

VISITING PARIS



Whether you are a first-time visitor or an adopted Parisian, we hope this document inspires you to explore the French capital.

If you want more information to discover Paris, do not hesitate to ask us and visit the [official website](#) of the city.

Getting around

- **Metro and RER:** The Paris Metro is the quickest way to get around, with 16 lines covering the city and connections to the suburban RER train system. Find information on travel tickets [here](#).
- **Buses and Trams:** Ideal for enjoying the sights while traveling, Paris's extensive bus and tram networks are well-connected to major attractions. You can use the same tickets as you would for the metro.
- **Walking and Cycling:** Many neighborhoods, especially in central Paris, are best explored on foot or by renting a bike through the Vélib' app.
- **Taxis and Rideshares:** Traditional taxis and apps like Uber and Bolt are readily available.
- **Boats:** The *Batobus* has become a part of the Parisian experience, offering a scenic way to travel along the Seine, stopping at key landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and Notre-Dame.

Must-see landmarks

- **Eiffel tower:** Paris's most iconic symbol – we had to include it in this list. Book tickets in advance to skip the line, and head to the Champs de Mars in the evenings for a sparkling light show every hour. Find more information on the [official website](#).
- **Louvre Museum:** Home to countless masterpieces spanning centuries, with over 11km of galleries. You will not be able to do it all in one day, so it is good to plan what you would like to see before you get there. Whilst the Egyptian and European paintings sections are particularly popular, we recommend not missing the *Cour Marly* to admire sculptures, away from the crowds. Find more information on the [official website](#).

- **Notre-Dame Cathedral:** Reopened on 8 December 2024 after five years of renovations from the fire of 2019. Built in the 12th century, the Cathedral has been a part of the Parisian landscape and history for over eight centuries and is the symbol of Catholic worship in Paris. Check for evening tours, which tend to be a lot quieter than daily visits, letting you appreciate better the grandeur of the Cathedral. Find more information on the [official website](#).

- **Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur Basilica:** Ideal to visit in the early morning hours to enjoy the clear views of Paris – and beat the crowds. We recommend getting off at the Abbesses metro station and walking up to the Basilica to enjoy the backstreets of Montmartre. Whilst the climb involves plenty of steps, the unique Parisian atmosphere make it well worth the effort. Don't miss Montmartre Village, located just behind the Basilica, where you can immerse yourself in the artistic spirit of Paris – and maybe tempt yourself into getting your portrait done by one of the many local artists. Enjoy the [Musée Montmartre](#), a place of creation for many artists with a beautiful garden. The museum also overlooks the *Vignes de Montmartre*, which you can visit for a tasting of their wine, the *Clos Montmartre*.

- **The Seine River:** Paris offers countless spots to admire the Seine's beauty. Take a stroll along the *Canal Saint-Martin* or the *Quai Saint-Bernard*, both offering charming waterside paths. For a quintessentially Parisian experience, bring a bottle of wine and relax by the water. The *Île Saint-Louis*, accessible via the *Pont de la Tournelle*, is perfect to marvel at the view of Notre-Dame Cathedral while immersing yourself in the intimate, old-world charm of Paris.

- **Musée d'Orsay:** A must-visit, time and time again – there is always something new to discover at the Musée d'Orsay. Start on the ground floor to see the amazing collection of *Orientalisme* paintings. On the top floor of the museum, you will find a beautiful view of the Seine through the Museum's large clock. Admire masterpieces by some of the most celebrated impressionists - look out for Monet's *Londres, le Parlement*, Manet's *Le déjeuner sur l'herbe* and *Olympia*, Degas' ballet series, and Van Gogh's *Autoportrait*. Find more information on the [official website](#).

- **Luxembourg gardens:** Find your spot to relax in the sun on the chaises longues (free of charge!). Enjoy the somehow natural view of the palm trees in the backdrop of the Palais Bourbon, watch the tennis games, play chess, or even take your children on a pony ride. The gardens were inspired by the Boboli gardens of Florence, so make sure to stroll through the English and French gardens to reach the Medici fountain. Exit on the *Boulevard St Michel* to walk over to the *Panthéon*, another major Parisian landmark, or on the *Rue Vaugirard* to go down the *Rue Férou* and reach the *Place Saint-Sulpice* in the beautiful Latin quarter.

- **Arc de triomphe:** Best viewed straight from the *Champs-Élysées*. You can go to its top for a view of Paris, or walk straight down the *Champs* and find the [Petit Palais](#) and [Grand Palais](#) to your right, which we recommend you visit. Further down the *Champs*, you will reach the *Place de la Concorde* and its obelisk Napoleon brought back from Egypt, followed by the *Jardin des Tuileries*. Find more information on the [official website](#).
- **Moulin Rouge:** For those looking for kinky *olé olé* Paris, the *Moulin Rouge* in Pigalle is the most iconic cabaret of the capital. Book your tickets in advance to watch a show. Find more information on the [official website](#).

Our hidden gems

- **Hôtel des Invalides et Musée de l'Armée:** Diyar's favourite day-out in Paris. Get lost in French military history through galleries of medieval armours and modern weaponry, and relive the Napoleonic wars through detailed maps. It is also the final resting place of Napoleon Bonaparte - its grand design reflects his immense influence on French and European history. Find more information on the [official website](#).
- **Musée Rodin:** Whilst Diyar studies over Napoleon's battle strategies, Maya prefers the enchanting Musée Rodin, around the corner from the Invalides. The 3 hectares garden adorn Rodin's sculptures, surrounded by flowers, which is ideal for some quiet time in the middle of the busy city. You will stumble across Rodin's most famous work, *Le Penseur*. Do not miss *Le Baiser* inside the museum, iconic representation of love and passion. Find more information on the [official website](#).
- **Jardins du Palais Royal:** One of Paris's most peaceful and beautiful gardens, tucked away behind the majestic *Palais Royal* in the 1st *arrondissement*. Head there during the day for some relaxation, or at night to admire the lit-up *Colonnade*. Cross the *Jardins* from the *Comédie Française* (another landmark) over to the *Rue de Beaujolais*, passing the restaurant *Le Grand Véfour*, where the likes of Victor Hugo and Napoleon used to eat, and enjoy Maya's favourite area of Paris. Do not miss the *Place des Petits Pères* and its boulangerie in the corner, and the *Galerie Vivienne*.
- **Le Marais and Place des Vosges:** For trendy shops, cafés and historic streets, head over to the Marais. Get lost in its streets and end up at the *Place des Vosges*, one of the most chic square in Paris. You can visit [Victor Hugo's house](#) where he wrote *Les Misérables*, and enjoy the café Carotte's famous macarons and other patisseries.

Places to eat

- **Le Procope:** One of the oldest and historic Parisian restaurants, that Voltaire and other intellectuals from the Enlightenment period often frequented. Give the *Steak des révolutionnaires* and the *soupe à l'oignon* a try.

- **Le Bouillon République:** For a fun, cheap, French night out, we recommend you head to the Bouillon. You would not want to miss out being served wine by the litre! Book in advance to avoid a few hours of queuing. Particularly ideal for large groups.
- **La Table de Yemma:** Aside from the pub below, this is the only non-French restaurant on our list. Visit this gem serving authentic algerian food.
- **Brasserie Lipp:** Hearty French food and ambiance in the heart of St-Germain.
- **Robert et Louise:** Feel at home and enjoy French classics (yes, including snails) in old Parisian architecture at Robert et Louise.
- **Faubourg Daimant:** Upper-end vegan restaurant.
- **17.45:** Wine and beer bar where you can create your own charcuterie and cheese board.
- **La Durée:** There are several branches across Paris, but the one in St-Germain is the most historic. Try their iconic macarons – orange blossom flavour not to be missed – and enjoy a cup of tea in their cosy upstairs sitting room.
- **Crêperie le Petit Josselin:** No trip to France is complete without having a crêpe.
- **Public House Paris:** For our British contingency who may feel home sick, head over Public House and try Chef Calum Franklin’s famous pies.
- All boulangeries in Paris are excellent, but our favourites include **Mamiche**, **Le Pain Retrouvé** and **The French Bastard**.

Day trips from Paris

- **Versailles:** Jump on the RER C to go explore the opulent palace and gardens. Book your ticket in advance and plan for a whole day, especially if you intend to walk through the gardens and reach the *Petit* and *Grand Trianon*. Find more information on the [official website](#).
- **Giverny:** One of Diyar’s favourite. Visit Monet’s house and gardens, the inspiration for his water lily paintings. Go early to beat the crowds. Find more information on the [official website](#).
- **Disneyland Paris:** Fun for families and friends alike. The park is accessible by train from Paris with the RER A. Find more information on the [official website](#).
- **Fontainebleau!** Look at our document “Visiting Fontainebleau” and find more information on the [official website](#).