



Around Paris

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Le Jardin des Plumes (p168)
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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ La Ferme de la Canardière (p172)
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- ➔ Hôtel de Londres (p169)

Why Go?

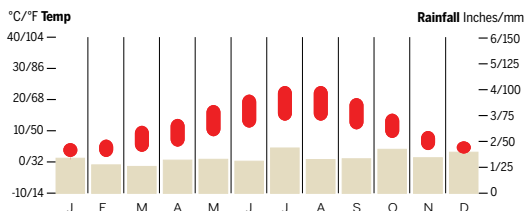
Whether you're taking day trips from Paris or continuing further afield, a trove of treasures awaits in the areas around the French capital.

The Île de France région – the 12,000-sq-km 'Island of France' shaped by five rivers – and surrounding areas count some of the most extravagant châteaux in the land. At the top of everyone's list is the palace at Versailles, the opulence and extravagance of which partly spurred the French Revolution, but the châteaux in Fontainebleau and Chantilly are also breathtaking. Many beautiful and ambitious cathedrals are also here, including Senlis' Gothic wonder and the glorious cathedral crowning the medieval old city of Chartres. In Giverny, Monet's home and gardens provide a picturesque insight into the inspiration for his seminal paintings.

But Paris' surrounds don't only hark back to the past. Also here is every kid's favourite, Disneyland Resort Paris, which now has more attractions than ever.

When to Go

Chartres



Apr–Oct Monet's former home in Giverny is open and its gardens are in bloom.

Mid-Apr–mid-Oct Chartres' landmarks light up during Chartres en Lumières.

Mid-June–mid-Sep Fountains dance to classical music in Versailles' gardens some summer evenings.



Around Paris Highlights

- ① Relive the glory of the 17th- and 18th-century kingdom of France at the opulent-and-then-some **Château de Versailles** (p162)
- ② Stroll through the life-size impressionist masterpiece of **Monet's garden** (p166) in Giverny
- ③ Follow an aspiring chef,

rat Rémy, in his quest to prepare a Parisian meal aboard Walt Disney Studios Park's brand-new, larger-than-life Ratatouille ride at **Disneyland Resort Paris** (p161)

- ④ Hike, cycle, horse ride or rock-climb in one of France's loveliest woods, the **Forêt de Fontainebleau** (p170)

- ⑤ Gaze at the hypnotic blue stained-glass windows at the **Cathédrale Notre Dame** (p174) in Chartres

- ⑥ Visit the interior of **Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte** (p171) by candlelight

- ⑦ View the extraordinary artworks inside the lake-set **Château de Chantilly** (p171)

Disneyland Resort Paris

It took almost €4.6 billion to turn the beet fields 32km east of Paris into Europe's first Disney theme park. What started out as Euro-Disney in 1992 today comprises the

traditional Disneyland Park theme park, the film-oriented Walt Disney Studios Park, and the hotel-, shop- and restaurant-filled Disney Village. And kids – and kids-at-heart – can't seem to get enough.