

If you are staying in Barcelona this weekend...

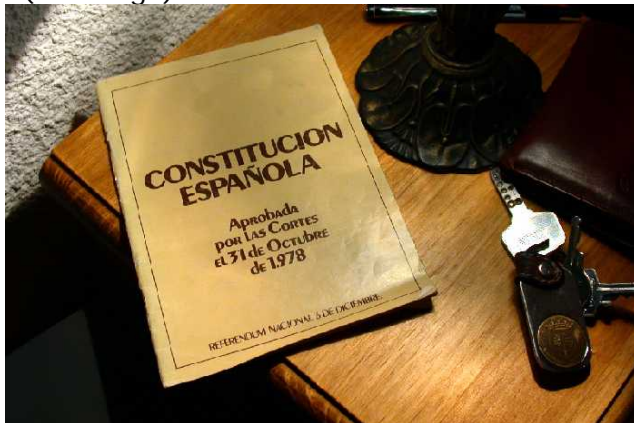
... there are several activities you can enjoy. Here are some of them.



If you wonder what is happening this week...

This week's holidays: La Inmaculada Concepción y La Constitución

On December 6th we celebrate the anniversary of our last democratic **Constitution**: It was the confirmation of the return of democracy to Spain. On December 8th we have a religious celebration: The **Inmaculada Concepción**. Anyway, since these two days are almost one after the other, many people leave to have a long weekend, a *punte* (lit. bridge).



The Inmaculate Conception, by El Greco

Please note: Although it is a bank holiday, **most shops will be open on December 6th and 8th.**

If you like FREE Art

MNAC (Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya)

Some museums are free during specific times of the first week of every month. This week, you can still visit one of them for free: The MNAC, at Montjuïc. It is inside the main Montjuïc Palace, on the top of the hill behind the fountains.



When: On Thursday December 7th.

If you like photography

World Press Photo Exhibition

Every year, the best photos from freelance journalists, agencies and newspapers all over the world are chosen to compete in the World Press Photo competition. The exhibition, on at the CCCB, shows some of the pictures that have had most impact on public opinion, and they cover recent history.



When: Up until December 17th

Where: Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), next to the MACBA.
Address: Montalegre, 5

Price: Free.

Christmas Traditional Fair

Fira de Santa Llúcia (*Santa Lucía*)

This week you can visit the traditional Santa Llúcia Christmas Fair. This year, this 200-year-old Fair has set up shop in front of the Barcelona Cathedral with over 300 stalls offering decorative green, figurines of shepherds, the Magi and other Biblical characters present at the birth of Jesus used mainly in nativity scenes. Every year the fair receives throngs of shoppers in search of traditional Christmas items to decorate their homes. Other parts of the city, including Sagrada Família and Les Corts, also have their own Christmas fairs.

What is the "Belén"?

The official **Barcelona City Belén** (Nativity Scene) has already been set up on **Pl. Sant Jaume**, behind the Cathedral. This year, it is quiet large: 160 square metres. You can have a look at it. The Nativity scene, an artificial representation of the mystery of Christmas, took shape in private Spanish homes long ago, but its enormous popularity endured so that, even today, it remains one of the most vibrant elements in our popular art. The shepherd boy, the Magi, **the Catalan *caganer*** and other figures placed on bits of moss and cork in a corner of the dining room, give the illusion of a happy world and add a bit of nature to our homes.

What is the "caganer"?

The *Belén* is done all around Spain. However, one of its characters is unique to Cataluña: **The *caganer***. It's probably the most popular one, too. We can define the *caganer* as an element of popular imagery which represents an individual, squatting with buttocks exposed, satisfying his physiological needs in the open air. He also has been called *the shitter*, or *the defecating man*. It is customary for children, when contemplating the scene, to ask, "Where is the *caganer*?", then entertain themselves by looking for him. More and more people (even foreigners) collect these special figures, some of which impersonate famous people, such as politicians or sport stars.

When: From December 1st 10 am - 10pm

Where: Around and in front of the Cathedral. The Belén is to be found on Pl. Sant Jaume, behind the Cathedral.

More info: About the funny and traditional caganer: www.caganer.com or <http://www.amicsdelcaganer.org/>



Typical *caganers*.



The Ronaldinho *caganer*



A traditional stall

To say goodbye to the city and friends

IES Farewell Cocktail

As you know, next week we have the IES Farewell Cocktail. A unique occasion for you to say goodbye to everybody here. Don't miss it!

When: Up until December 17th

Where: At the Duques de Bergara Hotel, at C/Bergara 11

IMPORTANT: The **deadline** to sign up for it is **next Monday**. REMEMBER: Just write your name on the list you will find on the first floor of IES1, on the front desk.



Picture of the hotel

PLEASE NOTE:

For more ideas and information, you can buy the **Guía del Ocio** every week. There is a new issue every Friday -the day when the film directory changes-, and the price is only 1€. You'll find it at any news stand.

*To find a specific address, go to the city's official website (www.bcn.es) and use the streetfinder. You will find it on the home site.

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