

La Rambla & Barri Gòtic

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Taking in Barcelona's liveliest street scene along **La Rambla** (p58), with its human statues, open-air eateries, flower stalls and saunterers from every corner of the globe.
- 2 Exploring the hidden nooks and crannies of the magnificent Gothic masterpiece of **La Catedral** (p62).
- 3 Walking amid the ruins of Roman-era Barcino at the **Museu d'Història de Barcelona** (p65).
- 4 Ogling the strange and wondrous collections at the **Museu Frederic Marès** (p67).
- 5 Enjoying an alfresco meal or a drink in the picturesque **Plaça Reial** (p66).



For more detail of this area see Map p276 →

Explore: La Rambla & Barri Gòtic

La Rambla is Spain's most talked-about boulevard. It 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. Lining both sides of La Rambla are a handful of worthwhile attractions – including the Mercat de la Boqueria, Gran Teatre del Liceu and several sizeable galleries.

You could easily spend several days exploring the Barri Gòtic without leaving the medieval streets. In addition to major sights, its tangle of narrow lanes and tranquil plazas conceal some of the city's most atmospheric shops, restaurants, cafes and bars. There are swarms of tourists afoot – as well as some overpriced restaurants best avoided – but Barri Gòtic has plenty of local character as well, and it's full of rewards for the urban explorer.

Wandering without an itinerary is a delight, though you won't want to miss La Catedral and Roman ruins (particularly those in 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.

By night Barri Gòtic transforms into a collection of bars and clubs – which lay otherwise hidden during the day. 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: 6pm on Saturday and noon on Sunday in front of La Catedral (p62).

➔ **Hang-outs** To escape the tourist masses, head to the southeast corner of Barri Gòtic, for microbrews at La Cerveteca (p74), and cocktails and whimsy at Sor Rita (p74). Salterio (p72) is also a much-loved meeting spot.

➔ **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 have at least a big meal at lunchtime. Many restaurants in the Barri Gòtic offer three-course meals for €10 to €12, including wine.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pla (p73)
- ➔ La Vinateria dell Call (p73)
- ➔ Koy Shunka (p73)
- ➔ Onofre (p72)
- ➔ Rasoterra (p71)
- ➔ Cafè de l'Acadèmia (p73)

For reviews, see p71 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ocaña (p73)
- ➔ Sor Rita (p74)
- ➔ Oviso (p74)
- ➔ La Cerveteca (p74)
- ➔ L'Ascensor (p74)
- ➔ Polaroid (p74)

For reviews, see p73 ➔

Best Historical Treasures

- ➔ Temple Romà d'August (p68)
- ➔ Via Sepulcral Romana (p68)
- ➔ Sinagoga Major (p68)
- ➔ Domus Romana (p70)

For reviews, see p68 ➔