

St-Germain & Les Invalides

ST-GERMAIN | LES INVALIDES

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Musée d'Orsay** (p224)
Reverling in a wealth of world-famous impressionist masterpieces and art nouveau architecture at this glorious national museum.
- 2 Jardin du Luxembourg** (p228)
Strolling through the chestnut groves and orchards, past ponds and

- statues, at the city's most popular park.
- 3 Musée Rodin** (p230)
Indulging in an exquisitely Parisian moment in the sculpture-filled gardens of the renovated private mansion, the 1730 Hôtel Biron.
- 4 La Grande Épicerie de Paris** (p246)
Feasting your eyes on the fantastical food

- displays at this food emporium attached to Paris' first department store, Le Bon Marché, designed by Gustave Eiffel.
- 5 Hôtel des Invalides** (p231)
Visiting Napoléon's elaborate tomb within the monumental complex housing France's largest military museum.



For more detail of this area see Map p402 and p406 →

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 germanopratine* (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 and grand department store Le Bon Marché with its vast white spaces showcasing interior design. In between, view Delacroix's 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 at the area's stylish restaurants and swizzling cocktails at its bars.

Local Life

- ➔ **River life** Join locals sprinting, skating, cycling, bar-hopping or just Zenning out along the riverside promenade Les Berges de Seine (p233).
- ➔ **Market life** Street markets where St-Germain denizens stock up on bountiful fresh produce include Marché Raspail (p239) and rue Cler (p238).
- ➔ **Fashion life** Scour the racks for designer cast-offs at St-Germain's secondhand boutiques (p242).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** This area is especially 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-Notre Dame to the Musée d'Orsay.
- ➔ **Bicycle** Convenient 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 Solférino for the Musée d'Orsay.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The St-Germain and Les Invalides neighbourhood's two biggest-hitting museums – the impressionist-filled Musée d'Orsay and magnificently renovated Musée Rodin – offer a discounted combination ticket costing €18. But you don't need to cram both into one day; the joint ticket is valid for a single visit to each museum within three months.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurant Guy Savoy (p238)
- ➔ Clover (p236)
- ➔ Restaurant David Toutain (p240)
- ➔ Bouillon Racine (p236)
- ➔ L'Avant Comptoir de la Mer (p234)
- ➔ Hûtrerie Regis (p236)

For reviews, see p234. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Les Deux Magots (p240)
- ➔ Coutume (p241)
- ➔ Tiger Bar (p241)
- ➔ Au Sauvignon (p241)
- ➔ Castor Club (p241)

For reviews, see p240. ➔

Best Shopping

- ➔ La Grande Épicerie de Paris (p246)
- ➔ Magasin Sennelier (p245)
- ➔ Gab & Jo (p242)
- ➔ Cire Trudon (p243)
- ➔ Cantin (p245)

For reviews, see p242. ➔