Barcelona Travel Kit

The city, the local way

BARCELONA'S UNWRITTEN TRAVEL HACKS



HOLA BARCELONA

Your travel solution

Discover your path

1 TRANSPORT: HOW TO MOVE

2 WHERE TO GO: NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Eixample
- Sant Antoni
- Ciutat Vella
- Gràcia
- Sants – Montjuïc
- Les Corts
- Sarrià – Sant Gervasi
- Horta – Guinardó
- Nou Barris
- Sant Andreu
- Sant Martí

3 50 BARCELONA LOCAL HACKS

- The best views in barcelona
- Favourite streets, hidden corners & local atmosphere
- Eat & Drink
- How not to waste time
- Iconic landmarks



Move around like a local

You’re probably already thinking about everything you want to see…

But first, understand how locals move around Barcelona.

Because the best way to discover the city is knowing **HOW, WHEN,** and **WHERE** to move through it.

Click here to see the shortcuts locals use everyday

Transport hacks for getting around Barcelona

Barcelona has an extensive and efficient public transport system — make it your best ally while you're here.

We know which **metro lines** connect the city best, which **stations** leave you in the right spot, and which **routes** help you explore beyond the tourist paths.

The **Hola Barcelona Travel Card** **includes metro, buses, tram, FGC, Rodalies, NitBus and airport connections,** so you can move around the city freely from the moment you land.



Metro lines you should know

L4 The sea & skyline line

Connects lively neighbourhoods with the coastline. Perfect for beaches and waterfront areas.

The iconic line L3

Crosses Barcelona from side to side, connecting Poble Sec and Passeig de Gràcia

L5 The practical line

Fast and convenient for visiting major landmarks. Key stops include Sants Estació, Diagonal, Verdaguer and Sant Pau | Dos de Maig.

Move to the city's rhythm

Locals don't just know **where** to go.
We also know **when** to go.

Metro opening hours

- **Sunday to Thursday:** until midnight
- **Fridays:** until 2am
- **Saturdays:** open all night



Local tip

If you can, **avoid rush hour (08:00– 09:30 and 17:30–19:30).**

Local transport tricks



Take the **L9 Sud** from the airport to the city centre with the **Hola Barcelona Travel Card** and avoid extra transport costs.

Buses are also a great alternative to the metro — especially the **H and V lines,** which cross the city from end to end.



Barcelona Bus Turístic is ideal on your first day to understand the city's layout and connect the main landmarks easily.

FGC trains let you quickly reach quieter areas beyond the busiest tourist spots. (**Zone 1 is included** with the Hola Barcelona Travel Card.)

Barcelona, district by district



Now that you know how to move around, here's something important:

Barcelona isn't defined by its monuments. It's defined by its neighbourhoods.

Every neighbourhood has its own rhythm, personality, and moments of the day when everything changes.

Here's how locals actually experience every corner of the city

Don’t think in monuments, think in neighbourhoods

Barcelona isn’t discovered all at once. It’s explored **neighbourhood by neighbourhood,** each with its own pace and personality.

To help you experience them like a local, we’ve chosen **ambassadors from every district** to share their insider tips.



Eixample

The heart of Modernisme

“The stretch of Consell de Cent between Girona and Bruc has the best combination of light, trees and façades in all of Eixample. Don’t miss it.”
— Berta, Eixample.





How to get there

- **Metro**
  L1 / L2 / L3 / L4 / L5
- **Bus** H10 / H12 / V15 / 59
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic**
  Casa Batlló / Sagrada Família

Best time to visit

- **Early morning**

Local festivals

- Festa Major de la Dreta de l’Eixample: **29 – 31 May**
- Festa Major de la Sagrada Família: **late April**

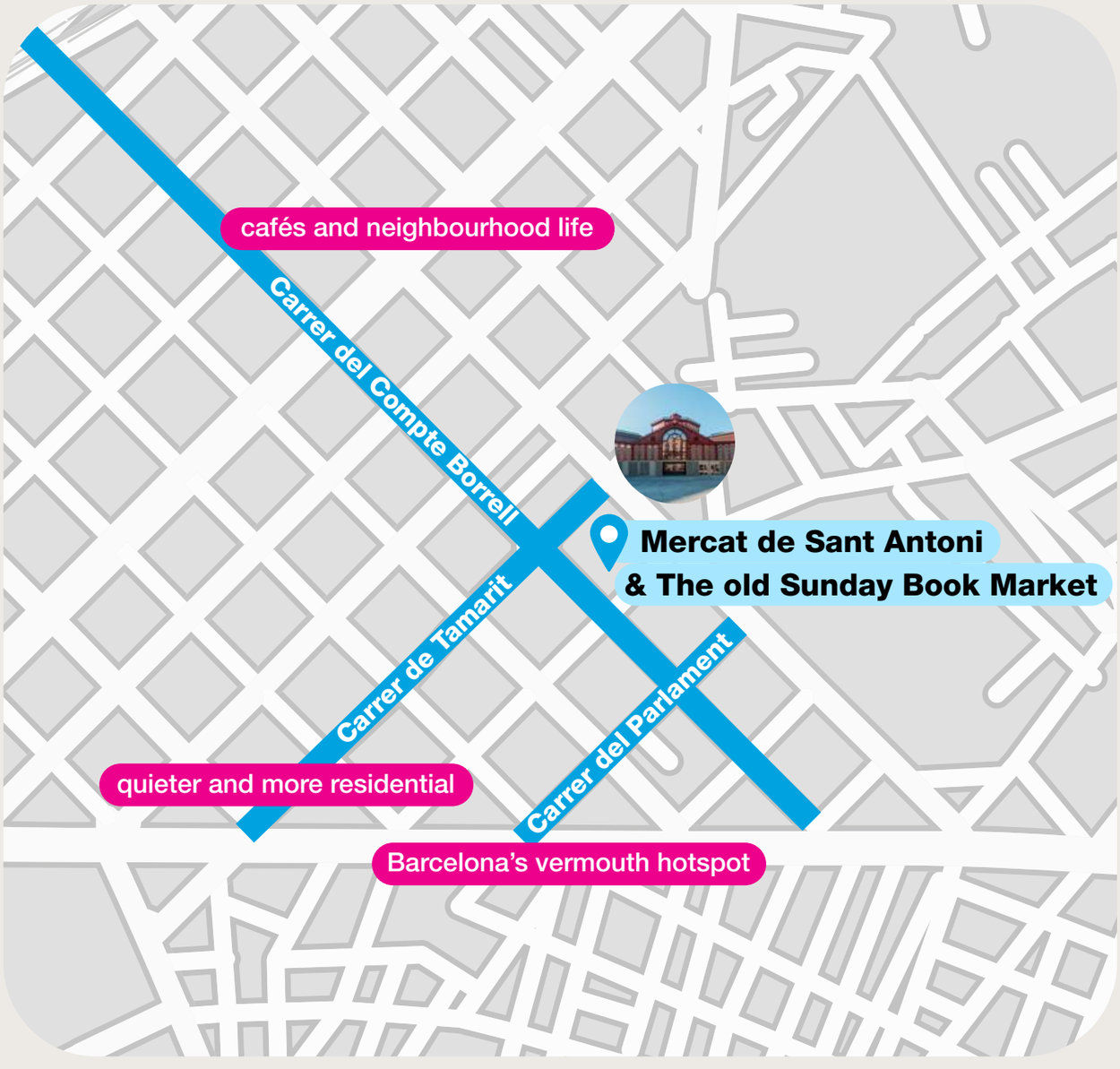


Sant Antoni

Markets, cafés & everyday Barcelona

“In the afternoon, the stretch of Carrer del Parlament between Viladomat and Borrell has the best terrace atmosphere in the neighbourhood, full of locals and constant movement.” — Júlia, Sant Antoni





How to get there

- **Metro** L2 Sant Antoni
- **Bus** H16 / 55
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic**
  Plaça Espanya

Best time to visit

- **Weekend mornings and lunchtime**

Local festivals

- Festa Major de Sant Antoni: **16 – 25 January**



Ciutat Vella

The historic soul of Barcelona

“Walk down Carrer de la Pietat without looking up, and suddenly the Cathedral appears between the narrow walls.”
— Jordi, Gothic Quarter





How to get there

- **Metro** L3 Liceu / L4 Jaume I or Barceloneta / L1 Catalunya
- **Bus** V15, 59
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic** Gothic / Born / Ciutadella

Best time to visit

- **Morning** for the Gothic Quarter and Rambla del Raval
- **Late afternoon & evening** for the best atmosphere in El Born

Local festivals

- Festes de Sant Roc: **14–16 August**
- Festa Major del Casc Antic: **late June**



Gràcia

A village within the city

> **“When the clock tower in Plaça de la Vila lights up in the evening, Gràcia feels like a small village hidden inside Barcelona.”**
> — Gina, Gràcia





How to get there

- **Metro** L3 Fontana / L4 Joanic / L3 Diagonal
- **Bus** 22 / 24 / 87
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic**
  Park Güell

Best time to visit

- **Evening**

Local festivals

- Festa Major de Gràcia:
  15 – 21 August



Sants - Monjuïc

Barcelona from above



> **“From the steps of the MNAC just before sunset, you get one of the most spectacular panoramic views in the city.”**
> — Marc, Sants



How to get there

- **Metro** L1 / L3 Espanya
- Montjuïc Funicular
- Montjuïc Cable Car
- Barcelona Bus Turístic
  Montjuïc

Best time to visit

- **Sunset**

Local festivals

- La Mercè: **23–27 September**
  (activities across the city)



Les Corts

Elegant, calm and residential

“At Jardins de la Maternitat you can completely disconnect from the pace of the city without ever leaving the centre.”
— Laura, Les Corts





How to get there

- **Metro** L3 Maria Cristina / Les Corts / Palau Reial
- **Bus** H8 / V3 / 59
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic**
  Camp Nou

Best time to visit

- **Weekday afternoons**

Local festivals

- Festa Major de les Corts: **early October**



Sarrià - Sant Gervasi

Green, peaceful and residential

“The final stretch of Carretera de les Aigües is perfect for seeing the whole city with a much calmer atmosphere.”
— Arnau, Sant Gervasi





How to get there

- **FGC** Sarrià / Sant Gervasi / Avinguda Tibidabo
- **Bus** V13 / H4 / 68
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic** Tibidabo

Best time to visit

- **Weekend mornings**

Local festivals

- Festa Major de Sarrià: **first week of October**

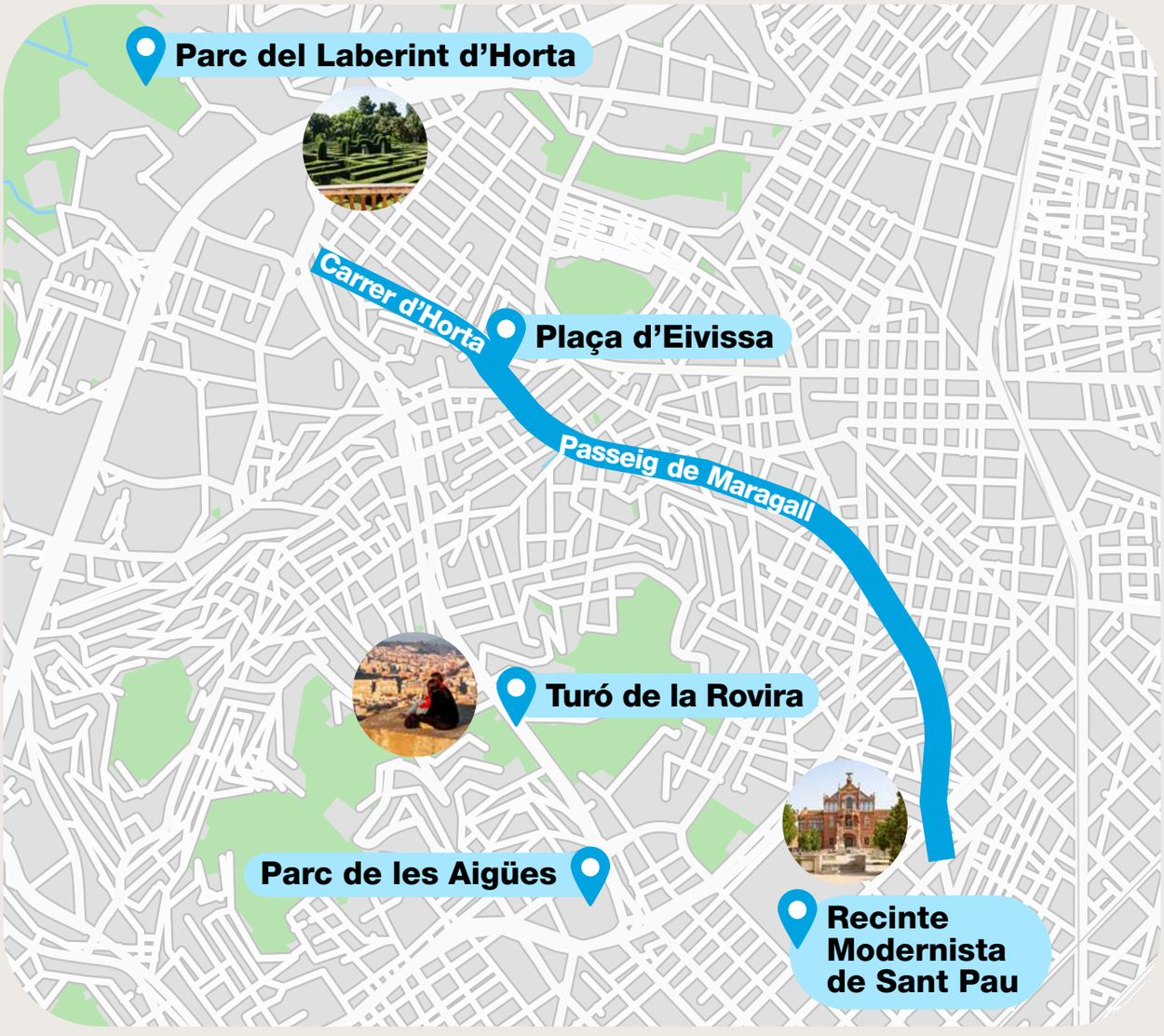


Horta - Guinardó

Viewpoints and slower streets

“At Parc del Laberint d’Horta, walk a little further away from the central maze and you’ll find peaceful corners that almost nobody visits.” — Laura, Horta





How to get there

- **Metro** L5 Horta / Sant Pau | Dos de Maig / El Carmel
- **Bus** V21 / H6 / 19
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic**
  Sant Pau Recinte Modernista

Best time to visit

- **Sunset**

Local festivals

- Festa Major d’Horta: **September**



Nou Barris

Barcelona at its most local

“From Mirador de Torre Baró you get one of the widest views over Barcelona — and it’s almost never crowded.”
— Carles, Nou Barris





How to get there

- **Metro** L4 Via Júlia / L1 Fabra i Puig
- **Bus** D40 / H2 / V27

Best time to visit

- **Afternoon**

Local festivals

- Festa Major de Nou Barris: **May**

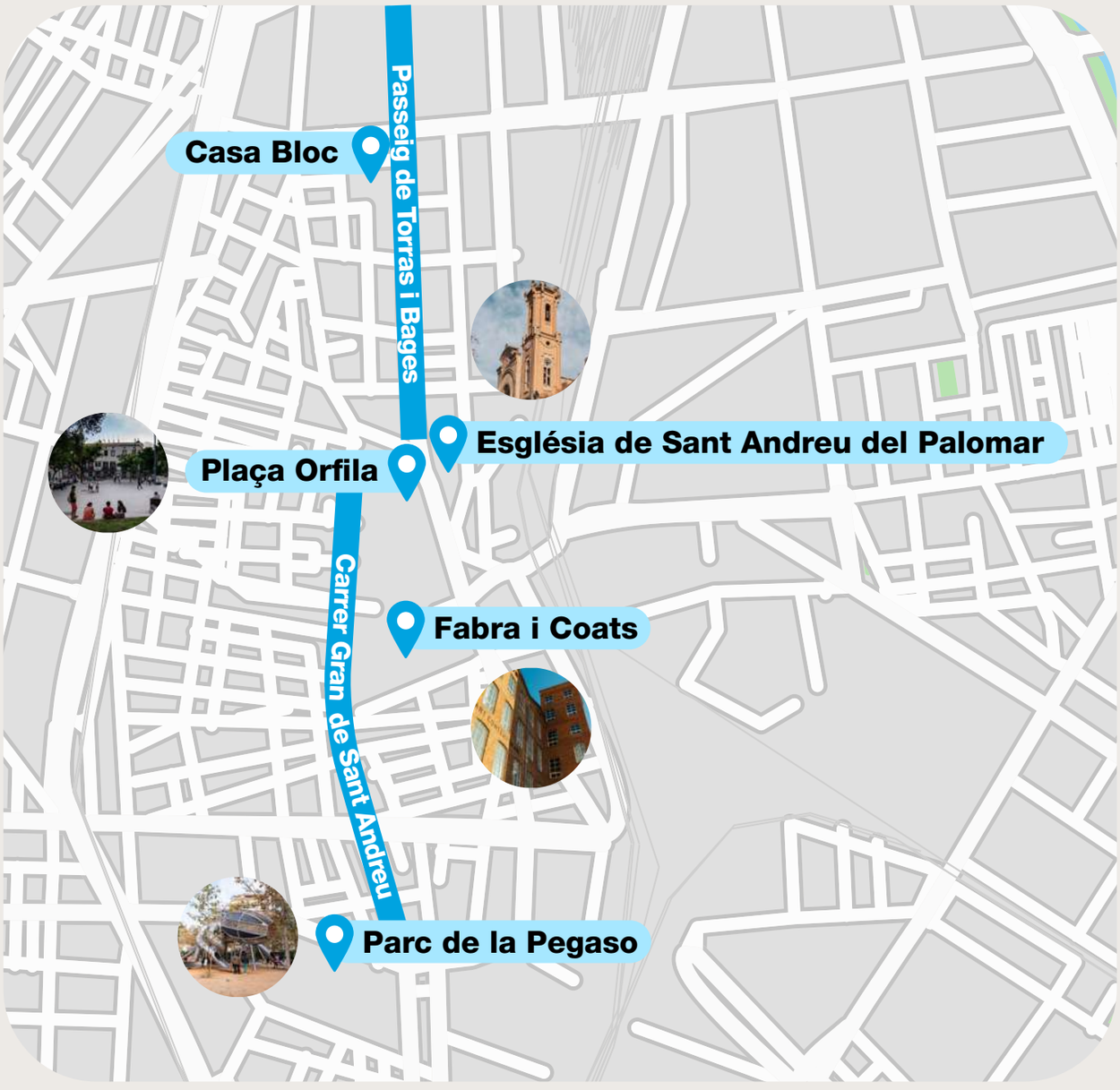


Sant Andreu

The village spirit of old Barcelona

“Walk along Carrer Gran de Sant Andreu in the late afternoon, that’s when the neighbourhood feels most alive.”
— Marc, Sant Andreu





How to get there

- **Metro** L1 Sant Andreu / Fabra i Puig
- **Bus** H8 / V31 / 126

Best time to visit

- **A quiet morning or late afternoon**

Local festivals

- Festa Major de Sant Andreu: **late November – early December**

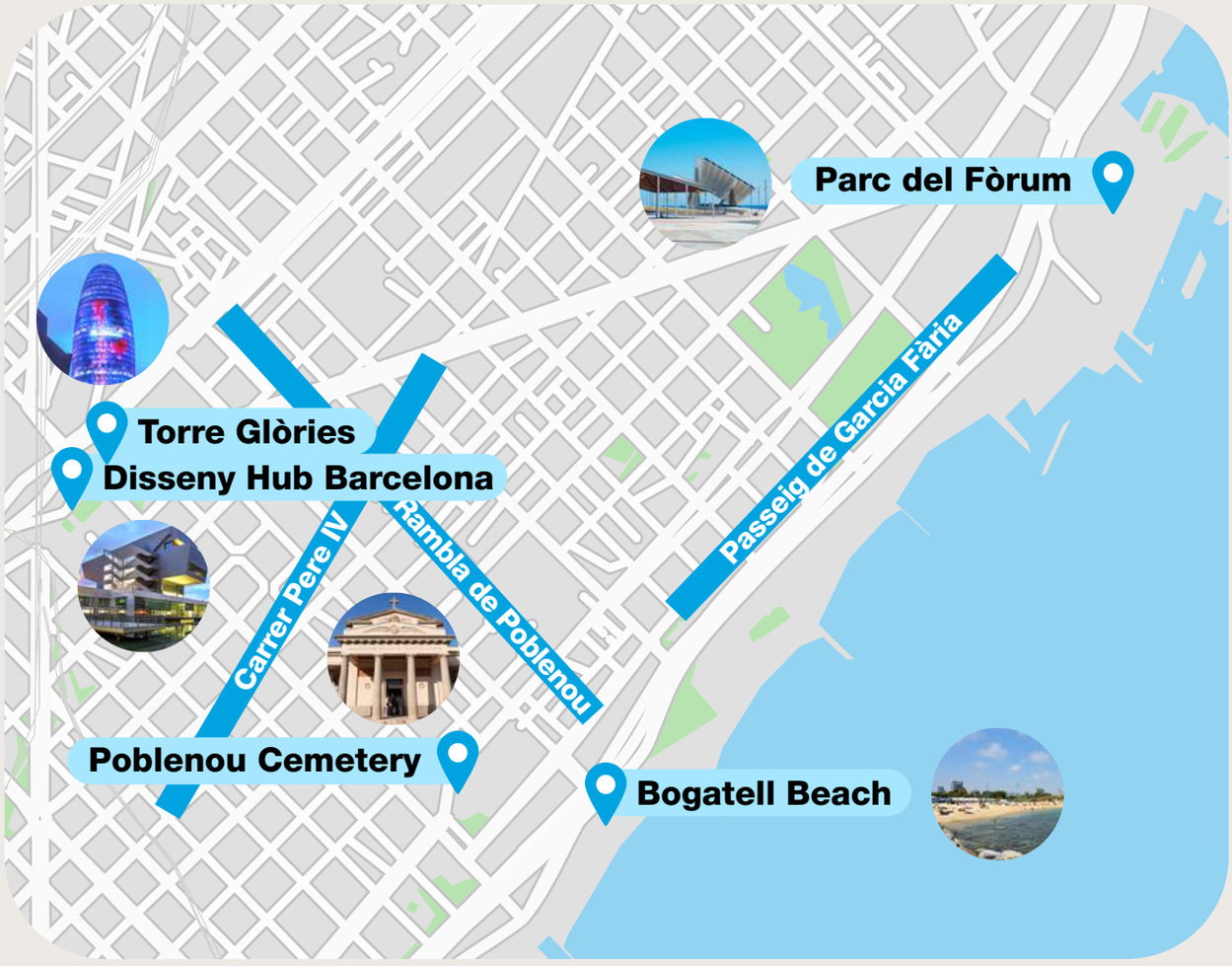


Sant Martí

Where industry, design and the sea come together

“At the far end of Passeig Garcia Fària near Llevant, you get skyline views, the sea and far fewer crowds than Barceloneta.”
— Pol, Sant Martí





How to get there

- **Metro** L4 Poblenou / Llacuna / El Maresme | Fòrum
- **Bus** H16 / V27 / 7
- **Barcelona Bus Turístic**
  Torre Glòries / Poblenou / Fòrum

Best time to visit

- **Sunset and nighttime**

Local festivals

- Festa Major del Poblenou: **first half of September**

50 Barcelona hacks only locals will tell you

Now that you know **where to go** and **how to move** around, discover **50 insider hacks** from our local ambassadors to experience Barcelona the way we do.

10 local hacks for the best views in Barcelona

1 If you want to understand Barcelona in a single moment, **head to the MNAC steps just before sunset.**

2 The best view of Sagrada Família isn't right in front of the façade — it's **from the lake in Plaça de Gaudí.**

3 Enter **Park Güell** from **Carretera del Carmel** for a more dramatic first view.



4 Some hotel **rooftops** offer the most direct **views of Barcelona Cathedral.**

5 **Mirador del Migdia** is quieter than the Bunkers and has amazing harbour views.

6 From the **Teatre Grec steps,** the city feels peaceful and surrounded by gardens.



7 From the **Montjuïc Cable Car** you truly understand how Barcelona connects the city, the port and the mountains.

8 **Jardins de Miramar** offers one of the best open views of the coastline.

9 The end of the Bogatell promenade combines **skyline and sea views** without the crowds.

10 Climb to the **top of Barcelona Cathedral** for a clear view of the historic skyline.

Favourite streets, hidden corners & local atmosphere

11 Enter **Carrer del Bisbe from Plaça Sant Jaume early in the morning,** before the crowds — the bridge looks almost unreal.

12 Walk down Carrer de la Pietat and let the Cathedral appear unexpectedly.

13 After the rain, the stone in **Plaça Sant Felip Neri** reflects light beautifully.

14 At Passatge Permanyer, **it feels like** you've stepped out of Barcelona and into **Notting Hill.**

15 When the terraces on **Enric Granados light up at sunset,** the entire street changes rhythm.

16 **The stretch of Consell de Cent between Girona and Bruc** has the best balance of light, trees and architecture in Eixample.

17 Late afternoons on Carretera de les Aigües **offer perfect city views.**

18 Arrive at **Carrer Petritxol just as the chocolate shops** are opening and the street still holds the silence of the morning.

19 For a different view of Sants, **head to Passatge de Fructuós Gelabert in the evening.**

20 When the **clock tower in Plaça de la Vila de Gràcia** lights up, the square feels like a tiny village hidden.



Where locals actually go to eat & drink

21 For a local breakfast, head to **Carrer Tamarit or Carrer del Comte Borrell.**

22 The **best time for vermouth** is in Carrer Blai between 12pm and 1pm.

23 On Carrer del Parlament, **the nicest terraces** are between Viladomat and Comte Borrell.

24 In Gràcia, Plaça de la Virreina and Plaça Rovira i Trias are **calmer than the famous squares.**

25 For **tapas in El Born,** skip Passeig del Born and look for places on side streets like Assaonadors or Mirallers.

26 In Barceloneta, eat on **quieter inner streets** like Carrer de Sant Carles or Carrer del Baluard for better prices and more authentic food.

27 In neighbourhoods like Sants or Gràcia, finding **dinner before 8pm can be very difficult.**

28 The stretch of **Passeig Sant Joan between Arc de Triomf and Verdaguer** is one of the best local spots for morning coffee.

29 In El Born, book ahead around **Carrer de les Mosques or Allada-Vermell.**

30 For drinks with a local atmosphere, head to **Pepe Rubianes or Joaquim Costa.**



Locals never waste time — 10 ways to keep the right pace

31 The **Hola Barcelona Travel Card** lets you jump on and off public transport without constantly calculating tickets or zones.

32 The **historic centre** is far more enjoyable before 10am.

33 The **Montjuïc Cable Car** saves the uphill walk and offers great views.

34 **Get off at Diagonal** instead of Passeig de Gràcia to save time.

35 If a street feels crowded, turn the next corner — **the atmosphere changes quickly.**



36 Use the **escalators on Avinguda Maria Cristina** to reach the MNAC.



37 The **Barcelona Bus Turístic** is ideal for understanding the city on your first day.

38 Many landmarks are best enjoyed from the outside.

39 If you visit **La Boqueria,** enter from Portaferrissa and leave through La Rambla.

40 **Montjuïc isn't a single stop** — it's a sequence. If you rush it, you miss the experience.

How locals experience Barcelona's iconic landmarks

41 At the **Palau de la Música,** don't stay only on the main floor. Go upstairs and look at the stained-glass skylight from the side angle.

42 At the **Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau,** begin at the administration pavilion and move toward the gardens — It more sense in reverse.

43 Inside **Santa Maria del Mar,** stand beneath the central columns and look up.

44 Walk around the cloister at **Sant Pau del Camp** to experience its silence.

45 At **Palau Güell, pay attention to the vertical flow** of the building — the staircases are part of Gaudí's storytelling.

46 At **Monestir de Pedralbes,** don't stop at the cloister. The side cells reveal what everyday life was actually like there.

47 When visiting **Casa Batlló,** don't miss **Casa Amatller** right next door.



48 At **Frederic Marès Museum,** start with the sculpture collection.

49 At the **MNAC,** begin with the Romanesque collection before the modern art galleries — you'll understand the evolution of Catalan art.

50 Don't skip **Palau Baró de Quadras** — one of Barcelona's hidden Modernisme gems.

You're ready for Barcelona

Don't waste time figuring out how Barcelona works. Move through the city almost like a local from day one.

Now you know how we move around, how we experience each neighbourhood, and how locals actually think about the city as part of everyday life.

Because this **isn't just a guide** to seeing Barcelona. It's a way of **stepping into the city without getting lost in the process.**

Now go experience it for yourself.

Before your trip, explore even more local tips on the **Hola Barcelona blog**