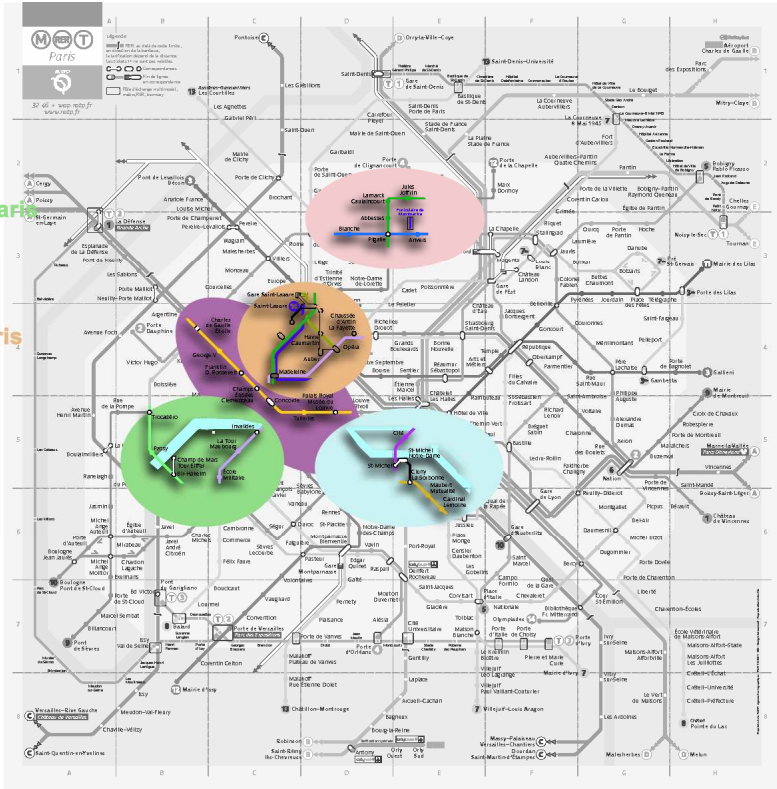


Five ideas for walks through Paris...

- Mythical Paris
- Monumental Paris
- Timeless Paris
- Village Paris
- Glamorous Paris



More information at:

<http://en.parisinfo.com/paris-sightseeing/going-for-a-walk-in-paris/>

...and one to navigate in Paris

Compagnie des Bateaux-Mouches®

Port de la Conférence - Pont de l'Alma - 75008 PARIS

Tel. : +33 (0)1 42 25 96 10

Informations: info@bateaux-mouches.fr

Accès :

Underground line 9 - Alma-Marceau

Underground line 1 - Franklin Roosevelt

Bus 28, 42, 49, 63, 72, 80, 83, 92

RER (regional express network line) C : Pont de l'Alma station

Free parking throughout the duration of the cruise.



Price : 11€/adult

Hours:

11•00am – 12•00

1•00pm – 1•45pm

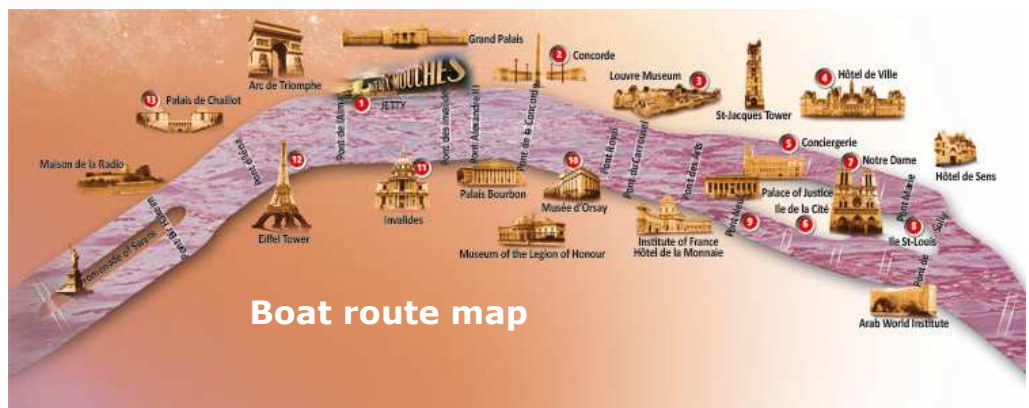
2•30pm – 3•15pm

4•00pm – 5•00pm

6•00pm – 7•00pm

7•45pm – 8•30pm

9•00pm



Boat route map

A walk through mythical Paris

duration: 1h – 1h30

start: Arc de triomphe (Métro Charles de Gaulle Etoile – Line 1)

arrival: Musée du Louvre (Métro Palais royal – Musée du Louvre – Line 1)

distance: 3,5 km



1. Arc de triomphe et la tombe du Soldat inconnu

At the tip of the Champs-Élysées, directly in line with the Arc du Carrousel and the Arche de la Défense, is Napoléon's triumphant antique arch. Commissioned in 1806 to celebrate the victories of the Great Army, it was completed in 1836. Its huge proportions – 50 metres high and 45 wide – are decorated with fine sculpture by Cortot and Étex, along with Rude's famous Marseillaise. Described by Victor Hugo as "a heap of glory", the arch became a national symbol and the centre of any parade. A flame is rekindled each evening at 6.30pm and the inscription "Here lies a French soldier, who died for his country" is written on the tomb of an unknown soldier laid to rest here in 1921.

2. Avenue des Champs-Élysées

Between Concorde and Étoile, is the emblematic section of a perspective that extends from the Louvre Pyramid to La Défense. The first steps of this "glorious way", an obligatory passage for patriotic parades, were however modest. Lined with undergrowth, the avenue reached the current site of place de l'Étoile in 1724. A fashionable place to walk, the gardens were devastated at the fall of the Empire. They regained their splendour around 1840: candelabras, fountains, creamy pavilions, landscaping with flowers and copses date from this period of balls and theatres. It was one hundred years later that rapid development occurred when affluence spread to the west of the capital. The avenue was then adorned with prestigious palaces, cafés and restaurant terraces and cinemas – joined today by ready-to-wear fashion stores and high-tech showrooms. Everything can be found on the "Champs": films, dresses, lunch, cotton and compresses, racing cars, yoghurts and fresh vegetables, books, CDs, perfume... from morning to midnight, sometimes 24 hours a day, often 7 days a week.



3. Galeries nationales du Grand Palais

This majestic stone building with its floral decoration, crowned with a splendid metallic framed glass roof, was constructed for the Exposition Universelle in 1900. Architecturally daring in its time, the Grand Palais houses the Palais de la Découverte science museum in one of its wings, while its nave and galleries are a dream showcase... for dream exhibitions!

Petit Palais – musée des Beaux Arts de la Ville de Paris

Like its 'Grand' neighbour, the Petit (little) Palais is an example of the eclectic splendour of the Exposition of 1900. The building alternates white and coloured marble, moulding and garlands, painted ceilings, mosaic flooring and opal stained-glass windows around an interior garden. The city's Fine Arts museum since 1902, the Petit Palais has had a complete makeover, and displays collections of painting, sculpture and art objects from antiquity to 1918. Amongst other marvels, visitors will admire Greek amphora, orthodox icons, Gothic ivories, Italian Madonnas, paintings by Rubens, Saxe porcelain and blown-crystal glass vases.



4. Place de la Concorde

Work began on place Louis XV in 1755. It broke with the tradition of enclosed royal squares, to open up the perspective to the Tuileries gardens. The fine mansion houses – the Hôtel de la Marine and the Hôtel Crillon underlined the axis of the statue of the monarch – were demolished after thirty years. Place de la Revolution is where Louis XVI, Marie-Antoinette, Danton and Robespierre were guillotined. However, place de la Concorde spells reconciliation. Louis- Philippe sought a monument that would cool revolutionary and royalist passions, which he found in the 3,300-year-old Obelisk, a gift from the pasha of Egypt. Erected in 1836, its 23 metres and 230 tons of pink granite took four years to travel from Luxor! Two fountains, embellished with golden mermaids and fish, enliven the grey, green and golden decor of the square.



5. Jardin des Tuileries

A wealth of works populate the terraces, the lawns and flowerbeds laid out in the French style, the copses and the areas around the ornamental ponds: an academic Spartacus on a marble pedestal and the contemporary Welcoming Hands, by Louise Bourgeois, plus classical allegories and Tinguely's tricolor. The green Maillol bronzes emerge from the labyrinth of hedges that connect the Tuileries to the Louvre. At the other end, in a direct line with the great axis, the garden opens out spectacularly onto Concorde. Lush greenery, games, refreshment chalets, and farniente lie between the two.



6. Musée du Louvre

The biggest museum in Paris, and home of the Mona Lisa, The Raft of the Medusa, and Venus de Milo was, first and foremost, the jewel in the crown of the kings, emperors and republics of France. From the sombre late-12th century fortress to Pei's glass pyramid, inaugurated in 1989, many have reigned here and practically everyone has left their mark – Renaissance, Classic, First and Second Empire, contemporary... The Louvre, a museum since 1793, houses collections of Western art from the Middle Ages to 1848, and collections of ancient oriental, Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan and Roman civilisations which preceded and influenced them, as well as graphic arts and Islamic arts.



*Arts décoratifs : Musée des Arts décoratifs, Musée de la Publicité, Musée de la Mode et du Textile

A walk through monumental Paris

duration: 1h00 – 1h30

start: Trocadero (Métro Trocadéro – Line 6)

arrival: Invalides (Métro Invalides – Line 8 or 13)

distance: 3,5 km



1. Trocadéro

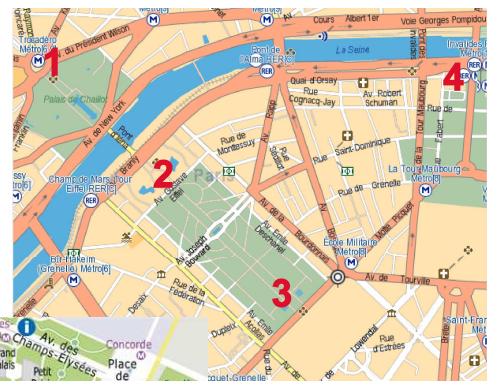
The elevated “Troca” has a privileged viewpoint of the Eiffel Tower on the opposite bank of the Seine. Between the curved wings of the vast Palais de Chaillot – emblem of the 1930s – are gently sloping terraces and gardens, bordered by century-old Caucasian wingnut and hazel trees, and dotted with gilded bronze statues. Skaters and rollerbladers weave alongside the fountains beneath the gaze of Apollo and Hercules, sculpted on the pediment of the pavilions.

2. Tour Eiffel et 3. Champ-de-Mars

The vast park laid out below the famous tower has nothing warlike about it, and even boasts a Wall of Peace! Its name, borrowed from the god of war, relates to the early history of the “champ” as an exercise area for the young cadets of the military school. Later, as the centre point of the Expositions universelles, it was chosen as the site of the biggest attraction of 1889, the Eiffel Tower. Stop to gaze up at all of its 324 metres! The tower was saved from demolition after twenty years because of its scientific utility. A few more figures: 10,100 tons, 2,500,000 rivets, 1,665 steps, two years of relentless work for the 50 engineers and 132 workers directed by Gustave Eiffel, and approximately 230 million visitors since its construction. The tower is a special landmark symbolizing Paris and France throughout the world and it sparkles every evening until 1am (in winter) or 2am (in summer).

4. Invalides

In 1671, Louis XIV decided to build “a royal hostel that would be large and spacious enough to house all officers, crippled, old and retired alike”. The “pensioners” began arriving in 1674. The Eglise Saint-Louis – or “Soldiers Church” – and the Eglise du Dôme (transformed into a military pantheon) were built afterwards. This magnificent ensemble, with its wonderful green lawn, today houses canons, the Ministry of Defence and the Musée de l’Ordre de la Libération, Musée des Plans et Reliefs and Musée de l’Armée. The Musée de l’Armée houses the tomb of Napoléon, the department of arms and ancient armoury and that of the two world wars.



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7 Arrondissement District
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A walk through timeless Paris

duration: 1h30

start: Pantheon (Métro Cardinal Lemoine – Line 10)

arrival: Conciergerie (Métro Cité – Line 4)

distance: 3 km



1. Panthéon

Its dome dominates the Latin Quarter and gives its name to the similarly solemn square, at the centre of which it stands. This colossal civic temple worthily upholds the motto inscribed on its pediment that honours the nations great men. An irony of history, this monument dedicated to Republican liturgies was commissioned by Louis XV in 1744 to honour Sainte-Geneviève. But with the Revolution underway, the scarcely finished basilica was transformed into a civic temple in 1791 and consecrated as the national Panthéon in 1885, at the funeral of Victor Hugo. A synthesis of neoclassical and Gothic-style architecture, it also houses the tombs of Pierre and Marie Curie, Alexandre Dumas, Jean Jaurès, André Malraux, Jean Moulin, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Voltaire.

2. Quartier latin

On the Left Bank, in the vicinity of the University founded in the 12th century, latin was the language most commonly spoken by professors and students. This tradition seems to have died out but the name remains. Around the Sorbonne, the Collège de France, prestigious schools and the Sainte-Geneviève library, there are still numerous bookshops, publishers, and cafés, where students revise for their exams, as well as tiny art-house cinemas. Of course, the Saint- Michel fountain is not only a meeting point for students, many businesses have now moved into the area, but the memory of Professor Abélard and the paving stones of May 1968 still remain here and there.

3. Les Iles de la Cité et Saint-Louis

Despite being the birthplace of Paris, these two neighbouring islands, embraced by the arms of the Seine, are very different. On the Île de la Cité, amid a flurry of uniforms and lawyers' gowns, you go from one historic site to another: place Dauphine, the Conciergerie, Sainte-Chapelle, Hôtel-Dieu, Notre-Dame... The Pont Saint-Louis marks the boundary – often with music – beyond which lies the tranquility of sumptuous mansion houses. A refuge for artists and poets, the Île Saint-Louis is also a haven for gourmets judging by the profusion of restaurants, cafés, ice-cream makers and confectioners, whose tempting windows line the rue Saint-Louis-en-l'Île.



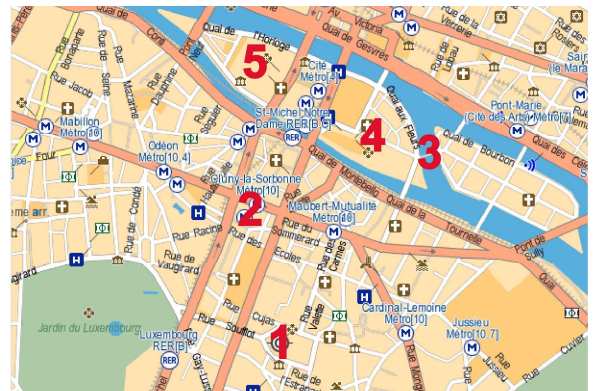
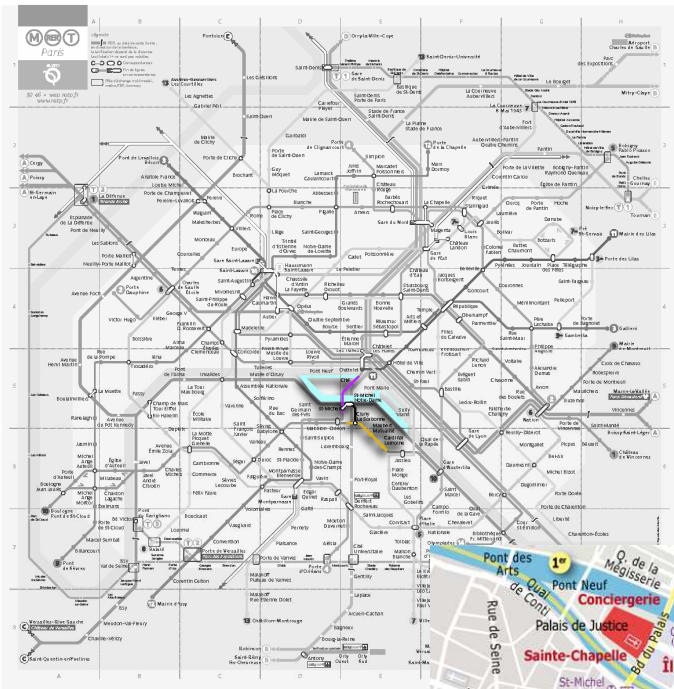
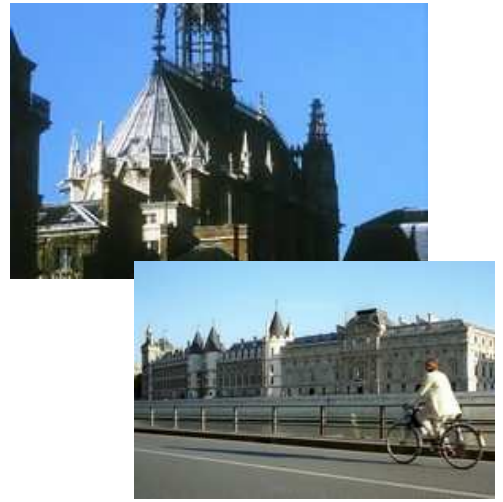
4. Notre-Dame de Paris

The beginning of its long construction coincided with the choice of Paris as a capital and, on the square in front of the cathedral, a bronze star inscribed "zero kilometre" indicates the centre of the country in terms of travelling distances. A symbol of Gothic art, its harmonious layout seems to be the work of just one architect, yet dozens followed on from the 12th to the 19th century, the date of its restoration by Viollet-le-Duc. The cathedral has witnessed Saint Louis, barefoot, wearing the Crown of Thorns in 1239, the coronation of Napoléon in 1804, the celebration of the Liberation of Paris in 1944... and you too, as you climb the 422 steps leading to the top. Like Victor Hugo's Quasimodo, you will then find yourself face to face with some of its grimacing gargoyles. You will also be able to make the acquaintance of the thirteen-ton bell named Emmanuel, and enjoy a breathtaking view across the rooftops of Paris.



5. Sainte-Chapelle and the Conciergerie

Next to the Palais de Justice (law courts), Sainte-Chapelle and the Conciergerie are the precious remains of what was once the palace of the kings of France from the 10th to the 14th century. The Sainte-Chapelle, a triumphantly flamboyant example of the Gothic style, was commissioned by Saint Louis. In the lower chapel, dedicated to the Virgin, gilded lilies on an azure-blue star-studded vault are a wonderful sight. But reserve your praise for the upper chapel, designed to house the relics of Christ's Passion, dispersed during the French Revolution, and lined with predominantly red and blue stained-glass windows – the largest expanse of 13th century stained glass in the world. The Conciergerie was a prison up until the 19th century: the regicidal Ravallac, Marie- Antoinette and many others, especially during the darker days of the French Revolution, spent their last days here.



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A walk through village Paris

duration: 2h00

start: Butte Montmartre (Métro Anvers – Line 2)

arrival: Moulin Rouge (Métro Blanche – Line 2)

distance: 3 km



1. Butte Montmartre

Venice has its gondolas, Montmartre its steps – physically demanding but Romanesque in the extreme. Countless novels, legends and “fabulous destinies” are set in the Butte, such as the Bateau-Lavoir in place Émile-Goudeau, where Picasso painted the *Demaiselles d’Avignon*, and the café made famous by Amélie Poulain in rue Lepic. At the top is Sacré-Coeur, surrounded by a labyrinth of extraordinary little streets, and a vineyard, where the grape harvest is celebrated each year. From the square de la Turlure or the rue de la Chevalier-de-la-Barre, the Sacré-Coeur is just as wonderful from the side, the back or the front!

The funicular carries passengers from the base of the butte (outlier) of Montmartre to the summit, near the base of the Sacré-Cœur basilica, and back down. It provides an alternative to the multiple stairways of more than 300 steps that lead to the top of the Butte Montmartre. At 108 m (354 ft) long, the funicular climbs and drops the 36 m (118 ft) in under a minute and a half.

2. Basilique Sacré cœur

In 1873, the National Assembly voted for the construction of a basilica devoted to the Sacred Heart on the butte Montmartre. The site was chosen as much for its altitude (127 metres) as for its symbolism; it was sanctified long before with the martyrdom of Saint Denis and sullied by the violent acts of the Commune, in 1870. Pitfalls, controversies, underground quarries, and 83 buried pillars caused the work to extend over forty years. All these efforts were rewarded! From below, the Romano- Byzantine contours take on the appearance of a whipped-cream palace set on a hill of gardens and terraces: green and white outlined against swathes of azure. The view from the top of the steps, and especially from the top of the dome, is simply stunning.



3. Place du tertre

Welcome to picture-postcard Montmartre, with its restaurant terraces and artists’ easels and portrait painters, who share 140 allotted spaces – 1 sq.m. for two artists working alternately. But the historic village square merits a little tour. The commune of Montmartre established its town hall at No 3, in 1790; No 19 is the headquarters of the Commune libre du Vieux Montmartre, which organises fun events and was founded in 1920. Another institution is the café Chez la mère Catherine where the word ‘bistro’ was said to have originated, in 1814. “Hurry” cried the occupying Russian soldiers, eager to down a drink before rejoining their ranks. The waitresses thought they were simply asking for something to drink... Standing serenely at the centre of all this activity, the adjoining church of Saint- Pierre de Montmartre conceals the Roman vestiges of the Abbaye des Dames.

4. Place des Abbesses

underground station in Paris – it is thirty metres below ground – but hale and hearty walkers are encouraged to climb the fresco-painted steps before emerging exhausted into the little square to catch their breath on one of the benches. In a glance, one takes in the art nouveau metro entrance by Hector Guimard, the merry-go-round, the cast-iron street lights and the Wallace fountain.



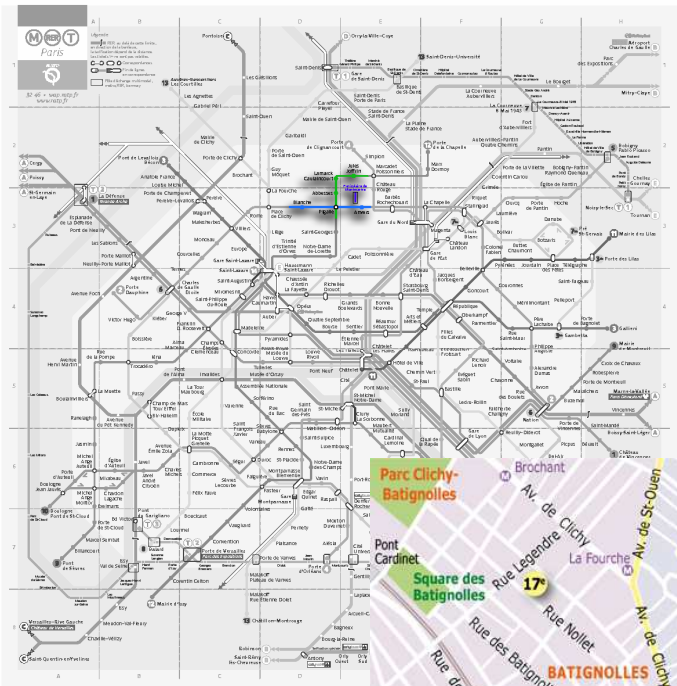
In the adjoining Square Jehan-Rictus, kids play at the foot of a wall in enamelled lava, where "I love you" is declared in 311 languages. Opposite, the church Saint-Jean-l'Évangéliste, nicknamed Notre-Dame-des-Briques (Our-Lady-of-Bricks) since 1904, mixes Byzantine and art nouveau influences. On both sides of rue des Abbesses, rue Durantin, and rue de la Vieuville, and rue Yvonne-le-Tac... trendy local boutiques rub shoulders with café terraces, where it is nice to do nothing more than watch the world go by.

5. Pigalle

From place d'Anvers to place de Clichy, night revellers, neon lights and illuminated signs ensure that, almost for as long as Paris has existed, this area never sleeps. In the Paris of yesteryear, wine, taxed at the entry to the city, was more expensive. So, Montmartre was the lively out-of-town place to go with its mix of lower classes, artists, young women and free thinkers. Later, the village was absorbed into the capital but the rowdiness continued. Piano-bars, night clubs, private clubs, concert halls, café-theatres, music halls, dinner shows, pubs, cabarets lasted for three seasons or over one hundred years. In the 1960s, Serge Gainsbourg sang "les petits gars de Liverpool" causing a sensation at the Bus Palladium. Others followed. When the Paris of Jacques Dutronc "awakes" at 5am, place Blanche – at the end of turbulent rue Fontaine – often looks the worse for wear. But after a short rest, all is well again.

6. Moulin Rouge

Montmartre hill once bristled with windmills. They closed one after the other, while the Moulin de la Galette became a popular dance hall. In 1889, another opened with just the exterior decor of a windmill. Soon the French Cancan – black stockings, garters and petticoats – created an air of euphoria and stardom for La Goulue and her fellow dancers. The first revues were staged and, in 1907, a certain Mistinguett began her music-hall career. After the war, a new generation of artists arrived, including Edith Piaf, Montant, Trenet and Aznavour... Every evening, glitz, feathers and sequins continue to weave their magic at the Moulin Rouge.



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- A découvrir Discover
- i Office du Tourisme et des Congrès de Paris Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau
- 9 Arrondissement District
- M Métro Metro
- RER RER Suburban rail

A walk through glamorous Paris

duration: 1h00 (and more... for the shopping)

start: Eglise de la Madeleine (Métro Madeleine – Line 8 or 12 or 14)

arrival: Department stores on Boulevard Haussmann (Saint Lazare – Line 3 or 12 or 13 or 14)

distance: 2 km

1. Eglise de la Madeleine



The construction of the Madeleine church was fraught with drama. Scarcely had work begun in 1764, than it was stopped. Begun again in 1777, only to be interrupted by the French Revolution, before being restarted under Napoléon, who altered the plans to make the building a pantheon to the glory of his armies. The building was designated a place of worship again and the church was completed in 1842. With no bell tower or cross on the outside, it's more like a Greek temple, with two monumental doors and a forest of Corinthian columns. From the top of the steps is a view worthy of Olympia: firstly the rue Royale, with its luxury goods and prestigious addresses, then the Obelisk at Concorde and beyond, looking in the same direction, yet another temple, the Palais Bourbon.

The square surrounding the church also bears its name. Thoughts turn quickly to the little sponge cakes known as "madeleines", which Marcel Proust made famous many years after having lived at No 9. The square seems to have been given over to gourmet pleasures since 1854 when a certain Ferdinand Hédiard opened a delicatessen store here, joined in 1886 by that of Auguste Fauchon and followed by chocolate, truffle and caviar houses.

2. Place Vendôme

Louis XIV had desired a grandiose setting to embody absolute power at the heart of Paris. And Napoléon was quick to replace the king's statue, dismantled in 1792, with a bronze column made from 1,200 enemy canons. However, since the Second Empire, the square, an octagonal gem of classic urban design, has changed its affinities. Politics have given way to luxury, and the great names in jewellery have made place Vendôme and the adjoining rue de la Paix (most expensive street in Monopoly!) a continuous stream of diamonds, rubies and emeralds.



3. Palais Garnier – Opéra national de Paris

The Opera House was inaugurated under the Third Republic, following fifteen years of setbacks, including the nightmarish discovery by the architect Charles Garnier, of an underground expanse of water. This rather deep lake, the stage for executions during the Commune, was the inspiration for writer Gaston Leroux's Phantom of the Opera. But let's start with the main auditorium, with its ceiling painted by Chagall, its eight-ton crystal chandelier, and purple velvet seats set around an Italian-style stage, where operas and ballets are performed. The vestibules and main staircase going up to the auditorium are made of marble and filled with sculptures of harps and lyres leading the dance. Outside, Baroque and neo-Renaissance styles intertwine above a flight of steps that are a popular place for people to meet up.



Department stores on Boulevard Haussmann

At the beginning of the 19th century, Haussmann redesigned Paris. Built for the crowds thronging the café terraces and theatres along the boulevards, covered shopping arcades were a huge success with their boutiques of Chinese ornaments, curiosities and gifts, along with tea, chocolate and coffee houses. They were the meeting places for the elegantly dressed, a haven from wet weather. Then came the department stores.



