Both the Comp@ct Contact Seminar and the Comp@ct Thematic Conference will be held on our premises:

**Catalan Ministry of Education**
202, Via Augusta
08021 Barcelona

Catalonia is an autonomous community in the North-East of Spain with an extension of 32,000 km² and a population of more than 6,000,000 inhabitants, spread throughout its 4 provinces: Barcelona, Tarragona, Lleida and Girona.

Catalonia is a bilingual community where Catalan and Spanish coexist officially.

There are 1,000,000 students and 85,000 teachers in approximately 3,860 schools, of which 1,400 are private. Out of the state schools 350 are pre-school, 1,470 primary and 510 secondary level. There are also about 50 schools for "Special Needs Education".

Schools in Catalonia follow the National Curriculum which is compulsory for all the autonomous communities in Spain, except for subjects such as Social Studies, the Catalan Language and Literature.

There are two ambitious portals within the Ministry to cover all aspects on Education, one addressed to teachers and schools (www.xtec.es) and another one to students and their families (edu365.com). They offer resources, content and training and help to promote e-learning communities at any time and from any place in a 24x7 open service.

There is a tour available in English for international guests visiting our site at: www.edu365.com/guidedtour
**How to get there?**

**From the Ibis Hotel to the Education Department.**

Take the red line - **L1** - from "Fabra i Puig" station, towards "Freixa Llarga". Get off at "Plaça Catalunya". Change to FFCC - Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat.

Get off at Muntaner Station. The Education Dept. is a 3 minute walk.

**From Marti Codolar Residence**

Take the green line - **L3** - from Montbau station, towards "Zona Universitaria".

Get off at "Plaça Catalunya". Change to FFCC - Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat.

Get off at Muntaner Station. The Education Dept. is a 3 minute walk.

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**Barcelona**

Barcelona is the heart and motor of the autonomous region of Catalonia in the northeast corner of Spain. Catalonia is Spain's leading economic region with almost 20% of national production for a region that is only 6% of Spain's extension and has just over 16% of the population. There are more than 6 million inhabitants in Catalonia and of these, close to 70% live in Barcelona and the immediate surroundings (metropolitan area). With almost 4 million people, Barcelona has one of the largest metropolitan areas of any Mediterranean city.
History

Barcelona's origins go back more than 2,500 years when Phoenicians and Carthaginians settled in the area and chose to have a commercial port. The name of Carthaginian ruler Amilcar Barca is often referred to as the origin of the name Barcino, later used by the Romans. The Carthaginians were replaced by the Romans in the 1st century B.C. who preferred Tarraco (modern day Tarragona) as their regional capital. Barcelona has several surviving monuments from this period, concentrated around the Plaça Sant Jaume and the gothic quarter. During the third century AD Barcino replaced Tarraco in importance and became the major Roman outpost in the area of Hispania Citerior; the Roman walls, still visible as part of later buildings in the Gothic quarter, were reinforced in this period to repel the Frankish and German invasions. With the disintegration of the Roman Empire came the invasion of the Visigoths who occupied Barcino in 415 A.D. and renamed the city Barcinona. Three hundred years later at the beginning of the 8th century the moors conquered Barcelona during their drive from northern Africa to the south of France. Only one hundred years later, the Franks led by Louis the Pious occupied Barcelona and established a strong military presence in what became known as the Spanish Mark, the front line of a constant battle between the Christian kingdoms of the North with the Arabs. This conflict eventually evolved into what became known as the Reconquest. The Carolingian Empire established a number of Counties and the most important of these was that of Barcelona. The origins of the Catalan nation are to be found in Wilfred the Hairy, Count of Barcelona who established a hereditary system of sucession. Before his death in the year 898 he managed to unify the county of Barcelona with the rest of the Carolingian territories. In the year 988 Count Borrell II achieved independence from the Carolingian kings for the County of Barcelona and became the dominant political and military force in the region later known as Catalonia.

Sights

The History Museum at Port Vell

We set out from the Columbus monument. To its right we found the largest and most complete medieval dockyards in the world, which house the Maritime Museum. On our way-out, we could contemplate the city from the sea in the Golondrinas, double decked motor-launches that tour the harbour. Following the route around the Moll de la Fusta, we could enjoy the splendid view from its bars and restaurants.

Crossing a wooden footbridge, you could also reach Maremagnum, the shopping and leisure complex in the Moll de Espanya, which includes the Aquarium, the large - format Imax cinema and wide range of shops, musical bars, restaurants, mini golf and all you need to enjoy your free time.

Catalan History Museum; the Museum shows the history and memory of Catalonia from different perspectives. The permanent exhibition consists of an interactive voyage from the distant past of prehistory to modern times.

The Gothic Quarter

The Gothic Quarter is what used to be known ago as the "Cathedral Quarter". The great gothic buildings, which marked the high point of the city and its culture during the Middle Ages, are to be found here. Here likewise, are the remains of the ancient fortified walls and palaces built by the Romans on the "Mons Taber" such as, the temple dedicated to Augustus.

Our itinerary began in the Plaça Nova.

1. Portal del Bisbe. Flanked by two round towers from the ancient Roman wall and on one side of the present Bishop’s Palace.


3. Plaça de Sant Felip Neri. (Past the Bishop's Palace and to the right). One of the most lyrical places of the city.

5. Interior of the Cathedral. Three cruciform aisles and twenty-nine lateral chapels in one of which Cristo de Lepanto is venerated. Noteworthy: The choirstall which features both medieval and rennaissance elements.


7. La Pietat door. Entry to the Cathedral cloister. Pieta carved in wood, flamenco school.

8. Casa de los couldónigos o Casa dels couldonges. Gothic Building from the 14th Century now restored.

9. Centre Excursionista de Catalunya. Carrer Parad's, 10. The Roman columns from the temple dedicated to Augustus are kept inside.


11. Casa de la Ciutat or City Hall. Next to the Neo-Classical facade (19th Century) there is a lateral gothic facade (14th Century) and some levely steps. "Saló de Cròniques" with paintings by Josep Ma. Sert and the historical "Saló de Cent".

12. Plaça del Rei. This is the most handsome section of ancient Barcelona. It a square outlined by gothic buildings toped by the facade of the former main Royal Palace and its watchtower-a true skyscraper for the 16th Century.

13. Casa Clariana-Padellas. Houses the "Museu d’Història de la Ciutat" (See Museums).


15. Casa de la Pia Almoina or de la couldonja. Plaça de la Seu, beside the Cathedral. Former seat of charitable foundation set up at the beginning of the 11th Century.

16. Plaça de Ramon Berenguer el Gran. Equestrian statue in bronze representing Ramon Berenguer III.

The Catalanian "Cavas": The Codorniu Vineyard and Cellar

There are several wine-growing regions in Catalonia, and one of the most important of those is the Penedès area, located in the west of Barcelona. Wines from this area are highly appreciated, and the most popular product is the sparkling wine or 'Cava'.

It is in this area that we find Sant Sadurní d’Anoia at 45 minutes drive from Barcelona, and land of the largest Cava producers, Caves Codorniu. This producer is considered to be the largest winery in the world owned by the Raventós family.

These long-tradition cellars, with a modernist-style building, beautiful gardens, museum and huge cellars are the perfect spot for a dinner with a good atmosphere and superb entertainment.