

## Sagrada Familia gets building permit 136 years late

22nd October, 2018



Barcelona's world-famous La Sagrada Familia basilica has finally been given a building permit 136 years after construction on the site began. The church has agreed to repay \$41 million in fees that date back to 1882, which is when ground was first broken on the building. City authorities have given the church a 10-year timeframe to pay the fees.

Barcelona's mayor has hailed the deal as a historic agreement. She said the funds would be allotted to municipal projects that will improve the metro system, roads, public services and local neighbourhoods. A resident tweeted: "To improve the environment of this majestic building is to improve the quality of life for citizens and visitors as well as the image of Barcelona."

La Sagrada Familia was designed by renowned Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi, a modernist artist who also designed many eye-catching, unique and eccentric buildings and parks in Barcelona. The basilica is slated for completion in 2026, exactly 100 years after Gaudi's death. Construction has continued on La Sagrada Familia for over a century without any inspections from local authorities. It was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI consecrated the church and proclaimed it a minor basilica, which is distinct from a cathedral in it not being the seat of a bishop. It is now one of Barcelona's top tourist attractions, attracting an estimated 20 million visitors a year.

Sources: [time.com](http://time.com) / [euronews.com](http://euronews.com) / [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

## Writing

Places of worship are the greatest buildings in the world. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Barcelona / world famous / permit / construction / fee / historic / metro / visitors / designed / architect / unique / eccentric / century / church / tourist attraction / top

## True / False

- a) The article says Sagrada Familia builders applied for a permit in 1882. T / F
- b) La Sagrada Familia will repay over \$40 million in backdated fees. T / F
- c) Barcelona city has given La Sagrada Familia ten years to pay the fees. T / F
- d) The fees paid by La Sagrada Familia will help improve the city's Metro. T / F
- e) La Sagrada Familia was designed by the famous painter Salvador Dali. T / F
- f) La Sagrada Familia will be finally completed within the next decade. T / F
- g) In 2010, La Sagrada Familia was consecrated as a cathedral. T / F
- h) La Sagrada Familia receives between 10-12 million visitors a year. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>finally</b>      | a. praised      |
| 2. <b>construction</b> | b. magnificent  |
| 3. <b>hailed</b>       | c. precisely    |
| 4. <b>allotted</b>     | d. building     |
| 5. <b>majestic</b>     | e. quirky       |
| 6. <b>renowned</b>     | f. declared     |
| 7. <b>eccentric</b>    | g. at long last |
| 8. <b>exactly</b>      | h. approximate  |
| 9. <b>proclaimed</b>   | i. handed out   |
| 10. <b>estimated</b>   | j. famous       |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Sagrada Familia?
- b) Why has the Sagrada Familia taken so long to build?
- c) How did builders build for over one hundred years without a permit?
- d) What is your favourite building in the world?
- e) What do you think of the church for repaying the fees?
- f) How important are places of worship?
- g) How could your town improve your quality of life?
- h) What do you know about Barcelona?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. 136 years after construction             | a. authorities                |
| 2. repay \$41 million in fees that date     | b. and eccentric buildings    |
| 3. a 10-year                                | c. building                   |
| 4. the funds would be allotted to municipal | d. top tourist attractions    |
| 5. improve the environment of this majestic | e. timeframe                  |
| 6. designed many eye-catching, unique       | f. back to 1882               |
| 7. The basilica is slated for               | g. 20 million visitors a year |
| 8. inspections from local                   | h. projects                   |
| 9. It is now one of Barcelona's             | i. on the site began          |
| 10. attracting an estimated                 | j. completion in 2026         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Antoni Gaudi?
- What unique buildings do you know about?
- What does a UNESCO listing do for a building?
- What are the top attractions in your town like?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What is your favourite style of architecture?
- What questions would you like to ask the Sagrada Familia boss?

## Spelling

- after nttsiuonccro on the site began
- City itirothueas
- a 10-year etimaremf
- She said the funds would be ttlolade
- iplaumcni projects
- this jmciseta building
- weennrod Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi
- unique and tceenicrc buildings
- without any secnptionsi
- opirdalcme it a minor basilica
- sncditti from a cathedral
- an detasemti 20 million visitors

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. b
6. j	7. e	8. c	9. f	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – La Sagrada Familia

You think La Sagrada Familia is the world's best tourist attraction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Pyramids, the Grand Canyon or the Serengeti.

### Role B – The Pyramids

You think the Pyramids are the world's best tourist attraction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): La Sagrada Familia, the Grand Canyon or the Serengeti.

### Role C – Grand Canyon

You think the Grand Canyon is the world's best tourist attraction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Pyramids, La Sagrada Familia or the Serengeti.

### Role D – Serengeti

You think the Serengeti is the world's best tourist attraction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their attractions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Pyramids, the Grand Canyon or La Sagrada Familia.

## Speaking – Tourist attractions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| • Grand Canyon | • Sydney Opera House |
| • Mount Fuji   | • La Sagrada Familia |
| • Serengeti    | • Pyramids           |
| • Antarctica   | • Machu Picchu       |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.