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

How Barcelona Reinvented Itself: From the Olympics to the Smart City

Urban Regeneration. Adaptive Reuse. Lasting Urban Legacy

Format: Walking | **Start:** Plaça Espanya (towers) - *See map*
End: Montjuïc Communications Tower | **Time:** Monday, Nov. 2, 10:00 - 12:00

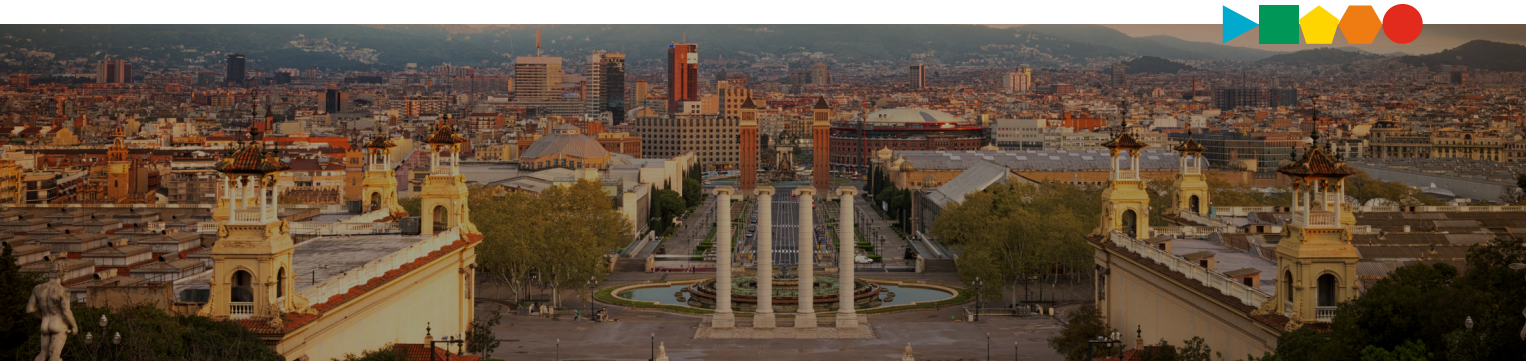
How can cities turn major international events into lasting urban transformation? Barcelona offers one of the world's most compelling examples of **how visionary planning, architecture, and public investment** can reshape a city's future.

This architect-led walking tour explores Montjuïc, where the **1929 International Exposition** and the **1992 Olympic Games** helped redefine Barcelona's urban landscape and international identity. Discover how two landmark events, separated by more than six decades, **catalyzed investments in infrastructure, architecture, cultural facilities, and public spaces** that continue to serve the city today. From Mies van der Rohe's pioneering Barcelona Pavilion and the transformation of a former textile factory into CaixaForum to the Olympic Stadium, Palau Sant Jordi, and Santiago Calatrava's Communications Tower, we will explore how Barcelona has combined architectural innovation, adaptive reuse, and strategic urban planning to **create enduring civic assets**.

Beyond the landmarks, the tour examines the strategies and decisions behind Barcelona's transformation: **how to leverage major events for long-term development**, integrate new infrastructure into existing urban environments, preserve architectural heritage, and create public value beyond the initial investment. We will also consider the **challenges of maintaining and adapting these facilities** as cities' needs evolve.

KEY TOPICS

- Mega-events as catalysts for urban transformation
- Adaptive reuse and sustainable urban development
- Public space, landscape, and urban connectivity
- Planning for lasting urban legacy



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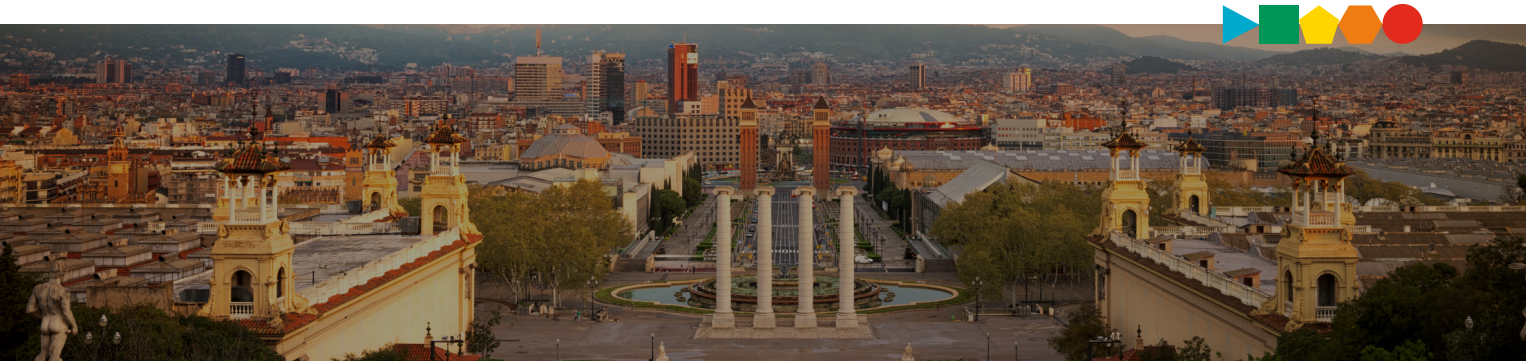
ITINERARY

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



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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.