

# Paris Snap Guide

## TO / FROM THE AIRPORT

### Aéroport Roissy-Charles de Gaulle (CDG)

01/48-62-22-80, [adp.fr](http://adp.fr)

**Rail:** Take Line B of the Regional Express Network (RER) train. To/from the Gare du Nord station (the closest stop within Paris city limits), trips average 30 minutes. Departs every 15 minutes from Terminal 2; €7.85 each way. From the Gare du Nord, make transfers to high-speed trains and Métro lines.

**Bus:** The Roissybus shuttle connects Terminals 1 and 2 with Paris' Opéra Métro and Auber RER stations; it departs every 15 minutes from 5:45 A.M. to 11 P.M., €8.30 each way. Trips average 45 minutes to/from the airport.

### Aéroport d'Orly (ORY)

01/49-75-15-15, [adp.fr](http://adp.fr)

Take the Orlybus shuttle from the Denfert-Rochereau Métro station in Paris, near Tour Montparnasse (Montparnasse tower). Departs every 15 minutes from outside the international and domestic terminals; €5.80 each way.

## GETTING AROUND

### Métro, RER, and Bus

08/92-68-77-14, [ratp.fr](http://ratp.fr)

Pocket maps for all public transportation are free in Métro stations. **Métro:** €1.40; runs 5:30 A.M. to 12:30 A.M.

**RER:** Suburban rail supplement to the Métro; 5 A.M. to 12:30 A.M. Ticket prices vary by destination (Disneyland Paris, €12.40 round trip). **Bus:** €1.40; 6:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M., some lines run later. Night buses (Noctambus) are available 1 A.M. to 5:30 A.M., and are a convenient and safe transportation alternative after hours; €2.40. Most of the 18 night lines start or end at Châtelet, next to Les Halles in Central Paris. The "Paris Visite" one-, two-, three-, and five-day passes (which cost €8.35, €13.70, €18.25, and €26.65, respectively) provide unlimited bus, Métro, and RER transport within Paris and reductions on certain tourist attractions—such as 50 percent off your second seat on Bateaux Parisiens (sightseeing cruises on the Seine, which start at €9.50). Discounts apply to tickets of the same or lesser value.

### Taxis

**Taxis Bleus:** 08/91-70-10-10, **Alpha Taxis:** 01/45-85-85-85

Fares: €.71 per km with a minimum fare of €5.20. Fare increases to €1.06 per km after 7 P.M., on Sundays, and on holidays. Some drivers will accept a fourth passenger (€2.70 surcharge).

### Trains to points beyond Paris

National/International: 08/36-35-35-39, [sncf.fr](http://sncf.fr), [eurostar.com](http://eurostar.com)

Paris has seven train stations: Gare du Nord (for destinations north, including the Eurostar line to London), Gare de l'Est (for points east), Gare St-Lazare (Normandy), Gare de Lyon (Italy, Switzerland, and TGV, or bullet trains, to southern France), Gare Montparnasse (Brittany, the Atlantic coast, and TGV to southwestern France), Gare d'Austerlitz (Loire Valley and Dordogne), and Gare de Bercy (auto train and some trains to Italy).

## WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TOWN

Free at Select Shops and Cafés *GoGo*, [gogoparis.com](http://gogoparis.com); *Paris Voice*, [parisvoice.com](http://parisvoice.com) At Newsstands *Pariscope*, [pariscope.fr](http://pariscope.fr); *Zurban*, [zurban.com](http://zurban.com)

## TOURS

### Fat Tire Bike Tours

South Pier (Pilier Sud) of the Eiffel Tower, 01/56-58-10-54, [fattirebiketoursparis.com](http://fattirebiketoursparis.com)

Four-hour guided rides around the major sights (Louvre, Tuileries Gardens, etc.). Spiels focus on funny stories, not dates. Check ahead for schedule. No reservations required for day tours; €26 day/€28 night, includes bike rental and guide.

“Paris is well worth a Mass.”

—*Henri IV*

### L'OpenTour

13 rue Auber, 01/42-66-56-56, [paris-opentour.com](http://paris-opentour.com)

Double-decker hop on, hop off sightseeing bus with commentary in English that covers four routes and makes an average of 14 stops, identified by L'OpenTour logo stickers. Buy tickets and pick up maps onboard. One-day pass €25; two consecutive days €28. No discounts available.

### PariRoller

Foot of the Tour Montparnasse, [pari-roller.com](http://pari-roller.com)

Also known as "Friday Night Fever." As many as 12,000 roller skaters meet at the base of Montparnasse tower and form a procession on wheels that snakes through city streets. Expect Old World challenges like cobblestones (two ambulances follow the procession). Kicks off Fridays at 10 P.M.; routes change weekly; free. Rent in-line skates for €8 to €9 at **Nomades** (37 boulevard Bourdon, 01/44-54-07-44, [nomadeshop.com](http://nomadeshop.com)).

### Paris Walks' Da Vinci Code tour

12 passage Meunier, St-Denis, 01/48-09-21-40,

[ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/pariswalking/](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/pariswalking/)

City tour includes expert commentary on the Louvre pyramids, the site of the execution of the Grand Master of the Knights Templar, the hunt for the Holy Grail, and other areas mentioned in the best-selling book. From €12.

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

Directory inquiries and operator assistance 12

Police emergencies 17

Medical emergencies 15

Tourist info 08/92-68-30-00

International access code From U.S. 011; within Europe 00

Country code 33 City code 01

Note: When dialing from abroad, the first 0 in the French number is dropped, e.g. from U.S.: 011-33/1-44-75-39-55.

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## THE LOUVRE AND WESTERN PARIS

### Hôtel du Champ de Mars

7 rue du Champ de Mars, 01/45-51-52-30,  
[hotel-du-champ-de-mars.com](http://hotel-du-champ-de-mars.com)

Expect a quaint, vaguely 1970s vibe and midsize rooms at this underpriced charmer in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. The hotel is around the corner from rue Cler, a colorful, bustling street crammed with little shops—a plus in a district with less-than-vibrant street life. Doubles from €79.

## THE LOUVRE AND WESTERN PARIS

### Hôtel Étoile Péreire

146 boulevard Péreire, 01/42-67-60-00, [etoilepereire.com](http://etoilepereire.com)

Discreetly swank, and a 15-minute stroll from the Arc de Triomphe. All 26 rooms are individually decorated to evoke a certain design era (art deco, Rm. 409) or place (India, Rm. 306). Quiet is assured: Rooms with upholstered walls open to an airy courtyard, with the exception of Rm. 101, which is soundproof but doesn't open to the outdoors. Doubles from €119.

## MONTMARTRE

### Hôtel du Commerce

34 rue des Trois-Frères, 01/42-64-81-69

Comfortable, sunny rooms with crisp white linens for prices that haven't kept up with the times. A nearby staircase leads up to Sacré-Coeur. Doubles from €20.

## MONTMARTRE

### L'Ermitage Hôtel

24 rue Lamarck, 01/42-64-79-22, [ermitagesacrecoeur.fr](http://ermitagesacrecoeur.fr)

This compact and alluring mansion—with flowery, dollhouse-style furniture—has a low-tech credo: no TV, Internet, or credit cards. Top-floor rooms in back have city views; ground-floor rooms open onto a small garden terrace. Doubles from €88.

## MONTMARTRE

### Le Village Hostel

20 rue d'Orsel, 01/42-64-22-02, [villagehostel.fr](http://villagehostel.fr)

The best bargain in town, and justifiably popular with the international backpacker set, who also come here for the convivial atmosphere. The colorful frescoed lobby has Internet access and serves as a meeting place for parties and a spot to plan outings. Its terrace offers views of Sacré-Coeur. Note: All bathrooms are communal. Rates include continental breakfast. Doubles from €23 per person in low season; €27 in high. Dorm-room rates (4–6 beds) start at €20.

## MONTPARNASSE

### Hôtel Ferrandi

92 rue du Cherche-Midi, 01/42-22-97-40

A Left Bank jewel, just minutes by foot to the understated elegance of the St-Germain shopping district. Each room offers a different fin-de-siècle decor (canopy beds, chandeliers, and colorful, patterned wallpaper). Doubles from €130.

## MONTPARNASSE

### Hôtel Mayet

3 rue Mayet, 01/47-83-21-35, [mayet.com](http://mayet.com)

Between rue du Cherche-Midi, a quiet street lined with antiques shops, and rue des Sèvres, the site of the famous Le Bon Marché department store. Cheery accents in the 23 ultra-modern rooms include broad stripes on the walls and paintings. Aim high: Rooms on the top floor have inwardly sloping walls. Doubles from €110.

## NOTRE-DAME

### Hôtel Esmeralda

4 rue St-Julien-le-Pauvre, 01/43-54-19-20

A honeycomb of rooms with sloping eaves and charmingly uneven floors. There are no TVs or Internet connections, but modern conveniences would clash with the appealing rough-hewn stone walls and wood beams. Views of Notre-Dame (from the most expensive rooms only). Doubles from €65.

## NOTRE-DAME

### Shakespeare and Company

37 rue de la Bûcherie, 01/43-25-40-93, [shakespeareco.org](http://shakespeareco.org)

This jumbled, nook-and-cranny American bookshop calls itself a “tumbleweed hotel” for literary travelers. To get a free rumpled bed or bench among the stacks, tell Sylvia Whitman, or her 91-year-old, cantankerous, living-legend father George Whitman, about the book you're reading or writing. The weekly pancake breakfasts and tea parties are free, too.

## § SPLURGE

### Relais-Hôtel du Vieux Paris

9 rue Gît-le-Coeur, 01/44-32-15-90, [vieuxparis.com](http://vieuxparis.com)

Beatniks like Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, and William Burroughs slept under this St-Michel roof in the 1950s. (Ask to see the sublime photographs in the hotel's treasured copy of Harold Chapman's out-of-print book *The Beat Hotel*.) Rooms are small with ornate wall fabrics and exposed original beams. Doubles from €200.

## LIVE LIKE A LOCAL

The short-term apartment rental agencies that clutter the Internet charge upwards of €100 a night (in the Marais or St-Germain, for example) and can be a good alternative to staying in a hotel. Here are three agencies that are user-friendly: [parisapartmenttours.com](http://parisapartmenttours.com), [parisrentaparts.com](http://parisrentaparts.com), [locaflat.com](http://locaflat.com). You could also consider living with a Parisian for a few days. Most plan to rent a room for a few months or more, but many are happy to let their room for a few days while waiting to find the right longer-term flatmate. €20–€30 per night. Find listings at [coloc.fr](http://coloc.fr), [expatriates.com](http://expatriates.com), [fusac.fr](http://fusac.fr), and [paris.craigslist.com](http://paris.craigslist.com).

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**SEE** **Bouche de Métro Abbesses**

The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., displays one of Hector Guimard's art nouveau Métro entrances, but the structures look better in their natural habitat—there are 22 still in existence. The entrance to the Abbesses Métro stop is one of the originals, identified by its glass “dragonfly” awning.

**SEE** **Moulin Radet**

83 rue Lepic, 01/46-06-84-77

The oft-painted and now restored wooden Moulin Radet windmill doesn't twirl for tourists, but the famous facade still cuts a mean silhouette above the restaurant Au Moulin de la Galette. Seats in the brasserie's garden provide the best view.

**EAT** **Chez Aïda**

48 rue Polonceau, 01/42-52-06-92

A Senegalese institution in Paris' Goutte d'Or African quarter that serves *yassa* (grilled marinated chicken in a spicy onion sauce) and hard-to-find treats—including the heavenly *jus de bouye*, a juice extracted from the crushed fruit (known as monkey bread) of baobab trees.

**EAT** **La Chope du Château Rouge**

40 rue de Clignancourt, 01/46-06-20-10

“The Red Castle Tankard” sports gilded friezes, ceiling moldings, and pretzeled neon tubes in a multitude of colors that cover much of the walls. The real draws at this bar are the satisfying portions of couscous mixed with beef, lamb, or vegetables—served free on Fridays and Saturdays from 8 P.M.

**EAT** **L'Afghani**

16 rue Paul-Albert, 01/42-51-08-72

The most economical and authentic Afghan restaurant in Paris, where you can eat such favorites as *ashak* (pockets of pasta stuffed with leeks and served with beans, ground beef, and garlic yogurt) and *halwa* (grilled patties of flour, almonds, raisins, and honey).

**\$ SPLURGE** **La Famille**

41 rue des Trois-Frères, 01/42-52-11-12

Upscale dining amid sleek, minimalist decor and retro touches, such as a dented 1930s zinc bar and the late-1970s video game Vectrex, which you can play for free. A frequently changing menu can include adventuresome fare such as *crème de foie gras* infused with popcorn and herbaceous chocolate cake flavored with basil.



**Free admission to museums** If you happen to be in Paris on the first Sunday of the month, most national museums and monuments have free admission—you could save €13 at the Louvre, and €9 at the Musée d'Orsay.

**DRINK** **Chez Camille**

8 rue Ravignan, 01/46-06-05-78

A cozy, wood-fitted bar awash in yellow paint. Come early to snag one of the few tables on the terrace with sweeping vistas of Paris rooftops. On the last Wednesday of the month, a DJ spins ambient tunes.

**SHOP** **Marché aux Puces de St-Ouen**

Métro Porte-de-Clignancourt, [les-puces.com](http://les-puces.com)

With some 2,000 stands, this antiques flea market is reputed to be the world's largest—tables covered with everything from 19th-century microscopes and spectacles to 1950s film memorabilia sprawl across the leafy suburb. Avoid the gambling games set up on cardboard boxes; the man that keeps winning is an accomplice of the swindler. Closed Sun.

“In Paris, everybody wants to be an actor; nobody is content to be a spectator.”

—Jean Cocteau

**PLAY** **Cercle Clichy Montmartre**

84 rue de Clichy, 01/48-78-32-85, [academie-billard.com](http://academie-billard.com)

Sixteen pool and billiards tables pack the front room at this stable-turned-game-hall. For a real underground feel, push the unmarked door in the back to enter a miniature, windowless casino and try your hand at card games. You can shoot, gamble, and drink until 6 A.M. Note: While the casino may feel secret, it's not seedy, and women are welcome. Be sure to bring ID as the casino is 18+ only.

**PLAY** **Ciné 13 Théâtre**

1 avenue Junot, 01/42-51-13-79, [cine13.com](http://cine13.com)

This anti-multiplex is fitted with coffee tables, couches, and a bar. No previews or commercials play before current indie and arthouse movie screenings. All films are shown in their original language, and many are in English. Ciné 13 also puts on plays and performances. Films from €9, plays from €19.

**PLAY** **Le Divan du Monde**

75 rue des Martyrs, 01/40-05-06-99, [divandumonde.com](http://divandumonde.com)

A bar/performance space that was once the haunt of Toulouse-Lautrec and Baudelaire. A 50-foot-long wall of flashlights screens lights up the mezzanine bar, and the hall downstairs hosts a motley program of theater, dance, movies, and poetry readings. Cover includes all performances, but no drinks. From €10.

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**SEE** The Towers of Notre-Dame

6 place du Parvis Notre-Dame, 01/53-10-07-02,  
[cathedraledeparis.com](http://cathedraledeparis.com)

A stroll into the cavernous gothic Cathédrale Notre-Dame is awe-inspiring and free. But a modest-fee climb up the northern tower in a tight, spiraling stone staircase provides a close encounter of the gargoyle kind, and the best view of Paris the Middle Ages had to offer. €6.10.

**SEE** Les Catacombes

1 avenue Colonel Henri Rol-Tanguy, 01/43-22-47-63

Several miles of dank, underground passages lined, thanks to cemetery overflow, with the bones of some six million Parisians (the space-saving solution was abandoned in 1859). They provide a morbid but interesting glimpse into the city's buried past. Kids especially dig the scary experience. Weekday tours in French, or you can meander through the mile open to tourists. €5.

**EAT** Così

54 rue de Seine, 01/46-33-35-36

The original Così sandwich shop that spawned the American chain. Choose from an array of mouthwatering items, led by the Salmo: oven-warmed, leavened flat bread stuffed with smoked salmon, walnut ricotta cheese, and chives.

**EAT** Jim Haynes' Sunday Soirée

83 rue de la Tombe-Issoire, atelier A-2, 01/43-27-17-67  
[jim-haynes.com](http://jim-haynes.com)

Dine with a caboodle of expat, French, and traveling socialites in the loft of this retired American writer who throws open his doors almost every Sunday night to the first 50 to 70 people who phone on Saturday. The buffet fare (which changes week to week) is so-so, but the mingling is sure to entertain—art, literature, and politics are all on the table as topics of discussion. Recommended donation: €20.

**EAT** La Fourmi Ailée

8 rue du Fouarre, 01/43-29-40-99

Strands of Christmas lights, tall iron candle stands, and, on cool evenings, a roaring fireplace set the ambience in this literary café and restaurant, where customers may read books they choose off the plentiful shelves. Sit on the mezzanine (it has an attractive glass ceiling that sheds extra light on the pages) and try duck baked in a salt crust (*canard en croûte de sel*).

**EAT** Le Flore en l'Île

42 quai d'Orléans, 01/43-29-88-27

Ice cream made by the legendary Parisian glacier Berthillon—a family affair that's been tantalizing locals with many standard (vanilla) and more exotic (tangerine-chocolate-Grand Marnier) flavors for three generations. A bit pricey, but there's a view of Notre-Dame and the Panthéon from the parlor tables.

**EAT** Les Délices de Verneuil

42 rue de Verneuil, 01/42-61-24-12

This fine take-out delicatessen sells supplies for picnics on the nearby pedestrian Pont des Arts bridge. Pick up sautéed garlic prawns (sold by the kilo) or thin zucchini cakes.

**DRINK** La Palette

43 rue de Seine, 01/43-26-68-15

A welcome substitute to the nearby Café de Flore, the tourist-swamped former office of existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre. Customers actually do write and sketch at La Palette, and the decor is better (lots of mirrors, elegant dark woodwork), the private terrace is bigger, and the coffee is cheaper.

**DRINK** Les Étages St-Germain

5 rue de Buci, 01/46-34-26-26

A stylishly ramshackle café in the heart of the capital's bar-laden "Vallée de la Soif," or Valley of Thirst, with fun miniature armchairs and Frisbee-size tables. Order the Boréal, the house specialty made with pineapple, banana, and tequila.

**SHOP** Le Marché aux Fleurs and Le Marché aux Oiseaux  
Place Louis-Lépine, on Ile de la Cité

This delightful daily flower market, in an elegant Baltard style iron-and-glass pavilion, manages to perfume even the sidewalk running along the square. On Sundays, a colorful and cacophonous bird market also sets up shop. Closed Mon.

**SHOP** Mouton à Cinq Pattes

138 boulevard St-Germain, 01/43-26-49-25

A good place for brand-name men's and women's clothes that are up-to-date. Expect to wait for a changing room.

**SHOP** Tea and Tattered Pages

24 rue Mayet, 01/40-65-94-35

One of Paris' best-priced English-language bookshops, with more than 17,000 used books. A resident cat and intimate tea-room in the back add to the homey ambience.

**PLAY** Caveau de la Bolée

25 rue de l'Hirondelle, 01/43-54-62-20

Rowdy students cheer, sing, and crack jokes along with the comedians, magicians, and singers in this smoky cabaret packed with tiny tables and housed in a vaulted cellar. Non-French speakers may want to skip the comedy, but other shows have wide appeal. Free with drinks or dinner.

**PLAY** Polly Maggoo

3-5 rue du Petit-Pont, 01/46-33-33-64

Sorbonne students play chess (Sundays at 4 P.M., just show up) and backgammon in a café named after William Klein's 1966 film *Who Are You, Polly Maggoo?*, a spoof on pretentious Parisian models. Don't have time for a game? Walk past for a gander at the stunning, neo-art deco blue-and-gold mosaic storefront.

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**SEE** Père-Lachaise Cemetery

16 rue du Repos, 01/55-25-82-10

The mournfully beautiful graveyard evokes an eerie little town, with cobblestone lanes, street signs, ornate mausoleums, and towers (one tops 66 feet). Luminaries buried here include Édith Piaf, Oscar Wilde, Delacroix, Proust, Molière, and Jim Morrison—whose grave, once a popular place to smoke pot, is now watched over by scowling attendants. Free.

**SEE** Space Invader mosaic

Quai de Jemmapes at avenue Richerand, [space-invaders.com](http://space-invaders.com)

One of the many colorful, license plate-size tile mosaics surreptitiously cemented to all kinds of buildings in Paris, as well as a handful of cities worldwide (Tokyo, Los Angeles), by French guerrilla artist Space Invader (his nom de guerre). His pixel-like mosaics, inspired by creatures in the eponymous video game, supposedly represent the electronic age, viruses, and alien paranoia.

**EAT** Dong Huong

14 rue Louis-Bonnet, 01/43-57-18-88

No-frills Vietnamese on a quiet street in Belleville, one of Paris's three Chinatowns. Inexpensive and generously portioned dishes. The peanut soup wins raves for its spiciness. Closed Tues.

**EAT** Helin

58 boulevard de Ménilmontant, 01/43-49-00-43

A dimly lit spot with sidewalk tables serving superb Kurdish cuisine from Turkey's Anatolia region. The menu goes heavy on liberally spiced barbecued lamb, chicken, and beef, but the most scrumptious dish is the *borek*, a filo roll with feta inside.

**EAT** Restaurant Monogaga

79 rue de Belleville, 01/40-03-87-46

An off-the-radar Ivory Coast-style dive, with card tables and folding chairs, dusty Christmas decorations, and inexpensive West African *mafés* (spicy meats in peanut butter). The chatty waitress doubles as a DJ for the cubbyhole dance floor, where festive diners hip-shake to catchy Coupé-Décalé dance music.

**DRINK** Café Charbon

109 rue Oberkampf, 01/43-57-55-13

Another stop on the neighborhood bar crawl. Artsy types read and write here in the afternoon, but the café/restaurant is packed by 10 P.M. with dressed-down revelers.

**DRINK** Le Scherkhan

144 rue Oberkampf, 01/43-57-29-34

The perfect place to begin, or end, the night. Enjoy a beer or three (and incense) at this popular watering hole with a pleasing patina. It's strategically located in the middle of a distinguished bohemian bar-crawl street, which runs southwest from Métro Ménilmontant to rue St-Maur.

**PLAY** Chicha Habibi Café

127 rue St-Maur, 01/43-38-90-02

The coolest of the Arab hookah cafés sprouting up in eastern Paris. Tunisian students, French designers, Japanese backpackers, and American expats recline on cushions, smoke velvety mint tobacco cooled in water pipes, and eat *baklava*, a honey-soaked North African pastry.

**PLAY** La Flèche d'Or

102 bis rue de Bagnole, 01/44-64-01-02, [flechedor.com](http://flechedor.com)

An edgy club inside a gutted train station, perched over an abandoned railway, running through a rusty pocket of one of Paris's industrial belts. Grab a seat on one of the misfit pink sofas and groove to the DJ's tunes. Sunday-afternoon jazz concerts also draw crowds. From €5 for concerts, sometimes free.

**PLAY** Nouveau Casino

109 rue Oberkampf, 01/43-57-57-40, [nouveaucasino.net](http://nouveaucasino.net)

The acoustics for live music are excellent at the "Niou Caz," in spite of the several hundred partiers that fill the club until dawn on weekends. Pop-rock, ambient, broken beat, house, and even punk acts. Cover from €5.

**ESCAPES**

**Forest of Fontainebleau**

Only 50 minutes separate Paris's Gare de Lyon train station from Fontainebleau, the hallowed hunting grounds of kings. It has always been a royal getaway, unlike Versailles, which is first and foremost a showcase of French pomp and diplomacy. Sovereigns continually tweaked the château, which was significantly expanded and decorated by artists summoned from Italy during the Renaissance. The real attraction is the surrounding forest, crisscrossed with trails for excellent hiking. The legendary horse riding is affordable, but can vary from outfit to outfit. Beginners welcome. Book ahead. (**Centre Equestre de Graville**, 06/26-45-74-46, [ferme-equestre-graville.com](http://ferme-equestre-graville.com), €45 for a half day; **Centre Equestre Saint-Georges André Bonneau**, 01/64-14-02-37, [andrebonneau.com](http://andrebonneau.com), €20 per hour.)

**Cathédrale Notre-Dame of Chartres**

For a cathedral sans crowd, grab an hourly train to Chartres, 55 miles from Montparnasse train station. This cathedral, possibly the world's finest example of gothic architecture, is larger than its cousin in Paris. Chartres's mismatched towers are visible from the station. Romantics go for the roundabout approach via a footpath along the Eure River, which provides stirring views through the trees. The cathedral holds a robe (currently being restored) said to be worn by Mary, but pilgrims seem more interested in the cathedral's 858-foot labyrinth. The Catholic labyrinth consists of a single winding path that leads to a center symbolizing God.

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**SEE** Centre National de la Photographie

11 rue Berryer, 01/53-76-12-32, [cnp-photographie.com](http://cnp-photographie.com)  
Exhibitions of iconic international and emerging French photographers in the neoclassical Hôtel Salomon de Rothschild town house. €4.60. Closed Tues.

**SEE** La Samaritaine

19 rue de la Monnaie, 01/40-41-20-20, [lasamaritaine.com](http://lasamaritaine.com)  
An art nouveau department store with eye-popping price tags. However, the rooftop's open-air *observatoire* offers a view of Paris for free. Just take the escalators to the top.

**EAT** Angéline Salon de Thé

226 rue de Rivoli, 01/42-60-82-00  
Don't let the Belle Époque décor and waiters in tuxedos intimidate you: Jeans-clad travelers fit in just fine. The fluffy quiche lorraine and tart fruit sorbets have carved out a reputation, but the real treat is the warm, slurpy hot chocolate (*chocolat africain*), served with whipped cream on the side.

**EAT** Le Zinc d'Honoré

36 place du Marché St-Honoré, 01/49-27-05-00  
The epitome of a Parisian sidewalk café: Marble tables are surrounded by rattan chairs and menus scribbled on portable chalkboards. The fine food includes dishes like grilled lamb with hazelnuts seasoned with *herbes de Provence*.

**S SPLURGE** Le Fumoir

6 rue de l'Amiral de Coligny, 01/42-92-00-24, [lefumoir.fr](http://lefumoir.fr)  
The "Smoking Room," replete with leather armchairs and a library, has an expensive, ever-changing menu, which includes seared tuna and pistachio pie. (Try for a window seat for a view of the Louvre and the St-Germain-l'Auxerrois gothic church.)

**DRINK** Buddha Bar

8 rue Boissy d'Anglas, 01/53-05-90-00, [buddha-bar.com](http://buddha-bar.com)  
The Buddha lives up to his rep. Join the smartly dressed hipsters imbibing away in the shadow of the famed 10-foot potbellied statue. Dinner is served, but the best vibes rev up after 11 P.M. on the upper-level bar.

**SHOP** Drouot

9 rue Drouot, 01/48-00-20-20, [drouot.fr](http://drouot.fr)  
France's oldest auction house sells everything from bottles of wine (from €30) to paintings (from €100). There's no charge to watch and anyone can participate. Multilingual booklets explain the rules, and you can blurt out your bids in English, but understanding French numbers helps you follow competitors. Auctions most days. Check online for schedule.

**SHOP** Yoba

11 rue du Marché St-Honoré, 01/40-41-04-06, [yobaparis.com](http://yobaparis.com)  
An iconic lingerie boutique. Each Thursday from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M., women (no men allowed) gather to sip free champagne and talk about sex, bra sizes, and the pros and cons of lace.

**SHOP** Reciproque

88-101 rue de la Pompe, 01/47-04-30-28, [reciproque.fr](http://reciproque.fr)  
Paris' largest luxury consignment shop, divided into seven boutiques, is your best shot at bagging Chanel or Dior without selling your blood. Although everything here is secondhand, it's rigorously selected.

**PLAY** Au Bec Fin

6 rue Thérèse, 01/42-96-29-35  
This whimsical café-theater in a 1659 stone building stages comedies and thrillers by contemporary playwrights. Some are in English. With only 50 seats, there's not a bad one in the house. Dinner at the adjacent restaurant is optional, but cheap—here's an opportunity to sample garlic-sautéed frog legs. €14; €30 with dinner.

**S SPLURGE** Mandala Ray

32-34 rue Marbeuf, 01/56-88-36-36, [manray.fr](http://manray.fr)  
A lounge-bar-restaurant, with a posh Zen look, that's partly owned by Johnny Depp, Sean Penn, and John Malkovich (all known to make an occasional appearance); it's a magnet for lower-orbit stars in need of a cooler image.

**DRINK YOUR WAY TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS**

Flex your French or just enjoy the romantic stereotype of that quintessential Parisian cultural mecca: the intellectual café.

**Café des Phares**

7 place de la Bastille (Métro: Bastille), 01/42-72-04-70  
People thirsty for cerebral stimulation gather at Paris' leading *café philosophique* on Sundays from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. A moderator chooses a subject on the spot, so you can't bone up to show off. Recent topics include "The Notion of Time" and "When Does Childhood End?"

**Au Père Tranquille**

16 rue Pierre Lescot (Métro: Les Halles), 01/45-08-00-34  
At 8 P.M. on the second Wednesday of every month, an expert lectures on anything from aerodynamics to women in physics. Debate ensues. Free.

**Café Psycho**

13 rue de Médicis (RER: Luxembourg), 01/43-25-21-81, [cafe-psycho.com](http://cafe-psycho.com)  
Guest lecturers discuss a subject (think obsessive-compulsive disorder) on Thursdays at 7 P.M. The bistro dinner is optional, but entrées are reasonable. Private "work rooms" are available after the talk for discussion, not therapy.

**Café de la Mairie**

8 place St-Sulpice (Métro: St-Sulpice), 01/43-26-67-82, [cafedelamour.free.fr](http://cafedelamour.free.fr)  
The former owner of a matchmaking agency moderates a discussion about love on Mondays at 8 P.M. €5 plus one-drink minimum.

# Paris Snap Guide

**SEE** Passage Vendôme

3 place de la République

The arcade is a good example of France's early-19th-century shopping malls; it remains unrestored, unlike most of its polished, upscale cousins scattered around the grand boulevards to the west. The walkway is illuminated with "zenith lighting," or a glass roof. Closes at 8 P.M.

**SEE** Promenade Plantée

Access along avenue Daumesnil, [promenade-plantee.org](http://promenade-plantee.org)

Built atop a disused elevated railway, the walkway makes for a bird's-eye glimpse of life below. Underneath lies the Viaduc des Arts, a series of brick arches converted into well-heeled showrooms and artisan ateliers selling furniture, tapestries, musical instruments, and jewelry.

"Every civilized man  
has two homelands,  
and one of  
them is France."

—Benjamin Franklin

**EAT** Café de l'Industrie

16-17 rue St-Sabin, 01/47-00-13-53

Reliable French food such as quiche and *boeuf bourguignon* (beef stewed in red wine) served amid eclectic decor with such funky accents as enormous tortoise shells, which hang on the wall. It attracts in-the-know locals and artsy globetrotters.

**EAT** Chez Paul

13 rue de Charonne, 01/47-00-34-57

A bustling boîte with low ceilings and close tables. The menu features affordable highlights from France's *cuisine traditionnelle*, including rabbit thighs stuffed with mint and goat cheese.

**EAT** Paris-Hanoi

74 rue de Charonne, 01/47-00-47-59

The cheapest trendy ethnic joint in town, so expect to dine with your elbows pinned to your sides. Try a Vietnamese dish of chicken sautéed in either ginger or *citronella* (lemongrass).

**EAT** Pause Café Bastille

41 rue de Charonne, 01/48-06-80-33

A café where most habitués just plop down for an afternoon coffee or cool drink on the ample terrace, which gets great amounts of sunshine when the weather permits. Terrific for people-watching.

**SHOP** 770

29 rue Beaurepaire, 01/42-02-07-88

Inexpensive vintage clothes and new knockoffs of the trendy look. But the real treat is the charm of Canal St-Martin, Paris's most laid-back waterfront, lined with sidewalk cafés and baby strollers.

**SHOP** Le Night Shop

34 rue de Lappe, 06/88-04-26-40

An embodiment of the Cool Paris Hipster Boutique: a small, unisex space with colorful 1970s clothes and paintings by local and international unknowns. It keeps alternative business hours—until 2 A.M.—to be in sync with the well-known party scene that's sprouted around the street's proliferation of bars. Closed Sun.

**SHOP** The Lazy Dog

2 passage Thiéry, 01/58-30-94-76, [thelazydog.fr](http://thelazydog.fr)

Stocks a great selection of books and magazines on graphic art—many in English. Titles include such fashionable disciplines as Japanese junk-food packaging and American indie fonts.

**PLAY** Batofar

Opposite 11 quai François Mauriac, 01/53-60-17-30, [batofar.org](http://batofar.org)

This former lightship, now a nightclub moored on the left bank of the Seine south of the Bastille, is a research center for French cool hunters. Its *scènes d'été*, or DJ parties, on summer Sunday afternoons are especially popular—people come to lounge and hear expert DJs. Cover from €5 (but occasionally free).

**PLAY** La Scène Bastille

2 bis rue des Taillandiers, 01/48-06-50-70, [la-scene.com](http://la-scene.com)

A buzzing venue for above-average soul, rock, reggae, rap, and electronica bands, and DJs, with a lounge and second bar separate from the thundering concert and dance hall. Cover from €10.

**PLAY** Le Sanz Sans

49 rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, 01/44-75-78-78, [sanzsans.com](http://sanzsans.com)

A slice of the capital's decadent dance scene, bringing together trappings of Baudelairian Paris—velvet-covered walls, paintings in gilded frames, deep armchairs, and purplish lighting—and techno music culture. Real-time video of the dance floor and bar, where bartenders on the main level whack cymbals on swinging lights, is screened in the chill-out mezzanine. No cover.

**TIP**

**See a fashion show** Not invited to the big runway shows in Paris? Try the free weekly fashion shows at Printemps and Galeries Lafayette, two Parisian department stores with locations on boulevard Haussmann. Printemps shows are Tuesdays at 10 A.M. ([printemps.com](http://printemps.com)); Galeries Lafayette's are Fridays at 11 A.M., reserve in advance at [welcome@galerieslafayette.com](mailto:welcome@galerieslafayette.com).

# Paris Snap Guide

**SEE** Musée Carnavalet

23 rue de Sévigné, 01/44-59-58-58,  
[paris.fr/musees/musee\\_carnavalet](http://paris.fr/musees/musee_carnavalet)

Composed of two beautiful Renaissance mansions situated amid manicured gardens, the museum charts the history of Paris through the Belle Époque (late 1800s to WW I) and the present day. Paintings, sculptures, Neolithic archeological finds, and maps. Free.

**SEE** Place des Vosges

Tidy early 17th-century row houses surround a grassy square. Their stately, formal elegance epitomizes architecture in the Marais, much of which was built for aristocrats. Businesses under the arcade, which wraps around the square, provide opportunities for splurging on clothes and art.

**EAT** Au Petit Fer à Cheval

30 rue Vieille du Temple, 01/42-72-47-47, [cafeine.com](http://cafeine.com)

The kitchen at the “Little Horseshoe” (named for its U-shaped bar) keeps cooking until 1 A.M. It has a deserved reputation for moderately priced, robust French cuisine (the duck confit in particular). Weathered white tiles, chipped mirrors, and old wooden subway seats provide charm.

**EAT** Brasserie Louis Philippe

66 quai de l’Hôtel de Ville, 01/42-72-29-42

Unpretentious, unrenovated fin-de-siècle decor—faded mirrors, tiles, ironwork, and a wood-and-leather spiral staircase. Order a steak in pepper or blue-cheese sauce.

**EAT** Minh Chau

10 rue de la Verrerie, 01/42-71-13-30

One of the Marais’s cheapest, friendliest restaurants, which is why it’s usually packed. Refuel with such Vietnamese staples as spring and imperial rolls wrapped in mint leaves and sautéed beef and onions over rice.

**EAT** Sacha Finkelsztajn

27 rue des Rosiers, 01/42-72-78-91, [laboutiquejaune.com](http://laboutiquejaune.com)

A landmark bakery in the Jewish part of the Marais offering Yiddish goodies like fresh bread with poppy seeds and lemon cheesecake. It even has free samples. Unoccupied stools are rare, so consider a picnic on the grass at the nearby Place des Vosges.

**DRINK** Beige

13 rue des Archives, 01/42-71-69-69

The wall along the sidewalk at this minimalist café slides away in warm weather, providing a breezy view of life in the fashionable Marais. While away the hours in one of the comfortable armchairs.

**DRINK** La Belle Hortense

31 rue Vieille du Temple, 01/48-04-71-60, [cafeine.com](http://cafeine.com)

A diminutive bookstore-bar that triples as a gallery and quadruples as a wine shop; it also occasionally holds literary events.

**DRINK** Politburo

25 rue du Roi de Sicile, 06/13-25-82-78

The walls are red, and 1920s-style Soviet Constructivist posters hang from the walls, but what really sets this bar apart are the inexpensive cocktails in a neighborhood that isn’t. Rotating photograph exhibitions, too.

**SHOP** Blaq Out

52 rue Charlot, 01/42-77-88-18, [blaqout.com](http://blaqout.com)

For DVDs of documentary, indie, and auteur films the chain stores can’t be bothered with. The friendly employees enjoy guessing your tastes and suggest titles (even if they don’t carry them). The shop stocks discs in different languages and hosts public get-togethers with directors and actors.

“To err is human.  
To loaf is Parisian.”

—Victor Hugo

**SHOP** Iglaine

12 rue de la Grande-Truanderie, 01/42-36-19-91

Affordable vintage garb from decades past. French Navy pantaloons, Hawaiian flower-print shirts, and leather slacks are easy finds, but rarities—say, a strapless raffia clutch—do crop up.

**PLAY** Forum des Images

Forum des Halles, down the Porte St-Eustache stairs located in place Carrée, 01/44-76-62-00, [forumdesimages.net](http://forumdesimages.net)

Paris’s largest *vidéothèque* screens more than 6,500 films shot in the capital (*Breathless*, *Last Tango in Paris*, etc.). Movie lovers select the film they want from a database, and then enjoy their choice on miniscreens designed for three or four viewers. The collection, dating from 1896, is touted as the “memory of Paris.” €5.50 for two hours of viewing.

**PLAY** Les Bains

7 rue du Bourg l’Abbé, 01/48-87-01-80

Dress über-hip and wipe off the smile for the detached cool look needed to get into this club. (Warning: Lines and wait times can sometimes test one’s patience.) The institution suffered somewhat from a botched 2004 renovation, but it’s still frequented by such aristocrats as Madonna, Brad Pitt, and Diddy, who once commandeered the turntables to wild cheering. Autograph-hunting deemed gauche.