

# COSMOPOLITAN

## Barcelona: Budget V Blowout accommodation

Collette Naden tests out a £12 per night hostel and a five-star hotel in the Spanish city

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Ah, Spain – the land of sun, sea and sangria. Out of all the European city breaks, why should you choose Barcelona? Well, it's one of the rare cities where you can combine a beach holiday with cultural sightseeing. Choosing where to stay in any city can be a tough decision, however, so we've done the hard work for you.

**Blowout:** While you're in Barcelona there's one skyscraper that really stands out along the beach. It happens to be one of the city's sleekest hotels: **Hotel Arts Barcelona**, five-star luxury at its best.

Upon arrival staff are on hand with drinks in reception. Is 10am too early for Champagne? We don't think so. Arriving early for check-in wasn't an issue. We were cleared from reception quicker than you can say "hola, senorita!". It was either good service or the fact we'd just arrived from five days of camping at a festival and were looking a bit disheveled and they didn't want us messing up their sleek interior, ahem.

Rooms at Hotel Arts are a little piece of heaven. From the beds – we're willing to bet they're the comfiest in Spain, if not the world – to the spacious bathrooms, everything is perfect. What really sells the room is the clever control panel, which allows you to set everything from the lights to the music. Oh, and did we mention the blackout blinds that appear with the touch of a button? Ideal for traditional siestas.

We stayed in a club suite, which has several benefits. They're situated on the upper floors of the building, so the views couldn't be better. You also get access to the club lounge, which is a great space for relaxing and having a drink – you can help yourself to the bar! Meals and snacks are provided several times a day in the lounge, including a delicious breakfast. We ate so much in there it was hard to fit in any paella from elsewhere.

As you would expect, the hotel facilities are great. The swimming pool is a bit on the small side but the hotel is right on the beach, so we suggest going for a dip in the sea instead. The Six Senses Spa is a particular highlight, with a huge menu of treatments for you to try. There's also a gym if you fancy working off all those churros.

The only issue with Hotel Arts is leaving. To say we had to drag ourselves out of the room would be a huge understatement. We felt like royalty and didn't want to leave.