

GAUDÍ'S WORK OF GENIUS - CASA BATLLÓ LURING TOURISTS



Antoni Gaudí is considered one of the most talented architects ever to walk the Earth. Many tourists come to Barcelona merely to admire his work; Casa Batlló is undoubtedly one of the best examples.

Tourists are often drawn to Barcelona to admire its pulsating night life and lively atmosphere. Many cannot wait to see its architectural gems, many of which were designed by one of the best architects that ever lived - **Antoni Gaudí**. **Casa Batlló is a perfect example of his playful genius** and taste that may have been - at times - a bit ahead of its time.

It is located on Passeig de Gracia, one of Barcelona's famous boulevards. In fact, it was awarded the 2004 Europa Nostra Award for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage and was added to the list of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** a year later. It is opened to the public every day of the week and presents the essence of Modernista style impersonated.

Gaudí was commissioned to completely refurbish the house by its owner, Josep Batlló in 1904, some 27 years after it was built. At its time, the project raised a lot of questions by the municipal authorities, nevertheless, was successfully completed in 1906.

The façade is covered by colorful mosaics of creative shapes, the balconies seem to be built from skulls and the columns of first floor resemble human bones. The famous architect paid a lot of attention to detail and in his design used a variety of materials, including wood, ironwork, glass, ceramics and quarry stone. And he used it in the most original way.

The Casa is full of light; the intriguing roof is decorated with polychrome ceramics, features 'dancing' chimneys and is crowned by a tower with the typical four branches cross. Gaudí decided to add an extra, fifth floor and completely redesigned the interior.

It is a visit not to be missed by anyone who admires architecture. After all, one of the true masterminds stands behind this astonishing work of art.

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