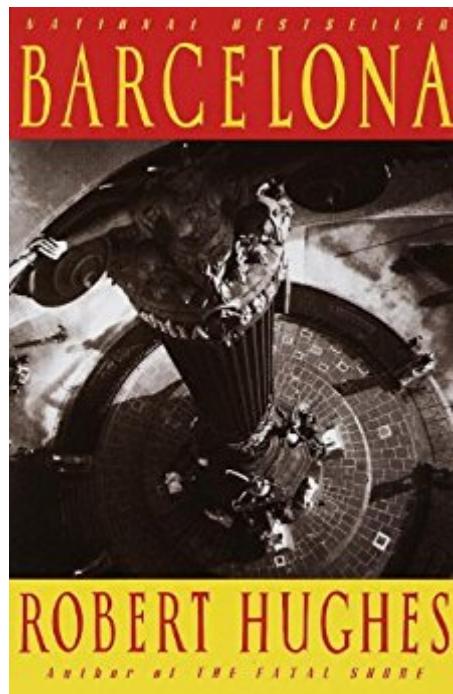


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# Barcelona



## Synopsis

A monumentally informed and irresistibly opinionated guide to the most un-Spanish city in Spain, from the bestselling author of *The Fatal Shore*. In these pages, Robert Hughes scrolls through Barcelona's often violent history; tells the stories of its kings, poets, magnates, and revolutionaries; and ushers readers through municipal landmarks that range from Antoni Gaudí's sublimely surreal cathedral to a postmodern restaurant with a glass-walled urinal. The result is a work filled with the attributes of Barcelona itself: proportion, humor, and *seny* "the Catalan word for triumphant common sense.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a fantastic introduction to Barcelona! This is a foray into almost everything Catalan. Social and artistic history is introduced in such a way as to make it spring to life from the pages - one feels as if they are moving through Barcelona in real time, be it modern Barcelona or in times past. One experiences political change, artistic development, the industrial revolution, along with the development of Catalan language, culture, architecture, and history. I'm a flamenco aficionado

through and through, and plan on studying dance in Barcelona in the near future. I now feel utterly and completely ready for this journey, and am excited to view the city with this solid introduction to its history - I feel my time there will be all the richer for having danced through the pages of Hughes' "Barcelona."

I'm not a history buff. I got this book in preparation for a trip to Barcelona. I'm enjoying this book so much more than I imagined. The author is witty and had me drawn in at the first page. The information and insights are fascinating. I'm learning about areas of Catalunya I wasn't aware of and it's cause met o schedule additional day trips I didn't know about before reading this.

Hughes' masterful history of Barcelona is detailed and rich with descriptions, explanations, and critiques of everything from economics, class cultures, and art to architecture and politics. Gaudi is well explained and Hughes' talent as an art critic shines through.

Since my husband and I are going to Barcelona next year, I wanted to learn something about it. This book covers just about everything I wanted to know and so much more. Robert Hughes is interesting, sometimes riveting, and clearly knowledgeable about his subject. Though I often found myself skimming through some of the many historical details with umpteen names of notable Catalans and events, I feel satisfied that I can appreciate traveling to Barcelona more because I read it. I learned of the rivalry between Madrid and Barcelona and their distinct differences. I learned why many Catalans have pushed for an independent Catalunya. I recommend it to those who love history and appreciate documented works.

Very good book written with tremendous insight although it could have used better editing to cut down on the verbiage. I appreciate so much of the shared info though. I understand that Hughes' later Enchantress book on Barcelona is more concise.

I am a big fan of Barcelona. It is the ultimate walking city with so many sights that are a feast for the eye. I am also a big fan of Gaudi. The book helped me pull it all together.

Robert Hughes wrote two books on Barcelona. This is the first and the one that every traveler should read both before and after visiting the city. His style is classy and engaging -- elegant fun to read because he mixes the authoritative and the anecdotal in presenting history, descriptions and

judgments of art and architecture, and the vivid personalities involved in Barcelona's past. I finished it on the Kindle and was so enthusiastic that I bought the paperback to take on a second trip to Spain where it proved to be a not-to-be missed companion.

Interesting history of an interesting place. Kind of slow in parts, and I got tired of the pedantic use of words, but overall it was enjoyable, especially the sections on artists and architects.

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