

# La Rambla & Barri Gòtic

## Neighbourhood Top Five

### 1 La Rambla (p54)

Taking in Barcelona's liveliest street scene, with its human statues, open-air eateries, flower stalls and saunterers from every corner of the globe.

### 2 La Catedral (p58)

Exploring the hidden nooks and crannies of this magnificent Gothic masterpiece.

### 3 Museu d'Història de Barcelona (p61)

Walking amid the ruins of Roman-era Barcino.

### 4 Museu Frederic Marès (p63)

Wandering through its strange and wondrous collections.

### 5 Plaça Reial (p62)

Enjoying an alfresco meal or a drink in this picturesque square.



For more detail of this area see Map p260 →

## Explore La Rambla & Barri Gòtic

La Rambla is Spain's most talked-about boulevard. It certainly packs a lot of colour into a short walk, with flower stands, historic buildings, a sensory-rich produce market, overpriced beers and tourist tat, and a ceaselessly changing parade of people from all corners of the globe. Once a river and sewage ditch on the edge of the medieval city, it still marks the southwest flank of the Barri Gòtic, the nucleus of old Barcelona. Come in the early morning to see it at its most peaceful, then return in the afternoon for the daily circus parade.

You can easily spend several days exploring the Barri Gòtic without leaving its medieval streets. In addition to major sights, the tangle of narrow lanes and tranquil plazas conceal atmospheric shops, cafes and bars. Despite the swarms of tourists Barri Gòtic has plenty of character.

Don't miss La Catedral and the smattering of Roman ruins inside the Museu d'Història de Barcelona. Another highlight is lingering over coffee or an alfresco meal at one of the Barri Gòtic's many outdoor plazas. The Plaça Reial, a wide, pretty square lined with restaurants, is perhaps the best-known spot for a bite, though Plaça del Pi and tiny Plaça de Sant Just are also quite charming.

By night, Barri Gòtic transforms into a maze-like collection of bars and clubs. The streets around Plaça Reial and Plaça George Orwell (also known as Plaça del Trippy) are good places to bar-hop, though you'll find nightspots all over the neighbourhood.

## Local Life

➔ **Folk dancing** Although it's mostly old-timers dancing the *sardana*, a growing number of young folks are enjoying this Catalan dance. Learn a few moves and join in at 6pm on Saturday and noon on Sunday in front of La Catedral (p58).

➔ **Hang-outs** To escape the tourist masses, head to the southeast corner of Barri Gòtic for microbrews at La Cerveteca (p70), and cocktails and whimsy at Sor Rita (p70). Salterio (p70) is also much-loved.

➔ **Bar-hopping** Plaça Reial, Plaça de George Orwell and the narrow lanes between the two are the best spots to take in the local Gòtic nightlife.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Key stops near or on La Rambla include Catalunya, Liceu and Drassanes. For Barri Gòtic's east side, Jaume I and Urquinaona are handiest.

➔ **Bus** Airport and night buses arrive and depart from Plaça de Catalunya.

➔ **Taxi** Easiest to catch on La Rambla or Plaça de Catalunya.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

For the best-value dining, plan to make lunch your main meal. Many restaurants in the Barri Gòtic offer three-course meals for €12 to €15, including wine.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ La Vinateria del Call (p68)
- ➔ Cafè de l'Acadèmia (p68)
- ➔ Pla (p69)
- ➔ Koy Shunka (p69)
- ➔ Onofre (p69)
- ➔ Rasoterra (p68)

For reviews, see p67 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ginger (p69)
- ➔ Ocaña (p69)
- ➔ Sor Rita (p70)
- ➔ La Cerveteca (p70)
- ➔ L'Ascensor (p69)
- ➔ Polaroid (p70)

For reviews, see p69 ➔

### Best Historical Treasures

- ➔ Temple Romà d'August (p64)
- ➔ Via Sepulcral Romana (p64)
- ➔ Sinagoga Major (p64)
- ➔ Domus de Sant Honorat (p66)