

Suggestions of Just Some of the Many Things to see & do Paris and its surroundings

There are plenty of things that the 'City of Lights' has to offer...

Eiffel Tower

Named after its designer, engineer Gustave Eiffel, the Eiffel Tower is the tallest building in Paris. It was constructed in 1889. Including the 79 ft antenna, the structure is 1,063 ft high, which is equivalent to about 81 stories in a conventional building.

Opera District

The Opera district is characterized by the spirit of the Century of Light. During the 18th century, Paris was Europe's capital of fashion, luxury and intellectualism frequented by all of the continent's royal families. The district is known for its "Grands Boulevards" (large avenues) built by the Baron Haussmann, under Napoleon III, to give the capital city more prestige. In the heart of the district, the Opera Garnier, built in 1860, is one of the world's most renowned opera-house. The streets of the Opera district host banks, restaurants, cafés and Paris' most famous "Grands Magasins" (department stores): Galeries Lafayette and Le Printemps.

Opera Garnier (Musée de l'Opéra)

The Palais Garnier was built by Charles Garnier at the end of the 19th century. The Opera is a marvel of architecture especially the Grand Staircase. The Palais Garnier houses the Opera National de Paris

Notre Dame Cathedral (Re-Opened)

The Cathedral de Notre Dame de Paris is not only an icon of Catholicism in France and around the world, but it is also an architectural masterpiece. Designed in the French Gothic style of architecture, the Cathedral de Notre Dame de Paris was under construction from 1163 through to 1345 and underwent extensive renovations and repairs in the 19th century. One of the greatest features of the cathedral are the flying buttresses, allowing for a cavernous, open interior, as well as the exquisite rose windows that are seen from within. The pews can hold 6,000 worshippers at any given time and approximately 12 million visitors come to see the cathedral each year. Climb the 387 steps to the top of the cathedral's tower to see its gargoyles up close and a spectacular view of the City of Paris as well. Guided Tours of Notre Dame are offered during peak times - inquire within for detailed information. A park located just south and east of Cathedral de Notre Dame de Paris, Square Jean XXIII, offers one of the best views of the cathedral in the city.

Chateau de Versailles

The Château de Versailles, which has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List for 30 years, is one of the most beautiful achievements of 18th-century French art.

The first bricks were laid in 1623, with Chateau de Versailles intended to be a 'hunting lodge, a little gentlemen's chateau', by Louis XIV. The Sun King, as he preferred to be called, wanted this enormous palace to display the breadth of power the French monarchy possessed. It took 30,000 workers to complete the project. Each of the three French kings who lived there until the French Revolution added improvements to make it more beautiful.

Over the next two hundred years many changes and additions were made, but some re-construction projects, such as the Grand Degre staircase inside, were not fully completed until 1985. Outside, the massive gardens are marked with flowers, trees, sculptures and fountains. Visitors also can see the Grand Stable, so named due to its housing of kings' horses, as the Lesser Stables are approximately the same size. Ceremonial and wedding coaches, sleighs, and other transports are on display at the Grand Stable. One of the most well-known things to see at Chateau de Versailles is the Hall of Mirrors. Constructed to symbolize the power of 'absolute monarch', it is full of chandeliers, and Louis XIV had ceiling painted to depict the accomplishments of his government.

Louvre Museum – A Palace of Treasures

At 60,000 square meters, the Louvre Museum in Paris is the largest museum in the world. By comparison, the British Museum in London is 25,700 square meters and the Metropolitan Museum in New-York covers 58,820 square meters. Six million visitors come to the Louvre Museum each year to admire some of the world's greatest art treasures, which cover 11 millennia of civilization and culture.

Montmartre - an artist's community situated on one of the hills of Paris. It is the Home to famous artists such as Salvador Dalí, Amedeo Modigliani, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and Vincent van Gogh. Montmartre is also the setting for several hit films.

Whatever you decide, Enjoy a leisurely & memorable Time in & around the 'The City of Lights!'

Should you want to venture out of Paris for a day or so, here are some suggestions...

Loire Valley

Often called the "Garden of France". the Loire Valley is an enchanted land of vineyards, flowers and rolling green hills dotted with more than a thousand chateaux. It is perhaps the charm of its gentle pace life that has, for centuries, made it a sought-after location for poets and writers. It is a step back through the history of some of France's finest works of art.

The Castles

Along the lush Loire River Valley, more than 1,000 châteaux bathe in their own beauty and stunning grandeur. In the past, these châteaux were home to royalty and historical figures but today, more than 120 are open to the amazed public. Each château has its own history and its own unique characteristic, which makes seeing them even more exciting. Remember, no two are alike, so you will never cease to be astounded.

Champagne Region

Discover the Champagne vineyards around Reims...

One of the most famous champagne houses in Reims is Taittinger, Veuve Clicquot, Ruinart with its underground chalk cellar

Visit of the Reims Cathedral, a gothic masterpiece where the kings of France were crowned

FRANCE
Restaurant Suggestions

PARIS

Montmartre

La Taverne de Montmartre 25 Rue Gabrielle – 75018 Paris – Metro: Abbesses Tel: +33 7 64 44 47 39
Tucked-away spot for traditional French cuisine, including snails & a popular beef bourguignon

Café des Deux Moulins, 15 Rue Lepic, – 75018 Paris – Metro: Abbesses Tel: +33 1 42 54 90 50
Traditional-style bar & cafe for classic French fare, known as a location for the film "Amélie."

Champs Elysees

Le Sens Unique, 47 Rue de Ponthieu, – 75008 Paris – Metro: Saint-Philippe-du-Roule Tel: +33 1 43 59 76 77
Chic restaurant with a wine bar serving high-end meals & drinks in plush, brick-lined surroundings.

La Fermette Marbeuf 1900 (BeefBar) 5, Rue Marbeuf – 75008 Paris – Metro: Alma Marceauor George V
Tel: +33 1 53 23 08 00 Elegant restaurant with French classic dishes in Art Nouveau style with mosaic and stained glass sunflowers, peacocks, dragonflies, beautiful women, and cast iron pillars.

Bastille

Le Chardenoux 1 Rue Jules Vallès, 75011 Paris – Metro: Charonne Tel: +33 1 43 71 49 52
Scallops, lobster rolls & fine wines in a bistro from 1908, with a marble bar & ceiling frescoes.

Republique

Bouillon République 39, Boulevard du Temple – 75003 Paris – Metro: République Tel: +33 1 42 59 69 31
Plush restaurant with an old-world vibe serving classic broth, plus seafood dishes & desserts.

Notre-Dame Saint-Michel

La Crème de Paris Notre-Dame 1 Quai Saint-Michel, – 75005 Paris - Metro: Cite Cluny - LaSorbonne
Tel: +33 1 43 26 16 37
Old-fashioned crêperie serving ice cream, pancakes & waffles, as well as gluten-free options.

Montparnasse

Le Bistrot des Campagnes 6 Rue Léopold Robert- 75014 Paris – Metro: Montparnasse, Vavin
Tel: +33 1 40 47 91 27 Right in the heart of Montparnasse district, Steaks, cheese plates & set-course menus, plus a wine list, in a vintage, wood-paneled space.

St. Germain (Latin Quater)

Le Procope 13 Rue de l'Ancienne Comédie, 75006 Paris - Metro: Odeon
Tel: +33 1 40 46 79 00 - In the Heart of the exciting St. Germain District, Le Propcoe is considered the oldest Café/Restaurant in Paris, having opened in 1686. Many in the world of letters, arts and politics was a regular To the Café Le Procope. From La Fontaine to Voltaire, Rousseau, Beaumarchais, Balzac, Hugo, Verlaine to mention but a few. It is a typical Parisian Brasserie with famous well prepared dishes, but expensive.

Le Covert, 54, rue St. Andre des Arts, 75006 Paris – Metro: Odeon or St. Michel Tel: +33 1 42 03 73 67
Colvert specializes in modern French cuisine. The salmon, duck and fillet steaks are excellent choices. Try the parfait, fruitcake and ice cream for dessert, along with great coffee. Enjoy delicious wine, white wine or michelada. Reasonable prices are good news, and you'll enjoy the calm ambiance and lovely decor