ENGLISH

INFORMATION BOOKLETS

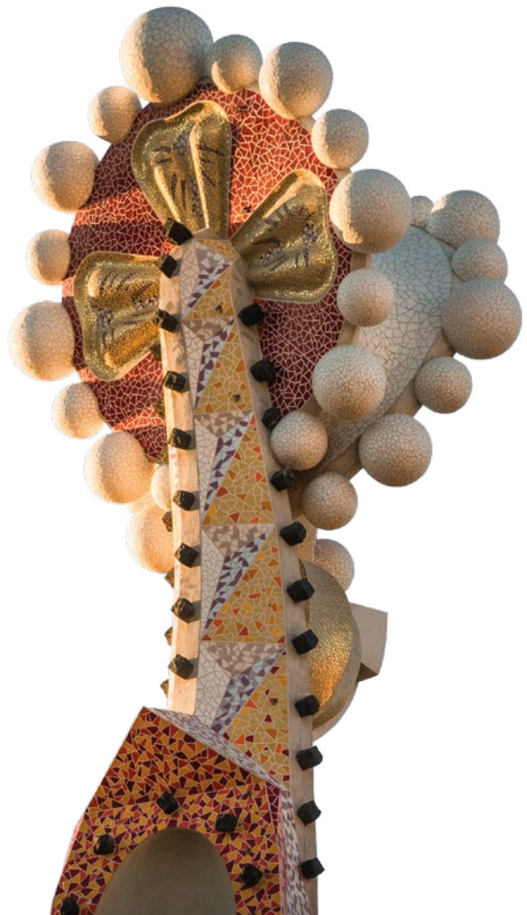
Basílica Sagrada Família

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Basílica Sagrada Família

Meaning of the Sagrada Família

The Basilica is a pleasure for the spirit, and everyone who enters finds a new meaning of life.



The cross radiates the Christian message around the world. Pinnacle of a bell tower.



Christian faith

The Basilica of the Sagrada Família is a summary in stone of the Christian faith. Christians that visit the Temple will recognise the Christian beliefs, and particularly the teachings of the Catholic church. And those who belong to other religions, or aren't religious, will come to understand the basic pillars of Christianity. The church or Basilica of the Sagrada Família explains the core Christian religious beliefs through architecture loaded with symbolism. The whole building, both what has been constructed and the part still to come, conveys faith in one God, who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Basilica of the Sagrada Família explains the foundations of the Catholic religion through architecture full of symbolism.

The mystery of the Trinity

When the Sagrada Família is finished, visitors will see huge letters on top of the main façade, the one called the Glory façade (on Carrer de Mallorca). These letters will read: *credo in unum deum* (I believe in one God), the Father and creator of the universe and humanity; *in jesum christum* (in one Lord, Jesus Christ), the Son of God, made man like us, who in dying gave his life for the world, was resurrected and lives forever; *in spiritum sanctum* (in the Holy Spirit), who brings to life the love of the Father and the Son and fills the Earth. This is the summary of the Christian and Catholic faith, and that of Antoni Gaudí, the architect who designed the Sagrada Família and worked to build it until the day he died. The mystery of the Trinity (one God in three people) is key to understanding the great church that is the Sagrada Família, both inside and out.

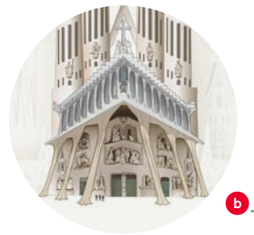


The baldachin features allusions to the elements of communion and 50 lamps symbolising Pentecost.

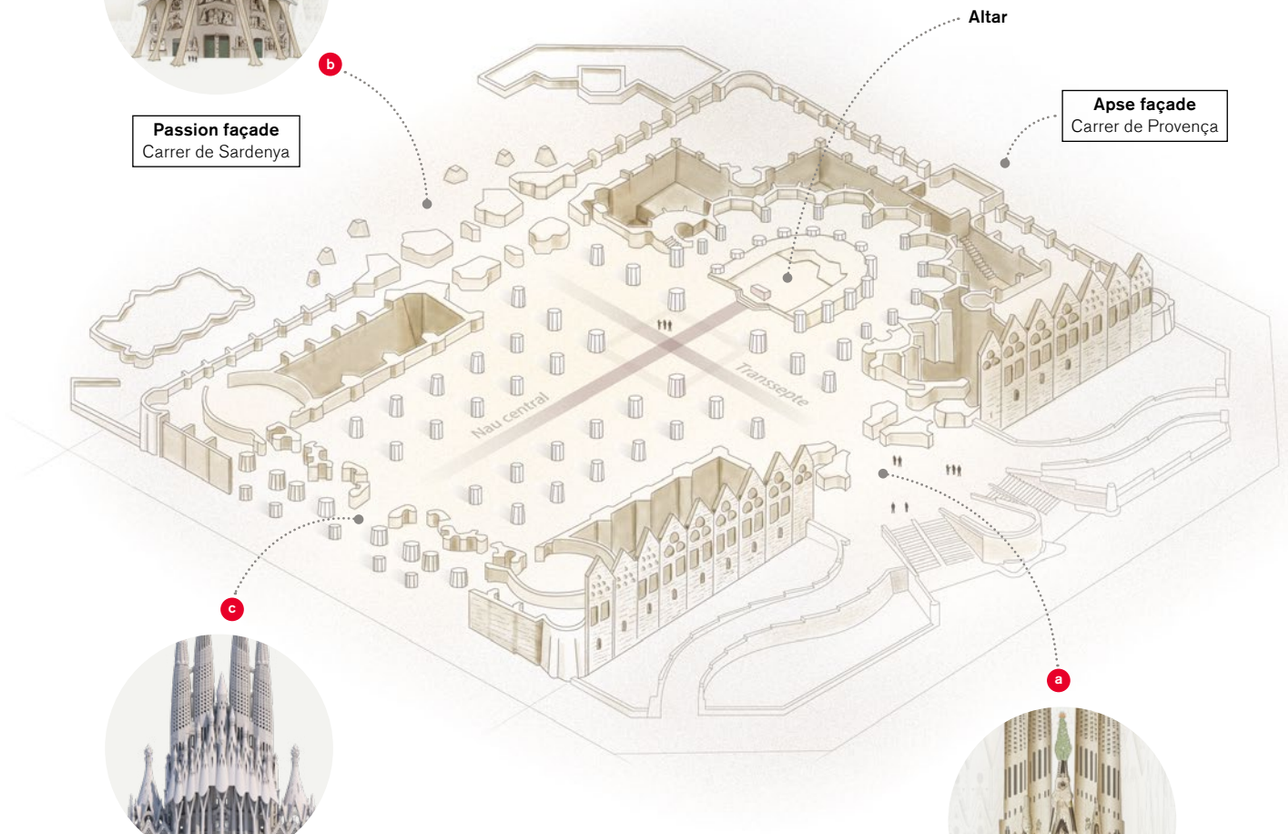
Architecture of the Sagrada Família

The Sagrada Família is a Christian church that shares many elements with other historical churches. Nevertheless, it has architectural traits that set it apart from the rest.

A church is a building, big or small, old or new, with thick walls or thin, whose main purpose is to celebrate the central mystery of the Christian faith, which is the Eucharist or the Divine Liturgy. The Eucharist commemorates the last supper of Jesus with his disciples, the day before he died on the cross. This is why the altar is located in the centre of the Basilica, shaped like a table and symbolising the tomb of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection. The Sagrada Família, unlike other churches, has only one altar, made of porphyry stone. This is also why, like so many other Christian churches, the floor plan of Gaudí's Basilica is a cross. The altar is located approximately at the point where the long arm (90 m), which runs from the main door to the apse, crosses the short arm or transept (60 m). Plus, at the end of three of the arms that make up this giant architectural cross, there is one of the three seminal moments of the life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: (**a**) his birth, (**b**) his passion, death and resurrection, and (**c**) his glory, present and future. This is why the Sagrada Família has three façades, each with a corresponding entrance to the Basilica: (a) the Nativity façade (on Carrer de la Marina), (b) the Passion façade (on Carrer de Sardenya), and (c) the Glory façade (the main entrance, on Carrer de Mallorca).



Passion façade
Carrer de Sardenya



Glory façade
Carrer de Mallorca

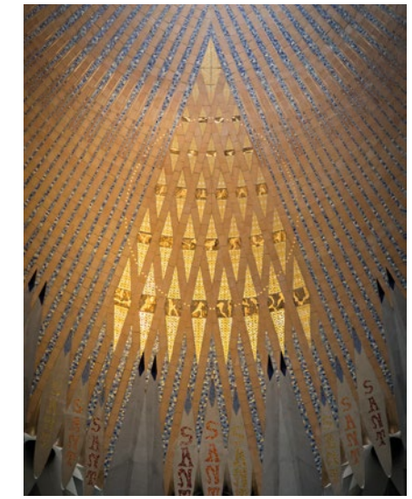
Nativity façade
Carrer de la Marina

The façades of the Temple represent three seminal moments in the life of Jesus, Son of God.

The three angles of the triangle symbolise the three members of the Trinity: God, the creator of the universe, with the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The apse

On the upper tip of the cross created by the interior of the Sagrada Família, there isn't a façade but a semicircular apse that encloses the Basilica from behind (Carrer de Provença). The apse is a space with representations of the God that created the whole universe, along with the Son and the Holy Spirit: the triangle (three angles that symbolise the three members of the Trinity) on the apse lantern reminds us of this. However, the Holy Spirit is also represented in the apse, in the huge candelabrum hanging from the lantern, which will have seven large lamps, representing the seven gifts of Holy Spirit to all of humanity. And, from the candelabrum that covers the altar, hangs an image of Christ on the cross. So, when visitors standing at the back of the Basilica look towards the apse and the altar, they can see representations of all three divine individuals: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Representation of God the Creator, on the apse vault.



Gaudí designed the inside of the Sagrada Família to be a sacred space, full of beauty and spirituality.

Representation of God the Creator, on the apse vault in the Temple.

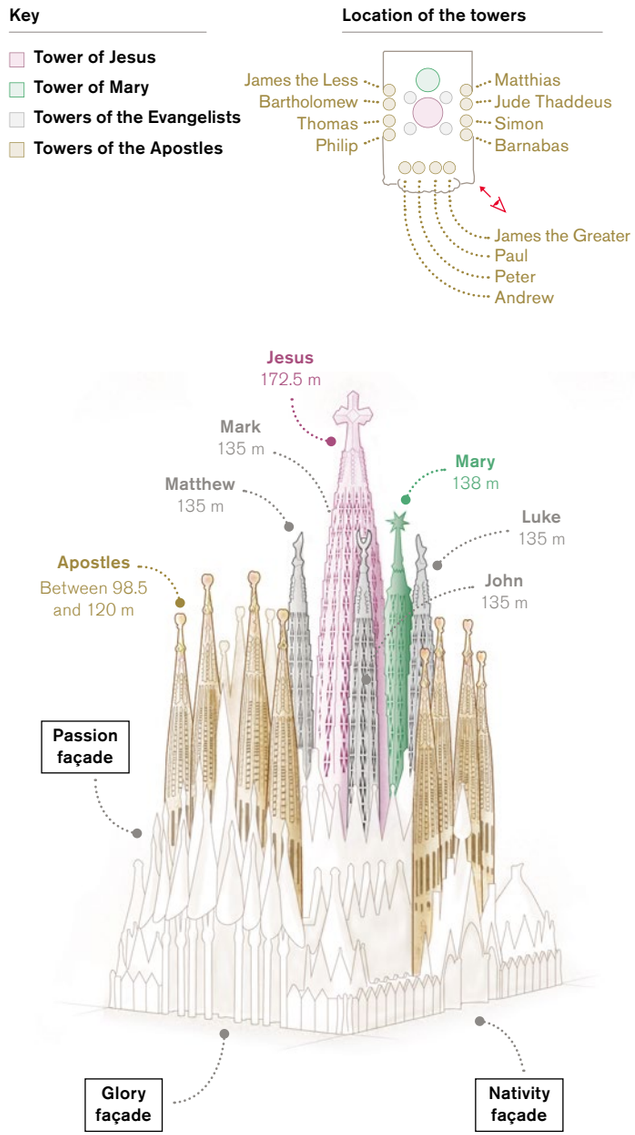
The Temple's towers

At the Sagrada Família, the towers have several missions: a practical use, aesthetic beauty and, also, each one has a symbolic meaning.

The central figure inside the Sagrada Família is Jesus Christ, and outside the tallest, most central tower is also dedicated to him. The Sagrada Família is not like other churches. The towers are not only utilitarian, or for beauty or grandiosity. Gaudí designed a basilica with eighteen towers because he wanted them to be symbolic: each tower would have a name. At the centre is Jesus Christ, Son of God and Lamb of God, who is the centre of human history, as explained in the Book of Revelation (5:12): "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honour, glory and praise." Around the tower of Jesus Christ, there are four more that represent the four Gospels. These are the four most important books in the Christian faith, explaining what Jesus said and did, from his birth to his ascension into heaven. The tower above the apse, crowned with a star, represents Mary, who agreed to be Jesus' mother, a woman who found strength in humility.

Meaning of the towers

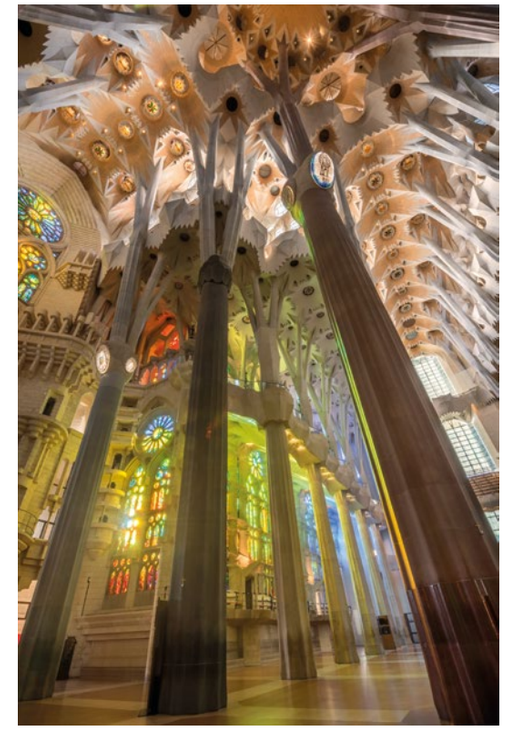
Finally, there are twelve towers that rise up four by four behind each of the three façades devoted to the life of Jesus Christ. These twelve towers represent the twelve apostles: the twelve disciples Jesus called on to live with him and bear witness to his words and actions. So, the eighteen towers are dedicated to: Jesus Christ (1), the four Gospels or Evangelists who told of his life (4), his mother (1), and his twelve chosen apostles or disciples (12).



Interior of the Basilica

Gaudí made the inside of the Sagrada Família magnificent without using any complementary elements, only architecture and light.

Gaudí designed the inside of the Sagrada Família to be a sacred space, full of beauty and spirituality. The harmony and power of the construction come together to make a single whole. Height and depth are predominant, because they are very proportional measurements. The interior is majestic without being excessive. Light envelops the wavy stones, the arrises that look like diamonds and the columns that separate into "branches". Nature comes inside the Basilica because, for Gaudí, creation is an open book that shows God's kindness and is a teacher helping him create his own architecture. The Basilica is a space designed so the stones sing the divine glory that is manifest in the beauty of creation. The stones and building materials are works in motion, but without words. The word comes from human beings, which according to the Bible were made in God's image, and can praise him with their prayers and songs, with their voices and with their hearts.



As Gaudí intended, the inside of the Temple is reminiscent of a forest.

The size of the Temple

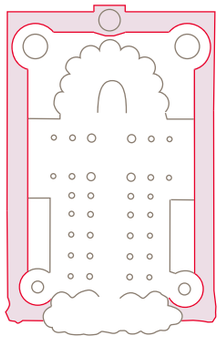
The Sagrada Família is built for the solemn celebration of Christian liturgy, which is the very core of the life of the church. So, everything is big, in terms of the dimensions but also the concept. Gaudí dreamt that the voices of hundreds of people located on the four elevated choirs at the Basilica would reach the heavens and meld with the singing of the people, some thousands of people in the church naves. Many priests would take up their place in the presbytery or platform around and in back of the altar, to play their role in the Eucharist and give the body and blood of Christ to the people. The organs would burst into song and incense would spread throughout the huge space of the Basilica. Everyone would listen to the readings from the Bible, the word of God, and many would come up to receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which are the body and blood of Christ. For Gaudí, the Sagrada Família is a liturgical space made here on Earth that should be a mirror of the liturgy done in heaven, the new Jerusalem. The Sagrada Família is an antechamber to paradise, the city of God or new Jerusalem, which sings the praises of God and Jesus Christ, his Son, the Lamb who died and was resurrected to live on forever.

Integrated into the city

The location
Gaudí believed the Sagrada Família should be a great space of worship, ardent and ongoing, but he didn't want it to be isolated from the city around it. In fact, the Sagrada Família is located between the sea and the mountains, right in the centre of the city of Barcelona spreading its light for all the city's residents and visitors. From the towers, it seems to want to unite all the men and women living in the city. Christian prayer isn't about being closed off, isolated from the concerns of humanity. Quite the opposite, really, the Gospel that Jesus preached included both contemplation of the mystery of God and attention to the needs of man.



The Sagrada Família is located between the sea and the mountains, right in the centre of the city of Barcelona.



At the Sagrada Família, the cloister isn't adjacent to the Temple; it envelops it.

The cloister
This is why the Sagrada Família is enveloped by a cloister, with chapels devoted to Saint Mary, mother of Jesus, so that pilgrims visiting the Basilica can pass through the cloister and enter the Temple with the anxieties and hopes of humanity, especially the poor and sick. Prayer isn't running away, it is putting before God the needs and wounds of many people. The cloister of the Basilica faces the city and makes prayer a gesture of solidarity with the whole world.

The message of the Sagrada Família

Finally, the purpose of the Basilica of the Sagrada Família is for everyone who enters to feel welcome.



The birth of Jesus, the sculpture group that presides over the Nativity façade and shows the Holy Family that gives the Temple its name.

The Sagrada Família rises above the cathedrals of Europe. Its vocation is universal, not merely for the city of Barcelona, or Catalonia or even Spain; it welcomes people of all origins and credos. It offers all of them a great treasure: the treasure of spirituality, harmony and reconciliation.
The word peace, which appears next to the birth of Jesus on the Nativity façade, denotes a project and a hope: for all those who visit the Sagrada Família to share in the peace that Gaudí impressed on his work, and with peace, a proximity to all human beings! The Basilica is a pleasure for the spirit, and everyone who enters finds a new meaning of life, based on harmony and goodness, on generosity and peace, on helping those who suffer and the need to let go of material things.

One final issue: the name of the Basilica
The Sagrada Família bears this name in honour of the Holy Family of Nazareth: Jesus, his mother Mary and Joseph, Mary's husband. In fact, the group that began the project and commissioned Gaudí to head up the works on the Basilica was the Asociación Espiritual de Devotos de San José (Spiritual Association of the Devotees of Saint Joseph). For thirty years, Jesus lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee, in present-day Israel. He worked as a carpenter, alongside his legal father Joseph, while Mary, Jesus' mother, was a homemaker. This is why the Sagrada Família is a place that remembers how work dignifies a person and that the family is the main nucleus of society, a place of love for all members.

Glossary

Apostles When he first started preaching, Jesus chose twelve men to share his wandering lifestyle and be privileged witnesses to everything he said and did. Jesus called these twelve men, mostly from Galilee, *apostles*, which means "envoys", and they followed him to the end. One of them betrayed him: Judas. He was replaced by Matthias. Paul and Barnabas, who were great Christian missionaries, are also considered apostles. The apostles are the foundation of the Church. Their successors are the bishops, who preside over local churches or dioceses. At the Sagrada Família, there are twelve towers that represent the apostles and are topped with the symbols of the bishops (a mitre, a crosier, a cross and a ring).

Father Christianity, following Jesus, calls God the Father. God is the father of Jesus and the father of all humanity. Jesus is the Son of God in a unique, unrepeatable way, as he knows the divine mystery. All men and women are God's sons and daughters and can invoke him as a Father and learn about his mystery. The most basic Christian prayer, which Jesus taught his disciples, begins with the words "Our father". God's love and compassion are expressed in each human being, but also in the world he created out of love.

Gospels/Evangelists The apostles retained and passed along what Jesus had said and done. Two of these apostles (Matthew and John) started traditions that led to the to Gospels that bear their names. Their symbols are an angel (Matthew) and an eagle (John). The other two Gospels are those according to Mark (symbol: a lion) and Luke (symbol: a bull or ox). These four Gospels are the basis of Christianity, as they contain the life and message of Jesus, who is its founder.

Holy Spirit After Jesus was resurrected, he promised his disciples that he would send his Spirit, the Spirit of God, to stay with them forever. The Spirit had made fertile the belly of Mary, mother and virgin, from which Jesus was born. The Spirit had saved Jesus from the prostration of death with force and power. Now, he accompanies the prayers of those who invoke God as the Father and moves them to live according to sincere, unconditional love. The Spirit is a teacher that shows the meaning of the Gospel and the Scriptures.

Joseph Husband of Mary and legal father of Jesus. He lived in Nazareth, like Mary, and was a descendent of David, king of Israel. The Messiah, the final messenger of God, would be born of the family of David. Joseph took Mary as his wife and accepted Jesus as his son, because he understood that behind the child that would be born lay the inaccessible mystery of God. Joseph took his pregnant wife to Bethlehem, the town of David, and Jesus was born there. Afterwards, he took Jesus and Mary to Nazareth, where he had his carpentry workshop. Joseph died in Nazareth.

Mary Mother of Jesus and mother of all of humanity. She was a young girl from Nazareth who had married Joseph but, before living together, while still a virgin, she became pregnant with Jesus, because for God, according to the Gospel, nothing is impossible. The Virgin Mary is called the Mother of God because she is the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, who is both divine and human at once. The Christian Church addresses Mary, asking her for maternal protection. She has received heavenly glory and intercedes on behalf of her children with her Son and keeps them from harm. At the Sagrada Família, there is one tower, over the apse, dedicated to Mary.

Son Jesus is the Son of God and the son of Mary. He is the eternal Word of the Father, who existed before the world began. But when the world began to exist and the Earth appeared at the centre of the universe, he became a man and shared the weaknesses of all humanity, making service and giving the purpose of his life and death. God, the Father, resurrected him and those who listened to and loved him, his disciples, spread his message. This message has invigorated many people who, like Gaudí, have believed in Jesus Christ and hope to live with him in heaven.

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