

## PARIS AND ITS HISTORY - THE ESSENTIALS

What to see on a short trip to Paris.

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

[www.mnhn.fr](http://www.mnhn.fr)

Access: metro **5**, **10** and **RER C** "Gare d'Austerlitz"

#### Grande Galerie de l'Evolution

Under the soft light of an enormous **glass roof**, visitors can enjoy a spectacular **display of life-like animals**, which look almost as if they are moving. This permanent exhibition educates visitors about the diversity of the living world, the **evolution** of different organisms and man's impact on the **environment**.

#### Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes

This zoo, created in **1794** at the heart of the capital in a former royal garden, is one of the oldest zoos in the world when it comes to its architectural heritage. When it was created, it housed the animals from **the Ménagerie Royale de Versailles** and the animals seized from fairgrounds. Over time, the zoo has evolved.

With only **5.5 hectares** of land it does not have very large animals but it takes care various species of small and medium-sized animals and continues to be a place of **study** and **preservation**.

### QUARTIER MONTMARTRE

At the top of a hill, Montmartre is a district full of authentic charm, famous for the **Sacré-Coeur basilica** and a magnificent view of Paris. After visiting the basilica, visitors enjoy strolling around this historic area: there is **Place du Tertre** and its famous caricaturists, the **Espace Dalí**, the **Montmartre grapevines**, the **cabaret du Lapin Agile**, the **Musée Montmartre**... and the walk continues down to the world famous **Moulin Rouge cabaret**.

Access: metro **2** "Anvers", metro **12** "Abbesses".

### THE LOUVRE MUSEUM

The Louvre is **the world's largest museum** and a historic monument. A central landmark of the city, it is located on the Right Bank of the Seine in the **1<sup>st</sup>** arrondissement. Nearly **35,000 objects** from prehistory to the **21<sup>st</sup>** century are exhibited over an area of **60,600 m<sup>2</sup>**. With its eight hundred year old history, the Louvre has been influenced by numerous architectural trends, from the **medieval fortress** of the **12<sup>th</sup>** century to **the glass pyramid** by Pei (1989).

[www.louvre.fr](http://www.louvre.fr)

Access: metro **1** and **7** "Palais Royale Musée du Louvre".



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© Bastiaan



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## THE EIFFEL TOWER

Symbol of the capital, the [Eiffel Tower](#) stands 324 m tall, and weighs 10,100 tons. Created in 2 years, 2 months and 5 days, it was built for the Exposition Universelle of 1889 by [Gustave Eiffel](#).

Visitors can go up the Eiffel Tower by the stairs or by lift. On the completely refurbished 1<sup>st</sup> floor, there are shops; on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the famous [Jules Verne](#) restaurant, 125 meters above ground. Finally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor you are at cloud level and have an exceptional 360° view!

[www.tour-eiffel.fr](http://www.tour-eiffel.fr)

Access: metro **6** “Bir Hakeim”, **RER C** “Champs de Mars – Tour Eiffel”



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## THE LATIN QUARTER

No trip to Paris is complete without a visit to the Latin Quarter in the 5<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, on the Left Bank.

There are many welcoming [cafés](#) and [restaurants](#), filled with Parisians, students and tourists. There are several attractions to visit, among them the [Pantheon](#), the [Musée National du Moyen-Âge](#), the [Luxembourg gardens](#) and museum and the [Arènes de Lutèce](#). As you stroll through the district you will also come across the [Sorbonne](#), the best known university in Paris, and the shopping street [Rue Mouffetard](#). The district also has popular show venues like the [Paradis Latin](#), the [Théâtre de l’Odéon](#) and the [Caveau de la Huchette](#).



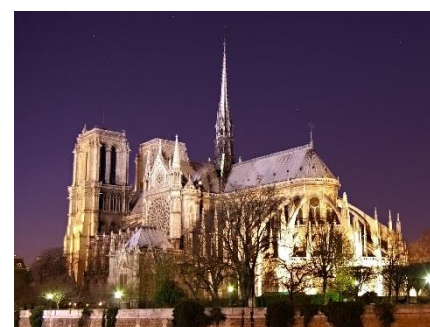
Access: metro **10** “Cluny – La Sorbonne”, **RER C** “Saint-Michel Notre-Dame”.

## THE CATHEDRALE NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS

Masterpiece of [Gothic architecture](#), it is the most visited monument in France. It was built in the [Middle Ages](#). Work started in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and finished in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Badly damaged during the French Revolution, the cathedral was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the architect [Viollet-le-Duc](#). Its many visitors come to admire its stained glass and rose windows, the towers, the steeple and the gargoyles. They can also discover the [Notre-Dame treasury](#) and climb the [towers](#) to enjoy a panoramic view of Paris.

[www.notredamedeparis.fr](http://www.notredamedeparis.fr)

Access: metro **4** “Cité”, **RER C** “Saint-Michel Notre-Dame”.



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## AVENUE DES CHAMPS ELYSEES

Frequently described as ‘the world’s most beautiful avenue’, the Avenue des Champs-Élysées is a Paris must-see. Tourists and Parisians can be spotted strolling at any time of day or night and at any time of year along this [iconic two-kilometre](#) stretch between the [Place de la Concorde](#) and the [Arc de Triomphe](#). Like the Eiffel Tower, the avenue is a symbol of Paris. It is lined with restaurants, luxury boutiques, flagship stores and nightclubs. It is also the setting each year for [major events](#) such as the Bastille Day military parade, the arrival of the Tour de France and the Christmas lights.

Access: metro **1** “Charles de Gaulle Etoile”, “Georges V” and metro **1, 9** “Franklin D. Roosevelt”.