

Eiffel Tower & Western Paris

EIFFEL TOWER & 16E | LA DÉFENSE

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Scaling the **Eiffel Tower** (p82) at dusk to watch its sparkling lights blink across Paris.
- 2 Finding inspiration in the traditional art on display at the **Musée du Quai Branly** (p84).
- 3 Wandering past cathedral portals, gargoyles and intricate scale models at the **Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine** (p85).
- 4 Exploring the **Bois de Boulogne** (p89): from bike rides, rowing boats and horse races to an amusement park kids will adore.
- 5 Taking a trip out to the **Musée Marmottan Monet** (p88) to see the world's largest collection of Monet canvases.



For more detail of this area see Map p382 →

Explore: Eiffel Tower & Western Paris

With its hourly sparkles that illuminate the evening skyline, the Eiffel Tower needs no introduction. Ascending to its viewing platforms will offer you a panorama over the whole of Paris, with the prestigious neighbourhood of Passy (the 16e *arrondissement*) stretching along the far banks of the Seine to the west. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Passy was home to luminaries such as Benjamin Franklin and Balzac. Defined by its sober, elegant buildings from the Haussmann era, it was annexed to the city only in 1860.

While most of the area today won't send the same frisson of excitement down your spine as taking the lift to the top of the tower, Passy is nonetheless home to some fabulous museums, and culture fans will certainly be busy. There's the Musée Marmottan Monet, with the world's largest collection of Monet paintings; the hip Palais de Tokyo, with modern-art installations; the Musée Guimet, France's standout Asian art museum; the underrated Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, with captivating sculptures and murals; and a host of smaller collections devoted to fashion, crystal, wine and even sub-Saharan art. On the Left Bank is the prominent Musée du Quai Branly, introducing indigenous art and culture from outside Europe, while at the city's western edge is the leafy refuge of the Bois de Boulogne. Beyond this lies the business district of La Défense.

Local Life

- ➔ **Museum hopping** Parisians flock to this part of town for its fine museums.
- ➔ **Green space** Leafy Bois de Boulogne is where city-dwellers escape the concrete on bikes, skates or by *footing* (jogging).
- ➔ **Daily commute** More than 150,000 people squeeze onto morning trains to La Défense, the city's business district, where skyscrapers rub shoulders with art.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Line 6 runs south from Charles de Gaulle-Étoile past the Eiffel Tower (views are superb from the elevated section); line 9 runs southwest from the Champs-Élysées.
- ➔ **RER** RER A runs west to La Défense; RER C runs along the Left Bank, with a stop at the Eiffel Tower.
- ➔ **Bus** Scenic bus 69 runs from the Champ du Mars (Eiffel Tower) along the Left Bank, crosses the Seine at the Louvre, and continues east to Père Lachaise.
- ➔ **Bicycle** Handy Vélib' stations include 2 av Octave Creard and 3 av Bosquet.
- ➔ **Boat** Eiffel Tower

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

There are excellent top-end restaurants in the 16e, but it is substantially more affordable – and fun in summertime – to follow the local flock and picnic. Build your own feast with sweet and savoury goodies from *boulangeries* and speciality food shops; grab a takeaway; or order a gourmet meal from Marc Veyrat's food truck.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Traiteur Jegado (p91)
- ➔ Hugo Desnoyer (p88)
- ➔ Monsieur Bleu (p90)
- ➔ Les Ombres (p90)
- ➔ 58 Tour Eiffel (p90)

For reviews, see p87 ➔

Best Picnic Spots

- ➔ Musée du Quai Branly garden (p84)
- ➔ Parc du Champ de Mars (p85)
- ➔ place des États-Unis, opposite Galerie-Musée Baccarat (p86)
- ➔ Bois de Boulogne (p89)

For reviews, see p85 ➔

Best Museums

- ➔ Musée du Quai Branly (p84)
- ➔ Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (p85)
- ➔ Musée Marmottan Monet (p88)
- ➔ Musée Guimet des Arts Asiatiques (p86)
- ➔ Musée Dapper (p85)

For reviews, see p85 ➔