



# Around Paris

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## Best Places to Eat

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

- ➔ La Ferme de la Canardière (p172)
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## Why Go?

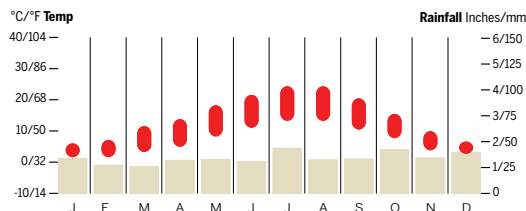
Whether you're taking day trips from Paris or continuing further afield, a trove of treasures awaits in the areas around the French capital.

The Île de France *région* – the 12,000-sq-km 'Island of France' shaped by five rivers – and surrounding areas contain 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 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.

Yet 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-Jun–mid-Sep** Fountains dance to classical music in Versailles' gardens some summer evenings.

## 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.

### Sights

Basic one-day admission fees at [Disneyland Resort Paris](#) (📞hotel 01 60 30 60 30, restaurant 01 60 30 40 50; [www.disneylandparis.com](http://www.disneylandparis.com);



## Around Paris Highlights

**1 Château de Versailles** (p163) Reliving the glory of the 17th- and 18th-century kingdom of France at the opulent palace.

**2 Maison et Jardins de Claude Monet** (p167) Strolling through the life-size impressionist masterpiece of Monet's garden in Giverny.

**3 Disneyland Resort Paris** (p161) Following an adorable chef, rat Rémy, aboard the Ratatouille ride.

**4 Forêt de Fontainebleau** (p170) Hiking, cycling, horse riding or rock-climbing in one of France's loveliest forests.

**5 Cathédrale Notre Dame** (p174) Gazing at hypnotic blue stained-glass

windows at the awe-inspiring cathedral in Chartres.

**6 Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte** (p171) Visiting this 17th-century château by candlelight.

**7 Château de Chantilly** (p171) Viewing the artworks inside the lake-set château where its namesake whipped cream was created.