

Marseille, France

Overview

Introduction



Marseille, France, is an ancient city that never ceases to arouse passions. This colorful Mediterranean port has seen the arrival of Greek settlers, Roman conquerors, swashbuckling sailors, religious crusaders, tourists looking for sunny skies and immigrants looking for a home in France's melting pot.

The French either love or detest Marseille, but it certainly leaves no one indifferent. Whereas Parisians once snubbed Marseille, many are now heading south on the high-speed TGV train to experience the charm and sun of this thriving cosmopolitan city.

Marseille has rhythm and spice, and its inhabitants are fiercely proud of their city. Though twice as big in area as Paris, it is still thought of as a series of small "villages," each with its own unique history and traditions. In fact, unlike in Paris, it is not uncommon to see people in Marseille who live, work and socialize in the same district, which makes the feeling of living in a village all the more present.

The more popular villages include Le Panier, La Belle de Mai, Mazargues, Le Roucas Blanc and Saint Giniez. Some are known for their beaches (La Vieille Chapelle), some for the famous artists who were inspired there (Cezanne and Braque in L'Estaque), still others for their charming ports (Le Vallon des Auffes, La Pointe Rouge, Le Vieux Port).

With its rich history, diverse culture, authentic character, immense pride and warm people, Marseille will have you lowering your anchor to stay awhile.

Highlights

Sights—The morning fish market on the Quai des Belges at the Vieux Port; walk or take the tourist train up to the magnificent Basilique Notre Dame de la Garde for views over the whole city; St. Victor Abbey, where you can see how the church developed as various sections were built from the fifth to the 19th centuries.

Museums—The MuCEM for exhibits on the culture and people of the Mediterranean region; the Musee Grobet-Labadie for a diverse and eclectic art collection; cutting-edge contemporary art at the Musee d'Art Contemporain; the museums and poetry center at Centre de la Vieille Charite.

Memorable Meals—Arret Buffet for wonderful home-style French food with a personal touch; Le Julien for excellent and subtle French cuisine; Le Rhul for good Bouillabaise; La Goulette for couscous.

Late Night—The historic Bar de la Marine by the Vieux Port; rubbing shoulders with local artists and musicians at L'Unic; the Pelle-Mele for late-night jazz.

Walks—Stroll around the quiet old streets of Le Panier district, where the city first grew up; enjoy seaside walks along the Promenade and Corniche. Visit the island of Pomeques where you can take a 20-minute hike to go swimming in small calanques.

Geography

Marseille, in the region of France called Bouches-du-Rhone (mouth of the Rhone River), owes much of its charm to its agreeable geography. The city itself stretches 43 mi/70 km along the coast, with the mountain ranges of St. Cyr, Etoile and Estaque at its back and dozens of breathtaking sea inlets along its rocky coastline.

To navigate the city, imagine Marseille with the Vieux Port as a starting point. To the immediate north, you'll find the shipyard where cruise ships dock. From the center of the port, the city's main street, La Canebiere, divides the city in two. Heading southeast from near the base of the Canebiere, you'll reach the other main artery, Rue de Rome. Parallel to Rue de Rome is the fashionable and boutique-lined Rue Paradis. Follow Rue Paradis to its end and you'll bump into the Avenue du Prado, which leads to the Promenade and Marseille's wonderful beaches.

History

Marseille is one of the oldest cities in France. Around 600 BC, the Greeks settled in what they called Massalia, an inlet on the southeast coast of France that was protected from harsh storms and blessed with a direct route to the trade-facilitating Rhone River. Years later, the Greeks invited the Romans to help them fight the Franks, a move that had disastrous results: The power-hungry Romans eventually claimed the town's fleet, treasures and trade. In 1481, the thriving port of Marseille became part of the kingdom of France.

In the 19th century, Marseille prospered, with flour mills, sugar refineries and factories that produced olive oil, soap and cigarettes. Wide boulevards were built, and a system of public transportation was developed. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 further advanced commerce in the Mediterranean, bolstering Marseille's trade networks.

In the 20th century, however, the city's fortunes declined. It was heavily bombed during World War II and suffered losses under the German occupation in 1943. The eight-year closure of the Suez Canal (1967-75) and the loss of French colonies in northern Africa in the 1960s eroded Marseille's economic prosperity.

Things improved in the 1980s, when the city rebuilt itself with a vast, modernized port, a new science and technology business park and the arrival of the high-speed TGV train line from Paris. Because the city has focused more on industrial growth than historic preservation, there are few historic sites in Marseille relative to its population and size.

Potpourri

In the 1970s, ship remains from the third century were found in Vieux Port.

Many influences from Africa are prevalent in Marseille, as seen in the spice and craft shops that feature items from the continent.

Marseille is known for its bouillabaisse (fish soup), which is always fresh and tasty.

La Marseillaise, the French national anthem, was actually written in Strasbourg by a person who was from the Franche-Compte region.

Marseille has hosted the filming of a number of Hollywood blockbusters, including *The French Connection* and *The Bourne Identity*.

Marseille was named European Capital of Culture for 2013 and made the most of this designation with dramatic new museums and enhanced public spaces, highlighting the appeal of this Mediterranean port town to a broader audience. This is somewhat ironic because until then it had fewer cultural facilities and events per capita than any other major city in France.

See & Do

Sightseeing

For a unique look at one of the industries that makes Marseille tick, visit the fish market on the Quai des Belges at the Vieux Port before dawn—you'll hear the singing southern accents of the fishermen and witness local commerce at its animated best.

After the market, and with a cafe au lait to embolden your spirits, hike up to Notre Dame de la Garde, one of the highest points in Marseille. Your trek will reward you with the best view of the city. A different destination might be the Fort Saint Nicolas, which offers romantic views over the Vieux Port without the crowds.

Shopping

You won't have to search to purchase original souvenirs in Marseille. Stroll the pricey boutiques along the pedestrian-only Rue Paradis or the more reasonably priced shops of the Rue Saint Ferreol for chic French clothing or the traditional *collier marseillais* necklace, a fine gold chain with small gold balls. Other typical Provençal souvenirs are *santons*, small terra-cotta figures representing the people of Provence, that have been handcrafted in this region since the 18th century. They're a favorite nativity decoration at Christmas.

Other local specialties you'll want to take home include the famous olive-oil soap, *savon de Marseille*, and the anisette pastis. Also look for tasty spreads and dips such as the garlic-flavored aioli, *anchoiade* (anchovy spread) and black-olive tapenade. You'll find all of these products in tourist shops around the Vieux Port, with pretty packaging and prices to match, but you can save by shopping for them where the locals do, at supermarkets such as Casino or Intermarche. When you're there (depending on the size of your suitcase), pick up some extra-virgin olive oil, *herbes de provence*, handmade bars of sweet nougat, and a few bottles of the excellent wines produced in the nearby vineyards of Bandol, Cassis and Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

Department Stores

Les Galeries Lafayette

40-48 Rue St. Ferreol (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9611-3500

<http://www.galerieslafayette.com/magasin-marseille>

Marseille's premier department store. Great selection of women's and men's accessories; cosmetics; women's, men's and children's clothing; and household decorative items offering both upscale and mainstream brands. There's a second location in Le Centre Bourse (phone 04-9156-8282).

Galleries

Atelier Celadon

40 Rue Sainte-Francoise
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9190-8926

<http://www.atelier-celadon.com>

Several artists share this large studio with beautiful stone walls. On display and for sale are various ceramics, lamps, jewelry, mosaics and paintings. There are also courses and workshops available.

Open daily 10 am-7 pm.

Markets

There are open-air food and clothing markets throughout the city. Try the one at Avenue du Prado (Monday-Saturday mornings) or Place Joliette (Monday-Friday mornings). Specialty markets include the daily morning Marche aux Poissons (fish market) on the Quai des Belges in the Vieux Port, and the Marche aux Puces (flea market) Saturday and Sunday mornings at 130 Chemin de la Madrague Ville. There's also an excellent craft market on the Quai des Belges every Sunday morning.

<http://www.marseille-provence.info/marseille-marseilles>.

Shopping Areas

Le Centre Bourse

17 Cours Belsunce
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9114-0050

<http://www.centre-bourse.com>

This shopping-mall complex is located close to the Vieux Port and features 60 stores as well as restaurants and other services.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-7:30 pm.

Specialty Stores

Adjanas

9 Rue du Panier
Marseille, France

Phone: 06-1612-2313

<http://www.adjanas.com>

Unique women's clothing designed by Adjara Nassiki, including dresses, skirts and tops in colorful, bright batik fabrics. Also some decorative cushions and duvet covers in African patterns.

Monday-Saturday 11:30 am-7 pm.

Balade au Panier

5 Rue du Petits Puits
Marseille, France

Artisanal leather shop with belts, novelty wallets and change purses, handbags and belt buckles. Also carries locally made gift and souvenir items, including the famous olive-oil Marseillaise soaps and lavender sachets and packets.

Open Thursday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm.

Coucokoulou

42 Rue du Panier
Marseille, France

Phone: 06-5924-4456

<http://www.coucokoulou.fr>

Proprietor Koulthhoumi Ali is busy at work on her sewing machine in the back of this tiny but colorful boutique. In addition to her own designs, Koulou offers select pieces of jewelry and accessories from local designers.

Tuesday-Sunday 11 am-7:30 pm.

Dromel Aine

19 Ave. du Prado (6th arrondissement, near Castellane metro station)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9180-0808

<http://www.dromel-aine.com>

Established in 1760, this *confiserie* is a Marseille institution. Gorgeous chocolates, coffees, teas, spices and gourmet food items.

Open Monday 9:30 am-7 pm and Tuesday -Saturday 9 am-7 pm.

Four des Navettes

136 Rue Sainte
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9133-3212

<http://www.fourdesnavettes.com>

You can't visit Marseille without a stop at the oldest bakery in town, which opened in 1781. It's located just up the road from the St. Victor Abbey. The best part of visiting this bakery is its historic significance, but it is known for its orange-blossom-flavored *navette* biscuits.

Monday-Saturday 7 am-8 pm, Sunday 9 am-1 pm and 3-7:30 pm.

La Cure Gourmande

19 Rue La Canebiere (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

With shops all over France and in many other parts of the world, it's anything but a local shop, but the *navettes* (and other cookies for that matter) are delicious. Expensive but worth it, even if you just purchase one cookie.

Daily 9 am-7:30 pm.

La Descente des Accoules

4 Rue de L'Eveche
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9190-7633

<http://www.ladescentedesaccoules.com>

Marseille's oldest wine cellar, with a cellar space dominated by huge, carved wooden barrels. There's a large choice of local wine, champagne and spirits, as well as gourmet food and cheese items from local farms. Proprietor Alain Bartoli and his team can help you choose the perfect bottle for yourself or for a gift.

Tuesday-Friday 9 am-1 pm and 4:30-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-1 pm and 3-8 pm.

La Maison du Pastis

108 Quai du Port
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9190-8677

<http://www.lamaisondupastis.com>

Sample a few of the more than 95 varieties of pastis and absinthes, the region's specialties. Pastis is an anise-flavored liquor that is popular throughout France as an *apero* and an after-dinner drink.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10:30 am-7 pm.

Le Cabanon des Accoules

24 Montee des Accoules (in the Panier district)
Marseille, France

Visit a master *santon* (terra-cotta figures) craftsman in his workshop there.

Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-noon and 2-6 pm.

Le Temps d'un Chocolat

14 Rue Haxo (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

If you are going to buy chocolate in Marseille, why not go to the best-rated chocolatier? Claude Krajner has consistently won awards for being among the best chocolatiers in all of France. One thing a chocolate lover must try are his bars made from the Criollo bean.

Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-7 pm, Sunday 11 am-6 pm.

Santons Marcel Carbonel

49 Rue Neuve Sainte Catherine
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9113-6136

<http://www.santonsmarcelcarbonel.com>

This is not only a great place to purchase *santons*, but it's also a great place to visit—it houses a museum dedicated to this unique, traditional craft.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-12:30 pm and 2-6:30 pm.

Savonnerie Marseillaise de la Licorne

34 Cours Julien
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9612-0091

<http://www.savon-de-marseille-licorne.com>

A trip to Marseille is incomplete without visiting a shop where the famous Marseille soaps are made. This is one of the originals, and it offers free manufacturing studio visits at 11 am, and 3 and 4 pm. Retail-only stores are located at 24 Quai de Rive Neuve (7th arrondissement) and 112 Quai du Port (2nd arrondissement).

Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm.

Dining

Dining Overview

The main ethnic groups in Marseille tend to be from around the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa. Likewise, the good "ethnic" restaurants tend to be North African and sub-Saharan African (unless you include Corsican as an ethnic group). Since these groups constitute a large part of the city's population, couscous can be considered a typical dish from Marseille (which many French people joke about as belonging to North Africa anyway). For most other cuisines, it is best to go to Paris.

One famous dish is the local soup known as bouillabaisse. This dish is made with a combination of fish and shellfish, tomatoes, onion, garlic, olive oil, fennel and saffron. It is served with shredded cheese melted on top and toast spread with aioli. Wash it down with a glass of rose wine from Provence or the heartier reds from the nearby Bandol region. For an aperitif, if you can handle the alcohol, order an anisette-flavored pastis or a *kir*, white wine with creme de cassis, a black-currant liqueur. Or you can order toasts with tapenade (puree of olives) and anchoiade (puree of anchovies).

Restaurants are clustered in several districts. There is a wealth of dining possibilities in the Vieux Port area, along and behind the Quai de Rive Neuve, but they are expensive and geared toward tourists. If a spectacular view is your prime objective, the dozen or so restaurants near the Espace Borely offer spectacular sunsets overlooking the water.

If delicious cooking and good service for a reasonable price are most important, then the rule of thumb is to look for restaurants frequented mainly by locals. If you go with somebody who lives in Marseille, you can sometimes get various things for free, such as drinks or desserts. The lack of movement between

various districts encourages these restaurant owners to remain as professional and friendly as practicable.

In the summer, call ahead to confirm that your restaurant is open, especially in August, when many establishments close for vacation.

Here is a sampling of restaurants in town. Expect to pay within these general guidelines, based on the cost of a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax and tip: \$ = less than 13 euros; \$\$ = 13 euros-40 euros; \$\$\$ = 41 euros-60 euros; \$\$\$\$ = more than 60 euros.

Local & Regional

Arret Buffet

62 rue de la Palud (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

The best value for your buck in French food by a long shot. Situated in a relatively deserted street, this small restaurant is nothing but a gem. Fabienne (the owner) decides the night before what she will make the next day, goes to the market to purchase the necessary ingredients and spends the morning preparing the dishes for lunch. Perhaps it is for this reason (or because she cooks on such a small scale since there are only about six tables) that one immediately senses the freshness of the food. If you don't like what you see on the menu, just tell her. She generally uses halal beef, and the clientele tend to be local. Sometimes meals can take a while to prepare, but it's worth the wait.

Open Monday-Friday for lunch; dinner only for parties of six or more, and only by reservation. \$. No credit cards.

Chez Fonfon

140 Vallon des Auffes (off the Promenade de la Corniche Kennedy, 7th arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9152-1438

<http://www.chez-fonfon.com>

Dine alongside *les pointus* (the famous fishermen's boats) in Vallon des Auffes, a charming harbor. The Marseillais go to this landmark for bouillabaisse, grilled *daurade* (sea bream) and spectacular sunsets.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, also open June-October Monday for dinner only. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Chez Loury à Restaurant "Le Mistral"

3 Rue Fortia
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9133-0973

<http://www.loury.com>

A cute little restaurant just off the Vieux Port with a cozy terrace as well as indoor seating. Good restaurant considering the location.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

La Grotte

1 Ave. des Pebrons (Calanque de Callelongue, 8th arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9173-1779

<http://www.lagrotte-13.com>

This elaborately decorated restaurant, nestled among the traditional fishermen's houses on the outskirts of Marseille, is a must-see if you value decor and a nice view more than the cooking and service. Enjoy Provencal specialties or sit on the terrace while admiring the view of the white hills beyond.

Daily noon-2:30 pm and 7:30-11 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Grain de Sel

39 Rue de la Paix Marcel Paul
Marseille, France

Local chef Pierre Giannetti worked in Barcelona for several years but came home to open a bistro with flavors inspired by local produce as well as influences from other Mediterranean countries.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$.

Le Julien

114 Rue Paradis (6th arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9137-0622

<http://www.lejulien.com>

Everything on the menu is excellent. The owner also has a wine store a few blocks away and will give spot-on advice for wine pairings. The restaurant is frequented almost exclusively by locals.

Open for Monday for lunch only, Tuesday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for dinner only. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Petit Nice

Anse Maldorme (in the Hotel Passadat, Corniche Kennedy, 7th arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9159-2592

<http://www.passadat.fr>

A gem of a place where the rich and famous go for a delightful view of the sea at sunset as well as for exquisite cuisine. The family-run restaurant and hotel have earned three Michelin stars. Try the *menu decouverte* with eight courses—but remember to eat lightly beforehand so you can enjoy every morsel.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday and Monday for dinner only (closed Sunday and Monday in the winter). Reservations required. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Les Arcenaulx

25 Cours Honore d'Estienne d'Orves (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9159-8030

<http://www.les-arcenaulx.com>

A 15th-century prison transformed into a bookshop, publishing house and gourmet restaurant that serves fresh, creative Provencal cuisine. A specialty is the *plat et vin*, carefully selected wines matched to a particular meal. In the afternoon, peruse the stacks and sip a cup of tea by the famous tea company Mariage Freres. Stop in the gourmet boutique after your meal for gifts and books.

Monday-Saturday noon-2 pm and 8-10:30 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Une Table, Au Sud

2 Quai du Port (2nd arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9190-6353

<http://www.unetableausud.com>

A discreet doorway in the midst of the Vieux Port bustle invites you into the modern, elegant dining room of Michelin-starred chef Lionel Levy. While you feast on sea views, Alain Ducasse-trained Levy serves inventive Mediterranean cuisine including his signature Bouille-Abaisse (a bouillabaisse milk shake).

\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Cuisines

African

Restaurant Touba

35 Rue du Musee (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

If you really want African, this is the whole package. The Senegalese restaurant is unlisted, so it is almost guaranteed to be tourist-free. There is a television tuned to a station from Senegal, and Mama Kebe (the chef) tends to only have one or two dishes available. Go for the fish dish if possible and wash it down with a small bottle of house-made fiery ginger juice (or bissap juice for the faint of heart). You'll feel like you're in a small restaurant off the beaten track in Senegal. No phone number.

Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner. Occasionally open on Saturday. \$. No credit cards.

French

Cesar Place

21 Place aux Huiles (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9133-2522

<http://www.restaurant-cesarplace.com>

Even if you don't like nouvelle cuisine, it is almost impossible to not taste a dish you will like. One menu will have around 8 different small dishes to try. Mostly frequented by locals.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Italian

Chez Etienne

43 Rue de Lorette (2nd arrondissement)
Marseille, France

This legendary restaurant serves pizzas from a wood-fired oven and a small menu of local specialties. Photos of stars such as Michael Caine and Anthony Quinn grace the walls, but this place is as down-home Italian as they come, thanks to the wonderful bonhomie of the Sicilian owner. Try the *soupiens* (tiny squid), a local specialty.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed mid-February to mid-March. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. No credit cards.

Chez Vincent

2 Bis Ave. des Chartreux
Marseille, France 13004

Phone: 04-9149-6234

<http://chez-vincent.com>

Close to the Opera and convenient for after-theater supper, this is known locally as Chez Rose for the ancient proprietress. The welcome can be variable but the simple, high-quality food is superb and the portions generous. As well as pizzas, there is a full menu, including roast dishes, great potatoes, pates and salads.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. No credit cards.

Middle Eastern

La Goulette

1 Rue Pavillon (1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Great place to get good, cheap couscous without having to worry about the questionable sanitary conditions that may exist in certain restaurants in the Arab Quarter.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$. No credit cards.

Le Meds

12 Rue Saint Jacques (6th arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 09-8161-1908

<http://www.lameds.com>

By far the best North African and Middle Eastern restaurant in Marseille. Tess, the owner, is of the Kabyle ethnic group (the original Berber inhabitants of North Africa before the arrival of the Arabs), but she is very familiar with both Armenian and Lebanese cooking. The hours are irregular and the clientele is almost exclusively local. The food very fresh and resembles home cooking in the sense that it is done on

a small scale. On some nights there are dinnertime events such as concerts, short films and lectures. The price is insanely low considering the quality of food and atmosphere.

Open dinner at mostly unpredictable times except for the dates of the cultural events, which are announced on the website. \$-\$\$.

Seafood

Chez Toinou

3 Cours Saint Louis
Marseille, France

Phone: 08-1145-4545

<http://www.toinou.com>

The specialty is shellfish, particularly the large ceremonial combination platter served on crushed ice. It also offers the traditional *moules marinieres*.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

La Boite a Sardine

2 Blvd. de la Liberation
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9150-9595

<http://www.laboiteasardine.com>

A fish market that doubles as a restaurant, so you know the seafood is the freshest possible. There are only about a half-dozen tables, and they're booked solid every day. Choose between the classic *plateau de fruits de mer* (seafood platter) or one of Chef Fabien's tasty daily specials such as scallop *carpaccio*.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for lunch only. \$\$.

La Cuisine au Beurre

72 Quai du Port
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9191-6774

<http://www.lacuisineaubeurre.fr>

Don't miss this popular locals' restaurant, particularly its seafood platters and *moules frites*. In fact, there are about 10 kinds of marinated mussels on the menu, such as the traditional *moules marinieres*, or the *moules piquant* with a spicy tomato-based sauce, or *moules roquefort* with a pungent cheese sauce.

Good table service and friendly atmosphere right on the bustling Vieux Port, with a panoramic view from tables on the first floor or the outdoor terrace.

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Peron

56 Promenade de la Corniche President John F. Kennedy (7th arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9152-1522

<http://www.restaurant-peron.com>

This famous restaurant, redecorated in teak to resemble the interior of a vintage sailing yacht, is known for its traditional seafood platters. Have a glass of champagne at the bar before heading to your table. The Marseillais line up to get in, so be sure you have reservations.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Rhul

269 Corniche du President John Fitzgerald Kennedy (7th arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Phone: 04-9152-0177

<http://www.hotel-restaurant-le-rhul.com/le-restaurant>

Locals say this place has the best bouillabaisse in town. It is served in the traditional manner—first is a seafood broth with croutons and the local *rouille* spread. Then another plate of broth is served filled to the brim with seafood, highlighting local varieties of fish such as dory, anglerfish and weever. The atmosphere is very formal, but the service is superb and the port setting perfect.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Steak Houses

La Cote de Boeuf

35 Cours Honore d'Estienne d'Orves (on the Place Thiars, 1st arrondissement)
Marseille, France

Some of the best beef in Europe, matched with an award-winning wine list. The ancient walls add warmth and character to the convivial atmosphere.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed mid-July to mid-August. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Security

Personal Safety

Marseille has had a bad reputation regarding crime for many years. Indeed, it is the most dangerous city in all of France. As in all major cities, there are steps you can take to reduce the chances of your being a target.

Watch your belongings at the beach and hold onto your purse or bag when sitting at an outdoor cafe. Don't flaunt currency in stores or on the street and keep most of your cash and credit cards in a money

belt. Keep your voice down on the metro to avoid drawing attention to the fact that you're a tourist. At night, avoid the metro and areas with few people. Also avoid the north side of town, the Quartier Nord.

It is better not to have a car in the city. Aside from the stress associated with driving in Marseille, there has been a recent increase in car break-ins, even in broad daylight. If you do have a car, don't leave valuables or items that could attract thieves (bags from exclusive shops, keys, luggage) in plain view in your car. Always keep the car doors locked and windows closed when driving: thieves on scooters can grab bags right out of cars that are stopped in traffic.

If you are a female, it is best to avoid walking alone at night, even where there are many people. The chances of being pestered or attacked are small but they are much greater than in any major city in France.

For police assistance, phone 17; for a fire, phone 18. The emergency hotline number is 112.

For the latest information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

Health

Marseille gets very hot in the summer, and this is sometimes masked by sea breezes, so don't take any chances and do cover yourself in sunscreen. When swimming, watch out for sea urchins and jellyfish. There are usually warnings when such dangers are present.

The most central hospital is the Hopital de la Conception, about a mile/kilometer southeast of the Vieux Port at 147 Blvd. Baille. Phone 04-9138-0000. <http://www.ap-hm.fr>.

In an emergency, call 15 for an ambulance. For an emergency doctor, dial 3624. For an emergency dentist, call 08-9256-6766. The number for the poison treatment center is 04-9175-2525.

Disabled Advisory

The Marseille City Council has a special office set up to handle disabled access for locals and visitors alike. The Service des Personnes Handicapes is at 128 Ave. du Prado (8th arrondissement), Marseille. The office also offers a transportation service. Phone 04-9181-5880. <http://www.marseille.fr/sitevdm/social-et-sante/personnes-en-situation-de-handicap>.

The city is not ideal for visitors with mobility problems. There are lots of steep streets leading away from the Vieux Port, plus frequent roadwork and many aggressive drivers, which can make crossing the street hazardous. The public transport system is one of the least accommodating of the major French cities to those with disabilities.

The Marseille Tourist Board has a good listing of restaurants, services and adapted sites and activities that accommodate those with disabilities. <http://www.marseille-tourisme.com/en/marseille-tourism-and-disability>.

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Do visit the Chateau d'If for its historical significance as well as for the scenic trip to the island itself.

Don't be shy about sampling some local foods, including Moroccan cuisine, bouillabaisse and other fish specialties.

Do purchase the Marseille City Pass if you plan to stay more than a few days—it offers discounts and free bus and metro travel for extended stays in the city.

Don't forget to learn a few phrases of French such as *bonjour* (hello), *s'il vous plait* (please), *merci* (thank you) and *Je suis desole mais je ne parle pas francais. Parlez vous anglais?* (I apologize, but I do not speak French. Do you speak English?). Speaking a little bit of the language goes a long way.

Do say *bonjour* (hello) to the staff when entering shops, cafes and restaurants (switch to *bonsoir* after 3 pm), and say *au revoir* when you leave.

Do plan a trip to one of the colorful daily markets for a dose of local life and activity. At least one takes place every day. The most touristy markets are concentrated around the Vieux Port, such as the daily fish market and the weekend craft market. The more local markets are in Nouaillles and the Cour Julien and are open.

Do reserve hotels in advance before going to Marseille.

Do use the GPS on your phone if possible when taking a taxi since there are Marseille taxi drivers who attempt to take advantage of tourists (even ones from other parts of France).

Do look carefully at the bills you give to taxi drivers because there have been instances where they give change for a bill of a lower value.

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: Canadian and U.S. citizens need passports for stays of up to three months. The passport must be valid for at least three months after your proposed stay. Reconfirm travel document information with your carrier before departure.

Population: 852,516.

Languages: French.

Predominant Religions: Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant), Muslim, Jewish.

Time Zone: 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the end of March to the end of October.

Voltage Requirements: 220 volts. 50Hz.

Telephone Codes: 33, country code; 491, Marseille city code;

Money

Taxes

Goods and services in France are subject to a value-added tax, called TVA (*taxe sur la valeur ajoutée*). The full rate is 20%, and the reduced rate is 5%. There is also an intermediate rate of 10% on select goods and services. The price displayed almost always includes tax—the letters TTC (*toutes taxes comprises*) next to a price mean that it's included.

There is a room tax of 0.40 euros per night, but it is also usually included in the price quoted.

Department stores and many of the larger shops in central Marseille participate in France's Global Refund Cheque plan, which allows non-European Union citizens to reclaim the tax. The city is also a popular port of call for cruise ships, so the bigger stores are familiar with the formalities of tax-free shopping. Nonresidents of the EU can file for a tax refund (around 12%) for purchases of more than 175 euros in one store on a given day. If a store participates (and not all are required to do so), it will display a blue-and-white Tax Free Shopping logo.

When you make your purchase—you may have to use a specially designated desk—request a refund check. When you get to the airport, present the form at the claims counter at customs for an immediate refund, or ask the customs officials to stamp your form and then send it to Global Refund France S.A., which will refund you through your credit card. The counter is open daily 6 am-8:30 pm. Some stores manage their own TVA refunds and have specific forms and procedures, so always check with customer service.

For more information on Global Blue, visit <http://www.globalblue.com/destinations/france/marseille>.

Tipping

Service charges at restaurants are included in the total bill (check at the bottom of the bill for the words *service compris*, often abbreviated "SC"). That said, the rule of thumb is to leave an extra tip of 5%-10% of the bill.

At bars and cafes, you can round up to the nearest euro, although it's not necessary. Same thing with taxi drivers, but rounded to the nearest 10 euro. They can receive an extra euro or two, especially if they've helped with luggage.

If you're staying more than one night, it's customary to leave a few euros for the housekeeping staff. For assisting with getting your luggage to your room or storing your bags, give the hotel bellhop 1 euro per bag up to a maximum of 5 euros.

Tour guides make part of their money from tips, so if you're happy with your guide, it's customary to tip him 1 or 2 euros. If it is an expensive tour and the service was especially good, you can tip up to 10 euros.

What to Wear

Located in the far south of France, Marseille is generally hot July-September, and you will probably need only very light clothing then. A light jacket or sweater is a good idea in case of an unexpectedly cool evening or a cooling sea breeze. Sturdy shoes are useful as you'll inevitably encounter plenty of cobbled streets, as well as steep staircases.

Business occasions call for a relatively conservative style of dress. Smart, clean-cut but understated suits and dresses are the most appropriate choices. French businessmen are often seen wearing suits with waistcoats and even watch chains on ordinary workdays, although short-sleeved shirts with no ties are perfectly acceptable in many businesses during summer.

Communication

Telephone

You can make both local and international phone calls with prepaid phone cards that can be used in phone booths. However, such booths are becoming increasingly difficult to find. If you do choose this option, the cards are available at post offices and newsstands and come in different values, depending on the amount of time that you need for your calls.

The most convenient (but more expensive option) is to use your mobile phone in France, provided that you are connected to the GSM network; calls, however, will be expensive. If your phone is compatible with a GSM 900/1800 system, you can also purchase a prepaid SIM card that includes some calling time. When your time is completed, you then purchase a recharging card for additional calls. These cards are available from most newsstands. Depending on the length of your stay, it might be less expensive to simply purchase a cheap phone at the train station.

For local directory assistance, dial 118-710. For international directory assistance, dial 3212. Numbers that begin with 0800 are toll-free.

Internet Access

There are several Internet cafes in Marseille, and Wi-Fi is increasingly available in the city's hotels. Additionally, free wireless access is available at the Vieux Port. For a complete list of free Wi-Fi hot spots throughout the city, check <http://www.wificafespots.com/wifi/country/France>.

Game Station

This large, comfortable cyber-cafe in the 6th arrondissement offers reasonable rates for hourly, daily or even monthly use. Open daily 10 am-midnight. 35 Rue du Docteur Jean Fiolle (near the Castellane metro station). Marseille, France.

Marseille Provence Airport

Offers three computers with Internet access in Arrivals Hall 1. For assistance, visit the Business Center and Cezanne lounge. Cost for one hour is 5 euros, with payment by coin or a credit card. Wi-Fi is also available on-site, for a fee. Prepaid cards can be purchased in the Relay shop. Marseille, France.

<http://www.marseille-airport.com>.

Mail & Package Services

La Poste

One of the city's main post offices is at the Vieux Port. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-12:30 pm and 1:45-5:15 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-12:30 pm. 1 Cours Jean Ballard. Marseille, France 13001. <http://www.laposte.fr>.

Newspapers & Magazines

The leading international newspapers are available at newsstands at the railway station and around the Vieux Port. Many British newspapers have special editions printed in southern France and are available on the morning after publication.

There are several local magazines that tell you what's going on in the city, such as *Direct Matin: Marseille Plus* (<http://www.marseilleplus.com>), *l'Hebdo Marseille* (<http://www.marseillehebdo.com>) and *La Provence* (<http://www.laprovence.com/Edition-marseille>). These publications are in French, but the listings are easy enough to understand.

Alternatively, the tourist office produces a bilingual monthly "what's on" guide called *paf*. It is less current because of its frequency, and it's better for culture than for clubs.

Arles, France

Overview

Introduction



Set on the banks of the Rhone River 22 mi/37 km south of Avignon, Arles, France, is where Vincent van Gogh lived and painted during the last months of his life (February 1888-May 1889).

The painting of his bedroom in Arles is among his best-known works. The Fondation Vincent van Gogh operates a museum in the Palais de Luppe that pays tribute to the artist whose tormented life ended in Auvers on 27 July 1890. There you can absorb an extraordinary collection of modern art, from Jasper Johns and Robert Motherwell to Henri Cartier-Bresson and David Hockney.

But there's a lot more to Arles than the place where Van Gogh lived for a year. It's been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site, has one of the most impressive Roman ruins and amphitheater and it's a picturesque city with beautiful architecture with a strong Provençal culture.

Arles, in the Bouches du Rhone department of France, is an engaging, walkable city where the Roman ruins have been incorporated within the houses and buildings of the city.

Geography

Almost like an island, the city of Arles is located in the southern region of France and covers an area that is surprisingly seven times larger than the area of Paris.

The city sits on the valley of the River Rhone that diverges into two branches, thereby forming the delta of Camargue. It is nestled among the lush les Alpilles, the Crau and the Camargue. Among the neighboring towns are Fourques, Paradou, Tarascon, Beaucaire and Fontvieille.

History

During 700 BC, Arles was founded by the seagoing Phocaeans. It was during this time that the city was a major trade route between Massalia and the inland settlements. Over the years, Arles became the trading settlement of the Ligurians and was called Arelate, meaning "a town by the marshes."

In 150 BC, the Romans landed at Arles, which was one of the busiest river ports in the region. During the first century BC, Julius Caesar handed over the land taken from the Massalian Greek and local tribes to the Roman Legions. Soon, Arles became a second capital to the Roman Empire, popularly known as "The Little Rome of Gaul."

During the Dark Ages, Barbarians destroyed Arles and the city was rebuilt by Charlemagne in the ninth century. Elegant town houses were erected during the 17th and 18th centuries as a mark of prosperity of the Arlesian Merchants. In February 1888, Van Gogh settled in Arles and painted an array of breathtaking canvases.

After the establishment of the railroad in the late 1880s, Arles turned its focus on agriculture and is one of the popular producers of rice and olive oil.

Potpourri

Arles was home to the world's longest-living person, Jeanne Calment, who lived 122 years, from 1875 to 1997.

Vincent van Gogh did not start painting until he was 27 years old. Although he is known as one of the world's greatest painters, it is reported that he sold only one painting during his lifetime: *Red Vineyards Near Arles*.

See & Do

Sightseeing

In addition to magnificent art, Arles has wonderful churches, museums, Roman ruins (theater, baths and forum) and a Roman arena (still in use, 21 centuries after opening day).

There are three especially notable museums to visit: the Musee Departemental de l'Arles Antique, the Museon Arletan and the Musee Reattu.

Arles is also the gateway to the marshy La Camargue delta, a nature reserve famed for its black bulls, white horses and unique flora and fauna.

Shopping

The first-ever Christian Lacroix boutique is in Arles, and there are great local chocolate boutiques, and shops selling local wines and lavender-based products.

With outdoor markets in the city on Wednesday and Saturday, you will find plenty of opportunities to shop for colorful clothing, exotic French wines, herbs and spices, jewelry, paintings, crafts, books and more.

You can also explore the busy shopping centers in nearby areas such as Nimes and Montpellier.

Antique Stores

Antiquites Maurin

4 Rue de Grille
Arles, France 13200

Phone: 4-9096-5157

<http://www.antiquites-maurin.com>

In the heart of the city, this is one of the oldest antique stores in Arles. There you will find Provencal furniture, jewelry, paintings, lamps, mirrors and statues, among other items. It has three branches.

Antiquites Pervieux

5 Rue du Vernon
Arles, France

Since the 1880s, this shop in the heart of Arles has specialized in high-quality Provencal antique furniture.

Markets

Marche du Samedi

One of the best in Provence, this market starts at the beginning of Boulevard Emiles Combes and ends at the end of Boulevard Clemenceau, with stretches including flea market finds, clothing and shoes, food, handcrafted items from the region, art and flowers.

Wednesday 7 am-2 pm.

Specialty Stores

Christian Lacroix

52 Rue de la Republique
Arles, France

Phone: 4-9096-1116

<http://www.christian-lacroix.fr>

Provence's own designer prodigy opened his first boutique in Arles, where he was born, and began sketching costumes and clothing at a young age. The high-end fashions found there are sure to please well-heeled women of style.

La Botte Camarguaise

22 Rue Jean Granaut
Arles, France

Phone: 4-9096-2087

<http://www.labottecamarguaise.net>

For more than thirty years, artisan Patrick Vidal has been hand-stitching Camargue-style leather cowboy boots in this tiny atelier in the center of Arles.

La Parfumerie Arlesienne

26 Rue de la Liberte
Arles, France

Phone: 4-9097-0207

<http://www.la-parfumerie-arlesienne.com>

This tiny little shop is run by fragrance creator Fabienne Brandou and sells perfumes, soaps, scented candles and lotions. Check out the Eau d'Arles, or the unusual Eau de Camargue, unlike anything else.

Souleiado

10 Boulevard des Lices (opposite the Hotel Jules Cesar)
Arles, France

Phone: 4-9018-2591

<http://www.souleiado.com>

This shop (part of a chain in the area) sells beautiful Provençal fabrics fashioned into womens' and mens' clothing, scarves, linens and more. It is a must-visit.

Dining

Dining Overview

French cuisine is world-famous, and the French are fervent foodies. Perhaps that's one reason lunches in France are elaborate and can last for almost two hours.

The French are also tagged as the largest consumers of red wine and cheese in the world.

A traditional platter in Arles is composed of Arles sausage, made of donkey meat and olives, and the famous Languedoc cheese with a quaff of red wine. *Daube de boeuf Arlesienne* is a beef stew, and the famous beef bourguignon is a traditional French meal with beef in red wine, seasoned with garlic, fresh herbs, mushrooms and onions.

Other famous dishes include *confit de canard*, a meal made of duck legs and tossed with potatoes; *flamiche*, a pie filled with cheese and vegetables; and the tarte tatin, a delicious apple pie.

And some of the best croissants in the world can be found in Arles.

Local & Regional

Auberge du Mas d'Alivon

Route des Saintes Maries de la Mer
Arles, France 13200

Phone: 490-971-155

<http://www.auberge-alivon.com/the-restaurant>

Located in a restored 19-century farmhouse in the heart of Camargue National Park, this cozy place serves local seasonal dishes. You can dine alfresco in nice weather.

Au Brin de Thym

22 Rue du Docteur Fanton
Arles, France 13200

This place offers a variety of local dishes and features lush terrace dining.

Briocherie de la Chapelle

16 Place Voltaire
Arles, France 13200

This restaurant is located in an ancient chapel in the city. Both on-site dining and takeaway services are available.

Chez Caro

12 Place du Forum
Arles, France 13200

Phone: 490-979-438

<http://www.chezcaro.fr>

This elegant restaurant lets you indulge in delicious wines, cheeses that melt in your mouth, delectable desserts and authentic main courses. Vegetarians will find plenty to suit their tastes as well.

La Caravelle

1 Place Constantin
Arles, France 13200

Phone: 4-9096-3909

<http://www.la-caravelle.net>

Situated in a historic building by the Rhone River, this bar and restaurant serves fresh local dishes as well as a variety of rums.

La Chassagnette

Route du Sambuc
Arles, France

Phone: 4-9097-2696

<http://www.chassagnette.fr>

Chef Armand Arnal uses vegetables grown on-site, the fish is from the market nearby, and the meat is organically produced from naturally fed bulls.

La Guele du Loup

39 Rue des Arenes
Arles, France

This rustic restaurant is located within a 17th-century building. Try a prix-fixe menu for good value. The sea bream served with roasted seasonal vegetables is a favorite.

Le 16

16 Rue du Docteur Fanton
Arles, France 13200

Phone: 490-937-736

<http://www.le16restaurant.com>

The menu at this place changes weekly; check the website to get an idea of what's being served that week, but be assured that it will be delicious French cuisine in a beautiful setting of stonework and creeping vines.

L'Ingenu

13 Place Voltaire
Arles, France 13200

<http://www.lingenurestaurantarles.fr>

L'Ingenu offers a variety of tapas, and you can dine on the terrace with shady trees. The staff is cheerful and friendly.

The Waux Hall

8 Blvd. des Lices
Arles, France 13200

Phone: 4-9093-8719

<http://www.wauxhall.fr>

This cafe dates from 1769, when the people of Arles decided to build a social club for its residents. During the French Revolution, the cafe was destroyed, but it was later rebuilt. Chef Etienne-Jaques Michel chooses local products in season to create true original dishes with Camarquaise, Provençal and Mediterranean influences. It serves salads, grilled meats, desserts and homemade pastries.

Security

Personal Safety

Although Arles is generally a safe destination, it is always advisable to take the normal commonsense precautions. In crowded areas, beware of pickpockets.

When traveling in cars around the city, keep your doors and windows locked and do not leave your luggage unwatched in a taxi.

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Do learn a few French phrases. The French take great pride in their language. *Bonjour* (pronounced *BON-zhoor*) means "hello" or "good morning"; *a bientôt* (pronounced *a bee-yen-TOE*) means "see you soon"; *au revoir* (pronounced *OH-vwahr*) means "goodbye"; and *merci* (pronounced *mer-SEE*) means "thank you".

Do be sure to take a walk around Arles to appreciate the beauty of the city in all its glory.

Do remember to break your bread into smaller pieces before eating it, since taking a bite from the whole piece of bread is considered impolite.

Do carry your best clothes. The French have a great sense of style and are considered to be very fashionable.

Do not smoke in indoor public places. It is illegal in France.

Avignon, France

Overview

Introduction



Resting alongside the Rhone River about 60 mi/100 km northwest of Marseille, the Provencal city of Avignon is known as the city of the popes—Pope Clement V moved the papal court to Avignon from Rome in 1309 and Pope Benedict XII commissioned the construction of the Palais des Papes, the papal palace. Work on the construction was continued under Pope Clement VI and was completed in 1363.

The city is small and easily navigable on foot. In addition to the beautiful sights in Avignon itself, there are a number of interesting towns and tiny villages in the beautiful countryside surrounding the city.

See & Do

Sightseeing

The city's old town is a spiderweb of narrow streets, belfries and towers surrounded by magnificent ramparts. Start your tour at the Place de l'Horloge. It's full of cafes, restaurants, street vendors and entertainers. Also in the square is a beautiful carousel whose sign proclaims *Pour les petits et pour les grands* (for young and old alike).

See the remains of the 12th-century St. Benezet bridge, Notre Dame des Doms Cathedral (where Pope John XXII is interred) and the Calvet Museum. Visit the enormous Palais des Papes and stroll through the Rocher des Doms gardens above and behind the Palais, built on a rock with a gorgeous view of the Palace on one side and the river on the other.

If time allows, spend a few hours walking the streets of Villeneuve les Avignon, just across the Rhone from the Palais des Papes. This delightful medieval village has many extravagant mansions built by cardinals in the 14th century. And don't miss the beautiful and historic 14th-century monastery, Chartreuse du Val-de-Benediction.

Shopping

In Avignon, as in other towns in Provence, you will see specialty shops flourish despite larger stores and supermarkets also having a presence. Separate small shops such as *boulangeries* (bakeries) and *patisseries* (selling cakes and pastries) as well as other specialty food shops are scattered throughout town. Markets are plentiful and are mostly morning affairs.

Most nonfood shops are open 9 am-7 pm Monday-Saturday, but many close at lunch and on Monday morning. Small shops may close for one day a week outside of the high season. Food shops open a bit earlier, at 7 or 8 am, and stay open until 7 pm.

In terms of regional items of interest, look for distinctive, colorful Provencal fabrics, made into tablecloths, napkins and linens, as well as different clothing items, pottery, lavender and other dried herbs, gourmet food items such as olives and olive oil, dried fruit, preserves and local wines.

Antique Stores

Serignan Antiquities

9 Rue de la Petite Fusterie
Avignon, France

This antique shop in the historical center of Avignon has been run by the Serignan family since its opening in 1919. It boasts a good quality and variety of local vintage pieces.

Bookstores

L'Ami Voyage

5 Rue Prevot
Avignon, France

This shop stocks beautiful art and architecture books, as well as a good variety of secondhand books. It has comfy chairs to sit in, as well as a tea room, and is a thoroughly charming place to browse.

Factory Outlets

Aujoras Croquettes Co.

756 Route de St. Saturnin
Morieres-les-Avignon, France 84271

Phone: 4-9032-2140

<http://www.biscuiterie-aujoras.fr>

You can visit this popular biscuit factory near Avignon to see traditional production of croquettes, macaroons, aniseed biscuits and more. And you get to taste the products after they come out of the oven.

Markets

Avignon Flea & Flower Market

Avignon, France

<http://www.avignon-tourisme.com>

Every Saturday morning, the square turns into a flower market. On Sunday, at the same time, interesting old items and antiques are on offer at this weekly flea market at the Place des Carmes.

Saturday and Sunday 8 am-1 pm.

Avignon Les Halles

Place Pie
Avignon, France 84000

Phone: 4-9027-1515

<http://www.avignon-leshalles.com>

Open every morning except Monday, this central local market offers a feast of breads, cheeses, fruits, vegetables, olives and a variety of other items.

Marche aux Puces (Flea Market)

Place du Marche (along Avenue de Verdun)
Villeneuve-les-Avignon, France

Situated across the river from Avignon, this flea market is open every Saturday morning and features 80-100 vendors selling locally produced items, as well as wonderful old furniture, beautiful fabrics and lace, linens and clothing.

Specialty Stores

Moulin a Huile de la Chartreuse

72 Rue de la Republique
Avignon, France

Phone: 4-9025-4559

<http://www.moulindechartreuse.com>

At this shop, locals bring in their own olives to be pressed into olive oil. There are regular tastings of olive oil and olive-based products, from tapenades to soap. For a free tour of the olive mill in English, call in advance.

Souleiado

5 Rue Joseph Vernet
Avignon, France

Phone: 4-9086-3205

<http://www.soleiado.com>

This Avignon location is one of the oldest shops in this Provençal chain, renowned for its fabrics in beautiful prints and colors. It carries a good stock of table linens; men's and women's clothing, including their famous tiered skirts and flowing blouses; cosmetic and toiletries bags; and other gifts.

Dining

Dining Overview

Avignon has a variety of excellent restaurants for the dedicated foodie, from farm-sourced local cuisine in a fine-dining atmosphere to more casual brasseries.

Avignon is dotted with cafes and bars throughout the city, with outdoor seating areas for a coffee or a late after-dinner drink. Bars in the Place Crillon have a pleasant atmosphere, and there are some trendy bars in the Rue des Teinturiers, which is the old textiles section of the town.

Local & Regional

83.Vernet

83 Rue Joseph Vernet
Avignon, France

Phone: 4-9085-9904

<http://www.83vernet.com>

This friendly, bohemian bistro with large farm tables is located in an old convent outside of the tourist area. The food is anything but ordinary, with an excellent home-style cheeseburger, outstanding beef tartare and a delicious beef fillet served with morel mushrooms.

Chez Lulu

6 Place des Chataignes
Avignon, France 84000

Phone: 4-9085-6944

<http://www.chezlulu-avignon.com>

This cozy spot uses fresh local ingredients.

La Mirande

4 Place de la Mirande
Avignon, France

Phone: 4-9014-2020

<http://www.la-mirande.fr>

This is one of the best places to eat in Avignon in terms of environment, service and superb quality of the food. The restaurant is part of a beautiful hotel with a romantic, tranquil garden that is as great a place for teatime or a glass of wine under the large, shady trees as it is for an excellent formal French dining experience. Book the table d'hote for a very special experience including a wine and olive oil tasting in the restaurant's cellars.

La Petite Peche

13 Rue St. Etienne
Avignon, France

This small, off-the-beaten-path restaurant is *the* place to go for seafood. They have the freshest grilled squid and sea bream served with local vegetables or ratatouille.

Le Bercail

162 Chemin des Canotiers
Avignon, France

Phone: 4-9082-2022

<http://www.restaurant-lebercail.fr>

Celebrating more than 50 years in business, this riverside restaurant sports one of the best views of the bridge. It has pleasant outdoor seating, perfect for enjoying a glass of wine and an *apero* plate with local saucisson and cheese from the local markets. Le Bercail serves excellent traditional Provencal dishes, pizzas and grilled meats.

Viviers, France

Overview

Introduction



Viviers is a small walled town located in the south of France on the bank of the Rhone River.

Enjoy a walking tour of the cobblestoned streets, and be sure to check out the Cathedral of Saint-Vincent, the oldest cathedral in France that is still in use.

Lyon, France

Overview

Introduction

Lyon as a travel destination in France is still relatively undiscovered—the stunning city center remains a hidden treasure. Although Lyon's vitality is perceptible in ancient streets with restored buildings, there are still many pockets where renewal has yet to penetrate. These backstreets and courtyards may seem daunting to visitors, but the history embodied in so many of them makes even the most crooked staircases fascinating.



Lyon is France's culinary capital, but the city is also known for its luminosity. Buildings and fountains are beautifully lit at night, giving Lyon a magical atmosphere. Cross the River Saone by one of its *passerelle* bridges on a summer evening at sunset, and you'll see the city of Lyon glow with a hazy, burnt-orange light.

Highlights

Sights—Vieux Lyon; the Roman amphitheatres, Theatres Romains de Fourviere and Amphitheatre des Trois Gauls; Lyon's famous City Murals; the Basilique Notre Dame de Fourviere and the view from La Tour de l'Observatoire.

Museums—Roman artifacts at the Musee de la Civilisation Gallo-Romaine Lyon-Fourviere; history of the area's silk-weaving at the Musee des Tissus et des Arts Decoratifs or the Maison des Canuts; the Centre d'Histoire de la Resistance et de la Deportation.

Memorable Meals—The area's most famous dining at Paul Bocuse; Lyonnaise cuisine and the views at Restaurant de Fourviere; coffee and chocolates at Rolancy.

Late Night—Dancing at La Chapelle; strolling through the Presqu'île to see the city lights; enjoying drinks (and the city lights) onboard the deck of La Marquise.

Walks—Exploring the *traboules* (covered passageways) of Vieux Lyon or Croix Rousse; visiting the Jardin Saint Pierre.

Geography

Lyon is located in southeastern France, about a three-hour drive from the southern coast and less than 90 minutes from the borders with Switzerland and Italy, with the Alps to the east. It's a hilly city with two rivers: The Saone and the Rhone wind their way from north to south, joining just south of the city center. Between the two rivers lies the city center, which is almost surrounded by water and hence is known as the Presqu'île, or peninsula.

At the northern end of the Presqu'île, the broad shopping streets narrow into little passages that rise sharply uphill toward Lyon's northernmost district, the Croix Rousse. (The slopes rising up to Croix Rousse are known as the Croix Rousse Pentec.) To the west of the Presqu'île is Lyon's old town, Vieux Lyon. This cluster of medieval streets and squares sits at the foot of Fourviere Hill, which is easily recognized by the white basilica and Lyon's equivalent of the Eiffel Tower, La Tour Metallique, perched side by side on the hilltop.

History

Around 500 BC, some of the Rhone Valley's earliest Celtic settlers made their home on a hill overlooking modern-day Lyon. But the city didn't take shape until about 43 BC, when the Romans turned the hilltop site into the city of Lugdunum. This settlement on Fourviere Hill developed into one of the most important centers of trade within the Roman Empire, but by the beginning of the fourth century AD, the inhabitants of Lugdunum had moved downhill to the banks of the Saone.

Between the fifth and 12th centuries, Lyon was a powerful Catholic bishopric. A succession of ambitious bishops and rulers brought prosperity to the city, ordering the construction of churches, hospitals and bridges, as well as contributing to a strong economy governed by the church. In 1240, locals set up the first town council, and less than 100 years later, Lyon had become part of the Kingdom of France.

Italian silk producers, fleeing civil war, brought the silk trade to Lyon in the early 1400s. Along with the silk trade, the intellectual and artistic movements of the Renaissance flourished in Lyon. By the turn of the 16th century, Lyon was one of the most prosperous towns in the French kingdom. In 1804, Joseph Marie Jacquard constructed his first mechanical silk-weaving looms, and the district of Croix Rousse was established as the new center of Lyon's silk-weaving trade. The industry continued to flourish through the mid-1800s. However, an outbreak of silkworm disease and increased demand for imported silk eventually led to the decline of this centuries-old manufacturing tradition.

Lyon was the capital of the French Resistance movement and played a central role in France's struggle against the Nazis during World War II. The postwar period was a time of massive expansion in the city, with the construction of many commercial centers, the extension of highways and the high-speed railway, the development of industrial plants and scientific institutes, and the construction of the metro system. In the late 1990s, the majority of Lyon's downtown area was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, thanks to the rare juxtaposition of several neighborhoods covering a 2,000-year period of history.

Over the past decade, the city has embarked on several urban redevelopment projects in former industrial or working-class neighborhoods such as Vaise and Gerland. Cleansed of industrial grime, the areas are now home to universities and corporate headquarters. The next neighborhood slated for redevelopment is the lower half of the downtown peninsula known as the Confluence. It will be one of the most ambitious urban-development projects in the country. The cornerstone of the development will be the Musee des Confluences, a Frank Gehry-style science and civilization museum that will loom above the symbolic meeting point of the town's two rivers. A leisure center will entertain visitors around a newly

dug marina, and there will also be a walkway along the banks of the Saone—from Perrache Station to the peninsula's tip. The entire Confluence development project is slated for completion in 2020.

Potpourri

French composer Maurice Jarre, who wrote the music for movies including *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Ryan's Daughter*, *A Passage to India*, *Dead Poets' Society* and *Dr. Zhivago*, was born in Lyon. So was his son, Jean-Michel Jarre.

In the late 15th century, Lyon was one of the most important printing centers in Europe. The first book printed in Lyon dates from 1473.

Beautiful Louise Labe (1520-1566), one of France's major female poets and famous for her bold love sonnets, was born in Lyon.

In 1784, opera singer Elizabeth Tible became the first female aeronaut when she sailed over Lyon in a hot-air balloon while singing.

Lyon hosts some of the quaintest associations and "academies" in France, many of them of the culinary variety. Very serious people of the *Ordre de la Quenelle* devote their lives to the study of the dumpling; the *Ordre of the Raie* knows everything about the skate (a fish); and the *Academie du Lapin* studies the rabbit in all details (before eating it). And several associations protect the *bouchons* of Lyon from the invasion of the Golden Arches.

The famous French writer and aviator, Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944), was born in Lyon. His endearing novella *The Little Prince* is still read by millions of children and adults all over the world.

France's high-speed passenger train, the TGV, which was also the first high-speed train in Europe, began operations from Lyon in 1981.

See & Do

Sightseeing

To start your exploration of Lyon, get your bearings in the breezy expanse of Place Bellecour, at the center of the *Presqu'île*. Locate the statue of Louis XIV on horseback, stand and face the direction he's heading and you'll be looking north. The Saone is on your left, and on its opposite bank is the historic old town, Vieux Lyon, a maze of cobblestoned Renaissance streets and interconnecting alleyways. The Rhone lies to the right. Off to the north—and uphill—lies the district of Croix Rousse.

Once you're oriented, seeing the city and its sights is easy. Head to Croix Rousse and explore the district's *traboules* (covered passageways) and stop in at the *Maison des Canuts*. Then amble back downhill, toward the Rhone. Winding paths with seemingly random flights of steps pass along the remains of Lyon's ancient city walls and offer tantalizing glimpses of the river. If you cross the Winston Churchill Bridge, you'll arrive at the gates of the *Parc de la Tete d'Or*. We like renting a rowboat on the lake there, but the park's zoo and rose garden are enjoyable, too.

On the western bank of the Saone, Vieux Lyon has more *traboules* leading to magnificent, secluded Renaissance courtyards and multistoried galleries that most tourists miss. Be sure to take the funicular train to the top of Fourviere Hill. As well as spectacular views, you'll find the

Basilica of Notre Dame and its neo-Byzantine art, ancient Roman amphitheatres and the must-see Musée de la Civilisation Gallo-Romaine. When you've had enough of the Romans, stroll through Vieux Lyon.

The Presqu'île is home to many of the city's museums, including the Musée des Tissus et des Arts Décoratifs and the Musée des Beaux Arts, with its collection of French masters and its lovely interior garden. But the best time to see the Presqu'île is at night, when its buildings and fountains are all lit up.

Before you start experiencing Lyon, stop at the main tourist office on Place Bellecour (on the southeast side of the square), where you can buy the Lyon City Card. The cost is 18.90 euros for a one-day card, 28 euros for two days or 37 euros for three days. You'll get unlimited use of public transport within the city, entry into 21 major museums and galleries, a variety of guided tours and a river cruise.

Shopping

Open-air markets specializing in food, antiques, books, clothing and crafts operate in various locations around the city daily except Monday. Street markets are a natural habitat for the native Lyonnaise, and the lighthearted squabbling and chatter are all part of the entertainment.

You can shop for traditional Lyonnaise pots (wine carafes), pottery, Guignol puppets and other crafts in the little shops along Rue Saint Jean and Rue du Boeuf. Silk fabric, scarves, ties and clothing can be found near the silk workshop in the Croix Rousse Pentes district or in the shop at the Maison des Canuts in Croix Rousse. The city also offers some great opportunities for buying antiques.

Lyon is home to one of Europe's largest shopping malls, the Centre Commercial in the Part-Dieu district. The baffling maze of escalators, fountains and staircases is brimming with such leading French chains as the music and audio superstore FNAC, the Galeries Lafayette department store and a host of smaller boutiques. The remarkable glass-domed building offers three floors of shops and cafes and is a good place for shopping on a rainy day.

But the diamonds in Lyon's shopping crown are the designer boutiques in the Presqu'île, along Rue Edouard Herriot and the streets surrounding Place Bellecour. Even if you can only afford to window-shop at Gucci, the specialty food stores around Place Bellecour and throughout the city center offer affordable indulgences—treat yourself to some of France's finest chocolates or *foie gras*. For a fabulous range of mainstream shops and the modest Printemps department store, amble down the pedestrian-only Rue de la République, adorned with another of Lyon's designer fountains and an old-fashioned merry-go-round about halfway down.

Shopping Hours: Most shops are open Monday-Saturday 9 am-7:30 pm. Smaller shops and those outside the city center often close for a one- to three-hour lunch break between noon and 3 pm. Very few are open on Sunday.

Antique Stores

La Cite des Antiquaires

117 Blvd. de Stalingrad (Metro: Charpennes)
Lyon, France 69100

Phone: 04-7269-0000

<http://www.cite-antiquaires.fr>

Famous throughout France, this giant antiques mall houses more than 150 stores. Everything from furniture and music boxes to jewelry and carpets. It's a treasure trove.

Markets

Marche de la Croix Rousse

Boulevard de la Croix Rousse (Metro: Croix Rousse)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7927-3076

<http://www.lyon-cotecroixrousse.com>

Offers organic produce on Saturday, as well as additional clothing and household-goods stalls on Tuesday. It's an interesting opportunity to watch the locals shop.

Open daily except Monday (Grand Marche Saturday and Tuesday mornings only).

Marche de l'Artisanat et des Metiers d'Art and Marche de la Creation

Quai de Bondy (extending to Quai Roman Rolland and Quai Fulchiron; Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France

These two arts-and-crafts markets run end to end along the edge of the old town. You'll find a huge selection of works by more than 150 local artists and craftsmen.

Sunday 8 am-1:30 pm.

Marche des Producteurs Fermiers (Farmers Market)

Place Carnot (Metro: Perrache)
Lyon, France

<http://www.producteurs-fermiers-rhone.com>

Lyon's only afternoon market is reserved for direct producers, so you know that the hands that wrap your goat cheese are the same ones that milked the goats and ladled the milk into the molds.

Open Wednesday 3:30-7 pm, Sunday 5 am-1:30 pm. No phone.

Marche Saint Antoine

Quai Saint Antoine (along the banks of the Saone, opposite Vieux Lyon; Metro: Bellecour)
Lyon, France

This large street market sells the freshest-available seasonal farm produce, with the competition from neighboring stalls keeping prices down. Browse or shop for such snacks and delicacies as oysters, wild mushrooms, local and regional cheeses, fresh fruit and juices, dried fruit, nuts and more.

Open Monday-Thursday 6 am-1 pm, Friday-Sunday 6 am-1:30 pm.

Shopping Areas

Centre Commercial la Part Dieu

(Metro: Part-Dieu)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-260-6062

<http://www.partdieu.com>

One of Europe's largest, this mall houses 260 shops, cinemas and restaurants, and includes many unique boutiques and a huge selection of French and international chain stores. Entrances off Rue de Bonnel and Rue Servient.

Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-7 pm.

Rue Auguste Comte

(Metro: Bellecour)
Lyon, France

This street in particular, and a few others that branch off Place Bellecour, has a fine selection of art galleries and high-end antiques dealers offering friendly, specialized advice.

Shops are generally open Tuesday-Saturday 9 am-noon and 2-7 pm.

Rue de la Republique and Rue Edouard Herriot

(Metro: Bellecour)
Lyon, France

This is the area to shop for designer and brand-name clothing and accessories. Wander through the arcades and broad shopping streets to discover some very French boutiques and gift shops.

Shops are generally open Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm. Some close at lunchtime.

Rue Saint Jean

(Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France

For local pottery, crafts and small art shops, this is the place. Also try the streets that connect it with Rue du Boeuf.

Shops are generally open Monday-Saturday 9 am-noon and 2-7 pm. Some are open on Sunday, especially during summer.

Specialty Stores

Antoine & Lili

2 Rue de Fargues
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7839-1781

<http://www.antoineetlili.com>

You can't miss the hot pink facade and entrance of this store, and the fashions inside are just as colorful and lively. Beautiful prints and bright colors entice you to browse through the women's fashions and accessories, as well as cute children's designs.

Open Monday 11 am-8 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm.

Bacolina

3 Rue de Platre (Metro: Cordeliers Bourse)
Lyon, France

Jewelry at its finest, made by Lyon's best designers. *Tres chic*, modern and sophisticated, with rare finds.

Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-9 pm.

Bernachon

42 Cours Franklin-Roosevelt (Metro: Massena)
Lyon, France 69006

Phone: 04-7824-3798

<http://www.bernachon.com>

Arguably the most famous chocolates in France—and the prices reflect it. The house specialty is called Palais d'Or, chocolate wafers sprinkled with 14-karat flakes of gold.

Open daily except Monday 8:30 am-7 pm (Sunday to 5 pm).

Bougies de Charroux

64 Rue Saint Jean (Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France

A tiny shop in Old Lyon where the only thing for sale is handmade candles in little glass pots. There are a couple of different sizes, and a multitude of different scents. Try the "pain d'epices," which has the fragrance of the local Lyon sweet bread that is similar to gingerbread.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-1 pm and 2-7 pm.

Boutique Henri Germain

11 Rue August Comte (Metro: Bellecour)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7842-6979

<http://www.henriggermain.com>

When you walk in, you'll first see on the glass door Henri's genealogy going back to 1660. Next to each of the ancestors who ran the business before him is the name of the king they served. There you can find some of the highest quality (and highest priced) silk fabrics and wallpaper from Lyon and afar.

Open Tuesday-Friday 10 am-noon and 2-7 pm.

Carre d'Artistes

57 Passage de L'Argue
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-4263-2308

<http://www.fr.carredartistes.com>

A great concept and modern way to buy original and affordable art. Browse through the gallery of traditional oils to acrylics, to collages from mostly local and regional artists. Choose a mat and frame if desired.

Disagn Cardelli

6 Rue St. Jean (Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7240-2661

<http://www.lamaisondeguignol.fr>

A small store full of small knick-knacks and souvenirs. You can also buy the famous puppets from the Guignol theater there.

Open daily except Sunday 10:30 am-1 pm and 2-7:30 pm.

FNAC

85 Rue de la Republique (Metro: Bellecour)
Lyon, France 69002

Phone: 08-2502-0020

<http://www.fnac.com>

France's most famous record shop also specializes in electronics and multimedia equipment. There's a large book department, as well as a film-processing service and a cafe-cocktail bar.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-7:30 pm.

La Boutique des Soyeux Lyonnais

20 Rue Romarin (Metro: Hotel de Ville)
Lyon, France 69001

This small boutique, tucked away on a side street, offers a large selection of silk products, including some amazing designer fabrics.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-noon and 2:30-7 pm.

La Maison des Canuts

12 Rue d'Ivry (Metro: Croix Rousse)
Lyon, France 69004

Phone: 04-828-6204

<http://www.maisondescanuts.com>

This old-fashioned silk-accessories shop is at the Maison des Canuts silk-weaving museum in Croix Rousse. A large selection of traditional silk ties and scarves, plus some hand-painted fabrics. Articles are made by local fiber artists who usually work at home.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-6:30 pm. 6.50 euros for tour.

L'Atelier de Soierie

33 Rue Romarin (Metro: Hotel de Ville)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7207-9783

<http://www.atelierdesoierie.com>

In this silk workshop on the Presqu'île, you can watch traditional Lyonnaise-style printing of silk scarves, ties, shawls and chiffon downstairs and buy them at bargain prices in the boutique upstairs.

Malleval

11 Rue Emile Zola
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7842-0207

<http://www.malleval.com>

The staff at this specialty wine and tea shop is more than qualified to help you pick out the best Cote du Rhone for any occasion. Wine, champagne, cognac, specialty teas and jams line the walls of this warm boutique.

Open Monday 3-7 pm, Tuesday-Friday 9:30 am-1 pm and 2-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-7 pm.

Pierre Champion

4 Place Bellecour (Metro: Bellecour)
Lyon, France 69002

A luxury delicatessen specializing in home-produced foie gras and cassoulet. Also sells a selection of fine preserves, pickles and mustards, and some wines.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-1 pm and 2-7 pm.

Villa Borghese

6 Place Saint-Nizier (Metro: Cordeliers)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7842-7627

<http://villaborghese.fr>

Opposite the Eglise Saint-Nizier, this adorable shop sells elaborate decorations (flower bouquets, Easter decoration) and is famous for its Christmas objects crafted in places all around the world, from precious Bavarian glass creations to masterful Italian cribs. It also has dozens of varieties of elves, and of course Pere Noel (the French Santa Claus) reigns supreme.

Open Monday 2-7 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-12:30 pm and 2-7 pm.

Voisin

11 Place Bellecour (Metro: Bellecour or Ampere)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7837-7941

<http://www.chocolat-voisin.com>

This local chocolate and pastry specialist has 12 branches throughout Lyon. A supreme selection of chocolates and other confectionery, as well as intricately assembled patisseries and cakes. It's a good place to buy the famous *coussins de Lyon*, marzipan sweets shaped and decorated like cushions.

Open Monday 2-7 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm (some branches may close at lunchtime).

Dining

Dining Overview

Lyon is renowned throughout France and the world as a center of gastronomic excellence. This enviable reputation draws millions of visitors, and restaurants in Lyon are busy year-round.

Many restaurants carry the title *bouchon* ("cork-sized" restaurant), offering home-cooked dishes from the Lyon area. Typical dishes include *salade Lyonnaise* (a simple combination of salad leaves, poached egg, chunks of fried bacon and croutons), *andouillette* (a strongly flavored tripe sausage) and *quenelle de brochet* (a large fish dumpling usually baked in a rich seafood sauce).

A popular way to conclude a meal in a *bouchon* is with a portion of Saint Marcellin (a strongly flavored soft cheese) or with *creme brulee*. Look for the sign *Authentique Bouchon Lyonnaise* near the entrance, a restaurant's official recognition as offering the traditional Lyon culinary experience.

Although Beaujolais is the most famous local wine, it's certainly not the first choice of the Lyonnaise, who traditionally have chosen a more serious Cote du Rhone when dining out. Try a St. Joseph or a Croze Hermitage with a typical Lyonnaise *bavette* (lyonnaise-cut steak) and potatoes au gratin.

Although many foreigners (and Parisians) are put off by some of the more unusual local specialties, such as *tablier de sapeur* (tripe), *andouillette* or *gratons* (greasy, fried snacks), you can always find traditional French cuisine, as well as a variety of regional and international fare, prepared to perfection by Lyon's master chefs.

When dining in Lyon, you'll always get the best deal by ordering a *formule*, which is a set meal at a fixed price, with the possibility of some individual variation or choice. Most restaurants will offer more than one set menu.

Restaurants are scattered all over Lyon, and many are well worth a walk out of the city center. The greatest concentration of restaurants is on either side of the Saone, in Lyon's old town along Rue Saint Jean and Rue du Boeuf, and in the Presqu'île along Rue Merciere (but beware of tourist traps). Although reservations are highly recommended in the best-known establishments and on weekends, you'll always be able to find a table without compromising on choice. Also, try the slightly less populous streets leading off Place Bellecour (Rue du Colonel Chambonnet, Place Antonin Poncet and particularly Rue des Marronniers), which offer slightly more tranquil options.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, excluding tip or drinks: \$ = less than 20 euros; \$\$ = 20 euros-35 euros; \$\$\$ = 36 euros-50 euros; and \$\$\$\$ = more than 50 euros.

Local & Regional

Aux Trois Maries

1 Rue des Trois-Maries (Metro: Vieux-Lyon or Cordeliers)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7837-6728

<http://aux-3-maries.fr>

Elegant *bouchon* with a long culinary tradition. When it was still called Le Cafe des Primeurs, it was a favorite place for French writers such as Paul Eluard and Michel Aragon. The decor upstairs is nicer.

Excellent Lyonnaise cuisine and a good place to try hearty dishes such as boudin, andouillete, lamb knuckle or *tete de veau* (calf's head). Tasty desserts.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Brasserie Georges

30 Cours de Verdun Perrache (Metro: Perrache)
Lyon, France 69002

Phone: 04-7256-5454

<http://www.brasseriegeorges.com>

The oldest brasserie in the city, this traditional Lyonnaise establishment dates from 1836. The huge, stylish dining room has an atmosphere reminiscent of a 1930s ocean liner's ballroom, and the dishes are hearty, generous and diverse. Try the choucroute, seafood or steak. A good selection of beer is brewed on the premises.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Cafe Comptoir Abel

25 Rue Guynemer (Metro: Ampere)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7837-4618

<http://www.cafecomptoirabel.fr>

Step back in time in Lyon's oldest bistro, where the decor doesn't seem to have changed for at least a hundred years. But its history is much older. In 1630, the two famous French cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin met there to discuss politics, and the French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier used the venue to film scenes of his famous 1974 movie *The Watchmaker*. It is still a good place to sample Lyonnaise cuisine, and you are wise to stick to the much cheaper set menu. Try the *terrine maison* or *quenelle de brochet* (pike dumplings).

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for lunch only. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Cafe des Federations

8 Rue Major Martin (Metro: Hotel de Ville)
Lyon, France 69001

Phone: 04-7828-2600

<http://www.lesfedeslyon.com>

An officially recognized Lyonnaise *bouchon*, this famous restaurant is one of the best in town. As such, prices are slightly higher there than at other *bouchons*, but it offers a unique dining experience. The menu includes all the traditional Lyonnaise dishes. Friendly, often crowded atmosphere.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

La Nef des Fous

5 Rue du Boeuf (Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7842-7367

<http://www.la-nef-des-fous.com>

Very cozy Lyonnais *bouchon*, with each individual table decorated differently. Serves traditional local cuisine with flair. Try the mille-feuille of duck tartar and the homemade *cassoulet*.

Monday-Saturday for dinner only, Sunday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

La Tour Rose

22 Rue du Boeuf (Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France 69001

Phone: 04-7892-6910

<http://www.latourrose.fr>

This hotel dining room offers French style with international flavors. Chef Michel Chavet's imaginative menu uses fresh, seasonal ingredients and changes regularly. The atmosphere is serene, the service impeccable. It's an inspiring dining experience.

Tuesday-Saturday for dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Nord

18 Rue Neuve (Metro: Cordeliers)
Lyon, France 69002

Phone: 04-7210-6969

<http://www.nordsudbrasseries.com>

This restaurant serves a variety of hearty French foods. It's just what you'd expect from a Paul Bocuse establishment—one of four named after compass points, and the most French of them all. Traditional Lyonnaise dishes and ingredients are accompanied by the best local wines and enhanced with flavors from farther afield. The service is attentive and crisp.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Leon de Lyon

1 Rue Pléney (Metro: Hotel de Ville)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7210-1112

<http://www.bistrotsdecuisiniers.com/uk/brasserie-leon-de-lyon.php>

This is one of the greatest restaurants in Lyon, where chef Jean-Paul Lacombe continues to produce food of the highest standard. Try his suckling pig or his version of the local quenelles. It has been refurbished and merged with the Brasserie Le Petit Leon.

Daily noon-2 pm and 7-11 pm. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Pailleron

9 Rue Pailleron (Metro: Henon)
Lyon, France

Phone: 04-7839-6565

<http://www.lepailleron.com>

For those who like Perigord specialties such as foie gras, frog legs, fricasee of porcini mushrooms, escargots and duck prepared with cognac, this is the place to go. The adventurous may want to try kangaroo fillet.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Paul Bocuse

40 Rue la Plage
Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or, France 69006

Phone: 04-7242-9090

<http://www.bocuse.fr>

Hailed as the father of French gastronomy, Paul Bocuse is by far the most famous established name in French cuisine. This celebrity chef's restaurant is located in his birthplace home a few miles/kilometers outside of town. Service is impeccable, and the meals are exquisitely prepared (fresh fish is a specialty, as are the duck and game dishes). A greeting by the chef himself is not unusual.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Restaurant Brunet

23 Rue Claudia (Metro: Cordeliers)
Lyon, France 69002

Phone: 04-7837-4431

<http://www.bouchonlyonnaisbrunet.fr>

Step into this authentic Lyonnaise *bouchon* and you'll know you're in France. Red-and-white checkered tablecloths, traditional tiled walls and decor, plus Lyonnaise dishes deliciously prepared in a kitchen so small the chefs can't turn around.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Restaurant de Fourviere

9 Place de Fourviere (Metro: Fourviere)
Lyon, France 69005

Phone: 04-7825-2115

<http://www.restaurant-fourviere.fr>

This restaurant next to the Fourviere basilica offers Lyonnaise-style French cuisine complemented by attentive service. On a moonlit night or a clear day, eating there is a must. The views of the city are beyond compare. The large windows let everyone enjoy the panorama, but make a reservation on the terrace in summer for the best vantage point of all.

Daily noon-2:30 pm and 7-10:30 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

La Mere Brazier

12 Rue Royale (Metro: Croix Paquet)
Lyon, France 69001

Phone: 04-7823-1720

<http://www.lamerebrazier.fr>

A Lyon dining tradition, established in 1921 by Eugenie Brazier. Chef Mathieu Viannay prepares exquisite regional cuisine that varies each month depending on the seasonal ingredients available.

Monday-Friday noon-1:30 pm and 7:45-9:15 pm. Reservations available online. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Flam's

12 Rue Tupin (Metro: Cordeliers)
Lyon, France 69002

Phone: 4-7837-5161

<http://www.flams.fr>

This chain specializes in Alsatian fast food and wine. The menu is almost exclusively *flammekuche*, the Alsatian version of pizza—very thin, crispy dough topped with creme fraiche, onions, bacon, cheese and wild mushrooms. It's all you can eat, and the service is fast. Other inventive varieties include chicken-and-pineapple or prawn.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended on weekends. \$. Most major credit cards.

Les Retrouvailles

38 Rue du Boeuf (Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France

Beautiful wooden beams and exposed stone transport you to a slower-paced era in this very cozy French restaurant with a family-run feel. Seasonal menu.

Monday-Saturday for dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Mon Pere Etait Limonadier

9 Rue Justin Godart (Metro: Croix Rousse)
Lyon, France 69004

This authentic neighborhood restaurant has a great atmosphere and prices, as well as incredible traditional French cuisine.

Open Monday-Saturday for dinner (Sunday for dinner in summer only). Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Villa Florentine

25 Montee St. Barthelemy (Metro: Vieux Lyon)
Lyon, France 69005

Phone: 04-7256-5656

<http://www.villaflorentine.com>

Plan to eat at the Villa Florentine's restaurant for one of the best fine-dining experiences in Lyon. Nouvelle cuisine is served in a modern atmosphere, even though the hotel is set in a historic building. Excellent wine list. The poolside terrace offers magnificent views of the city from Fourviere Hill.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Security

Etiquette

The country is rightfully proud of its rich culture, and visitors who exhibit an understanding of the country's lifestyle and customs will be given more consideration than those who don't.

Appointments—Schedule meetings well in advance. Punctuality is expected. It is not necessary to have your business cards translated into French, but it does make a great impression with the French and shows consideration on your part.

Personal Introductions—Handshakes are the common form of greeting and are somewhat less firm than is common in some other countries. Eye contact should be direct. Use professional titles or standard French titles (monsieur, madame, mademoiselle) along with the person's last name. Don't use a person's first name until instructed to do so. *Les bises*, or light kisses to the cheeks as a greeting, occur only among close acquaintances. As a visitor, participate only if your host initiates the action. Do not expect your smile to be reciprocated. The French do not smile just to be smiling.

Negotiating—The French are formal in their business dealings, but the conversation may take a winding path and at times may dwell on minutia. Do not let this confuse or frustrate you. Decisions are typically made very deliberately and after consultation with superiors. Junior executives typically do not have a great deal of authority. The French tend to avoid the subject of money in meetings, although it is by no means taboo. It shouldn't, however, be the first item on the agenda.

Business Entertaining—Business lunches are common and often extended in duration—three hours is not unusual. Drinking a glass or two of wine at lunch is customary, but follow the lead of your host. Keep your hands on the table while dining. Save business talk for after—the French enjoy the *joie de vivre* of dining and consider it rude to talk business while eating.

Body Language—The French converse at a somewhat closer distance than is common in some other countries. It is not unusual for polite conversational touching to occur. "Thumbs up" means "OK"—and it can also mean "one." Posture is important, as is the quality of your clothing. Chewing gum in public is considered ill-mannered, as is eating while walking on the street.

Gift Giving—Though the practice is not typical, tasteful gifts are appreciated. They are usually only given after a relationship is somewhat established. Flowers are a nice gift when visiting someone's home, but if you're invited for dinner, the gift should be a little more substantial, such as a small vase or serving plate for the hostess.

Conversation—If you speak French, do so. If you do not, learn a few polite phrases—and learn them well. But do not be offended if your French pronunciation is corrected. Good topics are food, wine, art and French soccer or rugby. Be careful not to inadvertently demean any aspect of French culture. The French are a private people. Personal questions are considered poor form. Privacy extends to the audible level of conversation. The French tend to speak more quietly than people from the U.S. or even other European countries.

Other Information—Office doors are typically kept closed; knock before entering. The French pride themselves on their leisurely lifestyle. It is not unusual to have six weeks of vacation per year.

Personal Safety

Lyon is generally a safe city. However, you should take all normal precautions, because thefts (particularly pickpocketing and purse snatching) do occur. Be particularly vigilant against car break-ins; any bag, case or other object left in view is temptation to a thief. Always take your belongings with you. It is best to leave rental cars in a garage. Also, keep the car locked when driving to avoid purse- or luggage-snatching by thieves on motor scooters.

Areas that have reputations for street crime are in the southeastern suburbs. In the city center on Friday and Saturday nights, some situations can be threatening or intimidating, especially for women. Do not venture into unknown areas that are not well-lit at night. Avoid the neighboring city of Villeurbanne, which can be dicey at night.

The best way to avoid trouble with panhandlers or beggars is with a firm but polite refusal—ignoring them is usually not effective.

For the latest information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

Health

Many doctors speak English. In the case of a medical emergency, dial 15 for the emergency mobile hospital service. The main phone number to call for Lyon hospitals (including dental treatment or consultation) is 08-2008-2069, then ask for whichever hospital or service you need to be connected to.

There are several major hospitals in Lyon: Centre Hospitalier St. Joseph & St. Luc (20 Quai Claude Bernard; phone 04-7861-8181); Hospital de la Croix Rousse (103 Grande Rue de la Croix Rousse; phone 04-7207-1000); Hospital Edouard Herriot (5 Place d'Arsonval; phone 08-2008-2069).

You'll never be far from a pharmacy in Lyon. The characteristic illuminated neon crosses, which indicate that a pharmacy is open, seem to appear on practically every street corner. Pharmacists are trained to diagnose and treat minor ailments; they can offer professional advice and sell you the appropriate medication. Many speak some English and will be able to recommend a doctor if you need one.

For the latest information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

Disabled Advisory

Access for people with disabilities is a subject of concern to the Lyon city council, and long-term projects to overcome difficulties are under way. The public-transport network is undergoing improvements, including easier wheelchair access on buses. Lyon has nearly 40 metro stations, and most have elevators connecting platforms to street level. Access to public buildings is generally very good and is being constantly improved. The Office du Tourisme has information related to transportation and access for visitors with disabilities. Place Bellecour (Metro: Bellecour). Phone 04-7277-6969. <http://www.lyon-france.com>.

Lyon's city hall has a free booklet available called *Lyon Pratique—La Ville Accessible*, which lists all buildings and facilities that are accessible to the disabled. It also provides contact details for various associations and service providers. Phone 04-7210-3030. <http://www.static.lyon.fr/vdl/contenu/solidarites/handicap/guide-access.2009.pdf> or http://evenement-durable-agglo.lyon.fr/project/resources/apps/telechargez-le-guide-ville-de-lyon_1.pdf.

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Do say *bonjour* (good day) when meeting people. This courtesy extends to absolutely everyone, even if you are only buying a metro ticket or a morning paper.

Do say *pardon* (accent on the second syllable) if you bump into someone, even lightly, though they may say it to you first, even if it is your fault.

Do say *s'il vous plait* (please) when requesting anything and be sure to say it first. The courtesy goes a long way.

Don't fill wine glasses too full when pouring for other people. Many French wine drinkers like to swirl their wine around in the glass in order to release the full bouquet.

Don't forget to address people by their full title: *monsieur* for men, *madame* for women and *mademoiselle* for young women. You will have to decide whether a female is a *mademoiselle* or a *madame*.

Do say thank you in French, *merci* (also *merci bien* and *merci beaucoup*), to express gratitude for a meal or service, or when leaving a store.

Do use the formal *vous* no matter whom you are speaking to in a business or personal context until the other person suggests otherwise.

Don't talk about politics with the locals unless you are conversing about it in an abstract manner. Safer topics of conversation include cuisine, art, history and music.

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: Passports and proof of onward passage is needed by Canadian and U.S. citizens for stays of up to three months. Reconfirm travel document information with your carrier before departure.

Population: 495,840.

Time Zone: 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

Voltage Requirements: 220 volts.

Telephone Codes: 33, country code; 04,city code;

What to Wear

In general, always be prepared for a rain shower; there's rarely a month when Lyon doesn't see some rain, and in both summer and winter, downpours can be sudden and heavy. From July through early September, you will probably need only very light clothing. A light jacket or sweater is a good idea in case of an unexpectedly cool evening. Sturdy shoes are useful, as you'll inevitably encounter plenty of cobblestoned streets, steep staircases and dog droppings.

Business occasions call for a relatively conservative style of dress. Smart, clean-cut but understated suits and dresses are the most appropriate choices. French businessmen are often seen wearing suits with waistcoats and even watch chains on ordinary workdays, although short-sleeved shirts with no ties are perfectly acceptable in many businesses during summer.

Lyon is a large and fairly prosperous city, and people's dress tends to reflect that, wearing smarter clothes than you might find in smaller cities and large towns. Designer shops are everywhere, and they're not just for visitors.

Versailles, France

Overview

Introduction



Often imitated but never equaled, the ornate palace of King Louis XIV (the "Sun King") is a feast for the eyes and resonates with history. Within magnificent halls of Versailles, empires were founded, kingdoms collapsed and a world war ended.

The palace, known throughout the world as the epitome of extravagance, was built to be big enough to house the king and his court—more than 3,000 people—within a single building. No expense was too great: It was filled with marble sculptures, crystal chandeliers, gilded carvings and marquetry made of rare woods—whatever exalted the king by its beauty.

It fell into disrepair after the French Revolution, when it was looted and ransacked. The building was completely restored to its original grandeur only in the 20th century, with the help of a long list of donors (including John D. Rockefeller and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis). Linger a while in the historic—and huge—Hall of Mirrors (more than 230 ft/70 m long). It was there that Louis XIV entertained lavishly, Kaiser Wilhelm I was crowned Emperor of Germany after the Franco-Prussian War, and where the Treaty of Versailles was signed, ending World War I.

After seeing the interior of the palace, be sure to spend some time in the formal gardens, which are among the best in France. You'll see hidden groves, elaborately sculpted fountains and a small lake called the Grand Canal, where the royal gondolas were kept. (Nowadays, you can rent a rather plebeian rowboat there.) From the gardens, walk into the surrounding woods to visit the Grand Trianon (home to Louis XIV's favorite mistress, Madame de Maintenon) and the Petit Trianon (home-away-from-home for Queen Marie Antoinette, wife of Louis XVI). The Trianons, much less crowded with tourists than Versailles, are just as ornate.

On the grounds of the Petit Trianon is Marie Antoinette's "hamlet," Hameau, a tiny enclave of thatched cottages complete with waterwheel, pond, stables and flocks of sheep. When the pressures of court life became unbearable, the queen and her entourage would escape to Hameau where they pretended to be simple country folk, dressing in peasant costume and tending the sheep.

The Grandes Eaux Musicales, the king's fountains, put on a lovely show, complete with accompanying music, on Saturday, Sunday and local holidays between April and October. Times vary, so check a local schedule. Versailles is only 15 mi/25 km west of the center of Paris and is easy to reach on a guided excursion, by rented car or by suburban train. (The trains go to the town of Versailles, where you transfer to buses for the trip to the palace.)

Although it's possible to visit Versailles in half a day, we suggest you spend the entire day there so that you'll have more time to enjoy what you're seeing. A note of warning: Versailles is one of the most visited sites in France and can be very crowded in the summer, especially on Tuesday when many museums in Paris are closed.

Paris, France

Overview

Introduction



Paris, "The City of Light," has been written about, filmed and photographed countless times. Although it seems as if we all know Paris even before we see it, nothing compares to actually being there. Going to the top of the Eiffel Tower, walking along the Seine at dusk or sipping coffee at an elegant sidewalk cafe are uniquely Parisian experiences—and the wonder of it is that real life takes on an aura of magical make-believe, so that it seems just like being in the movies.

Whether you're in Paris for work or for fun, do as the Parisians do and enjoy yourself in this romantic city, which offers something special for everyone. For the art lover, the Musee d'Orsay and the Louvre offer priceless collections, while the designer shops and chic boutiques of the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honore, Boulevard Saint-Germain and Avenue Montaigne tempt the serious shopper.

And for anyone who enjoys good food, Paris' restaurants, from inexpensive neighborhood bistros to the most refined and elegant gourmet establishments, will provide delightful meals.

Highlights

Sights—Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral; the Eiffel Tower; the Arc de Triomphe; La Basilique du Sacre Coeur de Montmartre; a cruise on the Seine on one of the Bateaux Mouches boats.

Museums—The art treasures of the Musee du Louvre; the famous impressionist paintings at the Musee d'Orsay and the Musee de l'Orangerie; the modern art of the Centre Pompidou; the timeless sculptures at the Musee Rodin; Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles, just outside Paris.

Memorable Meals—Dinner at Restaurant Alain Ducasse at Plaza Athenee; dining at a small neighborhood restaurant such as Le Progres; exquisite desserts and homey French cuisine at Le Jardinier; after-dinner coffee on the terrace of Cafe de Flore.

Late Night—Sip champagne and cocktails at the trendy Pershing Hall; drink like expats F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gloria Swanson and Ernest Hemingway at Harry's New York Bar; dress to the nines to get in at fashionista favorite Le Cab' near Palais Royal; experience some of the best international jazz talent at New Morning.

Walks—From the Arc de Triomphe down the Champs Elysees, through the Jardin des Tuileries to the Louvre; from Notre-Dame through the Latin Quarter to the Pantheon and through the Jardin du Luxembourg; along the Seine from Pont de l'Alma to Musee d'Orsay on the walkable river banks, crossing the Ile de la Cite or the Ile St. Louis; a midnight stroll along the romantic streets of Montmartre; along the Canal St. Martin at dusk, often referred to as one of Paris' most romantic spots.

Geography

Paris is divided into 20 arrondissements, or districts, which spiral outward clockwise from Ile de la Cite. Knowing the arrondissements will help tremendously in navigating the city. For example, in an address with a Parisian postal code such as 75008 or 75018, the first numbers indicate Paris and the last two digits tell you the arrondissement (in this case, the 8th and 18th, respectively).

Along the Right Bank (Rive Droite)—that is, along the north bank of the Seine—lie the grand boulevards (such as the Champs Elysees, in the 8th), stately facades featuring Haussmanian or art-nouveau architecture, the Arc de Triomphe, the Opera Garnier (9th) and the Louvre (1st).

Tucked away in the midst of all this grandeur are the trendy, winding streets of the Marais District (4th), where you can see several of Paris' oldest surviving buildings. Montmartre (18th), the northernmost area of the Right Bank, resembles a little village, with steep, cobblestoned streets, oft-photographed staircases and tiny, ivy-covered houses. The area around the Bastille (11th)—where the infamous prison once stood—has become one of the trendiest pockets of Paris, with numerous cafes and clubs, as well as barge restaurants on the refurbished Villette Basin (19th).

Although the Left Bank (Rive Gauche) has the reputation for being slightly funkier than the Right, it is also very chic and home to some of the most expensive real estate in Paris. The Latin Quarter (5th) is always buzzing with activity, especially with students of Sorbonne University.

The cafes of St. Germain des Pres (6th) are experiencing renewed interest among followers of such philosophers as Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, who once gathered there to debate existentialism. Montparnasse (14th), formerly the home of Picasso, Alberto Giacometti and other artists, is a bustling neighborhood adjacent to St. Germain des Pres. It's crowded with cinemas and famous brasseries.

La Defense refers to the cluster of skyscrapers on the northwestern edge of Paris that makes up the modern business district. The landmark of this quarter is La Grande Arche—a massive, futuristic arch of glass, granite and marble that serves as a modern echo of Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe.

Note: In this guide, the ordinal number in parentheses following each street address indicates the arrondissement in which an address is located. For example, (7th) refers to the 7th arrondissement. The nearest metro stop is given after the arrondissement. Also, in an address, don't be confused by the word *bis* after a street number. If you see *10-bis*, for instance, it indicates the door or building next to No. 10.

History

Paris started out as a little village inhabited by a tribe of people known as the Parisii. The original settlement was located on an island in the Seine River that later became the Roman island-city of Lutetia; today it is the Ile de la Cite, the site of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Over the centuries, Paris expanded onto the right and left (north and south) banks of the river, and the city's defensive walls were pushed outward in ever-expanding concentric "circles" to accommodate the growing population; there are places in Paris where you can still see remnants of the first walls commissioned by Philippe Auguste in the 12th century. During the Middle Ages, Paris buzzed with the construction of Notre-Dame, and the swampland on the right bank was drained, creating the area now called the Marais, or "marsh."

The Middle Ages and Renaissance also brought to Paris some of France's most powerful kings, including Louis IX (or "St. Louis" as he was later known) and Henri IV, who was the first of the Bourbon kings to rule. Henri IV enacted the Edict of Nantes in 1598, which ended the religious wars in France between the Catholics and the Protestant minority.

In the 1660s, as France moved into the "Grand Century," Louis XIV—the Sun King—built Les Invalides in Paris as a home for aging and unwell soldiers, and the magnificent attached domed chapel called L'Eglise St.-Louis des Invalides. He also ordered the expansion of the Palace of Versailles, which had been a relatively modest royal retreat, into a formidable palace. He moved the court from Paris to Versailles to escape rising unrest in the Paris streets.

Under Louis XVI and his queen, Marie Antoinette, French subjects rose up and started the French Revolution in 1789 (by tearing down the infamous Bastille prison), which brought the executions of thousands of people by guillotine—the king and queen among them—in 1793.

After the fervor of the revolution died down, Napoleon Bonaparte ruled France as emperor (after a coup d'etat in 1799) until his final defeat at Waterloo in 1815. Under Napoleon's rule, Paris gained some impressive monuments, including the Arc de Triomphe, and France gained the Napoleonic Code of law. In 1861, Napoleon's body was transferred from St. Helena and laid to rest in a monumental tomb under the Dome of Les Invalides.

A series of short-lived empires followed the Napoleonic era, but they were replaced by the Third French Republic in 1870 (which remained in place until Hitler's army marched into Paris in 1940). The avenues and broad boulevards that have come to symbolize the city date from 19th-century urban planner Baron Haussmann, who carved them out of the winding medieval districts. (The wider streets not only looked impressive, but they also could support rapid troop deployment in case of civil rebellion.)

The late 19th century ushered in France's richest artistic period in centuries, with the impressionist and postimpressionist movements. The Belle Epoque, the period of fine and peaceful years before the outbreak of the First World War, also coincided with Art Nouveau, an art movement that spawned the famous Guimard metro entrances. Renoir, Monet, Degas, Manet and Toulouse-Lautrec all lived or worked in the city during the late 19th century, and Gustave Eiffel oversaw the construction of what would become Paris' most-celebrated landmark, originally built as a temporary structure for the 1889 Universal Exposition.

The period of World War I cast a dark shadow over Paris and all of Europe, but the city rebounded in the 1920s and 1930s during the ebullient Jazz Age. Paris became home to such performers and writers as Josephine Baker and Ernest Hemingway, as well as many painters, including Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso.

During World War II, Paris was occupied by the German army, and resistance fighters working with the French government in exile were pitted against sympathizers of the so-called Vichy government.

Today, as throughout its history, Paris is one of Europe's most important artistic, political, cultural, educational and commercial centers. There are plenty of monumental contemporary landmarks in the city, too: the pyramid at the Louvre, the Pompidou Center and the stunning Bibliotheque Nationale are prominent examples.

Paris is a city in constant flux, with many new faces, styles, ethnic groups and different religious persuasions, but it is also a city firmly rooted in its traditions. It is this constant pull between old and new that makes it such a vibrant and endlessly fascinating place to visit.

Potpourri

When the Eiffel Tower was unveiled at the 1889 Paris Exhibition, there were many protests about the avant-garde structure. But 2 million people still managed to climb it that year, solidifying it as a cornerstone of Paris architecture.

The Latin Quarter (the area on the Left Bank surrounding the Sorbonne University) got its name because it was the first center of higher learning in France during the Middle Ages, a time when scholars did all their studies in Latin.

The construction of Notre-Dame Cathedral took more than 170 years to complete. It contains the largest pipe organ in France. In the late 1990s, Parisian officials decided to clean the sooty facade of the church. High-powered lasers were used to burn off the outside grime. The steeple was left with the dirt on it to remind everyone of what it used to look like.

When the Pere Lachaise Cemetery opened in 1804, it didn't have any customers at first as people thought it was too far from the city center. Someone had the bright idea of transferring the bodies of Abelard and Heloise, the famous medieval lovers, and it has been a tourist attraction and busy cemetery ever since.

Paris' nickname as the City of Light has nothing to do with nature's light or the way it is illuminated at night. It refers to the artists and intellectuals who flocked there, making it a city of enlightenment.

Despite its name, the Pont Neuf (New Bridge) is the oldest surviving Seine bridge of Paris. It was built between 1578 and 1607. The most recent Seine bridge is the Pont Simone de Beauvoir, which opened in 2006.

Paris has been (and continues to be) the backdrop of many famous movies, ranging from *An American in Paris* (1951) and the erotic *Last Tango in Paris* (1972) to *The Da Vinci Code* (2006), *Amelie* (2001), *Paris Je T'aime* (2006) and *Midnight in Paris* (2011). Even Disney got into the act with 2007's popular *Ratatouille*.

See & Do

Sightseeing

Paris inspires grandeur. From Napoleon's imposing Arc de Triomphe to Eiffel's pioneering tower and even to the whimsical Centre Pompidou, every notable landmark seems to have monumental proportions. But Paris has delights of a smaller, quieter nature; manicured parks and flower gardens give a green backdrop and a serene beauty to the broad avenues, soaring cathedrals and marble monuments.

On the Left Bank, the 5th arrondissement neighborhood around the famed Sorbonne University is the Latin Quarter. The Quarter has always had an intellectual, international, bohemian character because of the influx of students who go to study in Paris from all over the world. Although its winding streets offer some fast-food restaurants that cater to student budgets, you can safely ignore them and continue northwest until you come to the trendier cafes of St. Germain. Alternately, you can take a stroll in Ernest Hemingway's neighborhood on the popular Rue Mouffetard.

Also on the Left Bank are the city's most famous domes: the gilded Hotel des Invalides—a military museum that includes Napoleon's tomb—and the colonnaded Pantheon, the final resting place of many

French notables. To the west is the Eiffel Tower, originally built as a "temporary" exhibit as part of the 1889 Universal Exposition to commemorate the centennial of the French Revolution.

From the Left Bank, cross the Pont Neuf to the Ile de la Cite with its two Gothic masterpieces, Sainte-Chapelle (a church with extraordinary stained-glass windows) and Notre-Dame Cathedral.

On the Right Bank, the Centre Pompidou (also known as Beaubourg), is one of the world's most novel structures with its "inside-out" colorful architecture; it also houses the city's best collection of modern art. A short walk to the east brings you to the national museum of Paris' most famous artist-in-residence, Pablo Picasso. A bit farther to the north, set atop the hill of Montmartre, are the neighborhood's lovely cemetery and the white-domed splendor of Sacre Coeur.

In the very center of the Right Bank, along the river, is the Louvre, once the residence of French kings (until Louis XIV moved the royal court to his splendid new palace at Versailles). The Louvre is a massive museum housing many of the greatest works of art from ancient times through the 18th century—including three famous women: *Venus de Milo*, the *Winged Victory of Samothrace* and Leonardo da Vinci's mysterious *Mona Lisa*—and it is impossible to digest in one visit.

The Place de la Concorde, site of beheadings by guillotine during the French Revolution and tank duels during World War II, is at the opposite end of the Tuileries Gardens from the Louvre. The 3,300-year-old Obelisk of Luxor at its center was a gift from Egyptian viceroy Muhammad Ali to Louis Philippe in 1829; it has dominated the square ever since. Connecting the Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe, which commemorates the victories of Napoleon, is the magnificent Avenue des Champs Elysees, lined with shops, showrooms, sidewalk cafes and cinemas.

When you tire of monuments, visit the Rodin Museum, the dazzling Musee d'Orsay (19th-century and impressionist art) and the Cluny Museum (from Roman baths to medieval art, including the 15th-century tapestry series *The Lady and the Unicorn*). And when you're ready to relax, take an unabashedly touristy trip down the Seine on the *bateaux mouches* (sightseeing boats), have a seat on the *terrasse* of any nearby cafe while you enjoy an espresso or a cup of sinfully rich hot chocolate, or just pull up a chair and people-watch like a real Parisian in the beautifully manicured Luxembourg or Tuileries gardens.

Historic Sites

Arc de Triomphe

Place Charles de Gaulle (8th; Metro Charles de Gaulle-Etoile)
Paris, France 75008

Phone: 01-5537-7377

<http://arc-de-triomphe.monuments-nationaux.fr>

Take a trip to the top of this magnificent example of Napoleonic self-celebration. At 164 ft/50 m high, it is the world's second-tallest triumphal arch. Climbing to the top offers a view of the entire city. Twelve avenues (courtesy of Haussman) radiate outward to create the Etoile (star), while the Arc itself is decorated with larger-than-life sculptures and friezes. Underneath it lies the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The safest way to get to the monument is through the tunnel on the north side of the Champs Elysees (near Cartier); traffic in the *rond-point* (circle) is perilous, so don't try crossing above ground.

April-September daily 10 am-11 pm; October-March daily 10 am-10:30 pm. 9.50 euros adults; purchase tickets via the Web site to save time. Guided tours in English available with advance reservation (phone 01-4454-1930).

Basilique Saint Denis

1 Rue de la Legion d'Honneur (Metro Basilique Saint Denis)
Paris, France 93200

Phone: 1-4809-8354

<http://saint-denis.monuments-nationaux.fr>

The basilica-cathedral of Saint Denis is a masterpiece of gothic art. It has two particularities: its royal necropolis with more than 70 sculpted tombs, and its multicolored stained-glass windows from the 12th and 19th centuries. For those who are interested in French history and its Royal period, it's a not-to-be-missed monument. We recommend visiting on a sunny day to see the bright light streaming through the windows.

April-September Monday-Saturday 10 am-6:15 pm, Sunday noon-6:15 pm; October-March Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-5:15 pm. 7.50 euros adults.

Catacombes

1 Ave. du Colonel Henri Rol-Tanguy/Place Denfert-Rochereau (14th; Metro Denfert-Rochereau)
Paris, France 75014

Phone: 01-4322-4763

<http://www.catacombes.paris.fr>

At the end of the 18th century, millions of bones of Paris' dead were transferred to these underground quarries when their previous resting place, the Cimetiere des Innocents, became overcrowded and a serious health risk for the neighbors. The Catacombs also served as French resistance headquarters during World War II; the Nazis never discovered their secret use. Nowadays many thousands of people enjoy visiting this underground labyrinth. Be aware that the tour of the catacombs is 1 mi/2 km long and requires descending 134 steps and walking up 83 more. Also on-site is the Port-Mahon sculpture gallery, where visitors can view a fine relief sculpture of the Port-Mahon fortress.

Daily except Monday 10 am-5 pm (last entry at 4 pm). 10 euros adults.

Conciergerie

2 Blvd. du Palais (1st; Metro Cite or Chatelet)
Paris, France 75001

Phone: 01-5340-6080

<http://conciergerie.monuments-nationaux.fr>

Just steps from Notre Dame and Sainte-Chapelle, this once-luxurious royal palace (Paris' first) and seat of power was eventually turned into the city courthouse. During the Reign of Terror, it became a stopping point for prisoners on their way to the guillotine. It is especially beautiful at night, as it is lit up against the Seine. You can see the cells of Maximilien Robespierre, Georges-Jacques Danton and Marie Antoinette in a setting of beautiful 14th-century Gothic architecture. The Salle des Gens d'Armes, built 1302-1313, is most impressive: It is the largest secular hall of the Middle Ages.

Open daily 9:30 am-6 pm (last entry 30 minutes before closing). 8.50 euros adults.

Eiffel Tower

Champs de Mars (7th; Metro Champs de Mars Tour Eiffel)
Paris, France 75007

Phone: 08-9270-1239

<http://www.tour-eiffel.fr>

This 1,063-ft/324-m, 10,100-ton marvel of metal latticework was completed in 1889. Derided as a "hideous lamppost," it offended many prominent Parisians who wanted to preserve the city's aesthetics and was almost disassembled in 1909. But after its radio-tower capabilities were discovered, it remained intact and became a symbol of Paris. Until 1930, when the 1,048-ft-/319.5-m-tall Chrysler Building was built, the Eiffel Tower (then measuring 1,023 ft/312 m) was the tallest building in the world.

The views from its three levels are extraordinary—well worth the wait in line. The interior lighting system makes the tower look like a big golden candle at night. Every hour on the hour, the tower shimmers and sparkles for 10 minutes (from nightfall to 1 am in winter and till 2 am in summer).

Hotel des Invalides

Place des Invalides (7th; Metro Invalides)
Paris, France 75700

Phone: 08-1011-3399

<http://www.invalides.org>

Louis XIV commissioned this building, the first national hospital for soldiers, to assist war veterans. The resulting structure, with its gilt-domed church—meant to be France's answer to St. Peter's in Rome—is a masterpiece of 17th-century classical French architecture. But the main attraction is Napoleon's Tomb: This enormous crypt contains six coffins placed one inside the other, nesting-doll-style, with the emperor in the center coffin. The complex is also a military museum, containing flags, banners, swords, medals, armor and other items from French military history, including some of Napoleon's personal possessions. A museum with exhibits on Charles de Gaulle and World War II is also worth seeing in the Invalides complex.

October-March daily 10 am-5 pm; April-September daily 10 am-6 pm (Tuesday till 9 pm). Closed the first Monday of the month. 9.50 euros adults.

La Basilique du Sacre Coeur de Montmartre

Parvis du Sacre Coeur (18th; Metro Anvers or Abbesses; at Abbesses take the elevators to the street it's the deepest Metro station in Paris and a difficult climb)
Paris, France 75018

Phone: 01-5341-8900

<http://www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com>

Built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries atop Butte Montmartre, the highest hill in Paris. (One of the origins for the name "Montmartre" is "Mount of Martyrs" because it was the place where Saint Denis was martyred late in the third century.) Its strong Romano-Byzantine influence, with the central white marble dome surrounded by smaller white domes, gives it the look of a wedding cake, or a mosque. It is visible from all over the city. Climb from the crypt to the dome for a fabulous view of Paris.

At the top of the steps leading up to the church (you can also avoid the climb by taking the Funiculaire for the price of one Metro ticket), there's a plaza with a great view, and just beyond the church around the

cobblestones is the lovely market square of Place du Tertre, with shops, cafes and artists painting. Street performers put on shows that range from delightfully silly to utterly inane.

Daily 6 am-10:30 pm. The basilica is free. Admission to both the dome and crypt is 8 euros.

Montmartre Cemetery

20 Ave. Rachel (18th; Metro Place de Clichy)
Paris, France 75018

Phone: 01-5342-3630

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8222

Walled and shaded by trees, this cemetery off Rue Caulaincourt near Place de Clichy is famous for its hillside graves of composers, artists and authors, including Edgar Degas, Jacques Offenbach, Stendhal (the pen name of Marie-Henri Beyle), Alexandre Dumas, Vaslav Nijinsky, Francois Truffaut and French chanteuse Davida

Hours vary by season, generally 8:30 am-6 pm. Free.

Montparnasse Cemetery

3 Blvd. Edgar-Quinet (14th; Metro Raspail)
Paris, France 75014

Phone: 01-4410-8650

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8222

This spacious and sedate enclosed cemetery is located in the southern part of the city. A bit less touristy than other scenic burial grounds in Paris, Montparnasse Cemetery nonetheless fills the celebrity quotient as the final resting place of philosophers Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir, author Samuel Beckett, pop icon Serge Gainsbourg (whose grave is often piled with metro tickets in memory of his most famous song about a metro ticket collector), poet Charles Baudelaire (his gravestone has a remarkable statue of a bat with folded wings, and the poet's effigy perched on top) and many others.

Hours vary by season, generally 8:30 am-6 pm.

Notre-Dame de Paris

Ile de la Cite (4th; Metro Cite)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4234-5610

<http://www.cathedraledeparis.com>

This remarkable 12th-century cathedral stands majestically on the Ile de la Cite. It has the features you'd expect from a great Gothic church: towers, flying buttresses, even gargoyles to repel evil and keep rain in its proper place. The inside glows with stained glass, especially the 30-ft/9-m Rose Windows. The bell in the south tower is heard only on the most solemn occasions. The 11th-century organ, which has 8,000 pipes, is played in concerts every Sunday except during Lent. You can also visit the Cathedral Treasury, which is worth the small fee.

Excavations around Notre-Dame in preparation for a parking garage revealed Gallo-Roman, late Roman and medieval ruins, which are now preserved in an underground museum known as the Crypte Archeologique.

The cathedral is open daily 8 am-6:45 pm (till 7:15 on Saturday and Sunday). The cathedral is free to visitors; admission to the Cathedral Treasury is 4 euros adults, to the crypt 3 euros adults, to the tower 8.50 euros adults. Free guided tours in English on Wednesday and Thursday at 2 pm and on Saturday at 2:30 pm.

Opera National de Paris

Place de l'Opera (9th; Metro Opera)
Paris, France 75009

Phone: 08-9289-9090, or 33-1-7125-2423 (from outside France) for tickets

<http://www.operadeparis.fr>

Considered the masterpiece of the Second Empire, Paris' original opera house (also called the Palais Garnier after the architect who designed it) is an opulent example of 19th-century theatrical architecture and a source of tremendous pride for Parisians. It has been restored to its original ornate marble grandeur: Highlights include the sumptuous onyx-and-marble staircase and the elaborate facade, decorated with a replica of Carpeaux's sculpture group *La Danse*. If you want to see the famous ceiling fresco by Marc Chagall (completed in 1964), be sure to go 1-2 pm, because no visitors are allowed during opera rehearsals.

Guided tours take place on Saturday and Sunday year-round and daily during school vacations, which are usually around Easter and mid-May to September. Tours in English are offered Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm (daily July and August at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm). Don't miss the small Opera Museum in the West Pavilion, with its collection of costumes, posters, sketches and decor from past productions.

Daily 10 am-5 pm. 10 euros for the unguided tour, 14 euros for a self-guided tour. Tickets to evening performances range 5 euros-180 euros. Tour tickets and access via side entrance, corner of Rue Scribe and Rue Auber. Tickets can also be purchased online.

Pantheon

Place du Pantheon (5th; Metro Cardinal Lemoine, Odeon, Cluny-La Sorbonne; RER Luxembourg)
Paris, France 75005

Phone: 01-4432-1800

<http://pantheon.monuments-nationaux.fr>

The Pantheon dominates much of the city's left bank skyline. This enormous neoclassical structure was planned as the church of Ste. Genevieve, but it was completed after the onset of the French Revolution and converted to a secular mausoleum. Voltaire (the pen name of Francois-Marie Arouet), Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Emile Zola, Marie and Pierre Curie, World War II resistance leader Jean Moulin and writer Andre Malraux are all buried inside.

Solemn frescoes by Puvis de Chavannes decorate the walls, underscoring this monument's funereal solemnity. Foucault's Pendulum, which was conceived in 1859, hangs under the cupola to demonstrate the rotation of the Earth in an easy-to-see experiment. April-September, visitors can also climb 261 steps to the monumental colonnaded dome.

April-September daily 10 am-6:30 pm; October-March daily 10 am-6 pm. Last entry 45 minutes before closing. 7.50 euros adults.

Paris Story

11-bis Rue Scribe (9th; Metro Opera; RER Auber)
Paris, France 75009

Phone: 01-4266-6206

<http://www.paris-story.com>

A well-produced 50-minute film on the 2,000-year history of the French capital is projected on a giant screen. Headsets are available with your choice of 14 languages. There's also a miniature relief map of the city with all of the monuments, and an interactive guide to the city that lets you print out sightseeing itineraries.

Shows daily on the hour 10 am-6 pm. 11 euros adults, 7 euros children.

Pere Lachaise Cemetery

16 Rue de Repos (20th; Metro Pere Lachaise or Philippe Auguste)
Paris, France 75020

Phone: 01-5525-8210

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8222

Named after Louis XIV's confessor, Father Lachaise, this is the largest cemetery in Paris (108 acres/44 hectares) and a favorite spot for Parisians and tourists alike. Shops on the streets leading to the entrances sell maps of the cemetery, which will help you locate the graves of Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (better known as Moliere), Honore de Balzac, Marcel Proust, Frederic Chopin, Oscar Wilde, Edith Piaf, Isadora Duncan and Jim Morrison. There are also monuments to those deported during France's occupation by Nazi Germany. (For a virtual tour, visit <http://www.pere-lachaise.com>.) The main entrance is on Boulevard de Menilmontant.

Hours vary by season. Free.

Sainte-Chapelle

4 Blvd. du Palais (1st, Metro Cite)
Paris, France 75001

Phone: 01-5340-6080

<http://sainte-chapelle.monuments-nationaux.fr>

Hidden away in a courtyard of the Palais de Justice on Ile de la Cite, this medieval church, constructed by Louis IX (St. Louis) in 1248, stands like a jewel, with its Gothic architecture and stunning stained-glass windows that are best appreciated in the early-afternoon sun. There are two levels to the church—the upper chapel, which was reserved for the royal family, has a massive vaulted ceiling and decorations of the apostles on its columns. The lower chapel is dedicated to the Virgin Mary with fleur-de-lis columns. The church is often used as a site for classical-music concerts. (Tickets range 29 euros-44 euros and can be purchased at <http://www.classictic.com/Sainte-Chapelle>.)

Daily 9:30 am-6 pm March-October, 9 am-5 pm November-February, till 9 pm Wednesday mid-May to mid-September, closed 1-2 pm Monday-Friday year-round (last entry 30 minutes before closing). 8.50 euros adults; joint ticket for Sainte-Chapelle and Conciergerie 12.50 euros.

Museums

Museums in Paris are generally closed one day a week (usually Monday or Tuesday) and on certain public holidays; check in advance to be certain that the museums you want to visit are open on the day you plan to go.

Students, seniors and professionals can qualify for reduced rates of admission, so it is a good idea to carry appropriate identification. Many museums have at least one night a week with later hours.

Some museums, including the Musee d'Orsay and the Louvre, offer free entry for all visitors on the first Sunday of the month, and the permanent collections of many museums are free (or at least discounted) to anyone younger than 18.

All Paris municipal museums are free except for the Catacombes, Musee Galleria, Crypte Archeologique and temporary shows.

You can buy a Paris Museum Pass that will allow you to enter more than 60 museums in and around Paris without standing in line for a ticket (a great benefit, especially in summer). The fee is 39 euros for a two-day pass, 54 euros for a four-day pass and 69 euros for a six-day pass.

Passes can be purchased at airports, metro stations, monuments, museums and tourist offices around the city (as well as at FNAC stores or online at <http://www.FNAC.com>), and must be used on consecutive days. The clock starts ticking the first day you use it (start in the morning for full benefit from your day). You can also order your pass online and have it mailed to you for a fee. <http://www.parismuseumpass.com>.

Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art

261 Blvd. Raspail (14th; Metro Raspail or Denfert-Rochereau)
Paris, France 75014

Phone: 01-4218-5650

<http://www.fondation.cartier.com>

Funded by the famous Cartier jewelry empire, this collection of works by more than 800 contemporary artists is housed in a striking glass structure. The permanent exhibit includes works by such artists as Gilbert and George, Claude Viallat and Shirley Jaffe.

Open daily except Monday 11 am-8 pm (Tuesday until 10 pm). 10.50 euros adults.

Centre Pompidou (Beaubourg)

Place Georges Pompidou (4th; Metro Hotel de Ville, Chatelet-Les Halles or Rambuteau)
Paris, France 75004

Phone: 01-4478-1233

<http://www.centrepompidou.fr>

The Pompidou Center, which many locals call "Beaubourg" after its neighborhood, opened in 1977 amid a whirlwind of controversy. The building, designed by Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano, appears to be turned inside out, with pipes, heating ducts, wires and girders visible. Critics called it "the refinery" or "the fridge." Bizarre, colorful and somehow beautiful, it houses an excellent permanent collection of 20th-century art, including works by Matisse, Braque, Delaunay, Leger, Chagall and Andy Warhol.

Do not miss the bookstore: it has the best collection of art books in France. There's also a trendy, futuristic bar and restaurant, Georges, on the sixth floor with an outdoor *terrasse* that has excellent views of the entire city. Galerie Sud, on the south side of the museum, houses special temporary exhibits.

Off the outdoor plaza is the re-creation of the atelier of sculptor Constantin Brancusi (1876-1956), which contains many of his smooth, abstract sculptures and works-in-progress. Fans of the "French in Action" language series will no doubt recognize the Stravinsky Fountain with its colorful mechanized sculptures. The Pompidou Center also houses a movie theater showing classic and first-run films.

Wednesday-Monday 11 am-9 pm. Admission to the permanent collection and special exhibitions is by a combined ticket costing 13 euros for adults (11 euros when Gallery 1 is closed). A ticket just to the sixth floor for the panoramic view is 3 euros.

Cite des Sciences et de l'Industrie (Science and Industry Museum)

30 Ave. Corentin-Cariou (19th; Metro Porte de la Villette)
Paris, France 75019

Phone: 01-4005-7007

<http://www.cite-sciences.fr>

Set amid gardens and playgrounds in Parc de la Villette, this sprawling museum complex features interactive exhibits on space technology, computers, astronomy and marine biology. One of the main attractions is the excellent planetarium. The museum also includes the Cite des Enfants, which has hands-on exhibits geared to children ages 3-12.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-7 pm. 11 euros adults, 9 euros children, free for children younger than 6 (regular Explora tickets). Combination tickets may cost up to 21.50 euros adults, 9 euros children.

Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson

2 Impasse Lebouis (14th; Metro Gaité or Edgard Quinet)
Paris, France 75014

Phone: 01-5680-2700

<http://www.henricartierbresson.org>

This space, dedicated to photography, alternates changing exhibits of up-and-coming young photographers with exhibits of Cartier-Bresson's legendary work.

Open Tuesday-Friday and Sunday 1-6:30 pm, Saturday 11 am-6:45 pm (Wednesday until 8:30 pm). Closed first three weeks of August and between expositions. 7 euros adults.

Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume

Jardin des Tuileries, 1 Place de la Concorde (1st; Metro Concorde)
Paris, France 75001

Phone: 01-4703-1250

<http://www.jeudepaume.org>

This museum in the Tuileries gardens just off the Place de la Concorde was named after the game of court tennis, because its building functioned as a tennis court under Napoleon III. When court tennis became less fashionable, the structure was used to exhibit art. Its stunning collection of impressionist art was moved to the Musee d'Orsay in 1986: Now it's part of the National Center for Photography and

Photographic Patrimony, with multimedia exhibitions that combine historical photography and contemporary art.

Some exhibits are held in the annex location at La Monnaie de Paris, 11 Quai Conti (6th; Metro Pont Neuf).

Tuesday 11 am-9 pm, Wednesday-Sunday 11 am-7 pm. 10 euros adults.

Galleries Nationales du Grand Palais

3 Ave. du General Eisenhower (8th; Metro Champs Elysees-Clemenceau or Franklin D. Roosevelt)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4413-1717

<http://www.grandpalais.fr>

Built for the Universal Exposition of 1900, this beautiful art-nouveau palace is now used as a permanent gallery for hosting art exhibitions; it's considered one of the most prestigious venues in the world. Shows have included works of Warhol, Courbet, Rousseau and Cezanne. Save a few euros (and time in the long lines) by reserving tickets in advance on the Web site.

Hours vary. Closed between exhibitions. Fees vary by exhibition but typically start at 13 euros adults.

Institut du Monde Arabe

1 Rue des Fosses St. Bernard (5th; Metro Jussieu, Cardinal Lemoine or Sully-Morland)
Paris, France 75005

Phone: 01-4051-3838

<http://www.imarabe.org>

The institute offers a fascinating look at Arabic culture old and new, with collections of ancient art and objects from the Arab world, as well as modern-art exhibits and a library. It is housed in a striking modern aluminum-and-glass building, designed by Parisian star architect Jean Nouvel, whose south wall has photosensitive arabesque window panels that regulate the flow of light into the building. The ritzy top-floor restaurant, Ziryab, boasts impressive views of Paris.

Open Tuesday-Thursday 10 am-6 pm, Friday 10 am-9:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-7 pm; July and August Tuesday-Saturday 1-6 pm. Ticket prices vary by exhibition but start at about 8 euros adults.

Les Berges

Pont de l'Alma (7th)
Paris, France

<http://lesberges.paris.fr>

Les Berges (river banks) is a walking promenade that goes from Pont de l'Alma to Musee d'Orsay along the Seine. Along the way, you'll find bars, restaurants, picnic areas and various sports and recreation activities. We especially enjoy this area during summer; go with friends and enjoy the view of the Louvre at sunset. There are plenty of free activities organized on evenings and weekends.

Maison Europeenne de la Photographie

5/7 Rue de Fourcy (4th; Metro Saint Paul, Pont Marie or Hotel de Ville)
Paris, France 75004

Phone: 01-4478-7500

<http://www.mep-fr.org>

This museum puts on exhibitions of modern photography from artists throughout Europe.

Wednesday-Sunday 11 am-7:45 pm. 8 euros adults.

Musee Baccarat

11 Place des Etats-Unis (16th; Metro Iena or Boissiere)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4022-1100

<http://www.baccarat.fr>

This elegant, Philippe Starck-designed museum and gallery, housed in a mansion in west Paris, exhibits the fragile crystal masterpieces—including a black crystal chandelier—that have won Baccarat so many awards since its inception in the early 19th century. While you're there, treat yourself to champagne or a meal in the Cristal Room lounge and restaurant (with renowned chef Guy Martin).

Monday and Wednesday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm. 5 euros adults, free for those younger than 18.

Musee Carnavalet Histoire de Paris

16 Rue des Francs Bourgeois (3rd; Metro St. Paul or Chemin Vert)
Paris, France 75003

Phone: 01-4459-5858

<http://www.carnavalet.paris.fr>

This delightful museum is located in the heart of the Marais and focuses on the history of Paris. The vast collections of the Carnavalet are housed in two now-joined 17th-century *hotels particuliers*; one was once home to the prolific society scribe Madame de Sevigne, whose letters shed a lot of light on the society at the court of Louis XIV.

The city's history is illustrated with artwork, models, documents, room furnishings, advertisements and commemorative objects from prehistoric days through modern times, including the Revolution and belle époque. It also has the original bed in which Marcel Proust wrote most large parts of his famous *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu (In Search of Lost Time)*. Recent exhibitions have included a collection of items from Benjamin Franklin, who spent several years of his later life in his beloved Paris.

Allow at least a half-day to see the entire museum, and be sure to rest and relax for a time in the formal gardens.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Free entry to the permanent collection; fees for the temporary exhibitions start at about 7.50 euros adults.

Musee d'Art et Histoire du Judaisme

Hotel de St. Aignan, 71 Rue du Temple (3rd; Metro Rambuteau or Hotel de Ville, RER Chatelet-Les Halles)
Paris, France 75003

Phone: 1-5301-8660

<http://www.mahj.org>

This museum is housed in a 17th-century mansion in the Marais. Exhibits trace the history of Jews in France, Europe and North Africa from the Middle Ages to the present day. Documents from the 1894 Dreyfus case, as well as paintings by Chaim Soutine, Amedeo Modigliani and Marc Chagall.

Monday-Friday 11 am-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 8 euros.

Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

11 Ave. du President Wilson (16th; Metro Alma-Marceau or Iena, RER Pont de l'Alma)
Paris, France 75116

Phone: 1-5367-4000

<http://www.mam.paris.fr>

This is a fabulous collection of the important art movements of the 20th century, located in the Palais de Tokyo. Georges Braque, Juan Gris, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Marc Chagall, Maurice Utrillo, Amedeo Modigliani and Fernand Leger are represented in the collection, as is an impressive selection of contemporary artists.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm, Thursday until 10 pm. Main collection free; fees range 5 euros-11 euros for temporary exhibitions.

Musee de l'Erotisme

72 Blvd. de Clichy (18th; Metro Blanche or Pigalle)
Paris, France 75018

Phone: 01-4258-2873

<http://www.musee-erotisme.com>

It's only fitting that the City of Love should have a first-class collection of erotica, and even more fitting that it be located among the peep shows and sex shops of the Pigalle district. Four floors of paintings, illustrations, sculptures and various objects allow you to explore erotica around the world from AD 200 to the present. Be aware that the contents of the museum—and even of its Web site—may be *too* erotic for some. Rebecca Rils, the erotic shop next door, stocks merchandise that may appear in the museum in a hundred years.

Daily 10 am-2 am. 10 euros (3-euro voucher if you reserve your ticket online).

Musee de l'Orangerie

Jardin des Tuileries (1st; Metro Concorde)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4477-8007

<http://www.musee-orangerie.fr>

Just across the Seine from the Musee d'Orsay, the Orangerie started its life as a serviceable part of the royal gardens, but long after France became a republic, Claude Monet chose this as the location to display the masterpieces of his Water Lilies collection—six enormous canvases that surround the art lover in two oval rooms designed especially for these works. The Water Lilies rooms include skylights to flood the space with natural light. You can visit this small museum in only one to two hours. You can also view the delightful Jean Walter and Paul Guillaume collections of modern art featuring Cezanne, Renoir, Picasso, Rousseau, Matisse, Derain, Modigliani and many more.

Daily except Tuesday 9 am-6 pm. 9 euros.

Musee des Arts Decoratifs, Mode et Textile, Publicite

107 Rue de Rivoli (1st; Metro Palais-Royal)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4455-5750

<http://www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr>

It's a pleasure to walk through this museum and admire the collections of furniture and the decorative arts spanning the Middle Ages to the 21st century. If you are interested in fashion or advertising campaigns and posters, don't miss the Fashion and Textile Museum or the Advertising Museum that are also on site. One entrance ticket covers all three museums.

Open daily except Monday 11 am-6 pm (Thursday till 9 pm). 9.50 euros adults.

Musee d'Orsay

1 Rue de la Legion d'Honneur (7th; Metro Solferino or RER Musee d'Orsay)
Paris, France 75007

Phone: 01-4049-4814

<http://www.musee-orsay.fr>

Paris' most popular museum after the Louvre, this beautifully renovated, belle-epoque one-time train station houses paintings and sculptures created from 1848 to 1914. Highlights include Manet's *Dejeuner sur l'Herbe*, Whistler's portrait of his mother, iconic works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Rodin and Cezanne, plus Monet's five paintings of Rouen Cathedral. You'll also find architecture, photography, decorative arts (furniture, silver, porcelain), jewelry, and a wonderful scale model of the Opera Garnier and its environs. *Note:* Save your Orsay ticket to visit the Opera National de Paris and the Gustave Moreau National museum within one week at a reduced rate.

Daily except Monday 9:30 am-6 pm (Thursday till 9:45 pm). The ticket booth closes at 5 pm. 9 euros adults for the permanent collection (special collections not included), 12 euros with exhibition.

Musee du Louvre

Rue de Rivoli (1st; Metro Palais Royal-Musee du Louvre)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4020-5317 for the information desk

<http://www.louvre.fr>

The Louvre was the seat of French royalty from the 12th century. It was built by Philippe Auguste, and you can still see remnants of the original foundations if you enter via the Metro at Palais Royal-Musee du Louvre. In the late 1600s, Louis XIV moved the royal court to Versailles, and the Louvre was used to house the royal collections but was not open to the public. In the wake of the French Revolution, the Louvre was formally declared a museum by the new republican government.

The Louvre underwent a major expansion in the 1990s, beginning with the controversial I.M. Pei-designed glass pyramid at the entrance and continuing with the Sackler Wing (financed by U.S. philanthropists Mortimer and Theresa Sackler), the Musee de la Mode et du Textile (Museum of Fashion and Textiles), and an underground shopping area called the Carrousel du Louvre (one of the few places to shop in Paris on a Sunday). The Egyptian Wing is also open, and the Galerie d'Apollon has been restored to a magnificent gilded and painted glamour.

The Louvre has on display a dizzying number of works, from Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to paintings and sculpture of the 19th century. Some of the most famous are the *Venus de Milo*, the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, Michelangelo's *Slaves* and Leonardo da Vinci's *Portrait of Mona Lisa* (follow signs for *La Joconde*—the painting's French name).

There is no way to see everything in one day, so for your first visit, choose a wing, period or artist to concentrate on and plan to return. The opening of the Porte des Lions entrance has made lines shorter, and advance tickets are available at FNAC department stores. After being moved around during renovations, the *Mona Lisa* is now in the Salle des Etats in the Denon Wing, within close proximity to the *Winged Victory* and *Venus de Milo*. Pick up a map at the visitors desk and follow the signs for these works. If you have a very limited amount of time and want to see the highlights, you can rent a time-limited audioguide; for *Da Vinci Code* fans, the museum even offers an audio guide with explanations given by actor Jean Reno.

The Louvre plays host to around 8.5 million visitors per year, and 35,000 works, just one-tenth of its total collection, are permanently displayed. When all the art has worn you out, take a break in the beautiful Cafe de Marly, set in a side wing of the Louvre. Enjoy the view of the pyramid from the wind-protected arcades. *Tip:* To avoid the super-long lines at the pyramid entrance, enter through the underground entrance in the Carrousel shopping area; access via the Metro or via some slightly obscure steps near the Carrousel arch at the entrance to the Tuileries.

Open daily except Tuesday 9 am-6 pm (Wednesday and Friday till 9:45 pm). Galleries begin to close 30 minutes early. 12 euros adults.

Musee du Luxembourg

19 Rue de Vaugirard (6th; Metro Odeon or Saint Sulpice; RER Luxembourg)
Paris, France 75006

Phone: 1-4013-6200

<http://www.museeduluxembourg.fr>

Adjacent to the Jardins du Luxembourg, this museum is one of the principal exhibition spaces in Paris. It has no permanent collection, but every year it stages two major exhibitions with paintings borrowed from galleries and museums worldwide.

Daily 10 am-7:30 pm, Monday and Saturday until 10 pm. 12 euros adults.

Musee Galliera

10 Ave. Pierre-Premier-de-Serbie (16th; Metro Alma-Marceau or Iena; RER Pont de l'Alma)
Paris, France 75016

Phone: 01-5652-8600

<http://www.galliera.paris.fr>

This is a marvelous chronicle of fashion from the 18th century to the modern day. More than 100,000 garments are housed in the Renaissance-style palace of Duchesse Maria de Ferrari Galliera. To preserve the collection, which is sensitive to light and pollution, the museum only offers changing temporary exhibitions.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm (Thursday until 9 pm). 8 euros.

Musee Guimet

6 Place d'Iena (16th; Metro Iena, Trocadero)
Paris, France 75116

Phone: 01-5652-5300

<http://www.guimet.fr>

This is a fine-arts museum, Japanese garden and Buddhist sanctuary all in one. The museum's annex is the magnificently refurbished, neoclassical Hotel Heidelberg. The museum's permanent collection of Japanese, Chinese, Tibetan and Indochinese art is world-renowned. Its masterpiece is a 14-headed sculpture from Angkor Wat, Cambodia. Enjoy an authentic Japanese tea ceremony in the garden pavilion.

Daily except Tuesday 10 am-6 pm (last admission 5:15 pm). 7.50 euros adults.

Musee Jacquemart Andre

158 Blvd. Haussmann (8th; Metro Saint-Augustin, Miromesnil or Saint-Philippe du Roule)
Paris, France 75008

Phone: 01-4562-1159

<http://musee-jacquemart-andre.com/fr/home>

The Musee Jacquemart-Andre is a museum of 17th-century fine- and modern-art museum. This haussmanian mansion was built in the 19th century by collectors Edouard Andre and Nolie Jacquemart. The collection comprises sculptures, furniture and antiques, as well as paintings by Delacroix, Rembrandt and Botticelli.

Open daily 10 am-6 pm, Monday and Saturday until 8:30 pm. 12 euros adults.

Musee l'histoire de la Medecine

12 Rue de l'ecole de Medecine (6th; Metro Odeon)
Paris, France 75006

Phone: 01-7653-1693

<http://www.parisdescartes.fr/CULTURE/Musees/Musee-d-Histoire-de-la-Medecine>

Part of the University of Medicine in Paris, this is one of the smaller museums in Paris, but it's a must-see for those interested in medical history or human anatomy. There is a large collection of 200-year-old human specimens preserved in formaldehyde as well as antique surgical tools.

September to mid-July open Monday-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 2-5:30 pm; Mid-July to August open Monday-Friday 2-5 pm. Closed mid-December to early January. The ticket office closes 30 minutes early. 3.50 euros adults.

Musee Marmottan

2 Rue Louis-Bouilly (16th; Metro La Murette)
Paris, France 75016

Phone: 01-4496-5033

<http://www.marmottan.com>

Located in a lovely 19th-century town house on Ranelagh Park, this museum houses the world's largest and most important collection of Monet canvases, as well as works from Monet's own collection, including paintings by Paul Gauguin, Alfred Sisley, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Edgar Degas. On display is Monet's *Impression*, which spurred the artistic movement of that name. Particularly worth noting are the paintings

of impressionist painter Berthe Morisot and the Wildenstein Collection of French, Italian, English and Flemish miniatures from the 13th to 15th centuries.

Wednesday and Friday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm, Thursday 10 am-8 pm. 10 euros adults.

Musee National du Moyen Age (Thermes de Cluny)

6 Place Paul Painleve (5th; Metro Cluny-La Sorbonne, Odeon or Saint Michel)
Paris, France 75005

Phone: 01-5373-7800

<http://www.musee-moyenage.fr>

Built atop the remnants of the city's original Gallo-Roman thermal baths (dating from AD 200), this 15th-century cloister once housed the abbots of Cluny; now it's home to a magnificent collection of tapestries (most notably *The Lady and the Unicorn* series), medieval sculpture and armaments, illuminated manuscripts and stained glass. Be sure to see Paris' oldest sculpture, *Boatman's Pillar*, made between AD 14 and AD 37. Contemporary gardens inspired by the medieval collections provide a wonderful place to enjoy a few moments of quiet in the bustling 5th.

Open daily except Tuesday 9:15 am-5:45 pm (last admission 5:15 pm). 8 euros adults.

Musee Rodin

79 Rue de Varenne (7th; Metro Varenne or Invalides)
Paris, France 75007

Phone: 01-4418-6110

<http://www.musee-rodin.fr>

Once home to the artist himself, this stately mansion is the perfect setting for Auguste Rodin's glowing white marble sculptures, and the beautiful garden is full of surprises. Some of the highlights include *The Thinker*, *The Kiss*, *The Gates of Hell* and a sculpture of the very rotund novelist Honore de Balzac. One room is dedicated to Rodin's mistress and student Camille Claudel, whose works have come to be fully appreciated only in recent decades. There is a cafe on-site with outdoor seating.

Open daily except Monday 10 am-5:45 pm April-September; 9:30 am-4:45 pm October-March. Museum admission 9 euros adults, gardens 1 euro adults, 10 euros for entry plus gardens and temporary exhibit. Free for children age 18 and younger. Free on the first Sunday of the month. You may purchase and print your tickets in advance via the website to avoid a line at the entrance.

Palais de la Decouverte

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt (8th; Metro Champs Elysees-Clemenceau or Franklin Roosevelt; RER Invalides)
Paris, France 75008

Phone: 01-5643-2020

<http://www.palais-decouverte.fr>

The Discovery Palace is part of the Grand Palais, an art-nouveau glass-and-steel structure built for the 1900 World's Fair. It offers exhibits and films about dinosaurs, mineralogy, nuclear physics, earth sciences, math and chemistry, as well as an excellent planetarium.

Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 am-6 pm. Museum admission 8 euros adults, 6 euros children and those younger than 25. Special exhibitions have separate entrance fees. The planetarium costs an extra 3.50 euros.

Palais de Tokyo

13 Ave. du President Wilson (16th; Metro Iena; RER Pont de l'Alma)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4723-5401

<http://www.palaisdetokyo.com>

Located next to the Musee d'Art Moderne, this hangar-sized space near the Trocadero, constructed for the World Exposition in 1937, is dedicated to contemporary artists working in a variety of media, from photography and painting to contemporary installations. An energetic exhibition space that takes chances, the Palais de Tokyo is great for those who want to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. An extensive bookstore and design shop are on-site.

Open daily except Tuesday noon-midnight. 10 euros adults, 8 euros youth ages 18-26, free for children younger than 18.

Petit Palais à Musée des Beaux Arts de la Ville de Paris

Avenue Winston Churchill (8th; Metro Champs Elysees-Clemenceau; RER Invalides)
Paris, France 75008

Phone: 01-5343-4000

<http://www.petitpalais.paris.fr>

Built at the same time as the Grand Palais for the Universal Exposition of 1900, the Petit Palais became the Municipal Museum of Fine Arts in 1902. After years of restoration and renovation, it now has a section dedicated to the permanent collection and an exposition area for temporary shows. There are more than 1,300 works of art from Roman antiquity to the early 20th century that are predominantly French, but foreign collections, such as Russian and Greek icons, are featured, as well.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Free entry to the permanent collection. Fees vary for temporary exhibits.

Parks & Gardens

Be aware that in many parks and gardens in Paris, it is often *interdit* (forbidden) to walk or sit on the grass, and letting your dog walk (or do anything else) on the grass is a definite no-no. So do as the Parisians do and respect the *pelouses* (lawns).

Jardin des Plantes

57 Rue Cuvier (5th; Metro Gare d'Austerlitz, Censier or Jussieu)
Paris, France 75005

Phone: 01-4079-5479

<http://www.mnhn.fr>

The Botanical Garden began as a medicinal herb garden in the 1600s and blossomed into a thriving 74-acre/30-hectare quilt of gardens, including a play area, a small but delightful zoo (La Menagerie), a maze, a rose garden tracing the flower's history, an Alpine garden and greenhouses brimming with exotic plants. From the Garden, you can also visit one of four museum galleries, which are big favorites with children and showcase minerals, dinosaurs, animals and more. It's also a good spot for jogging—something pretty rare in crowded Paris. There is a second entrance at Place Valhubert.

The garden is open daily 8 am-7:30 pm. Entrance is free.

Jardin des Tuileries

113 Rue de Rivoli (1st; Metro Tuileries, Palais Royal or Concorde)
Paris, France 75001

http://www.louvre.fr/llv/musee/jardins_tuileries.jsp

Flanked by the Louvre, the Seine, Place de la Concorde and the Rue de Rivoli, the Tuileries is a perfect place to rest from sightseeing. An excellent example of French formal gardens—symmetrical and manicured, with terraces and pools—it was designed by legendary landscape architect Le Notre for Louis XIV in the mid-1600s as a setting for the Tuileries Palace (destroyed during the Paris Commune of 1871). Much more recently, contemporary sculptures have been deployed in the space. Two wonderful small museums, the Jeu de Paume and the Orangerie, stand opposite each other on the Concorde side of the gardens.

The garden is open daily; hours vary by season. Free.

Jardin du Luxembourg

(6th; Metro Odeon; RER Luxembourg)
Paris, France 75006

Phone: 1-4234-2000

<http://www.senat.fr/visite/jardin/histoire.html>

Conceived by Marie de Medici, this well-manicured garden spreads out in front of the Palais Luxembourg, home to the French Senate and the Musee du Luxembourg. A broad expanse covered with centuries-old trees, winding paths, statues, lawns and reflecting pools, it's a wonderful place for people-watching—you'll see more Parisians than tourists. For children, there are pony rides, wooden merry-go-rounds, toy sailboats and a play park with jungle gym. Take a blanket, a bottle of wine, bread and cheese to enjoy picnicking on the grass near the Place Andre Honnorat entrance, opposite the Palais Luxembourg.

Open dawn-dusk.

Palais de Chaillot

Chaillot (across from the Eiffel Tower; 16th; Metro Trocadero)
Paris, France

Best known as the Trocadero—signifying a memorial to the French victory against the Spanish in 1823—the space was originally designed for the 1937 World's Fair. The two prolonged, curved wings protect the gardens and house an ethnographic museum, a naval museum and the National Museum of Architecture and Heritage. The steps offer superb views across the Seine to the Eiffel Tower and lead down to a great open space for in-line skaters.

Parc de Bagatelle

71 Ave. de l'Hippodrome, Bois de Boulogne (16th; Metro Porte Maillot, then take Bus 244 or Pont de Neuilly, then take bus 43)
Paris, France

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8213

This wonderful rose garden is located in the Bois de Boulogne. Roses bloom June-October.

Open daily from 9:30 am; closing times vary by season. Free access to the park, 5.50 euros adults during exhibitions or special events.

Parc des Buttes Chaumont

Rue Botzaris, Rue Manin (19th; Metro Buttes Chaumont)
Paris, France 75019

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8213

Verdant, rambling and hilly, the Buttes Chaumont is the most rugged of the Paris parks. Its lake contains an island that's accessible by boat or suspension bridge. A belvedere perched on the island affords a view of the Sacre Coeur basilica and the rest of Paris. Children will enjoy the rough-and-tumble landscape, the merry-go-rounds, swings, rocking horses and puppet shows. One of the few parks in Paris where you can sit on the grass and picnic.

Daily 7 am-8 pm, June and July until 10 pm. Free.

Parc Monceau

35 Blvd. Courcelles (8th; Metro Monceau)
Paris, France

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8213

A longtime favorite of Parisians, the Parc Monceau was established in 1769 by the Duke of Chartres (a cousin to the king) who wanted to create an English-style garden in Paris. Claude Monet later painted a series of paintings of the park. At Monceau, you can jog or picnic, watch the ducks in the little lake, or take your children to the play park or for some cotton candy.

Open daily dawn to dusk.

Parc Montsouris

Boulevard Jourdan (14th; RER Cite-Universitaire)
Paris, France

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8213

The whimsical name of this beautiful park in the 14th literally translates to "mountain of mice," but was originally called Moquesouris ("mouse mockery") because the land was so barren that there was nothing left even for the mice. Today, the park rests atop a portion of the famed Catacombs and boasts a lovely (albeit man-made) lake and small waterfall.

Open daily dawn to dusk.

Place des Vosges

Rue des Francs-Bourgeois (4th; Metro St. Paul or Bastille)
Paris, France

One of the prettiest and most historic squares in Paris, the Place des Vosges was created by Henri IV during the early 1600s and was later home to writer Victor Hugo. (Hugo's former home, at No. 6 Place des Vosges, is now a museum dedicated to him.) Located in the heart of the Marais, the square is filled with grassy areas and sandboxes. Arcades (roofed promenades) ring the public area, where amorous couples stroll arm-in-arm amid the covered cafes and restaurants.

Shopping

Paris is world-renowned for its perfume, wine, cheese, chocolate, haute couture, fine jewelry and antiques. But visitors should also be aware that the city offers some excellent, high-end manufactured

goods, including Limoges porcelain, Lalique crystal, enamel, hand-blown glass and cookware. Discriminating palates will also want to seek out local cognacs, mustards and, of course, foie gras.

From the sophisticated Saint Honore area to the funky and eclectic Marais, Paris has a shopping district to suit everyone's taste. In an era of malls, this city still offers thousands of intimate specialty shops, as well as large department stores. For haute couture, head for the 8th arrondissement, particularly the Avenue Montaigne or the Rue du Faubourg Saint Honore. Many shops on the Rue Royale specialize in high-quality jewelry. The Place Vendome in the neighboring 1st arrondissement is home to more fine jewelers, including Cartier, Boucheron and Van Cleef & Arpels.

In the Marais (the 3rd and 4th arrondissements), chic boutiques, kosher butchers and traditional bakeries thrive side by side along winding medieval streets. Start with the Rue des Francs Bourgeois and plan for a fascinating afternoon (Sunday, when many shops remain open, is a good day to visit). There's a fantastic selection of upmarket clothes and shoe shops on the left bank in the St. Germain neighborhood. One of the oldest open-air food markets of Paris is held in the Place d'Aligre (12th arrondissement) on the Rue Mouffetard.

The famed Marche aux Puces (Flea Market) at Saint Ouen/Porte de Clignancourt is not the bargain-hunter's paradise it once was. You can still find interesting things there, but prices have gone up, and there are more stalls selling clothes and name-brand athletic shoes than you will find elsewhere. (*Note:* You need to walk past the first block of temporary stalls to get to the permanent stalls, which have more of the antiques and interesting finds.) Another flea and antique market (*brocante* in French) to try is Vanves (14th arrondissement).

Other fascinating markets include the outdoor food markets held each week in every arrondissement, the flower markets on Ile de la Cite, and the stalls of old books, prints and maps along both banks of the Seine. (Look especially on the Quai du Louvre and the Quai de la Megisserie on the Right Bank, and the Quai des Grands Augustins and Quai Malaquais on the Left Bank.) For fresh produce, meats and cheeses, head to the Place d'Aligre (12th arrondissement).

Keep in mind that the formality of French life extends to shopping customs. Don't be surprised if you get a dirty look from a sales clerk if you enter a store and begin handling everything. To avoid this, try to do as the locals do. On entering a shop, greet a clerk or shop assistant and any customers with "*Bonjour, Monsieur,*" "*Bonjour, Madame*" or "*Bonjour, Messieurs Dames*" (when greeting both men and women). Then ask for assistance—you're more likely to receive a smile and the clerk's undivided attention. And remember, the polite way to inquire if someone speaks English is to ask it in French: "*Parlez-vous Anglais?*" Upon leaving, be sure to offer an "*Au revoir, Monsieur/Madame.*" The French consider it impolite to try and slip out of the store without announcing your departure and thanking them (even if they didn't directly help you).

Shopping Hours: Generally, shops are open Monday-Saturday 10 am-6:30 pm. Food stores may open earlier. Most stores close on Sunday, and some on Monday. Many smaller shops stay open until 7 or 8 pm. Butcher shops, fish markets, and fruit and vegetable stands often close 1-4 pm and then reopen until 7 or 8 pm; many close Sunday afternoon and all day Monday. Small grocery shops stay open to 11 pm.

In August, many Parisians head to their native towns to visit family or to the seaside in the south to vacation. As a result, many medium- and small-sized businesses and restaurants shut down entirely for the month. Also, many small shops also close over Easter for up to a week. The larger and more tourist-oriented a store, the better chance that it will remain open.

Antique Stores

Drouot

9 Rue Drouot (9th; Metro Richelieu-Drouot)
Paris, France 75009

Phone: 01-4800-2020

<http://www.drouot.com>

Serious antiques buyers should take in an auction at Drouot. Items to be auctioned may be viewed 11 am-6 pm the day before (Monday-Saturday) and 11 am-noon the day of an auction. Color catalogs of upcoming lots can be viewed or purchased in the lobby. Phone or check the Web site for an auction schedule and online catalog.

Le Louvre des Antiquaires

2 Place du Palais Royal (1st; Metro Palais Royal)
Paris, France 75001

Phone: 01-4297-2727

<http://www.louvre-antiquaires.com>

In this pricey emporium across from the Louvre you'll find 250 shops on three levels selling art-deco objects, furniture, prints, woodcuts, dolls, jewelry, and African, Japanese and Thai antiques.

Thursday-Sunday 11 am-7 pm.

Village Saint Paul

23-27 Rue St. Paul (4th; Metro Saint Paul)
Paris, France

<http://www.village-saint-paul.com>

A collection of art and antiques dealers in a series of attractive courtyards in the Marais. A great place for browsing if you're in the area.

The shops vary in their opening hours; many are open every day 11 am-7 pm, but some close Tuesday, Wednesday or Sunday.

Department Stores

Au Printemps

64 Blvd. Haussmann (9th; Metro Havre-Caumartin)
Paris, France 75009

Phone: 01-4282-5000

<http://www.printemps.com>

Spread out over three buildings, this historic department store specializing in luxury brands has the largest beauty department in the world. The rooftop cafe in the Maison building offers panoramic views of the city.

Monday-Wednesday and Friday and Saturday 9:35 am-8 pm, Thursday 9:30 am-8:45 pm.

Galleries Lafayette

40 Blvd. Haussmann (9th; Metro Chaussee d'Antin La Fayette)
Paris, France 75009

Phone: 01-6939-7575

<http://www.gallerieslafayette.com>

It is worth a stop if only to see the gorgeous interior atrium, with its art-nouveau details and stunning stained-glass dome. There are three different buildings housing home decor, fashion, menswear and the Lafayette Gourmet food store, which features cheeses, chocolates, foie gras, coffees and teas. The wine cellar has an impressive stock of vintages as well as a small bar, Le Bar Rouge, that serves light fare and wines by the glass. Free fashion shows every Friday at 3 pm. Phone 01-4282-3640 or 01-4282-6965 (for groups) to reserve or book online.

Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-8 pm, Thursday till 9 pm.

Le Bazar de l'Hotel de Ville (BHV)

52 Rue de Rivoli (4th; Metro Hotel de Ville)
Paris, France 75189

Phone: 01-4274-9000 or 09-7740-1400

<http://www.bhv.fr>

This casual department store (where the average Parisian shops) has a complete array of clothing, household fixtures, housewares, linens, kitchen supplies, books and toys.

Monday-Thursday and Saturday 9:30 am-8 pm, Friday 9:30 am-9 pm.

Le Bon Marche

24 Rue de Sevres (7th; Metro Sevres-Babylone or Vaneau)
Paris, France 75007

Phone: 01-4439-8000

<http://www.lebonmarche.com>

This is the Left Bank's answer to the Right Bank's big department stores. It is often less crowded, and there's a pleasant park in front where you can rest after shopping (or munch on some of the prepared foods from the store's gourmet-food shop, La Grand Epicerie de Paris, just across the street from the main store).

Monday-Wednesday and Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Thursday and Friday 10 am-9 pm.

Galleries

An excellent source of information on the extensive Paris gallery scene is l'Association des Galeries, which publishes a bimonthly program of exhibitions and events at scores of art spaces around town. The guide also contains a useful map. Guides can be picked up at participating galleries or viewed online at <http://www.associationdesgaleries.org>.

Air de Paris

32 Rue Louise Weiss (13th; Metro Chevaleret)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4423-0277

<http://www.airdeparis.com>

This avant-garde gallery was one of the first to open on the Rue Louise Weiss in the Rive Gauche district. Named for Marcel Duchamp's bottle of air, it features experimental works by international artists.

Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-7 pm. Closed in August.

Galerie Bamyán

51-72 Rue St. Louis-en-l'Île (4th; Metro Pont Marie)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4633-6966

<http://www.galeriebamyan.com>

This wonderful Aladdin's cave focuses on the arts and crafts of Central Asia, including carpets, furniture and jewelry. An absolute delight.

Tuesday-Saturday 11:30 am-8 pm, Sunday 2:30-8:30 pm.

Galerie Claude Bernard

7-9 Rue des Beaux Arts (6th; Metro St. Germain-des-Prés)
Paris, France 75006

Phone: 01-4326-9707

<http://www.claude-bernard.com>

This Left Bank gallery has one of the best selections of modern art in the city.

Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 am-12:30 pm and 2:30-6:30 pm.

Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin

76 Rue de Turenne (3rd; Metro St-Sebastien-Froissart)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4216-7979

<http://www.perrotin.com>

The French contemporary art dealer Emmanuel Perrotin is often described as "visionary." His two Marais galleries (one in a tiny passage, 10 Impasse St.-Claude) often have sold-out shows of the latest international artists, including many up-and-coming young stars.

Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-7 pm.

Galerie Kamel Mennour

47 Rue Saint-André des Arts (6th; Metro Odeon)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-5624-0363

<http://www.kamelmennour.com>

This gallery exhibits works by many of the most important modern photographers and contemporary artists. Recent exhibits have included David Armstrong, Leo Fabrizio, Nobuyoshi Araki and Ellen von Unwerth.

Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-7 pm. Closed in August.

Markets

Bastille Food Market

Boulevard Richard Lenoir (11th; Metro Bastille or Breguet-Sabin)
Paris, France 75011

Twice a week the Boulevard Richard Lenoir is packed with Parisians seeking fresh produce, meats, shellfish, baked goods and prepared foods from the scores of vendors along the avenue.

Open Thursday 7 am-2:30 pm, Sunday 7 am-3 pm.

Book Market

104 Rue Brancion, near the Parc Georges Brassens (15th; Metro Porte de Vanves)
Paris, France 75015

This weekend market can be a gold mine of old books and antiques. If you're a serious collector, get there early, before the savvy connoisseurs have made off with all the rare editions.

Open Saturday and Sunday 9 am-6 pm.

Flower Markets

For potted plants, check out the Rue de la Cite on Ile de la Cite (4th; Metro Cite), Monday-Saturday 8 am-7:30 pm, or make your way over to the Place de la Madeleine for bouquets (8th; Metro Madeleine) Monday-Saturday 8 am-7:30 pm.

Marche aux Puces

30 Ave. Gabriel Peri Saint-Ouen (17th; Metro Porte de Saint Ouen)
Paris, France

Phone: 08-9270-5765

<http://www.marcheauxpuces-saintouen.com>

You'll find everything at this flea market, from a used staircase and old dental instruments to fine Louis XIV furniture and brand-new leather jackets and jeans, at Paris' famous flea market. It's a fantastic mix of the shaky and the sturdy, the tattered and the polished, the underappreciated and the overpriced. (Be prepared to haggle.) True bargains are hard to find these days, but the fun is as much in the hunt as in what you take home.

Saturday 9 am-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-6 pm, Monday 10 am-5 pm.

Marche Biologique Raspail

Boulevard Raspail (between the Rue de Rennes and the Rue du Cherche Midi; 6th; Metro Rennes)
Paris, France

This market is not big, but it's in a good location and well-respected as a source of organic meat and produce. You'll also often find some baked goods and prepared foods.

Open Sunday 9 am-1:30 pm.

Marche Enfants Rouge

39 Rue de Bretagne (4th; Filles du Calvaire)
Paris, France

A great place to start your Sunday morning shopping for dinner, this bio market is in the heart of the Marais and offers an international selection of reasonably priced prepared-food stalls. The Moroccan stall often has long queues of people waiting to taste one of the many *tangines*.

Open Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-7:30 pm, Friday and Saturday 8:30 am-8:30 pm, Sunday 8:30 am-2 pm.

Porte de Vanves

Avenue de la Porte de Vanves (at Avenue Georges Lafenestre; 14th; Metro Porte de Vanves)
Paris, France

This is a flea market and *brocante* (antique market) popular with locals.

Saturday and Sunday 7 am-2 pm.

Stamp Market

Rue Marigny (at Rue Gabriel; 8th; Metro Champs Elysees)
Paris, France 75008

This market sells stamps and postcards.

Open Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-6 pm.

Shopping Areas

Avenue Montaigne and Rue du Faubourg Saint Honore

For high-end, haute-couture shopping, these streets in the 8th arrondissement are lined with the most luxurious fashion names and elegant boutiques. Avenue Montaigne is home to Chanel, Christian Dior and Celine, among others, and the Rue du Faubourg Saint Honore boasts Hermes, Lanvin and Versace.

Beaugrenelle Paris

16 Rue Linois (15th; Metro Charles Michel, Javel or Bir Hakeim)
Paris, France

From trendy French brands to international shops such as H&M and Zara, Beaugrenelle is a not-to-be-missed shopping center in Paris. Built in 2013, It also has a 10-screen cinema and is situated just a 20-minute walk south of the Eiffel Tower.

Bercy Village

(12th; Metro: Cour Saint-Emilion)
Paris, France

<http://www.bercyvillage.com>

This quaint shopping area was developed from converted 19th-century wine warehouses, and it now offers a variety of shops and restaurants. Charming and sensitively restored, it is a restful place to shop or just to relax in a cafe.

Open daily 11 am-9 pm. The restaurants are open till 2 am.

Northeast Paris and Belleville

These two emerging trendy areas are becoming popular with designers as the rents in the Marais go up. The streets there house purveyors of interior-design objects, clothing boutiques and art galleries. It is also one of the two Chinatown areas of Paris, with restaurants and Chinese food shops. They make good

places to visit in the late afternoon or early evening since the area is also packed with many hip bars. The area extends from Rue Oberkampf to Canal Saint Martin and around the Parc de Belleville.

Rue de Rivoli

The stretch of the Rue de Rivoli from the Place de la Concorde to the Louvre is a good shopping choice for rainy days because it is entirely covered, allowing shoppers to stroll and window-shop at leisure without getting wet. Chic Parisians appreciate its varied range of offerings, from bookstores to upscale clothing and antiques shops, and try their best to ignore the unfortunate sampling of tacky souvenir boutiques that sometimes mar the landscape. Angelina is an excellent place to take a break for afternoon tea. Farther down on the Rue de Rivoli, between the Louvre and the Hotel de Ville, the shopping is more affordable, with popular clothing shops such as Etam, Zara and H&M.

Saint Germain-des-Pres

Not to be outdone by the Avenue Montaigne, the Boulevard Saint Germain also has its share of designers such as Sonia Rykiel and Armani. The Rue du Four and the streets surrounding the Place Saint Sulpice are lined with chic but more affordable shops. In Rue de Sevres, Le Bon Marche department store has a renowned gourmet market, which is well worth a visit. The small streets just off the Seine are the heart of the art-gallery district, notably the Rue Visconti, the Rue Beaux Arts, Rue Bonaparte and the Rue de Seine.

The Marais

This former hot spot for seekers of chic has lost some of its cutting-edge charm. The chic shops have given way to small chain shops, but you can still find handmade wedding dresses, retro U.S.-style diners with vinyl-covered booths, tapas bars, vintage and designer clothing, jewelry, antique silver and glassware, English antiques and art galleries. Many shops are open on Sunday. Stroll down the Rue des Francs Bourgeois, the Rue des Rosiers and all the narrow streets surrounding them. The Marais extends through the 3rd and 4th arrondissements.

Viaduc des Arts

Avenue Daumesnil (12th; Metro Bastille)
Paris, France

<http://www.viaducdesarts.fr>

A conglomeration of specialty shops has been built under the arches of the old railway viaduct. A number of the storefronts are the retail sections of workshops where artisans make ceramics, sculpture and jewelry. Other shops include a sports concept store and a shop selling fabrics and housewares imported from Southeast Asia.

Specialty Stores

Colette

213 Rue St. Honore (1st; Metro Tuileries)
Paris, France 75001

Phone: 01-5535-3390

<http://www.colette.fr>

One of the most chic and daring of the clothing and home-furnishings designers, this store is an exciting place to shop on the otherwise reserved Rue Saint Honore. The hipster quotient can get almost unbearably high, but the collection of ultracool home decor, art books, CDs, fashions and beauty products

justifies the attention. The bar-restaurant downstairs serves light fare and more brands of bottled water than you ever knew existed.

Monday-Saturday 11 am-7 pm.

E. Dehillerin

18-20 Rue Coquilliere (1st; Metro Les Halles)
Paris, France 75001

Phone: 01-4236-5313

<http://www.e-dehillerin.fr>

To make true French cuisine, savvy folks seek out genuine French cooking utensils. Since the 19th century, this culinary megastore has been supplying top-notch copper, porcelain and steel cookware to Paris' most discriminating chefs and chef-wannabes. From cake molds to duck presses, it's all there.

Open Monday 9 am-12:30 pm and 2-6 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 9 am-6 pm.

Fauchon

24-26 Place de la Madeleine (8th; Metro Madeleine)
Paris, France 75008

Phone: 01-7039-3800

<http://www.fauchon.fr>

This famed food store on the tony Place de la Madeleine is expensive, but you'll be able to find such exotic offerings as Tonganese mangoes, Scottish salmon and pastries so impeccably displayed that a view through the window is often enough.

Monday-Saturday 8 am-6 pm(bread bakery), 8 am-8:30 pm(pastry shop), 9 am-8 pm(grocery shop).

Fromagerie Quatrehomme

62 Rue de Sevres (7th; Metro Duroc)
Paris, France

To fully appreciate the exotic results of turning goat, sheep and cow's milk into cheeses, check out this award-winning Left-Bank *fromagerie*, run by one of the most respected cheese experts in Paris, Marie Quatrehomme.

Open Tuesday-Thursday 8:45 am-1 pm and 4-7:45 pm, Friday and Saturday 8:45 am-7:45 pm.

Gerard Mulot

76 Rue de Seine (6th; Metro Odeon)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4326-8577

<http://www.gerard-mulot.com>

For heavenly pastries and breads, look no further. This popular bakery offers some of Paris' best brioche and delights its customers with pastries such as the *coeur frivole* (frivolous heart), a two-tiered coffee and chocolate mousse creation resting on a light chocolate biscuit. The shop also sells quiches, salads, sandwiches and ice cream.

Open daily except Wednesday 6:45 am-8 pm. Closed late July-late August.

Kiliwatch

64 Rue Tiquetonne (2nd; Metro Etienne Marcel)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4221-1737

<http://www.kiliwatch.fr>

You can easily take care of all your urban hipster clothing shopping there. Racks of streetwear, sneakers, and retro and secondhand gear. Also has an excellent selection of jeans and army-surplus clothing.

Open Monday 2-7:15 pm; Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-7:45 pm.

Laduree

Paris, France

Phone: 01-4075-0875

<http://www.laduree.fr>

This famed Parisian tea salon has two locations in the 8th arrondissement (and one in the 6th) that sell its famous ganache-filled macaroons. They come in a multitude of flavors, including coffee, chocolate, lemon and rose. Parisians go to the original salon at 16 Rue Royale (phone 01-4260-2179), but the one at 75 Ave. des Champs Elysees has longer opening hours and a beautiful dining room upstairs if you feel the need for something more substantial. The salon on Rue Bonaparte in the 6th is just down the street from the church at Saint Germain-des-Pres and also has a lovely dining area.

The Champs Elysees location is open Monday-Friday 7:30 am-11 pm, Saturday 7:30 am-midnight, Sunday 7:30 am-10 pm. .

La Ferme Saint Aubin

76 Rue St. Louis-en-l'Île (4th; Metro Pont Marie)
Paris, France

It's difficult to pass by this charming cheese shop without stopping to gaze at the myriad cheeses on display.

Open daily except Monday 8:30 am-8 pm.

L'Artisan Parfumeur

32 Rue du Bourg Tibourg (1st; Metro Hotel de Ville or St. Paul)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4488-2750

<http://www.artisanparfumeur.com>

This elegant boutique offers its own unique scents, such as ocean mimosa, fig, blackberry and many other combinations. The line ranges from perfumes to scented candles and home fragrances.

Open Monday-Saturday 10:30 am-7:30 pm.

Le 66

66 Ave. des Champs Elysees (8th; Metro George V)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-5353-3380

<http://www.le66.fr>

A clothing concept boutique on the Champs Elysees, with more than 100 brands for all budgets from names such as BA&SH, Antik Batik and Kiliwatch, plus many one-of-a-kind pieces off the catwalks. The boutique also has its own brand, called Abraham Will. The casual, cellarlike atmosphere makes for stress-free browsing.

Monday-Saturday 11:30 am-8:30 pm, Sunday 1-8 pm.

Les Abeilles

21 Rue de la Butte-aux-Cailles (13th; Metro Corvisart)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4581-4348

<http://www.lesabeilles.biz>

This small store sells honey from all over the country and the world at excellent prices.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-7 pm.

Libre Etat d'Orange

69 Rue des Archives (3rd; Metro Rambuteau)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4278-3009

<http://www.etatlibredorange.com>

Looking for fun and funky scents that you won't find back home? Visit this neobaroque Marais boutique whose perfumes have such cheeky names as *Virgins et Toreros* (Virgins & Bullfighters).

Open Tuesday-Saturday noon-7:30 pm.

Mariage Freres

30 Rue du Bourg-Tibourg (4th; Metro Hotel de Ville)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4272-2811

<http://www.mariagefreres.com>

The Mariage family has been selling tea since 1854. In this colonial-style boutique, you will find hundreds of teas to satisfy all tastes. Most teas are sold loose, but some are available in teabags. Order it by weight—4 oz/100 gr makes a nice packet. There are several locations around the city; check the Web site for addresses and hours.

Main location open daily 10:30 am-7:30 pm. The tea room, with its extensive tea menu, is open daily noon-7 pm.

Montaigne Market

57 Ave. Montaigne (8th; Metro Franklin D Roosevelt or Alma-Marceau)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4256-5858

<http://www.montaignemarket.com>

The first multibrand boutique on the posh Avenue Montaigne brings together the latest looks from both the big names (YSL, Givenchy, Balmain) and up-and-comers from New York, Paris, London and Tokyo.

Monday-Saturday 10:30 am-7 pm.

Mouton a Cinq Pattes

8 and 18 Rue St. Placide (6th; Metro Sevres-Babylone)
Paris, France 75005

Phone: 01-4548-8626 or 01-4326-4925

<http://www.moutonacinqpattesparis.com>

"Sheep with Five Legs" is actually two nearby stores, offering a treasure trove of off-price fashions. The store at No. 8 is for women only; the outlet down the block at No. 18 carries men's and women's styles.

Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm; closed Monday in August.

Nicolas

31 Place de la Madeleine (8th; Metro Madeleine)
Paris, France 75008

Phone: 01-4268-0016

<http://www.nicolas.com>

Paris' most popular chain of wine shops offers both intelligent advice and a wide range of wines and liqueurs at reasonable prices. Nicolas stores, which can be distinguished by their burgundy-and-gold signs, are found in most neighborhoods. We like the store at Place de la Madeleine for its upstairs restaurant (open noon-8 pm), which offers a good selection of wines by the glass. Diners can also drink any bottle of wine from the downstairs store for its retail price.

Monday-Friday 10 am-8:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-8 pm.

Odorantes

9 Rue Madame (6th; Metro Saint-Sulpice)
Paris, France

Parisian movie stars and travelers from around the world adore this whimsical floral boutique near the Eglise Saint-Sulpice. Whether it's black roses or lavender or sweet peas, all of the bouquets are designed to smell magnificent, and they come wrapped in chic black paper and accompanied by a poem. All the flowers are grown locally in the Ile de France region just outside Paris.

Open Tuesday-Friday 11 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 11 am-8 pm.

Patrick Roger

108 Blvd. Saint-Germain (6th; Metro Odeon)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4329-3842

<http://www.patrickroger.com>

Considered one of the best chocolatiers in the world, Patrick Roger is constantly expanding his empire with new boutiques where customers can purchase his fine chocolate creations. Try The Amazon, a dome of dark Amazonian chocolate with a lime caramel center. If you purchase just one, it comes in a small ring box. Often on display are the large chocolate sculptures created by the man himself.

Pierre Herme

72 Rue Bonaparte (6th; Metro Saint-Sulpice)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4354-4777

<http://www.pierreherme.com>

After tasting the ganache-filled macaroons at Laduree, visit its competitor and settle the debate over whose macaroon is best for yourself. Pierre Herme uses varied types of fillings, with unique flavors and textures.

Sunday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-8 pm.

Reciproque

89, 92, 93, 95, 97 and 101 Rue de la Pompe (16th; Metro Rue de la Pompe)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4704-3028

<http://www.reciproque.fr>

Secondhand takes on a whole new meaning when the label says Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent or Christian Lacroix. Reciproque, located in the posh 16th, is actually a cluster of seven shops that buy and sell men's and women's couture, jewelry and accessories. Regulars include catwalk models, actresses and ordinary folks. Some garments have been worn only a few times if at all. As with any secondhand store, it's the luck of the draw. Employees can be rather rude, but don't let that keep you from finding your favorite Chanel jacket.

Tuesday-Friday 11 am-7 pm, Saturday 10:30 am-7 pm.

Dining

Dining Overview

Wonderful, rich food is one of France's gifts to the world, and the French take cooking very seriously. A slice of quiche from a small bistro will taste as good as if it had been prepared in a fine restaurant. This is a city where good chefs attain celebrity status and even become household names.

There are thousands of restaurants in Paris, from French to Vietnamese and Senegalese, so choosing a few of the best is difficult. Although it's a good idea to try as many different cuisines as possible, French cuisine is what really shines in Paris. You will find a lot of variety in the national cuisine: Authentic French cooking can be refined or hearty.

Wherever you go, experiment with various sauces, a French specialty, and be sure to try the coffee (on the strong side), croissants, pastries, brioches, jams, cheeses (more than 250 kinds), oysters and truffles. Most restaurants have a menu du jour. Try to order from this menu if you can: The food will likely be the freshest, the most seasonal—and the best. (It will also be the most reasonably priced.)

When you tire of walking, sit down at the nearest sidewalk cafe, not only for refreshment but also to people-watch. Just remember that in many restaurants and cafes, you're charged more if you sit out on the terrace than if you stand at the bar or sit at a table inside.

Parisians seldom eat breakfast in restaurants. Patisseries (pastry shops) and *boulangeries* (bakeries) sell croissants and other breads and pastries, or you can buy coffee and a croissant in a cafe. Brunch has

become increasingly popular and is being served at more and more restaurants. Lunch, which is the main meal for many of the French, is generally served between noon and 2 pm. If you wait any later, you may well go hungry. If you miss the lunch seating, buy a sandwich or hot panini from the nearest bakery and have an impromptu picnic on a park bench.

Dinner is served from 7:30 pm on, but Parisians eat late, often sitting down to dinner at 9 pm or even later. If you like to dine early, seek out a brasserie, which offers continuous service. Another thing to consider is that many restaurants close during August, the month when many Parisians take their vacations. If you are planning a special meal at that time of year, be sure to call ahead.

Drinking well with your meals is considered not only a privilege but a right. Consequently, good wines are not always expensive (although you can certainly pay a fortune for a rare or exceptional bottle if you are so inclined). Restaurant proprietors take pride in choosing their house wines, often serving them in unlabeled carafes, so those tend to be good choices if you're looking for modest wines to accompany your meals.

If, on the other hand, you want to indulge in something special, you'll be happy to know that the best wines on the menu are often the best bargains, as well. French restaurateurs tend to triple the price of their table wines, or *vins ordinaires*, and double the price of their midrange *grands ordinaires*. For their best vintages and *grands crus*, restaurants often content themselves with as little as a 20% markup.

In a really fine restaurant, you'll want to follow the national practice of choosing a different wine to accompany each dish, saving the best red wine for the cheese course. Because of the popularity of this practice, many restaurants offer excellent wines by the glass or the half bottle.

Many of the wines on Parisian menus will be from the country's two legendary wine-growing regions, Burgundy (known in France as Bourgogne) and Bordeaux. Burgundies, which tend to be made from pinot noir (red) or chardonnay (white) grapes, tend to be full and rich if red, and full-bodied and round if white. Wines from Bordeaux are usually blends of cabernet sauvignon and merlot grapes (both red), making them fruitier than their burgundy counterparts.

Keep in mind that most haute-cuisine restaurants require a jacket and tie for men, and in general, Parisians tend to dress up for dinner. Ask when making a reservation, if you're not sure what to wear.

Smoking is now banned everywhere indoors in France, but smokers are still allowed to light up on the outdoor terraces.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines, based on the cost of a dinner for one, including tax and service charge but not including drinks: \$ = less than 20 euros; \$\$ = 20 euros-49 euros; \$\$\$ = 50 euros-89 euros; \$\$\$\$ = 90 euros-149 euros; and \$\$\$\$\$ = more than 150 euros.

Local & Regional

Ambassade d'Auvergne

22 Rue de Grenier St. Lazare (3rd; Metro Rambuteau)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4272-3122

<http://www.ambassade-auvergne.com>

This semiformal yet rustic restaurant serves a distinct taste of old France. Very popular among Parisians as it serves some of the city's best cuisine from the southern Auvergne region of France, such as pig's

feet, lamb stew, country sausage, black pudding and hearty cheese platters. Try the powerful digestif liqueurs.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Closed Sunday and Monday mid-July to mid-September. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Astier

44 Rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud (11th; Metro Parmentier or Oberkampf)
Paris, France 75011

Phone: 01-4357-1635

<http://www.restaurant-astier.com>

More popular each year—and with good reason—this bustling bistro has built its reputation on serving classic French fare that won't empty your wallet. (The four-course dinner *formule* is less than 32 euros.) The menu changes with the seasons but generally features hearty takes on duck, lamb, salmon and other traditional favorites. The wine list is a marvel, and the more famous labels and vintages are priced reasonably—a pleasant surprise. The cheese course is worth the wait.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$-\$\$. Visa and MasterCard.

Au Pied de Cochon

6 Rue Coquilliere (1st; Metro Chatelet-Les Halles)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4013-7700

<http://www.pieddecochon.com>

Opened in 1946 next to what was once Les Halles, the wholesale food and meat market for Paris, this all-night brasserie is still considered one of the best places in town to feed big appetites. Pig's feet (*pied de cochon*) aren't all that's on the menu: Fresh seafood platters heaped with oysters, lobsters and shrimp can be shared around an entire table, and there is, of course, the famous, heart-warming onion soup.

Open daily 24 hours. Best visited around 4 am, when the night owls meet the early birds, and blue collar workers share a table with late partygoers and tired ladies of the night stumbling in on high heels, with a few curious tourists thrown in for good measure. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Au Trou Gascon

40 Rue Taine (12th; Metro Daumesnil)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4344-3426

<http://www.alaindutournier.com>

Despite its location well off the tourist track, it's hard to beat the consistently excellent cuisine at this Michelin-starred traditional bistro with turn-of-the-20th-century decor. Specialties from the Gascony region include seafood, lamb, foie gras and cassoulet. The wine list favors southwestern appellations. Save room for the heavenly desserts such as the fresh fig tart offered in the fall.

Monday-Friday 12:30-2 pm and 7:30-10 pm. Reservations highly recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Bofinger

5-7 Rue de la Bastille (4th; Metro Bastille)
Paris, France 75004

Phone: 01-4272-8782

<http://www.bofingerparis.com>

This place opened in 1864 and supposedly served the first draft beer in Paris. The building, with its sweeping, winding staircase and graceful cupola, is a real belle-epoque treat. Specialties include *choucroute* (a pile of Alsatian-style sauerkraut topped with assorted meats) and fresh shellfish served in the shell on heaping platters of ice.

Monday-Saturday noon-3 pm and 6:30-midnight, Sunday noon-11 pm. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Cafe de l'Empire

17 Rue du Bac (6th; Metro Rue du Bac)
Paris, France

Finding an inexpensive place to eat in Saint-Germain can be difficult. This small, elegantly decorated cafe tucked away in the 6th arrondissement offers affordably priced plates of traditional French fare, such as duck confit. Don't miss the adorable cafe gourmand to end your meal.

Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Chartier

7 Rue du Faubourg Montmartre (9th; Metro Grands Boulevards)
Paris, France 75009

Phone: 01-4770-8629

<http://www.restaurant-chartier.com>

Art nouveau meets New York hustle at this Paris institution (opened in 1896). The white-apron-clad waitstaff serves 1,200-1,500 meals a day in this dining hall almost unchanged since the turn of the 20th century. The food is simple and the staff extremely efficient. Orders are written and bills calculated on the paper table cover. This is an experience not to miss: It feels like dining in a lively time warp, and the prices are some of the lowest in town. Be prepared to share a table.

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$. Visa and MasterCard.

Frenchie

5-6 Rue du Nil (2nd; Metro Sentier)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4039-9619

<http://www.frenchie-restaurant.com>

This foodie standard has only grown in popularity with the recent addition of Frenchie Wine Bar. Chef Gregory Marchand produces authentic French dishes with a whimsical and international flair. Prices for the three-course meal are reasonable, but be prepared to book months in advance for a table at the restaurant. The wine bar is first-come, first-serve and will allow you the chance to taste some of the incredible starters. Arrive 15 minutes before it opens, or you'll be too late.

Open Monday-Friday for dinner only. Closed most of August. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Guy Savoy

18 Rue Troyon (17th; Metro Etoile)
Paris, France 75017

Phone: 01-4380-4061

<http://www.guysavoy.com>

One of the great master chefs of this generation, Guy Savoy has a distinctly contemporary style. His menu changes regularly to play to the flavors of the season, taking advantage of the freshest ingredients and generous helpings of prized black truffles. The sleek dining room is adorned with avant-garde paintings and African sculpture.

Tuesday-Friday noon-2 pm and 7-10:30 pm, Saturday 7-10:30 pm. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Helene Darroze

4 Rue d'Assas (6th; Metro Rennes Saint Sulpice)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4222-0011

<http://www.helenedarroze.com>

Modern, creative and audacious southwestern French cuisine. Helene Darroze is a well-known French chef with restaurants in Paris, London and Moscow. All the ingredients come from her home region of Les Landes.

Reservations highly recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Hiramatsu

52 Rue de Longchamps (16th; Metro Trocadero)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-5681-0880

<http://www.hiramatsu.co.jp/fr>

Chef Hiramatsu has stripped and rethought French cuisine, and his dazzling exploits have quickly earned him recognition. Specialties include foie gras with a truffle sauce that melts in your mouth, roasted sea bass with champagne sauce, and lamb on a bed of caramelized onions with truffles.

Open Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner. Closed August and early January. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

L'Arpege

84 Rue de Varenne (7th; Metro Varenne)
Paris, France 75007

Phone: 01-4705-0906

<http://www.alain-passard.com>

Chef Alain Passard's specialties draw primarily on vegetables that are organically grown on the restaurant's own farm. He also works wonders with fish and some meats. Other offerings include eggs in cream of black Perigord truffles or lobster with Xeres vinegar and acacia honey. The low-key dining room has warm wood-paneled walls and Lalique glass accents.

Open Monday-Friday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

La Tour d'Argent

15-17 Quai de Tournelle (5th; Metro Pont Marie or Cardinal Lemoine)
Paris, France 75005

Phone: 01-4354-2331

<http://www.latourdargent.com>

A sublime experience, this Paris icon traces its roots back more than 400 years. The cooking is noteworthy, the half-million-bottle wine cellar is beyond categorization, and the top-floor view of Notre-Dame and the Seine (a popular place for marriage proposals) is included in the high price. This place is famous for the different ways it prepares duckling, especially its signature dish of *duck a l'orange*.

Open daily Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. Men are required to wear a jacket at dinner. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Le Jardinier

5 Rue Richer (9th; Metro Bonne Nouvelle, Grands Boulevards or Cadet)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4824-7979

<http://www.restaurant-lejardinier.net>

This cozy restaurant near the Folies Bergeres, now owned by Stephane Fumaz, is a windfall for diners looking for quality on a budget. The menu has a good mix of classic dishes, such as snails in garlic and parsley butter, roast pork with baked potato or homemade vegetable risotto, and more original offerings—try the duck with blueberries and cornbread or the salmon tartare with dill and cucumber. For dessert, the chocolate *moelleux* with a warm, creamy center is heavenly. The prices are beyond reasonable—a three-course meal is 39-54 euros for dinner.

Monday-Friday noon-2 pm and 7:30-11 pm, Saturday 7:30-11 pm. \$\$-\$\$\$\$.

Le Pre Verre

8 Rue Thenard (5th; Metro Maubert-Mutualite or Cluny-La Sorbonne)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4354-5947

<http://www.lepreverre.com>

This neighborhood bistro has become a local favorite, with reasonable prices and friendly service. The sleek decor reflects the modernity of the cuisine: Dishes such as spicy crusted tuna with a lemon risotto or beef cheeks with onion chutney and Basque hot peppers are contemporary and lively. The menu changes daily, so everything is extremely fresh.

Tuesday-Saturday noon-2 pm and 7:30-10:30 pm. Closed in August. \$-\$\$\$. Visa and MasterCard.

Le Procope

13 Rue de l'Ancienne Comedie (6th; Metro Saint Germain-des-Pres or Odeon)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4046-7900

<http://www.procope.com>

The oldest continuously working cafe in Paris (founded 1686), Le Procope has been frequented by such notables as Voltaire, Napoleon, Danton, Moliere and Benjamin Franklin. It is patronized by posh Parisians as well as tourists.

Sunday-Wednesday 11:45 am-midnight, Thursday-Saturday 11:45 am-1 am. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$.

Les Bouquinistes

53 Quai des Grands Augustins (6th; Metro St. Michel or Odeon)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4325-4594

<http://www.lesbouquinistes.com>

This gourmet bistro, first opened by Guy Savoy and now managed by one of his students, is popular for its excellent but simple and relatively affordable food. Decor is modern chic with green metal chairs and large mirrors. Very good value lunch menu including a glass of wine.

Monday-Saturday noon-2:30 pm and 7-11 pm, Sunday 6:30-11 pm. Closed for two weeks in August. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$.

Le Train Bleu

Gare de Lyon (12th; Metro Gare de Lyon)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4343-0906

<http://www.le-train-bleu.com>

This belle-epoque extravaganza with blinding chandeliers, and a riot of stucco, gold and ceiling paintings portraying French regions, must be the most glorified railway buffet in the world. It was named after the famous Blue Train that ran between Paris and the Cote d'Azur. The hearty, classic French fare is top-notch, with fabulous desserts drowning in rum or cognac. It's best not to visit when you actually have a train to catch, as you are likely to miss it.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

L'Os a Moelle

3 Rue Vasco de Gama (15th; Metro Lourmel)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4557-2727

<https://www.facebook.com/Losamoelleparis>

A small, unfussy restaurant outside of Paris' overly chic districts, L'Os a Moelle offers excellent food at reasonable prices. Chef Thierry Faucher worked with the brilliant Christian Constant, and the experience shows—the restaurant is fully booked most nights. Guests sit elbow to elbow at communal tables and eat from a prix-fixe, multiple-course menu (about 32 euros). The dishes change according to the market, but specialties such as the lentil and marrow casserole, and the velvety quenelles of chocolate are a foodie's delight.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed in August and for a week at Christmas. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$.

Maceo

15 Rue des Petits-Champs (1st; Metro Pyramides)
Paris, France

Phone: 01-4297-5385

<http://www.maceorestaurant.com>

Named after James Brown's saxophone player Maceo Parker, this comfortable spot has a saloon bar with round tables and leather armchairs. One of the few upscale restaurants with an extensive vegetarian menu, it also does wonders with lamb and fish. There's even an international wine menu—a rarity in Paris.

Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Visa and MasterCard.

Restaurant Alain Ducasse at Plaza Athenee

25 Ave. Montaigne (in the Hotel Plaza Athenee; 8th; Metro Alma-Marceau)
Paris, France 75016

Phone: 01-5367-6500

<http://www.alain-ducasse.com>

The famed chef's creations using fish, shellfish, pigeon and lamb are served in elegant Louis XV-style surroundings with a contemporary twist.

Open Monday-Wednesday for dinner, Thursday and Friday for lunch and dinner. Closed late July-August and for the second half of December. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Senderens

9 Place de la Madeleine (8th; Metro Madeleine)
Paris, France 75008

Phone: 01-4265-2290

<http://www.senderens.fr>

Alain Senderens has turned his once venerable, three-Michelin-stars Lucas Carton restaurant into a more scaled-down haute-cuisine establishment. With no menu items more than 50 euros, wine is suggested by the glass for each. Although more expensive at 116 euros-160 euros, including wines, the tasting menus are well worth it. Its historic belle-epoque interior is now more accessible to those hoping to savor specialties such as red mullet in salt crust or roast saddle of hare with Szechuan pepper and cocoa. Expect the same attention to detail and service as ever.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Closed three weeks in August. Reservations required two weeks to one month in advance. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Cuisines

African

Au Porokhane

3 Rue Moret (11th; Metro Menilmontant)
Paris, France

Set in a vast ochre-colored room, this restaurant offers some of the most authentic Senegalese cuisine in Paris. Try a palm-wine aperitif, and then enjoy specialties such as the lamb *mafe* in peanut sauce or the

chicken *yassa* marinated in lemon and served with caramelized onions. There are concerts played on a *kora* (a traditional African stringed instrument, similar to a lute) most nights.

Daily 7 pm-1 am. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Chez Omar

47 Rue de Bretagne (3rd; Metro Filles du Calvaire or Temple)
Paris, France 75003

Expect great Moroccan couscous and grilled meats in a lively, overcrowded atmosphere. Despite the fact that the servers are always in a bad mood, it's a popular place, and you'll have to wait in line to get in unless you get there early.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for dinner only. Reservations not accepted. \$\$\$. No credit cards.

Le 404

69 Rue des Gravilliers (3rd; Metro Arts-et-Metiers)
Paris, France 75003

Phone: 01-4274-5781

<http://404-resto.com>

Low lighting, flickering candles, incense and *rai* music create a festive, exotic atmosphere in this popular North African restaurant near the Pompidou Centre. The Berber cuisine includes *tagines*, couscous and grilled meats and stews served in earthenware pots.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Paris, France

Security

Etiquette

It is sometimes said that the predominant religion in France is French. This is especially true in Paris. The capital is rightfully proud of its culture, and visitors who exhibit an understanding of the country's lifestyle and customs will be given more consideration than those who don't.

Appointments—Schedule business meetings well in advance. Punctuality is expected. It is not necessary to have your business cards translated into French.

Personal Introductions—Handshakes are the common form of greeting. Eye contact should be direct. Use professional titles or standard French titles (*monsieur*, *madame*, *mademoiselle*) along with the person's last name. Don't use a person's first name until instructed to do so. *Les bises*, or "air kisses," as a greeting occur only among people you've already met. As a visitor, participate only if your host initiates the action. Do not expect your smile to be reciprocated: Parisians do not always smile easily.

Negotiating—The French are formal in their business dealings, but the conversation may take a winding path and at times may dwell on minutiae. Do not let this confuse or frustrate you. Decisions are typically made very deliberately and after consultation with superiors. Junior executives typically do not have a

great deal of authority. The French tend to avoid the subject of money in meetings, although it is by no means taboo. It shouldn't, however, be the first item on the agenda.

Business Entertaining—Business lunches are common and often extended in duration—three hours is not uncommon. Keep your hands on the table while dining. *Note:* The French typically place their bread on the table rather than on their dinner plates; no one seems to worry about the crumbs.

Body Language—The French converse at a somewhat closer distance than is common in North America. It is not uncommon for polite conversational touching to occur. "Thumbs up" means OK; it can also be the signal that you want "one" of something, such as a movie ticket. Posture is important, as is the quality of your clothing. Chewing gum in public is considered ill-mannered.

Business Gift Giving—Though the practice is not typical, tasteful gifts are appreciated. They are usually given only after a relationship is relatively well-established.

Conversation—If you speak French, do so. If you do not, learn a few polite phrases—and learn them well. Do not be offended if your French pronunciation is corrected. Good topics are food, wine and art. Be careful not to inadvertently demean any aspect of French culture, especially in comparison with that of the U.S. Parisians are a private people. Personal questions are considered poor form. Privacy extends to the audible level of conversation. The French tend to speak quietly; if you observe a group of people speaking loudly in public, chances are they aren't French.

Other Information—Office doors are typically kept closed: Knock before entering. The French pride themselves on their lifestyle. It is not unusual for six weeks of every year to be given over to vacation, and the workweek consists of 35 hours. Still, French society's productivity is on a par with or even better than that of other developed nations.

Personal Safety

Although Paris is relatively safe, purse snatchers and pickpockets are as prevalent as in any large city, especially in crowded tourist areas such as the Champs Elysees, Opera and Montmartre. Men should keep wallets in their front pants pockets only, never in back pockets, and women should carry purses with straps they can wear across the body and zippers to close the main compartment.

Always be attentive in the metro (the subway system), especially if the train is crowded. The heavily traveled Line 1 is a favorite of pickpockets. If you are wearing a backpack or backpack-style purse, take it off before entering the train and hold it in front of you. Fanny packs should be avoided altogether.

Use special care if you venture into the Barbes-Rouchechouart and Porte de Pantin areas, especially at night. Although Belleville is a fascinating part of Paris, parts of it can be dicey after dark. The same holds true for the large markets and Les Halles, especially the area around Rue St. Denis (the traditional streetwalker zone of Paris), and La Defense, the modern business district. La Defense is sparsely populated at night, so best to visit during the day.

Parks such as the Bois de Boulogne and the Bois de Vincennes should be avoided at night. There are some areas that should be avoided completely, but they are in suburban neighborhoods that visitors have little or no reason to visit, except for the early Gothic cathedral of St. Denis, which is safely accessible by RER trains.

Women should be especially careful at night to avoid eye contact with strangers. In France, eye contact with men can mean an invitation for conversation or sexual advances.

Avoid walking around areas you are not familiar with late at night or after drinking, as getting mugged for just a cell phone can happen.

Homeless people in Paris are generally harmless; however, some individuals can be aggressive, so it is best to ignore them if you are spoken to.

Be careful when you withdraw money from an ATM, especially in areas such as Montmartre, Opera and Champs Elysees. There have been occurrences of groups of children who distract both locals and tourists while they are withdrawing cash. Once you enter your PIN, they attempt to make you look away from the screen, and another child will select a certain amount of money to withdraw, then run away with the cash.

Emergency Numbers: French speakers can dial 17 for the police; 18 for the fire department; 15 for medical emergencies (SAMU). English speakers can call the SOS HELP crisis line at 01-4621-4646 (daily 3-11 pm) or their embassy.

For the latest information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

Health

France has excellent medical and dental facilities. The pharmacies are first-rate, and many sell herbal and alternative-medicine treatments as well as standard medications. Many medications from your own country may not be available, however, so take along your own supply. Also, before you leave home, be sure that your health insurance covers you overseas; otherwise, an emergency appendicitis could cost you tens of thousands.

All pharmacies are designated by a green-neon cross, and most are open daily except Sunday 8:30 am-8 pm. They all post on their doors a list of pharmacies that are open Sunday or after hours. The Pharmacie des Champs, in the Galerie des Champs Elysees, 84 Champs Elysees (8th) is open 24 hours a day. Phone 01-4562-0241.

SOS Medecins provides on-call doctors for nonurgent medical care, 24 hours a day. They also make house calls (phone 01-4707-7777; <http://www.sosmedecins.com>). The dentists at SOS Dentistes are available around the clock on weekends and on weekdays during school vacations. (phone 01-4337-5100). Most of these health-care professionals have at least a basic understanding of English.

The American Hospital in Paris has a 24-hour emergency hotline with bilingual doctors and nurses. 63 Blvd. Victor Hugo, Neuilly. Phone 01-4641-2525.

No unusual health risks exist in France. However, because of the close contact you'll have with the many tourists and locals, you may find yourself with a cold once you arrive. Be warned that France has one of the highest numbers of AIDS cases in Europe, so unprotected sex is a high-risk activity. Condoms (*preservatifs*) are available at pharmacies and at dispensers near them (and also in many metro stations).

Although tap water is safe to drink throughout the country, many French people choose to drink bottled water. Food sold by street vendors is generally safe to eat.

In case of emergency, the best thing to do is to go to the closest pharmacy, if possible. The staff will tell you where to go, which doctor to call or the closest hospital you can reach. If it's a very serious emergency, call the fire department (dial 18).

For the latest information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

Disabled Advisory

Paris is not the easiest city for travelers with disabilities to navigate, but the government has been trying to make the city more accessible.

The best sources of information for the disabled traveler are the Tourism and Handicap Web site (<http://www.tourisme-handicaps.org>) and Handitourisme (<http://www.handi-tourisme.com>).

Travelers whose mobility is limited can call PAM, a specialized transport service, and reserve a place in one of its minibuses or taxis. The service is organized by the City of Paris and requires an enrollment form that is easily downloaded from the Web site. Have the concierge in your hotel book for you if you do not speak French. PAM Service Clients 48 Rue Gabriel Lame (12th). Phone 0810-0810-1075 or 01-7023-2732. <http://www.pam-info.fr>.

The majority of metro stations do not have elevators (although many have escalators), but the buses are equipped to permit access by wheelchairs.

A Braille metro map is available from the Association Valentin Haüy. *The Guide du Métropolitain et du RER Integral en Braille* is available for a small charge from the association's headquarters at 5 Rue Duroc (7th; Metro Duroc). Open Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-1 pm and 2-6 pm, Friday till 5 pm. Phone 01-4449-2727 (operator) or 01-4449-2737 (shop). <http://www.avh.asso.fr>.

Facts

Dos & Don'ts

Do remember that France can be quite bureaucratic at times: Standing in line or waiting to use the phone can be frustrating. Take the opportunity to focus on things that are new and interesting and relax.

Do learn a few French phrases: *Bonjour* (pronounced *BON-zhoor*) means hello or good morning; *a bientôt* (pronounced *a bee-yen-TOE*) means see you soon; *au revoir* (pronounced *OH-vwahr*) means goodbye; and *merci* (pronounced *mer-SEE*) means thank you.

Do greet shopkeepers or strangers with "*bonjour, Monsieur*" or "*bonjour, Madame*". Also remember that French people are not generally on a first-name basis with strangers, especially in business or other formal situations.

Do take some time to just walk around the city without any specific destination. Paris is a very walkable city and you may be pleasantly surprised by what you run into.

Don't change metro lines at the Chatelet or Montparnasse stations (if you can avoid it), as you may be in for a very long walk.

Do talk quietly on the phone and in person. Parisians are very private and enjoy quiet in public places such as trains, buses and restaurants. If you need to make a call, go into the designated areas or hallways to avoid disturbing others with your conversation.

Do use Line 6 of the metro, which partly runs above ground. You will enjoy a great view of the Eiffel Tower from the bridge Bir Hakeim (close to metro station Bir Hakeim).

Do enjoy the aerial views of Paris, not just from the Eiffel Tower, but also from the Tour Montparnasse (686 ft/209 m), the rooftop bar at Hotel Concorde La Fayette (449 ft/137m), the Grande Arche de la Defense (361 ft/110 m), Sacre Coeur (272 ft/83 m), Arc de Triomphe (164 ft/50 m) and from the towers of Notre Dame (226/69 m). Other great viewing spots include the Pantheon, the roof terraces of the Galeries Lafayette and Printemps stores, the upper floor of the Centre Pompidou and the roof terrace of the restaurant in the Institut du Monde Arabe.

Do avoid breakfast at cheaper hotels; it is usually overpriced and of poor quality. Instead, opt for a fluffy, fresh croissant and a cafe au lait in a nearby cafe.

Do remember when dining in France that the "carte" is the menu, while a "menu" means a fixed-price meal consisting of a starter, main course and/or dessert. And an "entree" is the appetizer or starter, not the main course (which is called the "plat"). Try out new food on French menus by asking for the chef's special du jour.

Don't smoke in bars, restaurants, discos, metro stations and most indoor public places. It is illegal to do so throughout France, and you may be fined.

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: Citizens of Australia, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. need a passport. Children must travel on separate passports. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

Population: 2,211,000.

Languages: French.

Predominant Religions: Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant), although other major religions are represented.

Time Zone: 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

Voltage Requirements: 220 volts. A standard European plug with two rounded prongs will fit most outlets. If you need a transformer or an adapter for your plug, take it along with you.

Telephone Codes: 33, country code; 01, city code;

What to Wear

Parisians are fashion-conscious. Their style is best described as "casual chic"—informal yet sophisticated and never sloppy. Jeans are acceptable at many restaurants, but shorts will raise eyebrows (cropped jeans or pants are usually fine for women). Many Parisians dress in black year-round.

In contrast to travelers who cherish their comfort clothes, few Parisians would be caught dead stepping out the door in a jogging suit and running shoes, even for shopping or lunch; they save the workout gear for workouts. Avoid looking like a clueless tourist and leave the "fanny pack" at home; a smart across-the-body shoulder bag will help you blend in with the locals.

If you're in Paris on business, you'll find that in some fields, such as television, journalism and publishing, jeans are acceptable. However, don't lean toward informal dress unless you're absolutely certain it's

appropriate. In a business setting, it can do you more harm than you might imagine. In traditional business settings, men should wear suits and ties, and women suits or skirts.

Transportation

The city's public transportation is excellent. The metro (subway system) is reliable and efficient, as are the buses (which afford you a view of the city en route).

But Paris is also a walking city, and the best maps to help you find your way are *Paris Par Arrondissement* and *Paris Pratique*, which are sold in bookstores and at most newsstands. These compact city guides contain every street, passage, courtyard and dead end in Paris, both by alphabetical listing and by map. They will help you easily navigate what can sometimes seem a frustratingly complicated city.

Walkers should note that cars do not always give way to pedestrians on marked pedestrian crossings. If you dare, stare drivers down and start walking: They will stop. Even if you have a green light indicating you can cross, check beforehand—a flashing-arrow system for certain lanes of traffic allows some cars to pass on a red light.

Public Transportation

RATP Buses

These green-and-white buses are a wonderful way to travel in Paris. It's fun just to get on them for the ride. For the same price as a metro ride, you see so much more. One of the best routes for sightseeing is the No. 29, which takes you from the Gare St. Lazare past the Opera Garnier, the Bourse and the Beaubourg (Pompidou Center) through the Marais and the Bastille to the Gare de Lyon. Bus No. 63 runs along the Left Bank to give some excellent views of the Eiffel Tower in the Trocadero. Bus No. 24 also crisscrosses the Seine at some beautiful spots.

The tickets for the metro are also good for the bus. Regular tickets may be purchased at train stations, shops with green RATP signs, any metro station or bus terminal, or on the bus. One ticket suffices for one-way travel anywhere in the city, including transfer between metro and buses on one ticket, provided the journey is completed within 90 minutes. Otherwise a separate ticket must be used.

Punch your ticket at the machine located behind the driver. Bus schedules are available in any metro station (ask for a *Plan du Metro*) and are displayed at all bus stops. 1.70 euros per ticket; a *carnet* of 10 tickets is 12.70 euros adults, 6.35 euros children. You can purchase tickets at most *tabac* shops, some *presse* shops and in metro or train stations; avoid buying them on the buses as you pay a higher fare. Paris, France.

RER Trains

For travel that connects the city with its suburbs, the RER train system often picks up where the metro leaves off. It can also be a faster means of travel within the city, and your metro tickets will let you change between RER and metro. Some of the places accessible by RER: Versailles (RER C), Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport (RER B) and St. Germain-en-Laye (RER A). *Note:* If you're taking the RER to the airport, you will need to purchase a more expensive metro ticket in advance of leaving the city; without it, you won't be able to exit the train platform at the airport as the regular metro tickets only cover central Paris. Paris, France. <http://www.ratp.fr>.

The Metro

The Regie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP) runs the efficient, easy-to-use *metropolitain*, or metro, which has 120 mi/190 km of rail and about 300 stations. (No house in Paris is farther than 1,640

ft/500 m away from a metro station.) Trains arrive every three to five minutes (less frequently on Sunday). A ticket permits unlimited travel within the metro system (connections, called *correspondances*, included), but it expires as soon as you leave the metro. Keep your ticket handy until you exit the metro altogether: Uniformed *controleurs* (metro officials) occasionally go through the cars or wait near the platform exits and ask to see passengers' tickets; they're looking for turnstile-jumpers.

Plan du Metro, a complete map of the metro and bus routes, is available at the main train stations and tourist centers. You can also buy one from a *tabac*. Tickets may be purchased in any metro station. To avoid long lines at peak travel periods, buy a book, or *carnet*, of 10 tickets at a discounted price. One-day and multiple-day passes are also available that allow unlimited travel on all metro, RER (suburban express railway) and local train lines, as well as buses. Tickets are 1.80 euros each. A *carnet* of 10 tickets costs 12.70 euros adults, 6.35 euros children.

If you plan to stay in Paris for more than a few days, it may be worthwhile to purchase a weekly pass, called a Navigo, which gives you unlimited travel on buses and metros in the central zones of Paris for 19.50 euros per week. The Navigo is valid for seven days starting on a Monday, so it is most useful if your visit starts at the beginning of the week. You will need a passport-sized photograph to get the card, and there is an initial fee of 5 euros to purchase the card. Be sure not to lose your photograph; the *controleurs* will hand you a hefty fine of 20 euros or more if they catch you with a pass and no photo page.

Paris Visite cards may be a better option and offer one, two, three, and five days' travel with prices based on the number of zones they cover. Only the more expensive options have zones covering the airports. One-day passes cost 10.50 euros or 22.20 euros; five-day passes are 33.70 euros or 57.75 euros.

Metro offices are at 53-bis Quai des Grands Augustins (6th) or Place de la Madeleine (8th). Paris, France 75008. <http://www.ratp.fr>.

Taxi

Taxis (there are about 15,500 of them in Paris) are metered (starting at 0.91 euros per kilometer 7 am-7 pm within the city center), with additional charges added at night and for luggage, pets, extra passengers, going outside the *peripherique* ring-road, and so on. Flagfall is 2.30 euros, minimum fee 6.20 euros.

Cabdrivers are not likely to stop in the street when hailed, and are not allowed to do so within 164 ft/50 m of the next taxi stand. Look for taxi stands marked "TAXI," often with small shelters and a bench. Cab stands are also located at major hotels and train stations, and near larger squares and tourist centers. An available taxi has its roof light on.

Cabdrivers won't always take four people in the car (the entire front seat is generally considered the domain of the driver), but if you're ordering a cab in advance, this can be negotiated. If you have a lot of luggage, you might want to request a minivan.

The surest way to arrive on time is to order a cab by phone (and give your *exact* location). When summoned by phone, the driver starts the meter *when he gets the call*, which could mean a surprising fare subtotaled before you are picked up. Taxis respond to calls 24 hours a day.

Be aware that most taxis have the right to, and will, refuse any passenger that seems inebriated. If you have had a few too many, do your best to not appear so; otherwise you risk walking home.

Reputable companies include Alpha Taxi (phone 01-4585-8585; <http://www.alphataxis.com>), Taxis Bleus (phone 08-9170-1010; <http://www.taxis-bleus.com>) and Taxis G7 (phone 01-4739-4739; <http://www.taxisg7.fr>).

Train

Eurostar

This high-speed train can now deliver travelers from the Gare du Nord to London's renovated St. Pancras Station in about 2 hours and 10 minutes, perhaps even less. The speed and convenience of international travel via the 31-mi/50-km Channel Tunnel (or "Chunnel") makes it easy for visitors to spend a day or two in London, while using Paris as a base. You can also travel by Eurostar to Brussels, Lille, Calais, Ebbsfleet and Ashford. Fares vary depending on trains and times. Gare du Nord. Paris, France.

<http://www.eurostar.com>.

Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer (SNCF)

All stations at France's national railroad company have computerized reservation facilities on the station concourses. Paris has six major train stations: If you are traveling by train, be sure you know the name of the station from which your train will arrive or depart.

For all train journeys in France, you need to punch (*composter*) your ticket for it to be valid. This is done by introducing one end of the ticket into one of the bright yellow, waist-high pillars at the entrance to the station concourse (or sometimes just at the beginning of your train's platform). Heavy fines can be imposed if you travel with an unpunched ticket. If your journey involves changing trains, you can punch the whole journey at the beginning, but *not* the return ticket. If you forget, or punch the wrong ticket, tell the *controleur* on the train as soon as you can. Don't wait for him or her to find you.

All seats on high-speed TGV journeys must be booked in advance or you may find yourself with nowhere to sit. Some other non-TGV main line trains also require seat reservations. Paris, France. Phone 08-9235-3635 for information and reservations. <http://www.voyages-sncf.com>.