

TOURISTIC TOUR BY COOLTUR TURISME CULTURAL

THE ROSE OF FIRE OF BARCELONA



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Anarchism in Barcelona

Gadwin (since 1793), Proudhon (since 1840) and Bakunin (since 1842) are considered the "founders" and the most important theorists of anarchist current.

To briefly summarize the core ideology of anarchism of the nineteenth century, we can be broken down into three points:

- Collectivization of the means of production.
- Condemnation of any kind of state, which represents the social oppression.
- Rejection rate of Marxism political party workers.

The latter circumstance occurs during the 1st International between Marx and Bakunin. Consequently, in Spain there are more tracking Marx (Pablo Iglesias founded the PSOE (Spanish Social and Worker Party) in 1879 and the UGT (General Work Union) a little later), but in Catalonia the workers and intellectuals took Anarchism; especially influenced by Stirner, Kropotkin and Malatesta (in the last third of the nineteenth century). Then, in 1881 the "Federation of the Regió Treballadors Espanyola" (FTRE) was founded until 1888.

The 70s there were, in Europe and America, some attacks against the monarchies and other heads of state (Alfonso XII of Borbon, king of Spain, was the subject of two different attacks).

Is not until the last 10 years of the nineteenth century that in Spain and Catalonia the anarchy-communism (of Kropotkin and Malatesta) didn't go to direct action, consequence of internal divisions and the harsh repression to which it was subjected. It's necessary to know that thanks to this repression the movement anarchy-communism achieved a lot of propaganda. This movement fight for the 8-hour day work.

The anarchist movement in Catalonia was formed, essentially, for the working class, and it evolves into the anarcho-syndicalism of Bakunin. Finally in 1910 CNT (National Workers Confederation) was founded.

The anarchist attacks made know Barcelona as "Rosa de Foc" (Rose of Fire) or "city of bombs".

From COOLTUR we want to propose you a tour of the scenarios of the main anarchist attacks, attacks that followed the doctrine of direct action, which took place in Barcelona.

We will start this tour **Foment del Treball Nacional** building, located in Via Laietana 32. This building still being the management headquarter.



This building, which hasn't changed its appearance in more than a century, was the target of several attacks and bomb threats. We will highlight two of these attacks.

September 1, 1886: An anarchist's bomb causes serious damage to the management headquarters of Foment del Treball Nacional.

May 4, 1890: New bomb attack at the headquarters of Foment del Treball Nacional.

Go northwest along Via Laietana towards Catedral Avenue

31 m

Turn left to Antoni Maura Square

30 m

Turn left on Catedral Avenue

150 m

Turn left for Nova Square

38 m

Turn left on Bisbe Street

76 m

Turn right by Garriga i Bachs Square

3m

Garriga i Bachs Square 1

Gate of the Cathedral of Barcelona Cloister



On December 24 of 1905, in this place, the Cardinal and Bishop of Barcelona, Salvador Casañas Pagès, was attacked by an anarchist. The bishop left unscathed of this attack.

The anarchist was Josep Sala who tried to stab the Cardinal and Bishop when he passed the edge of the

cloister's door. Fortunately for the Cardinal and Bishop of Barcelona, their companions, Dachs dean and general vicar Pol, could stop the arm of Josep Sala. After the attack the policeman Antonio Vaquero and a pedestrian could reduce the anarchist who brings a gun too. The prisoner was taken to the prevention of Sant Felip Neri.

The anarchist Josep Sala was born in Vic. He was known by the police for having participated in the organization of libertarian rallies against the processes of Montjuic and for presiding over a time a centre of bricklayers in Vic. After testifying he was taken to prison. He died, officially, poisoned in his cell the same day, on December 25 of 1905, but an autopsy revealed that there wasn't poison in his body.



*Head over to the northeast by Garriga i Bachs Square to the Bisbe Street
3m*

Turn left on Bisbe Street

76 m

Continue straight to the Nova Square

39 m

Continue along Arcs Street

90 m

Turn right on Portal de l'Àngel Avenue

210 m

Turn left onto Santa Anna Street

230 m

Turn right on Las Rambles

130 m

Turn slightly left. Destination will be on your right

11m

Pelai Street, 13

Rambles. Murder of Lieutenant Portas

On September 4, 1897: The Anarchist Ramon Sempau killed Lieutenant Portas, head of the Judicial Police. Portas was shot in the heart when he returned from the theatre and was about to go down the Rambles.



*Go northeast to Las Rambles
28 m
Turn left on Catalunya Square
220 m
Turn Slight left to stay on Catalunya Square
13 m
Continue on Ronda de la Universitat
Destination will be on your right
14 m
Ronda de la Universitat, 37*

Batló's family residence and office

January 17, 1889: Bomb in the house of industrial Batlló in Barcelona (Rambla Catalunya - Ronda Universitat)



Go southwest on Ronda Universitat onto Balmes Street

350 m

Turn right on Universitat Square

63 m

Turn left on Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes

250 m

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 578-588

Attack against the General Martínez Campos in Gran Via

September 24, 1893: Attack of Paulí Pallàs against General Martínez Campos Captain of Catalunya. To celebrate the saint's day of the Princess of Asturias, Martínez Campos organized a military parade on the Gran Via in Barcelona.



Pallàs threw a bomb between the General horse legs. This bomb caused some injuries to the General Martínez Campos, the General Castellví and the General Clemente and kills a policeman Jaime Tous.



*Go northeast on Gran Via onto Aribau Street
130 m
Turn right on Aribau Street
65 m
Turn left on Universitat Square
47 m
Turn Slight right to stay on Universitat Square
20 m
Turn left on Tallers Street
550 m
Turn right on Las Rambles
350 m
The Rambles, 89*

The explosives urinals of Les Rambles

September 4, 1904: In public urinals for men installed a few years ago in the **Rambla de les Flors** an explosive device of homemade was detected. The authorities move, with caution, the explosive to the Palace of Justice (In the actual Lluís Companys Promenade). They left the explosive into the Palace of Justice waiting to translate it into Camp de la Bota (Actually Forum of Cultures) to detonate it. Unfortunately the explosive exploded into the Palace of Justice causing some damage.



Unfortunately the explosive exploded into the Palace of Justice causing some damage.

December 26, 1906: Around six o'clock, attack with bombs in the urinary of la Rambla de les Flors (popularly known as the Rambla Blast). In this attack only one man was wounded. Two days before of this attack a bomb was deactivated in the same place.



The newspaper of La Vanguardia, published on 27: "Surprising many people thought would not explode another bomb at least until tomorrow, after 24, it turned out that there was also yesterday, in the usual place, that is the Rambla Blast (before Flores) ".



Until 1908 four more bombs explode in the area. It seemed that all these bombs were created by Joan Rull "lame of Sants" and anarchist confidant of the police chief Tressols and inspector Memento. Although he was executed in 1908, he has never clarified the role Rull in the attacks and, above all, if it was the police themselves and Maura

Government who were behind all the facts.

June 27, 1908: About ten o'clock at night, while the audience watched the "Ride of Jaume I el Conqueridor" coming down the Rambles, there was an explosion of a new bomb in the same urinal. The attack wounding two security guards, one of whom will die a few days later in the hospital.



Finally, the City removed the urinary of "bombs" the July 7, 1908.

The humorous weekly "L'Esquella de la Torratxa" published several cartoons and articles of black humour about the explosives urinals of Rambla de les Flors, coming to propose the transfer the urinal to the Archaeological Museum or make a monument to the weak bladders of the Rambla.



Head over to the southeast of Las Rambles / Rambla de Sant Josep towards the Coloms Passage

110 m

Turn slightly left into Hospital Street

16 m

Turn right on Las Rambles

18 m

Turn to the left per Boqueria Street

190 m

Turn right on Avinyó Street

350 m

Turn left on Gignàs Street

190 m

Continue along Àngel J Baixeras Street

90 m

Continue along Joan Massana Street

45 m

Turn right at Nau Street

14 m

Nau Street turns left and becomes Canvis Nous Street

41 m

Canvis Nous Street, 8

Canvis Nous Street

June 7, 1896: During the traditional Corpus Christi procession down the street Canvis Nous in Barcelona, an anarchist threw a bomb through a window of a high floor and caused 12 dead and 44 wounded.



The repression that followed was unprecedented: Barcelona was scared and police arrested more than four hundred people, mainly

workers, initiating the great cause against anarchism (known as the process of Montjuïc). Involved anarchists, trade unionists, lay teachers, clerical, Republicans and other people outside the terror were. The prisoners were locked in Montjuïc Castle under military jurisdiction and were victims of abuse to extract unreal confessions of guilt. In December a martial court delivered eight

death sentences and sixty-seven prison (later reduced to five death sentences and twenty imprisonment), as well as deportations of criminal in the prison of Rio de Oro.

This process had international repercussions and achieved global solidarity unionism, fully questioning the Spanish political and judicial system of the Restoration. Following the events in August 1897 he was killed in the resort of St. Agatha (Guipúzcoa) The Spanish Prime Minister Antonio Canovas del Castillo at the hands of Italian anarchist Angiolillo.



*Head over to the northeast by Nous Canvis Street onto Plegamans Street
35 m*

*Turn right at Canvis Vells Street
68 m*

*Turn left at the Palau Square
80 m*

*Turn right and continue for Palau Square
53 m*

*Turn left on Marqués de l'Argentera Avenue
Destination will be on your right*

61 m

Marqués de l'Argentera Avenue, 2

Civil Government

January 25, 1894: Ramón Murull attacked the civil governor of Barcelona Ramón Pascual Larroca when he left the building of the Civil



Government toward his carriage. Murull fired a gun, wounding the governor slightly on his left cheek. The assailant

was arrested when he was about to make another shot.

According to the press, the worker had attacked the civil governor to consider him one of the main responsible for the vast crackdown on anarchist circles and torture of detainees following the attack on the Gran Teatre del Liceu on 7 November 1893.

*Go northeast along Marqués de l'Argentera Avenue to the Duana Street
210 m
Marqués de l'Argentera Avenue, 16*

France Station

On July 22, 1910 Antonio Maura, then Chairman of the Council of Ministers, left the train from Madrid to catch a boat to Palma. A young man fired two shots that touched him in the leg and arm. Apparently it was a follower of Lerroux, founder of the Radical Party, troublemaker of the working masses.



Go southwest on Marqués de l'Argentera Avenue to Comerç Street

280 m
Continue along Isabel II Promenade
230 m
Turn right on Via Laietana / Antonio López Square
42 m
Turn left on Antonio López Square
60 m
Turn right and continue on Antonio López Square
14 m
Turn left at Mercè Street
260 m
Turn right on Mercè Square
Destination will be on the left
15 m
Mercè Saquare 1

Mercé Square

April 12, 1904: The anarchist Joaquin Miguel Artal attacked the Spanish Chairman of Ministers Antonio Maura in Barcelona. Antonio Maura was unscathed.



Maura and King attended an official ceremony in Barcelona. He was in an open carriage as the carriage was in front of the Church of Mercè, a young man came forward with an envelope in his hand. This boy jumped on the running board of the car. The president thought that this was a request and reached out to grab the envelope. But the young man took

out a knife and stabbed the left side of Maura, who tried to grab his arm. The folds of the uniform that he wore prevented the penetration of the knife, causing only an injury.

The assailant screamed "Long lives Anarchy!" and ran down the Serra Street to escape. He was arrested and identified as Joaquin Miguel Artal, 19 years old, a native of Barcelona.



Go northwest on Mercé Square onto Ample Street

17 m

Continue along Serra Street

150 m

Turn left on Rosa Street

32 m

Turn right on Còdols Street

5m

Turn slight right to stay on Còdols Street

41 m

Turn left on Escudellers Street

92 m

Turn right on Vidre Street

130 m

Turn slightly left Tres Llits Street

Destination will be on the left

47 m

Reial Square

Reial Square

9 February 1892. A bomb in a flower bed near the porches of the square exploded at about 5 pm. According to historians, it was a usual meeting place of the secret police. The attack caused one death and several injuries.



Go south to the Colom Street

12 m

Turn right on Colom Street

54 m

Turn right on Las Rambles / Rambla dels Caputxins

150 m

The Rambles, 74

Liceu Theatre

November 7, 1893: attack into the Liceu in Barcelona. During the second act of the opera "Guillermo Tell", Santiago Salvador launched from the fifth floor of armchairs, two bombs to the audience (where the bourgeoisie sat). The first caused 20 deaths and about fifty wounded. The second fell in the foothills of one of the dead bodies and did not explode (today it is kept in the Museum of History). This act



caused the persecution and execution of anarchists, in 1894, in Montjuïc. Six people were sentenced without proof.



It seems that Salvador acted in retaliation to the shooting of Paulí Pallàs a few days before. Remember that Pallàs scored the attack on General Martinez Campos at Gran Via. The year 1893 in Barcelona took place 14 bombings.



From COOLTUR hope that you enjoyed this tour, and we wish you will have a very good day.

