

# Latin Quarter

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Allow as much time to savour the exterior as to savour the interior as the newly renovated museum inside the **Institute of the Arab World** (p210), a visionary example of 1980s architecture (and don't miss the view from the roof!).
- 2 Time travel back to the Middle Ages at the **Musée National du Moyen Âge** (p206).
- 3 Pay homage to France's greatest thinkers buried beneath the neoclassical **Panthéon** (p208).
- 4 Curl up with a volume of poetry in the magical bookshop **Shakespeare & Company** (p216).
- 5 Stroll around Paris' sprawling botanical gardens, the **Jardin des Plantes** (p207).



## Explore Latin Quarter

Paris' botanical gardens, the Jardin des Plantes, are a serene spot to start the day, before checking out the Institut du Monde Arabe and sipping a sweet mint tea in the courtyard of the Mosquée de Paris.

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

Descend to the Panthéon's crypt to visit France's great thinkers, then spend the afternoon in the Musée National du Moyen Âge for the ultimate history lesson.

Excellent bistros are constantly popping up in this neighbourhood. Medieval cellars (many used as Revolutionary prisons) provide an atmospheric setting for live jazz and jam sessions, or join the area's students at the *quartier's* lively pubs.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Sporting Life** Join the locals playing *boules* and *pétanque* (a variant on the game of bowls) in the 2nd-century Roman amphitheatre Arènes de Lutèce (p208).
- ➔ **Student Life** Clink drinks during extended Latin Quarter happy hours (p214) and there will almost certainly be a student or academic affiliated with the Sorbonne sitting next to you.
- ➔ **Cinematic Life** Catch an all-night movie marathon followed by breakfast at the art deco Le Champo (p216).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** The most central 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 & Gare du Nord; and rue Gay Lussac for the 27 to Île de la Cité, Opéra & 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.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

First-time visitors often think the maze of tiny streets between the Seine and bd St-Germain in the 5e comprise the Latin Quarter. And while it's worth a look – find Paris' narrowest street, the 1.8m-wide rue du Chat qui Pêche ('street of the fishing cat') – this neighbourhood, named for the international language spoken here by students until the French Revolution, has so much more: there are great pubs, cafes, wine bars and squares throughout the *arrondissement*.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ L'AOC (p209)
- ➔ L'Agrume (p210)
- ➔ La Tour d'Argent (p210)
- ➔ Le Coupe-Chou (p210)
- ➔ Bistrot Les Papilles (p211)
- ➔ Boulangerie Bruno Solques (p211)

For reviews, see p209 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Café de la Nouvelle Mairie (p214)
- ➔ Le Verre à Pied (p214)
- ➔ Le Pub St-Hilaire (p214)

For reviews, see p214 ➔

## Best Jazz Clubs

- ➔ Café Universel (p215)
- ➔ Le Caveau des Oubliettes (p216)
- ➔ Le Petit Journal St-Michel (p216)

For reviews, see p215 ➔