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FREE GUIDE · BARCELONA

Park Güell

Gaudí, the Drac, the wavy bench and the views over Barcelona — the 7 must-see stops of Gaudí's garden-city, explained one by one



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Your visit at a glance

Park Güell began life as a luxury housing estate that the businessman Eusebi Güell commissioned from Antoni Gaudí in the early 20th century: an English-style garden city for Barcelona's bourgeoisie. The project was a commercial failure and ended up as a public park, but it left us one of Gaudí's most imaginative ensembles, today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here architecture, colour and nature blend as nowhere else. This tour brings together the park's seven must-see stops—from the dragon staircase to the viewpoint of the three crosses—with the context to understand each one and 1, 1.5 and 3-hour routes depending on the time you have. Note: the Monumental Zone (the postcard part) is ticketed and entered with a booked time slot; the rest of the park is free.

At a glance

PRICE

€22 general · €16 reduced

FREE

The whole park except the Monumental Zone

HOURS

Around 9:30am-7:30pm (seasonal)

TIME

1.5-2 h for the Monumental Zone

STOPS HERE

The 7 must-sees

METRO

Lesseps or Vallcarca (L3)



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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

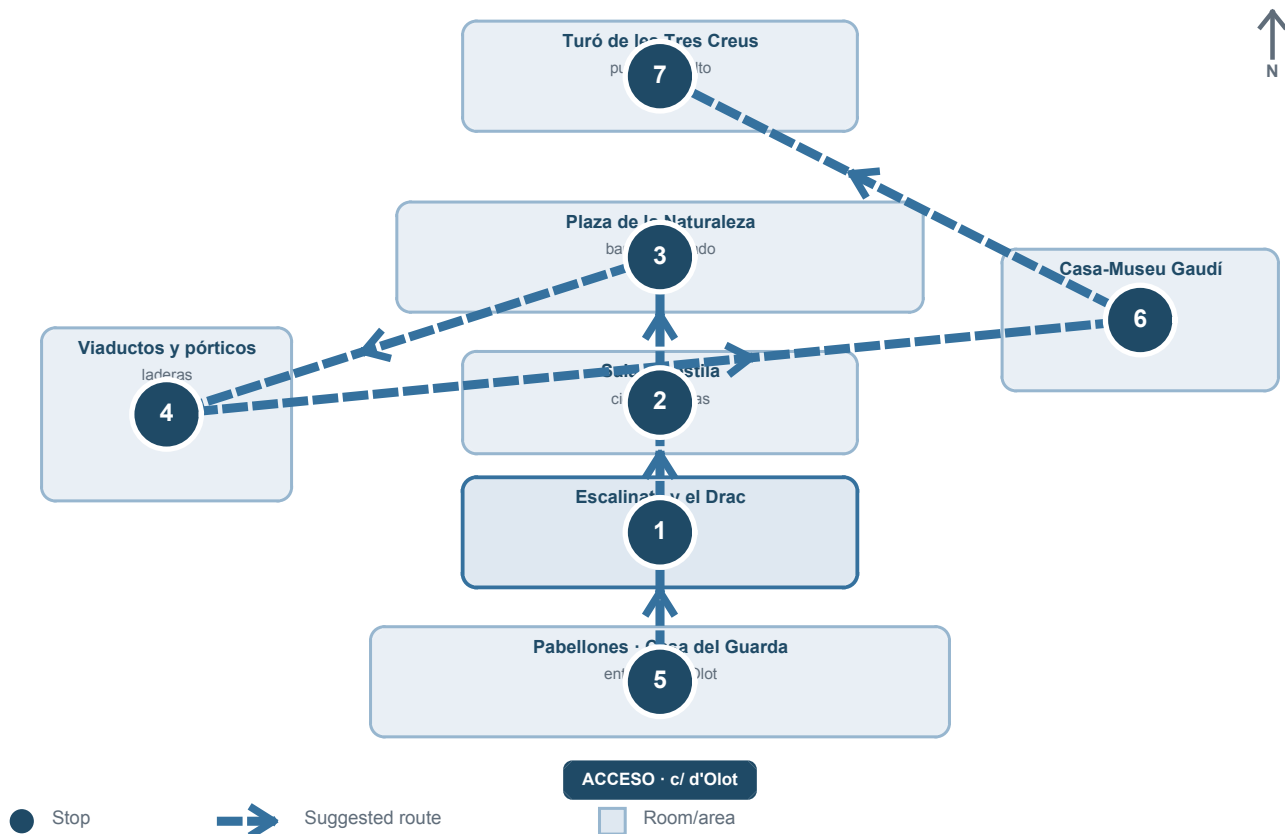
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The map and the route

Start at the main entrance on Carrer d'Olot, between the two fairy-tale pavilions. Climb the dragon staircase, with the famous 'Drac' of trencadís, and step into the Hypostyle Hall, the forest of 86 columns. Above it opens the Nature Square, crowned by the wavy bench with its views over Barcelona. Then lose yourself among the viaducts and porticoes of leaning columns, look in at the Gaudí House Museum and finish by climbing the Turó de les Tres Creus, the best viewpoint. Follow the stop numbers: they run in the most convenient order for making your way around the park.

PARK GÜELL · RECINTO EN LADERA DE SUR A NORTE (ESQUEMA, NO A ESCALA)



Se sube desde la entrada de la calle d'Olot (abajo, sur) por la escalinata del Drac y la Sala Hipóstila hasta la Plaza de la Naturaleza; los viaductos recorren las laderas y el Turó corona el parque. No a escala.

Visiting order: 1 Staircase and the Drac › 2 Hypostyle Hall › 3 Nature Square and wavy bench › 4 Viaducts and porticoes › 5 Pavilions and Warden's House › 6 Gaudí House Museum › 7 Turó de les Tres Creus

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 staircase and the Drac

Monumental staircase (Carrer d'Olot) · 15 min

The grand staircase, split into flights, leads up to the trencadís salamander, 'el Drac', the park's emblem. Beside it, a serpent over the Catalan coat of arms and a fountain. It's the most iconic photo in Barcelona.



El 'Drac', the trencadís salamander that presides over the Park Güell staircase.

Photo: Isiwai · CC BY-SA 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons



STAND FACE ON

Stand face on to the dragon for the photo and then take in the ceramic details of the lower fountains.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

The 'Drac' isn't here just for the photo: it serves a very specific hydraulic function connected to what lies beneath your feet. In the full guide we tell you what it is and what this animal symbolises according to alchemy.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

2

The Hypostyle Hall

Beneath the Nature Square · 15 min

Conceived as the estate's market, this hall of 86 Doric columns holds up the square above. The trencadís medallions on the ceiling are by Jujol. The columns, hollow, drain the rainwater into a cistern.



The Hypostyle Hall and its Doric columns, with Jujol's medallions on the ceiling.

Photo: Jorge Franganillo · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons



LOOK UP

Look up: the mosaic medallions on the ceiling are this hall's hidden gem.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

What are broken plates and cups doing on the ceiling of a 'Greek temple'? In the full guide we tell you the story of Jujol's medallions and what role the staircase dragon plays in this hall's ingenious water system.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

3

The Nature Square and the wavy bench

Above the Hypostyle Hall · 20 min

The great raised square (the former Greek Theatre) offers the classic panorama of Barcelona. Around it runs the wavy trencadís bench designed with Jujol, sinuous and ergonomic, different in every stretch.



The wavy trencadís bench rings the Nature Square, with Barcelona in the distance.

Photo: Andy Mitchell from Glasgow · CC BY-SA 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons



SIT HERE

Sit on the bench: its curve is shaped for the human body. Look for the details and hidden phrases in the mosaic.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

In the bench's trencadís there are hidden phrases and figures that almost everyone walks past: in the full guide we tell you which stretches to look at and why the bench's curve is calculated to the millimetre for your back.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

4

The viaducts and porticoes

Paths beneath the Nature Square · 15 min

Gaudí fitted the paths to the hillside with viaducts and porticoes of leaning stone columns that mimic natural forms. In the Portico of the Washerwoman hides the carved figure of a woman with a basket.



The porticoes of leaning columns seem to sprout from the mountainside.

Photo: Ronny Siegel · CC BY 4.0 ·
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LOOK FOR THIS

Look for 'la Bugadera' (the Washerwoman) carved into a column of the portico; she's one of the park's most beloved figures.

» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE

Why do these viaducts seem to sprout from the mountain rather than sit on top of it? The secret lies in where the stone came from, and we tell you in the full guide along with the trick to spotting the Washerwoman first time.

Practical tips

Best times

Book the first slot in the morning or the last in the afternoon: the Monumental Zone has a capacity limit and timed entry, and at midday it fills up. At sunset, moreover, the light over the city is spectacular.

Buy your ticket in advance

The Monumental Zone has a capacity limit and timed, dated entry; in high season it sells out days ahead. Get it online, pick your slot and arrive a few minutes early to enter with almost no wait. The rest of the park (paths, viewpoints, Turó de les Tres Creus) is free.

What's free

Not all of Park Güell is ticketed: only the Monumental Zone (staircase, Hypostyle Hall, square and wavy bench). The paths, the outer viaducts and the Turó de les Tres Creus viewpoint are free to access. The Warden's House and the Gaudí House Museum have their own separate tickets.

With children

It's an open-air park perfect for little ones: they love the dragon and there's room to walk. Watch out for the slopes and steps if you have a pushchair, and bring water and a hat in summer, as there's little shade.

Accessibility and services

The park has plenty of slopes and steps, but there's an adapted route that avoids the hardest stretches; from Vallcarca metro there are escalators to help with the climb. At the entrance you'll find toilets, an information point and a shop. Bring water and a hat in summer: there's little shade.

Combine it

It's near the Gràcia neighbourhood, perfect for a meal or a drink. And it fits beautifully into a Gaudí route alongside the Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló and La Pedrera.

Practical info

Getting there: on metro L3 (green line), getting off at Lesseps or Vallcarca; from both it's about a 15-20 minute walk uphill (Vallcarca has escalators). The 116 bus also goes up to the entrance. Guide price: general admission to the Monumental Zone is around €22 (reduced around €16 for over-65s and children aged 6 to 17; under-6s free). Book a date and time, as access to the Monumental Zone has a capacity limit. Guide hours: it opens around 9:00-9:30 and closes between 17:30 and 19:30 depending on the season (extended in summer); admission stops one hour before closing. Always confirm prices and hours on the official website before your visit.

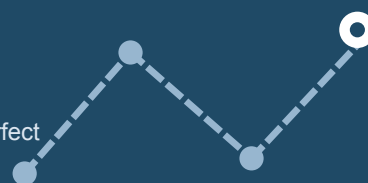
Official website: parkguell.barcelona

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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 Park Güell: 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:

- 5 The Warden's House and the pavilions**
Main entrance (Carrer d'Olot) · 10 min
- 6 The Gaudí House Museum**
Inside the park (separate ticket) · 20 min
- 7 The Turó de les Tres Creus**
The park's highest point · 20 min

PREMIUM Guide · Park Güell

€4.99

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- ✓ All 7 works (the free guide has only 4), each with its story.
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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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