In this work, we define nearly planar graphs $G$ that are planar graphs or have an edge $e$ such that $G \setminus e$ is planar. The class of nearly planar graphs are closed not under minors but under topological minors. Since we can make a trivial infinite series of planar graphs using an operation, namely parallel subdivision, we define a relation $\preceq$ between two graphs which is an extension of the topological minor relation. We define $\mathcal{M}$ to be the minimal excluded class of nearly planar graphs under $\preceq$. We prove that all members of $\mathcal{M}$, except finitely many, contain a Möbius ladder and are made by three blocks. (Received November 14, 2012)