

Catalonia: a healthy country with the best medical facilities

Mediterranean culture

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia. The land of Miró and Dalí. A land with a Mediterranean tradition and an ancient heritage. The Art Nouveau works of Antoni Gaudí and Domènec i Montaner, the monastery in Poblet, the Romanesque churches in the Boí Valley and the whole of Roman Tarragona have all been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Barcelona attracts visitors for its history and art, its Mediterranean character, good food and amazing climate.

The sea

Catalonia is open to the Mediterranean, a seafaring nation. The incomparable coves of the Costa Brava, the long sandy beaches of the Costa Dorada and the urban beaches of the cosmopolitan city of Barcelona are all within easy reach.

Diversity

In Catalonia, everything is close at hand and everything is different. Snow and sea. High mountains and the Mediterranean. Farmhouse and seafood cuisine. The stone villages of the Pyrenees, the white villages on the coast and the modern metropolis of Barcelona. A land of diversity and contrasts: ancient and avant-garde, modern and traditional. And always surprising.

Climate

Catalonia is a land of blue skies, bright sunshine, mild winters and springs bursting with flowers and greenery. Barcelona, in its situation by the sea, enjoys an idyllic climate, almost spring-like throughout the year.

Gastronomy

Catalonia boasts the best chefs in the world, the Adrià brothers, the Roca brothers and Carme Ruscalleda, who together with other great chefs have earned their restaurants a constellation of Michelin stars. You can find everything from traditional Mediterranean cuisine, with best-quality seafood and vegetables, to the most futuristic avant-garde cuisine.

Shopping

In Barcelona shopping is walking. Beyond the big shopping boulevards, where the top brands mix with the best of Catalan Art Nouveau and Gaudí, Barcelona is a city with a commercial tradition, with all sorts of local stores, alternative and avant-garde outlets, and the usual favourite old shops. You can find anything!



Barcelona is an incomparable, historic, up-to-the-minute destination bursting with life, a modern cosmopolitan city offering the best health services



Welcome to
Barcelona Medical Destination

Barcelona Medical Destination

www.barcelonamedicaldestination.com

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Welcome to Barcelona Medical Destination



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia
Catalan Tourist Board

Contributors



What is Barcelona Medical Destination?

An excellent choice for advanced medical care:

Barcelona Medical Destination is a programme run jointly by the Catalan Tourist Board and the Tourist Board of Barcelona, in partnership with the Barcelona Medical Centre and Barcelona Medical Agency associations, which bring together the leading medical centres in Catalonia and, particularly, in Barcelona.

Barcelona Medical Destination

makes a wide range of medical specialties available to its visitors and provides cover for the most demanding international patients.

More than 20,000 patients from all over the world

visit us every year to receive medical treatment or undergo surgery, in any of the specialties and using the most advanced technologies.

A top tourist destination,

secure, well connected and offering the best services and a complex of hospitals and high-quality specialized centres linked to the best research centres in the world.

Our medical specialties

- o Cardiovascular medicine
- o Complex diseases in paediatric patients (0-18 years old)
- o Cosmetic and reconstructive surgery
- o Gastrointestinal surgery and metabolic diseases
- o Gynaecology and reproductive medicine
- o Neurorehabilitation
- o Neuroscience
- o Obstetrics and foetal medicine
- o Oncology and haematology (with radiotherapy)
- o Ophthalmology
- o Otorhinolaryngology
- o Rare diseases
- o Transplants
- o Traumatology and orthopaedics
- o Urology



The best specialists

Barcelona is one of the leading cities in Europe in the field of organ and tissue transplants. Our leading experts advise other countries, such as Germany and France, in advanced practices.

In Barcelona, there are world leaders working in various specialties, among which particular mention could be made of foetal medicine, complex paediatric surgery, oncology, ophthalmology, urology and traumatology. The doctors Eduard Gratacós, José María Caffarena, Antonio de Lacy, Ramon Cugat, Juan Carlos García-Valdecasas, Humberto Villavicencio and Rafael Barraquer are just some of the world authorities working in these fields in Barcelona.

We have so much talent that we export it to some of the most important research teams in the world: Dr Valentí Fuster directs the Institute of Cardiology at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York; Dr Joan Massagué directs the Sloan Kettering Institute in the same city, dedicated to cancer research; and Dr Josep Baselga is chief medical officer at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.



Our partners

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- Neuroscience
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- Transplants
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- Traumatology and orthopaedics
- Cardiovascular medicine (paediatric)

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- Traumatology and orthopaedics

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- Cosmetic and reconstructive surgery
- Neuroscience

Some important milestones

- o First complete kidney transplant through the vagina in the world.
- o Application for the first time in Spain of intraoperative radiation therapy for breast cancer, 2014.
- o Pioneers in the use of minimally invasive techniques in gastrointestinal surgery and metabolic diseases, robotic surgery and NOTES.
- o Implantation for the first time in Europe of the Argus II artificial sight chip in a deaf and blind patient with Usher syndrome, 2015.
- o First orthopaedics and traumatology operation using the SuperPath micro-posterior approach, a minimally invasive surgical technique, 2012.
- o Foetal surgery at 21 weeks of age to save the life of a child with congenital high airway obstruction syndrome.
- o Implantation for the first time in Spain of a neurostimulator in a patient with Parkinson's.
- o Exclusive leaders in bloodless heart surgery, Ross procedure, new sutureless vascular prostheses, and ultra-fast track recovery (extubation in the operating theatre).
- o Implantation of Argus II device for the first time in Spain in a patient affected by retinitis pigmentosa, 2014.
- o Birth of first child using oocyte vitrification in a case of fertility preservation in ovarian cancer, 2012.
- o First paediatric cardiac surgery in a child suffering from complex congenital heart defect caused by hypoplastic left heart syndrome, by means of the Norwood procedure in neonatal period, 2012.
- o Barcelona hosts the only European centre that administers a drug providing very encouraging results in the treatment of high-risk neuroblastoma.
- o Gazelab: internationally patented technology to measure strabismus and ocular disorders in neurological and psychiatric diseases.

Barcelona, research and advanced technology centre

A fine tradition

Catalonia and its capital Barcelona have a long medical tradition. The Faculty of Medicine in Barcelona has trained some of the most important doctors of the 20th century, such as Dr Josep Trueta, who developed a life-saving method for treating traumatic injuries, and Dr Ignasi Barraquer, who revolutionized cataract surgery techniques.

A top-quality network

The WHO and independent rankings list the health system of Catalonia as one of the best in the world, thanks to its highly qualified medical personnel, the widespread use of advanced technologies and strict control procedures.

Achievements

- o Survival rates in more complex operations in hospitals in Catalonia (transplants, vascular surgery in children, etc.) are among the highest in the world.
- o The use of more advanced techniques reduces the time of hospitalization, which in the case of acute patients is between five and seven days on average. Some 70% of surgical procedures are performed on an outpatient basis.
- o The clinics in Barcelona record an extremely low number of post-operative complications and infections.

The commitment to research

Barcelona Biomedical Research Park, with laboratories equipped with the most advanced, innovative technologies, counts on science talents from the best centres in Europe and the United States who produce science of excellence in a variety of medical and health fields. It currently employs over 1,400 researchers from more than 40 countries.