

Music



BAM (Barcelona Acció Musical)

21 to 24 September

The main course of some of the most modern music around is served during La Mercè in the Barcelona Acció Musical festival. These bands take risks with their music but they also offer quality and independent criteria. This year there is a special programme to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the festival.

There will be almost 100 different concerts on 13 different stages around the city. Here are some recommendations:

- **Friday 21 / 21:00** Plaça del Rei. **Five in Orbit** (swing-jazz), **AZ Group** (new jazz) and **Asstrio + guests** (jazz, funk)
- **Friday 21 / 23:00** Plaça de Sant Jaume. **Guillamino + Coblà Jove de la Bisbal + Guests** (electronic versions of traditional Catalan music) and **Titani** (folk)
- **Saturday 22 / 20:00** Plaça de Joan Coromines (MACBA). **Lek Mun** (pop-rock), **Prin' la là** (pop), **Aaron** (pop) and **Michael Fakesch live with Taprikk Swezee** (electronic-funk)
- **Saturday 22 / 21:00** Moll de la Fusta. **Marc Parrot** (singer-songwriter) and **Darga** (world music)
- **Saturday 22 / 22:30** Portal de la Pau. **Ai Ai Ai** (rumba) and **Estrellas de la Rumba**
- **Saturday 22 / 20:30** Plaça Reial. **Poet in Process** (pop-rock), **Sidonie** (psychedelic pop), **The Undertones** (punk-pop), **The Robocop Kraus** (art-rock)
- **Sunday 23 / 22:30** Avinguda de la Catedral. **Argentina** (flamenco) and **Angelique Kidjo** (world music)
- **Sunday 23 / 18:00** Old Estrella Damm Factory (Rosselló-Cartagena). **Tupolev** (pop rock), **08001** (Barcelona, fusion), **Patrice** (reggae) and **Travis** (pop)
- **And every night in the Forum Park** more than 10 different concerts, all with different musical styles, play until 5 in the morning: **7 Notas 7 Colores** (hip-hop), **El Inquilino Comunista** (indie), **Hocus Pocus** (hip-hop), **Love of Lesbian** (pop), **Shy Child** (electronic rock), **Mendetz** (electronic punk), **Deluxe** (pop-rock), **Digital Mystikz** (dubstep), **Daryl DJ** (electronic)...

See the complete BAM programme on the website: www.bcn.cat/bam

Concerts of the moment

To complement the BAM, every year La Mercè includes concerts by some of the best known groups of the moment. Free music for fans of the sounds from all the national radio stations...

- **Friday 21 / 22:00** Forum Park. **Lorena, Bangra** and **Quijano**
- **Friday 21 / 22:00** Plaça de Catalunya. **Peret + La Troba Kung-Fu**
- **Saturday 22 / 22:00** Forum Park. **Ojos de Brujo** (world première of their new album)
- **Saturday 22 / 22:30** Plaça de Catalunya. **Jaime Urrutia + Los Ronaldos**
- **Sunday 23 / 22:00** Forum Park. **Celtas Cortos + Guests** and **La Caja de Pandora**
- **Sunday 23 / 22:00** Plaça de Catalunya. **Andrea Corr, El Sueño de Morfeo** and **Nena Daconte**

Street shows

Circus Park

Every year, Ciutadella Park becomes a huge circus without a big top, bringing together some of the best street shows in Europe. You can find circus acts, clowns, jugglers, trapeze artists...as well as lots of entertainment and games for all the family!

- **Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 / 11:00 - 21:00**
Monday 24 / 11:00 - 15:00
Ciutadella Park

Dance in the Park

Dance, understood in its broadest sense, is the star of this 6-hour session of shows. This is a long journey from traditional dances to hip-hop with groups and choreographers from Catalonia, France and Belgium.

- **Sunday 23 / 18:00 - 24:00**
Clot Park

Family Shows at Guineueta Park

Some of the best Catalan theatre groups for all audiences will take part in a marathon of shows for all the family. Puppets, dance, clowns, etc.

- **Monday 24 / 11:00 - 20:00**
Guineueta Park



Mercè a Banda

Music in movement: the fanfares of Mercè a Banda do not just involve music, but they also mix it with street theatre in the street, making the most of audience participation. And that's why every concert becomes an unique experience ...

- **Saturday 22 / 12:30 and 19:30 - 0:40**
Sunday 23 / 12:00 - 13:30
In and around the Rambles



Citizens' participation

La Ciutat de les Persones (City of People)

If you are thinking of staying in the city for a while, you might like to see the City of People: a large space showing how the daily services of Barcelona City Council operate. This is a real party: there are workshops, talks, shows, and even concerts. It's an ideal way to get to know the City of Barcelona from an everyday viewpoint.

- **Saturday 22 / 11:00 - 21:00**
Sunday 23 / 10:00 - 21:00
Monday 24 / 10:00 - 21:00
Passeig de Gràcia

XII Mostra d'Associacions (12th Associations Fair)

Some 300 associations take part in this Fair to show the activities they are involved in. The Plaça de Catalunya becomes a great place to meet people with whom you share a common interest. There are also workshops, concerts, shows, etc.

- **Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 / 11:00 - 20:00**
Monday 24 / 11:00 - 19:00
Plaça de Catalunya

Museums Open Day

- **Sunday 24**

Most museums and some of Barcelona's other major buildings take part in the festival by opening their doors to the public for free. Others do the same a little bit later on. On Saturday 24 you can visit: Capitanía General, Parc Güell Interpretation Centre, Historical Interpretation Centre/Refuge 307, Plaça del Rei Monumental Site, CaixaForum, CosmoCaixa, Barcelona

Lacemakers School, Caja Madrid Cultural Centre, Barbier-Mueller Pre-Columbian Art Museum, Verdaguer Museum and House, Museum of Archeology of Catalonia, Museum of the History of Catalonia, Natural Science Museum, Music Museum, FC Barcelona Museum, Frederic Marès Museum, Maritime Museum and Santa Eulàlia Packet Boat, Montjuïc Military Museum, Pedralbes Monastery and Museum, National Museum Art of Catalonia, Palermo Museum, Picasso Museum, Palace of the Generalitat, Palau de la Virreina, MACBA

La Mercè, by the sea

For three days La Mercè will be celebrating the intense relationship that has always existed between Barcelona and the sea. You can find a bit of everything at the port: a maritime market, a cabin boys' school with all kinds of children's activities, shows and concerts, the chance to sail around the port for free... The planned activities will be a prologue to the Barcelona World Race a unique regatta which sets sail in November from the port of Barcelona.

- **22 to 24 September**
Mornings and afternoons
In and around the Moll de la Fusta



And the following weekend...

Festa al Cel (Festival of the Sky)

For the whole weekend, space and the sky provide the centre stage with huge number of activities. We especially recommend that you go to the Forum on Sunday 30. There you will find workshops, activities for all the family, shows and children's entertainment and above all, the impressive Air Festival, with all kinds of aeroplane and impossible acrobatics!

- **Sunday 30 / 9:00 - 14:00**
Forum Park



Welcome to the Festival of Barcelona!

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Every year, around the 24th September, Barcelona bids farewell to the summer with its Festival celebrations. This year's programme includes more than 600 events, which will take place in just four days. An explosive programme where tradition - giants, dragons, human castles - lives side by side with the most contemporary artistic offerings: independent music, street theatre, all kinds of public participation. Below you can find some of the most representative activities in this extensive programme.



Tradition



Toc d'Inici (The Starting Procession)

The giants and mythical figures of medieval Barcelona take to the streets to celebrate the festival. In the Plaça de Sant Jaume they perform their dances, accompanied by the early music orchestra of the Camí Ral Minstrels who meet just once a year for this event.

➤ **Friday 21 / 19:45**
Plaça de Sant Jaume

Little devils fire procession

If you are with small children, it's a good idea to go to this event instead of the Fire Run which follows it. It is a very similar parade but the fireworks are less powerful and the children from the centre of the event.

➤ **Saturday 22, 18:30**
From the Plaça de l'Àngel to the Avinguda Francesc Cambó (Santa Caterina market)

Correfoc (Fire Run)

One of the most authentic events of the Barcelona Festival. Here some forty groups of "devils" from in and around the city, as well as dragons and other fire beasts.

➤ **Saturday 22 / 20:30**
From the Avinguda de Cambó (Santa Caterina market) down Via Laietana, with dragons and other fire beasts.

WARNING!

The Fire Run can be dangerous and everyone is responsible for themselves. To dance with the "devils" you need to wear clothes which cover you well to avoid burns from sparks. Hats, cotton clothes and even special goggles are recommended. Children seeing the fire run for the first time can become frightened, and so they should not stand in the front rows. In the case of accidents, ambulances will be stationed at the end of Via Laietana.

Xambanga de Gegants (Giants' Xambanga)

A street procession which is quite different from that above: this one involves giants carried by groups from all over the city. The curious thing about this procession is that the giants themselves and the groups surrounding them dance in costume, to the drumbeat...

➤ **Sunday 23 / 22:00**
From the Plaça dels Àngels to the Plaça de Sant Jaume

Mati de Festa Major (Festival Morning)

On the morning of Sunday 23, a walk through the old quarter will bring you a host of surprises: popular cultural groups from all over the city will invade the streets to celebrate the city's biggest day of the year.

➤ **Sunday 23 / 8:00 Matinades de Grallers (Pipers' morning):** groups playing traditional music go around the city waking up the neighbours. From the Plaça de la Mercè to the Plaça de Sant Jaume

➤ **Sunday 23 / 10:00 L'Assalt dels Trabucaires (The Blunderbuss Assault):** the ancient bandoleers fire their weapons in honour of the Virgin of La Mercè. From the Avinguda de la Catedral to the Plaça de Sant Jaume

➤ **Sunday 23 / 11:00 Mati Gegant (Giants' Morning):** a show of dances and processions by the giants. From Plaça de Sant Jaume to Plaça de Catalunya

➤ **Sunday 23 / 12:00 Seguici d'Autoritats (Authorities Procession):** the oldest beasts come out again to parade around the institutional heart of Barcelona. From the Plaça de la Mercè to the Plaça de Sant Jaume

➤ **Sunday 23 / 12:30 Mati Casteller (Human Castles Morning):** the well-known Catalan tradition of building human castles - a homage to team work. All the groups which exist in the different neighbourhoods of Barcelona will take part: *Castellers* of Barcelona, Sants, Vila de Gràcia, Poble-sec and Sagrada Família

Cavalcada de La Mercè (La Mercè Parade)

A crowded street parade, dedicated this year to the maritime culture of Catalonia. It includes giants and symbolic figures representing marine creatures, naval captains and ancient mariners...

➤ **Sunday 23 / 18:00**
From Portal de la Pau to the Avinguda de la Catedral

Sardanas



The sardana is a serene, popular and very social dance which originated from northern Catalonia.

➤ **Sunday 23, 11:00 and 13:00.** Avinguda Catedral
➤ **Sunday 23, 18:00.** Avinguda Francesc Cambó-Mercado de Santa Caterina
➤ **Monday 24, 18:00.** Plaça de la Mercè

Exhibitions of popular culture

The beasts, giants and other figures participating in La Mercè will be exhibited when they are not parading...

➤ **The Barcelona Popular Parade 15-24 September**
Palau de la Virreina (La Rambla, 99)

➤ **Exhibition of Barcelona Giants 16-30 September**
Manning Courtyard of the Casa de Caritat (Montalegre, 7)

➤ **Exhibition of Dragons and Fire Beasts 16-22 September**
Entrance Hall of the Barcelona City Hall

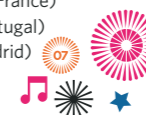
➤ **Fotomercè 2006 19 September - 4 October.** Palau de la Virreina. Photographs for last years' Mercè Popular.

Fireworks

10th Barcelona International Fireworks Show

Barceloneta beach. Visible from the Moll de la Fusta Some of the most prestigious pyrotechnics companies in the world have been involved in the Festival over the years.

➤ **Friday 21, 22:00 / France Artifices** (France)
➤ **Saturday 22, 22:00 / Macedo's** (Portugal)
➤ **Sunday 23 / 22:00 / Discomfa** (Madrid)



Musical Fireworks

A spectacle of water, music, light and fireworks to bid farewell, as it does every year, to La Mercè. This year will feature the greatest moments of rock and pop.

➤ **Monday 24 / 22:00**
Avinguda de la Reina Maria Cristina



This is just a selection of the events in the Barcelona Festival.

For more information you can:

Look at the festival website
www.bcn.cat/merce

Call the municipal helpline on 010
(cost: 0.39 € + VAT for call connection and 0.05 € + VAT per minute charged per second]

Visit the information office at the Palau de la Virreina
(La Rambla, 99)

Send the following SMS text messages to 7010:
"alertesmerce" (for programme changes alerts),
"programamercè" (to download the complete programme on your mobile) or "bcnalmobil"
(to access all municipal information about the city on your phone). Cost of activation message: 0.15 € (receipt of SMS alerts free. Cost of browsing according to the prices established by your operator).

