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# Welcome to Catalonia!

You've come to a Mediterranean country, the capital of which is Barcelona: it has 7.5 million inhabitants, an ancient culture and its own language, food, parliament, government and laws. We're a dynamic economic, industrial and tourist centre in the south of the European Union, and open to everyone.

**We hope you have a great stay with us!**



The castells are human towers  
Mauro Martinez  
flickr.com/photos/mauromartinez

## Do you know what's going on in Catalonia in 2014?

Peacefully but insistently, ordinary non-politically allied people are calling on the political establishment to allow them to vote to decide freely on their own future. After centuries of trying in good faith to find a place within Spain, gaining our own sovereignty seems to be the only way to get full recognition of Catalan language and culture, to regain our national dignity and to put an end to Madrid's constant punitive tax policies.

Democracy and the right to self-determination for peoples are basic, general principles of international law. But unlike the UK stance on Scotland, the Spanish Government rejects this out of hand, hiding behind the Spanish constitution, even though the Catalan government has pointed out 5 ways of holding a legal referendum in Catalonia and calls on dialogue to be able to do so. Democracy versus Constitution? It's simply a political obstacle.



The concert for freedom

2

## 80% of Catalans want to be able to vote to decide on their own future.

Today over 80% of Catalans want to be able to vote on self-determination, making use of their democratic and civil rights. On 11th September 2012, the Catalan national day, 1.5 million people demonstrated behind the demand for independence. A year later, and with the same demand, more than 1,6 million people formed a 400-kilometre human chain stretching across the country from north to south, the so-called Catalan Way.



The Catalan Way

Almost 2/3 of the Catalan Parliament have agreed on holding a referendum

**on 9th November 2014,**

300 years after Catalonia lost its sovereignty following defeat in the War of the Spanish Succession.

The Catalans will be voting on these questions:

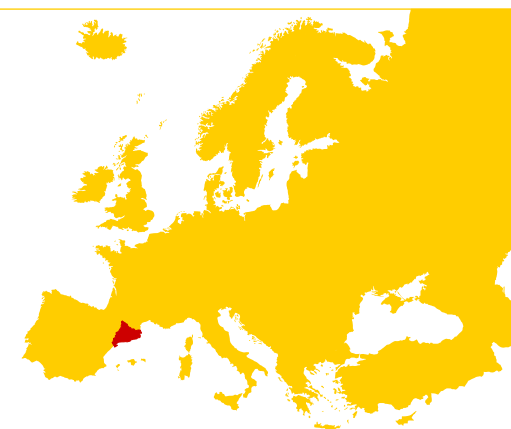


**1 Do you want Catalonia to become a state?**

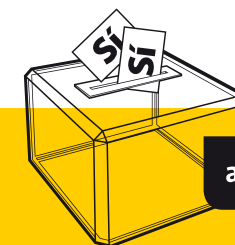
**2 If so, do you want this state to be independent?**

## It's time: Catalonia, a new European state

In the last 100 years more than 100 states all over the world have become independent as have 22 former Spanish colonies since 1800. Like Gandhi, Luther King and Mandela in their peaceful struggles against unjust circumstances, all Catalonia wants (like anybody else) is to gain freedom democratically.



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#9N2014