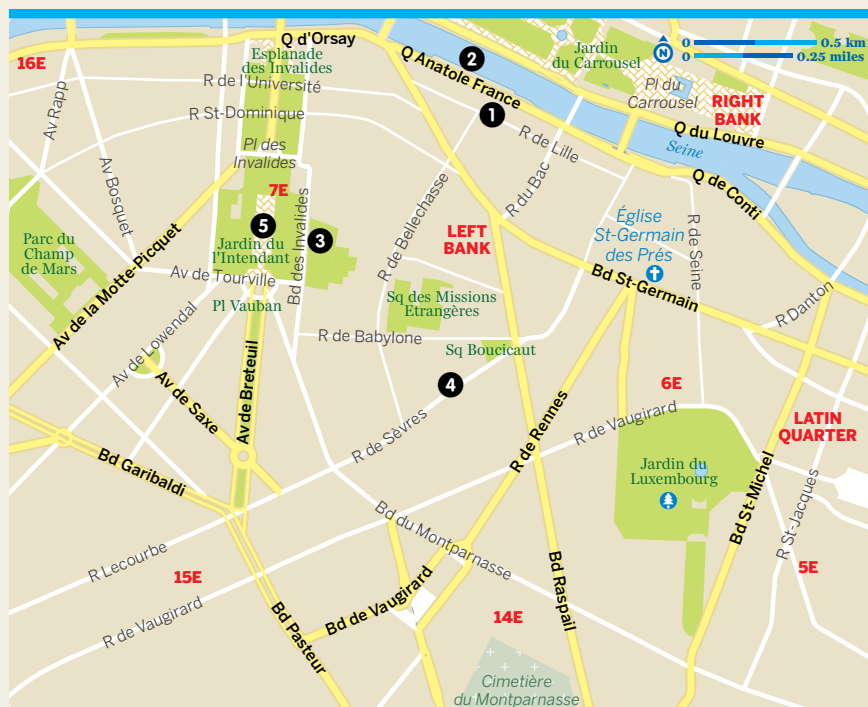


St-Germain & Les Invalides

ST-GERMAIN | LES INVALIDES

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Revelling in a wealth of world-famous impressionist masterpieces and art-nouveau architecture at the glorious **Musée d'Orsay** (p230).
- 2 Sprinting, skating, cycling, bar-hopping or just Zenning out along the riverside promenade **Les Berges de Seine** (p240).
- 3 Indulging in an exquisitely Parisian moment in the sculpture-filled gardens of the **Musée Rodin** (p236).
- 4 Feasting your eyes on the fantastical food displays at **La Grande Épicerie de Paris** (p252).
- 5 Visiting Napoléon's elaborate tomb in the monumental **Hôtel des Invalides** (p237) complex.



For more detail of this area see Map p418 and p422 ➔

Explore: St-Germain & Les Invalides

Despite gentrification since its early-20th-century bohemian days, there remains a startling cinematic quality to this soulful part of the Left Bank where artists, writers, actors and musicians cross paths and *la vie germano-pratine* (St-Germain life) is *belle*.

This is one of those neighbourhoods whose very fabric is an attraction in itself, so allow plenty of time to stroll its side streets and stop at its fabled literary cafes, prêt-à-porter stores, gourmet shops, grand department store Le Bon Marché, and its vast white spaces showcasing interior design. In between, view Delacroix' works at the Église St-Sulpice and his former studio, the Musée National Eugène Delacroix, linger in the masterpiece-filled sculpture garden of the Musée Rodin, and be moved by the handwritten letters and annotations of renowned scientists, musicians, artists, authors and other historical figures at the Musée des Lettres et Manuscrits.

Entry to the Musée d'Orsay is cheaper in the late afternoon, so it's an ideal time to check out its breathtaking collections, before dining in the area's stylish restaurants and swizzling cocktails at its bars.

Local Life

➔ **Park Life** To see Parisians at play, visit the city's most popular park, the beautiful Jardin du Luxembourg (p234), a must-stroll, particularly at weekends.

➔ **Market Life** Street markets where locals stock up on bountiful fresh produce include Marché Raspail (p247) and rue Cler (p247).

➔ **Fashion Finds** Scour the racks for designer cast-offs at St-Germain's secondhand boutiques.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** This area is well served by metro and RER. Get off at metro stations St-Germain des Prés, Mabillon or Odéon for its busy bd St-Germain heart. RER line C shadows the Seine along the Left Bank and is a fast way to get from St-Michel to the Musée d'Orsay.

➔ **Bicycle** Handy Vélib' stations include 141 bd St-Germain, 6e; opposite 2 bd Raspail, 6e; and 62 rue de Lille, 7e.

➔ **Boat** Batobus boats dock by quai Malaquais for St-Germain des Prés and quai de Solferino for the Musée d'Orsay.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Particularly around the Seine, in an unfortunately all-too-common ruse, scammers pretend to 'find' a gold ring (after subtly dropping it on the ground) and offer it to you as a diversionary tactic while they surreptitiously reach into your pockets or bags. Variations include offering to sell you the ring for an outrageous price, or having the ring's 'owner' arrive and demand compensation. Don't fall for it!

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurant David Toutain (p248)
- ➔ Bouillon Racine (p243)
- ➔ Semilla (p244)
- ➔ JSFP Traiteur (p241)
- ➔ Cuisine de Bar (p241)

For reviews, see p241 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Les Deux Magots (p249)
- ➔ Au Sauvignon (p249)
- ➔ Coutume (p251)
- ➔ Castor Club (p249)

For reviews, see p248 ➔

Best Churches

- ➔ Église St-Germain des Prés (p238)
- ➔ Église St-Sulpice (p238)
- ➔ Basilique Ste-Clotilde (p240)
- ➔ Chapelle Notre Dame de la Medaille Miraculeuse (p239)

For reviews, see p238 ➔