

SuiteLife Barcelona Presents



The Barcelona Bible:

The 25 Best Spots to Take a 1st Date in BCN

"The second edition of The Barcelona Bible is a highlight list of the best places in Barcelona to take a 1st date. Each suggestion comes from the SuiteLife Team's (& our friend's & fan's) decade of experience in the BCN dating world. Enjoy the read!"

- Ben Mouckley, MBA (EADA Alumni), Managing Director, SuiteLife Barcelona

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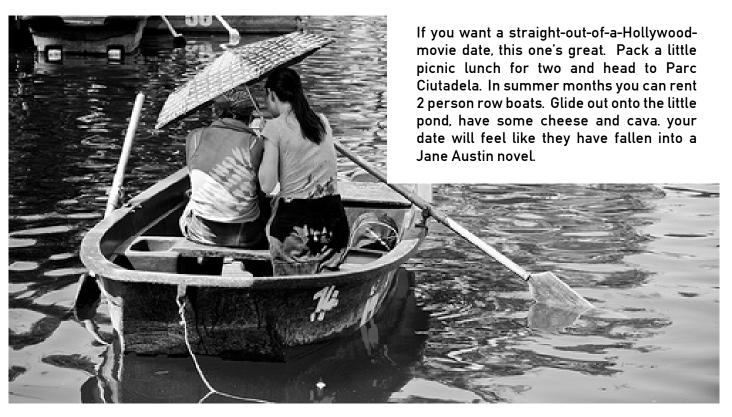
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1. Row Boat & Picnic in Ciutadela



2. Coffee in Casa Fuster

Having a coffee and dessert in the cafe in the bottom of the Hotel Casa Fuster is a perfect first date. This is a good one if you don't know the person too well and you're looking for a quiet nice atmosphere where you can really talk and get to know each other. This is the hotel that Woody Allen insists on staying at whenever he visits BCN. The cafe is expensive but a coffee and desert won't break the bank. Plus it's worth it for the beautiful elegant atmosphere with comfortable oversize Alice-in-Wonderland-style cozy couches.









3. La Fianna & Trying to Find La Fianna

This is one of our favourite first date spots in BCN. Why? #1 The atmosphere is sublime. Low lighting, chill music, cozy cushions and pillow-covered platforms where you can kick off your shoes and curl up for an intimate convo and a great cocktail. #2 If you know BCN well or do a little research on Google maps La Fianna is easy to get to, but as the two of you navigate the tiny winding Borne streets you'll get the impression that you're a real BCN insider and that you showed them something of a diamond in the rough. You'll definitely impress the pants off your date (innuendo intended!).

4. A Casa Portuguesa for Cakes & Pastries

A Casa Portuguesa is a funny little place. A cross between a bakery, a cafe, a vinoteca, a specialty food shop, and a tapas bar; A place where they constantly have art exhibitions, live music, and courses; A Casa Portuguesa is a hard place to define. What is very clear though is it has some of the most delicious cakes and pastries around (we highly suggest the chocolate cake and/or the coffee cake) and that their Portuguese wines are not to be missed. Combine that with a friendly comfy atmosphere and its excellent location (right on C/ Verdi 58, take a stroll down Gracia's most quaint street afterwards and walk off all that cake!) and we have a winner folks. Your date will be eating the Portuguese pastries out of the palm of your hand.



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5. Les Gens que J'Aime Bar: A Paris Barcelona Classic

Les Gens que J'Aime Bar has been described as "incurably romantic" and we agree 100%. When you hunch through the small front door and come down the steps you'll feel as if you've just stepped into a seedy underground Paris hot spot that only the cool kids know about. When your eyes adjust to the thick haze of cigarette smoke you'll notice how intimate and private this place is for a first date. With huge antique red velvet sofas, the mostly candlelit venue is a place where you can impress your date and enjoy the perfect atmosphere to drink some wine and whisper sweet nothings to each other. Also try out their resident Tarot card reader to adds the perfect little conversation boost to your date. (C/ Valencia 286)



6. Gótico's Secret Garden: Bar Jardin



If you can actually find this place you might really impress your date (and yourself!). Bar Jardin is a little known secret gem of a place that's hidden in the Gótico. It's located on the roof of a building with a jungle-like atmosphere. The entrance is tricky to find. Look for an alternative clothing store called El Mercadillo. Enter the store and walk to the very back where you will find an unmarked staircase leading up to the open air bar. The razzle-dazzle of this place is really it's location and atmosphere although they do have a decent beer selection and tapas. If your date likes to partake in the smoking of joints then all the better because you'll find most of the patrons enjoying a relaxing smoke. (C/ Portaferrissa 17)





7. Sing Your Heart Out @ Antikaraoke!

Certainly an odd choice for a first date. With the blaring music, drunk singers, and rowdy debaucherous Monday night crowd it might be hard to ask the typical "so what do you do? / how long have you been in BCN? / what's your favourite colour" first date type questions. But those questions are pretty lame anyways. Take your date to the coolest Karaoke party in the city, where partying and singing meld sublimely together. If you have a good voice, all the better. Singers are backed by a real live band and the music selections are for music lovers, focusing not on typical pop trash karaoke fare, but real rock and roll classics. Take your first date here and at the very least they'll be intrigued to know that you're not the typical boring first date cookie cutter kinda person. (Nou de la Rambla, 111)



8. Café Salambo and Then an Ice Cream

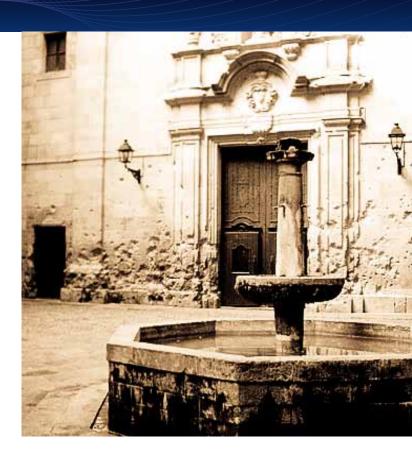
OK, this one is tried and tested. I took the love of my life here for a date 5 years ago (I'd like to think my success had something to do with me, and the uber cool pink shirt I was wearing, but the location definitely helped!). Café Salambo (C/ Torrijos, 51) is a famous Gracia restaurant with great food, excellent selection of teas (try the Taj Mahal), and an even better atmosphere. It's a meeting point for intellectuals and the perfect place to take a first date. During the warm weather months I suggest sitting outside on the patio and watching the passers by. After, take a stroll down the street to Plaza Revolución. Buy your date an ice cream at the famous Gelateria Italiana (Plaza de la revolución, 2), take their hand in yours, and go for a leisurely stroll through the barrio.





9. Placa San Felip Neri: The Mysterious Little Square

It is a little square stuck in the center of the Gótico, between the façade of a church and antique buildings reaching for the skies. The sun usually bathes the circular fountain that gurgles in the center of the plaza where lovers can sit and enjoy the artists who play music there. You also can sit with your beloved, one on one, on the lounge chairs at the café in the corner. Or go to the traditional soap factory that faces the church, enjoy the display of incredible colours and make your date guess which fragrance each soap emits. Check out our post on Placa San Felip Neri from our last ebook "The Barcelona Bible: The 10 Commandments" if you want to impress your date with some historical knowledge.



10. Martini Dry for Custom Cocktails



If your date likes cocktails, history and old gangster movies, bring them to Martini Dry in the fancy Eixample (c/ Aribau con Corsega). There is something about this bar that takes you back in time to the 19th Century or the beginning of the 20th. The cozy leather arm chairs, sofas and little round tables seem to come right out of that Golden Age. Decorated almost completely in greens and dark browns, you slide softly from one Century to the other, wondering what kind of English gentlemen's club shenanigans or Mafioso meetings these walls have witnessed. There's a drinks menu, but the best thing to do is to let yourself be surprised by the waiters, dressed head to toe in white, who will never disappoint you. Describe

what kind of taste you'd fancy (Fresh? Sweet? Sour? Creamy? Fruity?) and the drink scientists behind the bar will give you the perfect mix for the night! Ask for Gregorio, he nails it every time...







11. El Bosque de las Fadas for an Enchanted Evening

You must bring a date to this spectacularly enchanted forest in the middle of the city. Walking down the hectic Las Ramblas, nobody would expect that at the very end of it, near

the port, in a little street on the left called Pasatge de la Banca, There is a secret fairy house full of trees, gurgling water fountains and small pixie-esque lights. The fairy grove is at the very back of the café. Experience the amazing sensation of sitting in the chilly, intimate and shadowy light on one of the dwarf's wooden chairs, as if you had just been invited by Oberon to dine at his place. If your date is a non-smoker, El Bosque is the spot: it is one of the rare places in Barcelona that has banned cigarettes! So many things can happen next to the fire place or under the moon behind the water fall ...







The Horta Labyrinth is one of the oldest gardens in Barcelona and also one of the most delicate. Entering this park is like getting lost in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Located up in the mountains overlooking Barcelona and the sapphire blue sea, el Labirinto de Horta was built on three platforms at the beginning of the 19th Century by three masters: French, Italian and Catalan. No wonder the garden is so delicate and fresh. It contains many hidden treasures, fountains, doors, unsteady old stairs and charming little ponds where arum lilies grow. The labyrinth lies on the right after the entrance, surrounded by stairs leading to the main house. Legend has that if you and your hunny bunny enter the labyrinth at its opposite ends, and end up finding its centre at the same time, then the couple will forever be protected by the god of Eros, whose statue sits perched in the middle of the giant shrub-bed maze. However, if by the time you get to the labyrinth and your date isn't going so hot, this is also the perfect place to take 'the French leave'...







Who wants to discover the tales of Arabian Nights in the smoke of a shisha, gently swirling out of your date's parted lips? Ok, Sikkim doesn't serve hooka but it can offer you a perfect dinner in the intimate atmosphere of a little table illuminated by candles and covered with rose petals. Try their amazing starters and meat-based courses and let your taste buds transport you and your beloved to a magical flying carpet taking off into the infinite night sky. Afterwards, you can go to Parc de la Ciutadella and enjoy the stars or wander hand in hand around el Borne. If you really want a hooka, you could even go to a side street (C/ San Pere Mes Alt) and find the Oriental restaurant hidden there. Who knows? Maybe the spirit of Shehrazad will inspire you until the end of the night.



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14. Mirabe for Breathtaking BCN Views





already a shared adventure. If your date is fond of sports, go on foot! If the lady fancies high heels for an elegant night though, take a cab or your own car or moto. Observe your date as she discovers the splendid views overlooking all of Barcelona and make sure to point out all the landmarks to her. I bet the flickering lights of BCN and the reflections bouncing off the sea will take her breath away. Mirabe, aka The Balcony of Barcelona, is perfect for a lovely dinner or just a drink, outside or inside facing the huge floor-to-ceiling windows. The garden and terrace are at your disposal. Service is impeccable and you will certainly share an incredible and romantic moment with your new friend. (C/ Manuel Arnús, 2)





15. Observatori Fabra: Eating with the Stars



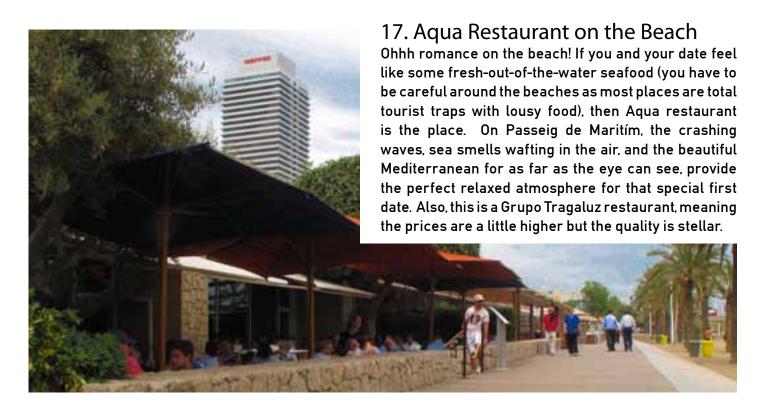
16. Granja la Pallaresa for Some Mmm Mmm Churros



Right in the romantic heart of the old city in El Borne, and just off Las Ramblas, you will find La Granja la Pallaresa. Now, if your date likes chocolate (and let's face it, most people do, so this is a good bet), take them here for the perfect combination of old Barcelona world charm and their most famous delight Churros con Chocolate (Churros are heavily sugared finger-shaped pastries that you dip in very thick hot chocolate). On weekends you need to arrive early as this place fills up quickly! (C/Petritxol 11)







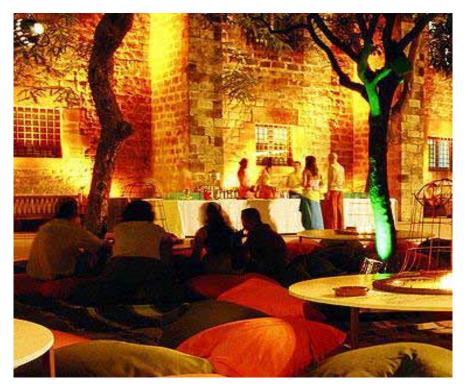
18. Sal Café for Seaside Eating & a Boardwalk Stroll

As we live in a beach-crazed city, how could we only list one seaside restaurant?! If seafood's not your cup of teatry the always excellent Sal Cafe. Their cuisine is mostly world fusion, combining plates inspired from Asia, Brasil, and Bali. Something a little different, which is nice for that first date. Tasty and well-priced cocktails too. We suggest the mojitos. Chill at the beach and mosey on down the boardwalk after so you can have that 'Hollywood moment'. (Passeig Marítim)









19. Spiritual Café for a Bohemian Summer Night

Into delicious cocktails, shisha, incense, spiritual music, massages, belly dancers, tea, tarot cards, lounging on enormous pillows on the ground and eating some first class vegetarian dishes? This, and so much more awaits you at Spiritual Cafe, next to the Maritime Museum, by the Drassanes metro. Unique doesn't even describe this place. It has to be one of the best places to take your first date on a midsummers night evening. It opens this May, so if you don't have a date yet, you better get moving! (Avinguda Drassanes)

20. L'antic Bocoi del Gotic for an Authentic Catalán Night

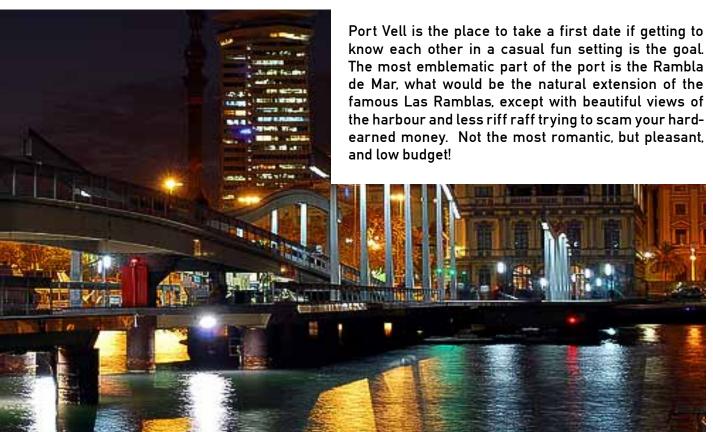
Maybe you've been trying to date a Catalán person recently? Or someone really interested in authentic Catalán food? Well, L'antic Bocoi de Gotic is considered one of the best in the city. This restaurant has been around from the beginning and you get the impression that time has stood still when you walk through it's doors. Lots of very fresh Catalán dishes and deserts to die for. Share one of their famous 'coques de recapte' with your date and enjoy the environment. All this in a very "The Princess Bride"/Medieval torture chamber-ish setting. (Baixada de Viladecols, 3)







21. Port Vell: Walking and seeing the boats





22. CCCB: Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona

The CCCB is a perfect place to take a first date for oh so many reasons. People in Barcelona think that the Raval is a very dangerous neighbourhood (pssst! It's not!) so maybe you can play that up and have your date think you are a brave and chivalrous soul. The other angle, of course, is that the CCCB is an eclectic plethora of some of the coolest art around. Some things you'll find there throughout the year: new and old architectural master pieces, they yearly held World Photo Press Exhibition, and over 15,000 m2 of all kinds of contemporary arts! So read up as much as possible online before you go and you'll have some wicked smart conversational pieces! (C/ Montalegre 5)







23. Caj Chai: Teahouse in Gótico.

The Caj Chai Teahouse is a great thinking-outside-the-box idea for a date and is a short walk from the CCCB so you can link the two together. The atmosphere here is cozy and very intimate. If your date doesn't hate tea, then you have something to work with here. The owners of the Caj Chai are fanatic tea connoisseurs and offer between 75 - 100 different teas from the far stretches of the globe. With so many teas to choose from, you have an immediate opening to lively conversation. The wafting aroma when you enter is tasty and welcoming and will relax any first date nerves you might have. Entering from the lively Gótico, the inside of the teahouse seems like a literally different world. The Caj Chai is very active on facebook, so become a fan and you'll get all sorts of info on their newly-arrived teas and special events. They do regular tea tastings, which is also a suave move for a first date. (c/sant domenec del call, 12)





24. Magic Fountain Madness

What could be more romantic than bringing your date up to a mountain with a bigger-than-life palace and a magic fountain with dozens of costumed nymphs prancing and frolicking in the spouting water? (OK, that last little part isn't exactly true). In 1922 Carles Buigas designed the illuminated fountain. Over 3,000 workers were commissioned to work on it. Less than a year later, the magic fountain was born (<— Good info for impressing your date). In the 1980's, music was incorporated into the show, and the fountain was renovated for the 1992 Olympics. The Magic Fountain performances include film, classical, and modern music, such as The Godfather, The Lord of the Rings, Gladiator, a Spanish zarzuela movement, and "Barcelona" by Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballé.

The light and music performances takes place from October to April, always Fridays and Saturdays every half-hour between 7:00 and 8:30pm, and from May to September, Thursday to Sunday every half-hour between 9:00 and 11:00pm. Around 2.5 million people attend the different shows at the Magic Fountain every year and the best way to get to it is to take the line 1, 2 or 8 to Metro station Placa España.







25. Pueblo Español in Montjuic for a Miniature Tour of Spain



Built in 1929 for the Barcelona International Exhibition, the Pueblo Español (or Spanish village) brings together some actually quite attractive traditional architecture from all over Spain. There you will find craft and souvenir shops or other delights such as storytellers, street performers, puppets. It's an amazing venue for a concert, and especially bringing a date to a concert.

Additionally, the village provides an open-air Sculpture Garden and the collection of modern art in the Fran Daurel Foundation which can be an interesting to see with a first date. It's also nice to just stroll through the little street hand in hand and see some of the 117 buildings, streets and squares which present a variety of typical Spanish architecture.

Even though Pueblo Español is a very popular tourist attraction, especially during the summer period, you will always find a little romantic place in a little street to take your date and have a nice relaxing chat. Also you can visit one of the many little tapas bars and restaurants and rest your feet and have a refreshing cerveza and a little romantic bite to eat.







Thanks so much for reading the 2nd version of The Barcelona Bible. We love to know that we are helping people with some great info to catch their crush! There will be many more FREE Ebooks coming soon so stay tuned!

Also, if you have any constructive feedback we've love to hear from you. You can shoot us a mail at Info@SuiteLife.es

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A HUGE thanks to all of our good friends (you know who you are!), and to all our social media friends and fans, who contributed with their wonderful ideas and suggestions. We really appreciate it!

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