

BARCELONA 2022 NEWS

November 30, 2021



BANKS

Managing money and other valuables is a day to day question for all travelers. We will be in Spain for long enough that the ATM and transfer fees associated with using American credit cards to access cash can mount up and be irritating. At the same time you don't want to have wads of cash sitting around your room or in your pocket. I suspect we will all explore various forms of moneybelts to hold cash, phones, and passports as we go about our day to day life. I'll be using my passport card instead of my actual passport. I am also starting some conversations with international banks about setting up a personal account in Spain.

BURNERS



What to do about our phones is also a question that everyone will address in one way or another. Some of our phone plans will work for us in Europe and others less so. Another concern is that phones are among the most pickpocketed objects for travelers in Europe. Small and valuable makes them inviting targets. One solution is to buy a cheap burner phone when you get to Spain (less than \$50) to use on a day to day basis as you explore Barcelona and Spain. If it gets stolen the thief will probably give it back to you in disgust. Save your good phone for video chatting with family back home from the safety of your room. Another topic for our group discussions.

PLACES IN BARCELONA

Andorra:

200 km north of Barcelona is Andorra. This microstate is the 16th smallest country in the world and is only twice the size of the city of Chicago. If you're looking to visit an extra country while we are in Barcelona you can get to Andorra and back in a single day by bus (about 4 hrs each way). Andorra is a skier's paradise tucked into the Pyrenees along the border between France and Spain. The official language of Andorra is Catalan but Spanish and French are also commonly spoken.

Deposit Due Tomorrow!

The deposit (20% of the program fee) to Barcelona SAE is due tomorrow (December 1). You should have received an invoice from them for this fee. Let Sara or Bruce know if you didn't get the invoice for some reason.

Contact Sara Henson (shenson@cocc.edu) or Bruce Emerson: (bemerson@cocc.edu) for more program information