



No one could imagine Paris today without the Eiffel Tower, but Gustave Eiffel only constructed his elegant, 320m-tall signature spire as a temporary exhibit for the 1889 World Fair. Luckily, the art nouveau tower's popularity assured its survival. (Champ de Mars, 5 av Anatole France, 7e; lift to top adult/child €15/10.50, lift to 2nd fl €9/4.50, stairs to 2nd fl €5/3, lift 2nd fl to top €6;  Bir Hakeim or RER Champ de Mars-Tour Eiffel)

★ **Top tip** Prebook tickets online. Lifts go to all three levels; change lift on the 2nd level for the top.




 Options in the tower include the 1st-floor **58 Tour Eiffel**, the sublime 2nd-floor **Le Jules Verne**, and, at the top, a champagne bar.

MORNING

From  to your afternoon destination

 20min  20min  10min  25min  5min  15min  20min  20min  35min  15min  10min  10min  40min

The mighty Cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris is a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture. The interior is 130m long, 48m wide and 35m high and can accommodate more than 6000 worshippers. Here, England's Henry VI was crowned King of France, Napoléon I was coronated by Pope Pius VII and Joan of Arc was canonised in 1920. (6 place du Parvis Notre Dame, 4e; [www.cathedraledeparis.com](http://www.cathedraledeparis.com); cathedral free, towers adult/child €8.50/free; cathedral 7.45am-6.45pm Mon-Sat, to 7.15pm Sun;  Cité)

★ **Top tip** Join a free 90-minute English-language tour. Times are posted on the website or ask at the information desk.




 Hip and historical, with retro vintage charm, **Café Saint Régis** (6 rue Jean du Bellay, 4e;  Pont Marie) is a deliciously Parisian hangout.

AFTERNOON


From  to your evening destination

 30min  30min  25min  25min  35min  40min  30min  25min  40min  25min  25min  35min  30min

This intricately sculpted triumphal arch, built in 1836 to commemorate Napoléon's 1805 victory at Austerlitz, stands sentinel in the centre of the enormous Étoile ('star') roundabout. At the top, some of the best views of Paris stretch east along the axe historique to the Louvre's glass pyramid and west to the modern Grande Arche in La Défense. (place Charles de Gaulle, 8e; adult/child €9.50/free; 10am-11pm Apr-Sep, to 10.30pm Oct-Mar;  Charles de Gaulle-Étoile)

★ **Top tip** Don't try to cross the traffic-choked roundabout above ground. Use the stairs on the Champs-Élysées' northeastern side.



 A perpetual favourite, **Le Hide** (10 rue du Général Lanrezac, 17e) is a neighbourhood bistro serving scrumptious traditional French fare.

EVENING

## 2 MUSÉE DU LOUVRE



**One of the  
world's  
best art  
collections**

---

## 15 MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY



**Explore the  
art of craft**

---

## 28 EIFFEL TOWER



**A beacon of  
light in the  
city of lights**

---

The Musée du Louvre is Paris' pièce de résistance that no first-time visitor to the city can resist. This is, after all, one of the world's largest and most diverse museums, showcasing 35,000 works of art – from Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Greek antiquities to masterpieces by artists such as da Vinci, Michelangelo and Rembrandt. (rue de Rivoli & quai des Tuileries, 1er; 9am-6pm Mon, Thu, Sat & Sun, to 9.45pm Wed & Fri; adult/child €12/free;  Palais Royal–Musée du Louvre)

★ **Top tip** Use the Carrousel du Louvre or the Porte de Lions entrance (closed Wednesday and Friday).





 **Café Marly** (93 rue de Rivoli, 1er) is a chic spot facing the Louvre's inner courtyard and an unparalleled spot for a drink with serious wow.



MORNING

From  to your afternoon destination

 5min  35min  40min  25min  25min  35min  20min  10min  30min  40min  30min  30min  15min

No other museum in Paris so inspires those who appreciate the beauty of traditional craftsmanship. A tribute to the diversity of human culture, the museum presents an overview of indigenous and folk art. Its four main sections focus on Oceania, Asia, Africa and the Americas. An impressive array of masks, carvings, jewellery and more make up the collection, displayed in a unique interior without rooms or high walls. ([www.quaibrany.fr](http://www.quaibrany.fr); 37 quai Branly, 7e; adult/child €8.50/free; 11am-7pm Tue, Wed & Sun, to 9pm Thu-Sat;  Alma Marceau or  Pont de l'Alma)




 Devour choux salées (savoury cheese puffs) at **Choux d'Enfer** (cnr rue Jean Rey & quai Branly, 15e;  Bir-Hakeim)

AFTERNOON


From  to your evening destination

 20min  5min  45min  30min  45min  25min  35min  25min  40min  25min  45min  35min  35min

Each night, the Eiffel Tower's beacons beam an 80km radius around the city (look up from the top platform to see the 6000-watt lamps). And every hour, for five minutes on the hour, the entire tower sparkles with 20,000 lights. It took 25 mountain climbers five months to install the bulbs. (Champ de Mars, 5 av Anatole France, 7e; lift to top adult/child €15/10.50, lift to 2nd fl €9/4.50, stairs to 2nd fl €5/3, lift 2nd fl to top €6;  Bir Hakeim or RER Champ de Mars–Tour Eiffel)

★ **Top tip** For the best view of the light show, head across the Seine to the Jardins du Trocadéro.



 **Le Casse Noix** (56 rue de la Fédération, 15e) is a neighbourhood gem with a cosy retro interior, affordable prices and exceptional cuisine.

EVENING

### 3 CENTRE POMPIDOU



**Arts and  
architecture  
to inspire**

---

### 16 SACRÉ-CŒUR



**The heart of  
Montmartre**

---


### 29 MOULIN ROUGE



**Life is a  
cabaret**

---



The Pompidou Centre has amazed and delighted visitors since it opened in 1977, not just for its outstanding collection of modern art but also for its architectural statement. The dynamic and vibrant arts centre enthalls with an irresistible cocktail of galleries and exhibitions, workshops, dance performances, bookshop, design boutique and other entertainment venues. (www.centrepompidou.fr; place Georges Pompidou, 4e; museum, exhibitions & panorama adult/child €13/free; 11am-9pm Wed-Mon;  Rambuteau)




 **Dame Tartine** (2 rue Brisemiche, 4e;  Hôtel de Ville) offers an affordable snack or well-deserved postmuseum aperitif.



MORNING

From  to your afternoon destination

               
45min 40min 30min 35min 35min 45min 30min 40min 25min 40min 40min 40min 35min

Visible across the city, the dove-white domes of the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur crown Montmartre Hill. The basilica's lofty vantage point offers dizzying Parisian vistas from its main dome, where you can climb the 234 spiralling steps to the apex for views up to 30km away on a clear day. (www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com; place du Parvis du Sacré-Cœur; dome adult/child €6/4, cash only; 6am-10.30pm, dome 9am-7pm Apr-Sep, to 5.30pm Oct-Mar;  Anvers)




 Try authentic regional fare such as cassoulet at **Le Relais Gascon** (6 rue des Abbesses;  Abbesses).

AFTERNOON

★ **Top tip** To avoid walking up the hill, jump aboard the funicular railway.

From  to your evening destination

              
30min 35min 10min 35min 25min 20min 40min 30min 40min 30min 10min 40min 35min

Immortalised in the posters of Toulouse-Lautrec and later on screen by Baz Luhrmann, the Moulin Rouge twinkles beneath a 1925 replica of its original red windmill. Yes, it's rife with tour-bus crowds, but from the opening bars of music to the last high kick it's a whirl of fantastical costumes, sets, choreography and Champagne. (www.moulinrouge.fr; 82 bd de Clichy, 18e;  Blanche)



 The atmosphere of the convivial restaurant **Chez Toinette** (20 rue Germain Pilon, 18e;  Abbesses) is rivalled only by its fine cuisine.

EVENING

## 4 MUSÉE D'ORSAY



**Former  
train station  
turned art  
gallery**

---

## 17 JARDIN DU LUXEMBOURG



**Park life**

---

## 30 PALAIS GARNIER



**Phantom of  
the Opera**

---