

Champs-Élysées & Grands Boulevards

CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES | GRANDS BOULEVARDS

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Arc de Triomphe (p94)
Climbing Napoleon's arch to survey the *axe historique*, extending from the Louvre to La Défense, and paying tribute to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

2 Palais Garnier (p96)
Taking in a performance or touring the mythic 19th-century opera house, where

Chagall's ceiling mural is on display.

3 Galeries Lafayette (p104)
Catching a free fashion show showcasing seasonal trends at the magnificent art nouveau department store and admiring the rooftop panorama.

4 Grand Palais (p96)
Viewing exceptional art exhibitions beneath the 8.5-tonne art nouveau glass roof.

5 Champs-Élysées (p96)
Strolling the over-the-top avenue – you can't leave Paris without doing it once.



For more detail of this area see Map p368 and p370 →

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 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 luxury display windows. 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 are the historic *grands magasins* (department stores) such as 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, which range from contemporary art to a family-friendly science museum.

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 (p103).
- ➔ **Art life** Parisians' thirst for art is unquenchable – join locals viewing exhibitions in museums like La Pinacothèque (p97).
- ➔ **Park life** Seek serenity in the tiny, secreted Jardin de la Nouvelle France (p97).

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

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 tastebuds to an extraordinary meal. Make sure to reserve.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Richer (p101)
- ➔ Le Hide (p99)
- ➔ Floquifil (p102)
- ➔ Mamou (p101)
- ➔ Lasserre (p100)

For reviews, see p99. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ PanPan (p103)
- ➔ Blaine (p102)
- ➔ Zig Zag Club (p102)
- ➔ Showcase (p102)

For reviews, see p102. ➔

Best Shopping

- ➔ Galeries Lafayette (p104)
- ➔ Le Printemps (p105)
- ➔ Triangle d'Or (p104)
- ➔ À la Mère de Famille (p105)
- ➔ Place de la Madeleine (p103)

For reviews, see p104. ➔