

7 April 2024 - 20a Passejada amb Barret

(20th Hat Parade)

Hola everyone!

For my first blog I was going to introduce you to where we are living but me finding the time to write co-incided today with our attendance at the 20a Passejada amb Barret – the 20th (annual) Parade of Hats. (For those of you with some Spanish who are scratching your heads, that's Catalan.)

An event like this typifies a particular aspect of Barcelona/Catalan culture, and probably Spanish culture generally. They love a festival or a parade; it's created by locals and everyone joins in. Most suburban areas have a local festival and its the neighbourhood residents that organise, create and participate. They are family outings, all ages welcome.

The Hat Parade is broader than a local festival but has the same feel. It was started by milliners in Barcelona (smart marketing) but anyone who wants to wear a hat is welcome. The hat wearers, supporters and a few professional looking photographers gathered at the Avenguda Diagonal end of Rambla Catalunya. [Ave. Diagonal is one of the main roads of Barcelona and, as the name suggests, it runs on a angle. A Rambla is a street that has a wide pedestrian walk down the centre – just like Las Ramblas which some of you have rambled along.]

We arrived at about 11.00am for coffee with some of Christine's friends. (Christine is the friend we are living with; she's on the far right in this photo.)



In case you're wondering, the woman in turquoise has a carrot dangling in front of her nose for the two rabbits dangling over her ears – of course!

There were already lots of people milling around, the spectators/supports mingling with the hat wearers - admiring each others' hats, being admired and taking lots of photos of each other. As you'll see in the photos, some of the hats were bought (hopefully from some of the milliners!) but most looked as if they were created by the wearer, and ranges from the stylish and elegant to fun and outlandish. Some people obviously spent a lot of time on their creation, including some people who's whole outfit matched their hat.











At 12noon the parade rambled at a leisurely pace down Rambla Catalunya, gathering more admirers along the way.





Ron even made it into the parade! That's Christine to his right.









A lovely way to spend a Sunday morning. It was a casual, relaxed, loosely organised affair. Everyone was welcome, all just enjoying the fun of dressing up!