

Beer World: Barcelona

Budget travel king **ADRIAN BELL** continues his mission to show Darlington drinkers that good beer can be enjoyed overseas, in our DD series on short-break destinations.



BARCELONA is a huge city with lots to see. The local beer is Estrella Damm, which is very good.

The famous Ramblas is mostly Irish bars, however **Cafe de l'Opera** stocks Belgian beers. The best places to drink are the small local bars found on every corner. Two worth seeking out are **El Nus** and **La Confiteria**, both of these have been converted from old shops. Details on more bars can be found on my website, www.adrianbell.co.uk. The city also has two brewpubs:

Cervesera Artesana, in the Gracia area, brews English style ales. They brew a blond in summer, a pale ale and a stout in winter. It is done out in the usual modern style with bare brickwork and brewing equipment on show behind a big window. They also have draught Belgian Pauwel Kwak, served in the proper glasses, and for Spain quite a large bottled range.

Vaso de Oro in Barceloneta (pictured) brews a golden lager and a dark lager - bock - which I must admit is rather good. It is a very long, narrow, definitely Spanish place, famous for its vast array of tapas. I would get in early though or you won't get anywhere near the bar, let alone a seat.

DETAILS, DETAILS:

Food...La Ramblas is lined with restaurants but for a daytime bargain try a tapas stall in the Boqueria market. Also lined with restaurants is the street between the Barceloneta metro stop and the beach. For a bargain try carrer de Verdi in the Gracia area, it is lined with cheap cafes.

Sights...include Gaudi's La Pedrera, Casa Batllo, Park Güell and La Sagrada Familia (Cathedral La Seu is better though, in my view). Tibidabo hill has good views, a funfair and a church on top of a church. Also Poble

Espanyol (an open air museum), the FC Barcelona ground, Barceloneta beach, and of course there is La Ramblas and the Barri Gotic to wander around. See barcelona-tourist-guide.com.

Accommodation...Lots of options on www.booking.com. I like the Gracia area, it has a local feel to it. Breakfasts are rarely included with accommodation but there are cafes are on every corner.

Flights...Around £100 but check for bargains: I've got as low as £31. Go from Durham TV to Girona with Ryanair then bus (1hr 10min, 21 euros return). Or Newcastle to Barcelona with Easyjet then by local train: 25min (metro zone 1; 10 rides on the metro for 7.20 euros).

Ancient Unicorn Bowes

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Real Ales, Good Food and Accommodation



Food served daily 12-2pm and 6-9pm.

Families, walkers, cyclists: all welcome!

Real Fire during Winter