

El Raval



Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Mercat de la Boqueria** (p77) Shopping and browsing at this buzzing and beautiful market, and eating at one of the lively bars.
- 2 Antic Hospital de la Santa Creu** (p79) Exploring the historic building and relaxing with a coffee in its courtyard cafe.
- 3 MACBA** (p78) Getting to know the art collection here and watching the skaters in the front.
- 4 Historical bars** (p83) Partaking in a glass of cloudy absinthe.
- 5 Palau Güell** (p81) Walking around the artfully restored palace.

For more detail of this area see Map p264 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

For a spot of sun away from the noisy El Raval streets, head for the garden cafe at the Antic Hospital de la Santa Creu (p79).

EL RAVAL

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bar Pinotxo (p80)
- ➔ Caravelle (p80)
- ➔ Mam i Teca (p80)
- ➔ Succulent (p80)
- ➔ Elisabets (p79)

For reviews, see p79 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bar La Concha (p83)
- ➔ Casa Almirall (p83)
- ➔ La Confiteria (p83)
- ➔ Negroni (p83)

For reviews, see p83 ➔

Best Gift Shops

- ➔ Les Topettes (p86)
- ➔ Fantastik (p86)
- ➔ Teranyina (p86)

For reviews, see p86 ➔

Explore El Raval

Long one of the most rough-and-tumble parts of Barcelona, El Raval is now so hip in a grungy, inner-city way that *barcelonins* have even invented a verb for rambling around El Raval: *ravalejar*.

The northern half of El Raval is the best place to start your ramble – this part of the *barri* (neighbourhood) has an almost respectable air about it. Spend a day wandering around the art shops on the streets around Carrer del Pintor Fortuny, lunching in the colourful Mercat de la Boqueria and dedicating a few hours to the fascinating MACBA.

Night-time is El Raval's forte, and not only because of all the illicit activities taking place under the shroud of darkness. This is where you will find some of Barcelona's more eccentric, trendy and downright ancient bars and clubs.

The area between Carrer de l'Hospital and the waterfront – also known as Barri Xino – is where El Raval retains its dodgy flavour of yore, and you should beware of boozy middle-of-the-night ramblings here. The national cinema and film archive, Filmoteca de Catalunya, has been relocated to just off the Rambla de Raval in an attempt to change the face of this area of town. Despite its slight edginess, you shouldn't miss this part of El Raval – several fine old bars have stood the test of time in these streets.

If you're curious about the fabric of life in multicultural Raval, take a stroll along Carrer de l'Hospital, home to the local mosque and numerous halal butchers' shops, cafes and barber shops.

Local Life

➔ **Market lunch** Don't miss the food at Mercat de la Boqueria (right) – either queue up and buy some fresh produce and cook it yourself, or sit down at a stall and let the local chefs shower you with Catalan delicacies.

➔ **Vintage shops** El Raval is the epicentre of Barcelona's fascination with all things vintage – you'll find plenty of secondhand shops along the pedestrian Carrer de la Riera Baixa, particularly.

➔ **Sugar rush** Locals swear that the best chocolate in town is to be had at Granja M Viader (p85).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** El Raval is encircled by three metro lines. Línies 1, 2 and 3 stop at strategic points around the district, so nothing is far from a metro stop. The Línia 3 stop at Liceu is a convenient exit point.