

# BARCELONA 2022 NEWS

*August 30, 2021*

## *LIONEL MESSI*



Barcelona football has been in the news over the last month or so. Lionel Messi is one of the best footballers of all time and has spent his career at FC Barcelona. Going to a game at Camp Nou and watching this legendary player has been part of the COCC Study Abroad experience for years. FC Barcelona is still a great team but it will be a different experience without Messi. A quick web search will turn up many wonderful videos of the playing genius of this remarkable athlete from Argentina. FC Barcelona will likely play in the European Champions League while we are in Barcelona so we will get to experience football culture at its finest.

## *CASTELLS*



A castell is a human tower and is a 'tradition' in Barcelona. Historically this practice appeared near the beginning of the 19th century in Tarragona near Barcelona. Colles are the teams of castellers who construct the castells. The construction of human towers has become a point of Catalan national pride and has a rich culture from the names of the different layers of the castell to the music played as they are constructed. 9 layers is a significant achievement and 10 layers have been reached recently. The creating of castells is recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. Castells are a part of nearly every festival in Barcelona so I'm sure we will see them.

## *PLACES IN BARCELONA*

### **Camp Nou:**

Camp Nou is the stadium of FC Barcelona. It has a capacity of nearly 100,000 and is the largest stadium in Europe (4th largest in the world). The stadium is mostly used for football matches but is also a venue for large concerts (Bruce Springsteen) or public events (Mass by Pope John Paul II). More than many other cities football is central to the culture of Barcelona as we will experience when we are there. Camp Nou is easily accessible from the Metro.

### **Gilman Scholarship:**

Applications for the Gilman Scholarships for Spring of 2022 are now open. Full details are in the August 23 newsletter.

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