

Le Marais, Ménilmontant & Belleville

LE MARAIS | MÉNILMONTANT & BELLEVILLE

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Living the high life for free with a world-class art exhibition at Paris' neo-Renaissance **Hôtel de Ville** (p166) followed by a winter twirl on ice or a summer flop on a Seine-side beach.

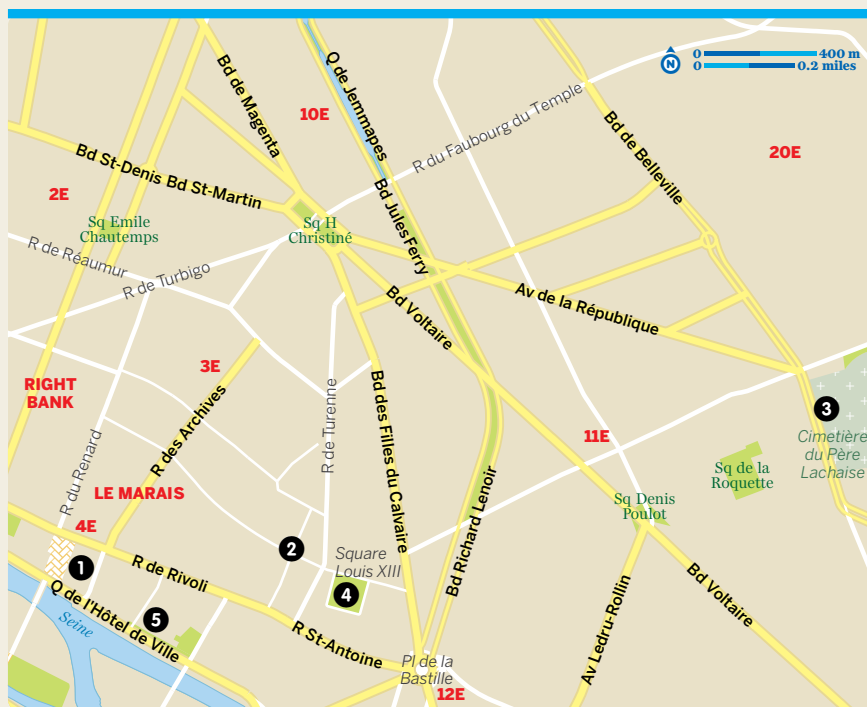
2 Walking through Parisian history at the atmospheric **Musée Carnavalet** (p164), secreted in two

richly furnished 16th- and 17th-century mansions.

3 Paying your respects to the rich, famous and infamous at **Cimetière du Père Lachaise** (p161).

4 Being seduced by **place des Vosges** (p165), a square triumph of architectural symmetry and understated *bon goût*.

5 Learning about German-occupied Paris and Holocaust horrors at the **Mémorial de la Shoah** (p166).



For more detail of this area see Map p402 and p406 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The gentrification of the hip Haut Marais continues. Its western fringe – traditional home to wholesale handbag traders (slowly moving out to the northeastern suburb of Aubervilliers) – is the place to watch for achingly cool new openings, spearheaded by the brilliant 2014 Renaissance of mythical thermal-baths-turned-nightclub Les Bains (p301). Promising spots include rue Chapon and parallel streets: rue Reslay, rue Notre Dame de Nazareth and Rue du Verbois.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Candelaria (p168)
- ➔ Blue Valentine (p173)
- ➔ Broken Arm (p171)
- ➔ Dessance (p171)
- ➔ Le Petit Marché (p171)
- ➔ Felicity Lemon (p173)

For reviews, see p168 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Le Mary Céleste (p174)
- ➔ Le Cap Horn (p174)
- ➔ Loustic (p178)
- ➔ Chapeau Melon (p179)

For reviews, see p174 ➔

Best Weekend Brunch

- ➔ Derrière (p171)
- ➔ Candelaria (p168)
- ➔ La Bellevilloise (p180)
- ➔ Soya (p174)
- ➔ Paperboy (p168)

For reviews, see p168 ➔

Explore: Le Marais, Ménilmontant & Belleville

Sublime place des Vosges is a perfect starting point. Head west along rue de Rivoli or rue du Roi de Sicile, a parallel twinset with shops, cafes and bars. Essential for history buffs is the Mémorial de la Shoah, a two-minute walk from some of the city's best coffee at La Caféothèque. Bearing north towards the Haut Marais, hipster strips laden with drinking and dining options include rue Vieille du Temple (near the revamped Musée Picasso), rue du Bourg Tibourg, and rue Rosiers in the heart of the historic Jewish quarter Pletzl. From the Haut Marais, bar-busy rue Oberkampf and rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud duck east into the solidly working-class districts of Ménilmontant and, further on, increasingly appealing and multicultural Belleville. Post-exploration, head to the river for a flop on the sand on the Seine-side quays immediately west of Pont de Sully – host to Paris Plages in July and August.

Local Life

➔ **Great Coffee** Join discerning coffee lovers in a bevy of coffee-driven cafe openings: Fondation Café (p178), Boot Cafe (p178), Belleville Brûlerie (p186).

➔ **Belleville** Explore this vibrant, multicultural and staunchly working-class 'village', old haunt of Edith Piaf and new haunt of Parisian trendsetters.

➔ **A Market Lunch** Lunch with locals on delicious Moroccan couscous around communal tables in Paris' oldest market, Marché aux Enfants Rouges (p168).

➔ **Parisian Picnic** Grab a sandwich to picnic in the Musée des Archives Nationales (p167) gardens, by the Seine on a wooden lounge or sun deck between Pont d'Arcole and Pont Louis-Philippe; with dramatic city views in Parc de Belleville (p167); or between flowers on Square de la Roquette, 11e.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Stops for lower Marais include Chemin Vert, Hôtel de Ville and St-Paul (line 1), Rambuteau (line 11), or Filles du Calvaire and St-Sébastien Froissart (line 8). For the Haut Marais, get off at Temple (line 3); for Ménilmontant, hop off at Belleville (lines 2 and 11), Couronnes or Ménilmontant (line 2), or Oberkampf (line 5).

➔ **Bus** The Marais is well served by buses, including bus 29 from rue des Francs Bourgeois to Bastille and Gare de Lyon, and bus 76 from rue de Rivoli to the 20e and Porte de Bagnole.

➔ **Bicycle** Handy Vélib' stations: 7 place de l'Hôtel de Ville, 49 rue Rambuteau and place Passetoup (next to Filles du Calvaire). In Ménilmontant try 81bis rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud or 137 bd Ménilmontant.