

Business opening hours

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Ajuntament de
Barcelona



Act 18/2017, of 1 August, on
commerce, services and fairs
(DOGC 3.8. 2017)

Commercial establishments and those dedicated to the provision of services are free to choose their business opening hours, taking into account work-life balance, notwithstanding any employment laws and conditions and rights of workers. Despite the above, commercial establishments selling goods to the public may establish the opening hours of their business, taking the following into account:

GENERAL OPENING HOURS

Working days and authorised public holidays

Commercial establishments may not remain open or carry out sales activities, from **October to May**, between **9pm and 6am**, and from **June to September**, between **10pm and 7am**

Sundays and public holidays on which they are authorised to open in Barcelona

In 2018: 7 January, 1 July, 13 October, 1 and 25 November and 6, 8, 16, 23 and 30* December.
In 2019: 13 January, 30 June, 7 July, 12 October and 1, 6, 8, 15, 22 and 29* December.

* public holidays approved by the City Council

Commercial establishments in tourist areas

These may open on the Sundays between **5 and 24 May** and **1 and 14 October**, from 12 noon to 8 pm.

VISIBILITY OF BUSINESS HOURS

Commercial establishments must display their opening hours in such a way that the information is visible to the public, even when the establishment is closed.

General business opening-hour exemptions

- A. Establishments principally dedicated to the sale of **cakes, confectioneries, churros, bread, prepared dishes, newspapers and magazines, flowers and plants, and convenience stores.**
- B. Establishments installed at border points or only accessible inside **ground, sea and air transport stations and terminals.**
- C. The sale of **fuel**, although this exemption does not extend to commercial establishments attached to petrol stations unless they are essentially dedicated to the sale of spare parts and other car accessories and products.
- D. Establishments situated in **tourist municipalities**, as established in article 38 of Law 18/2017.
- E. Establishments situated in the **area immediately around itinerant markets**, which may open during the same hours as the market. (Authorisation from the City Council required.)
- F. **Pharmacies**, which are governed by their own specific regulations.
- G. Establishments integrated into **busy tourist destinations**, such as museums, exhibitions, monuments, recreational tourism centres, amusement parks or theme parks, to which they have a direct link through the product they sell.
- H. Commercial establishments integrated into **hotel establishments**, provided it is a permanent activity being run there that cannot be accessed directly from the street.
- I. **Personal- and self-service** commercial establishments whose owners are small or medium-sized businesses, in accordance with European classification criteria, provided that their sales area does not exceed **150 square metres** and that they essentially sell everyday **food** items.
- J. Establishments that are principally and regularly dedicated to the sale of **pyrotechnic products**, which may remain open to the public not only on working days but also on Sundays and public holidays in June for a maximum of fifteen hours between 7 am and 10 pm.
- K. Short-term commercial activities, only if they are directly and exclusively linked to the product sold at a cultural or sports event or fair taking place at the same time, regardless of the commercial mode in which they are carried out.
- L. Establishments that are principally and regularly dedicated to the sale of books may remain open to the public on 22 and 23 April, for the celebration of the Diada de San Jordi, if one or both of those two days falls on a public holiday.
- M. Commercial establishments that are principally dedicated to the sale of cultural or leisure products, the owners of which are self-employed, micro-enterprises or small enterprises, in accordance with European classification criteria, with a sale surface area not exceeding 300 square metres. An order is required from the councillor from the department responsible for commerce.

For the purposes of public order, local authorities may agree to the mandatory night-time closing of establishments that attempt to invoke any of the grounds for exemption from the general opening hours.