

The 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2010



The cat was inside and got some food



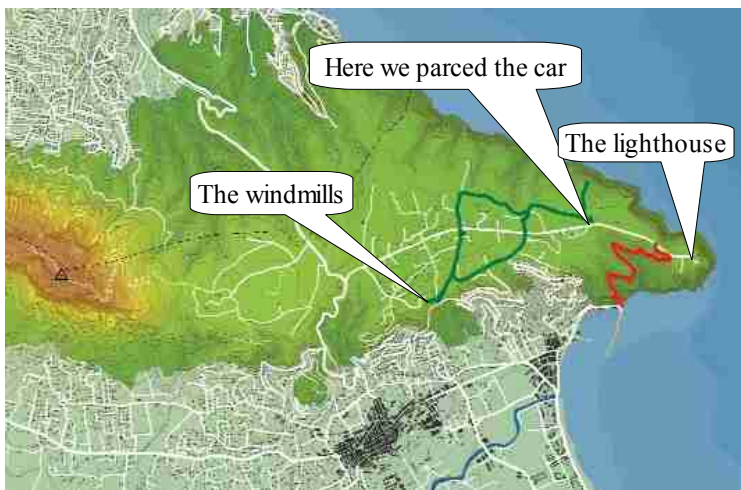
Today we were out on Cap De Sant Antoni, where there is a lighthouse furthest out. There was built a convent there in the 1600-s in honour of St. Antoni, and a watch tower to warn about African pirats. The tower was demolished in 1894 when this lighthouse was built.



We went for a walk in, Montgó National Park, where we saw these perforated tubes, which stood up several places. It turned out that the tubes were protection for recently planted trees.



Further away we had good view southwards in direction of Javea.



We walked along the green route on the map.



Here are some old windmills.





In all there are 11 windmills here. They are 7 m high and 6 m in diameter. They had two stores. There was a storage room in the first floor and in the second were the millstones and wooden machinery with power transmission from the wings. They were mainly used for grinding of wheat, but also for other types of grain. They were in use until the end of the 1800s.

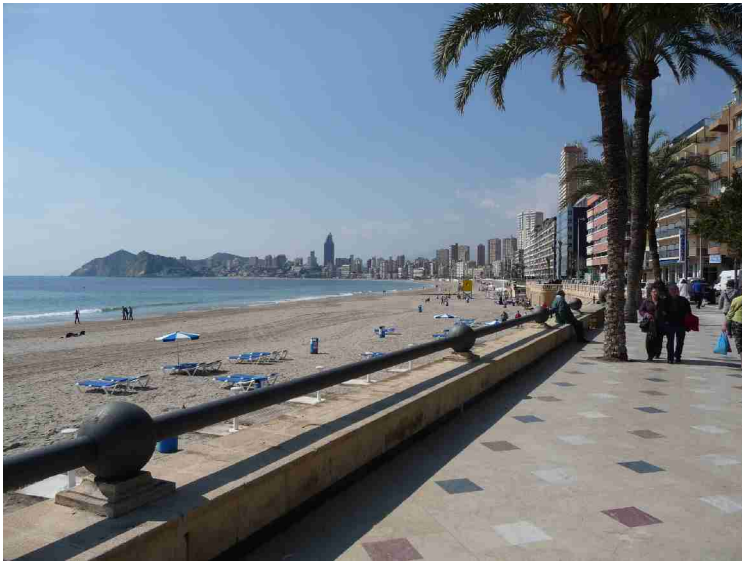


There was also a steel ox standing in a park here.

As usual, we have to take a flower photo.



The 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2010



Today we was a trip to Benidorm. Here we are looking south on Playa de Poniente, which is the most southern of the two long beaches in Benidorm.



Here we are looking north. The old town is to the left in the picture. The most northern beach, Playa de Levante, lies on the other side of the Canfali headland.



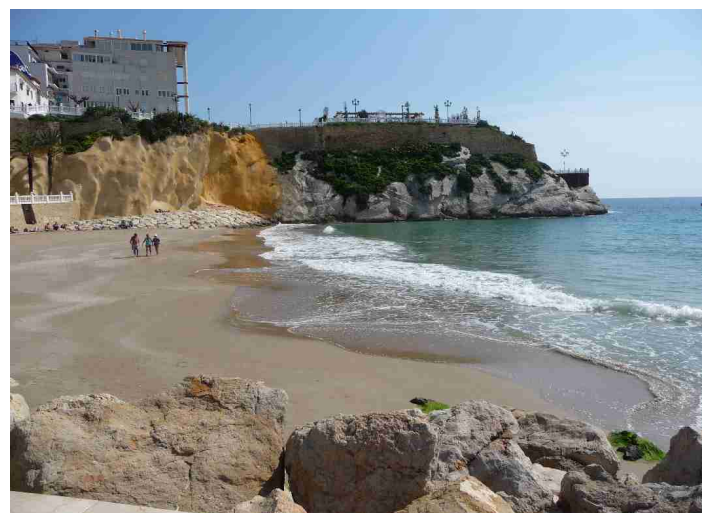
There is a narrow park alongside the beach promenade.



Here are some decorations along the street.



The beach promenade.



Here we are looking towards the Canfali headland off the old town. It is called the balcony of the Mediterranean.

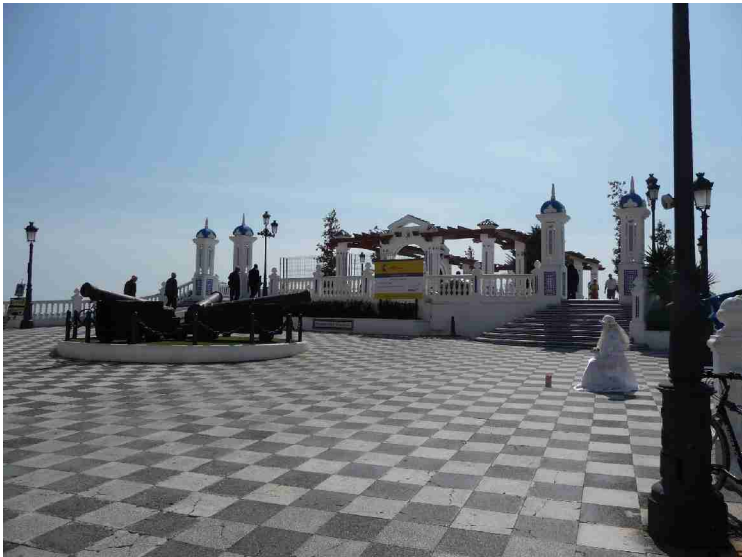




Right below the headland there is a tiny little beach.



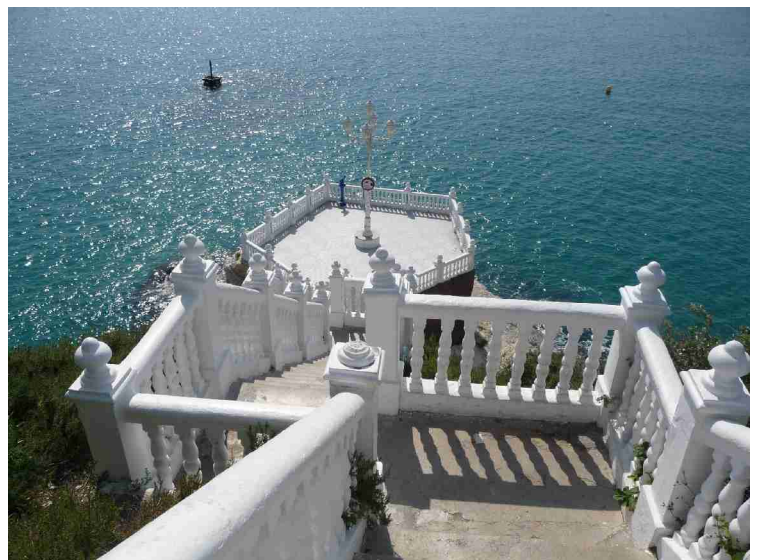
Here we have moved up onto the headland. Here is an old church, Iglesia de San Jaime y Santa Ana, which was built between 1740 and 1790. It is the oldest one in Benidorm.



Outside the church lies the balcony of the Mediterranean furthest out on the promontory. It's name is actually El Mirador de la Punta del Canfali. There was a fort here before this balcony was built.



Harp player.



Furthest out lies this viewing platform.





This is a statue in memory of those from Benidorm who have lost their lives on the sea.



The coat of arms for Benidorm

In the 1700s, Benidorm was just a small fishermen's village with 215 inhabitants. Today there are about 70 000 residents. 30% of them are of foreign origin. It was in the middle of the 1920s that the first tourist villas were built along the Levante beach. In 1957 the government adopted a development plan that was to become the foundation of the tourist machine of today. About 5 million tourists visit the town each year.



Benidorm «by night». The second tallest skyscraper in Spain, Bali, in the middle. It is 186 m high.

### The 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2010



Today we drove to the old town in Altea. Here we are approaching the church.



The church «Nuestra Senora del Consuelo», has blue domes.





At the square by the church there are a number of restaurants.



Small narrow alleys in the area



Here we are on our way back to the car.





Altea has its own flag



Coat of arms

The area here, at the outlet of the Altar river, has been inhabited far back in times, both by Iberian, Greek, Romans and Moors. When James I of Aragon recaptured the town from the Moors in 1244, the town was quickly fortified, and walls were erected to enclosed what is now known as “the old town” from outsiders. Today there has been built a lot of tourist hotels along the beach and now tourism is the main source of income. Today the town has about 17 000 inhabitants.



Afterwards we went for a walk in this national park, Serra Gelada. We walked along the white road up to the lighthouse.

Here we have started the walk and are looking back to Altea at the right.



Here we can see Albir down to the left.



We had to go through a tunnel to get further.



The cliffs to the sea look like this





Right here it is not so steep.



There are good roads all the way.



There were a lot of people out walking this day.



Nice view.



The lighthouse.



Ruins.





View from the lighthouse towards Albir.



Here it is far down.



View southwards. The highest cliff is 438 m.



It was OK with a wall here.



At the end a flower picture, as usual.

Aerial photo of the lighthouse.



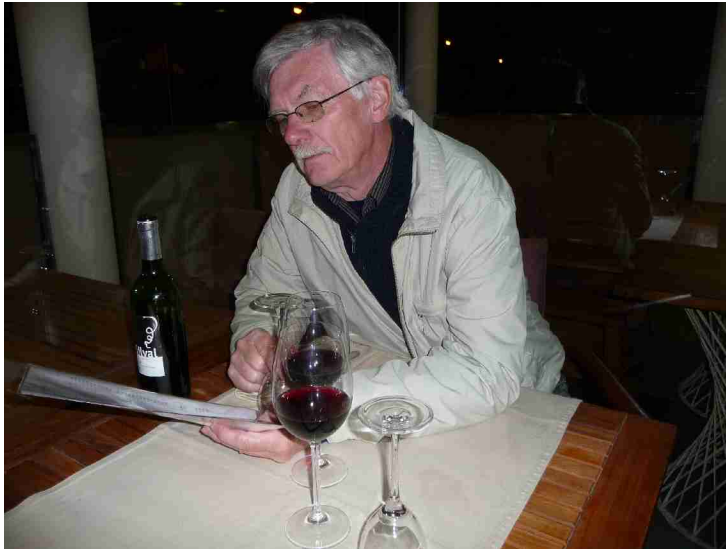
The 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2010



Today we started on small round trip north in Spain. Here we are driving along the coast north of Valencia. An imposing fort/city wall on the top of the hill. The town is named Sagunto.



Here is another picture taken from Wikipedia. The town was built already about 500 BC. Most of the ruins date back to the times of the Romans and the Moors.



Here we have arrived at the hotel in Castelldefels and are going to have some dinner.



There is a combined reception, bar and restaurant.



Here we are about to order.



We also asked the staff to take a picture of us.



The 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2010



This is the old castle in Castelldefels. The picture is taken at a long distance from the hotel, so it is a bit hazy. The castle was built in the Middle Ages on the ruins of Iberian and Roman remains. Its purpose was to defend the town's church.



After breakfast we took the train to Barcelona for a little stroll there. Right outside the railway station Estació França lies this park, Parc Ciutadella. Here is one of the entrances.



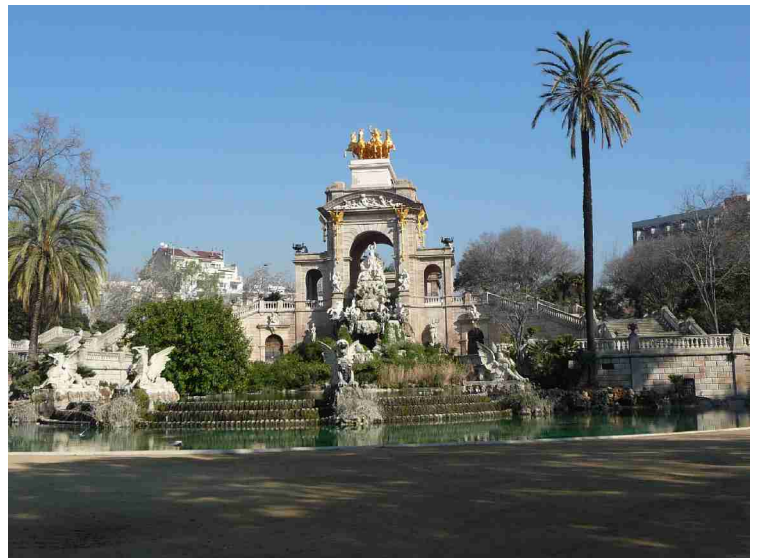
In the park lies Catalonia's parliament.



This is a museum.



In the foreground we can see Hivernacle, which is a winter garden. In the summer there is a cafe in there. In the background Castell de Tres Dragons, which is a Zoological museum.



This is Cascada, a triumph arch and a fountain with a waterfall. It was made for the world exhibition in 1888.





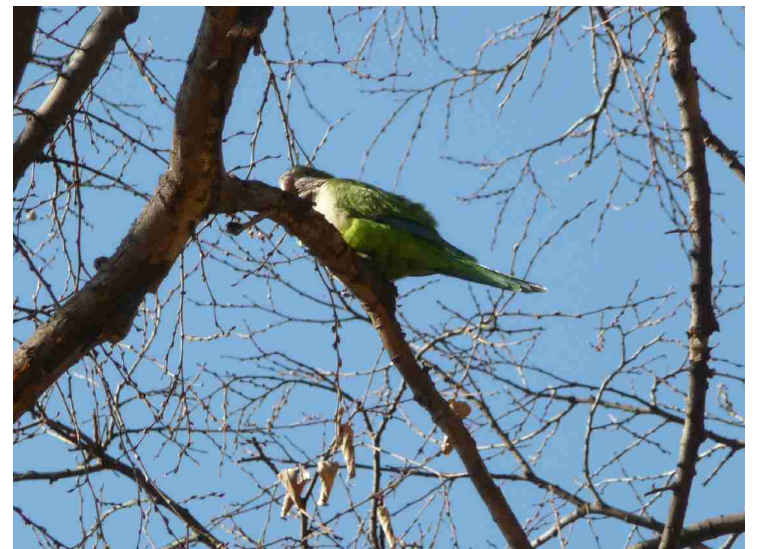
A mammoth in stone



Kjell buys a couple of beers.



We weren't sitting on a bench in the park, drinking the beer.



While sitting there, these parrots were flying back and forth.

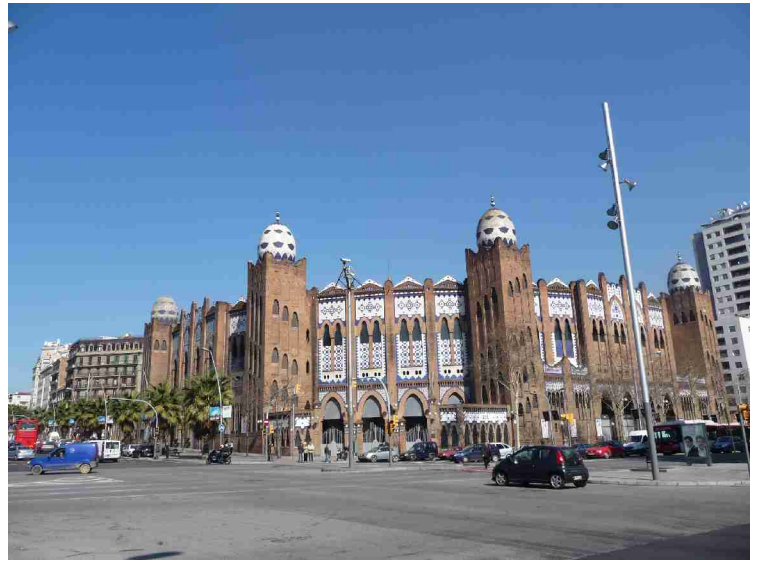


Outside the park there is a broad avenue with nice lamps along the entire avenue.



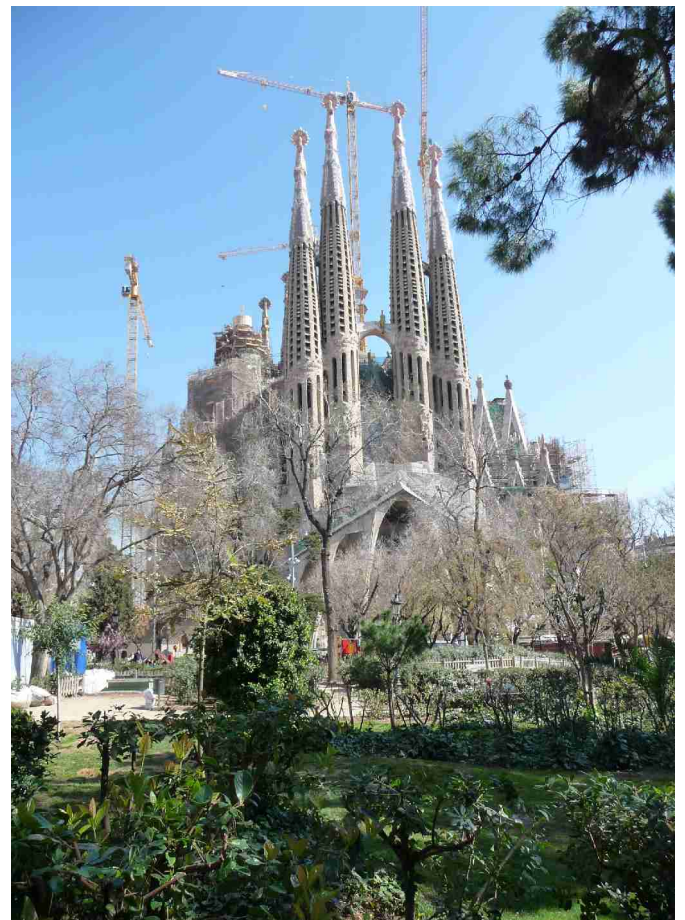
In the end of the avenue is a triumph arch, which was built for the world exhibition in 1888.





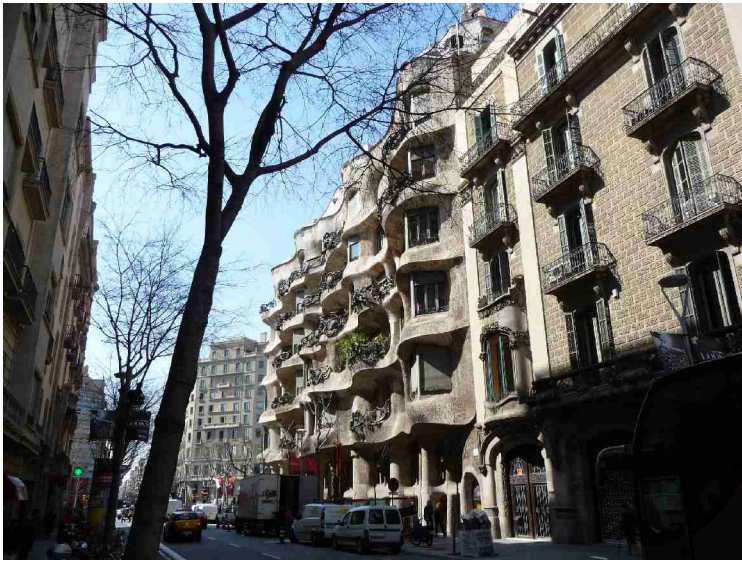
This is a bullfight arena, Plaça de Toros Monumental. The arena was opened the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1914. It is the only arena where there is arranged bullfights in Barcelona today. The two other arenas are closed.

At a distance we saw **Torre Agbar**, named after the company which owns the building, **Aguas de Barcelona**. It is 144,44 meter high. It was opened June 2005, and inaugurated officially by the King of Spain on 16 September 2005. In the evening it is illuminated in red and blue.

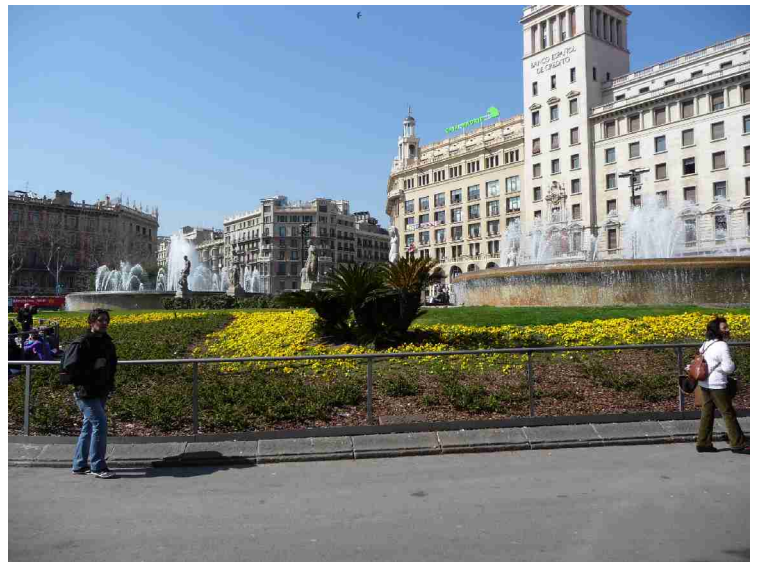


This is **Sagrada Família** (The Holy Family). It is designed by the architect Antoni Gaudí. The building started in 1883, but it is still not finished. Most of the building has been financed by private funds. The basilica is one of Barcelona's greatest attractions. The church will be consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI on November 7, 2010, during his visit to Santiago de Compostela and Barcelona.



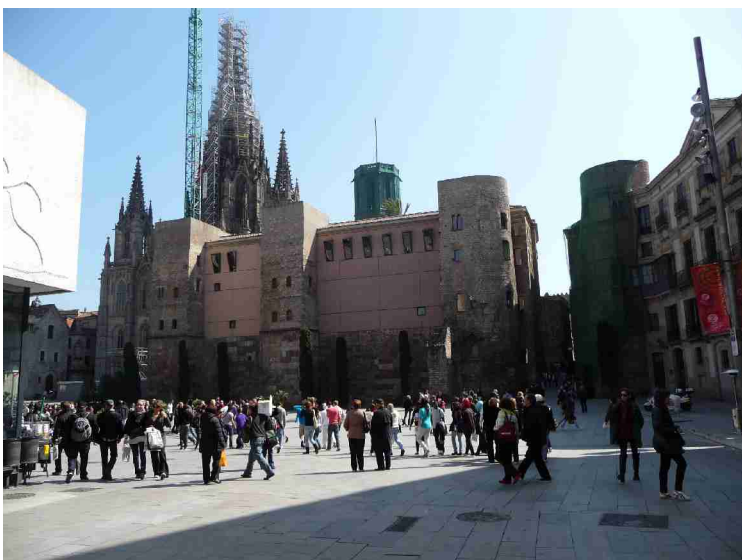


Gaudi has also designed this building, Casa Milà, which is a house completely without straight lines. The house was not well received by the citizens of Barcelona when it was built in the years 1905-1907, but today it is a landmark in the city. In 1984 it was put on UNESCO's world heritage list.



Gaudi has designed many other buildings too, such as this: **Casa Batlló**

This is Plaça Catalunya where many of the biggest streets are intersecting and this is regarded as the city center.



Here we are walking past Cathedral Santa Eulalia at the back.

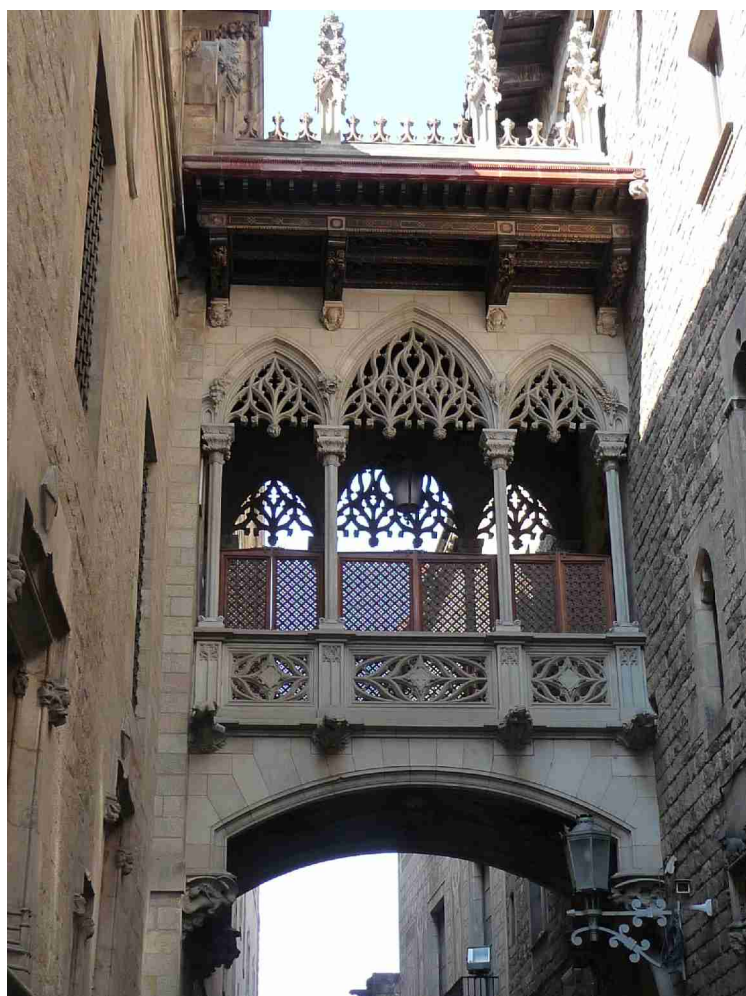
There are street musicians all over in big cities. Here in an alley behind the cathedral.



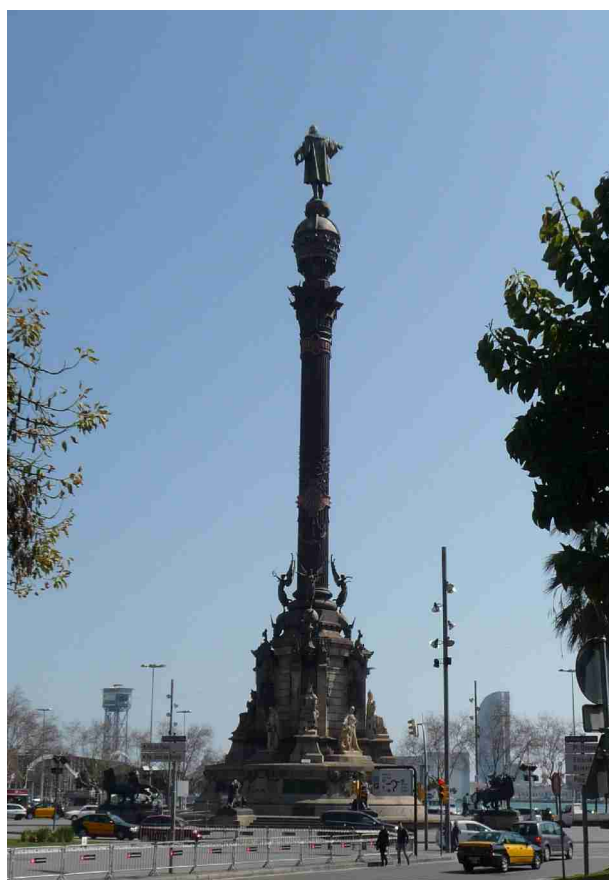


This is a picture of the cathedral that is taken from Wikipedia and the text is also taken from there.

**The Cathedral in Barcelona (Catedral de la Santa Creu i Santa Eulàlia, also called La Seu)** is a Gothic cathedral in the township of Barri Gòtic. It is the seat of the Archbishop of Barcelona. The cathedral was built between 1298 and 1420 on the old Roman cathedral. The facade is neo-gothic. It originates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was finished in 1989. It is dedicated to Sankta Creu and Sankta Eulàlia. Sankta Eulàlia is Barcelona's co-patron saint and is entombed in the crypt. The cathedral is 93 meter long and 40 meter wide. The garden measures 25 x 6 meters. The cathedral is a basilica with 3 naves and 28 chapels.



This is a nice arcade that we were passing underneath near the cathedral.



Here we have reached the south end of La Rambla, where the Columbus monument is standing. The monument was erected in connection with the world exhibition in 1888 in honor of Christopher Columbus. The pillar and the sculpture are in total about 60 meter high. The statue is pointing out to the sea. Inside the pillar it is possible to take the elevator to the top.





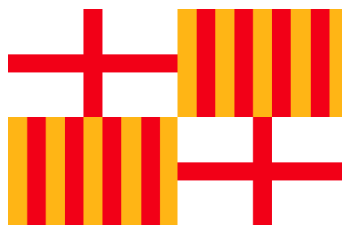
Street life at La Rambla



Here we need some food. Anne Berit is in top shape.



Kjell looks a bit more tired after having walked this long route in the city.



Barcelona's flag



Barcelona's coat of arms

**Barcelona** is the capital in Catalonia, an autonomous region in north east of Spain. It is also the capital in the province of Barcelona and in comarca Barcelonès. With its 1,6 million inhabitants, Barcelona is Spain's next biggest city after Madrid and is the biggest city in Catalonia. About 5 million people live in the Barcelona metropolitan area, which means about 70% of the population in Catalonia.

Barcelona is a major economic center with one of Europe's principal Mediterranean ports. The city is also a popular tourist attraction. The city was arranging the summer Olympics in 1992.



Back in Castelldefels we go past the university area where there are parks and ponds and a teeming bird life.



Back at the hotel Kjell is still worn out, but a large beer should help?





Nice trees right outside the hotel.



Flag



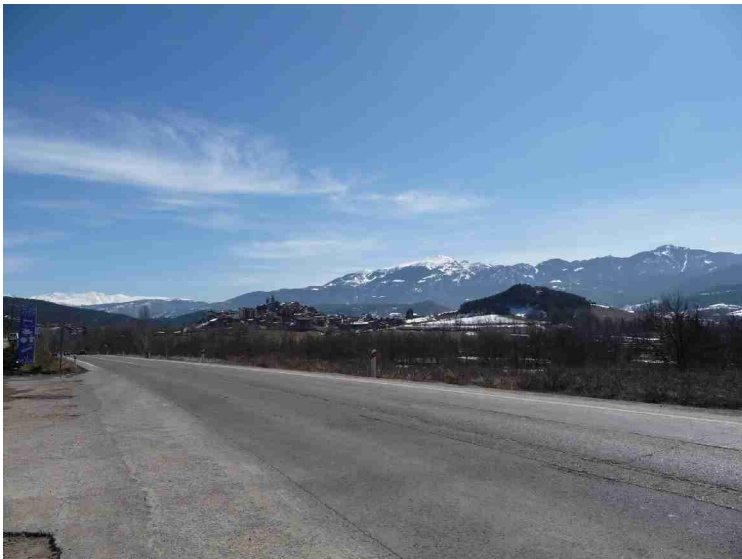
Coat of arms

Castelldefels is a small town just south of Barcelona.  
About 60 000 people are living there.

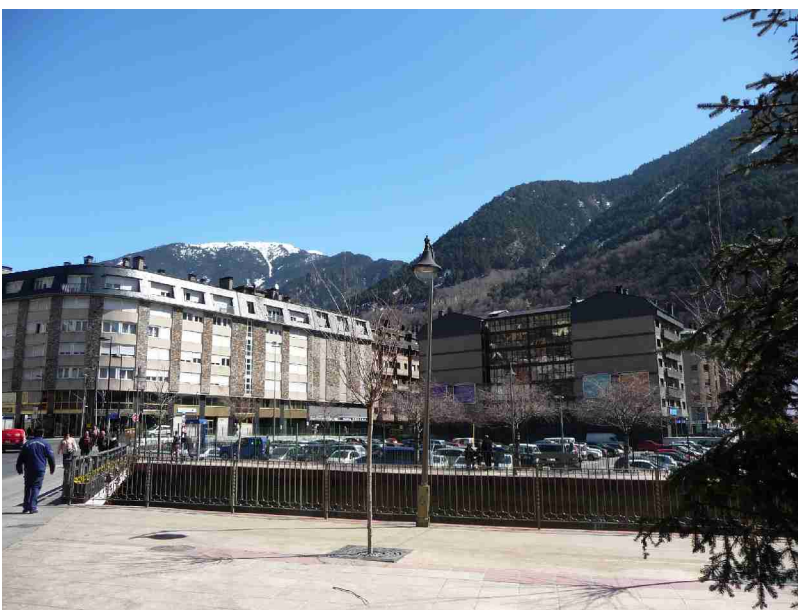
In addition to the castle, which we took a picture of, there are 16 watch towers around in the town that were used by the inhabitants to defend themselves against pirates.

In addition is the Olympic channel, which was used during the Olympic games in 1992 located here.

### The 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2010



Today we went on in direction of Andorra. When we had come a bit up into the Pyrenees we took a couple of pictures of snow covered mountains.



Here we have arrived at the center of the capital Andorra La Vella.



Picture from one of the streets.

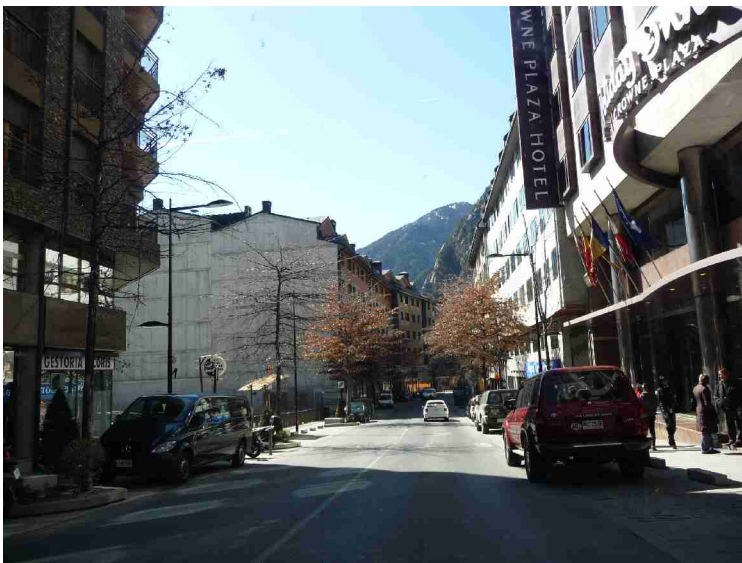




Here we need some food.



Kjell and the dog have a conversation going on.



Another street picture.



Out again through the border passage.



Flag

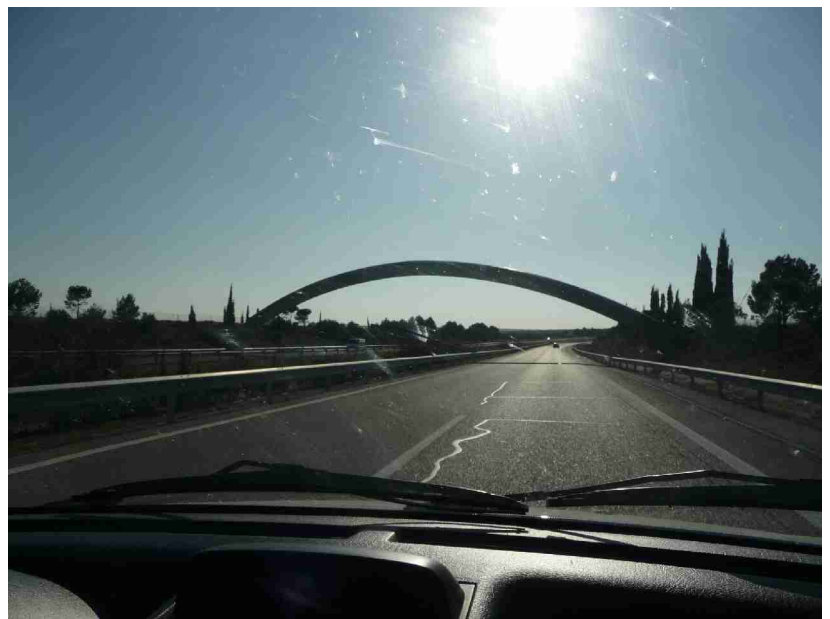


Coat of arms

The **Principality of Andorra** is a small country, which is positioned between France and Spain.

The previous poor and isolated country is at the time being experiencing a flourishing period due to tourism and its status as a tax haven.

Andorra has a population of about 85 000. The capital is Andorra la Vella.



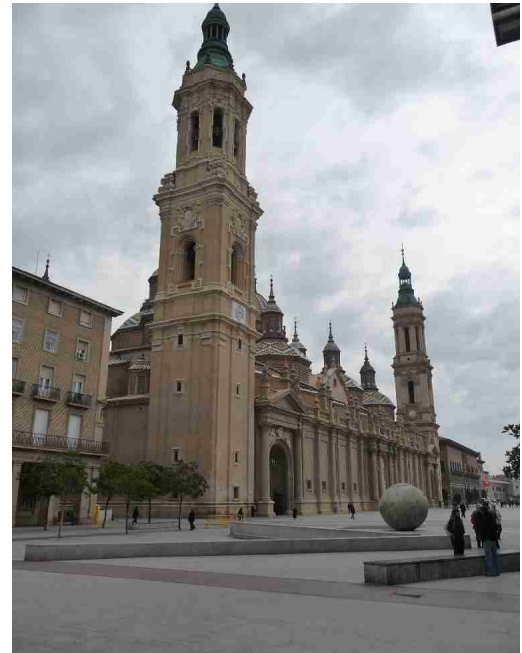
Here we are pushing on to Zaragoza. This arch is symbolizing that the Greenwich meridian is going here.



18. mars 2010



Here we have arrived to Zaragoza, We are at the large square outside Basilica del Pilar.



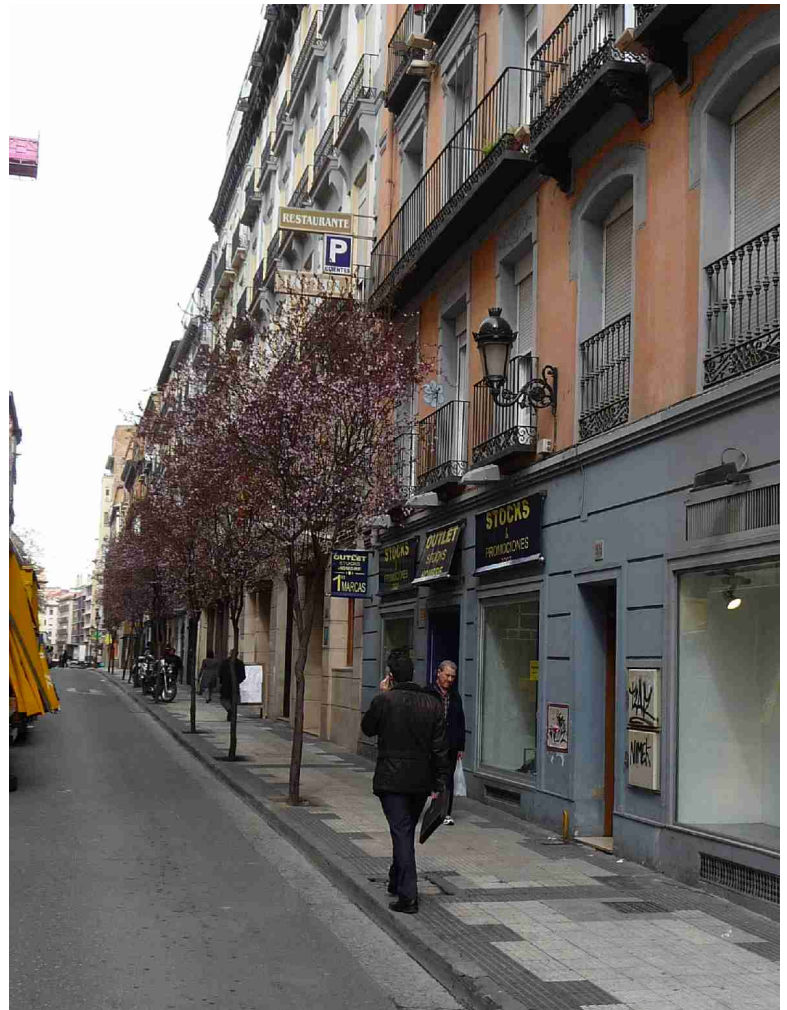
Catedral-Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar. There have been many churches here. The first one was built about 41 AD by the apostle John after virgin Mary had shown herself for him and told him to build the church here. The present church was finished in 1686.



Here we are in a pedestrian street.



There are statues of poets along the whole street.



Street with flowering almond trees.





We came past Gran Cafe. That was a bit home-like.



Therefore we had to go in for a cup of coffee.



Here we are in the pedestrian street looking towards the basilica.



Here we are at the end of the square in front of the basilica. The basilica to the right.



At the end of the square is Goya standing in the front of Catedral de La Seo.



This is the bridge Punte de Piedra, which goes over the river Ebro.





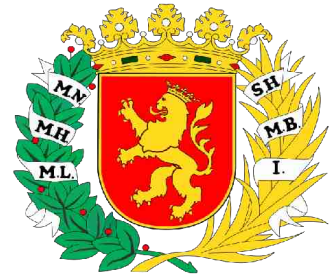
A couple of pictures of the basilica and the river Ebro



Here we have taken a picture of the basilica from the bridge Punte de Piedra.



Flag



Coat of arms



Here we are on our way back to Cumbre del Sol. In the middle is a figure, which there are many of along this motorway.

**Zaragoza** (traditionally **Saragossa**; latin: *Caesaraugusta*; Arabic: *Sarakusta*) is the capital in the autonomous region and former kingdom Aragón.

The city has a bit mor than 660 000 inhabitants and is the fifth biggest city in Spain.

The city lies 199 meters above sea level and is a junction between Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Bilbao, which all lie about 300 km from Zaragoza.

The city was a Roman outpost called *Caesaraugusta*, founded under Augustus. Before that the city was known under the Celtic-Iberian name Selduba.

From 1018 to 1118 Zaragoza was one of the Taifa kingdoms, independent Muslim states that emerged in the twelfth century after the collapse of the Córdoba caliphate. In 1118 the city was re-capture by the Christians and made the capital in the kingdom Aragón.





On the way back to Cumbre del Sol we stopped here to have something to eat. The restaurant lies in the middle of no man's land. There was only a small sign on the motorway and we just followed it.



The restaurant was full and we had to sit and wait for a while until other guests had left.