



View of Paris from Notre Dame Cathedral

Quick Facts

Country	France	
Currency	Euro €	
	100 cents makes €1	
Language	French	
Population	9,854,000	
Time Zone	GMT +1 (GMT +2 March to October)	

Climate

Summer Av Max	26°C	
Autumn Av Max	15°C	
Winter Av Max	3°C	
Spring Av Max	17°C	

Introducing Paris

Paris, France's famously cosmopolitan capital city is one of the world's best-loved and romanticised cities, and one of the largest in Europe. Located in the north of the country on the river Seine, many observers consider Paris an ideal of modern, urban living - progressive, stylish, arty and bohemian.

More densely populated than Manhattan, with two million occupying its compact city centre, Paris nonetheless yields plenty of places where one can relax and reflect - in its suburban parklands, quiet neighbourhoods and vast array of museums.

Lovers of food, wine, art, music and fashion flock to experience the exquisite flavours of the city that justifiably holds the title of 'The Capital of Style'.

It is adored by the romantics who stroll along the quays of the Seine, explore the delightful boutiques and markets, pass the time in its elegant parks and leafy squares, absorb the abundance of culture or linger over a coffee or candlelit dinner.

Paris is always vibrant and alive and has something for everyone including its fantastic cafes and many gardens and parks for people to sit in and soak up the Parisian atmosphere.

What to See in Paris

Music Paris is still considered Europe's leading city for jazz music, and world music, particularly African and Latin, is in resurgence. Classical music is not the city's selling point, though events such as the summer classical concerts in the Bois de Boulogne's Parc Floral, the month-long Chopin Festival at Orangerie de Bagatelle, and medieval music at Saint-Chappelle stand out.

Theatre Night theatre in Paris is synonymous with a dash of humour and a great deal of flesh on show, particularly in the cabaret area of Montmartre where the world-famous Moulin Rouge is situated. Classic theatre tends to the heavyweight: Paris likes to revisit the classic works from its favourite scribes such as Moliere and Racine at prestigious venues like the Comedie-Francaise.

Visual Art Paris is home to two of the world's most-loved museums, the famous Louvre and the D'Orsay. The Louvre houses countless works of art works and antiquities, including paintings, sculpture and artefacts, from ancient history through to the 1800s. One could say the D'Orsay 'picks up' from where the Louvre left off, as it displays artworks from 1848 to 1914.

Those seeking modern art and installations should visit the Pompidou, a rather strange-looking structure located in central Paris, in the 4th arrondissement.

Getting into Paris

From **Charles de Gaulle** Metro line RER B connects the airport with Gare du Nord, from where it is easy to connect to other metro and train lines. Fares from €10. Taxis can reach central Paris from CDG airport within 50 minutes and cost about €40.

From **Orly Airport** Taxis are available outside the terminal and cost €35 to the city centre. Orly Airport is part of the light rail line RER B, which extends right through the centre of Paris.

From **Gare du Nord** The Eurostar station in Paris is Gare du Nord, which is just north of the city centre. Several metro lines stop at this station, making it very easy to continue your journey.

Shopping in Paris

Top of many shoppers list for a true taste of Parisian charm are the serene, high-ceilinged 19th century arcades at **Passages des Panoramas** between the Boulevard Montmartre and Rue St-Marc: Galerie Vivienne and Passage Colbert are particularly appealing examples.

If you are after haute couture, head for **Avenue Montaigne**, **Faubourg Saint-Honoré** and **Rue du Bac**; pick up cosmetics and perfumes in the **Opéra**; jewelry at **Place Vendôme**; shoes, bags and leather goods on **rue du Cherche-Midi** and **rue de Grenelle**. A fine selection of art and antiques can be found on **rue Bonaparte**, de Charonne and **du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré**.

The city's top department stores **Galeries Lafayette** and **Printemps** on boulevard Haussmann are always popular; for culinary specialities try the **rue Rambuteau**, **rue Poncelet** and **Place de la Madeleine**. An entertaining day out is assured at the Parisian institution of Saint-Ouen, the world's largest antique market.

Our Paris Favourites...

Hotels

\$\$\$ **Le Maurice**
228 rue de Rivoli



\$\$\$ **Marriott Paris Champs Elysees**

70 Avenue des Champs Elysees



\$\$ **Best Western Saint Lazare** 9 rue de Constantinople Sarl Jalna



\$ **Timhotel Gare du Nord**
10 rue Philippe de Girard



Restaurants

\$\$\$ **Les Deux Magots** 6 place Saint-Germain-des-Prés – smart dress, historic, traditional cuisine



\$\$ **La Boussole** 12 rue Guisarde – traditional, atmospheric, wine bar



\$ **Un Zèbre à Montmartre** 38 rue Lepic – funky, restaurant-bar, local favourite



Getting Around Paris

Walking Walking is an easy way to explore central Paris and the area surrounding most of Paris' icons.

Metro Fast and inexpensive, travel on the Metro is one of the best ways to get around Paris. Trains on the 15 lines run from 5.30am to midnight.

Buses Many of the 60 bus routes go through the tourist areas of Paris. Buses operate from Monday to Saturday from 7am to around 8.30pm. Stamp your ticket onboard. Night buses operate across 18 lines from 1am to 5.30am, running into the suburbs.

Taxis Taxis can be hailed in the street, though there are plentiful taxi ranks. Rates are measured in the city centre by kilometre, with higher rates after 7pm and on Sundays. A fee is charged for each piece of baggage.

Annual Entertainment in Paris

At February's Great Wines Fair, 100 of the country's top wine producers display their vintage crops at the Carousel du Louvre; Paris Fashion Week displays the most daring Parisian haute couture in March, with outdoor fun the theme at the "Printemps des Rues" arts festival later in the month; classic cars race up the Montmartre hill during the Vintage Car Rally in May, while June sees the Music Festival de Saint-Denis and Le Carre Rive Gauche, when the rue de Bac beside the Seine is bedecked with antique art.

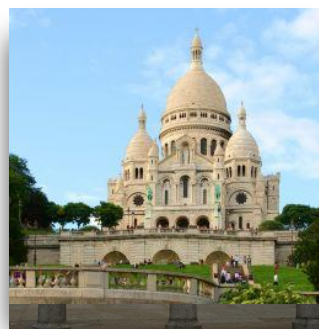
Parisians are always in celebratory mood during mid-July's Bastille Day celebrations, before disappearing for extended vacations during August, leaving Paris almost solely to tourists. The September Autumn Arts Festival showcases the city's contemporary and performing arts, with an extended jazz festival at Parc de la Villette. As in London, Paris hosts an Open House 'Heritage Weekend' in September when visitors can tour a host of buildings normally closed to the public.

Don't miss...

Montmartre

Metro-stop Abbesses

Why? Amazing views of Paris, quirky art galleries and gorgeous pavement cafes. True Parisian culture!



One Day Itinerary

Morning Head early to the Eiffel tower before the crowds descend.

Early Lunch Metro to Notre Dame and lunch in the vibey Latin Quarter.

Afternoon Cross the river to the Louvre and walk westwards to the Arc du Triomphe along the Champ Elysees.

Dusk Take the funicular to the top of Montmartre for stunning sunset views of the city and dinner and drinks in a local café.