

Champs-Élysées & Grands Boulevards

CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES | GRANDS BOULEVARDS

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Climbing the **Arc de Triomphe** (p95) to survey the *axe historique*, extending from the Louvre to La Défense.
- 2 Taking in a performance or touring the opulent 19th-century **Palais Garnier** (p97) opera house.
- 3 Catching a free fashion show showcasing seasonal trends at the magnificent art nouveau department store **Galleries Lafayette** (p105), and admiring the rooftop panorama.
- 4 Viewing exceptional art exhibitions at galleries like the **Grand Palais** (p97).
- 5 Strolling the over-the-top **Champs-Élysées** (p97) – you can't leave Paris without doing it once.



For more detail of this area see Map p384 and p386 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Haute cuisine – and *haute* prices – are the rule in the 8e, but if you eat at one of the finer restaurants for lunch on a weekday, you'll save a bundle and still get to treat your taste buds to an extraordinary meal. Make sure to reserve.



Best Places to Eat

- Richer (p103)
- Le Hide (p101)
- Floquifil (p103)
- Bistrot La Bruyère (p103)
- Lasserre (p101)

For reviews, see p100 ➡



Best Entertainment

- Palais Garnier (p104)
- Au Limonaire (p105)
- L'Olympia (p105)
- Salle Pleyel (p105)

For reviews, see p104 ➡



Best Shopping

- Galeries Lafayette (p105)
- Le Printemps (p105)
- Triangle d'Or (p106)
- À la Mère de Famille (p106)
- Place de la Madeleine (p102)

For reviews, see p105 ➡

Explore: Champs-Élysées & Grands Boulevards

The Champs-Élysées and Grands Boulevards area is grandiose in layout – it's possible to play an epically proportioned game of connect the dots here. The main landmarks – the Arc de Triomphe, place de la Concorde, place de la Madeleine and the Opéra – are joined by majestic boulevards, each lined with harmonious rows of Haussmann-era buildings.

Monumental vistas will easily keep your eyes occupied but high-end shops and elegant department stores are this district's *raison d'être* and many will soon find their gaze slipping to the display windows of the luxury shops. Dior, Chanel, Louis Vuitton...fans of *haute couture* will find themselves pulled into the famed Triangle d'Or (Golden Triangle), south from the Champs-Élysées. Further east along the Grands Boulevards are the historic *grands magasins* (department stores) like Le Printemps and Galeries Lafayette, which will appeal to shoppers interested in a broader overview of French fashion.

But there's much more to this area than fashion overload. The vestiges of the 1900 World's Fair – the Grand Palais and Petit Palais (along with the bridge Pont Alexandre III) – play host to a variety of excellent exhibits.

Entertainment, too, has a strong tradition in this area, the most notable venue being the famed 19th-century opera house, the Palais Garnier. While non-French speakers will skip the theatres along the Grands Boulevards, there are plenty of music venues – from classical to rock – that require no language skills to appreciate.

Local Life

➤ **Epicurean Life** Shop for luxury gourmet goods around Place de la Madeleine (p102).

➤ **Art Life** Parisians' thirst for art is unquenchable – join locals viewing exhibitions in museums like La Pinacothèque (p100).

➤ **Park Life** Seek serenity in the tiny, secreted Jardin de la Nouvelle France (p99).

Getting There & Away

➤ **Metro & RER** Metro line 1 follows the Champs-Élysées below ground, while lines 8 and 9 serve the Grands Boulevards. RER A stops at Auber (Opéra) and Charles de Gaulle-Étoile.

➤ **Bicycle** You'll find Vélib' stations in side streets off the Champs-Élysées.

➤ **Boat** The hop-on, hop-off Batobus' Champs-Élysées stop is just east of Pont Alexandre III.