PARIS AND ITS HISTORY - THE ESSENTIALS
What to see on a short trip to Paris.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
www.mnhn.fr
Access: metro 5, 10 and RER C “Gare d’Austerlitz”

Grande Galerie de l’Évolution
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-Cœur 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.

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 1st arrondissement. Nearly 35,000 objects from prehistory to the 21st century are exhibited over an area of 60,600 m². With its eight hundred year old history, the Louvre has been influenced by numerous architectural trends, from the medieval fortress of the 12th century to the glass pyramid by Pei (1989).
www.louvre.fr
Access: metro 1 and 7 “Palais Royale Musée du Louvre”.

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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 1st floor, there are shops; on the 2nd, the famous Jules Verne restaurant, 125 meters above ground. Finally on the 3rd floor you are at cloud level and have an exceptional 360° view!

www.tour-eiffel.fr

THE LATIN QUARTER
No trip to Paris is complete without a visit to the Latin Quarter in the 5th 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 13th century and finished in the 15th century. Badly damaged during the French Revolution, the cathedral was restored in the 19th 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
Access: metro 4 “Cité”, RER C “Saint-Michel Notre-Dame”.

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”.

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