

European
Historic
Houses
Circle

Owners' Circle Congress 2025

18th-21st September 2025
Barcelona

“Hidden Architectural Secrets of Barcelona”

Programme



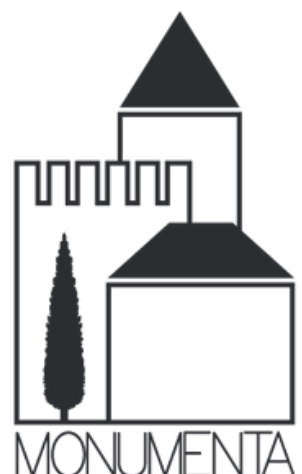
Welcome

We are thrilled to invite you to the third edition of the Owners' Circle Congress, this year brought to you in partnership with our esteemed members from Monumenta. Together, we have curated an engaging and inspiring programme that promises to deliver unforgettable experiences in the vibrant and culturally rich city of Barcelona.

Over the course of three extraordinary days—or four, if you are joining us for the extended weekend—you will have the unique opportunity to explore Barcelona's hidden gems, uncovering its rich history, stunning architecture, and dynamic spirit.

From exclusive insights to meaningful connections, this year's event is designed to celebrate the essence of discovery, collaboration, and inspiration.

Whether you are a returning guest or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to welcome you to this unforgettable journey. Get ready to be inspired, connect with like-minded peers, and fall in love with Barcelona in a whole new way!



Thursday, 18 September

- 15:00 h Visit to Colonia Güell
- 18:30 h Visit to Casa Viçens
- 20:00 h Rooftop visit and dinner at Hotel Plaza

Friday, 19 September

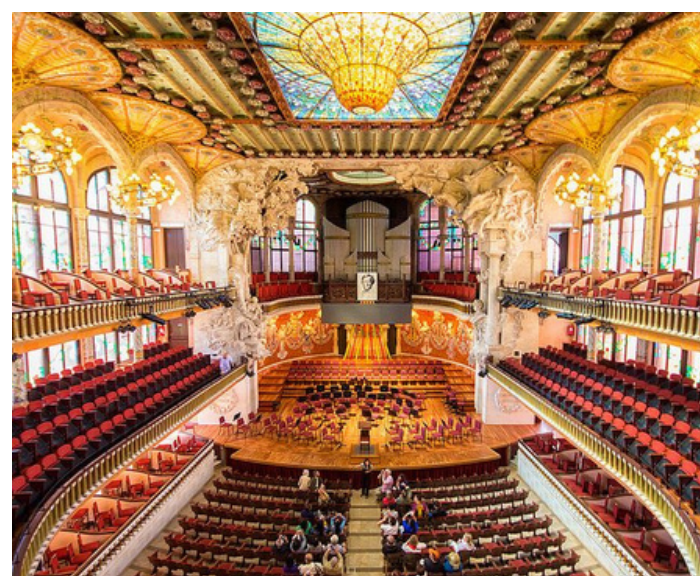
- 10:00 h Reception at Palau Mojà
- 12:00 h Lunch, Conference and Visit to Bellesguard
- 20:00 h Cocktail and Gala dinner at Círculo del Liceo

Saturday, 20 September

- 09:00 h Group visit to Sagrada Familia
- 13:00 h Free Lunch
- 16:00 h Visit to Casa Amatller
- 17:00 h Visit to Casa Batlló
- 20:00h Dinner at Círculo Ecuestre

Sunday, 21 September

- 09:00 h Optional mass
- 10:00 h Visit to Palau de la Música Catalana
- 12:00 h Farewell lunch at Palau de la Música



Thursday, 18 September

- 14:00h** **Bus transfer**
Meeting point: Rda. de Sant Pere, 21, Eixample, 08010 Barcelona
- 15:00 h** **Visit to Colonia Güell**
Carrer Claudi Güell, 6, 08690, Santa Coloma de Cervelló, Barcelona
- 18:30 h** **Visit to Casa Vicens**
Carrer de les Carolines, 20-26, Gràcia, 08012, Barcelona
Bus transfer from previous stop
- 20:00 h** **Rooftop visit and dinner at Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza**
Pl. d'Espanya, 8, Sants-Montjuïc, 08014, Barcelona





Learn about the venues

Colonia Güell

The Colonia Güell, located in Santa Coloma de Cervelló near Barcelona, is a modernist gem and a key site for exploring Antoni Gaudí's architecture. Created in 1890 by Eusebi Güell, it was an industrial colony designed to provide workers with housing, cultural amenities, and improved living conditions. Güell's vision included modernist elements, making the Colonia both functional and innovative.

Its highlight is the unfinished church by Antoni Gaudí, particularly the crypt, which showcases groundbreaking techniques like catenary arches and hyperbolic walls. This masterpiece laid the foundation for Gaudí's Sagrada Família. Other modernist buildings, designed by Gaudí's collaborators, feature distinctive materials like exposed brick, ceramics, and wrought iron. Declared a Cultural Heritage Site in 1991, the Colonia Güell blends architectural significance with historical value, making it an essential destination for modernism enthusiasts.

Casa Vicens

Casa Vicens, located in the Gràcia district of Barcelona, is one of Antoni Gaudí's earliest works and a brilliant example of his distinctive architectural style. Built between 1883 and 1885 as a summer house for the Vicens family, it showcases an eclectic mix of influences, including Moorish, neoclassical, and oriental styles, combined with Gaudí's innovative use of colour and materials.

The building is adorned with intricate ceramic tiles, wrought iron details, and vivid floral motifs inspired by nature. Its design marked a turning point in modernist architecture, setting the stage for Gaudí's later masterpieces. Casa Vicens was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005 and is now open to the public as a museum, offering visitors a glimpse into the origins of Gaudí's creative genius.

Friday, 19 September

10:00 h

Reception at Palau Mojà

Carrer de la Portaferrissa, 1, 08002, Barcelona

Individual transport

12:00 h -
17:30 h

Lunch, Conference and Visit at Bellesguard

Bellesguard Street 20, 08022 Barcelona

20:00 h

Gala dinner at Círculo del Liceo

La Rambla, 65, 08002, Barcelona

Dress code: Black Tie





Learn about the venues

Palau Mojà

A historic building in Barcelona reflecting the lifestyle of the city's high bourgeoisie in the 18th and 19th centuries. Originally owned by Josep de Copons and his wife Maria Luisa Descatllar, it was designed by architect Josep Mas and opened in 1784. The building blends Baroque and French Neoclassical styles, with notable features including the Grand Salon, paintings by Francesc Pla, and the façades. In 1870, the Marquis of Comillas purchased the palace and made renovations, including the Staircase of Honour and the blue, pink, and green salons. After a fire in 1971, it was abandoned until it became the headquarters of the Catalan Government's Cultural Heritage Department.

The house, with its intricate detailing and harmonious integration into the landscape, reflects a fusion of history and innovation. Today, Bellesguard remains a privately owned cultural landmark, offering guided tours that delve into its royal heritage, architectural ingenuity, and Gaudí's unique vision.

Círculo del Liceo

The Círculo del Liceo, located on Barcelona's famous La Rambla, is the oldest club in peninsular Spain that still occupies its original headquarters. Built on the site formerly occupied by the convent of the "Trinitarios Descalzos" (Barefoot Trinitarians) in Barcelona, the club has always maintained a close connection with opera and music. Since its foundation in 1847, a significant portion of Barcelona's and Catalonia's society has gathered in the halls of the club.

Bellesguard

Bellesguard, also known as Casa Figueras, is a hidden gem of Antoni Gaudí's work, nestled at the foot of the Collserola hills in Barcelona. Built between 1900 and 1909, it masterfully blends modernist and neo-Gothic styles, drawing inspiration from the site's medieval past as the residence of King Martin I of Aragon. Gaudí's design incorporates natural stone, colorful ceramic mosaics, and an imposing central tower crowned with a cross, embodying both his signature aesthetic and deep historical symbolism.

Conference

Survival of heritage, from policy to action

Private historic properties, whether lived in or run as businesses, play a vital role in shaping our cultural heritage. This year's conference explores their evolving relationship with tourism and heritage designations such as UNESCO status and will dive into how a strategic property management plan can bridge past and future, aligning restoration with long-term vision.

12:15 h - 12:30h	Welcome speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none">• M^a Eugènia Gay, <i>Deputy Mayor of the Barcelona City Council</i>• José M^a Mata Herberg, <i>Monumenta vice-president</i>• Anna Mollet, <i>Manager of Torre Bellesguard by Antoni Gaudí</i>
12:30 h - 12:35 h	The European Perspective <p>Marcos Ros, <i>Member of the European Parliament and architect</i></p>
12:35 h - 13:00 h	Challenges and Opportunities in Tourism Management. The Barcelona Brand and Gaudí 2026 <p>Mateu Hernández, <i>Director general for Turisme de Barcelona</i></p>
13:00 h - 13:15 h	Questions
13:15 h - 14:15 h	Business Lunch
14:15 h - 15:15 h	Guided Tour
15:15 h - 15:45 h	Gaudí 2026, an Event Organized by All Owners of Gaudí's Works <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Galdric Santana - <i>Director of the Gaudí Chair at UPC, Commissioner of the Gaudí Year 2026</i>• Anna Mollet - <i>manager of Torre Bellesguard, Head of Communications for Gaudí Year 2026</i>
15:45 h - 16:30 h	Transformation and Adaptation of a Historic House to Modern Times and Uses <p><i>Case Study 1: Bellesguard – Owners and Uses Over the Years</i> Anna Mollet - <i>Manager of Torre Bellesguard</i></p> <p><i>Case Study 2: Iford Manor – Building Business and Community to Support Heritage</i> William Cartwright-Hignett - <i>Owner of Iford Manor, UK</i></p>
16.30 h - 17:30 h	The Master Plan for Torre Bellesguard <p>Galdric Santana - <i>Director of the Gaudí Chair at UPC</i></p>

Conference

Gaudí 2026: A Commemoration Organized by All Owners of Gaudí's Works Galdric Santana and Anna Mollet

The year 2026 marks the centenary of Antoni Gaudí's death. All entities that own works by Antoni Gaudí have come together to organize this important anniversary. Within the joint program, there are two key initiatives:

- **The creation of new routes connecting Gaudí's works.** Led by the Gaudí Chair, and based on the unpublished research of Galdric Santana, new guided tours have been designed that explore the interrelationships between Gaudí's buildings. Through comparisons—whether by similarities or contrasts—his works are paired two by two, always linking a well-known Gaudí building with a lesser-known one. This new approach to explaining Gaudí provides a more global and rigorous understanding of the architect's genius, while also helping to raise awareness of his more hidden works.
- **UNESCO World Heritage extension proposal for six Gaudí works.** Casa Botines, the Episcopal Palace of Astorga, El Capricho in Comillas, the Cathedral of Mallorca, the Teresian College, and Torre Bellesguard have submitted a request to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage listing, which currently covers seven of Gaudí's buildings (inscribed in 1984 and 2005): Park Güell, Palau Güell, Casa Milà, Casa Vicens, the Nativity façade and Crypt of the Sagrada Família, Casa Batlló, and the Crypt of Colònia Güell. Promoted by the Gaudí Chair and framed within the 2026 commemoration, if accepted, this extension would make Gaudí the architect with the most UNESCO World Heritage-listed buildings in the world.

Ownership and Uses of Bellesguard Through the Years - Anna Mollet

Antoni Gaudí's Torre Bellesguard is much more than just Gaudí's work. The land it stands on has over 2,000 years of history and has been the setting for crucial moments in the history of Catalonia. This deep historical background, and the prominent figures associated with it, deeply influenced Gaudí in the creation of Bellesguard. But the story doesn't end with Gaudí's building. The structure has continued to serve a wide range of purposes, with its architecture adapted to meet the needs of each period. From a hunting lodge to a royal residence, from papal quarters to a bandits' hideout, from ruins to a Gaudí masterpiece, from a hospital to a family home, and from a home to a museum house.

Special attention will be given to this last transformation, explaining how the Guilera family decided to open their home to the public, beginning the journey toward cultural management of their Gaudí heritage. Later, in 2018, the property was acquired by Occident, marking the beginning of a new era that actively embraces future challenges, including the development of a Master Plan for global restoration and the submission of the UNESCO World Heritage candidacy.

The Master Plan for Torre Bellesguard - Galdric Santana

Galdric Santana, Director of the Bellesguard Research Group, has spent over 15 years studying this lesser-known Gaudí masterpiece. Over the years, he has compiled a vast amount of previously unpublished information, which will be made public in 2026 through the publication of a Bellesguard monograph and through presentations at the Gaudí Congress organized by the Gaudí Chair.

Thanks to this in-depth, first-hand research and his thorough knowledge of the building—combined with his working methodology—Santana became the author of the Torre Bellesguard Master Plan. Utilizing the latest technological innovations, including 3D laser scanning (point cloud technology), 3D glasses, and meticulous historical and architectural research, the Bellesguard Master Plan stands as an example of excellence and a model for heritage preservation.

This conference will explain in detail: What a Master Plan is, Why it is necessary, and how new technologies are being applied to the study and conservation of architectural heritage.

Saturday, 20 September

- 09:00 h **Group visit to Sagrada Familia**
Carrer de Mallorca, 401, L'Eixample, 08013, Barcelona
- 13:00 h **Lunch**
Free time, you can choose where to go
- 16:00 h **Visit to Casa Amatller**
Pg. de Gràcia, 41, 08007, Barcelona
- 17:00 h **Visit to Casa Batlló**
Pg. de Gràcia, 43, 08007, Barcelona
- 20:00 h **Dinner at Círculo Ecuestre**
Balma street, 169 - Bis, 08006, Barcelona
- Dress code: Jacket and Tie





Learn about the venues

Sagrada Família

The Sagrada Família is Barcelona's most iconic landmark and a masterpiece of Antoni Gaudí's architectural genius. Construction began in 1882, and the basilica remains under construction, reflecting Gaudí's ambitious vision. Combining Gothic and modernist styles, its design features intricate façades, towering spires, and stunning interiors illuminated by vibrant stained-glass windows.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Sagrada Família is a symbol of Barcelona and one of the world's most visited monuments, drawing millions of visitors each year to experience its unique beauty and profound significance.

Casa Amatller

Casa Amatller, designed by Josep Puig i Cadafalch, is a standout example of Catalan modernism, blending Romanesque and Gothic elements in a richly symbolic façade. Its iconic stepped gable, inspired by northern European architecture, conceals a photography studio built for the owner, Antoni Amatller. The façade features asymmetrical details, sculptural frames, and motifs like almond branches that reflect Amatller's name and interests, making it one of Barcelona's most distinctive buildings.

Casa Batlló

Casa Batlló, one of Antoni Gaudí's most iconic masterpieces, stands in the heart of Barcelona's Passeig de Gràcia. Redesigned between 1904 and 1906, the building's organic forms, vibrant mosaics, and skeletal balconies reflect Gaudí's imaginative modernist style, inspired by nature and Catalan folklore. Its undulating façade, colorful trencadís (mosaic tiles), and dragon-like roof make it a striking symbol of Barcelona's architectural heritage. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Casa Batlló offers immersive tours showcasing Gaudí's creativity and innovation.

Círculo Ecuestre

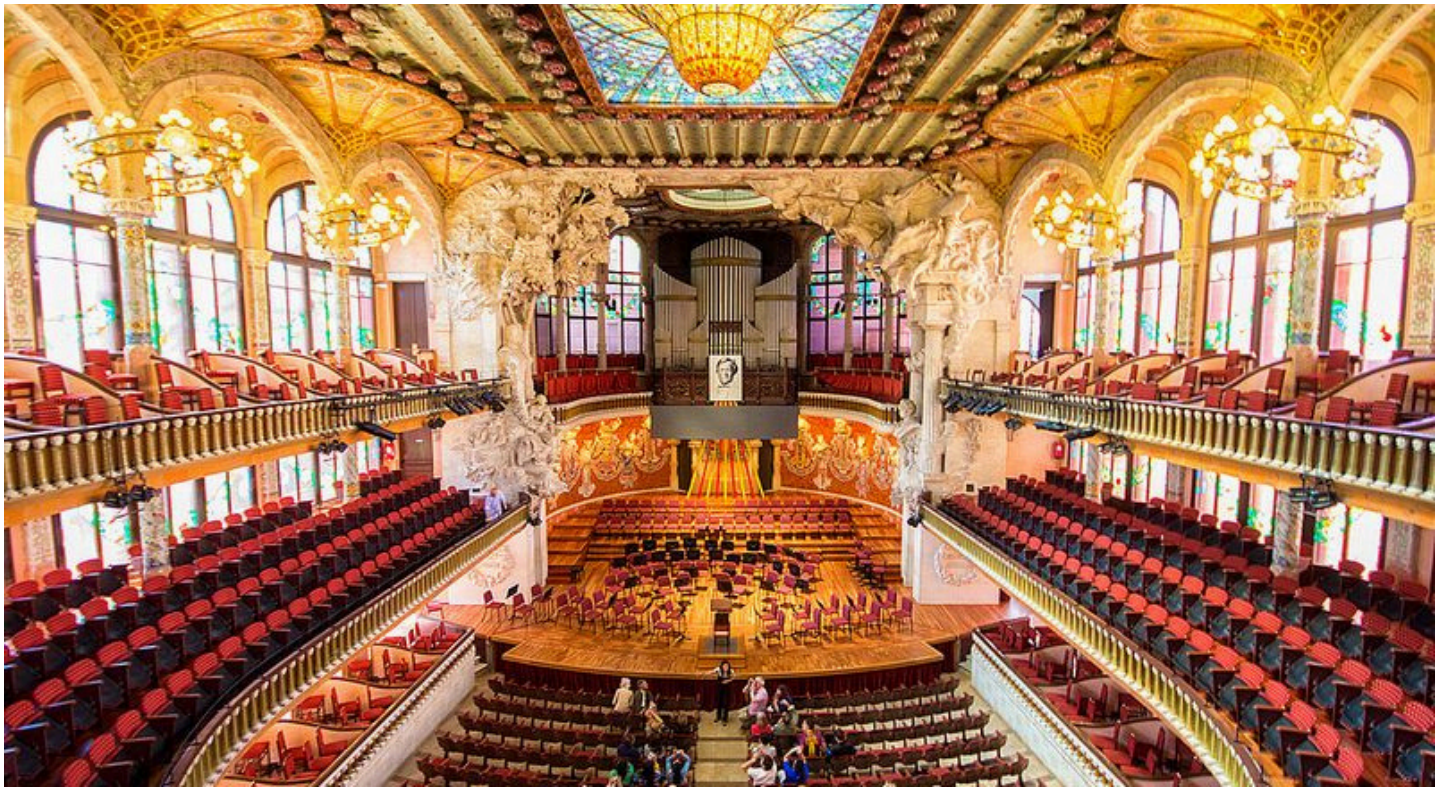
The Círculo Ecuestre is an exclusive private club in Barcelona, established in 1856, with a long history of fostering social, cultural, and business connections among its distinguished members. Located in a stately building on Avenida Diagonal, the club is renowned for its elegant interiors, including grand halls, refined dining areas, and spaces dedicated to cultural events and networking.

Over the years, the Círculo Ecuestre has become a symbol of tradition and prestige.

Sunday, 21 September

- 09:00 h **Optional mass**
Some churches or cathedrals might have an English mass.
More information will follow soon for those interested
- 10:00 h **Visit to Palau de la Música Catalana**
Carrer Palau de la Musica, 4-6, 08003, Barcelona
- 12:00h **Farewell Lunch at Palau de la Música Catalana**





Learn about the venues

Palau de la Música Catalana

The Palau de la Música Catalana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of Barcelona's most stunning architectural treasures. Designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner and completed in 1908, this modernist concert hall is renowned for its vibrant mosaics, intricate stained glass, and sculptural details that celebrate Catalan culture. Its most striking feature is the skylight—a massive inverted stained-glass dome that bathes the auditorium in natural light, creating a unique atmosphere for performances. The Palau has hosted world-class concerts for over a century, ranging from classical music to contemporary genres. Beyond its role as a premier music venue, the building itself is a masterpiece of craftsmanship and artistic expression. Visitors can explore its rich history and breathtaking interiors through guided tours, making it a must-see cultural landmark in Barcelona.



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Kotax

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Kotax is committed to balancing premium and insured value, ensuring clients are optimally covered while respecting the emotional worth of their assets. Their approach goes beyond financial security, aiming to offer reassurance and a personal touch in every solution.

The logo for KOTAX, featuring the word "KOTAX" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A thick horizontal line is positioned above the letters "K" and "O".

Versicherungs
Systeme

Dorotheum

<https://www.dorotheum.com/en/>

Dorotheum is one of the world's largest and oldest auction houses, offering expertise in art, antiques, jewellery, and classic cars. With a tradition dating back to 1707, it provides a trusted platform for buying and selling valuable items through auctions and private sales.

The logo for DOROTHEUM, featuring the word "DOROTHEUM" in a red, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font, is the text "SEIT 1707".

Damm Fundació

<https://www.fundaciodamm.cat/es>

The Damm Foundation promotes and supports Damm's philanthropic and sponsorship activities across sport, society, and culture in Spain, with a focus on fostering young athletes, strengthening civil society, and enriching cultural life. Through different initiatives, the Foundation aims to contribute to building a better, more vibrant society.

The logo for Damm Fundació, featuring the word "Damm" in a large, red, serif font, and the word "Fundació" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it.

Tickets, Hotel and Travel

Tickets

4-day ticket (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
EUR 850

3-day ticket (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
EUR 680

Registration Link

<https://europeanhistorichouses3.wildapricot.org/event-6031198>

Included in the ticket price

This includes bus transfers during the programme when indicated, lunch on Friday and Sunday, and dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Accommodation and travel to and from the programme is the responsibility of the participant.

Hotel Recommendations

Please make the booking of the hotel in Barcelona by yourself. These recommendations by Monumenta include exclusive discount codes:

- [H1898](#) (code applied on the link)
- [Granvia](#) (code applied on the link)
- [Casa Sagnier](#) - code: CSMONUMENTA25
- [Catalonia](#) - code: CIRCLE
- Hotel Cotton House - 20% off if you send them an email to reservations@hotelcottonhouse.com mentioning the congress before 30/06/25

Or you can find different accommodations on Airbnb and Booking

Travel to Barcelona

by plane: Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat (30 minutes away from city centre)

General Information

Remarks:

Please be on time!

The bus doesn't wait if you are late. So please contact us and let us know if you will be catching up by car or taxi

Dresscode:

Whole weekend: smart casual

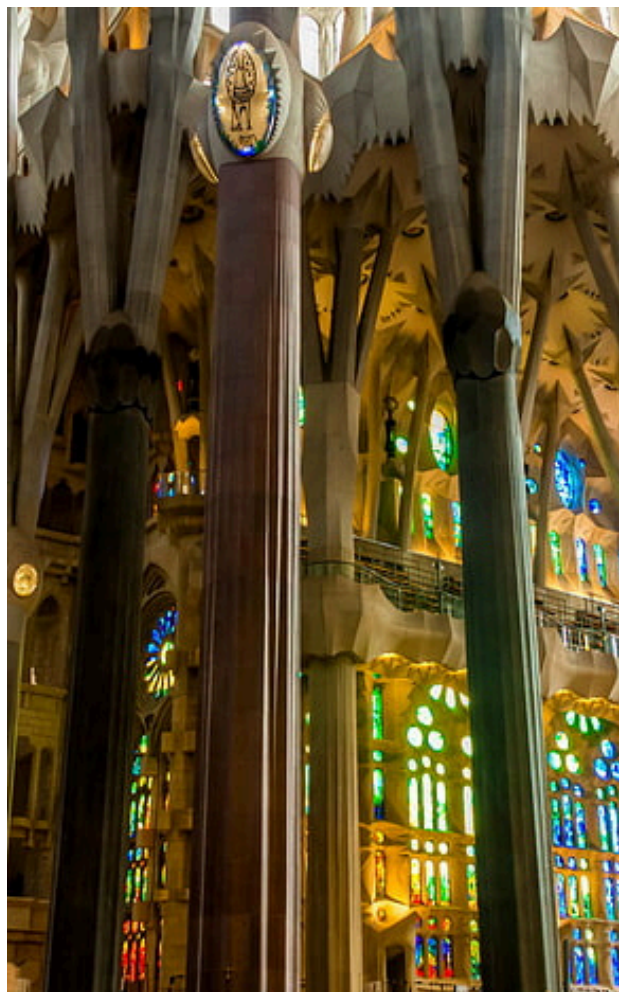
Friday gala dinner: black tie

Saturday dinner: jacket and tie

Contacts on location (for emergency)

William Cartwright-Hignett, +44 7967 630579

Ewelina Oksiuta, +32 488 22 16 07



Terms and Conditions

To confirm your registration, payment must be received within ten days of getting your invoice. If you have not paid within this time, your registration may be cancelled by EHH, and your place given to someone on the waiting list.

Refunds are generally not offered except where the event is cancelled by us. But in exceptional circumstances, EHH, in its sole discretion, may consider full or partial refunds for elements where costs have not yet been incurred prior to cancellation by you.

Insurance

As organisers, EHH provides a liability insurance for the attendees during the events. The travel and health optional insurances are left to the participants' discretion.

Photographer

We will have a professional photographer for the event. The photos are used by EHH for communication purposes. If you do not agree to your person being photographed, please contact us in advance by e-mail at info@ehh.eu.

