

# Three Days *Paris*



Cultural  
*Travel*  
Guide

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January 2015

# La vie en rose...

*Undeniably elegant and glamorous, but also diverse and cosmopolitan, Paris charms the visitor with its history, art and architecture. An incredible place to immerse yourself in the events of the past and see how they affected our reality today, Paris is always unforgettable.*

As many capitals of the world, Paris is a city of contrasts and contradictions.

From the magnificent grand museums such as the Louvre, to the narrow small streets of the Quartier Latin; from the magnificently elegant architecture of the 19th century, to the industrial aesthetic of the Eiffel Tower.

From a glamorous walk through Les Champs Élysées to the tiny boulangeries and cafés, perfect for people watching.

Paris is a wonderful place for aimless wandering.

But Paris is Paris for many reasons; it is so much more than glamorous people and vistas; its history has shaped its form and its character. And not only of the city itself, but of Western civilization as a whole.

Paris' rich history begun around 250 BC when the Parisii, a Celtic fishing tribe inhabited the Île de la Cité which was later on conquered by the Romans around 52 BC. The capital of the Parisii was called *Lutecia*.

When Rome fell to Germanic tribes in 497 AD, King Clovis converted to Christianity and made Paris his capital.

In the Middle Ages Paris saw a surge of wealth, got a new university and incredible gothic architecture visible today in Notre Dame and Sainte-Chapelle.

In the 1600s Paris experienced more construction campaigns with new buildings, squares, bridges and roads.

In the 1700s the Sun King Louis XIV made Versailles his capital.

In 1789 The French Revolution sought to end the monarchy and sent thousands to the guillotine at the heart of Paris, many of them in Place de la Concorde.

In 1804 Napoleon crowned himself emperor in a pompous ceremony at Notre Dame.

In 1830 and 1848 Parisians protested on the streets claiming for monarchy to be brought back.

In the 1860s Napoleon III (Napoleon's nephew) gave Paris a facelift with new grand boulevards and gorgeous uniform new buildings.

In 1889 the Universal Exposition celebrated the centennial of the Revolution with the Eiffel Tower and La Belle Époque.

During WWII between 1940 and 1944, Paris was occupied by the Nazis.

1968 came with the student movements against old-fashioned university structures, leading to revolts and strikes in factories.

Not free of political turmoil, Paris has grown to be one of the largest cities in the world, with an efficient transportation system, world-class museums and a higher quality of life for its inhabitants.

It is essential to understand the history and visit some of the places that were witnesses to the events that affected not only Paris, but the world we live in today.

Join me in this three day itinerary as we go through the art that expressed the ideas of some of the most influential times in history, the places where the French Revolution changed our vision of a modern society, the sites where larger-than-life figures lie and the remnants of war that are reminders of harder times, some of the most beautiful buildings created in the name of divine connection and let's see how human ideals can inspire people to create extraordinary things.

—Carolina.

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#### Disclaimer:

The information provided in this guide is for entertainment and informational purposes only. It is based on my own research and experience and because of that it may not be 100% accurate at the time you go on a trip to Paris.

Please beware that I am not responsible for exhibitions being moved, sites being closed temporarily or for good, hours being changed and other unforeseeable circumstances that could potentially make the information in this guide obsolete.

I am providing this information to the best of my knowledge at the time of publication, so please make sure you confirm details before traveling.

If you do find that any information is not accurate, please [contact me](#) and I will correct it!

The information in this guide is based on my own recommendations which may or may not suit you, depending on your interests.

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# How this guide works

*After going on my own trips and planning trips for my clients, I have created a method for planning and executing a cultural trip that is efficient and effective.*

*This guide is different, here's why...*

*The **Three Days Paris Guide** presents an itinerary for each day in the city. The places have been selected according to how culturally interesting they are; they have been arranged according to geographical proximity and they allow for a comfortable pace.*

*Whenever possible, I've considered when attractions will be less crowded. Museums for instance, are better early morning or late evening.*

## Reading the guide

You can use this guide in two ways:

1. Syncing it to your iPad, iPhone, tablet or mobile device.
2. Printing it out to carry with you.

## Using the printed guide

You don't need to print the entire guide; only print those pages that include the *printer and folded sheet icons* at the top right corner and fold them in three at the dotted lines, where marked.



## Links

I have included live links throughout this guide to make it easier for you to go deeper in the information I provide.

They will work both on a mobile device connected to the internet, or on a computer.

If you're reading this document on an eReader and the links don't work, or if you're reading on a printed version, I've included shortened links where applicable.

There are links for Google maps of the itinerary for the three days in the [Practicalities page](#).

Clicking the little Eiffel Tower icon in the corner will take you to the table of contents.

## Transportation

Suggestions for transportation will generally cover subway/métro instructions, buses where applicable and walking directions. You are welcome to explore other options.

### Transportation icons

Walk  Métro 

## Fixed itineraries?

Even though this is, in my opinion, the most efficient way to use your three days, you may customize your experience based on the information I've provided by switching days or attractions around.

In any case, make sure you **confirm the operating hours and closing days** of attractions before you make a final choice.





## The City of Lights

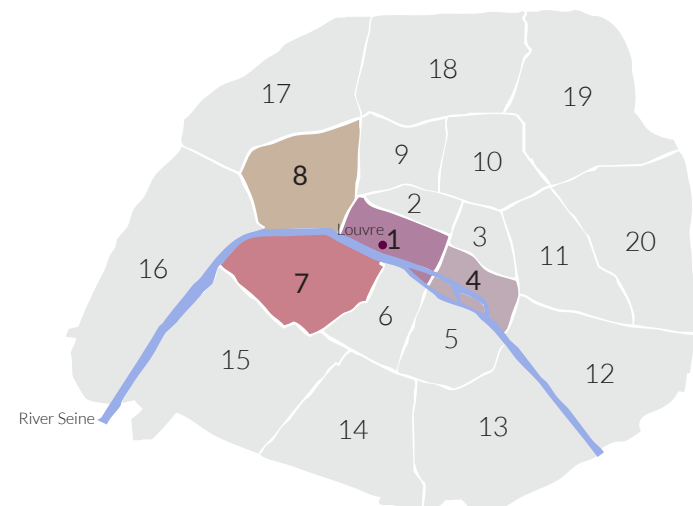
# Paris

*is quintessentially cultural!*

One of the most sophisticated and cosmopolitan cities in the world and a beacon of history and art that shaped the Western civilization we are today, Paris is every cultural traveler's dream.

Paris is divided into twenty *arrondissements* or districts that grow from the Louvre outwards in a spiral, mirroring how the city historically grew.

We'll be focusing in arrondissements 1, 4, 7 and 8.





# Day 1: 19th & 20th Century Events

A past century art immersion

9:30 am – 12 pm

## Musée d'Orsay

Looking at the elegant stone façade of the Musée d'Orsay one would probably not imagine that it once was a railway station inaugurated in 1900 for the World Fair.

The building had several purposes after 1939 until it was decided to create the Musée d'Orsay in 1977 to house art works from the second half of the 19th century. It opened its doors on Dec 1986.

The museum's collection consists of works of art from 1848 to 1914 that were compiled from three different museums including the Louvre and you could say d'Orsay is a bridge between The Louvre and Le Centre Pompidou.

**Realism, impressionism and post-impressionism** are represented in some of their masterpieces by artists such as Monet, Manet, Degas, Renoir, Cézanne, Seurat, Gauguin, Van Gogh and Corbet.

Remember that in their time these movements were revolutionary and rejected by society, so while looking at these pieces of art transport yourself to a time when being true to yourself, your message and your art was frowned upon.

You can also visit the Art Nouveau exhibit in the middle levels, and see the photography and sculptures collection all throughout.

**Special tip:** The museum is big. Unless you are a devout art fanatic, I suggest you download the map or check the online collections and devise a plan to see the specific works or rooms you are interested in.

Website:	<a href="http://www.musee-orsay.fr">www.musee-orsay.fr</a>
Location:	62, rue de Lille. Arrondissement 7.
Phone:	+33 (0)1 40 49 48 14.
Fee:	€11. Free for under 18 year olds.
Hours:	9:30 am–6 pm. 9:30 am–9:45 pm on Thursdays.
Closed on:	Mondays, Jan 1, May 1 & Dec 25.
Getting there:	Métro: Line 12, Solférino station. RER: Line C, Musée d'Orsay station. Bus: 24, 63, 68, 69, 73, 83, 84, 94.
Notes:	No backpacks, bundles, umbrellas or pictures allowed.
Links:	<a href="#">Interactive plan of the museum</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/14W9eNL">bit.ly/14W9eNL</a> <a href="#">Artists and works index</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/140tHtH">bit.ly/140tHtH</a>

## Lunch



Follow the [walking directions in Google Maps \(20 min\)](#) to **Hôtel des Invalides** (<http://goo.gl/maps/fifH5>) and find a nice restaurant to get some lunch along the way.

The history of war and an iconic emperor

2–5 pm

## Hôtel des Invalides / Musée de L'Armée

Definitely one of the most historical places in Paris, the Hôtel des Invalides was commissioned by none other than **the Sun King Louis XIV** in 1670 to house war veterans and disabled soldiers.

Today the complex encases several institutions like the Eglise du Dome where the **tomb of Napoleon** is, the Eglise des Soldats behind it and the Musée de L'Armée. A portion of the complex is still used as a veteran's hospital.

The Museum of the Army is an incredible collection of military artifacts in the history of France and other parts of the World.

It comprises the Main Courtyard and artillery collections, the old department with old armor and weapons from the 13th - 17th century, the modern department from Louis XIV to Napoleon III, 1643 - 1870, the contemporary department with the two World Wars 1871 - 1945, and the Charles de Gaulle Monument.

**Special tip:** Take your time at Napoleon's tomb and imagine what he would have thought of it. In the museum, look for the painting of Napoleon crowning empress Josephine; another version of this painting is at the Louvre. Visit the two World Wars exhibit and picture what it must have been like to live in Paris during those terrible times.

Website:	<a href="http://www.musee-armee.fr">www.musee-armee.fr</a>
Location:	Hôtel National des Invalides, 129 Rue de Grenelle. Arr 7.
Phone:	+33 (0)8 10 11 33 99 and +33 (0)1 44 42 38 77.
Fee:	€9,5.
Hours:	Musée: Open daily. Apr 1–Oct 31: 10 am–6 pm. Nov 1–Mar 31: 10 am–5 pm. Hôtel: Open daily, 7:30 am–7 pm; on Tuesdays from April to September until 9 pm. Last admission 15 minutes before closing time. For exceptions visit the <a href="#">Opening Times page</a> .
Closed on:	Jan 1, May 1 & Dec 25.
Getting there:	Via the Esplanade des Invalides or via Place Vauban. Métro: La Tour-Maubourg, Invalides or Varenne stations. RER: Line C, Invalides station. Bus: 26, 63, 69, 80, 82, 83, 87, 92, 93, Balabus. Car park, taxis and Vélib' stations nearby <a href="#">Interactive getting there diagram</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/19VasRc">bit.ly/19VasRc</a>
Notes:	There is no coat check service available.
Links:	<a href="#">Interactive map</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/16FBmUR">bit.ly/16FBmUR</a> <a href="#">PDF downloadable floorplan</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/178xFgx">bit.ly/178xFgx</a> <a href="#">Official brochure</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/178xFgx">bit.ly/178xFgx</a>



Once you're out of the museum, look around to see where the Eiffel Tower is and then walk toward it (25 min). You can also follow the walking directions in [this Google Map](#) (<http://goo.gl/maps/H2EMI>)

The very symbol of the City of Lights

5:30–7:30 pm

## Tour Eiffel

Truly the symbol of Paris, the Eiffel Tower was built by Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 Exposition Universelle which took place to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. It originally was painted red at the bottom and gradually turned to yellow as it progressed to the top.

Intended to remain for twenty years, in the beginning it was met with controversy by many Parisians who considered it affected negatively the landscape. However, its use for radio transmissions saved it from being destroyed. Nowadays no-one can image Paris without it.

The tower offers three floors from which to see the incredible views of the city. The first floor at 187 ft (57 m) from the ground and the second floor at 377 ft (115 m) both offer dining, boutique and restrooms. You can get to the second floor either by elevator or taking the 704 steps up the stairs.

The third floor at 1063 ft (324 m) offers a bar and a look into Gustave Eiffel's office where he and his daughter are being visited by Thomas Edison. Every night the tower lights up for 5 minutes on the hour until 1 am, a display originally created for the turn of the millennium.

**Special tip:** Go to Trocadéro, the most incredible spot to take the best pictures of the tower.

Website:	<a href="http://www.tour-eiffel.fr">www.tour-eiffel.fr</a>
Location:	Champ de Mars - 5, Avenue Anatole France. Arr 7.
Phone:	+33 (0)8 92 70 12 39 (Audiotel).
Fee:	Elevator up to the second floor: €9. Elevator up to the top: €15. Stairs up to the second floor: €5.
Hours:	Open daily. Mid-June to early September 9 am–midnight. Rest of the year 9:30 am to 11 pm. At Easter weekend and during the Spring holidays, extended opening hours to midnight.
Getting there:	Métro: Line 6, Bir-Hakeim station or Line 9, Trocadéro station, and then 10 minute walk to the Tower. RER: Line C, Champs de Mars - Tour Eiffel station. Bus: 42, 69, 82, 87. <a href="#">Getting there, detailed plan</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/18YcADg">bit.ly/18YcADg</a>
Notes:	<a href="#">Save valuable time by buying tickets online</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/15cRUKk">bit.ly/15cRUKk</a> Dress in layers, the top is considerably colder and windier, even in summer.
Links:	<a href="#">iPhone Audiotour App</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/18gp9Ya">bit.ly/18gp9Ya</a> <a href="#">Google Play Audiotour App</a> , <a href="http://bit.ly/19ItVkB">bit.ly/19ItVkB</a>



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# Thank you



I hope you've enjoyed this guide and have found it useful! I've written it with you in mind, because I care and I want you to have the best cultural travel experience there is, one that can change your life and inspire you!

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—Carolina.



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