

CAN THERE BE ANYTHING MORE
LEGITIMATE THAN THE BALLOT BOX?



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A UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF
PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

COLLECTIVE ENTHUSIASM



©Jordi Bedós

A CIVIL SOCIETY, UNITED
TO DECIDE ITS OWN FUTURE



©Gerard Garolera

A COUNTRY OPEN TO THE WORLD



©Joan Torrens

A PROJECT FOR ALL:
NONPARTISAN AND INCLUSIVE

A GLOBAL CHALLENGE: TO ACHIEVE
INDEPENDENCE BY PEACEFUL MEANS

WELCOME
TO
CATALUNYA



Cover photo ©Jordi Pagès-Joana Triviño

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WELCOME

Welcome to the land of internationally renowned artists such as Antoni **Gaudí**, Salvador **Dalí** and Joan **Miró**, musicians such as Pau **Casals**, Josep **Carreras**, or Alicia **de Larrocha**, athletes such as Pep **Guardiola**, Xavi **Hernández** and Ona **Carbonell**, chefs like Ferran **Adrià**, Carme **Ruscalleda** and the **Roca** brothers ...

Make yourself at home. We hope you have a good time with us in our country, Catalonia. We are an **enterprising** country, with **sun**, **beach** and **mountains**, a **Mediterranean diet**, an **ancient culture** and **history**, **business** and **innovation**. Our **country is both welcoming and open to the world** and boasts a capital as cosmopolitan as it is unique: **Barcelona**.



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CATALUNYA

Population: 7.5 million people, living in 947 towns and cities

Principal cities: Barcelona, Lleida, Girona, Tarragona

Flag: “la Senyera” (12th century)

Surface area: 32,000 km²

GDP: €209 billion

Universities: 7 public universities, 4 private and 1 online university

Economy: diversified, predominant service sector (70%) and specialised industrial sector (20%), featuring entrepreneurship, technology, innovation and exports as engines.

Barcelona is the main port in the Mediterranean. The city capital is one of the top 20 cities in global competitiveness and is the 7th European city in terms of prospects.

Technological and scientific cluster in southern Europe.

Official languages: Catalan (>10 million speakers, the 9th most spoken language in the EU), Spanish, and Aranese-Occitan in part of the Pyrenees.

Institutions: Catalan institutions of self-government date from the Middle Ages.

Parliament: Parliament of Catalonia: 135 members.

Government: Generalitat de Catalunya: formed in 1283, with 130 presidents to date.

CATALONIA:
PEACEFUL,
DEMOCRATIC
AND
DETERMINED

#CataloniaAloud



Please don't throw this leaflet on the street. Taking care of the environment is everyone's responsibility.

AN AGE-OLD HISTORY

Catalonia has a history going back **over a thousand years**. It was one of the great Mediterranean powers in medieval times, and has preserved its language and institutions for centuries. It **enjoyed full sovereignty for 700 years**, in the framework of a confederation between Aragon and Catalonia. But in **1714**, the defeat in the War of Succession led to the **loss of all autonomy**, the banning of its language and institutions, and the imposition of the laws of Castile. In each of the brief periods of some level of democratic normality in Spain, Catalonia has always claimed its **right to exist as a national minority**. Following the annulment of key aspects of the 2006 Catalonia Statute of Autonomy, the **Catalan people have mobilized again to exercise their right to self-determination and to peacefully and freely decide their political future**.

The clamour of the people has been particularly visible on occasions such as the massive demonstrations held in recent years on September 11, Catalonia's National Day.



2012: Catalonia Next State in Europe



2013: Catalan Way



2014: V for Vote



2015: Gateway to the Catalan Republic

On November 9., 2014, over **2.3 million** Catalans took part in a poll on the independence of Catalonia, which had been blocked by the Spanish government. **Over 80% voted in favor**.

THE REVOLUTION OF SMILES



Civil society is the social force that **drives and legitimizes the independence process**. **Entrepreneurial spirit and dialogue**, the private sector, associations and **solidarity**—all features which characterize the Catalan people—are the core around which a **solid broad-based civil movement** for independence has been built over the years.

BARÇA, MORE THAN A CLUB

Football Barcelona Club is the epitome of sport in **Catalonia** and **one of its chief ambassadors across the world**. Its **Catalanicity** and its **commitment to society** and to **democracy** are central features of the club. Defending its roots, but also welcoming: According to the lyrics in its official anthem, it is a 'flag that unites' its members and supporters on all five continents. Throughout its more than 100 years' history, it has **always defended the Catalan language, culture, and democracy when these have been persecuted by Spanish dictatorships**, and has suffered reprisals by the totalitarian authorities as a result. **This firm attitude is an inherent link with the country that has made it "more than a club" in the eyes of the public.**

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

Catalonia lost its sovereignty following defeat in the War of the Spanish Succession in 1714. This is why, at **matches played at the Camp Nou stadium, at minute 17:14** the enthusiastic home crowd commemorates the date after 300 years with a **collective chant: "IN-INDEPENDÈNCIA!"**.

27 SEPTEMBER 2015: THE YES WON

Thanks to almost **2 million votes (48%)**, the two pro-independence candidacies won **72 out of 135 seats in the Catalan Parliament** (compared with **39% for unionists** and **11% for non-aligned parties**) in these historic elections with a record **turn-out of 77%**. Two days after the elections, the president and two ministers were called before the Superior Court to answer criminal charges complaining about their involvement with the 'participatory process' back on November 9th. But the Parliament of Catalonia already has a **democratic mandate to move forward on the roadmap towards independence** over the next 18 months.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

The French philosopher **Voltaire** referred to the struggle waged by the Catalans to defend their freedom: **"Catalonia can do without the entire universe, but its neighbors cannot do without it"**.

WHY SHOULD CATALONIA BE A NEW STATE?

The Catalans do not want to put up borders. We simply want to have the **right to decide our future**, our self-government, our social and cultural priorities and how we use our resources. We want a country where things can **really be decided by voting**. A competitive country where **effort and hard work are valued**, communications networks are **improved**, and taxes are invested with **clear criteria**.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

Two examples of **integration** and the **inclusive** nature of this land: **70% of Catalans** (or their parents) were born outside of Catalonia and over a third of the independence supporters are native speakers of Spanish or a foreign language.

Catalonia is one of the **four motors of Europe** together with Baden-Württemberg (Germany), Lombardy (Italy) and the Rhône-Alpes (France) because of their **entrepreneurial, competitive and export-oriented cultures**.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

THE CATALAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (ANC)

The ANC is a non-partisan, grassroots organization working for the emancipation of the Catalan people. It has more than 500 regional and/or professional assemblies and nearly 40 assemblies abroad, through which tens of thousands of people currently **work selflessly for collective freedom**. With more than 80,000 members and contributors, it is **financed solely through contributions from private citizens**, allowing it to remain **independent of political or economic interests**.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

The TV3 Telethon (the "**Marató**" begun in 1992), raises some **12 million euros** a year from thousands of citizens who join together to support health sciences research over the course of a single 24 hour event every December. This is a perfect example of Catalonia's civic **spirit and active volunteer** community.

World renowned architect **Antoni Gaudí** was 72 when he was **arrested**, beaten, and jailed for **speaking in Catalan** to a Spanish policeman.

In 1971, the **United Nations** awarded its **Peace Medal** to **Pau Casals** who defended the Catalan nation before the UN assembly.