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FREE GUIDE · BARCELONA

Sagrada Família

Gaudí, Subirachs, Vila-Grau — the 7 must-see stops of the Sagrada Família, explained one by one



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Your visit at a glance

The Sagrada Família isn't just Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece: it's the basilica that has spent more than 140 years rising stone by stone and that in 2026, coinciding with the centenary of the architect's death, finally tops out its colossal tower of Jesus Christ and becomes the tallest church in the world. To step inside is to walk into a forest of stone bathed in coloured light, with two façades that seem to belong to opposite worlds. As every visit hides a thousand details and it's easy to walk straight past what matters, this tour brings together the temple's seven must-see stops —the ones you really can't miss—, with the context to understand why they're brilliant and 1, 2 and 2.5-hour routes so you can choose according to the time you have.

At a glance

PRICE

€26 basic · €36 with towers

HOURS

9am-6pm (until 7-8pm in summer)

STOPS

The 7 must-sees

DISCOUNTS

Under-18s and Barcelona residents

TIME

2-2.5 h for the full visit

METRO

Sagrada Família (L2 and L5)



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With this free guide you already do a great visit: the essentials, with a route. If you want to make the most of it, at the end I'll show you the complete version.

Before you go in: book your skip-the-line ticket

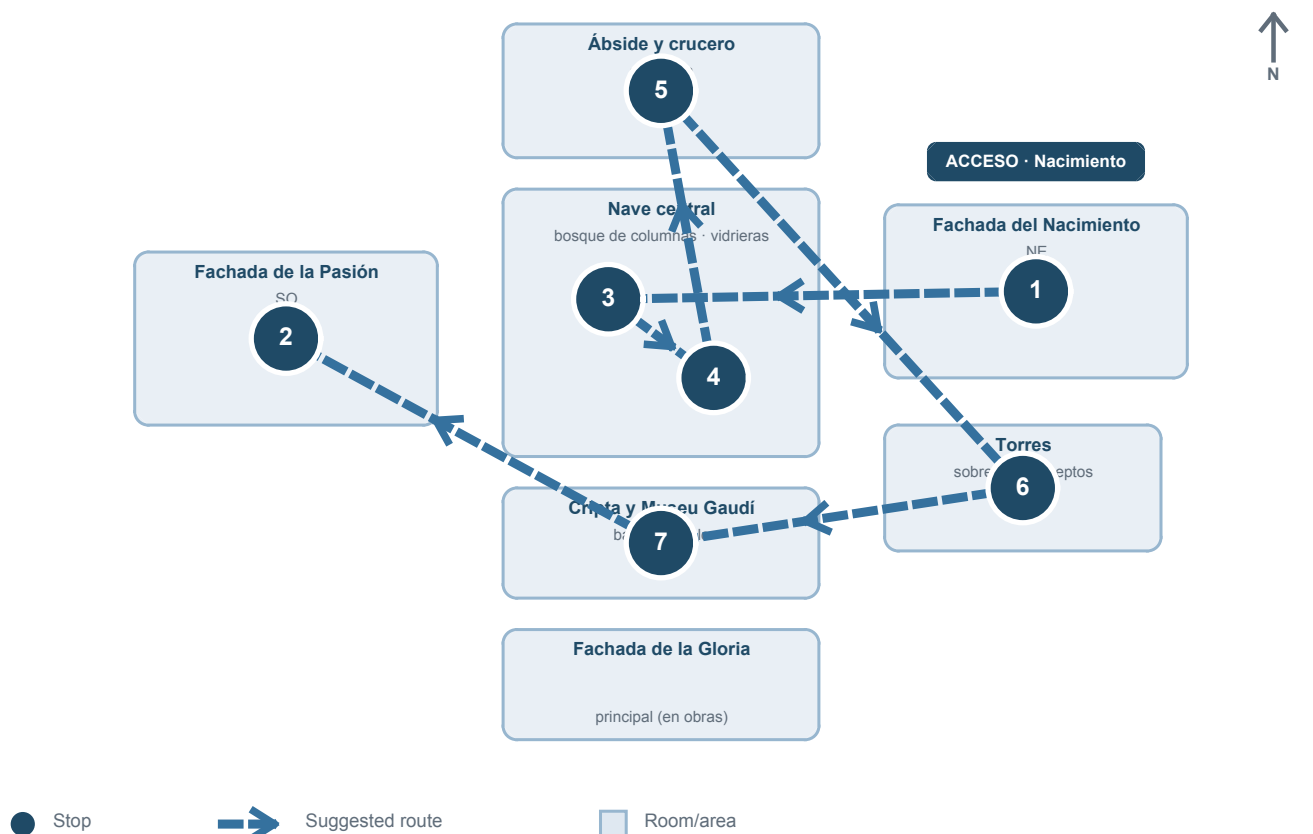
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The map and the route

Start outside: spend a good while at the Nativity Façade (the one facing Carrer de la Marina), the only one Gaudí saw almost finished, and then walk around the temple to the Passion Façade (Carrer de Sardanya), far more austere and angular. Visitors enter through one of these façades depending on your ticket. Once inside, look up at the forest of columns and the vaults, cross the central nave to the apse and let the stained glass soak you in colour (warm in the afternoon on the Passion side, cool in the morning on the Nativity side). If you've booked the towers, go up at your allotted time. Finish by heading down to the Gaudí Museum and the crypt, where the architect rests.

SAGRADA FAMÍLIA · PLANTA DE CRUZ LATINA (ESQUEMA, NO A ESCALA)



Nave larga con transepto: la Fachada del Nacimiento al NE y la de la Pasión al SO forman los brazos; el ábside/cabecera queda al N y la Gloria (principal, en obras) al S. La cripta va bajo el templo. No a escala.

Visiting order: 1 Nativity Façade › 2 Passion Façade › 3 Interior: forest of columns and vaults › 4 Stained glass and the light › 5 Nave and apse › 6 Towers (going up) › 7 Gaudí Museum and crypt

Schematic layout by area; the number shows the visiting order. Not to scale: follow the museum's own floor plans and signs on the day.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

1

The Nativity Façade

Northeast exterior, Carrer de la Marina · 20-25 min

The only façade Gaudí left almost finished: it celebrates the birth of Christ with plants, animals and dozens of figures. The stone seems to melt; it lights up with the morning sun.



The Nativity Façade, the only one finished in Gaudí's lifetime.

Photo: José Luiz · CC BY-SA 3.0 ·
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WHAT TO LOOK AT

At the base of the two columns of the central portal, the stone tortoises that serve as pedestals: one land tortoise (mountain side) and one sea turtle (sea side).

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

Did you know Gaudí deliberately chose which of the three façades to finish first, knowing he would never see the temple completed? In the full guide we tell you his reason and which neighbours from the district (and which animals) ended up carved into the stone.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

3

The interior: the forest of columns and the vaults

Central nave of the temple · 25-30 min

Gaudí wanted a forest: columns that branch out like trees hold up vaults 45 m high. Each column is of a different stone depending on the weight it bears.



The forest of branching columns that holds up the vaults.

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WHAT TO LOOK AT

The point beneath the crossing where the four most robust columns, of red porphyry, hold up the tower of Jesus Christ.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

This forest hides the structural trick with which Gaudí solved the great problem of the Gothic cathedrals, and there's an exact spot in the nave where it can be seen better than anywhere else. In the full guide we tell you which it is and what to look for right beneath the tallest tower.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

4

The stained glass and the light

Side walls of the nave · 15-20 min

Vila-Grau's stained glass floods the temple with colour: cool blues on the Nativity side (in the morning), warm reds on the Passion side (in the afternoon). No two visits are alike.



Vila-Grau's stained glass bathes the interior with coloured light.

Photo: Forbes Johnston from Winchester · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons



WHAT TO LOOK AT

The instant a ray of sun passes through a warm window and casts a patch of colour onto a column.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

This stained glass follows a colour system that is anything but casual, with a precise rule that changes with the height and the time of day. In the full guide we explain how it works and what time to position yourself on each side of the temple to catch the best effects.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

6

The towers (going up)

Nativity or Passion towers · 30-40 min

A climb with a separate time slot (lift up, spiral staircase down): views of Barcelona among pinnacles of Venetian mosaic. Since 2026, the tower of Jesus Christ crowns it.



The pinnacles with Venetian mosaic seen from the towers.

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WHAT TO LOOK AT

The pinnacles topped with clusters of Murano glass fruit, symbols of the seasons and of the gifts of the Spirit.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

The full story of this stop (twice the text), its «ONE FACT» box and all 7 stops of the route, one by one.

Practical tips

Best times

First thing (9:00) there are fewer people and a soft, welcome light. For the stained glass, go mid-morning if you're after the blues on the Nativity side or at sunset for the reds of the Passion: the interior changes completely with the hour.

Buy your ticket in advance

You enter with an assigned day and time, and tickets sell out several days ahead, especially in high season and on long weekends. Get yours online and book your slot to enter through the fast-track access; arrive a few minutes before your time. The tower climb is booked separately, also with a fixed time.

Accessibility and services

The temple is wheelchair accessible and offers an audio guide in several languages, a cloakroom and a shop. The exception is the towers: you go up by lift but come down by a narrow spiral staircase, so they aren't suitable for reduced mobility or for anyone who suffers from claustrophobia.

With children

The 'forest' of columns and the colours of the stained glass hook the little ones. Turn the visit into a game: spotting animals on the Nativity Façade or the magic square on the Passion one. Avoid the towers with very young children.

It's a living temple

Don't forget it's a basilica still in worship: clothing that covers shoulders and knees is expected, and silence inside. And it's still under construction, so it's normal to come across scaffolding or cranes; that's part of visiting a building still being built.

Combine it

Take the chance to see more Gaudí: Park Güell (also book a time slot), Casa Batlló and La Pedrera (Casa Milà) on Passeig de Gràcia. With a couple of days you can complete almost his whole universe.

Practical info

Metro: Sagrada Família, lines L2 (purple) and L5 (blue), exit right by the basilica. Guide price: basic ticket with audio guide from around €26; with tower access, around €36; official guided tour about €30. Under-18s and residents get discounts (in 2026, for the Gaudí centenary, there are reduced fares for people registered as living in Barcelona). Online booking with a set day and time is compulsory; there's no physical ticket office. Guide hours: 9:00 to 18:00 in winter and until 19:00-20:00 in spring and summer; on Sundays it opens later because of worship. Always confirm prices and hours on the official website before you go.

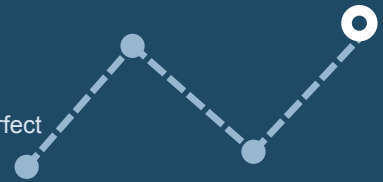
Official website: sagradafamilia.org

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THE COMPLETE VERSION

Take the complete visit

With this free guide you already cover the essentials. The PREMIUM is your complete visit to Sagrada Família: every work with its story, a 3-step looking guide for every painting, the cheat-sheet for your phone and the tips to skip the queues. For less than the price of a coffee.

In the free guide you miss out on:

- 2 The Passion Façade**
Southwest exterior, Carrer de Sardanya · 15-20 min
- 5 The nave and the apse**
Head of the temple, behind the altar · 10-15 min
- 7 The Gaudí Museum and the crypt**
Beneath the temple, next to the apse · 20-25 min

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- ✓ All 7 works (the free guide has only 4), each with its story.
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- ✓ The «Route on one page» cheat-sheet for your phone, plus 1-, 2- and 3-hour routes.
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For comparison: a guided tour costs €30-60 per person. This guide walks you through with the same detail, everyone travelling with you can use it, and it's yours forever.

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» **Check availability and prices**

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