

Barceloneta & the Waterfront

PORT VELL | LA BARCELONETA | POBLENOU | PORT OLÍMPIC | EL FÒRUM



Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Learning about the Romans, Muslims, feudal lords and civil war freedom fighters in the proud and interactive **Museu d'Història de Catalunya** (p112); afterwards, head to the rooftop for a meal with panoramic views.
- ❷ Stepping back in time in the Gothic shipyards of the **Museu Marítim** (p111).
- ❸ Walking through the eerie shark tunnel inside the massive **l'Aquàrium** (p112).
- ❹ Frolicking in the sea off the sands of **Platja de la Nova Mar Bella** (p112).
- ❺ Taking a **bike ride** (p114) along the beachside promenade from Barceloneta to Parc del Fòrum.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you'd like to explore the sea and the mountains on the same day, take advantage of the Transbordador Aeri, which whisks passengers from Barceloneta up to Montjuïc in a rather vintage-looking cable car. The tower also has a top-end restaurant, a fine destination in its own right.

Best Places to Eat

- Can Recasens (p118)
- Barraca (p117)
- Jai-Ca (p116)
- Els Pescadors (p118)
- La Cova Fumada (p116)

For reviews, see p116 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- Can Paixano (p119)
- Absenta (p119)
- Ké? (p119)
- Santa Marta (p119)
- Bar Leo (p119)

For reviews, see p119 ➔

Best Sights

- Barceloneta's beaches (p112)
- Museu Marítim (p111)
- Museu d'Història de Catalunya (p112)
- L'Aquàrium (p112)
- Transbordador Aeri (p113)

For reviews, see p111 ➔

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 draws locals and tourists alike who come to stroll the peaceful pedestrian bridge of Rambla de Mar. This leads out to the shops and restaurants in Maremàgnum mall and the first-rate aquarium next door. Several small parks and plazas provide fine vantage points. Nearby is Barceloneta, an old fishing quarter laid out in the mid-18th century. Festive tapas bars, old-fashioned seafood joints and bohemian drinking spots dot the narrow lanes. Traditional sights are few on the ground here; most visitors come to wander the streets and eat and drink.

Where Barceloneta abuts the water, open-air restaurants offer views out over the promenade and the beaches beyond. On summer days the area fills with sunseekers, making their way to and from the people-packed sands nearby. From here heading north to El Fòrum, it's beaches all the way; rustic shacks called *chringuitos* dole out music and cocktails on the sands. Tonier outdoor options open year-round, particularly near Port Olímpic.

Inland from these modern artificial beaches lies the up-and-coming neighbourhood of Poblenou, which has its restaurant-lined Rambla. The waterside district ends at El Fòrum, which has a worthwhile new science museum; it's also the setting for outdoor summer concerts and funfairs.

Local Life

➤ **Hang-outs** There are many great local haunts full of flowing *cava*, beer and flavourful tapas: Vaso de Oro (p116) and Can Paixano (p119) are long-time favourites.

➤ **Markets** Port Vell hosts Port Antic (p121), a small weekend antiques market; near the marina is the craft market of FERIA de Artesanía del Palau de Mar (p121).

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 and El Maresme Fòrum near Parc del Fòrum.