

# BARCELONA

## Guapo Niños

*'CUTE KIDS'*

The European city of Barcelona is not only a haven of history and culture – it's the perfect family-friendly holiday destination.

By Kate Morgan.



The Sagrada Família, Antoni Gaudí's unfinished masterpiece, is one of Barcelona's most popular tourist attractions.

**Straight from** the pages of a whimsical fairytale or a child's vivid imagination, Barcelona is full of colour, character, flair, art and surrealism all stirred into a Mediterranean seaside setting and bursting with energy. Street performers entertain day and night, and you might be lucky enough to catch a lively festival where flamenco dancers parade down boulevards alongside fire twirlers and other entertaining mayhem. Team that with activities and sights built for children and you've got the perfect playground for a kid's travel adventure.

Barcelona is also one of the world's design capitals and there is no shortage of boutique stores with beautiful pieces created with young ones in mind. You're guaranteed to find some cool unique Español threads for the kids to bring home. →



PHOTOGRAPHY: ISTOCK

The magical skyline of colourful Barcelona.

### Kids' Retail Therapy

The winding streets of Barcelona are lined with local designers, flagship design stores and boutiques – this is a city made for retail therapy. For children, you will find the popular, and more affordable, Zara Kids, as well as a bunch of individual brand stores like the gorgeous Normandie and Nobodinoz. Here are some of our favourite haunts for an indulgent shop for your little ones.



**ABOVE AND LEFT:** Custo Barcelona offers very cool clothing for big and little kids alike.



The very chic Muna store is housed in an 18th century building only metres away from the Picasso museum.

**MUNA** Arabic for 'desires' or 'wishes', Muna is worthwhile visiting simply for the loving presentation and careful design of the store, with wooden furniture created by the owner, Maria José, displaying collections. Set in a small street in the bohemian Born area, this boutique stocks gorgeous brands like Finger in the Nose, Lily & the Funky Boys, and Bees & Tees catering for babies up to eight years old.  
Online: [munakids.com](http://munakids.com)  
Address: Carrer Flassaders, 34

**NOBODINOZ** This design store showcases some of the coolest clothing, homewares, toys and accessories on the planet, and just gets hipper by the moment. You'll find vintage children's furniture, hand-knitted sweaters, modern lighting and the latest fashion brands for kids. The emphasis here is on art and there is an art gallery with occasional exhibitions aimed at the young clientele.  
Online: [nobodinoz.com](http://nobodinoz.com)  
Address: branches at Carrer Sèneca, 9 or Carrer Mestre Nicolau, 8

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF ISTOCK; MUNA; CUSTO BARCELONA; CORBIS

**NANOS** If it's elegant and stylish you're after, then pop into the oh-so-posh Nanos store where kids will feel like million-dollar babies. Clothes are classic, luxurious and timeless; think round-collared shirts, plush velvet blazers, tartan scarves, knee-high socks and patterned knitted jumpers in pastels and natural fabrics.  
Online: [nanos.es](http://nanos.es)  
Address: branches at Carrer Mestre Nicolau, 17, or Provença 268 (esq. Rambla de Catalunya)

**CUSTO BARCELONA** It's all about lively vibrant colours, the power of prints and fantastical garments in Custo Barcelona's line of children's clothing and accessories, Custo Growing. The famous Catalan brand embodies fun and its designs are always innovative, sophisticated and bold. Catering for babies and children up to 14 years old, stores are scattered around Barcelona or you can head online to the e-shop.  
Online: [custo-barcelona.com](http://custo-barcelona.com)  
Address: branch at Plaça del Pi, 2 →



The mystique of an old-school toy store.



Hit the streets with the family and enjoy the endless attractions around every corner.

### Out On The Town

Child-friendly activities and sights are dished up all over Barcelona and the bonus is a lot of it is free or inexpensive, so the only trouble you'll have is finding the time to fit it all in. As well as attractions and sights, the city boasts a number of parks, gardens and beaches providing the perfect areas to run around, swim, get active and release some energy. Whether it's a day at the beach, museum-hopping or taking a thrilling cable car ride, Barcelona has it covered. Here are our top picks.

#### MUSEU DE LA XOCOLATA

Chocolate lovers and sweet tooths (and it's fair to say that's most kids!) will want to put Museu de la Xocolata on the top of their itinerary. The museum is housed in the former Convent de Sant Agustí, and traces the origin of chocolate and its arrival in Europe. It also shows the manufacturing of chocolate from the cocoa bean up to industrial production processes. The temptation builds the whole way around with scale models made of chocolate and the aroma wafting over you. Fix your cravings by taking part in chocolate-making and tasting sessions or stock up on chocolate goods on your way out.  
Online: [patisseria.com](http://patisseria.com)  
Address: Calle de Comerç, 36

#### L'AQUARIUM

Sharks glide overhead with piercing eyes watching you and pointy chompers just inches away behind glass in the 80m shark tunnel – it's the highlight of L'Aquarium. One of Europe's largest aquariums, it houses an impressive series of 35 tanks, six million litres of water and 1100 animals from all over the globe from the Great Barrier Reef to the Red Sea. The spectacular Oceanarium, the only one of its kind in Europe, is where you'll find diverse species such as moray eels, ocean sunfish, sand tiger shark and sandbar shark.  
Online: [aquariumbcn.com](http://aquariumbcn.com)  
Address: Moll d'Espanya del Port Vell

#### MONTJUÏC CABLE CARS

For brave kids (and parents) who don't mind heights, Barcelona has a couple of impressive cable car rides offering fantastic city views. The cross-harbour ride, El Transbordador Aeri del Port, takes you from the port area of Barcelona across the water to Montjuïc. Along the way you'll spot the iconic sights of Sagrada Família, La Ramblas and Torre Agbar. This connects with the Teleférico de Montjuïc, which then takes you up to the Montjuïc castle and green gardens of Montjuïc. It's a great chill-out spot to escape the urban madness below.

### Eating Out

It's no secret that Barcelona has some of the best food in the world. Beautiful architecture, beaches and art aside, the food alone is reason enough to visit this city. From fine dining to street food, you won't have any problems filling hungry tummies here. Some restaurants cater for babies and children better than others, but the beauty of the culture in this city is that children are included in most adult activities. So staying up late and joining parents at a swanky bar/restaurant is the norm. Try some of our favourite hotspots aimed at families.

#### ORGANIC

This family-run vegetarian restaurant is a good choice for a pit stop to refuel after pounding the Barcelona pavement. Choose from a range of basic healthy pizzas, pastas and stir-fries or stock up your plate at the bulging salad bar. Communal tables and a bright airy room create a welcoming atmosphere. There's even a local masseuse so you can finish off your lunch with a relaxing massage. You'll find it just behind the Boqueria Market near La Ramblas.  
Online: [antoniaorganickitchen.com](http://antoniaorganickitchen.com)  
Address: Carrer de la Junta de Comerç, 11

#### KODOMOO

This great little sushi and oriental tapas restaurant is just perfect for children of all ages (Kodomoo is Japanese for child). At 1pm on Saturdays, a space is cleared out in the back room and free babysitters take care of the young ones with games and activities. There's a huge space to park all your day luggage, prams etc. and the whole place just oozes a young, relaxed, carefree vibe. As a bonus, the food is fresh, healthy and fantastic!  
Online: [doblezero.com](http://doblezero.com)  
Address: Carrer de Jaume Giralt, 53

