

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Admiring the simplicity and beauty of the Gothic **Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar** (p97).
- 2 Being introduced to the origins of Picasso's genius at the fascinating **Museu Picasso** (p94).
- 3 Enjoying a show or just the Modernista interior at the **Palau de la Música Catalana** (p98).
- 4 Taking a stroll or having a picnic at the **Parc de la Ciutadella** (p100).
- 5 Tucking into tapas at **Bormuth** (p102).



For more detail of this area see Map p284 ➡

Explore: La Ribera

La Ribera is widely used to refer to the entire area covered by the city council's rather long-winded appellation of Sant Pere, Santa Caterina i la Ribera. The gentrified southern half is generally known as El Born, after busy, bar-lined Passeig del Born. Capped at one end by the magnificent Gothic *Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar*, it runs along to the Born Centre Cultural, in what used to be the neighbourhood's market building. This area should be your first port of call, specifically a stroll down Carrer de Montcada, a street rich in Gothic and baroque mansions as well as one of the city's major museums, the *Museu Picasso*, along with many art galleries and shops.

Passeig del Born was Barcelona's main square from the 13th to the 18th centuries and still has an air of excitement around it. It's a popular night-time area for locals, especially in summer.

Northwest of Carrer de la Princesa, the area's physiognomy changes. A mess of untidy streets wiggles northwards around the striking modern reincarnation of the *Mercat de Santa Caterina* and on towards the *Modernista Palau de la Música Catalana*. North African and South American immigrant communities call this part of La Ribera home. Little by little, some good eating and drinking options have opened up in these narrow, winding streets.

Via Laietana, a rumbling, fuel-fumed thoroughfare, marks the southwest side of La Ribera, while the *Parc de la Ciutadella* closes off its northeastern flank. The park is a rare green space in central Barcelona, where you can lounge on its stretches of grass, sit by the water at the grand fountain, visit the zoo and, if accompanied by tots, take advantage of its playgrounds.

Local Life

- **Market secrets** Locals get their eggs at the *Mercat de Santa Caterina* (p99), where, in season, stand holders 'flavour' their eggs by stacking them up and placing truffles among them. Soft-boiled, they are divine.
- **Catching the rays** Local favourite strip *Passeig del Born* is perfect for lazy Sunday morning sunbathing on the cafe terraces, as you enjoy a leisurely brunch.
- **A slice of culture** Join the largely local clientele for a weekend lunchtime classical concert at the *Palau de la Música Catalana* (p98).

Getting There & Away

- **Metro** Línia 4 goes down the southwest flank of La Ribera, stopping at *Urquinaona*, *Jaume I* and *Barceloneta*. Línia 1 also stops nearby, at *Urquinaona* and *Arc de Triomf* (the nearest stop for the *Parc de la Ciutadella*).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Getting around all of Barcelona's museums can be anything but cheap, so take advantage of free Sunday afternoons, when entry into many of the city's museums will cost you zilch!

Best Places to Eat

- Casa Delfín (p103)
- El Atril (p103)
- Comerç 24 (p105)
- Bormuth (p102)
- En Aparté (p102)

For reviews, see p102 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- Mudanzas (p106)
- La Vinya del Senyor (p106)
- Juanra Falces (p106)
- Rubí (p106)
- Miramelindo (p106)

For reviews, see p106 ➔

Best for Architecture

- *Basilica de Santa Maria del Mar* (p97)
- *Palau de la Música Catalana* (p98)
- Carrer de Montcada (p99)

For reviews, see p97 ➔