Welcome to Paris

La Ville Lumière (the City of Light) acquired its enduring moniker due to its leading role in the Age of Enlightenment, and it’s as apt as ever today, with enduring icons alongside groundbreaking innovations.

The enchanting French capital is awash with landmarks that need no introduction – the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and Notre-Dame among them – along with a trove of specialist museums and galleries. Creamy-stone, grey-metal-roofed apartment buildings, lamp-lit bridges and geometrically laid-out formal parks are equally integral parts of the city’s fabric.

Contrary to its magnificently preserved cityscapes, however, Paris has never stood still, but has constantly evolved throughout the eras, leading the way in industrial, artistic, scientific and architectural endeavours. This innovative spirit continues today, with pioneering green transport initiatives and dazzling new architectural projects that include skyscraping towers along the periphery and re-energised urban spaces, such as the Île Seguin–Rives de Seine development on a Seine island being transformed into a cultural hub of the city’s ambitious Grand Paris (Greater Paris) expansion. Creativity is evident everywhere, from neobistro kitchens, cutting-edge cocktail bars, fashion ateliers and vibrant street art to the 1920s former railway depot housing Station F, the world’s largest start-up hub.
PARIS PLAN YOUR TRIP

Bastille & Eastern Paris .................................................179
The Islands .................................................................. 180
Latin Quarter .................................................................. 180
St-Germain & Les Invalides .............................................. 181
Montparnasse & Southern Paris ........................................ 183

Showtime ........................................................................ 185
The Best............................................................................ 187
Eiffel Tower & Western Paris ............................................. 188
Champs-Élysées & Grands Boulevards ................................. 188
Louvre & Les Halles ................................................................ 188
Montmartre & Northern Paris .............................................. 189
Le Marais, Ménilmontant & Belleville ................................. 191
Bastille & Eastern Paris ..................................................... 192
Latin Quarter ..................................................................... 193
St-Germain & Les Invalides ................................................. 193

Active Paris ...................................................................... 195
The Best............................................................................ 197
Spectator Sports ............................................................... 198
Swimming Pools ............................................................... 198
Inline Skating .................................................................. 198
Parks ................................................................................ 199
Forests ............................................................................ 200
Guided Tours ...................................................................... 201

Rest Your Head .................................................................. 203
Accommodation Types ....................................................... 206
Need to Know .................................................................... 207
Where to Stay .................................................................... 209

In Focus
Paris Today .......................................................................... 212
History ............................................................................... 214
Architecture ........................................................................ 219
Arts .................................................................................... 223

Survival Guide
Directory A–Z ..................................................................... 230
Transport ........................................................................... 233
Language ............................................................................ 238
Index .................................................................................. 240
Paris Maps ........................................................................... 245
Symbols & Map Key ............................................................ 257

Le Marais, Ménilmontant & Belleville ................................. 191
Bastille & Eastern Paris ..................................................... 192
Latin Quarter ..................................................................... 193
St-Germain & Les Invalides ................................................. 193

La Tour Eiffel & Western Paris .............................................. 188
Champs-Élysées & Grands Boulevards ................................. 188
Louvre & Les Halles ................................................................ 188
Montmartre & Northern Paris .............................................. 189
Le Marais, Ménilmontant & Belleville ................................. 191
Bastille & Eastern Paris ..................................................... 192
Latin Quarter ..................................................................... 193
St-Germain & Les Invalides ................................................. 193

The Islands ....................................................................... 180
Latin Quarter ..................................................................... 180
St-Germain & Les Invalides ................................................. 181
Montparnasse & Southern Paris ........................................... 183
Plan Your Trip
This Year in Paris

2018

Paris

Art fairs, music festivals, open-air cinema and epicurean events are just some of the highlights of Paris’ calendar in 2018, with many more in the works: check www.parisinfo.com for updates.

From left: National flag waving under the Arc de Triomphe on Bastille Day (p12); Paris Plages (p12); Cocktails
★ Top Festivals & Events
Paris Plages – Jul (p12)
Bastille Day – Jul (p12)
Paris Cocktail Week – Jan (p6)
Taste of Paris – May (p10)
Nuit Blanche – Oct (p15)
April

Sinatra sang about April in Paris, and the month sees the city’s ‘charm of spring’ in full swing, with chestnuts blossoming and cafe terraces coming into their own. Easter Sunday is 1 April 2018.

🔮 **Foire du Trône** Early Apr–Early Jun
Going strong since 957 AD, huge funfair Foire du Trône features some 350 attractions over 10 hectares on the Pelouse de Reuilly of the Bois de Vincennes from around Easter to early June.

🔮 **Salon du Running** Early Apr
In the run-up to the Marathon International de Paris, the three-day Salon du Running (‘Running Show’; www.salondurunning.fr) draws more than 80,000 visitors (including competitors picking up their bibs) and 200-plus professional exhibitors at the Parc des Expositions at Porte de Versailles, 15e.

🔮 **Marathon International de Paris** Early Apr
Paris’ international marathon, the Marathon International de Paris (pictured above) starts on the av des Champs-Élysées, 8e, and finishes on av Foch, 16e, attracting more than 57,000 runners from some 145 countries.

🔮 **Foire de Paris** Late Apr–Early May
Gadgets, widgets, food and wine feature at this huge contemporary-living fair (www.foiredeparis.fr), held at the Parc des Expositions at Porte de Versailles, 15e.
August

Parisiens desert the city in droves during the summer swelter when, despite an influx of tourists, many restaurants and shops shut. It’s a prime time to cycle, with far less traffic on the roads.

★ Classique au Vert  Early Aug–Mid-Sep
In Paris’ eastern forest, the Bois de Vincennes, the Parc Floral de Paris (www.classiqueauvert.paris.fr) hosts classical music concerts amid the greenery.

★ Rock en Seine  Late Aug
Headlining acts rock the Parc de St-Cloud, on the city’s southwestern edge, at this wildly popular three-day, late-August music festival (www.rockenseine.com; Donita Sparks of L7 pictured above). A campsite sets up in the gardens.

★ Silhouette  Late Aug–Early Sep
Out-of-the-box short films by boundary-pushing independent film-makers screen in competition during this film festival (www.association-silhouette.com) alongside open-air concerts and workshops, attracting audiences of more than 20,000 people.

★ Fête des Tuileries  Jun–Aug
Carousels (merry-go-rounds) of all vintages are the centrepiece of this funfair in the Jardin des Tuileries French formal gardens, along with bumper cars, giant slides and a scenic (if vertigo-inducing) Ferris wheel. Entry’s free; rides are charged individually.
Plan Your Trip

Need to Know

Daily Costs

Budget
Less than €100
- Dorm bed: €25–50
- Coffee/glass of wine/33cl craft beer: from €2.50/4/4.50
- Inexpensive self-catering options include street markets
- Book of 10 metro tickets: €14.50
- Same-day, half-price theatre tickets: from €15
- Frequent free concerts and events

Midrange
€100–250
- Double room in a mid-range hotel: €130–250
- Two-course meal: €20–40
- Museum admission: free to around €15
- Admission to clubs: free to around €20

Top End
More than €250
- Historic luxury hotel double room: from €250
- Gastronomic restaurant meal: from €40
- Glass of Champagne/cocktail: from €6/10

Advance Planning

Two months before
Book accommodation; organise opera, ballet or cabaret tickets; check events calendars to find out what festivals will be on; and make reservations for high-end/popular restaurants.

Two weeks before
Sign up for a local-led tour and start narrowing down your choice of museums, pre-purchasing tickets online where possible.

Two days before
Pack your comfiest shoes!

Useful Websites

- Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/paris) Destination information, bookings, traveller forum and more.
- Paris by Mouth (www.parisbymouth.com) Restaurants searchable by arrondissement.
- Sortiraparis (www.sortiraparis.com) Up-to-date calendar listing what’s on around town.
- HiP Paris (www.hipparis.com) Not only vacation rentals (“Haven in Paris”), but switched-on articles and reviews by expat locals, too.

Currency
Euro (€)

Language
French

Visas
There are generally no restrictions for EU citizens. Usually not required for most other nationalities for stays of up to 90 days.

Money
ATMs are widely available. Visa and MasterCard accepted in most hotels, shops and restaurants; fewer accept American Express.

Mobile Phones
Check with your provider before you leave home about roaming costs and/or ensuring your phone is unlocked to use a French SIM card (available cheaply in Paris).

Time
Central European Time (GMT/UTC plus one hour).

Tourist Information
Paris Convention & Visitors Bureau (p232) sells tickets for tours and attractions, and museum and transport passes.

For more, see the Survival Guide (p229)