

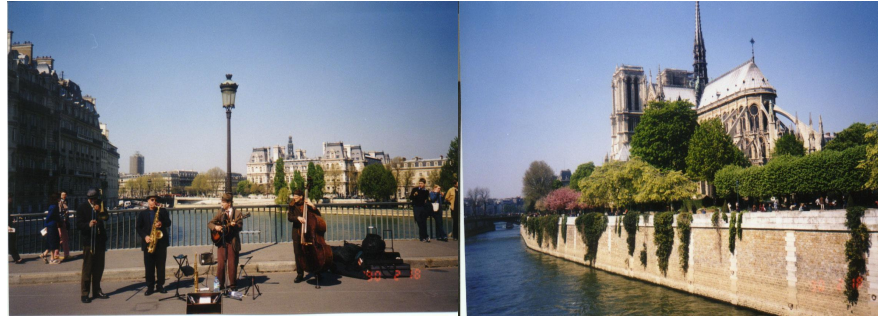
**Beyond Eiffel's Tower, Napoleon's  
Arc, Leonardo's Smile ... and the  
guidebooks--**

## **Sumptuous, Storied, Secret Paris**

**Let the insiders help you discover the  
city's layers and its lore ... guide you  
down its side streets to its  
sideshow...fill you with its romance  
and its *raison d'être*...and help you to  
create your own personal Parisian  
experience.**

Dear Reader,

Paris is the world's most popular destination, with 16 million visitors passing through its streets each year. Its prominent legends and landmarks are familiar icons, whether you've been there or not.



However, it also holds many stories and secrets of lesser fame. Yet they're equally fascinating, and they could transform your visit from the memorable to the sublime.

For example, have you heard of St. Catherine Laboure? She achieved sainthood after three visitations with the Virgin Mary, who instructed her to strike the Miraculous Medal so that those who wear it could receive God's graces. And though she died in 1876, today her body is as fresh as the day she was buried, her eyes still radiate their blue calmness, and her arms and legs are as supple as if she were asleep. Her incorrupt body is encased in glass in a chapel down a narrow alley next to one of Paris' illustrious department stores. It's a profoundly spiritual place, one of the city's best-kept secrets, and one you're unlikely to find in the guidebooks.

Here's another-- the world's first manned balloon flight took place between two Parisian villages: Passy (now a suburb in the city's 16th arrondissement) and Buttes-Aux Cailles (in the 13th arrondissement). And Benjamin Franklin, who was a highly celebrated Paris resident for nine years, was among those that witnessed this historic

event in September of 1783.

This is the stuff of Paris lore that few tourists are aware of. Just imagine if, on your next trip to Paris (perhaps it's your first), you're armed with this sort of information. Picture how much more dramatic the mood would be if you knew that ...

- ... an innocuous flagstone on a street corner near the Bastille secured a guillotine in the country's bloody revolution in the late 1700s ...
- ... the statuary from local artists in an island of delightful studio gardens surrounded by a sea of concrete, are perhaps in the very spots that Gauguin, Modigliani, and Rodin displayed their work a century ago ...
- ... a quiet tree-lined boulevard in the Marais was the site of a 16th-century royal palace that was torn down on the orders of the queen after King Henri II's accidental death during a friendly duel, and was subsequently replaced by a thief-infested horse market.

These are the kind of priceless snippets that could turn your visit to Paris into a rare adventure. And it'll put the typical experience of those other 16 million visitors into the shade.

### **Feel the emotion of Paris' proud history**

The streets of Paris are full of stories like these, and its colorful history abounds with tales of bloody insurrection,

lofty thought, and daring artistry and invention.

You can see examples of this history on the standard Paris itinerary ...

- ...Gustav Eiffel's work of industrial art that inspired such controversy in its day (Paul Verlaine, the city's leading poet of the time, took detours to avoid seeing it)...
- ...Leonardo's timeless enigmatic smile in the Louvre...
- ...Napoleon's monument to French conquest at the head of the Champs Elysee, the bull's-eye centerpiece of the world's largest traffic roundabout with its 12 avenues radiating out like beams of sunlight.

You need to see these treasures, along with many well-known others. However, you'd be better off approaching them as 'encounters,' since you'll get more out of it if you try and get a 'feel' for them instead of just going through the typical tourist motions. Cast yourself back in time, and imagine the impact they had on the character and custom of their day.

So much of Paris is like this...each of its monuments, neighborhoods, and squares has slices of the city's past and present buried within them. Along with oodles of feeling and emotion--just think of the contributions of past inhabitants that helped to shape its character...Rousseau's intellect...Balzac's realism ...Hugo's humanity...Berlioz's leaping imagination ...Georges Sand's feminism...Hausmann's vision...Verlaine's

passion...Toulouse-Lautrec's bohemia...Piaf's vulnerability...the list goes on.

You can taste this feeling and emotion by shoulder-rubbing with the tourists, whether it's at...

- ...the Moulin Rouge--flagship of pleasure and entertainment in the late 1800s, staple of Henry Miller's world in the 1930s, and inspiration for the term 'Gay Paree'...
- ...the Bastille--with the still-resounding echoes of the mob's response to Camille Desmoulins' call to arms in 1789...
- ...or Cimetière du Père Lachaise--with its aura of the spirits of Proust and Wilde, Chopin and Piaf, Seurat and Modigliani, and 12th-century lovers Abélard and Héloïse, the epitome of Parisian passion.

The atmosphere still oozes in these places, in spite of the crowds, and on their own they warrant a trip to Paris.

**Go deeper than the 'must-sees' and discover the real Paris...by becoming a '*flâneur*'**

But there's more, so much more. Whether you're a people-watcher, a history buff, an appreciator of art or architecture, a gourmand, a fashion seeker, an antique hunter, or you're simply into feeling the atmosphere, your affair with Paris is going to be made by simply walking around...stopping...and walking around some more.



To truly experience

Paris, you'll need to become a '*flâneur*' -- a stroller, an aimless idler, 'someone who wanders through the city without purpose or destination, but who is secretly attuned to the history of the place and is in covert search of the aesthetic, the erotic, or just plain adventure'.

For it's by idling through the streets that you will make those singular finds that stay with you forever...

- ...perhaps that random turn off the place des Vosges down a tiny side street, leading you to that neighborhood chalkboard bistrôt, whose waiters and clientele welcomed you like family as you fumbled with your stuttered French, the food melted in your mouth, and the '97 Bordeaux proved the perfect companion to the cool Parisian night ...
- ...or that early morning in Jardin Luxembourg, when shafts of the sun's rising rays probed warmly through the trees and the shifting fog ...
- ...maybe the chanting, rhythmic festival of Ganesh that you stumbled upon in the Indian quarter, a universe away from neighboring Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

The best of these are your own finds...discovered by chance...as you follow your nose and your heart. These are the true treasures, ones that will entertain audiences back home as you tell your stories.

**Boost your chances of a truly unique Parisian experience...**

### with a little help from the inside

Sometimes it helps to be guided...gently and generally, not specifically...so that you have a greater chance of finding your magical memory. Maybe your fancy when you wake up one morning is for diversity and a multi-cultural indulgence rather than traditional Paris. In this case it would be useful to know that the West Indians and Turks tend to concentrate in the 10th, 11th and 12th arrondissements, while the North Africans can be found elsewhere.

And this is where local knowledge can really help...knowing the little side streets with that special character, the hidden locations of eclectic stores, the distinct neighborhood cultures.

Warren Trabant and his late wife, Jean, had just this level of local knowledge and feel for the authentic, the real Parisian *joie de vivre*. Warren started his career in France as a photo editor for the Marshall Plan in 1951, then became a top-notch journalist, later publishing the monthly 'Letter From Paris.' In the late 1980s, he and Jean collaborated to write ***Paris Confidential***, a look at Paris from the inside for those who want a deeper appreciation of the city than just an elevator ride to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

The Trabants, fascinated by the history, yet cynical, took a different view than most toward how you can best discover the real Paris. It is through their eyes that ***Paris Confidential*** was written.

Now almost 20 years later, young and talented Elizabeth Reichert sheds new light on a hip city that Warren, now in his 80's, reflects on with mild disdain. Elizabeth has taken the core of *Paris Confidential* and raised it a level, by allowing those elements which are unchanged to remain untouched, and adding her own insights on the Paris of today.

In *Paris Confidential* , they not only give you their take on the popular Parisian destinations...whether good, bad or ugly...they take you far deeper into the city than any other guidebook out there. Their unusual anecdotes, quirky history, secret spots, and personal touch will add a dimension to your wanderings that enhances the Paris experience in a way that no other book can.

They will lead you to St. Catherine's burial chamber (p55)...fill you with the excitement of that first manned balloon flight (p65)...guide you down those side streets to the neighborhood bistrôt, or that Indian festival (p60)...and most importantly, teach you how to become an accomplished *flâneur*.

Follow their ramblings, and you may find yourself:

- Sipping coffee at Lenin's favorite café (p68)
- Taking a swim on a hot July day in Paris' only pool fed by an artisanal well (p65)
- Wandering through the Garden of Odors, eyes closed, in aromatic bliss (p70)

Perhaps they will inspire you to make a day of



wandering through Buttes-Aux-Cailles in the rarely-visited 13th arrondissement. With its narrow cobblestone streets, and foliage that half-hides the houses, you will find 'a charming ambience during the day,' and at night, café terraces that are 'crowded, casual and lively.' English is barely spoken here, and you'll find the prices in its bars and bistrôts to be among the most reasonable in the city (p65).

This is the everyday fabric of Paris, the pulse that keeps its life flowing through its veins, and it's a side that few tourists see. And this is where you come in-- arrondissement by arrondissement, *Paris Confidential* tells you the stories that built the streets you're wandering, and puts them at your fingertips. Follow its insightful guidance, insider knowledge, and colorful description, and you can create a unique Parisian experience of your own. It'll be one that invokes the envy of all your friends and relatives, particularly those that have been to Paris and didn't have the kind of adventure you will.

**From immigrant enclaves to traditional open markets...let *Paris Confidential* lead you through the nooks and crannies of Paris' diverse neighborhoods**

Paris has attracted men and women of character and intellect throughout its history. Hemingway wrote his great American novel in the bars and bistrôts of Montparnasse. Today, these neighborhood bars and cafés are still home to animated discussion and creativity, but these days it may

have an African, a Middle Eastern or an Asian flavor. ***Paris Confidential*** guides you through the nooks and crannies of these international neighborhoods, where getting off the metro feels like you're stepping into a different world.

Let the authors take you through the North African enclaves of the 18th arrondissement, or the Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, and Cambodian communities of the 13th and 19th. Indulge yourself by spending a cold winter afternoon in one of the city's *hammans* (Turkish bath-houses). Or, for a totally different Parisian feel, stop in at the blue collar bistrôts and bars of La Goutte D'Or...here you're likely to be rubbing shoulders with Moroccans, eating couscous, and listening to Algerian raï.

[If you're interested in seeing this diverse side of Paris with its working-class character and gritty charm, you'd better do so before they become targets of 'gentrification,' and, like so many atmospheric neighborhoods of yesteryear, their legend becomes assigned to yet another layer of Paris history.]

There's of course still plenty of the more traditional side to explore as well. For example, you can follow the authors' direction to experience a day in the life of one of the city's 60 open air markets, 'where the local old ladies pull their loaded carts at an amazingly slow pace, their shaggy yorkies at their heels; where, laden with baskets, neighbors give one another the *bises* while their children romp around the aisles; where, if a frequent visitor, your favored vegetable merchant will have the best figs waiting

for you, and the butcher, a good recipe to go with your choice cut.' (p87)

If markets aren't your thing, *Paris Confidential* will guide you to unusual, out-of-the-way museums ... cool, green gardens providing sanctuary from the hustle of main street ... architectural neighborhoods ... distinctive shopping ... and hidden havens for quiet reflection. Let your mood dictate your path on any given day, and let *Paris Confidential* point you in that direction. And armed with your spirit of discovery, you'll be fulfilled, I guarantee you.

### **Eat and shop like a Parisian**

With any book on Paris, food typically constitutes a sizable chapter. *Paris Confidential* is no different. However, that's where the similarity with other guidebooks ends. That's because the authors have drawn from additional local sources to add to their own experience, resulting in an impressive gourmand tour of the world's most famous gastronomic city.



You'll learn the history of the restaurant and the role of the café in Parisian life...the difference between a restaurant, a bistrôt, a brasserie, and a café...what to look for to find the best atmosphere and value...dining *savoir-faire*... and what side streets to walk down to find your epicurean treasure. They'll tell you where to find the city's best *Salade Niçoise* (p97)...where to find a 'literary' restaurant with a 3,000-book library in the back room (p158)...and where to find regional cuisine, like Alsatian, Auvergne, or Tunisian.

They'll take you to your post-dinner venues, whether your preference is for a quiet romantic corner...a hip, bustling bar filled with the in-crowd...or a rowdy place where you can dance on the tables.

If you're shopping for food, you'll be taken to the best markets, covered arcades, and stores, whether you're looking for fresh truffles or tomatoes, an 88 Burgundy, or the chocolate store where Balzac, Proust and Baudelaire satisfied their sweet tooth. (p123)

You will learn about discounts on designer labels, eclectic jewelry, vintage hats, or distinctive scents in this world center of *les parfums*. There are also numerous other shopping suggestions, whether you're looking for antiques, crystal, or a fan.

Even if you're not looking for anything in particular, but enjoy the pastime of browsing, ***Paris Confidential*** gives you an introduction to the 18 remaining *passages* (there used to be 150 such covered arcades), where you can find postmodern fashion boutiques next to old cane shops and engravers, and get a taste of how Parisian life has changed through the ages. Then there are the flea markets (*Marché aux Puces*), including Europe's largest, the 100-year-old Clignancourt, the authors give a fascinating account of its origins. (p137-8)

I could go on...historic, cosy hotels, cooking and language schools, the world's first parachute jump (p58), the world's first moving picture (p31), the origins of ballet (p29)...and many, many more curious and fascinating facts, anecdotes, and nuggets of information. And if the book does not cover a topic in what the authors consider to be adequate depth, they point you to alternative sources that they believe do the subject justice. It won't take long before ***Paris Confidential*** has you reaching for the phone to book your next trip to the City of Light.

**It's time--go to Paris ... with *Paris Confidential***

You may be drawn to Paris by its style, its sensual appeal, its intellectual history, its art and architecture, its

food ...or something else. It doesn't really matter. Paris will satisfy you, whatever your desire.

***Paris Confidential*** gives you all you need to launch a journey that you'll remember for the rest of your days. Through Warren's seasoned and somewhat cynical eye, and Elizabeth's fresh observations, you'll be armed with the knowledge, the insight, and the attitude to conjure your own repertoire of anecdotes, memories, and travel gems. The rest is up to you.

So: Go to Paris...soon.

But get your copy of ***Paris Confidential*** sooner-- for the nominal price of just \$27.95 (plus shipping and handling). I'm sure you'll agree that the exclusive information, insider tips, and local wisdom from the experts who wrote this book is worth many times that. If you truly want to experience Paris, and venture into the heart of the world's premier destination with the confidence and curiosity to compose a history all your own, you simply can't leave home without it.

You risk nothing by taking up this offer. Like everything we publish, ***Paris Confidential*** is backed by *International Living's* lifetime guarantee, if you're not completely satisfied, we'll give you your money back, no questions asked. In other words, you have nothing to lose.

So get your copy now by clicking on the Order button below.

You won't regret it. It'll be the making of your trip.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Peddicord'.

Kathleen Peddicord  
Publisher, *International Living*

P.S. The real charms of Paris...the ones that exceed expectation, the ones that make lifelong memories, cannot be found in your standard guidebook. You'll need inside help to find ... live magic shows in the cellars of Marquis de Sade's house (p47-8)... 'a feast of stained-glass-tinted light' (p48)... that Parisian night that is 'intimate, voyeuristically suggestive of beauty, possibility, and adventure' (p165)... the last surviving example of the city's historic *vespasiennes* (public toilets), and the city's best restaurant toilets (p185-6)... a literary garden with verses about flowers and trees inscribed on rocks along the pathways, and Rodin's bust of Hugo (p150)... an unprecedented Ricardo Bofill architectural project that 'must be seen to be hated or loved' (p69). ***Paris Confidential*** was written to give you the insider knowledge not found in other books, so that you can create your own exclusive Parisian story. So place your order for ***Paris Confidential*** today, and start planning your trip of a lifetime.

P.P.S. ***Paris Confidential*** isn't only for the visitor to Paris.

If you're a resident, whether a recent transplant, like me, or a long-standing *flâneur*... it will give you invaluable tips to expand your horizons and lift your Parisian life to new levels. Looking for the perfect pot-au-feu? Turn to page 105. A 'spectacular Sunday brunch'? It's on page 100. How about 'the biggest bargain in Paris' for a meal that could be 'one of the most fun' in Paris? Page 99. Perhaps 'an absolutely sensual (dining) experience' with deserts that make 'you think you have left the planet' (p103-4) ... a 'cheese platter to take your breath away' (p109) ... classic restaurants and bistrôts that are 'a local secret' (p110), 'definitely off the beaten track' (p111) or 'perfect for a romantic interlude' (p111). Turn to page 120 to locate an all-organic baguette ... pages 133 and 134 for kitchen, garden, and artist supplies. Anything else? ***Paris Confidential*** will take you there. So don't delay -- begin your discovery of these secret Parisian gems by placing your order today!

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