Walking Tour: Paris’ Covered Passages

Stepping into Paris’ passages couverts (covered shopping arcades) is a superb way to get a feel for what life was like in early-19th-century Paris. This walking tour is tailor-made for a rainy day, but it’s best avoided on a Sunday, when some arcades shut.

Start Galerie Véro Dodat
Distance 3km
Duration Two hours

1 Galerie Véro Dodat retains its 19th-century skylights, murals, Corinthian columns, and shopfronts including furniture restorers.

2 Built in 1826, Galerie Vivienne is decorated with floor mosaics and bas-reliefs on the walls.

3 The 1826-built Galerie Colbert features a huge glass dome and rotunda.

4 The 1824-built Passage Choiseul has discount and vintage clothing, beads and costume jewellery, and cheap eateries.

5 Paris’ oldest covered arcade, Passage des Panoramas (1800), was expanded in 1834 and is full of eateries and unusual shops.

6 Inside Passage Jouffroy (1847) there’s a wax museum, the Musée Grévin, and wonderful boutiques.

7 There’s lots to explore in Passage Verdeau: vintage comic books, antiques, old postcards and more.

Take a Break...
Dine and drink within the arcades.

Classic Photo
Stroll through this elegant passage, designed by Jacques Billaud.