

# Barceloneta & the Waterfront

PORT VELL & BARCELONETA | PORT OLÍMPIC, POBLENOU & EL FÒRUM



## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Museu d'Història de Catalunya** (p108) Learning about Romans, Muslims, feudal lords and civil war freedom fighters, followed by drinks in the rooftop restaurant.
- 2 Museu Maritim** (p107) Stepping back in time in this fascinating Gothic shipyard and exploring Barcelona's rich maritime past.
- 3 Museu Can Framis** (p110) Studying avant-garde paintings by contemporary Catalan artists in up-and-coming Poblenou.
- 4 Platja de la Nova Mar Bella** (p108) Basking on a sun-kissed sandy beach, followed by an invigorating dip in the Mediterranean.
- 5 Telefèric del Puerto** (p109) Gazing out over the city on a scenic cable car ride from seaside to hilltop.

For more detail of this area see Maps p270 and p272 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you'd like to explore the sea and the mountains on the same day, take advantage of the Teleférico del Puerto, which whisks passengers from Barceloneta up to Montjuïc in a rather vintage-looking cable car. The tower also has a top-end restaurant, though the view is better than the food.

### Best Places to Eat

- El 58 (p113)
- Barraca (p112)
- Can Dendé (p113)
- Els Pescadors (p113)
- La Cova Fumada (p111)
- Kaiku (p112)

For reviews, see p111 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- Can Paixano (p114)
- Absenta (p114)
- The Mint (p114)
- Madame George (p114)
- Balius (p114)
- BlackLab (p114)

For reviews, see p114 ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- Els Encants Vells (p117)
- Bazart (p117)
- Bestiari (p118)
- System Action (p117)

For reviews, see p117 ➔

## Explore Barceloneta & the Waterfront

Barcelona's long, sun-drenched waterfront provides a pleasant escape when you need a break from Gothic lanes and Modernisme. Heading northeast from the old city, you'll soon find yourself amid tempting seafood restaurants and waterfront bars, with a palm-lined promenade taking cyclists, joggers and strollers out to the beaches running some 4km up to Parc del Fòrum.

At the foot of La Rambla, Port Vell is where many visitors first lay eyes on Barcelona's slice of the Mediterranean. This transformed area, once an industrial wasteland, draws locals and tourists alike who come to stroll the peaceful pedestrian bridge of Rambla de Mar, which leads out to the shops and restaurants in Maremàgnum mall and the aquarium next door.

East of there lie upmarket, open-air restaurants overlooking a marina and one of the city's best museums for learning about the Catalan experience, the Museu d'Historia de Catalunya. Nearby is Barceloneta, an old fishing quarter laid out in the mid-18th century with narrow gridlike lanes criss-crossed with laundry in the breeze. The few tourists venturing here stick mostly to the outdoor restaurants lining Passeig de Joan de Borbo. For something a little more memorable, head into the narrow lanes, which are dotted with festive tapas bars, old-fashioned seafood joints and bohemian drinking spots.

Where Barceloneta abuts the water, you'll find open-air restaurants offering views out over the promenade and the beaches beyond. Inland lies Poblenou. Although it's not a big draw for many tourists, in recent years this design and high-tech zone has brought new cafes, shops and eateries.

## Local Life

➤ **Hang-outs** There are many great local haunts full of flowing *cava*, draught beer and delicious tapas: Vaso de Oro (p112) and Can Paixano (p114) are favourites.

➤ **Markets** Port Vell hosts Port Antic (p117), a small weekend antiques market; near the marina is the craft market of FERIA de Artesanía del Palau de Mar (p117).

## Getting There & Away

➤ **Foot** From the old city, La Rambla and Via Laietana are the main pedestrian access points across busy Ronda del Litoral.

➤ **Metro** Go to Drassanes (Línia 3) to reach Port Vell; Barceloneta (Línia 4) has its own stop for the neighbourhood. Línia 4 continues out to Ciutadella Vila Olímpica (best stop for Port Olímpic) and El Maresme Fòrum near Parc del Fòrum.