

Latin Quarter

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Time travelling back to the Middle Ages at the **Musée National du Moyen Âge** (p213).
- ➋ Strolling around Paris' sprawling botanic gardens, the **Jardin des Plantes** (p214), and visit the Natural History Museum.
- ➌ Curling up with a volume of poetry in the magical bookshop **Shakespeare & Company** (p225).
- ➍ Paying homage to France's greatest thinkers buried beneath the neoclassical **Panthéon** (p215).



For more detail of this area see Map p414 and p416 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

While hungry first-time visitors are often sucked into the maze of tiny streets between the Seine, rue St-Jacques and bd St-Germain, you'd be wise to simply avoid this area altogether. Instead, consider grabbing some bread, cheese, charcuterie and wine from local speciality shops and enjoy some multimillion dollar views with lunch or dinner. Best bets? The quays along the Seine, the place du Panthéon (a fave with students), and the leafy Jardin des Plantes.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Les Pipos (p219)
- ➔ Sola (p220)
- ➔ Café de la Nouvelle Mairie (p219)
- ➔ L'Agrume (p219)
- ➔ Dans Les Landes (p219)

For reviews, see p216 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Mosquée de Paris (p220)
- ➔ Le Verre à Pied (p221)
- ➔ Café Panis (p221)
- ➔ Curio Parlor Cocktail Club (p221)

For reviews, see p221 ➔



Best Jazz Clubs

- ➔ Café Universel (p224)
- ➔ Le Petit Journal St-Michel (p225)
- ➔ Le Caveau des Oubliettes (p225)

For reviews, see p224 ➔

Explore: Latin Quarter

The centre of Parisian higher education since the Middle Ages, the Latin Quarter takes its name from the classical language spoken here by students and professors until the French Revolution. A serene spot to begin the day is in the botanic gardens, the Jardin des Plantes, before sipping sweet mint tea in the Mosquée de Paris or strolling through the engaging Arab World Institute.

But there's no better strip to see, smell and taste the Latin Quarter than the thriving rue Mouffetard, so it's worth combining a flit from food stall to fabulous food shop with lunch at one of the restaurants utilising its produce (skip it on Mondays, when the market stalls are shut).

After admiring the Panthéon's vast interior, the hollow of the afternoon is a contemplative time to meander through the Musée National du Moyen Âge for the ultimate medieval history lesson.

After dinner at a local bistro, head down into a medieval cellar (many used as Revolutionary prisons) for live jazz and jam sessions, or join the area's students in the quarter's lively pubs.

Local Life

➔ **Sports** Join the locals playing boules and football in the 2nd-century Roman amphitheatre Arènes de Lutèce (p214).

➔ **Academia** Clink drinks during extended Latin Quarter happy hours and there will almost certainly be a student or academic affiliated with the Sorbonne sitting next to you.

➔ **Cinema** With at least 13 independent theatres, the Latin Quarter officially qualifies as paradise for film buffs.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** The most central metro stations to jump off at are St-Michel by the Seine; Cluny-La Sorbonne or Maubert-Mutualité on bd St-Germain; and Censier Daubenton or Gare d'Austerlitz by the Jardin des Plantes.

➔ **Bus** Convenient bus stops include the Panthéon for the 89 to Jardin des Plantes and 13e (Bibliothèque National de France François Mitterrand); bd St-Michel for the 38 to Centre Pompidou, Gare de l'Est and Gare du Nord; and rue Gay Lussac for the 27 to Île de la Cité, Opéra and Gare St-Lazare.

➔ **Bicycle** Handy Vélip' stations include 42 rue St-Severin, 5e, just off bd St-Michel; 40 rue Boulangers, 5e, near Cardinal Lemoine metro station; and 27 rue Lacépède, 5e, near Place Monge.

➔ **Boat** The hop-on, hop-off Batobus docks opposite Notre Dame on quai de Montebello, and at the Jardin des Plantes on quai St-Bernard.