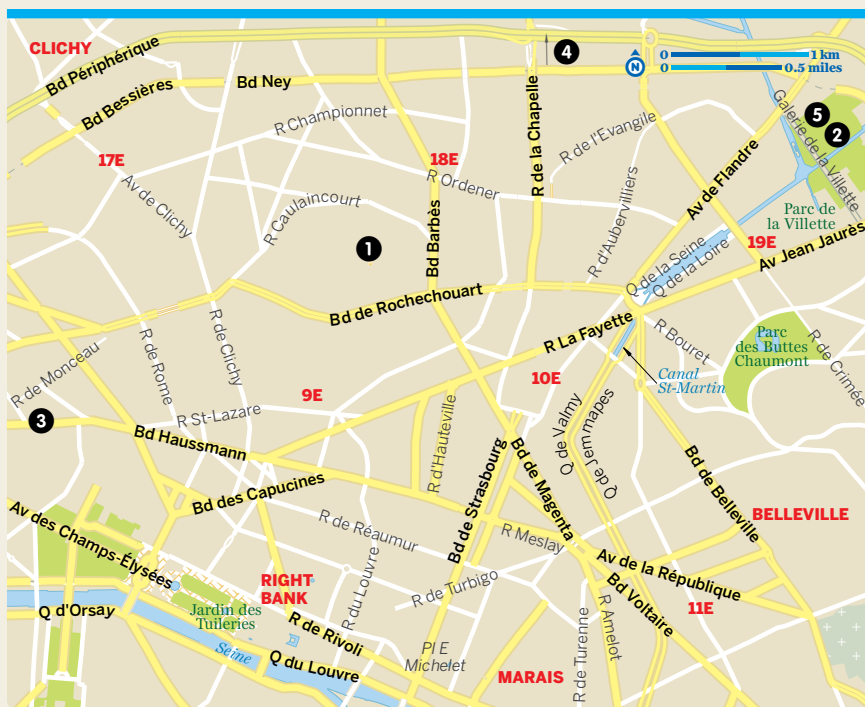


# Montmartre & Northern Paris

MONTMARTRE & PIGALLE | CLICHY | GARE DU NORD & CANAL ST-MARTIN

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Hiking up the steps to the **Basilique du Sacré-Cœur** (p137) for panoramic views from the outside and a glittering mosaic within.
- 2 Catching a performance or exhibit at the **Parc de la Villette** (p139), the city's largest cultural playground.
- 3 Stepping back into 19th-century opulence at the elegant **Musée Jacquemart André** (p143).
- 4 Discovering the tombs of French royalty at the **Basilique de St-Denis** (p141).
- 5 Treating the kids to a day at the **Cité des Sciences** (p142).



For more detail of this area see Map p394, p398, p400 and p401 →

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Although gritty, the neighbourhoods in the north and northeast of Paris are fairly safe as far as big cities go. If there's one place you need to stay on your guard, it's at the foot of the hill that leads up to Sacré-Cœur. It's not unusual for pickpockets and con artists to work the crowds here.



### Best Places to Eat

- Le Pantruche (p146)
- Chez Michel (p152)
- Abri (p152)
- Le Verre Volé (p152)
- Le Miroir (p146)

For reviews, see p144 ➡



### Best Places to Drink

- Artisan (p154)
- Holybelly (p155)
- La Fourmi (p154)
- Chez Prune (p155)
- Cave des Abbesses (p154)

For reviews, see p154 ➡



### Best Entertainment

- Parc de la Villette (p139)
- Point Éphémère (p156)
- Rosa Bonheur (p157)
- Le 104 (p157)
- Moulin Rouge (p155)

For reviews, see p155 ➡

## Explore: Montmartre & Northern Paris

One of the wellsprings of Parisian myth, Montmartre has always stood apart. Bohemians, revolutionaries, artists, can-can girls and headless martyrs have all played a role in its story, and while it may belong to Paris today, vestiges of the original village – ivy-clad buildings, steep, narrow streets – remain. Crowned by the white domes of Sacré-Cœur, dragged back to earth by red-light Pigalle, it has forever encompassed contrast and conflict.

An ideal place to base yourself, Montmartre is fairly self-contained – it has plenty in the way of sights, cuisine, shopping and entertainment. Most visitors here spend half a day or more exploring the side streets that tumble from the summit in all directions, searching valiantly for that one perfect vista looking out over the city.

And while it's packed with crowds, there's still plenty of local life to enjoy – whether in the sizzling culinary hot spot south of Pigalle or the rarely visited streets on the backside of the Butte (as the hill is known).

Some excellent museums are located to the west, beyond place de Clichy, but for a taste of a more modern-day *bobo* (bourgeois bohemian) lifestyle, you'll need to head further east to the Canal St-Martin. The quays here have undergone an urban renaissance in the past decade, making it one of the most vibrant neighbourhoods in Paris today: from neobistros to late-night drinks and casual shopping to leisurely strolls, the canal beckons one and all.

## Local Life

➤ **Neobistros** Canal St-Martin and south of Pigalle are two of the most exciting places to dine in the capital.

➤ **Quay Lounging** When the weather gets nice, the entire neighbourhood seems to move outdoors onto the quays. Picnics, bike rides and car-free zones on Sunday make the canals an excellent spot to mingle, particularly during the Paris Plages beach festival.

➤ **Hang-outs** The rough-edged cafes and bars near the Canal St-Martin and rue St-Denis are a favourite with both Parisian hipsters and wine enthusiasts.

## Getting There & Away

➤ **Metro** Lines 2 and 12 serve Montmartre; lines 5 and 7 serve northeastern Paris (Canal St-Martin and La Villette). Further west, the museums in Clichy are accessed via line 2.

➤ **RER** RER B links Gare du Nord with central Paris.

➤ **Bicycle** There are quite a few stations along the Canal St-Martin, including place République and 8 place Jacques Bonsergent.