Champs-Élysées & Grands Boulevards

CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES I GRANDS BOULEVARDS

Neighbourhood Top Five

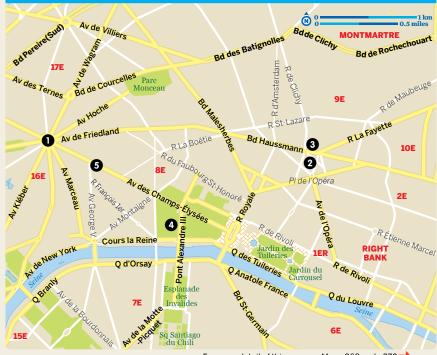
• Arc de Triomphe (p94) Climbing Napoleon's arch to survey the *axe historique*, extending from the Louvre to La Défense, and paying tribute to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

2 Palais Garnier (p96) Taking in a performance or touring the mythic 19thcentury 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.