

La Sagrada Família & L'Eixample

L'ESQUERRA DE L'EIXAMPLE | LA DRETA DE L'EIXAMPLE

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 La Sagrada Família** (p121) Seeing history being made.
- 2 La Pedrera** (p128) Witnessing ground-breaking architecture.
- 3 Casa Batlló** (p127) Marvelling at its almost-alive, swirling facade.
- 4 Fundació Antoni Tàpies** (p126) Deciphering the fascinating contemporary art.
- 5 Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau** (p129) Admiring this lesser-known masterpiece of Modernisme.



For more detail of this area see Maps p274 and p278 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

L'Eixample's restaurants can be quite pricey, but you can still sample their food at budget prices if you head over for the *menú del día* (daily set menu), which, although simpler in choice, is always good value.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Disfrutar (p132)
- ➔ Can Kenji (p134)
- ➔ Cinc Sentits (p132)
- ➔ Cata 1.81 (p131)
- ➔ Tapas 24 (p132)
- ➔ Cerveseria Catalana (p131)

For reviews, see p130 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Dry Martini (p135)
- ➔ Monvínic (p135)
- ➔ Milano (p135)
- ➔ Les Gens Que J'Aime (p138)

For reviews, see p135 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Cacao Sampaka (p139)
- ➔ Flores Navarro (p139)
- ➔ El Bulevard dels Antiquaris (p140)
- ➔ Joan Múrria (p141)

For reviews, see p139 ➔

Explore La Sagrada Família & L'Eixample

In the 1820s rows of trees were planted on either side of the road linking Barcelona and the town of Gràcia. Thus was born the Passeig de Gràcia, a strollers' boulevard that is now home to many of the city's most expensive shops and a range of restaurants. This is the street to head to for Modernista architecture, the best of which – apart from La Sagrada Família – is clustered on or near it. Eating is at the high end (though set-lunch options are available for lower budgets), and the emphasis is on designer fashion, though there are some notable exceptions. Drinking and nightlife in the area tend to be student- and gay-oriented – part of the area has even been dubbed 'Gaixample'.

La Dreta (the Right) de L'Eixample, stretching from Passeig de Gràcia to Passeig de Sant Joan, contains much sought-after real estate. Beyond it takes on a dowdy feel, even around La Sagrada Família. L'Esquerra (the Left) de L'Eixample, running southwest from Passeig de Gràcia, changes character several times. The whole area between Carrer d'Aribau, Passeig de Sant Joan, Avinguda Diagonal and the Ronda de Sant Pere has been known since the early 20th century as the *Quadrat d'Or* (Golden Square) thanks to its extravagant architecture and grand houses; it's now home to high-end shops.

The Modernista stars include Gaudí's La Pedrera and the Manzana de la Discòrdia, which comprises three gems by the three top architects of the period. Never is the old axiom about looking up as you wander more true than it is here.

Local Life

➔ **Student life** The presence of the Universitat de Barcelona (p128) makes for a line of unpretentious hang-outs nearby on the Carrer d'Enric Granados.

➔ **Coffee with a view** Take a lift to the very top of El Corte Inglés (p139) for a restaurant with a great view across the neighbourhood and beyond.

➔ **Say it with flowers** Walking round the Flores Navarro (p139), a cathedral to colourful plant life, is quite a trip at 4am.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Four metro lines criss-cross L'Eixample, three stopping at Passeig de Gràcia for the Manzana de la Discòrdia. Línia 3 stops at Diagonal for La Pedrera, while Línies 2 and 5 stop at Sagrada Família.

➔ **Train** FGC lines from Plaça de Catalunya take you one stop to Provença, in the heart of L'Eixample.