



Paris

For other places with the same name, see [Paris \(disambiguation\)](#).

Paris, the cosmopolitan capital of [France](#), has the reputation of being the most beautiful and romantic of all cities, brimming with historic associations and remaining vastly influential in the realms of culture, art, fashion, food and design.

Dubbed the **City of Light** (*la ville lumière*) and the **City of Love** (*la ville de l'amour*), Paris is home to some of the world's finest and most luxurious fashion designers and cosmetics, such as *Chanel*, *Christian Dior*, *Yves Saint-Laurent*, *Guerlain*, *Lancôme*, *L'Oréal*, and *Clarins*. A large part of the city, including the banks of the River Seine, is a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). The city has the second highest number of Michelin-starred restaurants in the world (after [Tokyo](#), which is much larger) and contains numerous iconic landmarks such as the **Eiffel Tower**, the **Arc de Triomphe**, **Notre-Dame de Paris**, the **Louvre**, the **Moulin Rouge** and the **Basilique du Sacré-Cœur**, making it one of the most popular international tourist destinations in the world, with around 14 million visitors annually.



The Eiffel Tower and the Seine River

Districts

The city of Paris is divided into 20 districts called *arrondissements*, numbered from 1 to 20 in a clockwise spiral from the centre of the city (which is known as *Kilomètre zéro* and is located at the front of Notre Dame). *Arrondissements* are named according to their number. You might, for example, stay in the "5th", which would be written as *5e* in French. The 12th and 16th arrondissements include large parks: the *Bois de Vincennes* and the *Bois de Boulogne* respectively.

The very best map you can get for Paris is called "Paris Pratique par Arrondissement" which you can buy for about €5 at any news stand. It makes navigating the city easy. The various tourist information centres and hotels in Paris also provide various city and metro maps for free and which contain all the essential details for a tourist.

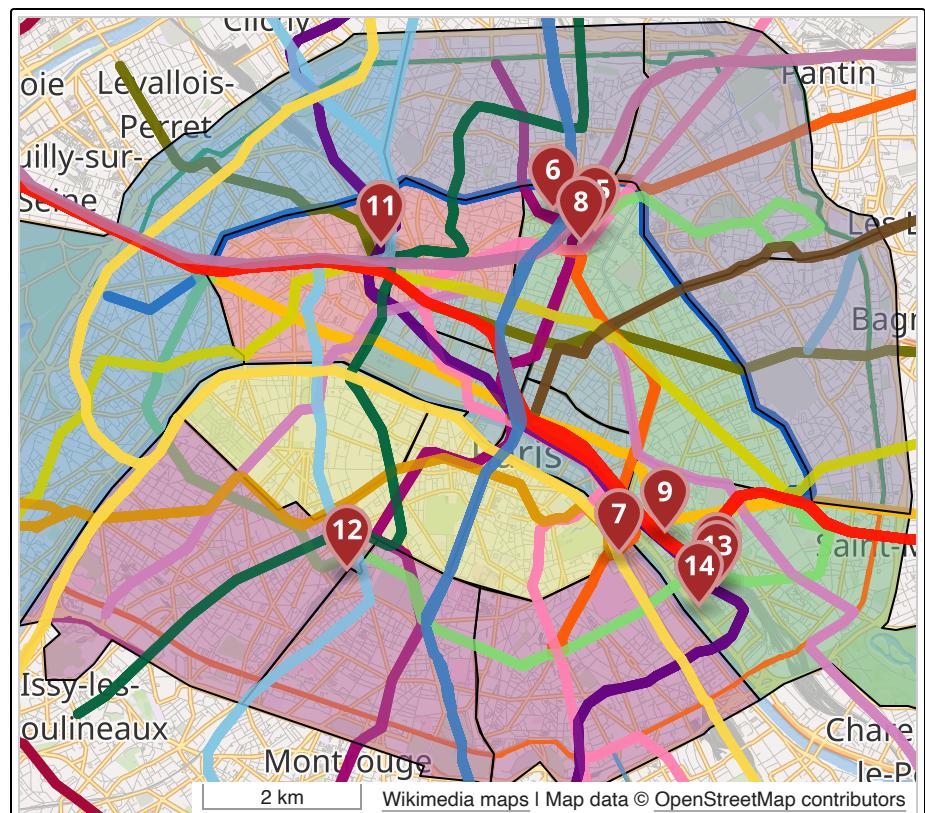
Each *arrondissement* has its own unique character and selection of attractions for the traveller:

Central Paris (1st arr., 2nd arr., 3rd arr., 4th arr.)

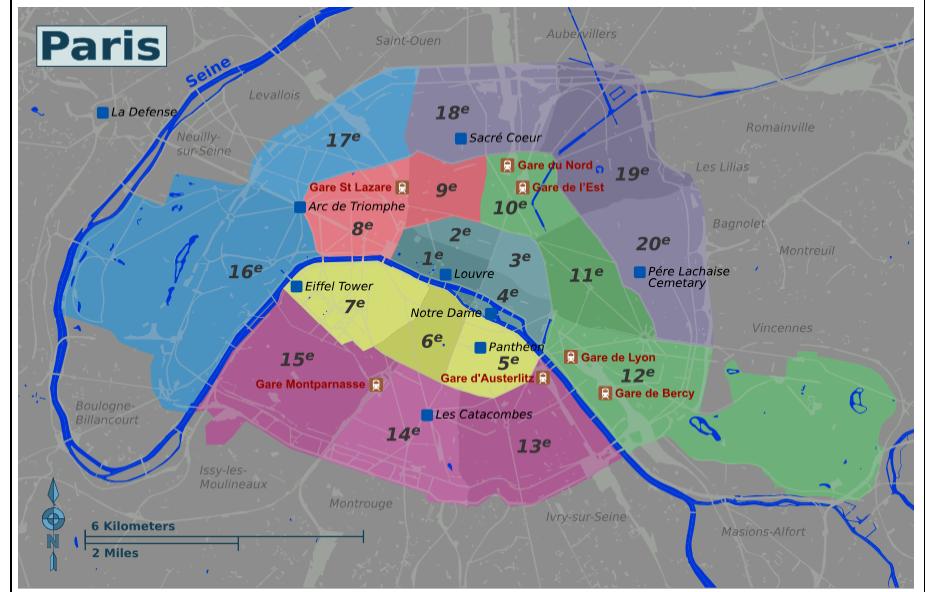
1e: The geographical centre of Paris and a great starting point for travellers. The *Musée du Louvre*, the *Jardin des Tuilleries*, *Place Vendôme*, *Les Halles* shopping centre, *Palais Royal*, *Comédie-Française*, *théâtre du Châtelet*, *Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel*, and the western half of *Île de la Cité* (Paris's largest island).

2e: The central business district of the city — the *Bourse* (the Paris Stock Exchange), *Opéra-Comique*, *Théâtre des Variétés*, *Passage des Panoramas*, *Théâtre des Bouffes Parisiens* and the former *Bibliothèque Nationale* are here.

3e: *Archives Nationales*, *Musée Carnavalet*, *Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers*, *Hôtel de Soubise*, the former *Temple* fortress, and the northern, quieter part of the *Marais*. **4e:** *Notre-Dame de Paris*, the *Hôtel de Ville* (Paris city hall), *Hôtel de Sully*, *Beaubourg*, *Rue des Rosiers* and the Jewish Quarter, *Le Marais*, *Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville*, *Mémorial de la Shoah*, *Centre Georges Pompidou*, *l'atelier Brancusi*, *Place des Vosges*, *Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal*, *Saint-Jacques Tower* and the Parisian island *Île Saint-Louis* as well as the eastern half of *Île de la Cité*.



Map of Paris



Left Bank (5th arr., 6th arr., 7th arr.)

5e: This is the eastern part of the *Quartier latin* (Latin Quarter). *Jardin des Plantes*, *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, *Musée de Cluny*, the *Panthéon*, *La Sorbonne*, *Montagne Sainte-Geneviève*, *Église Saint-Séverin*, *La Grande Mosquée*, *Le Musée de l'AP-HP*. **6e:** This contains the western part of the *Quartier latin*. *Jardin du Luxembourg* as well as its *Sénat*, *Place Saint-Michel*, *Église Saint-Sulpice* and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*. **7e:** *Tour Eiffel* and its *Parc du Champ de Mars*, *Les Invalides*, *Musée d'Orsay*, *Assemblée nationale* and its subset administrations, *École Militaire*, *Musée du quai Branly*, and Parisian mega-store *Le Bon Marché*.

Inner Paris (8th arr., 9th arr.)

8e: Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Place de la Concorde, le Palais de l'Élysée, Église de la Madeleine, Jacquemart-André Museum, Gare Saint-Lazare, Grand Palais, Petit Palais, and the western half of Boulevard Haussman. **9e:** Opéra Garnier, Galeries Lafayette, Musée Grévin, Folies Bergère, and the eastern half of Boulevard Haussman.

East Paris (10th arr., 11th arr., 12th arr.)

10e: Canal Saint-Martin, Gare du Nord, Gare de l'Est, Porte Saint-Denis, Porte Saint-Martin, Passage Brady, Passage du Prado, and Église Saint-Vincent-de-Paul. **11e:** The bars and restaurants of Rue Oberkampf, Bastille, Nation, New Jewish Quarter, Cirque d'Hiver, and Église Saint-Ambroise. **12e:** Opéra Bastille, Bercy Park and Village, AccorHotels Arena, Promenade Plantée, Quartier d'Aligre, Gare de Lyon, Cimetière de Picpus, Viaduc des arts, the Bois de Vincennes, and the Zoo de Vincennes.

South Paris (13th arr., 14th arr., 15th arr.)

13e: Quartier Asiatique (Asian Quarter), Place d'Italie, La Butte-aux-Cailles, Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF), Gare d'Austerlitz, Manufacture des Gobelins, the Olympiades, the Tolbiac district, Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital. **14e:** Cimetière du Montparnasse, Gare Montparnasse, La Santé Prison, Denfert-Rochereau, Parc Montsouris, Stade Charléty, Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, and the public entrance to the catacombs. **15e:** Tour Montparnasse, Porte de Versailles, Front de Seine, La Ruche, Parc André Citroën, Aquaboulevard and quartiers Saint-Lambert, Necker, Grenelle and Javel.

West Paris (16th arr., 17th arr.)

16e: Palais de Chaillot, Musée de l'Homme, the Bois de Boulogne, Cimetière de Passy, Parc des Princes, Musée Marmottan-Monet, Trocadéro, Maison de la Radio, and Avenue Foch. **17e:** Palais des Congrès, Place de Clichy, Parc Monceau, Marché Poncelet, and Square des Batignolles.

Paris Hills (18th arr., 19th arr., 20th arr.)

18e: Montmartre, Pigalle, Barbès, Basilica of the Sacré Cœur, Église Saint-Jean-de-Montmartre, and Goutte d'Or can be found here. **19e:** Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Parc de la Villette, Bassin de la Villette, Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, Cité de la Musique, Canal de l'Ourcq, and Canal Saint-Denis can be found here. **20e:** Cimetière du Père-Lachaise, Parc de Belleville, and quartiers Belleville and Ménilmontant.

La Défense

Although not officially part of Paris, this rapidly-growing business district lies just west of the city and is on many visitors' must-see lists for its modern skyscraper architecture and public art.

Beyond Paris, the outlying suburbs are called *La Banlieue*. Schematically, those to the west of Paris (Neuilly-sur-Seine, Boulogne-Billancourt, Saint Cloud, Levallois, Versailles, Poissy, Rueil-Malmaison) are wealthy residential communities, even if some more middle class suburbs can be found. Those to the north are poorer communities, and very ethnically diverse. Those to the south are a mix of rough and poor neighbourhoods alongside very affluent communities. Finally, those to the east are usually lower-middle class mingled with a few upper-middle class communities.

Understand

Paris sits on the River Seine, in north-central France. Around 2.2 million people live in the city of Paris, but this only represents the urban core within the *Boulevard périphérique*. There are some 10 million in the wider *Métropole du Grand Paris* (814 km²) and almost 13 million people living in the metropolitan area, making this one of Europe's largest.

Due to high expectations, a tight schedule, and language barriers, not to mention the large crowds and long lines at certain attractions during high season, the city also disappoints some visitors. Foreign visitors who have an idealized view of Paris might be shocked by the typical challenges of visiting any large city. They expect romance, beauty, and luxury, but they find street crime, traffic noise, pollution, garbage, and relatively high costs. In the worst case, visitors might experience the *Paris syndrome*, which is a state of severe culture shock and anxiety – sometimes, severe enough that it even results in a psychiatric emergency that requires hospitalization.

To enjoy the wonders of Paris, make realistic plans. The number of attractions and landmarks is overwhelming; visiting only the most famous ones (which are overcrowded during major holidays) takes more than a week. The city also has more to offer for people who take time for a calm stroll along the backstreets. If your time in the city is short, be selective, and save some attractions for your next visit.

- **Paris je t'aime** (<https://parisjetaime.com/eng/>). The website of the tourist office. (updated Jan 2024 |)
- **SPOT24**, 101 quai Jacques Chirac, Paris 15th (*Metro: Bir-Hakeim (line 6); RER: Champ-de-Mars – Tour Eiffel (line C); Vélib': station 7023*). Daily 10:00-18:00. The City of Paris welcome centre also has an exhibition and shop. (updated Jan 2024 |)

History

Paris started life as the Celto-Roman settlement of *Lutetia* on the Île de la Cité, the island in the Seine now occupied by the *Cathédrale de Notre Dame*. It takes its present name from the name of the dominant Gallo-Celtic tribe in the region, the *Parisii*. At least that's what the Romans called them, when they showed up in 52 BCE and established their city *Lutetia* on the left bank of the Seine, in what is now called the "Latin Quarter" in the 5th arrondissement.

The Romans held out here for as long as anywhere else in the Western Empire, but by 508 CE they were gone, replaced by **Clovis of the Franks**, who is considered by the French to have been their first king. Clovis' descendants, aka the Carolingians, held onto the expanded Lutetian state for nearly 500 years through Viking raids and other calamities, which finally resulted in a forced move by most of the population back to the islands which had been the centre of the original Celtic village. The Capetian Duke of Paris was voted to succeed the last of the Carolingians as King of France, ensuring the city a premier position in the medieval world. Over the next several centuries Paris expanded onto the right bank into what was and is still called *le Marais* (The Marsh). Quite a few buildings from this time can be seen in the 4th arrondissement.

The medieval period also witnessed the founding of the Sorbonne. As the "University of Paris", it became one of the most important centres for learning in Europe—if not the whole world, for several hundred years. Most of the institutions that still constitute the University are found in the 5th, and 13th arrondissements.

In the late 18th century, there was a period of political and social upheaval in France and Europe, during which the French governmental structure, previously a monarchy with feudal privileges for the aristocracy and Catholic clergy, underwent radical change to forms based on Enlightenment principles of nationalism, citizenship, and inalienable rights. Notable events during and following the revolution

were the storming of the Bastille (in what is now the 4th arrondissement), and the rise and fall of Napoleonic France. Out of the violent turmoil that was the French Revolution, sparked by the still known *Passion des Français*, emerged the enlightened modern day France.

The Paris of today was built long after the Capetian and later the Bourbon Kings of France made their mark on Paris with the *Louvre* and the *Palais Royal*, both in the 1st. In the 19th century, Baron von Hausmann set about reconstructing the city, by adding the long straight avenues and replacing many of the then existing medieval houses, with grander and more uniform buildings.

New wonders arrived during *La Belle Époque*, as the Parisian golden age of the late 19th century is known. Gustave Eiffel's famous tower, the first metro lines, most of the parks, and the streetlights (which are partly believed to have given the city its epithet "the city of light") all come from this period. Another source of the epithet comes from *Ville Lumière*, a reference not only to the revolutionary electrical lighting system implemented in the streets of Paris, but also to the prominence and aura of *Enlightenment* the city gained in that era.

The twentieth century was hard on Paris, but thankfully not as hard as it could have been. Both world wars took a heavy toll on the city's inhabitants, but at least Hitler's order to burn the city was ignored by the German General von Choltitz, who was quite possibly convinced by a Swedish diplomat that it would be better to surrender and be remembered as the saviour of Paris, rather than its destroyer. Following the war, the city recovered quickly at first, but slowed in the 1970s and 1980s when Paris began to experience some of the problems faced by big cities everywhere: pollution, housing shortages, and occasionally failed experiments in urban renewal.

However, post-war Paris enjoyed considerable growth as a multi-cultural city, with new immigrants from all corners of the world, especially *La Francophonie*, including most of northern and western Africa as well as Indochina. These immigrants brought their foods and music, both of which are of prime interest for many travellers. Immigration and multi-culturalism continues in the 21st century with a marked increase in the arrival of people from Latin America, especially Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil. In the late 1990s, it was hard to find good Mexican food in Paris, whereas today there are dozens of possibilities from lowly *taquerias* in the outer *arrondissements* to nice sit-down restaurants on the boulevards.

Nevertheless, Paris remains a French city; bistros, baguettes, high-end fashion, art, accordions, Hausmann architecture, and all the stereotypes (whether good or bad) of France are alive and well in Paris. People from all over France flock to Paris for work, study, partying, and everything in between. After all, this IS the capital of France, so anything pertaining to France can be found here.



The Eiffel Tower

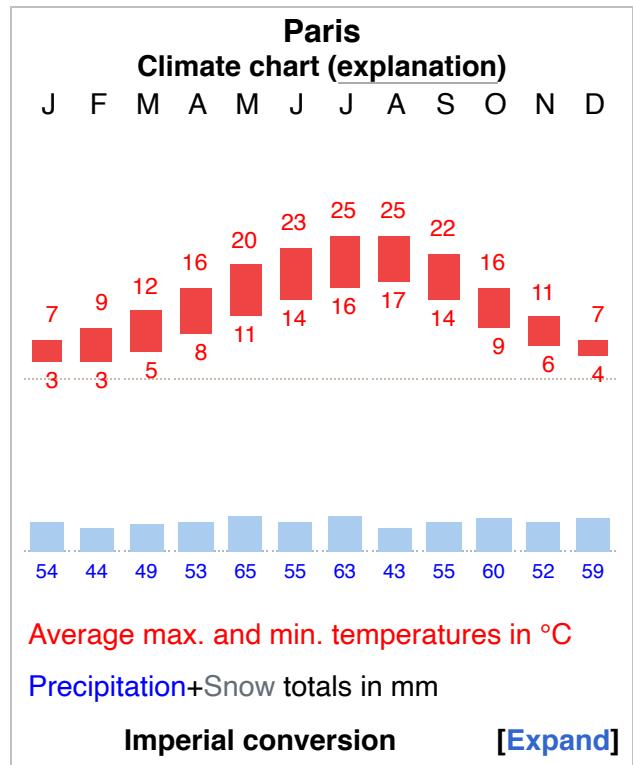
The 21st century has also seen vast improvements in the general livability of Paris, with the mayor's office concentrating on reducing pollution and improving facilities for soft forms of transportation including a huge network of cycle paths, larger pedestrian districts and new metro lines. Visitors who normally arrive car-less are the beneficiaries of these policies as much as the Parisians themselves, although tensions and doubts have emerged over the actual benefits of those measures.

Climate

Paris has an oceanic climate with moderately cold winters and warm summers. The moderating effect of the Atlantic Ocean helps to temper temperature extremes in much of western Europe, including France. Even in January, the coldest month, temperatures nearly always exceed the freezing point with an average high of 7 °C (45 °F). Snow is not common in Paris, although it can fall a few times per year. Most of Paris' precipitation comes in the form of light rain year-round. Daylight hours run from 08:45 until 16:45.

Summers in Paris are moderately warm and humid, with an average high of 25 °C (77 °F) during the mid-summer months. Occasional heat waves can push temperatures above 30 °C (86 °F) and rarely even reach 35 °C (95 °F). The sun is up from 06:00 until almost 22:00.

Spring and fall are normally cool and wet.



Get in

By plane

Charles de Gaulle Airport

Main article: [Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport](#)

1 **Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport** (<http://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/homepage>) (**CDG** IATA), is the primary airport. Colloquially known as Roissy Airport, it is north of the city and is used mainly for long haul flights. The airport consists of three terminals: Terminal 1, Terminal 2 and Terminal 3, connected by the CDGVAL people mover. It is connected to Paris by train, bus and taxi. See [Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport](#) for details.

RER line B serves central Paris and is the fastest and most economical option for most travellers. Most trains will stop at each station along the way to Paris. Express trains with fewer stops are available during off-peak hours. Gare du Nord, Châtelet-Les Halles, Saint-Michel Notre-Dame, Luxembourg, Port-Royal, Denfert-Rochereau and Cité Universitaire are always served. A full-fare single ticket is €13 and trains run every 10 minutes. Your ticket will allow you to transfer to the Metro and other RER lines to complete your journey.

RoissyBus coach services depart from all terminals and travel non-stop to Opéra (Metro lines 3, 7, and 8 and RER line A) in central Paris. A full-fare single ticket is €13 and buses run every 15 min during the day and every 20 min in the evening. Journey time is typically 60 minutes, but can take longer in heavy traffic.

If you arrive at night you'll need a Noctilien bus to get to the city centre. The buses you'll need are N140 or N143. The buses leave every 30 min after 00:30.

This [map](https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport) (<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport>) shows you how you connect from the airport to the city.

Orly Airport

Main article: [Paris Orly Airport](#)

2 Paris Orly Airport (<http://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/homepage>) (**ORY**^{IATA}), is the secondary airport. It is south of the city and is used mainly by Air France for domestic departures, and for several international departures, mostly towards destinations around the Mediterranean. The airport consists of four terminals: Terminal 1, Terminal 2, Terminal 3 and Terminal 4, connected by the Orlyval people mover. It is connected to Paris by metro, train, tram, bus and taxi. See [Paris Orly Airport](#) for details.

Metro line 14 serves central Paris and is the fastest and most economical option for most travellers. A full-fare single ticket is €13 and trains run every 5 minutes. Your ticket will allow you to transfer to the RER and other Metro lines to complete your journey.

Orlyval people mover runs from the airport to Antony for onward connections to the city via RER line B. A full-fare single ticket is €13 and people movers run every 6 min. Journey time from the airport to Antony is 6 minutes.

Tram line T7 runs from the airport to La Fraternelle for onward connections to the city via RER line C. A full-fare single ticket is only €2 and trams run every 10 min. Journey time from the airport to La Fraternelle is 8 minutes.

If you arrive at night you'll need a Noctilien bus to get to the city centre. The buses you'll need are N22, N31, N131 or N144. The buses leave every 60 min after 00:30.

This [map](https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-orly/public-transport) (<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-orly/public-transport>) shows you how you connect from the airport to the city.

Beauvais–Tillé Airport

3 Beauvais–Tillé Airport (<https://www.aeroportparisbeauvais.com/en/passengers/>) (**BVA** IATA). 85 km (53 mi) northwest of central Paris, this airport is used by some low-cost carriers such as Ryanair and WizzAir. The airport operates a shuttle service to the *Métro* at Porte Maillot station. Buses run as early as 06:00. Buses leave 20 min after each flight arrives, and a few hours before each flight departs. A schedule can be found on the Beauvais Airport website. The journey will take about an hour in good traffic conditions, and costs €16.9 each way (Online) or €18 each way (Physically); there is no reduced price for children over the age of 2 years. Unless you hire a car this is the most realistic way to head toward Paris. The alternative is a train service between Gare du Nord and Beauvais, and a connecting shuttle or taxi to the airport. This journey costs more and takes longer. Missing the shuttle bus could mean a taxi fare well over €100.

Châlons Vatry Airport

4 Châlons Vatry Airport (<https://www.xcr-airport.com/en/>) (**XCR** IATA). 147 km (91 mi) east of central Paris. 105 km (65 mi) east of Disneyland Paris. Isolated.

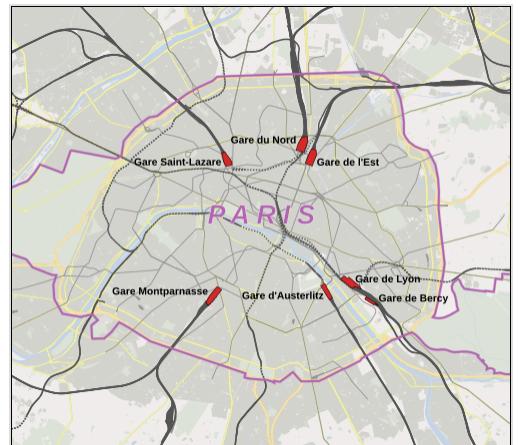
Le Bourget Airport

5 Paris Le Bourget Airport (<http://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/homepage>) (**LBG** IATA). 11 km northeast of central Paris. A 24-hour airport for private jets and business aviation. Companies like Air Charter Advisors (<https://www.aircharteradvisors.com/>) and Priority Jet (<http://www.priorityjet.net/>) offer access to a variety of aircraft rentals.

By train

See also: [Rail travel in France](#)

Paris is well connected to the rest of Europe by train. There are **seven terminus stations** in central Paris and although they are not all in the same district, they are all connected to the Metro and RER networks. You will probably want to know in advance at which station your train is arriving, so as to better choose a hotel and plan for transport within the city.



The seven terminal stations of Paris

- **6 Gare du Nord** [W](#), (10th), *Métro: Gare du Nord* — TGV trains to and from northern France (Lille, Amiens, Lens...), Eurostar trains to the United Kingdom (London) and to Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany (North Rhine-Westphalia).
- **7 Gare d'Austerlitz** [W](#), (13th), *Métro: Gare d'Austerlitz* — Intercités trains to and from the center and southwest of France (Orléans, Limoges, Toulouse the long way) and the majority of night trains.
- **8 Gare de l'Est** [W](#), (10th), *Métro: Gare de l'Est* — TGV to and from eastern France (Strasbourg, Reims, Nancy, etc.) and Luxembourg, ICE/TGV to and from Germany (Berlin, Saarbrücken, Kaiserslautern, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Augsburg, and Munich), ÖBB Nightjet night trains to Germany (Karlsruhe, Munich) and Austria (Salzburg, Vienna)

- **9 Gare de Lyon** [W](#), (12th), *Métro*: *Gare de Lyon* — regular and TGV trains to and from southern and eastern France: French Alps, Marseille, Lyon, Dijon, Switzerland (Basel, Geneva, Lausanne, Bern, Zurich), southwest Germany (Freiburg im Breisgau), Italy (Turin, Milan) and Spain (Girona, Barcelona).
- **10 Gare de Bercy** [W](#), (12th), *Métro*: *Bercy* — Intercités trains from Auvergne and Burgundy.
- **11 Gare St Lazare** [W](#), (8th) *Métro*: *St-Lazare* — trains from Normandy.
- **12 Gare Montparnasse** [W](#), (15th), *Métro*: *Montparnasse-Bienvenue* — TGV and regular trains from the west and south-west of France (Tours, Brest, Rennes, Nantes, Bordeaux, Toulouse the fastest way, Hendaye). *Gare Vaugirard* is an extension of *Gare Montparnasse*.



Map showing which areas of France and its near neighbours are served from which Parisian stations

The **SNCF** (French national railway authority) (<https://www.sncf.com/en>) operates practically all trains within France excluding the Eurostar to London, Brussels, the Netherlands and Germany (<http://www.bahn.de/i/view/GBR/en/index.shtml>), and some low-cost services such as Ouigo (although owned by the SNCF, it is considered as a separate brand). There are also a few local lines of high interest to tourists which are privately owned. All SNCF, Eurostar and Thalys tickets can be bought in railway stations, city offices and travel agencies (no surcharge). SNCF relies on travel agencies for selling tickets online, the main one being **SNCF Connect** (<https://www.sncf-connect.com/>) and **Trainline** (<https://www.thetrainline.com>) (easier to use). You can also find tickets in online and physical travel agencies. You can book and buy tickets up to three months in advance. There are significant discounts if you book weeks ahead. Reduced ticket prices are different for each day and each train and can be used only on the train the reservation is for. Trains between Paris and south Germany (Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich) as well as the Marseille-Frankfurt TGV are jointly operated by SNCF and Deutsche Bahn, but each of the two operators will sell tickets at its own price! Make sure to check the price offered by each operator before you buy, or use Trainline since they automatically compare SNCF and DB prices.

See also: [Rail travel in Europe](#)

There are a number of different kinds of high-speed and normal trains:

- **TER**: The regional trains (*Train Express Régional*); cheapest tickets, though prices are variable on the time of day of departure (and the day of departure as well). TER are sometimes slower, stopping at almost all stations. TER tickets bought at the train station are valid two months from the date indicated on the ticket, as long as you travel in the right fare period ("période bleue", the cheapest, "période blanche", for high-demand hours). There is no seat reservation, so arrive early enough or you may have to travel without a seat.
- **Intercités**: A bundling of the former *Intercités*, *Téoz*, and *Lunéa* train categories. There are two kinds: the regular trains, which are priced the same as the TER and the trains you'll find yourself on if you have a Eurail or InterRail pass and don't want to pay extra for reservations, and the *trains à réservation obligatoire*, which require a reservation and are priced differently from the regular *Intercités* trains.
- **Intercités de nuit**: Overnight trains from destinations to and from south of France, including Latour-de-Carol, Lourdes and Cerbère via Toulouse.

- **TGV:** The world-famous French high-speed trains (*Trains à Grande Vitesse*) run very frequently to the southeast Nice (5-6 hr), Marseille (3 hr) and Avignon (2.5 hr), the east Geneva (3hr) or Lausanne, Switzerland, Dijon (1 hr 15 min) and Strasbourg (1 hr 45 min), the southwest Bordeaux (3 hr), the west Rennes (2 hr) and the north Lille (1 hr). Thalys to Brussels (1 hr 20 min) use almost identical trains. Reservations are obligatory.
- **ICE:** German high-speed trains, operating most services between Paris and Frankfurt.
- **Thalys:** A high-speed train service running daily to/from the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Though it can be a bit expensive compared to normal trains, tickets can be cheap enough if you buy in advance. On-board service is usually very good.
- **Eurostar:** The Eurostar service connects Paris with London St. Pancras directly and Brussels indirectly, as well as many other destinations indirectly through the various west European rail services. Travel time between Paris Gare du Nord and London St Pancras International averages 2hr 15 min. Eurail and InterRail passes are *not* valid for this train, though pass holders can benefit from a reduced price. You must arrive at the station at least 90 minutes, and up to two hours, before the departure of the train to complete security and passport controls.
- **Ouigo (<http://www.ouigo.com/>):** A subsidiary of SNCF running TGVs with a second class only layout intended and marketed as a lower-cost service. Strict baggage limits and 30-minute check-in times make them more like budget airlines.
- **Trenitalia:** Operates high-speed **Frecciarossa** trains between Paris, Lyon, Chambéry, Modane, Turin, and Milan. Prices can be cheaper than SNCF, Trainline automatically compares both options.

From Gare d'Austerlitz

- Gare d'Austerlitz – Gare de Bercy (15 min): Bus 24 to École Vétérinaire de Maisons-Alfort.
- Gare d'Austerlitz – Gare de l'Est (20 min): ⑤, direction Bobigny.
- Gare d'Austerlitz – Gare Montparnasse (25 min): ⑩ direction Boulogne, change at Odéon for ④ direction Mairie de Montrouge. Alternatively, Bus 91 to Montparnasse, get off at Gare Montparnasse for the ticket office, local trains and most long-distance-trains; get off at the last stop Montparnasse 2-gare TGV if your train leaves from gare de Vaugirard or to reach the front carriages of TGV trains.
- Gare d'Austerlitz – Gare de Lyon: it's a 5- to 10-min walk (follow the signs). Alternatively, take Bus 91 in front of the station (on the same side of the street) towards Bastille and get off at Gare de Lyon-Diderot.
- Gare d'Austerlitz – Gare du Nord (20 min): ⑤ direction Bobigny.
- Gare d'Austerlitz – Gare Saint-Lazare (25 min): ⑩ direction Boulogne, change at Sèvres-Babylone for ⑫ direction Aubervilliers–Front Populaire; alternatively walk 10 min to Gare de Lyon then take ⑯ direction Gare Saint-Lazare.

From Gare de Bercy

For most train stations, take the ⑯ to Gare de Lyon and follow the directions given from Gare de Lyon.

- Gare de Bercy – Gare d'Austerlitz (15 min): bus 24 towards gare Saint-Lazare.

From Gare de l'Est

- Gare de l'Est – Gare d'Austerlitz (20 min): ⑤ direction Place d'Italie.

- Gare de l'Est - Gare de Bercy (25 min): 4 direction Mairie de Montrouge, stop at *Châtelet*, then 14 direction Olympiades, stop at *Bercy*.
- Gare de l'Est - Gare de Lyon (20 min): 5 direction Place d'Italie, stop at *Quai de la Rapée* and follow pedestrian signs to Gare de Lyon. Alternatively, 5 in the same direction to *Bastille* and then 1 direction Château de Vincennes to Gare de Lyon.
- Gare de l'Est - Gare du Nord (8 min): 5 direction Bobigny or Metro 4 direction Porte de Clignancourt. By foot, it is also about 8 minutes, but you will have to climb set of stairs.
- Gare de l'Est - Gare Montparnasse (30 min): 4 direction Mairie de Montrouge.
- Gare de l'Est – Gare Saint-Lazare (15 min): RER E direction Haussman–Saint-Lazare; alternatively (less walking, but more stairs) 4 direction Mairie de Montrouge, change at Strasbourg-Saint-Denis for 3 direction Pont de Levallois–Bécon.

From Gare de Lyon

- Gare de Lyon – Gare d'Austerlitz: it's a 5- to 10-minute walk (follow the signs). Alternatively, take bus 91 towards Montparnasse.
- Gare de Lyon - Gare de Bercy (15 mins): A free shuttle runs between the two every half hour if you have a SNCF train ticket including a transfer between these two stations. Alternatively, 14 direction Olympiades to Bercy.
- Gare de Lyon - Gare de l'Est (25 mins): 14 to Chatelet, direction St. Lazare followed by 4 direction Porte de Clignancourt.
- Gare de Lyon - Gare Montparnasse (30 min): Bus 91 to Gare Montparnasse. Another option is 14 to Chatelet, direction St. Lazare followed by 4 direction Mairie de Montrouge.
- Gare de Lyon - Gare du Nord (20 min): RER A direction Saint-Germain-en-Laye/Cergy Le Haut/Poissy to *Châtelet Les Halles* and then RER B direction Aéroport Charles de Gaulle/Mitry Claye to *Gare du Nord* (on the other side of the platform); if the RER A is not working take RER D heading to *Orry la Ville* or *Creil*; both will go to *Gare du Nord*.
- Gare de Lyon – Gare Saint-Lazare (15 mins): 14 direction Saint-Lazare.

From Gare Montparnasse

- Gare Montparnasse – Gare d'Austerlitz (25 min): 4 direction Porte de Clignancourt, change at Odéon for 10 direction Austerlitz. Alternatively, take Bus 91 (a little faster unless it gets caught in traffic).
- Gare Montparnasse - Gare de Lyon (30 min): 4 to Chatelet, direction Porte de Clignancourt followed by 14 direction Olympiades
- Gare Montparnasse - Gare du Nord OR Gare de l'Est (30 min): 4 direction Porte de Clignancourt
- Gare Montparnasse – Gare Saint-Lazare (15 min): 13 direction Asnières/Genevilliers or Saint-Denis. (12) is also a possibility but requires a long walk from the Montparnasse train station to the northern half of the metro station. It is a good option when coming from the shopping area near boulevard Montparnasse.)

From Gare du Nord

- Gare du Nord – Gare d'Austerlitz (20 min): 5 direction Place d'Italie.
- Gare du Nord - Gare de Bercy (25 min): Follow the directions for Gare de Lyon, then switch to 14 direction Olympiades to *Bercy*.
- Gare du Nord - Gare de l'Est (8 min): 4 direction Mairie de Montrouge. By foot, it is also about 8 minutes, but you will have to descend a set of stairs.

- Gare du Nord - Gare de Lyon (20 min): RER D direction Melun/Malesherbes; alternatively, if the RER D is not operational, RER B direction Robinson/Saint-Rémy-les-Chevreuse to Châtelet Les Halles and then RER A direction Marne-la-Vallée/Boissy-Saint-Léger to Gare de Lyon (this change only involves getting off the RER B train and getting on the RER A train on the other side of the same platform)
- Gare du Nord - Gare Montparnasse (30 min): ④ direction Mairie de Montrouge
- Gare du Nord – Gare Saint-Lazare (15 min): RER E direction Haussman–Saint-Lazare; alternatively (slower, less walking, but more stairs) ④ direction Mairie de Montrouge, change at Strasbourg-Saint-Denis for ③ direction Pont de Levallois–Bécon.

From Gare Saint-Lazare

- Gare Saint-Lazare – Gare d'Austerlitz (25 min): ⑫ direction Mairie d'Issy, change at Sèvres-Babylone for ⑩ direction Austerlitz; alternatively ⑭ direction Olympiades to Gare de Lyon, then cross the Seine river to Gare d'Austerlitz (10 min walk).
- Gare Saint-Lazare – Gare de Bercy (20 min): ⑯ direction Olympiades.
- Gare Saint-Lazare – Gare de l'Est (15 min): RER E direction Chelles–Gournay, Villiers-sur-Marne or Tournan; alternatively (less walking, but more stairs) ⑬ direction Gallieni and change at Strasbourg-Saint-Denis for ④ direction Porte de Clignancourt.
- Gare Saint-Lazare – Gare de Lyon (15 min): ⑯ direction Olympiades.
- Gare Saint-Lazare – Gare Montparnasse (15 min): ⑮ direction Châtillon–Montrouge. (⑫ is also a possibility but requires a long walk from the Montparnasse train station to the northern half of the metro station. It is a good option when coming from the shopping area near boulevard Montparnasse.)
- Gare Saint-Lazare – Gare du Nord (15 min): RER E direction Chelles–Gournay, Villiers-sur-Marne or Tournan; alternatively (slower, less walking, but more stairs) ⑬ direction Gallieni and change at Strasbourg-Saint-Denis for ④ direction Porte de Clignancourt.

By bus

While domestic bus lines were tightly regulated until 2015, they no longer are, and this has led to a heavily competitive and fast growing market. Companies that serve Paris are:

- **13 Blablacar Bus** (<https://www.blablacar.fr/bus>) (*OUIBUS*), 48 bis Boulevard de Bercy, 75012 Paris (*Next to Gare de Bercy at the southside*). A subsidiary of the SNCF, offering routes between Paris and London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Milan, Turin, along with other cities and towns in France.  (updated Mar 2022 !)
- **14 Flixbus** (<https://www.flixbus.fr/bus/paris>) (*Next to Quai de Bercy, access through the Parc de Bercy*), ☎ +49 30 300 137 300, service@flixbus.com (<mailto:service@flixbus.com>). Originally a German company, they serve many routes in and out of Paris, both domestic and international with destinations in Germany, Belgium or even London. Note that although their main hub is Bercy Seine, some buses also go to other places in Paris.  (updated Feb 2019 !)
- **15 Regiojet** (<https://www.regiojet.com/>), bus stop along Rue du Faubourg near Château-Landon Metro stop (*Next Gare de l'Est*), ☎ +420 222 222 221, info@regiojet.com (<mailto:info@regiojet.com>). A Czech company, offers connections to Paris from Prague and via Prague from Berlin and other cities. Good service and economical.  (updated Jul 2018 !)

By car

Several *autoroutes* (expressway, motorway) link Paris with the rest of France: **A1** and **A3** to the north, **A5** and **A6** to the south, **A4** to the east and **A13** and **A10** to the west. Not surprisingly, traffic jams are significantly worse during French school holidays.

The multi-lane highway around Paris, called the *Périphérique* (BP), is probably preferable to driving through the center. Another beltway nearing completion; *L'A86* (also **A186** and A286) loops around Paris about 10 km further out from the *Périphérique*. A third, incomplete beltway is much further out and called *La Francilienne* (N104).

It is advised not to drive within Paris and to be wary in the metropolitan area. It is better to drive to a suburban train station with a parking lot and then use the train to continue your trip throughout Paris. Most of Paris' roads were created long before the invention of automobiles. Traffic inside the city tends to be heavy, especially at rush hour; driving, however, may be rather easy and efficient in the evening. Parking is also difficult. Furthermore, the medieval nature of parts of the city's street system makes it very confusing, and traffic will almost never allow one to stop or slow down to get one's bearings. If you are unfamiliar with the streets and still insist on driving in the city, make sure you have a navigator in the passenger seat with you. However, Paris does have several iconic boulevards that have multiple lanes, form the backbone of the city's road network, and are useful if you do choose to bring a car – and are tourist attractions onto themselves.

In Paris, there are many car rental agencies offering a large number and wide range of vehicles for rental. Additionally, there are numerous car rental agencies located off-site which provide free airport transfers from their location and may offer lower prices well.

Get around

By public transport

Paris has an excellent public transport system that spans every inch of the city. It is well-known for its *Métro* (short for *Chemin de fer métropolitain*, "Metropolitan Railway"), *RER* (short for *Réseau Express Régional*, "Regional Express Network,"), and *Transilien* rail networks. The *Métro*, *RER* and *Transilien* are complemented by a large network of trams and buses.

Île-de-France Mobilités (<https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en>) is the authority that controls and coordinates the different transport companies operating in the Île-de-France region, including Paris. The website and app can be used to plan journeys, track services, and purchase tickets.

RATP (<https://www.ratp.fr/en>) operates the *Métro*, trams, buses, and about half of the *RER A* and *B*. SNCF (<https://www.transilien.com/en>) operates the rest of the *RER*, as well as the *Transilien*. Both companies take the same tickets, so the difference is of little interest for most people except in case of strikes. For example, RATP may strike without SNCF doing so or the other way around.

The *Métro* and *RER* move staggering numbers of people into, out of, and around Paris (6.75 million people per day on average), and most of the time in reasonable comfort. However, certain lines are operating at or near capacity, sometimes being so full that you'll have to let one or two trains pass

before being able to board. If you can help it, avoid Métro lines 1, 4, and 13 and RER line A and B during rush hours as these are the most congested lines in the system.

Strikes, breakdown and construction are regular occurrences on the Paris public transit system. Generally during a strike, the Métro operates with reduced service and some RER lines may stop operating altogether. Visit the [RATP](https://www.ratp.fr/en) (<https://www.ratp.fr/en>) or [SNCF](https://www.transilien.com/en) (<https://www.transilien.com/en>) websites for information on which routes are affected. Beware that real-time traffic information and construction announcements are often available only on the French-language version.

By Métro

Look for the Métro stations, marked with a large "M" sign or with an old-styled sign saying "Métropolitain".

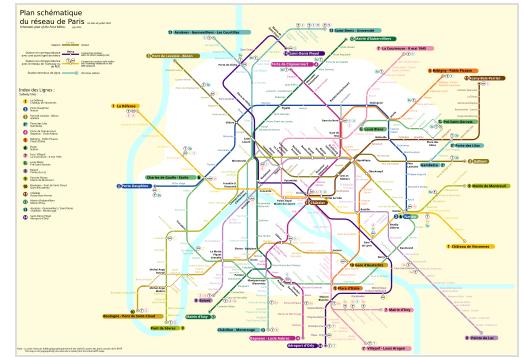
There are 16 Métro lines (*lignes*) (1-14, 3bis, and 7bis) on which trains travel all day at intervals of a few minutes. Trains usually come 2–3 minutes apart during rush hour and 5–10 minutes apart during other times, depending on the line. The service starts on each end of every line at 05:30, and the last metro arrives on each end at 01:15 (service ends an hour later on Friday and Saturday nights, and the day before a holiday), stopping at all stations on the line. Some lines have rare trains that terminate at an intermediate station; if that happens, get off the train with the rest of the crowd and board the next train on the same track or on the other side of the platform (the driver will usually make an announcement in French). Lines 7 and 13 have a fork, so if you take line 13 north of *La Fourche* or line 7 south of *Maison Blanche*, make sure to board the train for the correct destination which is indicated by a lit arrow on the sign in the middle of the platform and on colour-coded binders in each carriage. Times for trains can be seen on an electronic scroll board above the platform. Scheduled times for first and last trains are posted in each station on the centre sign. Generally, except for early and late hours, travellers should not worry about specific Metro train times; just get to your station and take the next train.

The lines are named according to the names of their terminal stations (the end of the line). If you ask the locals about directions, they will answer something like: take line number *n* towards "end station _", change at "station _", take the line *nn* towards "end station _" etc. The lines are also colour-coded.

Changing metro lines might be difficult at times for visitors travelling to or from the airport or train stations with heavy luggage or those with impaired mobility, especially at major metro intersections. Moving from one platform to another generally involves walking up and down multiple flights of



Navigo Easy Travel Card



Métro Map

stairs. Very few stations have elevators (only the newest line 14 is wheelchair-accessible at all stations). Only the busiest ones have escalators. It might be a good idea to check out the bus routes and timings and see if one can find a convenient bus connection.

Each station displays a detailed map of the surrounding area with a street list and the location of buildings (monuments, schools, places of worship, etc.,) as well as exits for that particular metro. Maps are located on the platform if the station has several exits or near the exit if there is only one exit.

Except for Métro 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 13, and 14, the doors will not open automatically. In such a case, there are handles or buttons located both inside and outside the train that you have to push or unlatch in order to open the door. Many locals may try to squeeze into the trains after the alarm has sounded to signal the closing of the doors. While one can occasionally pass through on lines with a driver, the automatic doors on Métro 1 and 14 will continue to close despite the presence of a limb or article of clothing. It is strongly advised to wait for the second train than to chance being caught between the doors.

Some larger stations have secondary entrances, where there is no ticket booth. These are labelled *voyageurs munis de billets* (passengers with tickets).

By RER

There are five commuter train lines that cross Paris: RER A, B, C, D, and E. RER trains run at intervals varying from about 3 minutes (RER A) to 6 minutes (RER D), and stop at every station **within** Paris. Trains can run up to every 5 minutes during rush hour, and you will never have to wait for more than 1 hour between two trains, even on the least served lines in the evening or on the weekend.

RER trains will stop at every station within Paris (zone 1), but may skip stations outside Paris, so if you're going to the suburbs make sure your RER stops where you need! Information about the stops to be made by the next incoming train is presented on a separate board also hanging from the ceiling.

RER trains do not have publicly announced numbers unlike the rest of SNCF network; the four letter codes (COHI, ELAO, QYAN, VICK, etc.) take the role of the train numbers instead; the first letter indicates the station where the train terminates, and the other three indicate the route and stops. Each line has its own nomenclature. You can look up what these codes mean on information panels in the station, but the easiest and fastest way is often to check the information screens along the platforms.



Information on service OKRE, last stop Torcy

By Transilien

The rest of the regional train network, called "Transilien", departs from the main train stations (Lyon for line R, Est for line P, Nord for lines H and K, St-Lazare for lines J and L, Montparnasse for line N) and La Défense (line U). Trains can run up to every 5 minutes during rush hour, and you will never

have to wait for more than 1 hour between two trains, even on the least served lines in the evening or on the weekend. The Transilien is marginally less crowded than the RER and the Metro.

By tram

Most tourists will not encounter the trams as they run only on the outskirts of the city. Trams T3a & T3b go nearly three quarters of the way round the city at the edge. Tram line 7 connects Orly Airport with RER line C; it is cheap but not fast.

By bus

A bus ride is interesting if you want to see more of the city. All stops have a name and are clearly marked on the street. At complex intersections, stops usually have a map that lets you know where other lines stop and if applicable where to find a Métro entrance. If more than one line stops, wave to the driver to let them know you want to board. All buses have a schematic map of the line on display with all stop names, bus connections and major street names. Electronic displays inside each bus tell riders its current position and what stops remain, but don't overly rely on them as they don't always work.

Since the Métro is primarily structured around a hub-and-spoke model, there are some journeys for which it can be quite inefficient. In these cases it is worth seeing if a direct bus route exists, despite the complexity of the bus network.

Noctilien night buses run regularly through the central hub at Chatelet to outlying areas of greater Paris. There is also a circle line connecting the main train stations. It pays to know one's Noctilien route ahead of time in case one misses the last Métro home. Women travellers should probably avoid taking the Noctilien on their own to destinations outside Paris.

Fares

A Navigo Travel Card is required to use public transport in Paris city and the wider Île-de-France region. The card can be loaded with a variety of fares (e.g. Métro-Train-RER Tickets). It cannot be loaded with credit like other cards around the world (e.g. €50). The card needs to be validated at the start of a journey and when transferring to a new tram or bus. It does not need to be validated at the end of a journey unless required to exit a fare gate.

The following cards are available to obtain:

Card Matrix (1 January 2025)

Card in English	Card in French	Price	Places to obtain	Fares to load
Navigo on Smartphone (http://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs/supports/telephone)	<i>Navigo sur Smartphone</i>	Free	Île-de-France Mobilités app, Bonjour RATP app, SNCF Connect app, Apple Wallet app, Samsung Wallet app	Métro-Train-RER Ticket, Bus-Tram Ticket, Airports Ticket, RoissyBus Ticket, Day Ticket, Week Ticket, Month Ticket, Paris Visite Ticket
Navigo Easy Travel Card (http://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs/supports/passe-navigo-easy)	<i>Passe Navigo Easy</i>	€2	Ticket Windows, Ticket Machines	Métro-Train-RER Ticket, Bus-Tram Ticket, Airports Ticket, RoissyBus Ticket, Day Ticket, Paris Visite Ticket
Navigo Découverte Travel Card (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs/supports/passe-navigo-decouverte)	<i>Passe Navigo Découverte</i>	€5	Ticket Windows	Day Ticket, Week Ticket, Month Ticket

The following fares are available to load:

Fare Matrix (1 January 2025)

Fare in English	Fare in French	Price	Valid	Rules
Métro-Train-RER Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/tickets-fares/detail/metro-train-rer-ticket)	<i>Billet Métro-Train-RER</i>	€2.50	Métro, RER, Transilien, Funicular	Valid for 120 minutes, Not valid to/from/between airports, Includes transfers
Bus-Tram Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs/detail/ticket-bus-tram)	<i>Billet Bus-Tram</i>	€2	Tram, Bus, Cable	Valid for 90 minutes, Valid to/from/between airports, Includes transfers
Airports Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/tickets-fares/detail/paris-region-airports-ticket)	<i>Billet Aéroports</i>	€13	Métro, RER, Transilien, Orlyval	Valid for 120 minutes, Valid to/from/between airports, Includes transfers
RoissyBus Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/tickets-fares/detail/orlybus-and-roissybus-tickets)	<i>Billet RoissyBus</i>	€13	RoissyBus	Valid for 90 minutes, Valid to/from Charles de Gaulle airport, Excludes transfers
Day Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/tickets-fares/detail/navigo-day-ticket)	<i>Forfait Jour</i>	€12	Métro, RER, Transilien, Funicular, Tram, Bus, Cable	Valid for 1 day, Not valid to/from/between airports, Obtainable in advance
Week Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/tickets-fares/detail/navigo-weekly-ticket)	<i>Forfait Semaine</i>	€31.60	Métro, RER, Transilien, Funicular, Tram, Bus, Cable, RoissyBus	Valid from Monday to Sunday, Valid to/from/between airports, Obtainable from Friday to Thursday

<u>Month Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/tickets-fares/detail/navigo-monthly-ticket)</u>	<i>Forfait Mois</i>	€88.80	Métro, RER, Transilien, Funicular, Tram, Bus, Cable, RoissyBus	Valid from 1st to 31st, Valid to/from/between airports, Obtainable from 20th to 19th
<u>Paris Visite Ticket (https://www.iledefrance-mobilites.fr/en/tickets-fares/detail/paris-visite-ticket)</u>	<i>Forfait Paris Visite</i>	Varies	Métro, RER, Transilien, Funicular, Tram, Bus, Cable, Orlyval, RoissyBus	Valid for 1 day/2 days/3 days/5 days, Valid to/from/between airports, Obtainable in advance

Ticket inspectors roam the network and show no mercy to tourists pleading ignorance. Travelling without a ticket will result in you being cited and forced to pay a fine on the spot. Inspections usually take place behind the turnstiles at major metro stations or during transfers.

By boat

There are several excellent boat services which make use of the Seine. As well as providing easy, cheap transport to much of central Paris, excellent photo opportunities abound. You can buy a day or 3 day ticket and hop on and off the boat as needed. The boats take a circular route from the Eiffel Tower, down past the Louvre, Notre Dame, botanical gardens then back up the other bank past Musée d'Orsay. [Batobus \(<http://www.batobus.com/>\)](http://www.batobus.com/) offers a regular shuttle service between the main tourist sights (closed Jan); other companies such as the famous [Bateaux Mouches \(<http://www.bateaux-mouches.fr>\)](http://www.bateaux-mouches.fr) offer sightseeing cruises.



A bateau mouche near the Pont Neuf

By taxi

Taxis are comparatively cheap especially at night when there are no traffic jams to be expected. There are not as many as one would expect, and sometimes finding a taxi can be challenging. In the daytime, it is not always a good idea to take a taxi, as walking or taking the metro (See: Métro) will often be faster. If you know you will need one to get to the airport, or to a meeting, it is wise to book ahead by phone.

The initial fare is €2.40 and the meter increases by around €1.10 each kilometer and around 50 cents each minute spent at red lights or in traffic jams. Fares are fixed by the city law and every driver complies with them. Fares vary according to the day of the week, the hour of the day and the area you're crossing. If you call a taxi, the meter starts when you call and not when you get in. You should expect a €5 to €10 fare on the meter when the taxi arrives after you call it.

To stop a taxi

If the sign is green, the cab is available, if it is red, the cab is busy, if it is off, the cab is off

Remember if a taxi is near a 'taxi station', they're not supposed to pick you up *except* at the station where there may be people waiting for a taxi. Taxi stations are usually near train stations, big hotels, hospitals, and large crossings.

There are a number of services by which you can call for taxis or make a reservation in advance. The largest fleet is Taxis G7:

- **Taxis G7** (<https://www.g7.fr/en/>), ☎ +33 1 41 27 66 99.

As in many other cities a taxi can be difficult to stop; you may have to try several times. When you do get a taxi to stop, the driver will usually roll down his window to ask you where you want to go. If the driver can't (or doesn't want to) go where you want, he might tell you that he's near the end of his work day & can't possibly get you where you want before he has to go off-duty.

There is a €6.40 minimum (2012) on all taxi rides, mandated by city law, but the meter does not show this amount, which can result in being asked to pay more than the metered amount on short rides. In Paris taxis are required by law to charge for the trip with a meter, charging a flat rate is illegal, except from/to Charles de Gaulle airport (€50 from the right bank of the Seine, €55 from the left bank) and Orly airport (€35 from the right bank, €30 from the left bank). Frequently the taxi driver will not want to drive you all the way to the doorstep, but will prefer to let you out a block or so away if there are one or more one-way streets to contend with. Try to look at this as a cost-savings rather than an inconvenience. You should pay while still seated in the cab as in New York and *not* through the front window London style. A tip is included in the fare price; If you're especially satisfied with the service, you can give something (basically 10%), but you don't *have* to. There is an extra charge for baggage handling.

The driver will not let you sit in the front seat (unless there are 3 or 4 of you, which is a rare case usually expedited by more money). Taxi-drivers come in all types, some nice, some rude, some wanting to chat, some not. Smoking in taxis is generally not allowed, however it might be that the taxi driver himself wants a cigarette in which case the rule might become flexible. Many drivers prefer that you avoid using your cellphone during the ride; if you *do* have to, make an apologizing gesture & sound, and do make a **short** call.

If for any reason you wish to file a complaint about a Paris taxi, take note of the taxi's number on the sticker on the left hand backseat window. Beware of illegal taxis (see the [Stay safe](#) section).

A chauffeur taxi is an alternative to the traditional taxi. These taxis are not allowed to cruise the streets or airports for fares. You need to book them before they can pick you up and they are flat rate rather than metered (*ask for the fare before getting in*). There are two types of licence: the "Grande

"Remise" allows the driver to pick-up & drop-off passengers anywhere in France, and the "Carte Verte" allows the driver to pick-up & drop-off passengers in the department or region where the company is based. The Grande Remise taxis have a GR on their front plate. Chauffeur taxis provide the following services:

- Shared shuttle: You have to share the shuttle with other customers. Shared shuttles may be delayed since they can pick up or drop off other customers before you. They are cheaper than a private shuttle.
- Private shuttle: You have exclusive use of the shuttle without other customers. Private shuttles will pick you up on-time and drop you off at the address specified in the booking. They are more expensive than a shared shuttle.

By car

In a word: **don't**. It is generally a very bad idea to rent a car to visit Paris. Traffic is very dense during the day, and parking is, on average, exceedingly difficult and expensive. This is especially true in areas surrounding points of interest, since many of these are in areas designed long before automobiles existed. A majority of Parisian households do not own cars, and many people who move to the city find themselves selling their cars within a month or two.

That said, driving may be an option for going to some sights in the suburbs such as Vaux-le-Vicomte castle or the castle and city at [Fontainebleau](#), or for starting to other places in France. You may prefer to rent from a location outside Paris proper.

Traffic rules in Paris are basically the same as elsewhere in France, with the exception of having to yield to incoming traffic on roundabouts. However, driving in dense traffic in Paris and suburbs during commute times, can be especially strenuous. Be prepared for traffic jams, cars changing lanes at short notice, and so on. Another issue is pedestrians, who tend to fearlessly jaywalk more in Paris than in other French cities. Be prepared for pedestrians crossing the street on red, and expect similar adventurous behaviour from cyclists. Remember that even if a pedestrian or cyclist crossed on red, if you hit him, you (in fact, your insurance) will have to bear civil responsibility for the damages, and possibly prosecution for failing to control your vehicle. Note that the speed limit in Paris is 30 km/h in almost every street, besides a few large avenues clearly marked as such. There are no stop signs in the city center.

Paris has several orbital roads. There is a series of boulevards named after Napoleonic-era generals (*Boulevard Masséna*, *Boulevard Ney*, and so forth), and collectively referred to as *boulevards des Maréchaux*. These are normal wide avenues, with traffic lights. Somewhat outside of these is the *boulevard périphérique*, a controlled-access road with grade separation. The *périphérique intérieur* is the inner lanes (going clockwise), the *périphérique extérieur* the outer lanes (going anti-clockwise). Despite the looks, the *périphérique* is not an *autoroute*: the speed limit is 70 km/h and, very unusually, incoming traffic has the right of way, at least theoretically (presumably because, otherwise, nobody would be able to enter during rush hour).

By motorcycle

Paris is an incredibly open city, with its many "Grands Boulevards" and monuments with large open spaces around make it a city perfect to be explored and viewed by scooter or motorbike. Be warned that scooter/motorbike is by far the mode of transportation with the most casualties in Paris: half of victims of a collision were riding one, although they only account for about 2% of the traffic. When you're riding a scooter or motorbike in Paris, even if you see others doing so, it is not allowed to "lane-split" between the rows of cars waiting in traffic. At the red lights, even though a lot of scooter and motorbike drivers do not respect it, don't forget to pay attention to the bike designated area: you are not allowed to use them, and doing so is equivalent to failing to respect the red light (€135 fine). Parking-wise there are plenty of *deux roues* (two wheel) parking spots all over the city. Again, even though you may see plenty of scooters or motorbikes parked on the sidewalk, it is forbidden to do so. The city of Paris has dramatically increased the number of vehicles fined every day (€35), some of them even being towed away (at your own expenses).

- **Paris By Scooter** (<http://parisbyscooter.com/>) (Scooter always delivered to your hotel), ☎ +33 6 28 35 39 30, paris@parisbyscooter.com (mailto:paris@parisbyscooter.com). 08:00-21:00. All Vespa scooter rentals and Paris guided City tours include the collect and picked up from, your hotel in Paris. From €60.
- **Left Bank Scooters** (<http://www.leftbankscooters.com>) (Scooter delivered to your hotel), ☎ +33 6 78 12 04 24. 08:00-20:00. Scooter rental that is delivered to, and picked up from, your hotel in Paris. All scooter are Vespas, 50cc or 125cc available. Must have a car license to rent the 50cc, and a motorcycle license to rent the 125cc. From €60.
- **Ride'n'Smile** (<http://ridensmile.fr>) (Scooter delivered to your hotel), ☎ +33 6 64 30 80 13, ridensmileparis@gmail.com (mailto:ridensmileparis@gmail.com). 10:00-19:00. City tours by 50cc Vespa scooters delivered and picked up from your hotel. Driving licence required for drivers. From €39. (updated Apr 2017 |)

By bicycle

Renting a bike is a very good alternative over driving or using public transport and an excellent way to see the sights. Riding a bike anywhere in the city is far safer for the moderately experienced cyclists than almost any town or city in the United States. The French are very cognizant of cyclists, almost to a point of reverence. Paris hasn't always been the easiest place to get around by bike, but that is no longer the case. The city government has taken a number of steps in strong support of improving the safety and efficiency of the urban cyclist as well, in establishing some separated bike lanes, creating a bikesharing system, and allowing cyclists to share the ample bus lanes on most major boulevards. Paris also has many riverside paths which are perfect for cycling. The Paris bike network now counts over 150 km of either unique or shared lanes for the cyclist. In addition, the narrower, medieval side streets of the central arrondissements make for rather scenic and leisurely cycling, especially during off-hours of the day when traffic is lighter. Do remember to bring a good map, since there is no grid plan to speak of and almost all of the smaller streets are one-way.

Directions

If you find yourself lost in the streets, a good idea is to find the nearest Hotel and ask the concierge for directions. Most speak English well. A simple "*Bonjour Monsieur / Madame, parlez-vous anglais?*" should suffice.

While the streets of Paris are generally fairly easy on novice cyclists, there are some streets in the city that should be avoided by those who do not have sufficient urban cycling experience. Rue de Rivoli, Place de la Bastille, and Place de la Nation are particularly hairy, especially during weekdays and the Saturday evening rush, and should not be navigated by anyone not confident in their ability to cycle in heavy traffic. Avenue des Champs-Elysées, Place de l'Étoile, and voie Georges Pompidou (the lower-level express lanes along the banks of the Seine) should be avoided at all times.

Paris has a bike share system known as **Vélib'** (<https://www.velib-metropole.fr/>), ☎ +33 1 76 49 12 34. In January 2018, the original Vélib' was replaced by a new system called Vélib' Métropole, that encompasses an ever larger area than the previous one. At first there were some technical issues, but by the end of 2018 it seems like they were mostly resolved. Bikes include a screen showing eg. how long a bike has been rented. Some electric bikes are also available (for an extra fee). €5 per day, first half hour free. (updated Feb 2019 |) You can purchase the Vélib pass online. An app helps finding stations and available parking slots. Green Vélib bikes are normal bikes, blue Vélibs are ebikes.

By foot

Walking in Paris is one of the great pleasures of visiting the City of Light. It is possible to cross the entire city in only a few hours, but only if you can somehow keep yourself from stopping at numerous cafés and shops. In fact within a few years walking combined with biking and the *Metro* may be the only way to get around the very centre of Paris as plans develop to reduce access to cars in the city centre.

The smartest travellers take advantage of the walk-ability of this city, and stay above ground as much as possible. A metro ride of less than 2 stops is probably best avoided since walking will take about the same amount of time and you'll be able to see more of the city. That said, pay attention to the *Métro* stations that you may pass by on your journey; the *Métro* network is very dense within the city and the lines are virtually always located directly

Paris Walking 101

To get a great orientation of the city on foot while seeing many of Paris' major sights, you can do a West to East walk along the Axe Historique from the Arc de Triomphe to Île de la Cité (Notre Dame). This walk takes about 1-2 hours without any stops. Start at the top of the Champs Elysées (at the Arc de Triomphe) and begin walking down the Champs Elysées towards Place ('square') de la Concorde.

- On the way towards the obelisk on the square, you'll see the major stores and restaurants of Paris' most famous avenue.
- Once you've passed the main shopping area, you'll see the Petit Palais and the Grand Palais to your right.
- At Place de la Concorde, you'll be able to see many of Paris' major monuments around you. In front of you is the Tuileries, behind you is the Champs-Elysees and Arc de Triomphe, behind you to your right is the Tour Eiffel and Musée d'Orsay, and finally, to your left is the Madeleine.
- Continue straight ahead and enter the Tuileries Gardens passing by fountains, flowers, and lovers in the park.
- As you continue straight ahead, and out of the garden, you'll see the pyramid entrance to the Louvre directly in front of you.
- With the pyramid directly in front of you, and the Tuileries directly behind you, turn to your right and walk towards the Seine.
- Now you can walk along the Seine (eastwards) until you reach Pont Neuf. Cross Pont Neuf and walk through the Latin Quarter, cross the river again to reach Notre Dame cathedral on Île de la Cité.

underneath major boulevards, so if you become lost it is easy to regain your bearings by walking along a major boulevard until you find a Métro station.

You may have heard of the hazard of walking into dog droppings in Paris. The problem is now virtually nonexistent due to fines as high as €180 and extensive street cleaning operations.

It's always fun to experience the city by foot, and there are numerous walking tours around Paris, whether self-guided (with the help of a guidebook or online guide) or with a touring guide (booked through your travel agency or hotel). The city is best explored by foot, and some of the most marvelous memories you will have of Paris is walking through secret found places.

Pedestrian call buttons at crosswalks are activated by pressing the button underneath the call button box.

Talk

French (*français*) is of course the country's official language. Any native French person will speak French and it helps if you can speak a bit of it. In the parts of the city that tourists frequent the most, the shopkeepers, information booth attendants, and other workers are likely to answer you in English, even if your French is advanced. These workers tend to deal with thousands of foreign-speaking tourists, and responding in English is often faster than repeating themselves in French. This is not the case for the rest of the city.

For most Parisians, English is something they had to study in school, and thus seems a bit of a chore. People helping you out in English are making an extra effort, sometimes a considerable one. Parisians younger than 40 are much more likely to be fluent in English. Immigrants, often working in service jobs, are less likely to speak English. If it's your first time in France you will have some problems understanding what people are saying, even with prior education in French. Unlike most language education tapes, real Parisians tend to speak fast, use slang, and swallow some letters.

When attempting to speak French, do not be offended if people ask you to repeat, or seem not to understand you, as they are not acting out of snobbery. Keep your sense of humour, and if necessary, write down phrases or place names. And remember to speak slowly and clearly. Unless you have an advanced level and can at least sort of understand French movies, you should also assume that it will be difficult for people to understand what you are saying (imagine someone speaking English to you in an indiscernible accent).

When in need of directions what you should do is this: find a younger person, or a person reading some book or magazine in English, who is obviously not in a hurry; say "hello" or "*bonjour*" (bon-zhor); start by asking if the person speaks English, "Parlez-vous anglais?" (Par-LAY voo on-glai?) even if the person can read something in English, speak slowly and clearly; write down place names if necessary. Smile a lot. Also, carry a map (preferably *Paris par Arrondissement*); given the complexity

Reading up

Before you leave you may want to read a book like *French or Foe* by Polly Platt or *Almost French* by Sarah Turnbull — interesting, well-written records from English-speaking people who live in France.

of Paris streets it is difficult to explain how to find any particular address in any language, no matter how well you speak it. If anything, the person may have an idea as to the place you are looking for, but may not know exactly where it may be, so the map always helps.

On the other hand, you will probably get the cold shoulder if you stop a random person in the métro, fail to greet them and say "where is place X or street Y".

Now, if you speak French, remember two **magic phrases**: "Excusez-moi de vous déranger" [ex-kuh-zay mwuh duh voo day-rawn-ZHAY] ("Sorry to bother you") and "Pourriez-vous m'aider?" [por-EE-AY voo may-DAY] ("Could you help me?") especially in shops; politeness will work wonders.

It is considered polite to always say "bonjour" (during the day) or "bonsoir" (at night) to employees when entering any type of shop even if you have no intention of buying anything. Upon leaving you should say "merci" to thank the shopkeeper for allowing you to browse and say "bonne journée" (bun zhur-nay) or "bonne soirée" (bun swa-ray) to wish them a good day or evening. "Bonne nuit" is only used when telling someone "goodnight" when going to bed.

Finally, if you speak a language other than English or French, and your French is limited or non-existent, offer to speak your second language with the phrase "Parlez-vous anglais ou XXXX?" (PAR-LAY voo on-glay oo XXXX?) as this shows that you are making an effort to speak somebody else's language as well as your own.



The Pont des Arts (Bridge of the Arts) and just behind, the pont Neuf ("New Bridge", but actually the oldest in Paris) and the île de la Cité.

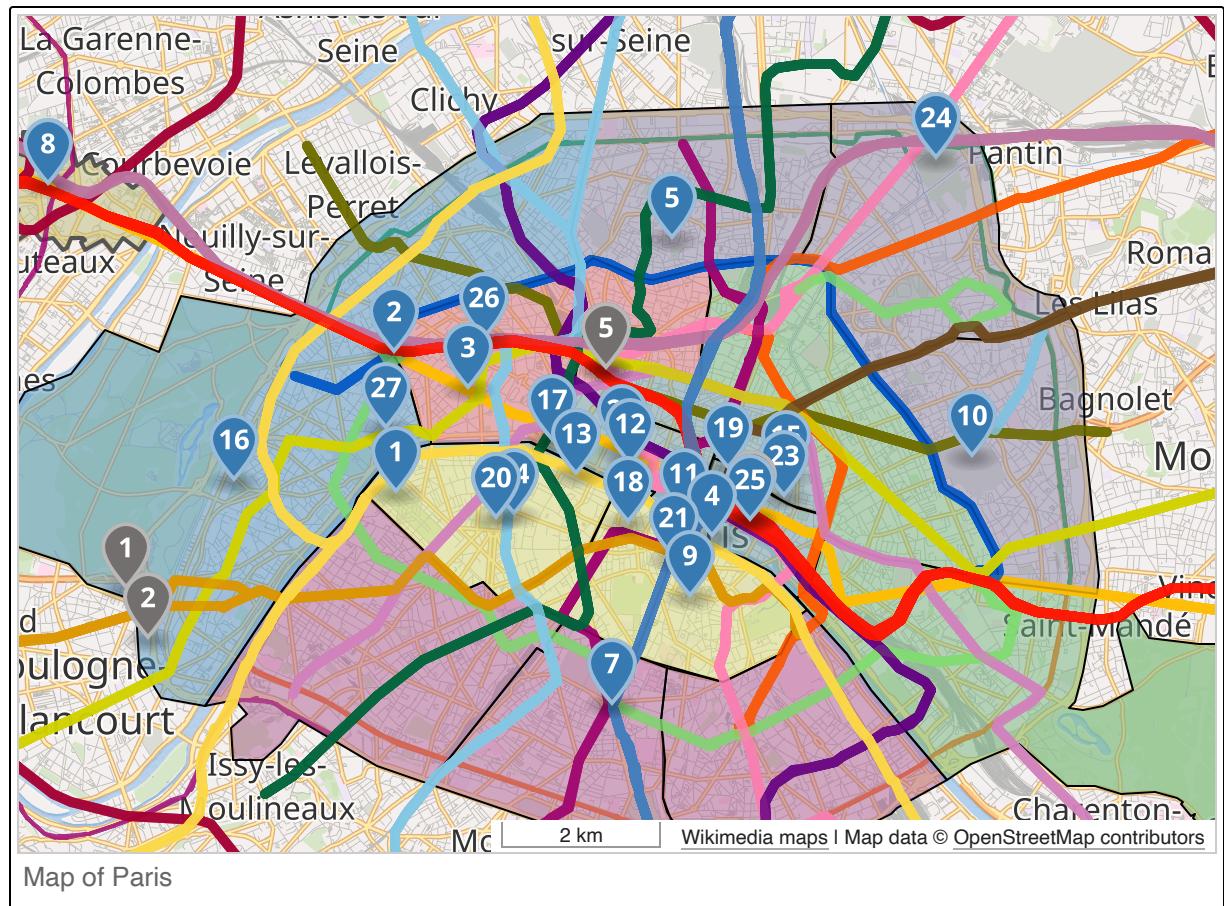
See

Highlights are listed below. **Detailed information** can be found on each individual district page (click on the name of the sight).

Landmarks

- **1 Eiffel Tower.** No other monument better symbolizes Paris. 
- **2 Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile.** The Arc de Triomphe exudes grandeur and offers a central view of the city. 

■ 3



Champs-Élysées. Widely regarded to be one of the most recognizable avenues in the world

(updated Jun 2018 |)

- **4 Notre Dame Cathedral.** Impressive Gothic cathedral that was the inspiration for Victor Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame.*
- **5 Sacré Coeur.** A church perched on top of the highest point in Paris. Behind the church is the artists' area, in front are spectacular views of the whole city.
- **6 Opéra Garnier.** Masterpiece of theatre architecture of the 19th century built by Charles Garnier and inaugurated in 1875 housing the Paris Opera since it was founded by Louis XIV.
- **7 Catacombes de Paris.** Used to store the exhumed bones from the overflowing Paris cemetery. The bones of more than 6 million bodies lie here.
- **8 Grande Arche de la Défense.** A modern office-building variant of the Arc de Triomphe.
- **9 Panthéon.** Underneath, the final resting place for the great heroes of the French Republic including Voltaire, Victor Hugo, and Marie Skłodowska-Curie; above, a marvellous view of the city.
(updated May 2023 |)
- **10 Père-Lachaise Cemetery.** Unlike any cemetery in the world. Ornate grave stones, monuments set among tree lined lanes. See the graves of Jim Morrison, Oscar Wilde, and Frédéric Chopin, among many others.
- **11 Sainte-Chapelle.** Exquisite stained glass chapel. More beautiful interior than the gloomy Notre Dame Cathedral.

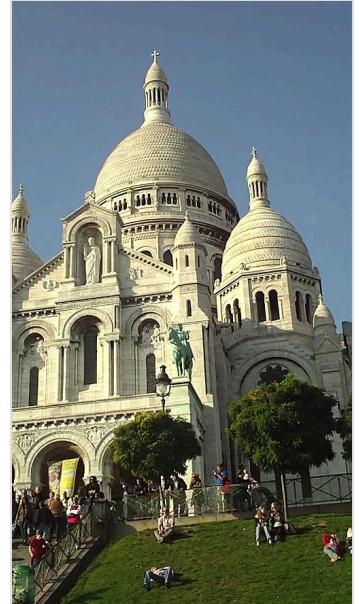


Notre Dame de Paris

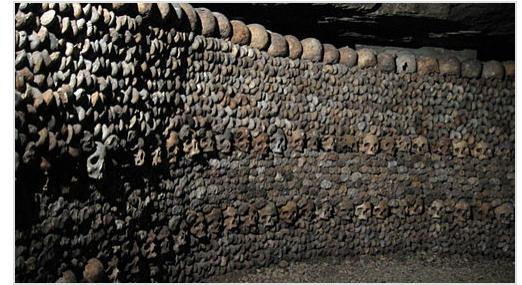
Museums and galleries

All national museums and monuments are free for all every first Sunday of the month.

- **12 The Louvre.** One of the finest museums in the world of art and culture. Home of the Mona Lisa and innumerable others. Enormous building and collection, plan at least two visits.. 
- **13 Musée d'Orsay.** Incredible collection housed in a former railway station. Works by the great artists of the 19th century (1848-1914) including Monet's "Blue Water Lilies", Renoir's "Bal du moulin de la Galette", van Gogh's "Bedroom in Arles", Whistler's "The Artists Mother", etc. 
- **14 Rodin Museum.** Collection and archives dedicated to the sculptor Auguste Rodin, in a charming home with garden. 
- **15 Picasso Museum.** Contains the master's own collection. 
- **16 Musée Marmottan-Monet.** Over 300 paintings of Claude Monet. Also, the works of Berthe Morisot, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. "Impression Soleil Levant" by Monet is on display. 
- **17 Musée de l'Orangerie.** [Jardin des Tuileries] Houses "The Water Lilies" (or "Nympheas") - a 360 degree depiction of Monet's flower garden at Giverny. Also, impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings by Cézanne, Matisse, Modigliani, Picasso, Renoir, Rousseau, Soutine, Sisley and others. 
- **18 Musée Delacroix.** Housed in the home of painter Eugène Delacroix. 
- **19 Centre Georges Pompidou.** The museum of modern art. The building and adjoining Stravinsky Fountain are attractions in themselves. 
- **20 Les Invalides.** Very impressive museum of arms and armor from the Middle Ages to today. Also contains the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte. 
- **21 Musée national du Moyen Âge.** A medieval museum exhibiting the five "The Lady and the Unicorn" tapestries, housed in a part Roman, part medieval building. 
- **22 Musée des Arts Décoratifs.** Showcasing eight centuries of French savoir-faire. 
- **23 Carnavalet.** Museum of Paris history; exhibitions are permanent and free. Renovated 2017–2021. 
- **24 Cité des sciences et de l'industrie - La Villette.** Science museum primarily for children. 
- **25 Mémorial de la Shoah.** Paris's Holocaust Memorial Museum, in the heart of the Marais on rue Geoffroy l'Asnier. Free Entry, weekly guided tours. Second Sunday of the month there is a free tour in English. 
- **26 Jacquemart-André Museum.** Private collection of French, Italian, and Dutch masterpieces in a typical 19th-century mansion. 
- **27 Guimet Museum.** One of the largest collections outside Asia of Southeast Asian, Indian, Afghan, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean art. 



Sacré Coeur



A few of the 6 million bodies in the Catacombes de Paris



Louvre Museum, and the Pyramid by architect I.M. Pei

General tips

Planning your visits: several sites have "choke points" that restrict the number of visitors that can flow through. These include: The Eiffel Tower, Sainte-Chapelle, and the catacombs. To avoid lines, you should start your day by arriving at one of these sites at least 30 minutes before opening time. Otherwise, expect a wait of at least an hour. Most museums and galleries are closed on either Monday or Tuesday. Examples: the Louvre museum is closed on Tuesdays while the Orsay Museum is closed on Mondays. Be sure to check museum closing dates to avoid disappointment! Also, most ticket counters close 30-45 min before final closing.

All national museums are open free of charge on the first Sunday of the month. However, this may mean long lines and crowded exhibits. Keep away from Paris during Easter week due to crowding. People have to queue up at the Eiffel Tower for several hours even early in the morning. However, this wait can be greatly reduced, if fit, by walking the first two levels, then buying an elevator ticket to the top. Entry to the permanent exhibitions at city-run museums is free at all times (admission is charged for temporary exhibitions).

Sightseeing passes

One of the best value and most convenient ways to see the sights of Paris is with the [Paris Museum Pass](http://www.parismuseumpass.com/en/home.php) (<http://www.parismuseumpass.com/en/home.php>), a pre-paid entry card that allows entry into over 70 museums and monuments around Paris (and the Palace of Versailles) and comes in 2-day (€62), 4-day (€77) and 6-day (€92) denominations (August 2024). These are *consecutive* days. The card allows you to jump lengthy queues, a big plus during tourist season when lines can be extensive, and is available from participating museums, tourist offices, FNAC branches and all the main Métro and RER train stations. You will still need to pay to enter most special exhibitions. To avoid waiting in the first long queue to purchase the museum pass, stop to purchase your pass a day or more in advance after mid-day. The pass does not become active until your first museum or site visit when you write your start date. After that, the days covered are consecutive. Do not write your start date until you are certain you will use the pass that day and be careful to use the European date style as indicated on the card: day-month-year.

Also consider the [ParisPass](http://www.parispass.com/) (<http://www.parispass.com/>), a pre-paid entry card + queue jumping to 60 attractions including the Louvre, The Arc de Triomphe, as well as a river cruise which allows free metro & public transport travel.



l'Eglise du Dome, church of Les Invalides, site of Napoleon's tomb



The Moulin Rouge at night in rain

Do

Sports

- **1 French Open** (*Roland Garros*). One of the four tennis Grand Slam tournaments. It is scheduled for two weeks from the last Sunday in May. The event, on clay courts, features the world's top-ranked tennis players. 
- **Football: 2 Paris Saint-Germain** play soccer in Ligue 1, the top tier, and often win it. But don't head for the central district of Saint-Germain-des-Prés! PSG play at Parc des Princes Stadium in the 16th arrondissement south of Bois de Boulogne. The club name derives from Saint-Germain-en-Laye 20 km west.

Paris FC (<https://parisfc.fr/>) have long been the poor relations, but in 2025 were promoted to Ligue 1. They play at Stade Charléty on the *peripherique* in the 13th arrondissement.

- **3 Stade de France** (*RER train D*). France's national stadium has a capacity of 81,338, and hosts concerts and various events. Soccer clubs sometimes play here when their home stadium is unavailable. 
- **Rugby:** two clubs play rugby union (15 a side) in Top 14, the top tier:

Racing (<https://www.racing92.fr/>) play at La Défense Arena (or U Arena) in Nanterre.

Stade Français (<https://www.stade.fr/>) play big games at Stade de France and others at Stade Jean-Bouin, next to Parc de Princes the PSG soccer stadium.

Events

It seems like there's almost always something happening in Paris, with the possible exceptions of the school holidays in August and February, when about half of Parisians are to be found not in Paris, but in the South of France or the Alps respectively. The busiest season is probably the fall, from a week or so after *la rentrée scolaire* or "back to school" to around *Noël* (Christmas) theatres, cinemas and concert halls book their fullest schedule of the year.

Good listings of current cultural events in Paris can be found in *Pariscopie* or *Officiel des spectacles*, weekly magazines listing all concerts, art exhibitions, films, stage plays and museums. Available from all kiosks. Timeout (<https://www.timeout.com/paris/en>) is a good option for tourists, who don't speak French.

Even so, there are a couple of annual events in the winter, starting with a furniture and interior decorating trade fair called **Maison & Object** (<http://www.maison-objet.com/>) in January.

In February *le nouvel an chinois* (**Chinese New Year**) is celebrated in Paris as it is in every city with a significant Chinese and Vietnamese population. There are parades in the 3rd and 4th arrondissements and especially in the *Quartier Asiatique* (Asian Quarter) in the 13th south of Place d'Italie. Also in February is the **Six Nations Rugby Tournament** (<http://www.rbs6nations.com/>) which brings together France, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Italy.

The **International Agricultural Show** (<https://www.salon-agriculture.com/>) (*Salon Internationale de l'Agriculture*) usually takes place over a week around the end of February/beginning of March at the Porte de Versailles exhibition centre. It is unmissable (not just for tourists but also French politicians wanting to appear in touch with rural France), and showcases large numbers of domestic animals as well as selling speciality food products from all over France and its former colonies in Africa. Particularly recommended are the food stalls from the overseas territories where you can try regional specialities that are hard to come by even in Metropolitan France, and they will often also have performances from folk musicians/dancers. It's usually advised to buy tickets in advance as the queues for entry can be long.

The first of two Fashion weeks occurs in March: **Spring Fashion Week**, giving designers a platform to present women's *prêt-à-porter* (ready to wear) collections for the following winter.

In June, **Rendez-vous au Jardin** is an open house for many Parisian gardens, giving you a chance to meet real Parisian gardeners and see their creations. The **Fête de la Musique** (<http://www.fete-delamusique.fr/>) celebrates the summer solstice (21 June) with this city-wide free musical knees-up. Finally on the 26th of June is the **Gay Pride** (<http://www.gaypride.fr>) parade, featuring probably the most sincere participation by the mayor's office of any such parade on the globe.

The French national holiday **Bastille Day** on the 14th of July celebrates the storming of the infamous Bastille during the French Revolution. Paris hosts several spectacular events that day of which the best known is the **Bastille Parade** which is held on the Champs-Élysées at 10:00 and broadcast to pretty much the rest of Europe by television. The entire street will be crowded with spectators so arrive early. The **Bastille Day Fireworks** is an exceptional treat for travellers lucky enough to be in town on Bastille Day. The Office du Tourisme et des Congress de Paris recommends gathering in or around the *champ de Mars*, the gardens of the Eiffel Tower.

Also in July, **Cinema en Plein Air** (<http://www.villette.com/>) is the annual outdoor cinema event that takes place at the Parc de la Villette, in the 19th arrondissement. For most of the months of July and August, parts of both banks of the Seine are converted from expressway into an artificial beach for **Paris Plages** (<https://en.parisinfo.com/discovering-paris/major-events/paris-plages>). Also in July the cycling race **le Tour de France** has a route that varies annually, however it always finishes on the last Sunday of July under the Arc de Triomphe.

On the last full weekend in August, a world-class music festival **Rock en Seine** (<http://www.rock-en-seine.com/>) draws international rock and pop stars to the *Domaine national de Saint-Cloud*, just west of Paris.

During mid-September DJs and (usually young) fans from across Europe converge on Paris for five or six days of dancing etc. culminating in the **Techno parade** - a parade whose route traces roughly from *Place de la Bastille* to the *Sorbonne*, and around the same time the festival **Jazz à la Villette** (<http://www.jazzalavillette.com/>) brings some of the biggest names in contemporary jazz from around the world.

In the beginning of autumn the vine harvest fest takes place. The most famous is the **Fête des Vendanges** de **Montmartre** (<https://www.salutfromparis.com/montmartre-vineyard/>), a food festival around the vine harvest of the Montmartre vineyard.

The **Nuit Blanche** (<http://www.paris.fr/>) transforms most of central Paris into a moonlit theme-park for an artsy all-nighter on the first Saturday of October, and **Fashion Week** (<http://www.modaparis.com>) returns shortly thereafter showing off Women's *Prêt-à-Porter* collections for the following summer; as we've noted winter collections are presented in March.

The third Thursday in November marks the release of **Le Beaujolais Nouveau** (<http://www.intowine.com/beaujolais2.html>) and the beginning of the Christmas season. This evening, the Christmas lights are lit in a ceremony on the *Champs-Élysées*, often in the presence of hundreds (if not thousands) of people and many dignitaries, including the president of France.

Unfortunately, there are no comprehensive event guides covering concerts, clubs, movies or special events. For theatre, movies and exhibitions pick up the *Pariscopie* and *L'officiel du Spectacle*, available at newsstands for €0.40. For (especially smaller, alternative) concerts pick up LYLO, a small, free booklet available in some bars and at FNAC. There is no user-friendly online version of these guides.

Photography

Paris is considered by many as the birthplace of photography, and while one may debate the correctness of this claim, there is no debate that Paris is today a photographer's dream. The French capital offers a spectacular array of photographic expositions and opportunities to the beginner and the pro alike. It has photogenic monuments (e.g., Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, the obelisk at Concorde, and countless others); architecture (e.g., the Louvre, Notre Dame, the Museum of the Arab World) and urban street scenes (e.g., in the Marais, Montmartre and Belleville). When you tire of taking your own photos, visit one of the many institutions dedicated to photography. At these and other institutions, you can learn about the rich history of Paris as the place of important developments in photography (e.g., the Daguerrotype) and as the home of many of the trade's great artists (e.g., Robert Doisneau, André Kertész, Eugene Atget and Henri Cartier-Bresson).

- **4 Maison Européenne de la Photographie** (<https://www.mep-fr.org/english/>) (*La MEP*), 5/7 Rue de Fourcy (*Metro Saint-Paul, Pont Marie*). W-Su 11:00-20:00. Important center for contemporary photography with a large exposition area having three or four major expositions per year dedicated to contemporary photography. Housed in an updated *hôtel particulier* built in 1706. There is a large library, auditorium and café. Their archive houses over twenty thousand works of art. Admission is free every Wednesday from 17:00 to 20:00. Admission €9.   (updated Sep 2019 |)
- **Jeu de Paume** (<http://www.jeudepaume.org/>), at the entrance of Tuilerie Gardens, is one of the city's premier photography exhibition sites.
- **Better Paris Photos** (<http://www.betterparisphotos.com/tours>), 32 Avenue de Suffren,  +33 6 74 04 21 84, register@betterparisphotos.com (<mailto:register@betterparisphotos.com>). By appointment, tours last from 4 hours. Better Paris Photos offers instructional tours and workshops that combine hands-on learning of essential photographic techniques with guiding to, and commentary about, the most photogenic spots of Paris. Led by English-speaking photographers and instructors, these tours are open to all skill levels and interest. From €195/half day; €290/full day.
- **Paris Photo**, one of the world's most important art fairs, takes place in the autumn.

Movies

The *Cinémas* of Paris are (or at least should be) the envy of the movie-going world. Of course, like anywhere else you can see big budget first-run films from France and elsewhere. That though, is just the start. During any given week there are at least half-a-dozen film festivals going on, at which you can see the entire works of a given actor or director. Meanwhile, there are some older cult films like say, *What's new Pussycat* or *Casino Royal* which you can enjoy pretty much any day you wish.

Many non-French movies are subtitled (called "*version originale*" "VO" or "VOSTFR" as opposed to "VF" for version française).

There are any number of ways to find out what's playing, but the most commonly used guide is *Pariscopé*, which you can find at newsstands for €0.70. Meanwhile, there are innumerable online guides which have information on "every" cinema in Paris.

The **Cinemathèque française** (<https://www.cinematheque.fr/>) and the **Forum des Images** (<http://www.forumdesimages.fr/>) are the two public film institutions that organize retrospectives, exhibitions and festivals.

Theatres

The **5 Paris Opera**, as well as its associated ballet company, the Paris Opera Ballet, are considered to be among the premier classical performance companies in the world.

If you are under 26, there is a flat rate of €10 for every private theatre of the town every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night. This fare does not apply to public theatres nor opera.

With children

Paris Mômes (<https://parismomes.fr/>) is a Parisian cultural guide with children's activities and events that comes out several times a year.



Luxembourg Gardens and Palais du Luxembourg (Sénat) in April

- **Cité des enfants** in the 19th, a museum for kids within the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, is interactive, fun, and educational. There are two separate sections for the 3-5 set and the 5-12 set. The tots section has simple exhibits designed to be pushed, prodded, and poked. The section for older kids is more sophisticated with scientific experiments and TV studios. Métro *Porte de la Villette* (7)
- **Jardin du Luxembourg** in the 6th. It would be counted as a travesty not to take your under 10 year old to the Jardin du Luxembourg, long a favourite with Parisian children. With its world famous merry-go-round, a pond for sail boats, a puppet theater, pony rides, chess players, children's playground, it has something for every kid (with comfortable chairs for weary parents thrown in!). The marionettes du Luxembourg, the puppet theatre, stages classic French puppet shows in French but should be easy to understand. There are numerous places for a snack. RER *Luxembourg* (B) or Métro *Odéon* (4, 10)
- **Parc des Buttes-Chaumont** in the 19th. Buttes-Chaumont is great for those with children that like to run, climb, and explore. Built on the site of an abandoned quarry, the park is roughly bowl-

shaped with a 30-meter-tall peak situated in the middle of a pond at the park's center. There are trails up the rock, caves, waterfalls, a suspension bridge, and a small stone gazebo on the top of the rock with a 360-degree view. There is also a puppet theater and a playground. Métro *Buttes-Chaumont* (7bis), *Botzaris* (7bis), or *Laumière* (5)

- **Parc Zoologique** in the 12th. This zoo is different because of a 236-foot artificial mountain bang in its center. Take elevators to the top and enjoy the view or watch the mountain goats do their stuff on the sides. Lions, tigers, and everything designed to delight kids can be found in the zoo if the mountain doesn't do it for your kids. RER/Métro *Gare d'Austerlitz* (5, 10, C)
- **The Jardin d'Acclimatation** in the 16th has a number of rides, including pint-sized roller coasters suitable for children as young as three years, as well as a mini-zoo and the estimable *Musée en Herbe*. Métro *Les Sablons* (1)
- **The Parc Floral** (<https://www.parcfloraldeparis.com/fr>), in the Bois de Vincennes, has different themed playgrounds, ping pong tables and picnic areas. During winter the entrance is free.

Learn

- **Alliance Française** (<http://www.alliancefr.org/>). One of the world's largest schools of French language, the Paris Alliance Française has a wide variety of courses for a visitor to choose from.
- **Ecole FL** (<https://stay.fl-france.com>). France Langue have a variety of different courses, starting as short as one week up to long-term tuition. Classes are taught entirely in French, with students (who come from all parts of the world) discouraged from speaking in their native languages at all during lessons. The emphasis is more on speaking and listening rather than on writing and grammar. The school is spread over a number of locations around Place Victor Hugo in the 16^e. (updated Jul 2024 |)
- **Université Paris IV**. Offers 'scholastic' as well as 'university' courses for foreigners in French language and culture, which start at various times of year.
- **American Graduate School in Paris** (<http://www.ags.edu>), 101, boul Raspail, ☎ +33 1 47 20 00 94, info@ags.edu (<mailto:info@ags.edu>). Graduate school in Paris specializing in international relations and business programs. Classes are taught in English with optional French classes.
- **Franglish** (<https://www.facebook.com/events/franglish-paris/franglish-frenchenglish-language-exchange-in-paris/312205305907362/>), ☎ +33 7 60 47 30 20, info@franglish.eu (<mailto:info@franglish.eu>). French/English Language Exchange event in Paris, 3 times per week in some of the best venues across Paris. Practice your French while having a good time meeting locals.
- **Schiller International University** (<https://www.schiller.edu/paris/>), 9 rue Yvert, 75015, ☎ +33 1 45 38 56 01. (updated Jun 2017 |)

Paris is the seat of other places to learn about a variety of topics.

- **The American Library in Paris** (<http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org/>) (*5 min walking from the Eiffel Tower*). A great place to visit in Paris is the American Library, this is a non-profit institution entirely dependent on donations in order to keep its doors open. Visitors can purchase a day pass or other short term memberships. The Library has Wi-Fi and if you have your laptop then you can access the internet for no charge other than the day pass to use the library. It has excellent books, current issues of American magazines, and the occasional celebrity patron.

Culinary

How better to get to know a culture than to learn the ins and outs of its native cuisine. After sampling your fair share of Macarons and Magret de Canard around Paris, you might enjoy taking an afternoon to learn how to make these delicacies yourself and take the recipes home with you. While there are

many cooking schools around Paris, only a few offer classes in English.

- **Le Foodist** (<http://www.lefoodist.com/>), 59 Rue du Cardinal Lemoine, Paris 75004, ☎ +33 6 71 70 95 22, contact@lefoodist.com (<mailto:contact@lefoodist.com>). Register online, classes last 2-6 hours. In the Latin Quarter, Le Foodist is an cooking school that offers French Cooking, Pastry and Baking Classes, Wine Tastings initiations, Food Tours and Hosted Gastronomic Dinners. Led by French Chefs, courses are made in English, small classes, with the ambition of teaching both the technique and the history of traditional French recipes. Prices range from €35 for a Wine Tasting Initiation to €180 for a Market class.
- **Le Cordon Bleu Paris** (<https://www.cordonbleu.edu/paris/home/en>), 8 Rue Léon Delhomme, Paris 75015, ☎ +33 1 53 68 22 50, fax: +33 1 48 56 03 96, paris@cordenbleu.edu (<mailto:paris@cordenbleu.edu>). Offering both long-term professional programs as well as short term hourly sessions, Le Cordon Bleu is one of the most famous culinary schools located in the heart of Paris. Le Cordon Bleu is considered to be the guardian of French culinary technique through its culinary programs that continue to preserve and pass on the mastery and appreciation of the culinary arts that have been the cornerstone of French gastronomy for over 500 years.
- **La Cuisine Paris** (<http://lacuisineparis.com/>), 80 Quai de L'Hôtel de Ville, Paris 75004, ☎ +33 1 40 51 78 18, contact@lacuisineparis.com (<mailto:contact@lacuisineparis.com>). Register online, classes last 2-4 hours. La Cuisine Paris is an English-friendly culinary school located in the heart of Paris, right on the Seine that offers expert teaching of the essential techniques of cuisine française. Led by an international group of English-speaking chefs all trained in classic French cooking, these classes are open to all skill levels and tastes. Prices range from €69 for a two-hour Macaron class to €160 for a 4 hour Market class.

Work

Work in Paris, especially for non-EU/EEA/Swiss citizens, entails a very long and arduous process. Unless you possess one of a number of in-demand skills, it will almost certainly be necessary to obtain a job offer from an employer before arriving. Your employer, for their part, will have to have the offer approved by the relevant governmental authorities, as well. If you opt for unreported work, such as babysitting, you need not fret about going through the process to obtain a *Carte de séjour*, i.e., a formal visitor's identity card. However, if you do choose a change in location, it is advisable to obtain a *Carte de séjour* prior to finding any job whatsoever, as the process can be longer than expected. A *Carte de séjour* is often necessary to open a bank account and the like, and by extension for accomplishing any number of other tasks involved in modern life, so unless you're very comfortable transacting everything in cash you should probably bite the bullet and keep things on the up-and-up.

If you go to Paris for a conference, there's a very good chance you'll end up in a meeting or exhibiting at CNIT (Centre of New Industries and Technology). This conference and convention space is one of the oldest buildings in the La Defense area of Paris and still looks modern even though it's been eclipsed in height by surrounding buildings and hotels near the CNIT are mainly catered to those staying in the area on business.

Remember, the city of Paris has a huge network of immigrants coming and going, and it is always great to tap into that network. The city holds a great abundance of work ready to be found, even if the search feels nerve-wracking at first.

Buy

Paris is one of the great **fashion** centres of the Western world, up there with New York, London, and Milan, making it a shopper's delight. While the Paris fashion scene is constantly evolving, the major shopping centres tend to be the same. High end couture can be found in the 8th arrondissement. In summer, there is nothing better than browsing the boutiques along Canal St-Martin, or strolling along the impressive arcades of the historic Palais-Royal, with beautifully wrapped purchases swinging on each arm.

Le Marais is a mostly Jewish neighbourhood, most of the shops in Le Marais are open on Sundays. The stores in this area are intimate, boutique, "Parisian" style clothing stores. You will no doubt find something along each street, and it is always well worth a look.

Other great areas to shop around in are around the area **Sèvres Babylone** (Métro Line 10 and Line 12). It is in this area you will find the Le Bon Marché 7th, particularly *rue de Cherche Midi* 6th. The area boasts some of the major fashion houses (Chanel, Jean Paul Gaultier, Versace, etc.) and also has smaller private boutiques with handmade clothing.

In the **Quartier Saint-Germain-des-Prés**, you can find a handful of vintage clothing shops, carrying anything from couture early 20th century dresses, to 70s Chanel sunglasses. Walking along *Boulevard Saint-Germain*, you will find major brands. However, if in search of eclectic finds, opt to walk the northern side of the Boulevard, especially along **rue Saint André des Arts**, where you can always find a nice café to stop in. The area south of Saint-Germain is just as nice, and comes with a price tag to match.

In the artsy quarters of **1** and **4**, there are many bargains to be had, once again, if you are prepared to look. Souvenirs are easily found and can be fairly inexpensive as long as you don't buy from the tourist sites. For cheap books of French connection, try the University/Latin quarter as they sell books in all languages starting from half a euro each.

Flea markets

Paris has 3 main flea markets, all on the outskirts of the central city. The most famous of these is the **Marché aux Puces de St-Ouen (Porte de Clignancourt)** (Clignancourt Flea Market), *Métro: Porte de Clignancourt*, in the 18th, a haven for lovers of antiques, second-hand goods, and retro fashion. The best days to go are Saturday and Sunday. There are particular times of the week when only antique collectors are allowed into the stalls, and there are also times of the day when the stall owners take their *Parisian siesta*, and enjoy a leisurely cappuccino for an hour or so. The best times to visit the flea markets are in the spring and summertime, when the area is more vibrant. In and around the metro station, you may find the area a little wild, but still safe.

The **Marché aux Puce de Vanves** (<https://www.salutfromparis.com/vanves-flea-market/>) in the **14th arrondissement** is open on Saturday and Sunday from **7h-14h**. The closes metro station is **Porte de Vanves**.

Musical instruments

Rue de Rome, situated near Gare St. Lazare, is crowded with luthiers, brass and woodwind makers, piano sellers, and sheet music stores. Subway station Europe. The area south of the metro station Pigalle is also packed with music shops (more oriented towards guitars and drums).

Artwork

For art lovers, be sure to check out *Quartier Saint-Germain-des-Prés*, which is renowned for its galleries, and it is impossible to turn a street without finding a gallery to cast your glance in. On Fridays, most open until late. Most even have the benefit of bottles of wine so you can wander in with your glass of wine and feel very *artistique*. Great roads to walk along are *rue de Seine*, *rue Jacob*, *rue des Beaux Arts*, *Rue Bonaparte*, and *Rue Mazarine*. Also, be sure to visit the historical district of *Montparnasse* and *quartier Vavin* where artists like Modigliani, Gauguin and Zadkine used to work.

Eat

Individual listings can be found in Paris's [district articles](#)

Paris is one of Europe's culinary centres, where the *haute cuisine* has flourished since at least the French revolution. It may however come as a surprise that Paris isn't considered the culinary capital of *French cuisine*; many people prefer the French cooking found in small rural restaurants, outside of the city, closer to the farms and with their focus on freshness and regional specialities. Even among French cities, Paris has long been considered by the French as second to Lyon for fine dining.

There have been other challenges in the last 20 years or so as restaurateurs in places like San Francisco and Sydney briefly surpassed their Parisian fore bearers, again with an emphasis on freshness of ingredients but also borrowings from other cuisines. Parisian cooks didn't just rest on their laurels during this time, rather they travelled, taught, and studied, and together with Paris's own immigrant communities, have revitalized the restaurant trade. Today you can find hundreds of beautiful restaurants with thoughtful (or just trendy) interior design and well-planned and executed *cartes* and *menus* offering a creative *mélange* of French and exotic foreign cuisines. It's safe to say that Paris is once again catching up with or edging ahead of its *Anglophone* rivals.

Of course there are also some traditional offerings, and for the budget conscious there are hundreds of traditional bistro, with their sidewalk *terraces* offering a choice of fairly simple (usually meat centred) meals for reasonable prices.

It is unfortunately possible to have a uniformly poor dining experience during a stay in Paris, probably because mass tourism attracts price gougers. It is frequent to hear people complaining of very high Parisian prices for very poor food and service. Since so many of the restaurants are sub-par, the best approach is to rely on a restaurant guide and personal recommendations. Do your research in advance if possible and be prepared to travel some distance. Don't just walk down the street expecting to find good food; you probably won't.

Many restaurants are tiny and have tables close together - square metres are at a premium and understandably restaurateurs need to make the most of limited space. In some cases when the restaurant is crowded, you may have to sit beside strangers at the same table. If that does not appeal to you, go to a more upscale place where you will pay for the extra space.

Trendy restaurants often require reservations weeks, if not months in advance. If you haven't planned far enough ahead, try to get a reservation for lunch which is generally easier and less expensive.

For an easy-to-manage eating budget while in Paris, consider: breakfast or "petit déjeuner" at a restaurant, possibly in your hotel, consisting of some croissants, coffee, and maybe a piece of fruit. Get a 'walking lunch' from one of Paris' many food stands—a *panino* in the centre of the city, a crepe from a crepe stand, a falafel pita or take-out Chinese in the Marais. *Traiteurs* serving Chinese and/or Vietnamese food are ubiquitous in the city and good for a cheap lunch and many *pâtisseries* sell inexpensive coffee and sandwiches. All these are cheap (about the same as breakfast), easy, and allow you to maximize your sightseeing and walking time while enjoying delicious local or ethnic food. For dinner, stroll the streets at dusk and consider a €20-40 prix-fixe menu. This will get you 3 or 4 courses, possibly with wine, and an unhurried, candlelit, magical evening. If you alternate days like this with low-budget, self-guided eating (picnicking, snacking, street food) you will be satisfied without breaking the bank.

If one of the aims of your trip to Paris is to indulge in its fine dining, though, the most cost-effective way to do this is to make the main meal of your day lunch. Virtually all restaurants offer a good prix-fixe deal. By complementing this with a bakery breakfast and a light self-catered dinner, you will be able to experience the best of Parisian food and still stick to a budget.

Self-catering

Budget travellers will be very pleased with the range and quality of products on offer at the open air markets (e.g. the biggest one on Boulevard Richard Lenoir (near the Bastille), Rue Mouffetard, Place Buci, Place de la Madeleine and over the Canal Saint-Martin in the 11th or in any other arrondissement). If your accommodation has cooking facilities you're set, especially for wine and cheese, a decent bottle of French wine will set you back all of about €3-5, while the *fairly good* stuff starts at around €7. Bottles for less than €3 are not recommended.

The small *épiceries* which open until late are more expensive than the *supermarchés* (Casino, Monoprix, Franprix, etc.) For wine, the price difference can be up to €2.

Buy a baguette, some cheese and a good bottle of wine and join the Parisian youth for a *pique-nique* along the Seine (especially on the Île Saint-Louis) or along the Canal Saint-Martin. The finest food stores are Lafayette Gourmet in the Galeries Lafayette or La Grande Epicerie in the luxury department store Le Bon Marché. They are worth discovering. You will find a large variety of wines there, otherwise try wine stores (cavistes) that are present everywhere in the city, and sell all kind of good French wine that you won't find in a supermarket. The owners usually know their wines and will be happy to help you choose among their huge selection. Some also sell good food. You can search for one online or ask a local. There are also some "wine supermarkets" such as Nicolas or Le Relais de Bacchus (all over the city) that sell more common wines.

Some specialities

For **seafood** lovers, Paris is a great place to try *moules frites* (steamed mussels and French fries) (better in fall and winter), oysters, sea snails, and other delicacies. **Meat** specialties include venison (deer), boar, and other game (especially in the fall and winter hunting season), as well as French favourites such as lamb, veal, beef, and pork.

Prices

Eating out in Paris can be expensive. However don't believe people when they say you can't do Paris on the cheap - you can! The key is to stay away from the beaten tracks and the obviously expensive Champs Elysées. Around the lesser visited quarters especially, there are many cheap and yummy restaurants to be found. The area around Fontaine Saint-Michel, the fountain facing Notre Dame is crowded by particularly tasty places to eat, with good ambiance, cheap prices and excellent service, with the advantage of being very centric of many places of interest. The key is to order from the *prix-fixe* menu, and *not* off the *À la Carte* menu unless you want to pay an arm and a leg. In many places a three course meal can be found for about €15. This way you can sample the food cheaply and is usually more "French". Ask for "une carafe d'eau" (oon karaaf doe) to get free tap water.

Kosher dining

Paris has the largest number of Kosher restaurants in any European city. Walk up and down Rue des Rosiers to see the variety and choices available from Israeli, Sushi, Italian and others. You will also find a wide assortment of Kosher restaurants in the 9th arrondissement of Paris near the rue Richer and rue Cadet areas. See the district guides for examples. Kosher restaurants and snacks usually display a big orange rectangle on their front, which ensure clients that they are Beth din certified.

Vegetarian dining

For **vegetarians**, eating traditional French food will require some improvisation, as it is heavily meat-based. That being said, it is far easier to be vegetarian in Paris than it is elsewhere in France. Paris has several excellent vegetarian restaurants, and many non-vegetarian restaurants will provide vegetarian dishes.

When eating in a traditional restaurant, be careful before ordering dishes labelled as "vegetarian". Many French people presume that *fish* and *seafood* are vegetarian dishes. This is a widely spread misunderstanding all around the country. Additionally, French people tend to confuse "real" vegetarians with vegans. When explaining that you're a vegetarian that won't eat fish, people will often presume that you don't eat milk or egg-based products.

Look for spots such as Le Grenier de Notre-Dame in the **5th**. The **10th** arrondissement also has quite a large variety of vegetarian restaurants, especially of Indian and East/South-East Asian fare. See the arrondissement pages for more listings. For fast food and snacks, you can always find a vegetarian sandwich or pizza, or indeed French tacos. Even a kebab shop can make you something with just cheese and salad, or perhaps falafel. And for healthier fare, it's not usually hard nowadays to find hipstery places that sell vegan poke bowls.

There are also lots of Italian, Thai, Indian, and Mezo-American places where you will have little problem. The famous South Indian chain Saravana Bhavan have their branch near Gare Du Nord. In Rue des Rosiers (4th arrondissement) you can get delicious falafel in the many Jewish restaurants. Another place to look for falafel is on Rue Oberkampf (11th arrondissement). Take away falafel usually goes for €5 or less.

Moroccan and Algerian cooking is common in Paris - vegetarian couscous is lovely. Another good option for vegetarians - are traiteurs, particularly around Ledru Rollin (down the road from Bastille) take away food where you can combine a range of different options such as pomme dauphinoise, dolmas, salads, vegetables, nice breads and cheeses and so on.

Lebanese restaurants and snack shops abound as well, offering a number of vegetarian *mezze*, or small plates. The stand-bys of course are hummas, falafel, and baba-ganouche (*caviar d'aubergine*). A good place to look for Lebanese is in the pedestrian zone around Les Halles and Beaubourg in the 1st and 4th.

Also look out for banh mi (Vietnamese sandwich) places, especially around Rue Mouffetard in the 5th, where you can often get a tofu banh mi for less than a fiver.

Tourists and locals

When you are looking for a restaurant in Paris, be wary of those where the staff speak English a bit too readily. These restaurants are usually geared towards tourists. It does make a difference in the staff's service and behaviour whether they expect you to return or not.

Sometimes the advertised fixed price tourist menus (€10-15) are a good deal. If you're interested in the really good and more authentic stuff (and if you have learned some words of French) try one of the small bistros where the French go during lunch time.

Drink

The bars scene in Paris really does have something for everyone. From bars which serve drinks in baby bottles, to ultra luxe clubs that require some name dropping, or card (black Amex) showing, and clubs where you can dance like no one's watching, (although they will be). To start your night out right, grab a drink or two in a ubiquitous dive bar, before burning up the dance floor and spreading some cash, at one of the trendy clubs.

- **Canal St Martin.** Many cozy cafés and other drinking establishments abound around the *Canal St Martin* in the 10th.
- **The Marais.** The Marais has a large number of trendier new bars mostly in the 4th and to a lesser extent the 3rd with a few old charmers tossed into the mix. A number of bars and restaurants in the Marais have a decidedly gay crowd, but are usually perfectly friendly to straights as well. Some seem to be more specifically aimed at up-and-coming hetero singles.
- **Bastille.** There is a very active nightlife zone just to the northeast of Place de Bastille centered around *rue de Lappe*, *rue de la Roquette*, *rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine* (especially the amazing Club Barrio Latino) and *rue de Charonne* in the 11th. Many of the bars closest to Bastille have either a North, Central, or South American theme, with a couple of Aussie places mixed in for good

measure, and as you continue up *rue de Charonne* the cafés have more of a traditionally French but grungy feeling.

- **Quartier Latin - Odeon.** If you're looking for the *nouvelle vague* (new wave) style, student and intellectual atmosphere of Paris in the 1960s and 70s, you'll find a lot of that (and more hip and chic) places in the quartier Latin and between place Odeon and the Seine. The neighbourhood is also home of many small artsy cinemas showing non-mainstream films and classics (check 'Pariscope' or 'l'officiel du spectacle' at any newspaper stand for the weekly programme).
- **Rue Mouffetard and environs.** The area in the **5th** on the south side of the hill topped by the Panthéon has a little bit of everything for the nighthawk, from the classy cafés of Place de la Contrescarpe to an Irish-American dive bar just down the way to a hip, nearly hidden jazz café at the bottom of the hill.
- **Châtelet.** In some ways the *Marais* starts here in the **1st** between *Les Halles* and *Hôtel de Ville* but with between all of the tourists and the **venerable Jazz clubs** on *rue des Lombards* the area deserves some special attention.
- **Montmartre.** You'll find any number of cozy cafés and other drinking establishments all around the *Butte Montmartre* in the **18th**, especially check out *rue des Abbesses* near the *Métro* station of the same name.
- **Oberkampf-Ménilmontant.** If you are wondering where to find the hipsters (*bobos* for bohemian-bourgeois), then this is where to look. There are *several* clusters of grungy-hip bars all along *rue Oberkampf* in the **11th**, and stretching well into the **20th** up the hill on *rue de Ménilmontant*. It's almost like being in San Francisco's Haight-Fillmore district.
- **Bagnolet.** There are a cluster of bar/restaurant/nightclubs along the southern end of the Père Lachaise cemetery in the **20th** including probably the best place in Paris for nightly local and touring punk rock.
- **Rues des Dames-Batignolles.** Another good place to find the grungy-chic crowd is the northern end of the **17th** around *rue des Dames* and *rue des Batignolles*, and if you decide you want something a little different Montmartre is just around the corner.
- **Port de Tolbiac.** This previously deserted stretch of the river Seine in the **13th** was reborn as a center for nightlife (and Sunday-afternoon-life) a few years ago when an electronic music cooperative opened the **Batofar**. Nowadays there are a number of boats moored along the same *quai*, including a boat with a Caribbean theme, and one with an Indian restaurant.
- **Saint Germain des Prés.** This area has two of the most famous cafés in the world: Café de Flore and Les Deux Magots, both catering to the tourists and the snobs who can afford their high prices. This part of the **6th** is where the Parisian café scene really started, and there still are hundreds of places to pull up to a table, order a glass, and discuss Sartre deep into the evening.

For individual bar listings see the various Arrondissement pages under **Drink**.

Of course there are lots of interesting places which are sort of off on their own outside of these clusters, including a few like the **Hemingway Bar at the Ritz** which are not to be missed in a serious roundup of Parisian drinking, so check out the listings even in those arrondissements we haven't mentioned above.

Some nightclubs in Paris that are worth it: Folies Pigalle (pl. Pigalle, 18th, very trashy, €20), Rex Club (near one of the oldest cinemas on earth, the Grand Rex, house/electro, about €15). You might also want to try Cabaret (Palais Royal), Maison Blanche, le Baron (M Alma-Marceau). Remember when going out to dress to impress, you are in Paris! Torn clothing and sneakers are not accepted. The better you look, the more likely you will get past the random decisions of club bouncers. Also important to remember if male (or in a group of guys) that it will be more difficult to enter clubs; try to always have an equal male/female ratio.

Sleep

Hotels

Being often declared the most popular travel destination in the world, Paris has far over a thousand hotels to choose from, and even more in the surrounding [Île-de-France](#) region. The choice may be overwhelming, but should be made carefully. There are huge differences in standards and location is key to make your stay in Paris enjoyable and time used well. Be prepared to pay the price for Paris' popularity - even the cheap hotels are relatively expensive.

Despite the popularity with tourists, global hotel chains have relatively low penetration of the Parisian market. A notable exception is the French-based Accor, which boasts over 300 hotels in the Paris area, although with large swathes of central Paris largely uncovered. There is a fair amount of Best Westerns as well, but most international chains limit their presence to very few exclusive (and expensive) hotels in key locations. Travellers loyal to a particular brand may find their loyalty challenged, be forced to pay for it (rather than be rewarded) or unable to find their hotel brand of choice in Paris.

Hotels in the central arrondissements tend to be expensive, although very cheap ones can also be found. With few exceptions, they tend to offer small rooms - be aware of the fact that the difference in price between hotels can translate into difference in service, facility and appointment levels, but not necessarily room size. Rooms of 12-16 square metres (which is roughly half of standard hotels rooms e.g. in the USA) are the norm in central Paris, regardless of hotel standards.

Cheaper hotels in popular arrondissements tend to be older, less attractive properties, whose facilities and appointments may be very worn and outdated, far behind standards one would expect from the capital of all things pretty and fine. Even updated and restored hotels may exhibit wide variance in standards between room categories, and keep some of the rooms not refurbished or only minimally touched up to be able to offer attractive, eye-catching pricing for them and then upsell to more comfortable room categories. Always check out latest reviews, preferably with photos, to precisely determine what to expect from a given hotel and given room category.

Hotels outside of the city centre, or even outside of the *Peripherique* and Paris itself, can be far cheaper and better value for money than ones in central Paris, while still having good transit links via metro or RER. That said, you should check thoroughly how far from the metro / RER station the given hotel is, and whether the connection to the POIs you want to visit is direct, quick and easy. Do also factor in the added cost of transportation to outer zones, as well as the time spent to travel to and from the city and obviously resulting limitations.

Because of local preferences, a bathtub in the bathroom is a norm in most hotels, even if it means squeezing it into a very small bathroom, further limiting space. If you prefer a walk-in shower, you need to look for a hotel that specifically offers those (called "*douche italienne*" by the French), and you should generally look at newer, purpose-built properties.

Paris hotels, almost without regard to category or price, observe high and low seasons. These differ slightly from one hotel to another, but usually the high season roughly corresponds to late spring and summer, and possibly a couple of weeks around the Christmas season.

For individual hotel listings see the various [Arrondissement](#) pages.

Apartment rentals

For those staying for a week or more, renting a furnished apartment might be a more comfortable and money-saving option, especially for 3 or more adults. Furnished apartments can differ considerably in location and quality, offer different accommodations and selections of appliances and kitchen features, or may be well-above street level with no elevator. Expect apartment sizes to be modest. Access to local public transport can also vary widely. So choose carefully only after getting a full description of an interesting property.

Many websites will help you find rentals. Some do a more disciplined job of locating and describing properties and their locale. Most charge a commission of 10% or more; some offer insurance covering some risks. Some may offer a few apartments for shorter stays, usually at somewhat higher cost per day.

In late-spring and summer months, desirable properties may be in short supply. If your plans are fairly firm for those periods, you would be wise to "reserve" a unit well in-advance. Owners will often ask for a non-refundable deposit of up to 50% of the total cost of your stay. Means of payment can range from money order to PayPal or (occasionally) charge card. (Take great care of how and with whom you share any charge card account number.) You should send no payment to any post office box or similarly anonymous place or account...even after exchanging e-mails with a purported owner; most are no more than "blind" scams to take your money.

The city government has passed ordinances that require owners renting properties for short periods to collect a tax previously collected only by hotels. This substantial tax may not be collected by some owners, or may be demanded by them but not mentioned in their rates until you arrive. Tax enforcement and collection remain in a state of flux.

Some agencies, rental brokers or web sites, that seem amicable, attractive or claim reputations, do not abide by French law to carefully vet and select landlords and apartments they offer for rent. There are a certain number of guarantees, which are required in France before renting an apartment, and an insurance policy, which aims at protecting the tenants during their stay.

Stay safe

Crime

Despite what many naysayers might say or believe, Paris is still a relatively safe city. This does not stop it from being plagued by petty [crime](#), especially [pickpocketing](#), and muggings. Scams, of which there are many, are also prevalent, though the police are slowly cracking down on them. While not

common, purse snatchings do happen. Violent crime is rare. However, watch yourself at ATMs and other places where your cash may be visible. Keep your money and your wallet in your front pockets, and avoid ATMs that are open to the outside, especially at night.

As a densely populated city with equally dense neighbourhoods, one would be remiss to generalise the safety of entire 'arrondissements' based on a few specific areas. Several arrondissements have their share of crime, however. The 18th, 19th, and 20th arrondissements are widely seen as the least safe areas of Paris, but safety levels vary dramatically from street to street. During the day, they're usually fine; you might have to watch out for pickpockets and scammers, but not much more. However, be on your guard at night. The 10th arrondissement (namely the areas bordering the 18th and 19th arrondissements) and the southeastern portion of the "périphérique" have also gained a reputation for being sketchy.

Several of the inner suburbs of the metropolitan area (commonly referred to as the *banlieues*) such as La Courneuve, Saint-Denis, Sarcelles, and Pantin are notoriously 'rough' by European standards, and you should be cautious when visiting these places. Unrest in those areas has made global headline news (as did the somewhat heavy-handed reactions of various French governments).

The police can be reached by phone by dialling 17. Not all police officers speak English, but those found around touristy areas almost always will. They are usually friendly and perfectly approachable should you have to.

Theft in public transit

The métro and RER are also a popular place for pickpockets. **Hold things tightly and be aware of your surroundings.** While trains are usually crowded, if someone is insisting and hovers over you, they are probably going through your pockets. It is important to know that a majority of these belong to a gang. These gangs usually use young children as young as seven, with groups of them going around the metro stations pickpocketing tourists and locals alike. If there is a group of three or more suspicious looking people, be careful of your belongings. This is a notable occurrence on Métro line 13, tramways, and the RER B.

Common tactics are two of them blocking you as you try to board the subway, with two behind you quickly going through your bag. Seconds before the doors close, the two jump off, leaving you on the metro without even realizing what has happened. Take note of what locals do. If someone warns you to be careful, there are probably some suspicious types hoping to steal from you. Also be aware that phone-snatching is the most reported crime, and avoid using your cellphone on metro platforms and in the metro itself.

Pickpockets are active on the rail link (RER B) from Charles de Gaulle airport to downtown Paris, which passes through the poor suburbs of Seine-Saint Denis. Try to take the trains which are nonstop between the airport and Paris proper (Gare du Nord) - EKLI/EKIL from Paris to CDG and KRIN/KROL from CDG to Paris. These are faster and are less crowded than the alternative.

There have also been problems with thieves physically fighting people in order to steal their belongings. The most common targets are those with suitcases and backpacks, i.e. tourists. Thieves usually coin their acts with the closing of the doors. Newer trains have cameras everywhere, and

thieves are much less likely to use them. Otherwise, stow luggage on the racks above the seat (which is not possible in newer trains) and hold on to your bags so no one can grab them and then run out. You are much less likely of being a victim if the train is crowded with locals headed to work, usually at rush hour.

The train conductors are widely aware of these crimes and will usually wait a few seconds to leave the station after the doors have closed, just in case thieves have quickly jumped off with belongings. There are also emergency cords that one can pull if willing to chase after the attackers. People will usually be helpful and gladly call the police if you do not have a cell phone.

Theft in tourist hotspots

Pickpockets are most likely to be found working at crowded tourists hotspots, so keep your wallet and phone in your front pockets and hold your backpack tightly when in a crowd.

A common place for phone/camera/wallet snatching is in tourist friendly dining areas scattered all over Paris where exposed outdoor tables are commonly right on busy sidewalks. Common practice by many Western tourists is to leave an aforementioned item of value on the table (most commonly a smartphone) in front of them. Some of the criminals, working in groups of three to five people, approach your table and shove what appears to be a survey directly under your nose thus blocking your view of your valuable. While the gang members are yelling in a foreign language another one will slip a hand below your view and take your item of value from the table. This occurs very quickly (less than five seconds) and the perpetrators disappear around the corner just as quick as they arrived.

Key landmarks like the Louvre or the Eiffel tower have been plagued with gangs of pickpockets, which typically operate in groups of about five. As many as half a dozen of these gangs may be active at a particularly famous, crowded venue at any one time; occasionally there are fights between rival gangs of thieves. Asian visitors are often targeted due to a presumption that they are visiting from affluent nations. Venue staff have complained of being spat at, threatened, abused or assaulted by pickpocketing gangs; the Louvre closed briefly in 2013 (as did the Eiffel tower in 2015) due to worker protests of unsafe conditions due to criminal activity. Token attempts to deploy more police have not solved the problems.

Scams

At Sacré-Cœur, there are many men who will try to tie strings or bracelets on your finger (often called "string muggers"). Not only will they demand an obscene fee for the cheap trinkets (usually over €15), they will also try to pickpocket you or threaten you with force if you do not give them money. They are usually only at the base of the monument and can be avoided by taking the Funicular of Montmartre. Otherwise, you can quickly walk past them and ignore them, though they will readily grab people's arms and have even been known to target children of tourists. Yelling at them may cause unwanted attention and cause them to back off, but be careful.



The men who will try to tie strings on your fingers

Sacré-Cœur appears to be the only area where they congregate, but they have been sighted also near the Eiffel Tower.

Besides them, you will notice many people walking around with cheap trinkets at touristy areas, especially the Trocadéro, Eiffel Tower, and Louvre Museum. They are generally not rude, but buying things from them is illegal and hurts small businesses. Of course, they bolt at the sight of the police, and you may end up in the middle of a stampede!

Be careful around Barbès-Rochechouart and the bars near Moulin Rouge. A very common clip joint trick is played here which might cost you up to €500. The agents standing outside will force you to enter a bar and just have a look for 5 minutes. The moment you order a drink (about €5), a girl will approach you and start talking generally, and leave in 10–15 minutes. After a harmless conversation with the girls when you request a bill, you will encounter a charge of say €200-500 as 'service fees' for the services rendered by the girl! In case you resist paying, the bouncers will start intimidating you to try to extract money from your wallet. In such cases, threaten them that you are calling the police and informing the local embassy. Try to buy some time and start creating a ruckus. However, do not try to start a fight with the bouncers. This trick is common to many European big cities.

One scam involves a "helpful" local buying a ticket for you. Normally, tourists buy 1-day, 3-day or longer Paris Visite passes. They would tell you that your single trip ticket has expired and bring you to the ticketing machine to purchase day passes. Then they would select the 3 day pass for adults (even though you may be a student) and deliberately show you the price on the screen. Everything else is in French so you would not understand a thing. They would proceed to purchase with a credit card and while entering the PIN code, get you to turn your back on them. They then sneakily change the ticket to a single trip ticket and ask for payment for a 3-day ticket from you. Unsuspecting tourists would pay the full sum thinking it is a 1-day or 3-day pass when it is only a useless ticket. Buy the tickets yourself to avoid situations like these, as machines are available in English and other languages. If you feel threatened, call the police and don't physically handle the ticket if they forcibly purchase without your agreement.

Another common scam is found along the banks of the Seine river and involves a ring. This involves thieves "finding" a ring which they give to you. They then ask you if you own it. When you say no, they insist you keep it, saying it goes against their religion or they cannot wear rings. A few moments later, they ask you for money to buy something to eat, eventually following you and becoming more annoying. You can either yell at them or steer them towards an area where there are likely to be police present, at which point they will quickly run away.

The most common scam (besides pickpocketing) that has taken over Paris by storm since June 2011 involves women coming up to tourists with pledge sheets. They pretend to be deaf people collecting money for one charity or another. Once you are distracted with the petition, an accomplice pickpockets you and takes your belongings. In addition, once you sign, they point to a thing that reads "minimum ten euro donation." While they may at first insist on this, shaking your head and walking away will usually make them pester someone else. Otherwise, simply waving them off and a loud no should make them give up. If they are in a large group, as is common, be careful of your belongings! This is a ploy to pickpocket you as you are surrounded by them. At this point, yelling for the police will make them disperse quickly. This is most commonly found around major tourist sites, but has also been a problem at Gare du Nord, though this has gotten much better.

Never bet money on a 3-card game as you will always lose. This trick is played by con artists on some of the bridges on River Seine near the Eiffel Tower.

A more modern scam takes place on ride-sharing apps such as Bolt. The "driver" will send you a message, saying you need to provide your mobile number in order to "confirm" the booking (this is not true; no such rule exists). Once you have done so, they will then attempt to use your number to sign into an account on another app (such as Uber), and send you another message on the first app requesting your confirmation code (which you will have received in a text message from the second app after you gave out your number). They will use another made-up excuse ("Uber now runs Bolt operations in Paris") to talk you into doing this. If the scam is a success, they will have access your account, and can run up massive bills by booking rides in your name. As such, if you receive such a message, do not engage, just cancel the ride and report the driver as a scammer. The app should then refund your cancellation fee.

It is a good idea to steer clear of the suburb of Seine Saint-Denis, as this suburb is known for its gangs and poverty, though there is little of interest to tourists anyway (except the Basilique de Saint-Denis, but that is located near a métro station). You may want to avoid walking alone at night in the 18th and 19th arrondissements as well, as these can be a little shady at night. There is a large problem with youths from the depressed suburbs causing trouble with the police. If locals are moving away, it is most likely from a confrontation. While these groups rarely target people besides the police, be careful. Walk away from a situation that could lead to fights or worse.

In general, remember to be aware of pickpockets, as they act by trying to distract you. Avoid showing off expensive phones or a lot of money in public transportation or in open areas. Put your things in a money belt or your front pockets, but never in the back pockets.

Anti-Semitism

Paris has the largest Jewish community in Europe and the 6th largest in the world. However, antisemitic acts increased in France in the early 2000s, culminating with the January 2015 Île-de-France attacks targeting a local kosher supermarket. Attacks on Jews have since decreased and as of 2023, there have been no recent reports of attacks against tourists of Jewish faith. After 2015, the French government assigned thousands of soldiers to guard synagogues and Jewish schools. Still, fearing harassment or attacks, many of the local Jews no longer wear a kippa/yarmulke in public. So consider taking the advice of local Jews regarding your behavior. For example, if you wear a kippa, consider wearing it under a hat that is not identifiably Jewish.

Respect

Parisians have a reputation for being egocentric, rude and arrogant. While this is often only an inaccurate stereotype, the best way to get along in Paris still is to be on your best behavior, acting like someone who is "*bien élevé*" (well brought up). It will make getting about considerably easier.

Parisians' abrupt exteriors will rapidly evaporate if you display some basic courtesies. A simple "*Bonjour, Madame*" when entering a shop, for example, or "*Excusez-moi*" when trying to get someone's attention, are very important; say "*Pardon*" or better "*je suis désolé*" if you bump into someone accidentally or make other mistakes. If you speak French or are using a phrasebook

remember to always use the *vous* form when addressing someone you don't know; this may transform the surliest shop assistant into a smiling helper or the grumpiest inhabitant to a helpful citizen. Courtesy is extremely important in France (where the worst insult is to call someone "*mal élevé*", or "badly brought up").

If you only learn one long phrase in French a good one would be "*Excusez-moi de vous déranger, monsieur/madame, auriez-vous la gentillesse de m'aider?*" (pardon me for bothering you, sir/madam, would you have the kindness to help me?) - this level of extreme politeness is about the closest one can come to a magic wand for unlocking Parisian hospitality. If you know some French, try it! But remember, too, that Parisians have places to go and things to do, so if they have no time and don't answer you, don't take it personally. Many Parisians, given time, will go out of their way to help, especially if you make an effort to speak their language and act polite to them.

Most foreigners tend to ignore basic rules of courtesy in metro and train transport in Paris. If the carriage is full and you're sitting on a folding seat, you should consider standing up. If you stand next to the door, you are expected to leave the train at a stop so that people inside can exit. Once they have got out, you can go back. However, don't always expect that others will do the same for you. When pushing a door in a station, you are expected to hold it for the next person, so that it won't close abruptly. This rule is strictly observed in the metro, and quite commonly everywhere else.

In addition, if you are traveling to or from the airport on the train and have luggage, do not block the aisles with your bags. The RER B (which links both Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports to the city) has luggage racks above the seats (on the newer trains, there are no such racks above the seats, but racks dedicated to luggage in between some seats); it is best to use them so you do not block the path of a local who is getting off the train before the airport stop. On the métro and especially on the RER, don't take up extra seats with your luggage. There are luggage racks and spaces between the seats.

There are hefty fines for littering in Paris, especially for dog poo (often you'll find free plastic bag dispensers around parks or playgrounds).

Connect

As of Sept 2021, Paris has 5G from all French carriers. WiFi is widely available in public places, public transport, cafes and so on.

One helpful thing about having official and numbered districts in Paris is that you can easily tell which arrondissement an address is in by its postal code, and can easily come up with the postal code for a Paris address if you know its arrondissement. The rule is just pre-pend 750 or 7500 to the front of the arrondissement number, with 75001 being the postal code for the 1st and 75011 being the postal code for the 11th, and so on. The 16th has two postal codes, 75016 for the portion south of Rue de Passy and 75116 to the north; all other arrondissements only have one postal code.

Phone cards are available from most "tabacs" but make sure you know where you can use them when you buy them, as some places still sell the *cartes cabines* which are hard to use as *cabines* are rare.

Cope

Famous for its status as "fashion capital", Paris isn't as conservative in dress as one might think. Parisians will tolerate all kinds of clothes as long as they're worn "avec style" (with style). That's why men do not usually wear shorts shorter than above the knee outside of sporting events: it is not considered indecent but may stand out from the locals; shorts are for "schoolboys and football players" only.

Airlines

- **Air France** (<http://www.airfrance.fr>), 30 av Léon Gaumont 75985, ☎ +33 36 54.
- **Air France Agence Opéra** (<http://www.airfrance.fr>), 49 av Opéra 75002, ☎ +33 36 54.
- **Air France Agence Jardin du Luxembourg** (<http://www.airfrance.fr>), 4 pl Edmond Rostand 75006, ☎ +33 36 54.
- **Air Tahiti Nui**, 28 bd St Germain 75005, ☎ +33 825 02 42 02.
- **Croatia Airlines** (<http://www.croatiaairlines.fr>), Roissypôle Le Dôme Bât1 r de la Haye Tremblay en France BP 18913 95731 ROISSY CH DE GAULLE CEDEX, ☎ +33 1 48 16 40 00.
- **Delta Air Lines** (<http://www.delta.com>), 2 r Robert Esnault Pelterie 75007, ☎ +33 892 702 609.
- **Finnair (Compagnie Aérienne de Finlande)** (<http://www.finnair.fr>), Roissy Terminal 2D 95715 ROISSY CDG CEDEX, ☎ +33 821 025 111.
- **LOT Polish Airlines**, 27 r Quatre Septembre 75002, ☎ +33 800 10 12 24. open daily.
- **Qatar Airways**, 7 r Vignon 75008, ☎ +33 1 55 27 80 80.
- **Royal Jordanian airlines** (<http://www.rj.com>), 38 avenue des Champs Elysees Paris - 75008, fax: +33 1 42 65 99 02, <mailto:partorj@rj.com>.
- **Royal Air Maroc**, 38 av Opéra 75002, ☎ +33 820 821 821.
- **Royal Brunei Airlines**, 4 r Fbg Montmartre 75009, ☎ +33 826 95 31 21.
- **Ryanair**, Aéroport Beauvais - Tillé, ☎ +33 892 68 20 64.
- **Saudi Arabian Airlines (Lignes Aériennes de l'Arabie Saoudite)**, 34 av George V 75008, ☎ +33 820 20 05 05.
- **Singapore Airlines** (<https://www.singaporeair.com/en-fr/flights-from-paris-to-singapore>), 43 r Boissière 75116, ☎ +33 821 230 380.
- **Srilankan Airlines**, 113 r Réaumur 75002, ☎ +33 1 42 97 43 44.
- **Syrian Arab Airlines**, 1 r Auber 75009, ☎ +33 1 47 42 11 06.
- **TAM Airlines**, 50 Ter r Malte 75011, ☎ +33 1 53 75 20 00.
- **TAP Portugal** (<http://www.flytap.fr>), ☎ +33 820 319 320.
- **Turkish Airlines** (<http://www.turkishairlines.fr>), 8 Place de l'Opera 75009, ☎ +33 1 56 69 44 90, fax: +33 1 45 63 10 80, <mailto:direction.paris@turkishairlines.fr> (mailto:direction.paris@turkishairlines.fr). 09:30-17:30.
- **Vietnam Airlines**, 49 Avenue des Champs Élysées 75008, ☎ +33 1 44 55 39 90.

Embassies

- **1 Australia** (<http://www.france.embassy.gov.au>), 4, rue Jean Rey, 75015 Paris, ☎ +33 1 40 59 33 10.   

- **2 Austria** (<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fr/ambassade-dautriche-a-paris/>), 6, rue Fabert 75007 Paris / consular office at 17, avenue de Villars, 75007 Paris, ☎ +33 1 40 63 30 63, +33 1 40 63 30 90 (consular office), fax: +33 1 45 55 63 65, paris-ob@bmeia.gv.at (mailto:paris-ob@bmeia.gv.at).   
- **3 Algeria** (<https://amb-algerie.fr/>), 50, rue de Lisbonne 75008, ☎ +33 1 53932020. By appointment.   
- **4 Burundi** (<http://www.ambassade-du-burundi.fr>), 10-12, rue de l'Orme, Quartier d'Amérique, 75019 Paris, ☎ +33 1 45 20 60 61, fax: +33 1 45 20 02 54, ambabu.paris@orange.fr (mailto:ambabu.paris@orange.fr). M–Th 09:00–13:00 14:00–17:00, F 09:00–13:00.   (updated Jan 2018 |)
- **5 Canada** (<https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/france/>), 130 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, 75008 Paris, ☎ +33 1 44 43 29 02, fax: +33 1 44 43 29 86, PARISWEBMASTER@international.gc.ca (mailto:PARISWEBMASTER@international.gc.ca).   (updated Apr 2025 |)
- **6 China** (<http://www.amb-chine.fr>), 111, avenue George V, 75008 Paris / consular office at 20, rue Washington 75008 Paris, ☎ +33 1 49 52 19 50, +33 1 47 36 77 90 (consular office), fax: +33 1 47 20 24 22, +33 1 47 36 34 46 (consular office), chinaemb_fr@mfa.gov.cn (mailto:chinaemb_fr@mfa.gov.cn).   
- **7 Egypt** (http://www.mfa.gov.eg/french/embassies/Egyptian_Embassy_Paris/Pages/default.aspx), 56, avenue d'Iéna, 75116 Paris, ☎ +33 1 53678830, fax: +33 1 47230643, paris_emb@mfa.gov.eg (mailto:paris_emb@mfa.gov.eg). 09:30–17:30.  
- **8 Ethiopia** (<https://www.ambassade-ethiopie.fr/>), 35, avenue Charles Floquet, Quartier du Gros-Caillou, 75007 Paris (near Eiffel Tower, La Motte-Picquet-Grenelle metro station), ☎ +33 1 47 83 25 05, embeth@free.fr (mailto:embeth@free.fr). M–Tu Th–F 09:00–13:00 14:00–17:00, W 09:00–13:00 14:00–16:00 (visa request deposit on morning, withdrawal on afternoon).   
- **9 Finland** (<https://finlandabroad.fi/web/fra>), place de Finlande, 75007 Paris, ☎ +33 1 44 18 19 20, fax: +33 1 45 51 63 23, sanomat.par@formin.fi (mailto:sanomat.par@formin.fi). M–F 09:00–13:00, 14:00–17:15.   
- **10 Greece** (<http://www.mfa.gr/france/>), 17, rue Auguste Vacquerie, 75016 Paris, ☎ +33 1 47 23 72 28, +33 1 47 23 98 92 (emergencies), fax: +33 1 47 23 73 85, gremb.par@mfa.gr (mailto:gremb.par@mfa.gr).   
- **11 India** (<https://www.eoiparis.gov.in/>), 13-15 Rue Alfred Dehodencq, 75016 Paris (Nearest Metro is Pont de l'Alma), ☎ +33 1 40 50 70 70, fax: +33 1 40 50 09 96, cons.paris@mea.gov.in (mailto:cons.paris@mea.gov.in). For emergency related to passport or other distress, Indians can call +33 1 64 83 40 063.   
- **12 Indonesia** (<https://kemlu.go.id/paris/>), 47, rue Cortambert, 75116 Paris (Nearest Metro is La Muette on Line 9), ☎ +33 1 45 03 07 60, fax: +33 1 45 04 50 32. 0900 to 1730 hours.   
- ● **13 Japan** (<https://www.fr.emb-japan.go.jp/>), 7, avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris, ☎ +33 1 48 88 62 00, fax: +33 1 42 27 50 81.   
- **14 Madagascar** (<http://www.ambassade-madagascar.fr>), 4, avenue Raphaël, 75016 Paris, ☎ +33 1 45 04 62 11, info@ambassade-madagascar.fr (mailto:info@ambassade-madagascar.fr).    (updated Apr 2018 |)
- **15 The Netherlands** (<https://www.paysbasmondial.nl/pays/france>), Rue Eblé 7-9, 75007 Paris, ☎ +33 1 40 62 33 00, fax: +33 1 40 62 34 56, par@minbuza.nl (mailto:par@minbuza.nl). M–F 09:00–17:00.    (updated Nov 2018 |)
- **16 Philippines** (<http://parispe.dfa.gov.ph>), 45, rue du Ranelagh / 4, Hameau de Boulainvilliers, ☎ +33 1 44 14 57 00.    (updated Jun 2017 |)
- **17 Poland** (<https://www.gov.pl/web/france>), 1, rue de Talleyrand / 3, rue de Talleyrand, 75007 Paris, ☎ +33 1 43 17 34 00, paryz.amb.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl (mailto:paryz.amb.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl).    (updated Nov 2024 |)

-  **18 Romania** (<http://paris.mae.ro/fr>), 5, rue de l'Exposition, ☎ +33 1 47 05 29 66, fax: +33 1 44 18 90 17, paris@mae.ro (mailto:paris@mae.ro). Also covers as the embassy of Romania for Andorra and Monaco.   (updated Dec 2021 |)
-  **19 Saudi Arabia** (<https://embassies.mofa.gov.sa/sites/France>), 5, avenue Hoche 75008 Paris / consulate at 29, rue des Graviers, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, ☎ +33 1 56 79 40 00, fax: +33 1 56 79 40 01, ambsaudi@club-internet.fr (mailto:ambsaudi@club-internet.fr).  
-  **20 Spain** (<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/PARIS/fr/Pages/inicio.aspx>), 22, Avenue Marceau.- 75008 Paris, ☎ +33 1 47 23 59 55, fax: +33 1 47 23 59 55, emb.paris@maec.es (mailto:emb.paris@maec.es). M-F 09:00-13:30, 15:00-18:00.   (updated Jan 2018 |)
-  **21 Taiwan** (https://www.roc-taiwan.org/fr_fr) (*Taipei Representative Office*), 78, rue de l'Université, 75008 Paris, ☎ +33 1 44 39 88 20, fax: +33 1 44 39 88 12, fra@boca.gov.tw (mailto:fra@boca.gov.tw).  
-  **22 South Korea** (<http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/fr-fr/index.do>), 125, rue de Grenelle, ☎ +33 1 47 53 01 01, fax: +33 1 47 53 00 41.  
-  **23 Turkey** (<https://paris-be.mfa.gov.tr/>), 16, avenue de Lamballe, 75016 Paris / consulate at 44, rue de Sèvres, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, ☎ +33 1 47 12 30 30, fax: +33 1 47 12 30 50, consulat.paris@mfa.gov.tr (mailto:consulat.paris@mfa.gov.tr). 08:30 -13:00.   (updated Jan 2025 |)
-  **24 United Kingdom** (<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-paris>), 35, rue du Faubourg St Honoré, 75008 Paris, ☎ +33 1 44 51 31 00, fax: +33 1 44 51 32 34.   (updated Oct 2020 |)
-  **25 United States** (<https://fr.usembassy.gov/>), 2, avenue Gabriel, 75008 Paris, ☎ +33 1 43 12 22 22, fax: +33 1 42 66 97 83.   (updated Oct 2020 |)
-  **26 Vietnam** (<http://ambassade-vietnam.com>), 62, rue Boileau, 75016 Paris, ☎ +33 1 44 14 64 00, vnparis.fr@gmail.com (mailto:vnparis.fr@gmail.com).  

Go next

- Chantilly - Wonderful 17th-century palace and gardens (and the birthplace of whipped cream). 25 min train ride from *Gare du Nord*
- Chartres - The 12th-century cathedral of Notre Dame at Chartres is one of the highlights of Gothic architecture. 60-min train ride from *Gare Montparnasse*
- Disneyland Paris - In the suburb of Marne-la-Vallée, to the east of Paris, from where it can be reached by car, train, RER, or bus (the train/RER is probably your best bet).
- Fontainebleau - A lovely historic town south of Paris (55.5 km or 35 mi). A favourite weekend getaway for Parisians, it is renowned for its large and scenic forest, and for its château. 35 min train ride from *Gare de Lyon*
- Rambouillet - A royal palace surrounded by forest and historic town.
- Giverny - The inspirational house and gardens of the Impressionist painter Claude Monet are but a day-trip away. The gardens and its flowers are the most interesting part of the visit, so avoid rainy days.
- Lille - By bus 3½ hr (€5)
- The Loire Valley - a beautiful wine-making stretch of the river Loire that is chock full of renaissance châteaux, including Chambord, as well as medieval cities such as Blois, Orléans and Tours. Trains take 1–2½ hours from *Gare Montparnasse* and *Gare d'Austerlitz*.
- The Orient Express, which historically ran Paris-Istanbul, has been partially recreated as a seasonal luxury tourist train, but tickets are not cheap.

- Saint-Denis - On the northern edge of the metropolis, site of the *Stade de France* and St Denis Abbey, burial place of French royalty.
- Versailles - On the southwestern edge of Paris, the site of the Sun King Louis XIV's magnificent palace. 20-40 min train ride by RER (line C) from central Paris.

Routes through Paris

ENDS AT PORTE DE GENTILLY ← N	A 6a S → Orly Airport	A 6 Lyon / A 10 Bordeaux E5
E5 Rouen ← Boulogne-Billancourt ← W	A 13 E → ENDS AT PORTE D'AUTEUIL	

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