

# A Level Geography Trip Barcelona Diary by Head Girl Stephanie Wrigglesworth



## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Luton to Sitges

Our journey started at 10am, Costa coffee, Luton Airport. After our 2 hour flight to Spain, we landed in stunning 27 degree heat and boarded the coach to our hotel. The streets of Sitges were a lovely sight, with their towering balconies and narrow roads. After checking in, we bumped into an independence parade along the seafront, which was definitely a new experience, however it was a very colourful and lively welcome to our home for the week. We then looked around the shops and cafés to familiarise ourselves with the area, before heading off to dinner, which was being eagerly anticipated by the team! It was then time for a well-earned sleep before our busy day in Barcelona!

## Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October – El Ravel, Barcelona

Breakfast at 8am was not quite the morning us students had hoped for. However, we couldn't wait to arrive in Barcelona and have a look around! A 40 minute train journey later and we found ourselves in the centre of an upbeat, buzzing city, full of art, history and culture. We had to collect data to assess the environmental quality and perception of the place, whilst we learnt key facts and background knowledge about the area from our lovely field studies guide. We saw many fascinating buildings as well as landmarks, and we were even lucky enough to catch a glimpse of an H&M! As it was the anniversary of the Catalan Independence vote we saw lots of protests and politically active students – gave us something to think about! We worked together to collate our data back at the hotel and then headed off for dinner once again. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip into Barcelona and couldn't wait to go back tomorrow!



## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Poblenou, Barcelona

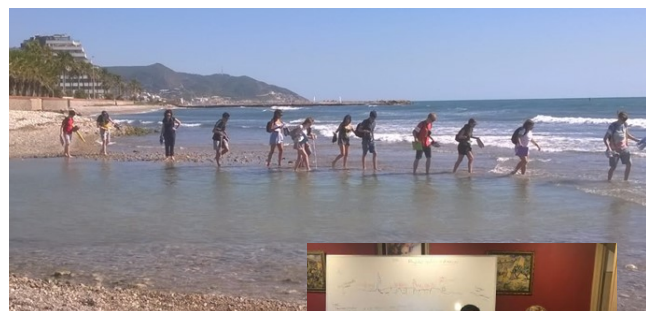
On this day, we travelled to the Olympic village in Barcelona and looked at how the whole area had been regenerated for the games in 1992. This was really interesting, especially because we learnt that before, Barcelona was known to have “had it's back to the sea”, because the beach there is completely manmade. We also visited some of the new “superbloccs” which are completely pedestrianised areas which make the city more sustainable. We saw some old factories that had been shut down, and as a whole, the day was very eye-opening to us as we'd seen so much of the city in a new light. We also saw more signs of protest in the area as some residents aren't happy about the new “superbloccs”. However we saw lots of signs of a sustainable city such as cycle share schemes and the Media TIC building which won World Architecture Awards in 2011 for its unique sustainable features.

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Sand dunes in Gava, Llobregat river delta and Montjuic view point

The next day, we travelled to the sand dunes of Gava, where we collected data regarding the species which inhabited that area, whilst catching some rays on the beach! We then travelled to the Llobregat river and witnessed the infrastructure on the delta which was using up all the water and causing mas strain on the water system. It was an interesting place for an outdoor lesson as planes landed in the nearby Barcelona airport. Finally, we were lucky enough to travel to the Montjuic viewpoint where you can look out over the whole of Barcelona, giving us a stunning view of the city and allowing us to piece together our trips around the area.

## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Coastal management in Sitges

On our final full day, we studied the beaches in the town that we were staying in. Many management strategies have been put in place, aiming to build up the beaches and therefore attract more tourists. Back in the classrooms, we had a mini debate about which areas we thought were the most vulnerable and which needed the quickest protection. We spent the evening taking in the Sitges nightlife one last time before enjoying a few games of pool back at the hotel with the teachers.



## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Sitges to London

The last day had arrived and we were all very sad to say goodbye to Sitges. After our final study session, we got to do some last-minute souvenir shopping and then we had to say goodbye to our fieldtrip leaders, before setting off for the airport. Although it was a warm evening by UK standards, we definitely felt the drop in temperature when walking off the plane! We had definitely become closer as a group over our time in Spain which only made it sadder that the trip was over. Now, back to Geography lessons at Highlands!

