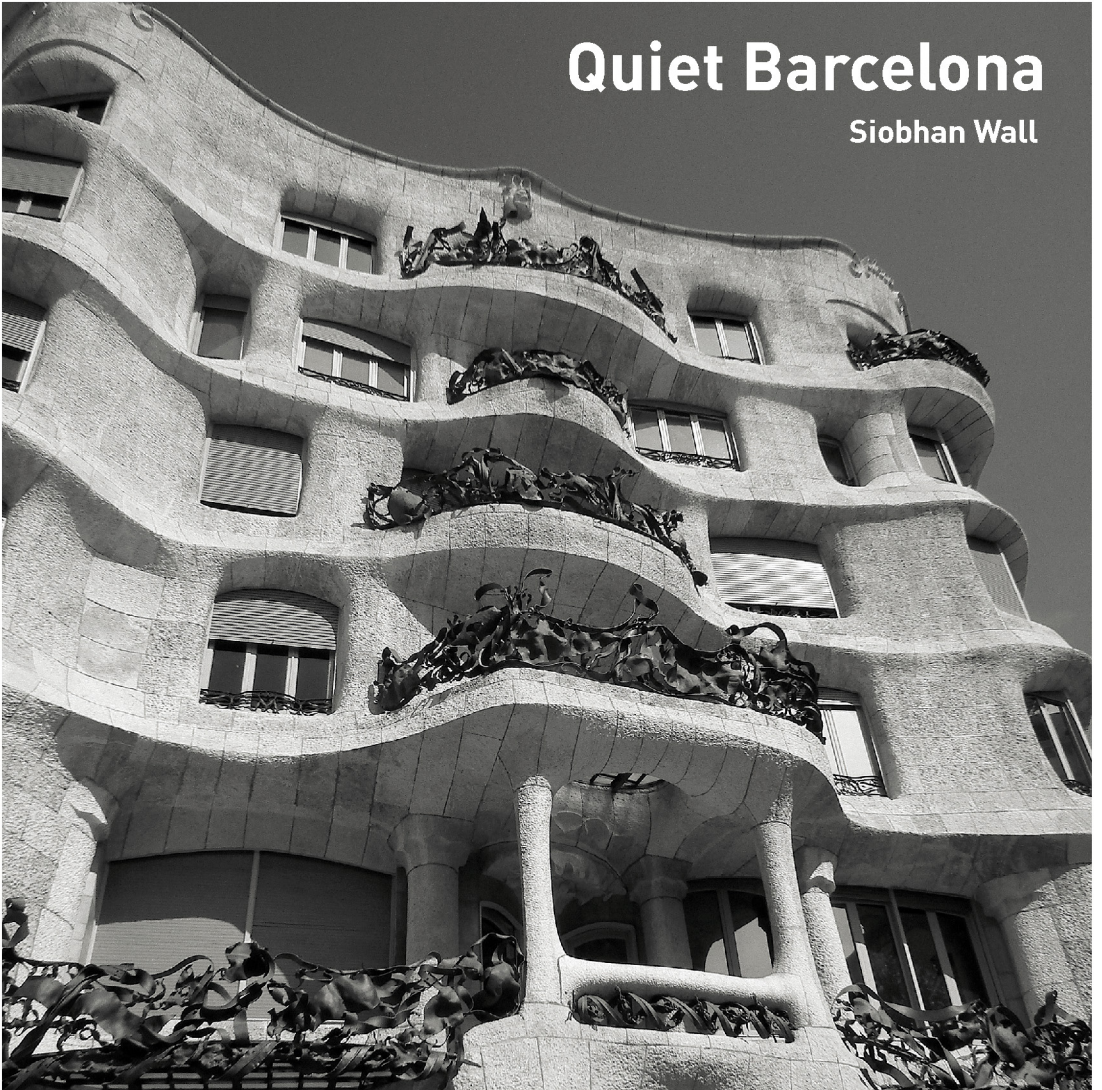


Quiet Barcelona

Siobhan Wall





Museums

Casa Vicens

Carrer de les Carolines 18-24, 08012

Free www.casavicens.org

The building itself is closed to the public but can be viewed from the street

Metro Fontana, Lesseps **Bus** 22, 24, 87, V17

Train Plaça Molina, Sant Gervasi

The surrounding pavements are wheelchair accessible

The very first house Gaudí designed, this is one of the most striking buildings in the city. Turquoise and white tiles cover the exterior, along with ornate black ironwork, fairytale turrets and moulded tiles covered in sunflowers and leaves. Oriel windows protrude from the walls of the building and the checkerboard tile effect suggests that Gaudí had a wonderfully irreverent sense of humour. This is a UNESCO World Heritage building, and it is a vivid, hundred-year-old reminder of the ingenuity and imagination of Barcelona's most famous resident.



Fundació Antoni Tàpies

Aragó 255, 08007

☎ 934 870 315

€ www.fundaciotapies.org

Open Tuesday–Sunday 10am to 7pm

Metro Passeig de Gràcia **Bus** 7, 20, 22, 24, H10 **Train** Provença

For wheelchair access, ring the doorbell to the left of the main entrance

Antoni Tàpies is renowned for his large, gestural works which include images of huge painted crosses on everyday materials such as sacking, sand, dried glue or varnish. One of Spain's greatest artists, his semi-abstract paintings still exert considerable influence. There are no permanent exhibits here, but temporary hangings of work by Tàpies and other artists are regularly on display. It is also worth visiting their excellent library which has a world-class collection of books and documents on abstract expressionism and modern art. On the ground floor don't forget to visit their bookshop, which has postcards and other items such as tea towels and cotton bags suitable for gifts or the home.



Museu Can Framis

Carrer de Roc Boronat 116, 08018 ☎ 933 208 736

€ www.fundaciovilacasas.com

Open Tuesday–Saturday 11am–6pm, Sunday 11am–2pm

Metro Glòries, Llacuna, Poble Nou **Bus** 6, 7, 40, 42, 56, 141, 192, B25 **Tram** Glòries

The museum is wheelchair accessible

Opened by the Vila Casas Foundation in 2009, this beautifully redesigned art centre is devoted to the display of contemporary Catalan painting. At any one time you will see around 300 works of art, dating from the 1960s to the present day, and all produced by artists who were born or lived in Catalunya.



Museu d'Història de Catalunya

Plaça de Pau Via 3, 08003 ☎ 932 254 700 or 935 547 427

€ www.mhcat.cat

Open Tuesday, Thursday–Saturday 10am–7pm, Wednesday 10am–8pm, Sunday 10am–2.30pm

Metro Barceloneta **Bus** 14, 39, 45, 51, 59, 64, D20, H14

The museum is wheelchair accessible

The permanent collection at this museum offers a comprehensive account of Catalan history from prehistoric times to the present day. The library is also an excellent place to study, and is much quieter than the museum. Avoid the rooftop summer jazz concerts after dark as these events can get crowded.

Parc de la Creueta del Coll

Passeig de la Mare de Déu del Coll 77, 08023

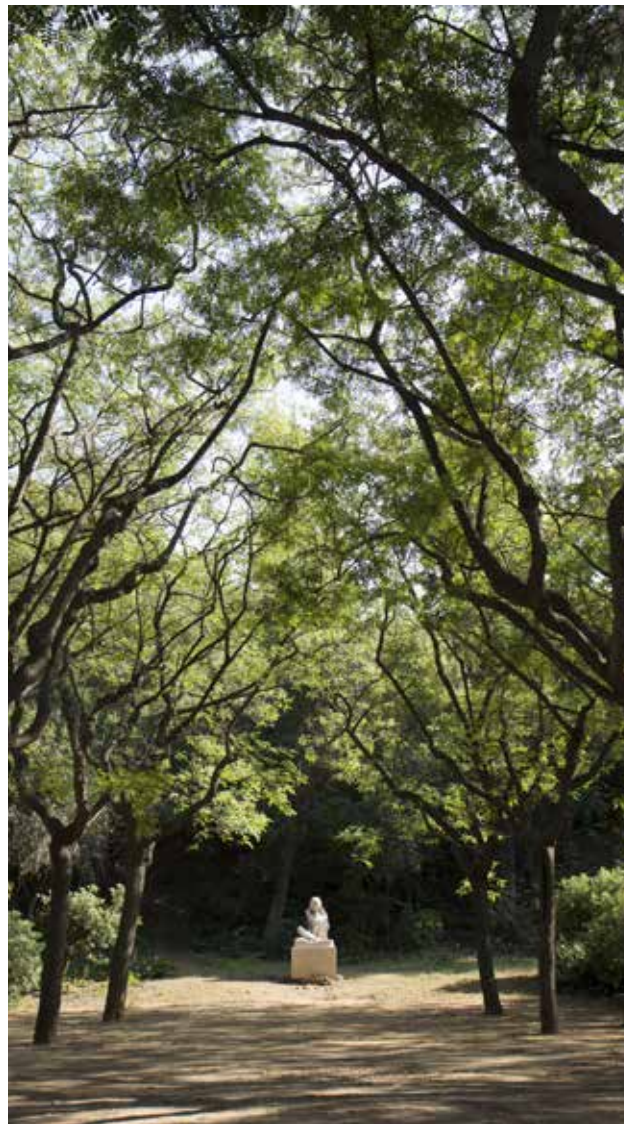
Free www.barcelonaturisme.com

Open December–February daily 10am–6pm; March and November 10am–7pm; April and October daily 10am–8pm; May–September daily 10am–9pm

Metro El Coll La Teixonera **Bus** 87, 92, 119, 129

The area around the pond is wheelchair accessible but the hills may be difficult to climb

This park is ideal for a scenic wander through a wooded landscape. High above the city the Parc de la Crueta del Coll feels wild and full of rambling plants. In contrast to the more formal gardens in the city, this is a place where nature has the upper hand. In amongst the trees bloom mauve lobelias and vivid crimson bougainvillea. The swimming pool, ping-pong tables and other popular areas are best avoided, but there are plenty more forested areas to get lost in – be sure to bring stout shoes or walking boots. On your way down from the summit of the hill, look out for the dramatic concrete claw-shaped sculpture by Eduardo Chillida, 'In Praise of Water', that hangs above the pool.



Jardins de Joan Brossa

Plaça de Dante 9999, 08038

Free www.barcelona.cat

Open Daily 10am–sunset

The gardens are wheelchair accessible but the climb up the hill is very steep

Bus 55, 150, Funicular de Montjuïc

Escape the crowds and noise on La Rambla and climb up the steep Avingua Miramar for a little peace and quiet. At the top of the hill sits this pleasant garden – look out for the statue of the clown Charlie Rivel balancing a ladderback chair on his nose as well as the sculpture of celebrated 20th-century entertainer Charlie Chaplin. The nearby hills are densely wooded and the paths often feel both close to yet concealed from the city. At dusk you can hear owls among the trees and see lithe bats swooping and diving in the darkening sky.

Places of worship

Basílica dels Sants Màrtirs Just i Pastor

Plaça de Sant Just i Pastor 1, 08002 ☎ 933 017 433

Free (Fee for access to the Bell Tower)

www.basilicasantjust.cat

Open Monday–Saturday 11am–2pm and 5pm–8pm,
Sunday 10am–1pm

Metro Jaume I **Bus** 45, 120, V15, V17

The church is wheelchair accessible

Largely built in the 14th century, this ancient church is one of the oldest in the city. Walk around slowly to fully appreciate the intricate stonemasonry, as well as the altarpiece of the Holy Cross painted by Pere Nunyes in the Chapel of Sant Feliu. It's also thrilling to look up at the magnificent Gothic ceiling from the centre of the nave. Next climb up to the top of the 15th-century campanile [octagonal belltower] for some breathtaking views of the city. Situated in the Gothic Quarter, the Basílica dels Sants Màrtirs Just i Pastor is quieter than other churches in the city. It also has the added attraction of the carved stone Fivaller fountain in the square outside.





Cafes and bodegas

Café Cometa

Carrer del Parlament 20, 08015 ☎ 930 073 203
www.cafecometa.com

Open Monday–Wednesday 9am–10pm, Thursday 9am–11pm,
 Friday–Saturday 10am–midnight, Sunday 10am–10pm

Metro Poble Sec **Bus** 37, 121

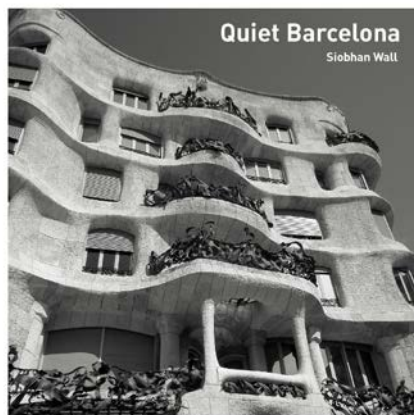
The cafe is wheelchair accessible with adapted toilet facilities

Housed in a former industrial building, this light and airy cafe is the type of place you'll want to sit for hours doing nothing much at all. If you're after some light reading, grab one of the many newspapers, books or magazines dotted around to enjoy whilst you sip on your coffee, or simply sit back and admire the original prints and paintings on the walls. The menu is simple but varied with a mixture of fish and meat-based dishes as well as vegetarian and vegan options; the friendly staff are able to accommodate every dietary need. Their lemon cupcakes and manzana apple cakes – a Swedish recipe made with vanilla, orange and cinnamon – are divine.



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QUIET BARCELONA

By Siobhan Wall and Cristina Peralta

Continues the successful *Quiet series* with the ever-popular city of Barcelona

Will include parks, galleries, cafes and bodegas, markets, bookshops and places to stay

Each entry has location, website, opening hours, transport options and access details

Following from Quiet London, Paris, New York and Los Angeles, comes Barcelona, the next in the series discovering quiet places in the midst of some of the busiest cities in the world. These guides offer both visitors and locals a chance to enjoy the quiet side of these lively cities, to find places off the beaten track, explore enticing museums or enjoy peaceful gardens. They offer the promise of somewhere to relax and recuperate, to have coffee and cake or a restful spot to unwind, away from the hustle and bustle. Included are more than 120 quiet places to meet, drink, dine, sleep, read or wander, each with an evocative photograph, short description including travel and contact details.

Author Information

Siobhan Wall is a writer and artist. She has worked as a senior lecturer, teaching photography, cultural studies, video production and fine art for over ten years at universities in London and Oxford. Her artwork has been exhibited alongside Paula Rego and at the Whitechapel Art Gallery and ICA in London. She is the author of *Quiet London*, *Quiet Amsterdam* and *Quiet Paris*. She lives Amsterdam.

Cristina Peralta is a designer and photographer from Barcelona.

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