

Le Marais, Ménilmontant & Belleville

LE MARAIS | MÉNILMONTANT & BELLEVILLE

Neighbourhood Top Five

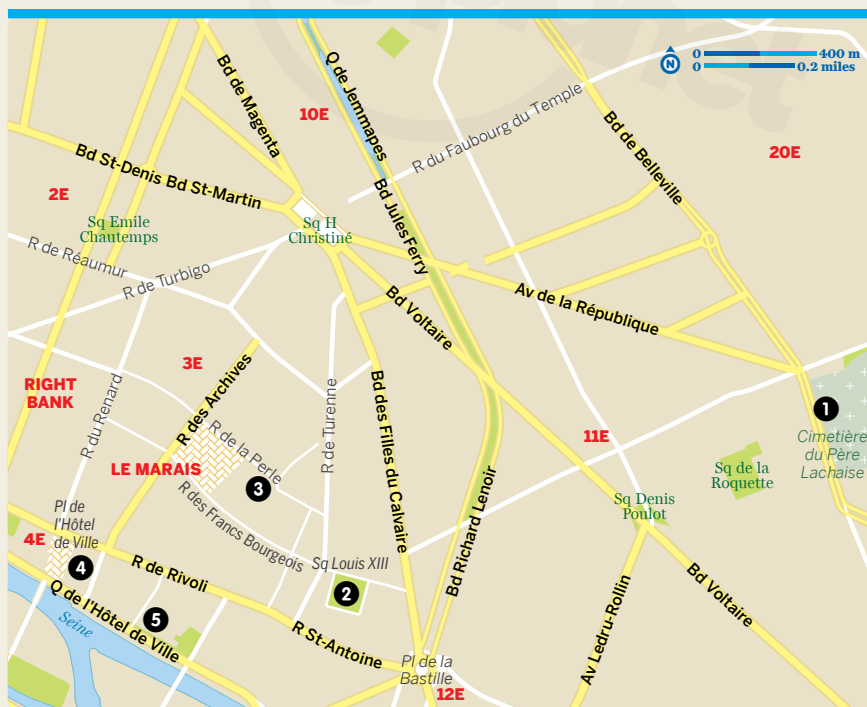
- 1 Cimetière du Père Lachaise** (p157) Admiring incredible sculptures and tomb art while paying your respects to the rich, famous and infamous buried in the world's most visited cemetery.
- 2 Place des Vosges** (p160) Appreciating the exquisite architecture

surrounding Paris' oldest square.

- 3 Musée National Picasso** (p161) Immersing yourself in the life and art of one of the world's most eccentric modern artists, Pablo Picasso, and admiring the museum's exquisitely grand, 17th-century home.

- 4 Hôtel de Ville** (p160) Living the high life for free with a world-class art exhibition at Paris' neo-Renaissance city hall followed by twirling on ice or flopping on a Seine-side beach.

- 5 Mémorial de la Shoah** (p156) Learning about German-occupied Paris and Holocaust horrors.



For more detail of this area see Map p386 and p390 →

Explore: Le Marais, Ménilmontant & Belleville

Sublime place des Vosges is a perfect starting point – the city square is a triumph of architectural symmetry and of that understated *bon goût* Paris does so well. Meander 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 Caféthèque.

Bearing north towards the Haut Marais, hipster strips laden with drinking and dining options include rue Vieille du Temple near the Musée National Picasso, rue du Bourg Tibourg, and rue des Rosiers in the heart of the historic Jewish quarter Pletzl.

Bar-busy rue Oberkampf and rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud duck east into the working-class district of Ménilmontant and, further on, increasingly appealing Belleville.

In summer, make a point of heading 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

- ➔ **Cafe life** No single address promises complete immersion into local life quite like the open-all-hours Fluctuat Nec Mergitur (p171), an unpretentious cafe with the perfect people-watching terrace.
- ➔ **A market lunch** Lunch with locals around communal tables in Paris' oldest covered market, Marché des Enfants Rouges (p168).
- ➔ **Belleville** Leave the crowds behind in this vibrant, multicultural and staunchly working-class 'village', old haunt of Édith Piaf and new haunt of trendsetters.
- ➔ **Detox!** Juice bars, organic cafes and gluten-free bakeries have arrived in Le Marais, much to the joy of local hipsters who can't get enough of Wild & the Moon (p171), Café Pinson (p163) and Chambelland (p169).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Stops for the lower Marais include 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** Le 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 Vélip' stations: 7 place de l'Hôtel de Ville, 49 rue Rambuteau and place Padeloup (next to Filles du Calvaire). In Ménilmontant try 8bis rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud or 137 bd de Ménilmontant.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

When the hip crowd gets too much, take a break with a peaceful Parisian picnic. Grab a sandwich or fast-food bite and picnic in the Musée des Archives Nationales gardens; by the Seine on a wooden lounge or sun deck between Pont d'Arcole and Pont Louis-Philippe; with sweeping city views in Parc de Belleville; or between flowers on Square de la Roquette, 11e.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Breizh Café (p163)
- ➔ Le Clown Bar (p167)
- ➔ Pierre Sang Boyer (p170)
- ➔ Au Passage (p167)

For reviews, see p163. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Le Mary Céleste (p171)
- ➔ Wild & the Moon (p171)
- ➔ Fluctuat Nec Mergitur (p171)
- ➔ L'Ebouillanté (p171)
- ➔ Le Petit Fer à Cheval (p171)

For reviews, see p171. ➔

Best Shopping

- ➔ Merci (p176)
- ➔ Les Exprimeurs (p176)
- ➔ Maison Kitsuné (p175)
- ➔ Made by Moi (p179)
- ➔ Paris Rendez-Vous (p176)

For reviews, see p175. ➔