collective living
- Housing affordability and long-term stability
- Governance and resident participation
- Public land policies and municipal support
- Social innovation and urban resilience
- Replicability of cooperative housing models



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ITINERARY

1. Can Batlló, Industrial complex (19th–20th century); civic-led redevelopment initiated 2011 — transformation from factory site to community-driven urban space
2. *Bloc 11 (Can Batlló Civic Center)*, Adaptive reuse and community hub, 2011–present — self-managed cultural and social infrastructure
3. *La Borda Housing Cooperative*, Lacol Arquitectura + La Ciutat Invisible, 2018 — cooperative housing, timber construction, shared living model
4. *La Borda Public Spaces & Courtyard System*, Community-oriented design and shared spaces, 2018 — collective use and social interaction
5. *Surrounding Cooperative Housing Initiatives (La Bordeta Area)*, Various groups and phases, 2015–present — emerging ecosystem of alternative housing models
6. *Public Space Network (Can Batlló)*, Incremental urban transformation, 2011–present — integration of housing, culture, and open space
7. *La Bordeta Neighborhood Streets*, Traditional urban fabric and evolving demographic dynamics — interaction between existing community and new housing models

GUIDE: Ivan R. Shumkov PhD



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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.

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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.