

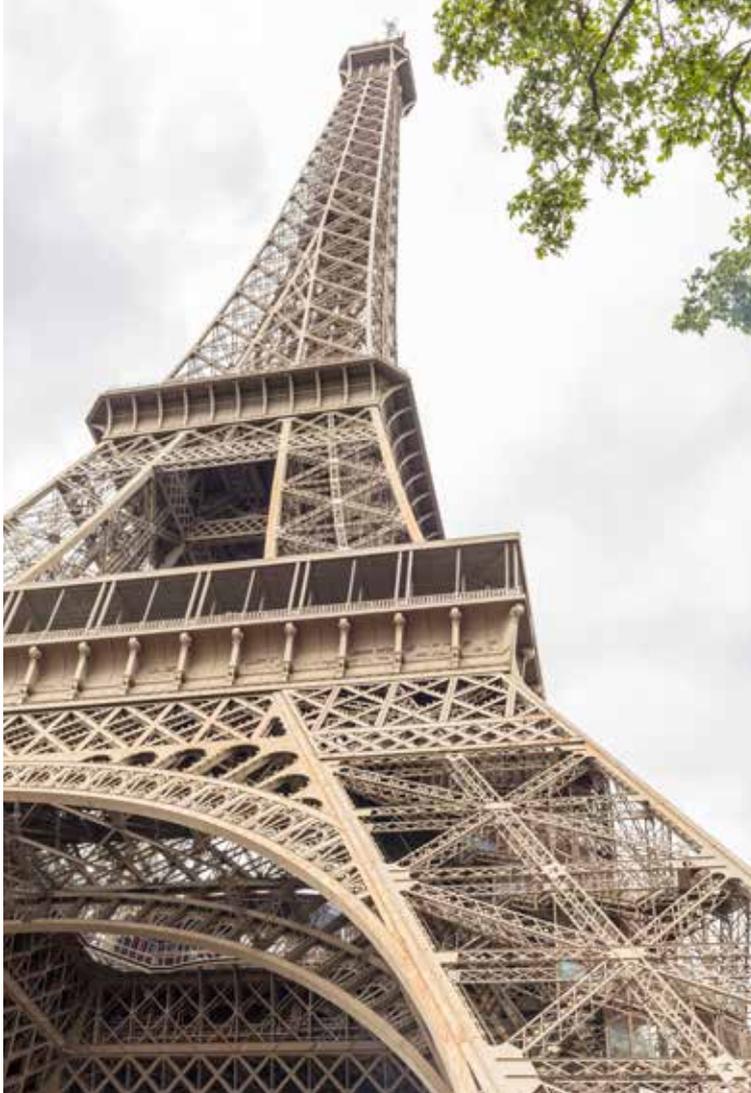
WHY SHOULD I GO TO PARIS



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PARIS

THE CITY YOU DEFINITELY
NEED TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU TURN 30





THIS IS WHY!

Paris is a classic. The City of Lights offers the perfect mix of iconic landmarks, stunning architecture, and abundant culture. Each *arrondissement* has its own atmosphere and charm. Montmartre, at the foot of the Sacré-Cœur, feels like a bohemian village, but when you stroll along the Champs-Élysées, you get a sense of the metropolis that Paris is. Quartier Latin has an intellectual vibe, whereas Le Marais is full of *boutiques* and well-dressed locals.

Visiting this vibrant city doesn't have to break the bank. Explore the different areas, take in the scenery, and soak up the atmosphere. Walk, cycle, and use le métro, rather than taking expensive taxis. Book a nice hostel, join free walking tours, and visit the famous sights and museums. You don't have to go to the top of the Eiffel Tower to appreciate its beauty. Have a picnic along the Seine or the Canal Saint-Martin and immerse yourself in the local culture.

This is a city where culture, cuisine, and fashion converge. Visit an exhibition, indulge in freshly baked baguettes and buttery croissants, hunt for vintage treasures, and have an *apéro* to end the day. Or learn some French, purchase a new novel, and relax in one of the green chairs dotted around Jardin du Luxembourg. Paris offers a myriad of experiences for every taste and budget. One thing is certain: you will want to come back for more.

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DISTRICTS

Paris is divided into twenty numbered *arrondissements* (see page 43). You can tell the location of an address by the last digits of its postcode, which show the arrondissement number. We'll list the coolest Parisian areas below. Some of them cover multiple arrondissements.

Montmartre

Montmartre is a picturesque neighbourhood located on a hill topped by the Sacré-Cœur, the beautiful basilica overlooking the entire city. The area has an artsy, village-like vibe with its narrow streets, charming squares, and colourful artists. It breathes creativity and has a nostalgic charm that is very attractive to visitors. Montmartre is not only known for its artists but also for lively markets, cosy cafes, and breathtaking views.



Pigalle & Grands Boulevards

Grands Boulevards offers monumental architecture, grand shopping centres such as Galeries Lafayette, and the majestic Opéra Garnier. Pigalle is all about its nightlife and has always been known as the entertainment hub of Paris. Together, Pigalle & Grands Boulevards offer a mix of fun, culture, and stunning buildings.

Quartier Latin & Saint Germain des Prés

In Quartier Latin you'll find historic narrow streets, Sorbonne University, and a lively student population. The district also houses the Panthéon and the energetic Rue Mouffetard. Saint Germain des Prés is known for its galleries, boutiques, and the Jardin du Luxembourg. Both neighbourhoods have a charming atmosphere, with cosy cafes around the Odéon area.

Le Marais, Les Halles & the islands

The heart of Paris is formed by Le Marais, Les Halles, and the islands, Île de la Cité and Île Saint-Louis. You'll find a mix of charming boutiques, selling from the smallest labels to the biggest brands. Le Marais is known for its Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities, making its atmosphere diverse and lively. And this is also where you'll find historical landmarks such as Centre Pompidou and Notre-Dame.

Belleville & Ménilmontant

The emerging working-class neighbourhoods of Belleville and Ménilmontant are known for their neighbourhood cafes and charming shops with a focus on organic and eco products. The proximity to Père-Lachaise cemetery and the picturesque Parc des Buttes-Chaumont adds even more character to these vibrant neighbourhoods.

Bastille

The Bastille area is loved by those who enjoy a bustling nightlife. With an abundance of bars, clubs, and restaurants, the atmosphere at Bastille is always energetic. The district also is of historical significance, with Place de la Bastille as a reminder of the French Revolution.

Tour Eiffel, Champs-Élysées & Concorde

These iconic landmarks are among the most visited places in Paris. The Eiffel Tower is a world-famous symbol, while the bustling Champs-Élysées and Place de la Concorde are known for their beautiful architecture and luxury shops. These neighbourhoods offer a mix of grandeur, culture, and entertainment and are a must-see for every Paris visitor.





PRACTICAL INFO

GETTING AROUND

Paris really isn't that big, and many iconic landmarks are within walking distance of each other. But nevertheless you'll cover a lot of distance, so bring a pair of comfortable shoes. Walking will always be the best way to explore a city, but there are more ways to get around.

Navigating the city is a breeze thanks to the extensive public transport system. The metro's network is efficient and speedy, which makes it a quick way to travel around Paris and easily move between various districts, landmarks, and attractions. You never have to wait long for the next train, which makes them popular with commuters as well as tourists. Use the Bonjour RATP app to plan your journey.

Beyond the underground, subways, buses, and trams create a web through Paris, giving plenty of options to explore. Buses 21 and 73 provide a tour around the city. The five RER lines also weave through Paris, stretching into the suburbs. Additionally, Transilien is similar to RER but focuses on suburban connections, making all the banlieues easily accessible.

For a short visit to Paris, consider the Navigo Découverte or Navigo Easy pass, a flexible travel option with access to the city's extensive public transport network. The Navigo pass is a rechargeable contactless smart card that allows travel on buses, trams, and the metro within specified zones. You can load single-trip tickets, a carnet of ten trips, or day passes onto the card. Navigo pass is available at metro and RER stations.





And there are even more interesting ways to visit Paris. Cycling around the city, you can explore more in a shorter timeframe. Dedicated bike lanes along the Seine and throughout the city make cycling a valid option. Velib', the bike-sharing system, allows you to easily rent and return bikes at numerous locations. You can buy a 1-, 2- or 3-day rental pass on their website. Or use the shared one of the many shared e-bikes: just download their app and go.

A Seine River cruise gives a different perspective on the city and its landmarks. Daytime cruises provide a relaxed atmosphere, allowing you to see multiple monuments in a short time, while evening cruises offer breathtaking views as the city lights up.

If you have the time, there is a lot to discover just outside of Paris, and public transport allows you to take day trips. Consider nearby destinations like Versailles, Giverny, or a *château* for an experience beyond the city limits.