PARIS GUIDE



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Emergency number from a cellphone: 112

Essential Information

Paris, the so-called city of light. One of Europe's leading cities in both business and culture and also an all-time favorite amongst tourists. There are so many things associated with the city fashion, grand monuments and sights, romantic walks along the Seine, cafés where artists meet - and they are all true.

Paris is home to many iconic sights, such as the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre Museum. However, the best part of visiting the city is getting lost in the streets and finding the small, but delightful, restaurants, visiting the stores of world-famous designers or taking an evening stroll along the Seine with your beloved. No matter what you do, Paris is an enchanting city and you won't forget your visit there easily.

Time Zone

CET (UTC+1), observes DST.

Contacts

Tourist Contacts

Information: +33 1 49 96 30 07

Lost property: +33 8 21 00 25 25

■ Taxi: +33 1 45 30 30 30

Currency: Euro, €1 = 100 cents

You can exchange your currency at most banks. Alternatively, you can use the exchange bureaux, scattered around most of Paris' attractions. Check the commission rates - the difference between buying and selling rates should be around 5%. Always check the rates before transaction and exchange large sums so that the rates are better for you. You can also withdraw euros at an ATM if exchanging money is a hassle for you.

While using credit cards, Visa and MasterCard are the best choices. American Express might not be accepted everywhere, so keep an eye out for the stickers on shop doors. Keep in mind that if you do not have a card with a chip, it could be a problem if you decide to use it with ticket machines in the metro and at gas stations, since the machines do not accept these cards. Your best bet at such places is using cash.

Tax Refunds

There is a VAT refund available to those who are not EU citizens. VAT is 19.6% and you need to spend a minimum of €175 to be eligible for the refund. Make sure you get the VAT refund form from the store at the time of your purchase. Fill out the form and, with your receipt attached, and show it and the items you purchased on your final departure from the European Union. Make sure you don't pack the purchased items into your checked luggage if flying. The customs authorities will stamp your documents for you to later make your claim through the store's affiliate - Global Refund is the most common in France. These companies have their offices at the airport, so you can get your money back immediately.

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant €10 €20
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three-course - €55
- Big Mac €3.20
- Bottle of water at supermarket €1 (0.33 liter)
- Domestic beer (pint, draught) €4 €7
- Gasoline (1 liter) €1.50
- Hostels (average price/night) €60 €80
- 4* hotel (average price/night) €150 €200
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) €100

Tipping

Service charge and tax is included in your bill. If the service was outstanding, you might want to leave a tip which is usually about 5-10% or several coins. Some Parisians do not tip at all, since service is included. If you are paying with a credit card, do not add the tip to your bill; instead, leave the tip on the table.

Electricity

The standard electricity supply in France is 230 volt - 50 Hz AC. The plugs have two round pins. Remember to bring an adapter or converter if you need it.

Languages

The official language is French, although you might hear English quite often in the touristy areas. If you came to Paris hoping to practice your French, you might want to steer clear from these areas, as the shopkeepers and other workers will always use English with foreigners there.

You can assume that the younger generation is fluent in English, but always ask the person first. Parisians appreciate good manners, so a simple greeting will work magic if you're lost and need to find your way. Definitely learn basic French phrases and do not be afraid to use them - they will open many doors for you. Hopefully, you will avoid the so-called "rudeness" of the Parisians this way.

Internet

There are over 400 Wi-Fi hotspots around the city that are completely free. Although they are only available during the day, they can be very convenient. Search for the "Orange" network on your device.

Most of the cafés and fast-food establishments around the city center offer free Wi-Fi connection, too. Hotels and hostels generally offer internet connection, but you should check if the service is included in your room rate. Internet cafés are still popular in Paris and not hard to find.

Internet Resources

- Official tourist website for Paris (en.parisinfo. com)
- Official tourist website for France (uk.franceguide. com)
- Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org)
- A list of current events in Paris (en.parisinfo. com)

1 January: New Year's Day

Between 22 March and 25 April: Easter Monday

1 May: Labour Day 8 May: Victory 1945

39 days after Easter: Ascension

49 days after Easter: Whit Monday

14 July: **Bastille Day**

■ 15 August: **Assumption Day** 1 November: All Saints' Day 11 November: Armistice 1918 25 December: Christmas Day

Opening Hours

Shops are open from 9AM to 7PM on weekdays and Saturdays. Smaller shops may close for a lunch break or even for the whole day on Monday. Supermarkets usually stay open until about 8PM or 9PM and close on Sundays. However, Paris' famous shopping avenues break these rules, often staying open until midnight. In the run up to Christmas, shops might also open on Sundays.

Offices and public institutions are generally open from 9AM to 6PM, with banks closing one hour earlier. They close on national holidays.

Museums close on Christmas Days, New Year's Day and other holidays (see Holidays above). Otherwise, they are open from 9-10AM to 5-6PM every day. Monday and Tuesday are the usual closing days. Museums also stay open longer for one night every week. However, each museum has different conditions, so always check the museum website before you plan your trip.

Mobile Phones

The whole country is covered by the GSM 900/1800/GPRS/HSPDA network. European mobile phones should work fine, visitors from the US and Asia might need to check compatibility. There are four operators in total running the network. If you are staying for a longer time, consider buying a local SIM card the services in France are very cheap and could help you especially if you're on a budget.

The international access code for France is +33.

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The city code for Paris is (0)1.

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Public Transportation

Paris is a well-connected city served by three international airports. Additionally, there are six train stations in total. None are central and they are not connected, so always check which station your trains departs from. International bus companies also operate buses from and to Paris.

As for public transport, there are several kinds of tickets to choose from. They are sold in the metro and train stations or you can use the automatic dispensers. A single ticket is valid for one trip only and costs \in 1.70. A daily pass, also known as the Mobilis coupon, allows for an unlimited number of trips on a single day and costs \in 6.40 for the two basic zones. The Paris Visite is a special ticket valid from one to five days; prices vary, but the five-day ticket costs \in 38.90. Navigo Semaine is a pass (costing \in 5) that you can use for one whole week and you charge it with your own money for use when you want to travel.

- Metro your best bet when it comes to transport. The 16 lines (one of them fully automatic) serve over 300 stations scattered all over the city. The system operates from 5.30AM to 0.30AM; and on Friday and Saturday evenings, runs until 2.15AM.
- **Bus** the 59 routes make an alternative to the metro; they also go to the suburbs. They run from about 7AM to 0.30AM. Then, they are replaced by the Noctilien or night buses, which run until 5.30AM. These consist of 47 lines in total and can bring you back to your hotel if you miss the last metro train. The usual ticket fares apply here.
- RER the suburban express railway goes to the countryside and is mostly used by commuters - a great way of crossing Paris quickly if you need to do so.

- Boat the Seine is used for both regular transport and for scenic cruises.
- Official website of the Paris public transport system (www.transilien.com)
- Maps of the Paris metro and night bus networks (www.transilien.com)
- Information on ticket prices (www.transilien. com)

Taxis

The universal number for calling a taxi is +33 1 45 30 30 30. Alternatively, you could call one of the taxi companies or flag a cab down on the street. During the day, traveling by metro might be faster, but at night, taxis are a fast and cheap means of transport. The initial fare is \in 5.50; the fare for additional kilometers differs according to the speed at which the car is going. Tip is included, but there is an extra fee for luggage.

As in any major European city, you should watch out for scams. Make sure the meter isn't already running when you board the car and that the taxi has a license number.

More information on taxi fares (en.parisinfo.com)

Driving

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- Speed limits in French cities 50 km/h (30 mph)
- Outside the cities 90 km/h (55 mph)
- Highways 130 km/h (80 mph)
- BAC limit 0.05
- Always wear a seatbelt, even in the backseat it is the law.
- Drive on the right.
- Drivers must be at least 18 years old.
- Talking on a cellphone while driving is prohibited.

 From July 1st 2012 you must carry a breathalvser kit in the vehicle.

Exploring Paris by car is a bad idea. Traffic is dense, parking is notoriously difficult and, mainly, you'll miss out on a lot of sights and the city's unique atmosphere. Most Parisians, themselves, do not own cars. However, if you'd like to visit the suburbs or Disneyland Paris, renting a car might make the trip easier. Please note that if you want to rent a car, you must be at least 21 years old.

Walkability

It could be said that Paris was meant to be explored on foot. In fact, grabbing a guide and setting out for yourself is probably one of the best ways to explore the city. You might want to plan a route so that you pass by all the major sights. It's generally hard to get lost, too; watch out for any large boulevard, since metro stations are on most of them. If two sights are closer than two metro stations, it might be faster and more convenient to walk instead of using public transport.

When crossing the road, be careful. When the light turns green, there might still be some traffic passing from the opposite direction.

Tripomatic Trip planning you'll love

French cuisine is famous all over the world and Paris is one of its centers. Avoid restaurants near the major tourist sights, as they charge inadequate prices for poor food and service. Otherwise, Paris is a great city to indulge in tasty dishes.

- Specialties:
- Brie de Meaux a special cheese made from cow milk
- Crêpes French pancakes
- Crème brûlée dessert made from vanilla custard
- Guignolet a cherry alcohol drink
- Champignons
- Croissants

Nightlife in Paris means small establishments and music venues instead of big noisy clubs. There is no average closing time - watch what crowd the establishment caters to and that might answer your questions. Some bars stay open until early the next morning. Take note that wine is often cheaper than non-alcoholic drinks.

Legal Age

The legal drinking age in France is 18 years.

January

New Year's Day

February

- Chinese New Year
- International Circus Festival of Tomorrow

March

Spring Fashion Week

May

- Annual Jazz Festival
- Printemps des Museés free museum admissions all day long

July

- Bastille Day spectacular celebrations on the Champs-Élysées
- Cinema en Plein Air (www.villette.com)
- The Tour de France finishes in Paris every year.

Rock en Seine (www.rockenseine.com) – a music festival

September

- Foire International d'Art Contemporian (www. fiac.com) - international arts fair
- Les Journées du Patrimoine places normally not open to public, such as the president's office, open for two days

October

- Nuit Blanche night-time arts festival, museum and theatres stay open longer
- Autumn Fashion Week

November

- Beaujolais Nouveau Day red wine from the Beaujolais region is released for sale on the third Thursday in November. Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé!
- Champs-Élysées Christmas Lights the ceremonial start of Christmas on the Champs-Élysées

December

New Year's Eve

THINGS TO DO

DOS AND DO NOTS

Free Things To Do

- Some museums are free on certain days check the respective museum's website.
- Notre Dame Cathedral one of Paris' most famous sights is completely free.
- Take a stroll along the Seine River.
- Parisian flea markets.
- Most of the city's parks and old cemeteries are free.
- Paris Plage the banks of Seine are used as a free beach in summer.
- Le Museé du Parfum a fascinating perfume museum.
- Paris Galleries Lafayette Department Store fashion shows take place here weekly.
- Musée Carnavalet museum devoted to the history of Paris.
- Stroll the Avenue des Champs-Èlysées.
- Free wine tastings take place at Taillevent every Saturday night.

Shopping

The first thing that comes to mind is fashion. There are high-end boutiques with haute couture, vintage clothing shops and many opportunities to find a real bargain. The flea markets are also a great shopping destination, since you might discover treasures you won't find in contemporary shops anymore. Artwork is also one of the more popular souvenirs to take home. Last but not least, French food and wine make for terrific buys.

- DO try to learn some French phrases the locals will be delighted and happy to help you if you need something.
- DO start a conversation with a stranger with a greeting.
- DO keep an eye on your belongings, else you could find yourself without them in a short while.
- DO try to walk as much as possible this way, you will discover Paris true charm.
- DO NOT try to explore Paris by car you will save yourself much trouble.
- DO NOT expect the upscale fashion products to be cheap.
- DO NOT follow the tourists while exploring the famous sights – instead, go in the opposite direction and avoid the crowds.
- DO NOT dine near the tourist attractions; you can get better deals (and food) elsewhere.

Safety

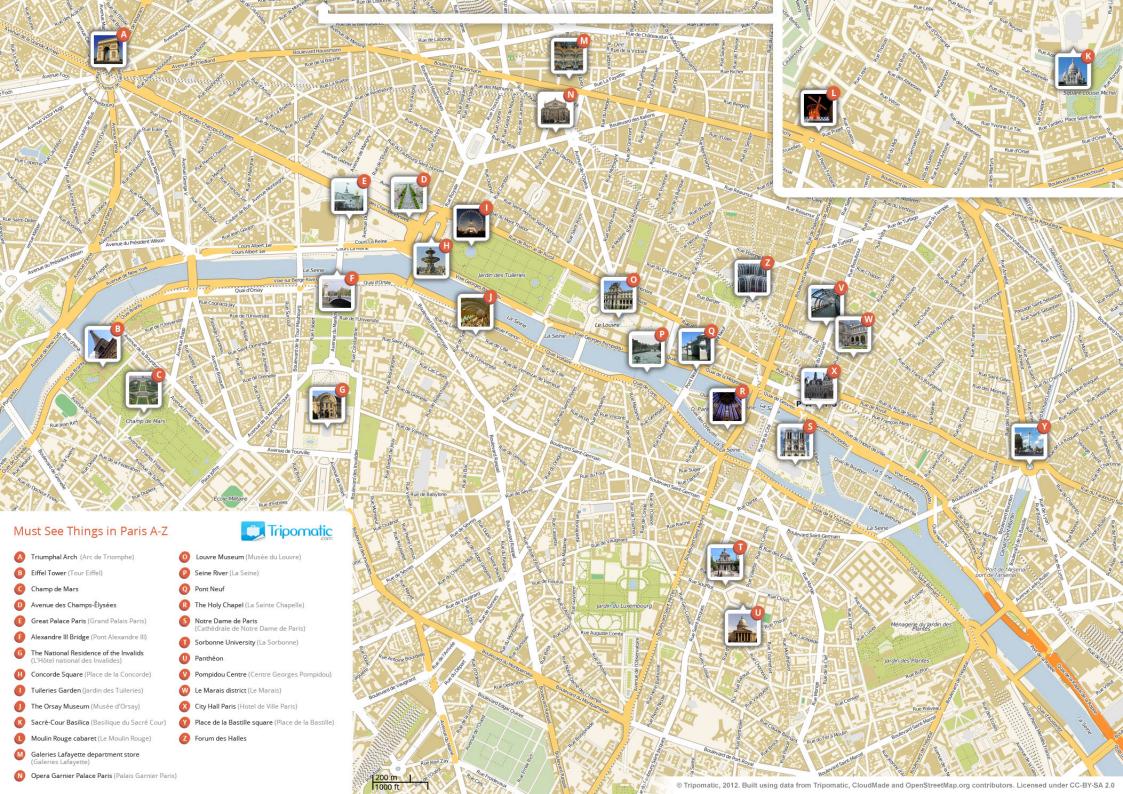
Paris, like any big city popular with tourists, is generally safe, and so is France in general. The greatest threat is pickpockets. Use your common sense. Always know where your luggage is, don't flaunt your camera and keep an eye on your cellphone and wallet. Use your hotel's safe if you can or carry a money belt around with you.

Be extra careful on the train from the airport, since thieves often steal from tourists there. You should take care while using the metro, too – organized gangs work here. They are skilled and can go through your bag without you even noticing; your best bet is to try and get away from anyone who's keeping too close to you. Be careful about using your phone while on the subway; there have been cases where thieves have ripped them straight out of the peoples' hands and ran off with them. However, if you don't let anyone

distract you, you should be just fine. If, by any chance, you do get pickpocketed, be quick and call for the police – you might scare the thieves off and get your possessions back.

Aside from pickpockets, watch out for tourist scams. Generally, be wary of anyone approaching you on the street and offering your services, especially if you're using the ATM. Moreover, if you do not need to, do not travel to northern Paris suburbs, as it is the more dangerous part of the city.

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- ▶ Discover more with on-the-go visual trip guide.
- Find nearby sights and attractions, wherever you are.
- ► Sync your trip plans to your device.

ACTIVITIES



Triumphal Arch / Arc de Triomphe



This arch measuring 50 meters is dedicated to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars.

Place Charles de Gaulle, 75008 Paris, France GPS: N48.87380, E2.29498

Phone:

+33 1 55 37 73 77

Opening hours:

1 April to 30 September: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. 1 October to 31 March: 10 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Admission: Adults: 9.50 € Reduced: 6 €

Free admission: minors under 18, 18-26 year-old EU citizens, the disabled.



Eiffel Tower / Tour Eiffel



The most iconic sight in all of Paris. Do not miss this iron lady known all around the world. The views from the top are breath-taking.

5, avenue Anatole France – Champ de Mars, 75007 Paris, France GPS: N48.85863, E2.29415

Phone:

+33 892 70 12 39

Opening hours:

June 15 to end of September: 9 a.m. - midnight.

Rest of the year: 9:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Admission:

Adult: €8.50, €14.50 to the summit

Youth (12-24 years): €7, €13 to the summit

Children (4-11 years), disabled: €4, €10 to the summit

The access waiting time to the monument is likely to be over 2 hours un-

less you book online.





Champ de Mars

Historically significant park which was once used for military drills, public gatherings and celebrations. It covers as many as 24,5 ha.



GPS: N48.85588, E2.29821



Champs-Élysées Avenue / Avenue des Champs-Élysées

Stretching across two kilometres, this avenue claims to be the world's most beautiful one. Fancy cafés, posh boutiques, nice bistros, etc.



75008 Paris, France GPS: N48.86950, E2.30848



Great Palace Paris / Grand Palais Paris

Erected for the 1900 World Exposition, it now houses national galleries beneath its huge Art Nouveau glass roof. Illuminated at night.



1 Avenue Géneral Eisenhower, 75008 Paris, France GPS: N48.86601, E2.31400

Phone:

+33 (0)1 4413 1730

Opening hours:

The opening hours of the palace vary by exhibitions and events taking place - check the official website.

Admission:

The admission to the palace varies by exhibitions and events taking place – check the official website.



Alexandre III Bridge / Pont Alexandre III

This Art Nouveau bridge with its ornate decorations as well as statues is a truly picturesque sight. A place not to be missed!



Quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, France GPS: N48.86369, E2.31353



The National Residence of the Invalids / L'Hôtel national des

Invalides

This huge Baroque complex comprises a hospital, home for retired soldiers, mausoleum and most importantly the grave of Napoleon Bonaparte.

129 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris, France

GPS: N48.85475, E2.31247

Opening hours:

Open daily. The museum:

April - October: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. November - March: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The complex:

Daily: 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

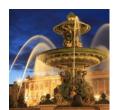
Admission:

Full price: €9.50 Reduced price: €7.50

The reduced price applies an hour before closing time and also Tuesday

Children under 18, 18-25 years old EU-resident students, the disabled: free

entrance.



Concorde Square / Place de la Concorde

A famous square close to many important Parisian sights. The Luxor Obelisk stands in the middle – can you read the hieroglyphs?

GPS: N48.86538, E2.32155







Tuileries Garden / Jardin des Tuileries

A large, beautiful park with many sculptures and historical buildings to discover. A lovely place for a walk.



113 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris, France

GPS: N48.86442, E2.32468

Opening hours:

April - May: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. June – August: 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.

September - March: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

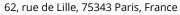
Admission:

Admission is free.



The Orsay Museum / Musée d'Orsay

For any art lover, this museum is a must-visit. Paintings of the best-known (post)-Impressionist artists are displayed here.



GPS: N48.85999, E2.32671

Phone:

+33 1 4049 4814

Opening hours:

Tue - Wed, Fri - Sun: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thu: 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 p.m.

Admission:

Full rate: €12 (€9 without special exhibits)

Reduced rate: €9.50 (€6.50 without special exhibits)

Under 18, 18-25 year old EU residents & first Sunday of the month: free



Sacré-Cœur Basilica / Basilique du Sacré Cœur

This beautiful Romano-Byzantine basilica is popular not only for its looks, but also for its dome which offers breath-taking views of Paris.

35 Rue du Chevalier de La Barre, 75018 Paris, France GPS: N48.88631, E2.34301

Phone:

+33 1 5341 8900

Opening hours:

Basilica:

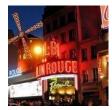
Daily: 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Dome:

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (6 p.m. in winter)

Admission:

Entry to the basilica is free. Entrance fee to the dome: €5.



Moulin Rouge / Le Moulin Rouge

The most famous cabaret in the world. It still retains its unique spirit of the Belle Époque, so come inside and see for yourself!

82 Boulevard de Clichy, 75018 Paris, France

GPS: N48.88413, E2.33246

Phone:

+33 (0)1 5309 8282

Opening hours:

The shows start at 9 p.m.

Dinner starts at 7 p.m.

It is necessary to come 30 minutes earlier.

Admission:

Prices of tickets start at €99 (show without beverages).





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ACTIVITIES





Galeries Lafayette

M

This ginormous five-storey department store has everything you can think of from fancy boutiques to designers' stores.

40 Boulevard Haussmann, 75009 Paris, France GPS: N48.87357, E2.33219

Phone:

+33 (0)1 4282 3456

Opening hours:

Mon – Sat: 9.30 a.m. – 8 p.m. (9 p.m. on Thursdays) Closed on Sundays.



Palais Garnier / Palais Garnier Paris



Designed by Charles Garnier in the Beaux-Arts style between 1861-75, this remarkable estate used to serve as the first opera house in Paris.

Place de l'Opéra, 75009 Paris, France

GPS: N48.87084, E2.33202

Phone:

+33 (0)1 7125 2423

Opening hours:

Daily: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission:

Normal price: €10 Reduced rates: €6 Booking is obligatory.



Louvre Museum / Musée du Louvre



The most-visited museum in the world will enchant you with its rich historical collections (35,000 objects). Don't forget to greet Mona Lisa.

Place des Pyramides, 75001 Paris, France

GPS: N48.86104, E2.33539

Phone:

+33 (0)1 4020 5760

Opening hours:

Mon, Thu, Sat, Sun: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wed, Fri: 9 a.m. - 9:45 p.m.

Admission:

Permanent collection: €12

Exhibitions in the Hall Napoléon: €13

Combined: €16

Free admission for visitors under 18, 18-25 year-old EU residents, teachers

of art and the disabled.

Free admission for all visitors on the first Sunday of each month and on

July 14.



Seine River / La Seine



A stroll along Seine's waterfront is a must while in the city of lights, no matter if you have a sweetheart or not.

GPS: N48.85873, E2.33575



New Bridge / Pont Neuf



Admire the oldest bridge in Paris constructed between 1578-1607. See the sculptured faces of people and the statue of King Henry IV, too.

GPS: N48.85733, E2.34152



U



The Holy Chapel / La Sainte Chapelle

S

The whole chapel is lined by 13th-century stained glass. The best visit is on a sunny day when you'll marvel at the spectacular lightshow.

4 Boulevard du Palais, 75001 Paris, France GPS: N48.85544, E2.34459

Phone:

+33 (0)1 5340 6080

Opening hours:

1 March to 31 October: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. 1 November to 28 February: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

15 May to 15 September every Wed last admission at 9 p.m.

Admission: Adult: 8.50 €

Reduced: 5.50 €

Minors under 18, 18-25 year-old EU citizens and the disabled – free en-

trance.



Notre-Dame Cathedral / Cathédrale de Notre Dame de Paris A true masterpiece of Gothic architecture, both on the outside and the inside. The reliquary holds many first-class relics. Do not miss.

6 Parvis Notre-Dame, Place Jean-Paul II, 75004 Paris, France GPS: N48.85314, E2.34897

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Phone:

+33 1 4234 5610

Opening hours:

Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 6:45 p.m. Sat, Sun: 8 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Admission: Free entrance.



Sorbonne University / La Sorbonne

A magnificent university with a tradition reaching back to the 13th century. Come and take a look at Paris' iconic seat of learning.

4 Rue Valette, 75005 Paris, France GPS: N48.84676, E2.34489

Phone:

+33 (0)1 4046 2211

Opening hours:

Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Guided tours in French are available.

Admission:

Guided tours:

Adults: €9

Students, large families: €4



Panthéon

Originally a church, this Neoclassical building now serves as a mausoleum. Come and see the final resting place of Voltaire and many more.

Place du Panthéon, 75005 Paris, France GPS: N48.84627, E2.34605

Phone:

+33 1 4432 1800

Opening hours:

April 1 to September 30: 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. October 1 to March 31: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission:

Adult: €7.50 Reduced: €4.50

Minors under 18, 18-25 years old EU citizens and the disabled: free en-

trance.







Pompidou Center / Centre Georges Pompidou

Building well-known for its high-tech architecture. It houses a number of institutions, including Europe's largest modern art museum.

Place Georges Pompidou, 75004 Paris, France GPS: N48.86052, E2.35311

Phone:

+33 (0)1 4478 1233

Opening hours:

Wed - Mon: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. (-11 p.m. on Thu)

Admission: Adult: €11 - €13

Reduced entry: €9 – €10



Le Marais



Visit a location where the Parisian aristocracy used to live! There are many interesting and marvelous buildings around.

75004 Paris, France GPS: N48.85903, E2.35416



City Hall Paris / Hotel de Ville Paris



This exquisite building no longer serves as a city hall, it is an administrative center. Many foreign guests visit it during various events.

75004 Paris, France GPS: N48.85700, E2.35131

Opening hours:

A weekly visit is available in French for individual visitors.

A group visit is available and is necessary to book two months ahead.

The library is open Mon - Fri: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission:

The tours are free of charge.



Bastille Square / Place de la Bastille



Z

The famous Bastille prison which was stormed in 1789 during the French revolution used to stand here. Various cultural events happen here.

Paris, France

GPS: N48.85289, E2.36944



Forum des Halles Shopping Center / Forum des Halles

In the place of a former marketplace, there is a shopping center mostly hidden under the ground. There are many sculptures around.

Porte Berger, 75001 Paris, France GPS: N48.86209, E2.34689

Opening hours:

Daily: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

