Information:

-**WATCH YOUR STUFF**. There are pickpockets everywhere and it's not the people you expect. I didn’t have anything pick pocketed in Barcelona but my phone was stolen in a night club in Madrid and my friends had stuff stolen before. Have a going out bag with a zipper and really any bag you carry needs a zipper.

-**people** speak Catalan and Spanish here. Few people speak English but the ones you interact with will since most touristy areas have English speakers. They are super friendly and willing to help you with directions and information. Best way to practice your Spanish is by talking with the taxi drivers and locals especially when you are drunk since you become more confident. Many taxi drivers have great stories and ask about your lives as well!

-**metro** closes at midnight during the week, 2am on Friday and runs all night Saturday. Also totally safe they're will be a ton of young people on it in the middle of the night. It opens back up at 5. Yes you might still be out til when it opens again. There are some fun/interesting characters on the metro so enjoy their music and stories

-the **FGC** (basically the metro but owned by different company) has different hours so just double check everything when you are there

**-Phones:** I had a separate Spanish phone that I would just always top up (add more euros to as I needed) which can be done at ATM machines and such and then had my iPhone for wifi. People also brought unlocked phones and got Spanish SIM cards. Remember that whatever phone you choose to use you will be taking out with you. Basically I carried two phones but most people figure it out when they get there.

-**Spanish Etiquette** – there’s no tipping because the service is usually slow. You only tip when the service is okay or you go to the same place frequently. When in doubt, don’t tip. There’s no “to go”. Spaniards don’t take food from the restaurants if they don’t finish their meals and they sit and have meals instead of on the go. You can usually get coffee or a little something to eat to go by saying “Para llevar” (double L = Y sound). You usually have to ask for the check at restaurants too or else you’ll be sitting forever (check = la cuenta). Lunch is the main meal that happens in the late afternoon (1-3 PM) and dinner is a smaller meal that happens late evening (7-9 PM).

-**Siesta/ Sundays** – siesta isn’t really followed much in Barcelona. Most stores are still usually open though some do close. Supermarkets are open still. Sundays though most stores/restaurants are closed

-**Menu** – not talking about a menu that says all of the different dishes offered. A menu in Spain refers to a meal deal that pay a fixed price and get a drink, a first course, a second course, and a dessert. It’s a great deal

-**St. Christopher’s Hostel** – where we all stayed in Barcelona during Abroadfest. Located in Plaza Catalunya next to Top Shop. Great place to stay if people need a hostel

-**Ryan and Helena**- your program directors and they are the best. Be friends with them and stay on their good side (mostly Ryan’s is what you have to make sure of). Go on as many of the program trips/ activities as possible!! They are great trips and are already paid for by the program. You get good food and do great activitites.

Transportation:

**-metro** – For the semester buy a T-Jove which will last you 90 days and then you’ll buy a month pass or a couple 10 day passes (you’ll wait and see). For a weekend tell friends to buy the T-10 pass (10 trip pass which you will use all weekend) and don’t take the bus because the metro will get you everywhere you need to go and is way more efficient. There’s a metro app too that doesn’t require wifi and is the best to have

**-cabs** - super cheap and safe

**-Aerobus** – will be your best friend for traveling. Its about 11.5 euros for round trip ticket or 6 euros each way. It takes you from plaza catalunya or plaza espanya to the Barcelona airport. Barcelona airport has two terminals. You will mostly use terminal 1 but you might use terminal 2 depending on who you fly

-**Cheap Airlines** – Vueling, Easy Jet, Ryan Air, search through skyscanner.es

**-Bus** – I rarely used the bus, only a couple times with my guy friends. More than likely you won’t use it, but the night bus is available if you choose to figure out the system. The metro or cabs are your best means of transportation

Food:

**-Bo da B –** must go!! Most amazing sandwich of your entire life. It’s off of the metro stop Jaume I near the Gothic Quarter. Make sure you get the sandwich and not the salad and get all the sauces. Get the patatas bravas too, one of the best.

**-La Fonda** - great paella and sangria and patatas bravas (best I had in Barcelona), not very expensive either

**-Cerveceria Catalana** - banging tapas (get the french fries with the fried egg thing, def the best), sangria there is amazing, not too too expensive

try and stay away from the restaurants with pictures on signs in their door front (usually not good food)

**-Milk/Marmalade** – two different brunch places owned by the same owner

**-Da Greco –** Italian food in Barcelona that is apparently amazing, a bit pricier

**-Granja La Pallaresa –** Go get chocolate and churros there!!! That’s basically what the place is there for, it’s known for it. The hot chocolate is thick and so sweet, very different then America but so delicious. Located on Carrer de Petritxol

**-Wok to Walk –** several locations but went to the one off La Rambla. Made to order stir fry that was really good and you could take it to go which is not normal at most restaurants

**-Fandango** – local café next to wear I lived but the food was incredible and had some of the best patatas bravas I had in Barcelona. Go and check it out if you get the chance. There’s a kosher restaurant on that street as well but I don’t know what it’s called cause I never went

**-Pizza Rapid** – best pizza ever; in Gracia and known for it

-**Restaurant Barceloneta** – incredible paella and seafood but not cheap

-**Tapeo anem de tapas** – great Tapas in El Born. Average pricing but make a reservation

-**Pan** – it’s everywhere and basically like the McDonalds of Barcelona, but a bit better food wise. I wouldn’t say go there all the time but if you need a quick bite go ahead

-**La Hacienda** – Mexican restaurant in El Born with great food and margaritas

-**Princesa 23** – good restaurant in the El Born area

Sites:

**-Sagrada Familia** - definitely go inside and get the audio tour (it’s really good), there will probably be a long line so you can always buy tickets beforehand

**-Parc Guell** -really cool in general, one of the main sites to see, make sure you go to the main touristy seating part

-**La Rambla/La Boqueria/Plaza Catalunya/Passeig de Gracia** -La Rambla is the main street which is very touristy and you have to go there, there’s shopping, art fair shopping Saturday morning at the end, the Christopher Columbus statue is at the end**.** La Boqueria is a huge open air market off of La Rambla, go in and get a 1 euro fruit smoothie**.** Plaza Catalunya is the main area at the top of La Rambla, where there is a huge fountain and a lot of people around**.** Passeig de Gracia is the 5th avenue of Barcelona with all the expensive stores and such but the architecture is absolutely stunning and has the avenue of discord which includes 3 architectures competing on creating incredible buildings right next to each other

-**Casa Batllo (Gaudi architecture) –** my favorite building in Barcelona and on passeig. Part of avenue of discord

**-Casa Mila –** another Gaudi building that is beautiful on passeig

-**Parc Ciutadella/Arc de Triumf (near each other)** -parc ciutadella: a gorgeous park with an incredible fountain that you should see (more Gaudi). Arc de triumph: Barcelona’s starting spot for the 1888 world fair

-**Montjuic/Plaza Espanya (BEST view of Barcelona right outside of museum)** -take the metro to plaza espanya and walk to the Museo National arte de catalana (MNAC) (huge museum at the top of the hill passed two big pillars, you can’t miss it. Best view when you stand outside the museum and look out over all of Barcelona. Go into the museum too if you get the chance. It’s really cool and I had a bunch of field trips there

-**Gothic quarter/Barcelona Cathedral (best shopping)**- lots of fun shopping and the cathedral is beautiful.off of La Rambla**.** GO GET CHOCOLTE AND CHURROS THERE: go to **Granja La Pallaresa** in the gothic quarter

-**Barceloneta beach area**-it’s absolutely gorgeous here and you get a great view of the beach and the Mediterranean sea. Popular place to go at night on Friday because that’s where the club opium is but it’s so different at night from during the day (also other clubs there)**.** there are plenty of other beaches so go check them out!!

-**Pobleneu Beach** – nude beach. It’s less crowded and touristy and not everyone is nude. It’s a great place to relax

-**Port Olimpic** – near the Barceloneta beach and where the athletes lived during the Olympics. Beautiful views of the beach

-**Picasso Museum/Chocolate Museum –** both really cool museum. Picasso’s work is awesome and the chocolate museum is fun and has neat exhibits

-**Olympic Stadium** – it’s on Montjuic and easy to get to. You just walk up there. It’s where the Olympics went on in Barcelona

**-Port Vell** – place near Bo de B near the beach where all the boats are docked. Near Jaume I

-**Bike Tour** – it’s 3 hours long and in the top 5 things I did in Barcelona. Went twice, once with a few friends and the second time with all the sorority girls on a private tour. It’s pretty cheap and you see most of the sites I have mentioned. It’s scheduled through Travel Bar. You meet at he crazy colorful statue near Jaume I at 11 AM.

-**Teleferic de Montjuic up to Castell de Montjuic** – cable car up to the castle on Montjuic. Seriously so cool so definitely make time to do it

-**La Fuente Magica** – Fountain located out front of MNAC in Plaza Espanya. It has a magic fountain show with colors and such during the weekends but it doesn’t start working til end of February/March time. Double check that

-**Camp Nou** – Barcelona futbol (soccer) stadium. Definitely go to the futbol game offered on the program. It’s amazing!

-**Palau Guell** – Guell Palace. another Gaudi building that is off of La Rambla. It has incredible chimneys as well. You’ll see they are Gaudi’s “thing”

-**Erotic Museum** – not as cool/raunchy as you expect but still really great to check out. It’s on La Rambla, you can’t miss it

Shopping:

-**Chinese markets/stores** – buy all of your excess stuff that you need here. Will basically have everything you need at very cheap prices. Similar to Five Below/ Dollar Store

-**Gracia** **Area**– hip area with lots of shopping, restaurants, and bars

-**Passeig de Gracia and nearby streets** – Passeig is the 5th Avenue of Barcelona

-**Diagonal** – lots of great shopping

-**Stores**: Zara, Mango, Blanco, Promod, Brandy Melville, Stradivarius, and Bershka

-**Gothic Quarter** – wander throughout the streets and you’ll find great stores

-**La Rambla** – has craft store set up at the end of it near Christopher Columbus statue

-**El Born Area**– similar to gothic quarter since there are tons of streets and shopping

-**Plaza Catalunya** **Area** – lots of streets off of the center like La Rambla and rambla catalunya and passeig

-**El Corte Ingles** – huge department store. Basically a Macy’s but sometimes things are a bit more expensive. Usually if you can’t find something you’ll find it there. Great discounts in the beginning of the semester during the post holiday sales

Holidays/Celebrations:

-**Dia de Reyes Magos** – happens right when you first get there. It’s Barcelona’s Christmas and there’s a parade and huge sales for the next month at several stores so get your shopping on!

-**Sa Pobla Festival** – def in top 5 things I did in Barcelona. Festival located in Gracia that happens every year during the last weekend in January. Has to do with celebrating the Mallorcan people and the Catalan culture. GO YOU WON’T REGRET IT

-**Carnaval in Sitges** – you must go. I heard it was incredible and crazy fun. You dress in costume and get wasted. There are buses for it. Sadly I had an interview the day everyone was going so I didn’t go but I’ve heard crazy stories. Make sure to watch your shit

-**La Semana Santa** – our spring break but also a holiday in Barcelona with lots of parades and celebrations

-**Dia De St. Jordi** – basically the Valentine’s Day of Barcelona. Flowers and books are sold everywhere because girls are suppose to give boys a book and boys are suppose to give girls a flower on this day.

Nightlife:

\*go to a bar and then a club, bar time is like 12-2, club time is like 2-all night long

\*\*try and use promoter names and get to the clubs before 2 like get there by 1:15/1:30 so its 2 by the time you get in, a main promoter name is kike (pronounced KEY-KAY) and usually that’ll get you in

\*\*\*don’t talk to the sketchy guys and don’t listen if they tell you to go somewhere because they usually are wrong

\*\*\*\*don’t buy drinks in clubs because they are crazy expensive, get liquor at supermarket and pregame with that. Sometimes a drink comes with your ticket to get in (if you have to pay) so be aware of that

**Bars:**

-**Pippermint** – an awesome place (near where I lived while I was there) and they have huge huge drinks that get you wasted even if they are a little pricy

-**L’Ovella Negra** – there are two locations, one is huge and right around the corner from the club Razzmatazz and is amazing for big groups and pregamining (went there a bunch); the other one is smaller but right off an alley way in Plaza Catalunya and is a much chiller/more local vibe. You’ll want to come here when soccer (futbol) games are playing to drink and cheer on Barce

-**George Payne** – an Irish pub with great food and an awesome atmosphere. Another great place to watch American and Spanish sporting events. They have karaoke on Sundays

-**Chupitos** – shots bar with all different types of shots for 2 euros a piece. The alcohol isn’t that strong so you can try a bunch. Make friends with the bartender, ours was named Audrei or something and get a Finding Nemo shot. At one point it was 1 euro shots on Mondays but then they were canceled so check in on that

-**Dow Jones Bar** - acts like the stock market and the prices of drinks change depending on what people buy and sometimes the market crashes and the drinks are cheap

-**Hot Bar** – right near the club Sutton and a great place to pregame before heading over there

-**Ryan’s Bar** – a million different locations with great prices and a fun atmosphere. Lots of abroad kids go here. Check to see where they are located!

-**IceBarcelona** – located right next to Opium along the beach. The entire bar is made of ice and you wear the cool jackets

-**Sports Bar –** on La Rambla I believe and it was a fun atmosphere where we watched the Superbowl

-**Els Quatre Gats** – Picasso and other artists’ favorite bar to hang at. Absinthe bar with lots of history

**Clubs:**

-**Opium** - on the beach, very touristy/popular but you have to go. It’s majority American abroad students but it’s nuts and amazing. Usually Thursdays and Mondays are when it’s great and you’ll get in for free by saying Kike

-**Razzmatazz** – My absolute favorite club. huge 5 story club, lots of Spaniards and Americans, no promoters here, can have a 10-15 euro cover but you get a free drink and get there like before 2 probably around 1:15 to be in line and get in. If you get an ESN card (got one from friends who went to UPF) then every Wednesday it’s free to get in before 2 AM. I’d say get the card because it’s worth it

-**Shoko** – went here only a couple times. People went to pregame a few times because it has certain promoter offers. More locals than the others on the beach. Was a lot of fun we just didn’t go that often.

-**Sutton** – another popular American abroad club that is crazy and tons of fun. Wednesdays at Sutton were a thing (always had to decide between Sutton and Razz). Go to Hot Bar and then Sutton and you’ll have a crazy night. Kike runs Wednesdays there

-**Duvet** – tons of locals, a really cool club so definitely check it out

-**Bikini** – tons of locals, another really cool club that we wish we went to more frequently. Right near Pippermint

-**Catwalk** – absolutely awful. First club we went to in Barcelona and it’s full of creeps. It’s right on the beach near CDLC, Opium, and Shoko

-**CDLC** – popular for Tuesday nights, has an Indian/Mediterranean vibe inside. Only went a few times because I usually took Tuesdays off

-**Apollo** – nasty Mondays at this club were a thing. There were a lot of locals, but the club was really cool and lots of fun!

-**Otto Zutz** – Loco Lunes (Crazy Mondays) used to be a thing like for the first few weeks I was there but then it turned into Mondays at Opium. Loco Lunes were popular when Lexi/Eppy went. It’s a cool club so check it out if you can

-**Jamboree** – club near one of the Ryan’s Bar locations in Jaume I. There’s two floors with different music on them. It was fun!