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!**

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BUILDTOURS

The Barcelona Model: Urban Regeneration, Culture & Public Space

Heritage Preservation. Social Innovation. Inclusive Cities

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

How can cities **revitalize historic neighborhoods while preserving their identity** and ensuring that urban transformation benefits local communities?

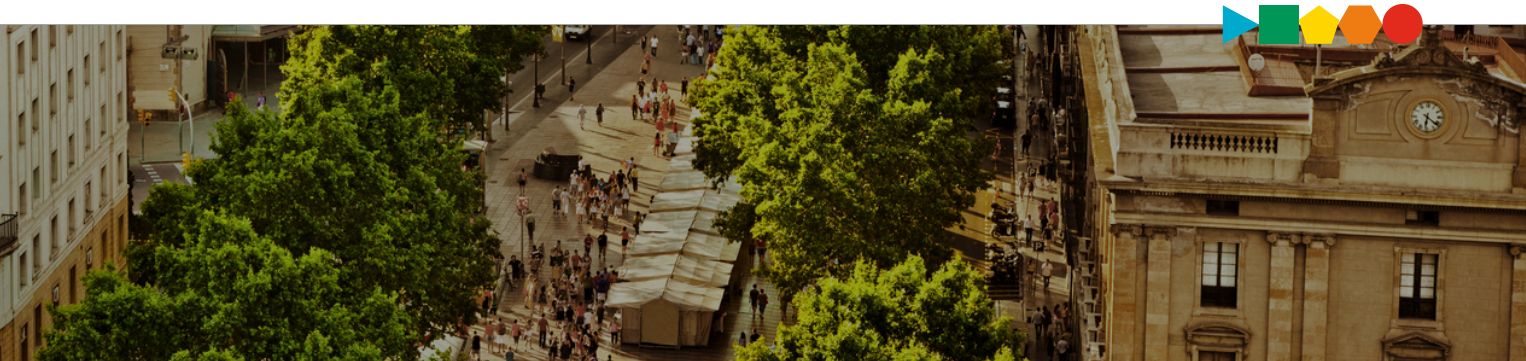
Barcelona's historic center offers an internationally influential example of urban regeneration. Since the 1980s, the city has transformed parts of its dense urban fabric through **strategic public investment, cultural institutions, new public spaces, restored markets, and adaptive reuse**. These interventions helped shape the internationally recognized Barcelona Model of urban development.

This walking tour explores how these strategies have **reshaped Ciutat Vella**. From the revitalization of Sant Antoni Market and the creation of Rambla del Raval to the cultural transformation surrounding MACBA and CCCB, participants will discover how urban design and architecture can generate new opportunities for neighborhood life.

The tour also examines the **reinvention of historic markets**, the integration of contemporary architecture into medieval neighborhoods, and the **preservation of cultural heritage** at El Born. Along the way, we will discuss the **tensions accompanying urban regeneration**, including housing affordability, tourism pressure, displacement, and the challenge of maintaining authentic local communities.

KEY TOPICS

- The Barcelona Model and neighborhood-scale urban regeneration
- Public space, walkability, and urban livability
- Cultural institutions as catalysts for urban transformation
- Historic markets, adaptive reuse, and architectural innovation
- Housing affordability, tourism, and social inclusion
- Heritage preservation, identity, and collective memory



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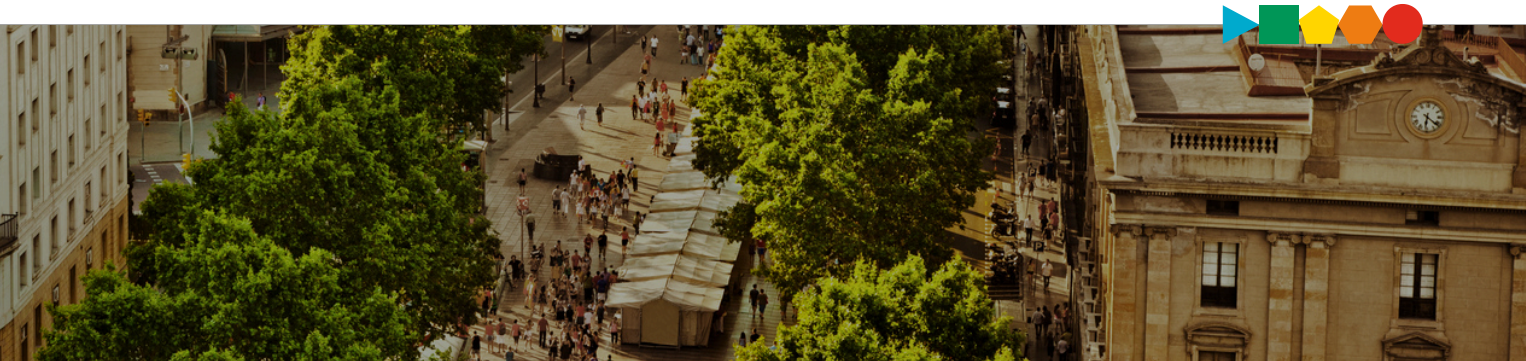
ITINERARY

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. *Basílica 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



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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.