

Flashbooking free pocket guide of...

# PARIS



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The city of a thousand clichés, Paris is known for its romance and grandeur, marked by wide boulevards and famous landmarks. It has a distinctive character with flea and flower markets where artists just sketch your profile or cut it out from a piece of paper, locals sitting out of the cafés listening street musicians or cycling around with their baguettes as they were bags...

The French capital is one of the world's truly great cities, with fine museums and excellent food, that is worth a visit either in summer when a riverside expressway is converted into an oasis of swimming pools, sand and deckchairs; or in fall when there are fewer crowds and boulevards trees change their colours.

**PARIS AT A GLANCE - TRANSPORTS - CLASSICS YOU CAN'T MISS! - SHOPPING AND MARKETS - CAFÉ BISTRO AND RESTAURANT  
INTERNET CAFES - NIGHT LIFE - EVENTS - SURROUNDINGS - USEFUL INFO & NUMBERS - HOTELS AND HOSTELS**

## » PARIS AT A GLANCE

Paris, the capital city of France and the county city of the Ile de France region, is situated in the northern central part of France. The city is divided into 20 districts. Each district has a number, which increases in



value, the further away one goes from the Louvre Museum.

The historic centre of the city is formed by the first eight districts, stretching from the Bastille to Etoile and from the Opera to the Observatory. The area houses the various architectural styles of the 19th century that Napoleon III requested to be built in the city. This centre, divided in two by the river Seine contains narrow windy streets, crowded with offices, shops and craftsmen's workshops. The first and second districts, are the sites of the city's business zone, home to the stock exchange, banks and insurance companies. The elite area of the city, the **Tuileries**, is located to the west. The area

leads from one end to the Place de La Concorde and at the other to the Louvre. This was the residential area of the King and today is the site of elegant buildings (Place de La Concorde, Place Vendome, Place des Victories), Italian gardens (Jardin du Palais Royal, Jardin des Tuileries), old royal palaces ( Louvre, Palais Royal ) and important museums (Museum of Arts and Fashion, Museum of Decorative Arts). The area is divided by elegant roads lined with five star hotels ( Ritz, Normandie), expensive boutiques, jewellers and large department stores ( Trois Quartiers, Printemps). Five districts stretch along the right bank,



including the tree-lined Champs-Elysees, which leads to the Arc di Triumph and Grand Boulevard between the Opera, Republic, Pigalle and Montmatre. The Avenue des **Champs- Elysees**, is both wide and spectacular and symbolises the style and joie de vivre of Paris. The

area and the surrounding streets house public gardens, luxurious restaurants, design studios, theatres, museums, galleries, cinemas, hotels and cafes. The Avenue finishes at the beautiful Rond Point des Champs-Elysees, with its colourful flowerbeds and nut trees. The avenue is particularly beautiful, when illuminated at night and on the 14th July during the military parade. The Butte **Montmartre district** is synonymous with art; for it was here, during the 19th century, that poets and artists gathered. The shortest road leaves from Place Blanche and climbs the lively Rue Lepic market street, continuing on along Rue de Abbesses, Rue Ravignon and other



flights of steps. A spectacular view of the city can be obtained by taking the rack-railway to the Roman-Byzantine **Sacre Coeur church**. Portrait artists and souvenir sellers congregate at Place du Tertre, a picturesque square and high-point of Paris. In this zone it is possible



to stroll through the narrow twisting streets, admire the small, pretty squares and walk along the romantic hill-side terraces. The **Germain-de-Pres** district is located on the east bank of the Seine and is home to cafes, jazz-clubs and antique shops. It is an area which was frequented by intellectuals during the 1950's and 60's at the time of Nouvelle Vague. The well-known Lipp brasserie, decorated with multi-coloured tiles, is a favourite meeting point for politicians, while Les Deux Margots, the preferred choice of Hemingway, is still popular today. The city's other artist's district is **Montparnasse**, frequented by such

artists as Picasso and Matisse. The district, situated on the left bank, is the site of **Carrefour Vavin** with its studios and cafes, very popular during the 1920's and 30's. Today the area houses cinemas and restaurants and is the site of the second largest tower in Europe, the glass and steel Tour de Montparnasse. The Montparnasse Cemetery, situated in Rue Emile Richard, is the resting place of writers, poets and sculpturers (De Maupassant, Sartre, De Beauvoir, Tzara, Baudelaire). **The Eiffel Tower** stands to the south of the river in the area known as Rive Gauche. Napoleon's tomb is housed in the gold-domed Hotel des Invalides,



cinemas, bars and cafes bustling with students. Boulevard St-Michel is the area's central meeting point, but equally busy and crowded is the pedestrianized Place Saint Michel and Rue de la Huchette, home to numerous inexpensive bistros. Visitors should not miss the opportunity to visit the **Musée de Cluny**. The museum is housed in a medieval building and contains a collection of medieval art and craftwork. The district on the right bank of the Seine is dominated by the modern **Forum des Halles and Pompidou Centre**, which form the meeting point for visitors wishing to explore this area,



situated in the largest area south of the river. This is a wealthy zone with aristocratic residences lining the Rue de Varennes and the Rue de Grenelle. The Paris university district (**Sorbon**) is the Paris of narrow Medieval streets, bookshops,



rich in museums, galleries, shops, markets and restaurants. All the roads around the Halles lead to the Beaubourg and the Pompidou Center, an avant-garde structure of steel girders and pipes, which houses the Musée National d'Art Modern. Street artists constantly perform in the square outside the building. The Ile de la Cité, located nearby, is the nucleus of the old city of Paris. The remains of this ancient location can be admired underneath Notre Dame's courtyard.

## » TRANSPORTS

### Getting there

**Aéroport Charles de Gaulle**, (27kms from the city) is Paris main



international airport receiving flights from the world over. Roissy Rail is the quickest way to the city. Take a free shuttle bus from the airport terminal to the Roissy-Charles de Gaulle RER (commuter rail) station.

**Aéroport d'Orly** (16kms southwest of the city) handles mostly domestic and European flights. Orly Rail is the quickest way to the Left Bank. Take the free shuttle bus to the Pont de Rungis-Aéroport d'Orly RER station (C2 line) and get a train to the city. These trains run every 15 min.

The **road network** around Paris is quite extensive and somewhat confusing. A ring road circumnavigates the city; the A1-E19 head north to Charles de Gaulle Airport and on to Calais; the A15 northwest to Brittany; the A14 east; the A6 south to Orly, becoming the A10 and heading farther south into the countryside. High-speed TGV train services are also a convenient way of reaching the capital, which has six major train stations.

### Metro/ RER

The various lines, which make up France's railway system, all meet in the centre of Paris, at Chatelet-Les-Halles, the largest metropolitan station in the world.



Paris' metropolitan is the best way to travel around the city. The system's 14 lines cover the whole of the Paris area. They say that no point in Paris is more than 500m from a stop. Free metro maps are available at all tourist information centres and metro stations. A single ticket anywhere on the metro and zone one on the RER is €1.30. A carnet of ten tickets is €9.30 and works out cheaper. If you are there for any length of time buy a weekly TravelCard or monthly Carte Orange (€15). They are valid for travel on all forms of public transport and for unlimited rides. Avoid to be late at night at these stations: Chatelet, Chateau Rouge in Montmarte, Gare du Nord, Strasbourg-Saint Denis, Rèaumur-Sèbastopol and Montparnasse-Bienvenue.

### Bus

The city's bus service is also efficient and operates from 5:30am to 1am. Bus routes are indicated on the RATP maps (free from tourist agencies). Tickets can be bought from the driver but must be validated in the machine onboard. A night service called Noctambus operates after the underground from 1am till 5.50am with 18 lines terminating at Châtelet.

### Boat cruises

Those wishing to admire Paris from the water should take a trip on board one of the city's Bateau- Mouches, some of which also offer a restaurant service on board. This boat service operates from May to September, every day from 10am to 8pm, with departures every 45 minutes... and of course this service is used primarily for tourists, not commuters.

### Double-decker bus

The best way to do a city-tour is to travel on one of the double-decker buses operated by Paribus-Les Cars Rouges. The service



operates every day from 10 to 8pm with departures every 50 minutes and tour information is provided in French, English and German. An open-top double-decker bus called L'Open Top also does a tourist circuit.

## » CLASSICS YOU CAN'T MISS!

**Musée du Louvre** (metro Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre; bus: 21, 27, 39, 48, 658, 69, 72, 76, 95). Rue du Rivoli.

The 21 metres glass pyramid added in the 1980s stands at the entrance



to the Louvre, a public museum since 1793. The museum is divided into eight sections: Ancient Oriental and Islamic, Ancient Egyptian, Roman-Greek Art, Picture Gallery with ten sub-sections, sculptures and designs. The museum is visited by an enormous number of people anxious to see the museum's three best known masterpieces, the Mona Lisa, the Venus of Milo and the Samotracia's Nike. The crowds and confusion can be very disturbing, it is advisable to choose a section or historical period and to concentrate exclusively upon it.

The following sections are highly recommended: Egyptian, German and late-Gothic painters, Italian Renaissance painters, Flemish and French painters from the 18th Century. Admission: €7.50, €5 after 3pm and all day Sun, free first Sun of each month. Open: Mon 9am-9.45pm, Wed-Sun 9am-6pm; www.louvre.fr

**Musée d'Orsay** (metro Musée d'Orsay; bus: 24, 63, 68, 69, 73, 83, 84, 94.) Rue de Bellechasse,1

On the banks of the Seine, site of an old railway station, this museum houses in its enormous construction of glass and steel designed by the famous Italian architect Gae Aulenti,



a collection of impressionist and post-impressionist French art, sculptures and paintings from the period 1840 to 1914, furniture, photographs and films. The *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* and *Le balcon* by Manet, *Moulin de la*

*Galette* and *Déjeuner des canotiers* by Renoir are not to be missed. Open daily (not Monday) 10am-6pm. Thur: until 9.45pm. Admission: €7, students €5, free first Sun of each month. Open: Jun-Sep Tue-Wed & Fri-Sun 9am-6pm, Thu 9am-9.45pm; Oct-May Tue-Wed & Fri-Sat 10am-6pm, Thu 10am-9.45pm, Sun 9am-6pm; [www.musee-orsay.fr](http://www.musee-orsay.fr)

**Notre Dame** (Métro Cité, RER: St Michel; bus: 21, 24, 27, 38, 47, 85, 96). Place du Parvis.

It is a true Gothic work of art. The cathedral, constructed between 1163 and 1345 on the site of an old

Roman temple, can accommodate over 600 people and is the venue of some of France's most historic gatherings - the celebration of the end of World War II, the visit of Pope John Paul II and so on. Notre Dame of course rose to fame when Victor Hugo wrote his popular novel 'Notre-Dame de Paris'. The three main entrances, each one different, are ornately decorated with statues to attract the attention of the people passing by. The interior is dominated by a spectacular rosary window and an organ with 7,800 pipes. Visitors can climb the 387 steps of the north tower of the cathedral's west face to admire the gargoyles and a



spectacular view over the city. There is no cost to enter the church: open all year long: Mon-Fri 8am-6.45pm, Sat-Sun 8am-7.45pm. Fees apply to climb the tower: €2.30, students €1.55. Open 9.30am-6pm daily. Telephone +33 01-42-34-56-10

**Centre Georges Pompidou** (metro Rambuteau, Hôtel de Ville or Rambuteau; RER Chatelet-Les Halles and bus: 21, 29, 38, 47, 58, 69, 70, 72, 74, 75, 76, 81, 85, 96). Place Beaubourg.

The Centre displays modern and contemporary art. Considered outrageous in 1977, the Pompidou Centre, designed by Piano and Rogers, has become part of the Parisian landscape. Inside are several galleries, a three-tiered library and outside on the square street musicians, artists and mimers practice their own arts.

You have to pay to visit the art galleries but there is a free ride to the top for a view of the city. The

library is also free (long queues) and has English language books and newspapers, CD listening stations, free language courses on CD-ROM and cassette. Admission: free first Sun of each month. Opening hours: Wed-Mon 11am-9pm; late-night openings until 11pm for some exhibits. Tickets: €5.49; students €3.51; [www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr); ph: +33 (01) 4478 1233.



**Cimetière du Père-Lachaise** in Paris' 9th Arrondissement.

Free admission to this amazing Cemetery that covers 109 acres and that guests 1 million people buried. Many of the great artists and intellectuals of the last century are resting there: Sarah Bernhardt, Jim Morrison, Chopin, Moliere, J.P Sartre, Edith Piaf and Oscar Wilde, these are just a few. The cemetery is open: Mon-Fri 8am-7pm with slightly shorter hours at the weekend.

(Ph: +3301-55-25-82-10)



If this experience had inspired you, why don't you proceed heroically to another interesting site... like the Catacombs? There is 2,985 feet of underground tunnels in these catacombs and you can look at 6 million artfully arranged skull-and-crossbones skeletons. First opened to the public in 1810, the Catacombs attracts something like 50,000 visitors every year. In the years many bodies were transferred there because of overcrowding in other Paris cemeteries. Now it's a tourist attraction with special lighting lining the tunnels. Hours of admission Tue- Sun: 2pm - 4pm. Admission: ab. 6€ (reductions for children and seniors) Ph: +33 01-43-22-47-63

### Other interesting sites to visit and means to reach them:

**Eiffel Tower** (Métro Bir Hakeim, RER: Champs de Mars-Tour Eiffel; bus: 42, 69, 72, 82, 87). Fall and winter, stairs open only to 6:30pm

**Musée Picasso** (Métro Saint Paul, Chemin Vert, Filles du Calvaire; bus: 29, 69, 76, 93. 5). Rue de Thorigny: This museum contains over 3000 artworks by Pablo Picasso and works by Cézanne and Matisse.

**Sacré Coeur** (Métro Anvers, Abbesses, Château Rouge, Lamarck-Caulaincourt; bus: 30, 54, 80, 85, Montmartrobus).



**Hotel des Invalides** (metro Invalides for the Esplanade, metro Varenne or Latour Maubourg for the main building, bus: 28, 49, 63, 69, 82, 83, 87, 92.)

## » SHOPPING AND FLEA MARKETS

**Flower and fruit markets** are scattered all over Paris. Montorgueil Market (Rue Montorgueil and Rue Montmartre, 1st) is good for both fresh fruit and pastries also. For organic products, every Saturday mornings we suggest to go on Boulevard des Batignolles. Some of the city's bakeries and pastry shops are at the Mouffetard Market (Rue Mouffetard, 5th) while the Port Royal Market (Blv. Port-Royal, 5th) has not only food produce, but cheap clothing also.

If you are keen of **flea markets**, you are in the right city! It's easy to spend

days browsing the dozen markets that make up the Puces de St-Ouen (Porte de Clignacourt, 18th Arr.) the largest market of its kind in the world! Held every Sat, Sun and Mon from 7 am. Another good market for second hand clothing is the Porte de Vanves Flea Market (Blvd. Lefebvre, 14th Arr.). We suggest you contact the tourist offices for any update on markets days and location.



If you wish to dedicate an entire day on regular shopping, you can visit some **department stores** as:

Au Printemps (Blv. Haussmann, 64; ph.: +33 01 42 82 50 00) or Le Bon Marché stores (24, Rue de Sèvres, ph. : +33 01 44 39 80 00) or the **Galeries Lafayette** (Blv. Haussmann, 40, ph: +33 01 42 823 456) the flagship of Paris retailing with one of the largest stores. It handles Duty Free purchasing and Tourist Tax Refunds, has a Welcome Desk with interpreters and restaurants. An inexpensive chain of department stores is Tati (76, Av. de Clichy, 17th Arr.). Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm. It has other branches around the city.

## » CAFÉ & BISTRO ...

**Mimosa** (44, Rue d'Argout; ph: +33 01-40-28-15-75; open Mon-Sat from 11.30am- 6pm) One of the city's best and most central budget options, on sunny days there are a sprinkling of outdoor tables where diners can chomp through a hearty menu of Mediterranean dishes (lasagne, caprese, eggplants..) but also French salads, chicken and co. It's a good small place for a small appetite, open for lunch and for mid-afternoon breaks. Prices average: 8-20 euros

**Crêperie de Josselin** (67, Rue Montparnasse, 14th; ph: +33 01 4320 9350. Average price: €12. This crêperie, always packed and

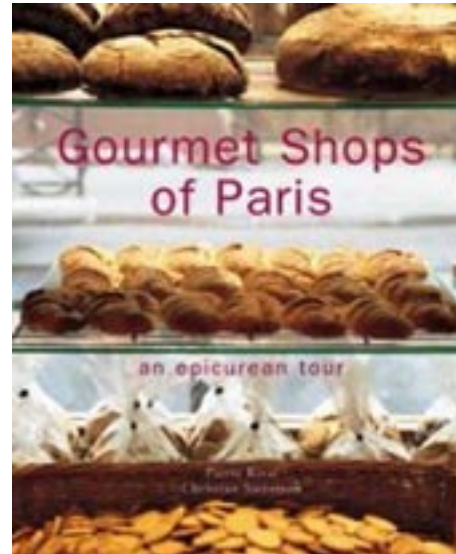
full of atmosphere, is decorated in a traditional Breton style and serves delicious and inexpensive dishes: sweet pancakes, including ham and cream, spinach and egg with black pepper or banana and chocolate.



For a quick bite to eat while you're walking between the Louvre and Notre Dame, La crêperie Saint-Honoré (24, Rue du Pont-Neuf; ph: +33 01 426 46 61) is a good place to catch. You can eat from their large menu of salads and galettes, or order a crêpe from the window on the street.

Not too hungry but still wish to taste something particular and treat your stomach with something delicious? In Place de la Madeleine you can easily find gourmet shops as **Fauchon** (26-30, ph.: +33 01 70 39 3800) and **Hédiard** (21, ph.: +33 01 431288 88), not really budget, but worth a visit and an experience! We got something boxed to take away

and enjoyed it while sitting on a bench playing our favourite sport: watching people walking by! In such a small, pocket and essential guide we can't really say everything there could be to say. However, we'd like to highlight a couple of



places where it could be nice just sip a coffee and try to imagine the dialogues of the customers once they served.

**Café de Flore** (172, Boulevard Saint Germain ; ph :+33 01.45.48.55.26). If for no other reason than to sit with history, you should have at least a cafe at Café Flor. One of the rare cafès that during WW II was able to serve its customers underneath the bombs. On its chairs some of the

most famous writers, philosophers and artists spent entire days dialoguing and building up a new idea of society: Picasso, Sartre, De Beavoir, Giacometti are just some of their names.



**Les Deux Magots** (6, Place du Saint-Germain-des-Prés; ph :+33 01.45.48.55.25) Home to French poets Rimbaud, his friend Verlaine, and Mallarmé and painter Picasso, as well as a score of other creatives, Les Deux Magots is another ode to history. Taking it's name from the Chinese fabric shop that had the space before it, it has been an institution since the late 1800s and the decor is from 1914. This café is incredibly expensive, but, you might only be in Paris once in your life ...

## » AND RESTAURANTS

It's simply our home as soon as we get in Paris: **Chartier** (7, rue



du Faubourg Montmartre; ph. +33 01.47.70.86.29. Open every day from 11:30am -3pm/ 6pm-10 pm). It was an old metro station adapted to be a restaurant ...very nice and warm atmosphere. Frequented by locals and tourists. The food is good. Not excellent, but good and whatever you choose, it arrives in relatively generous portions in a matter of minutes. The list of wines is on the reasonable side of cheap. Be ready to wait as no reservations are taken !



**La Grande Mosquée de Paris** (39 rue Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire, ph.:+33

01 4535 97 33) is a 1922 mosque with Turkish baths and tea salon. Close to the botanical gardens le Jardin des Plantes and the Natural History Museum, this beautiful mosque, is an exotic setting for tasting spicy North African couscous and other typical meat dishes. To try. Average price: €20. No alcohol served.

We cannot miss to remind the oldest restaurant in Paris: **The Procope** and the first café, opened in 1686. (13, Rue de l'Ancienne Comédie; Ph. +33 01 40 46 79 00; Metro: Odéon) The owner was Francesco Procopio Dei Coltelli. In 1689, the Comédie-Française moved to opposite the Procope and, between shows, the café became THE café for theatre-goers and actors. Voltaire, Rousseau



and Diderot were loyal regulars and the Encyclopaedia was born under the crystal centre-lights of the Procope. During the revolution, Danton, Marat could all be found

here. Benjamin Franklin even fine-tuned the American constitution here. Menu from 30 euros. Website: <http://www.procope.com>

September 2006 will celebrate the 1st decade of the **Buddha-bar Paris**. (8 rue Boissy d'Anglas; ph: +33 01 53059000; [www.buddha-bar.com](http://www.buddha-bar.com) Av. price: €80; Wine: €25) Near the place of "La Concorde" a gigantic Buddha decided to transform the Parisian nights: international cuisine, the interiors and the music are on the menu. Dishes include spiced chicken, seared tuna and tempura platters. Don't be disappointed if



you leave with a lighter pocket... it is worth going just to see what all the fuss is about.

If you wish to have lunch with a superb panoramic view over the city and in an arty place go to **Georges** at the 6th floor in the modern Centre Georges Pompidou. Trendy clientele

dine here but it is frequented by students as well: you can choose French and international cuisine and menu changes frequently. Try it even only for a coffee and the house favourite chocolate tart. Closed Tuesday. (Rue Rabuteau; Ph: +33 (01) 4478 4799; Restaurant average price: €55)

## » INTERNET CAFES

There are a bunch of internet cafés all over Paris. We have provide you the location, metro stop and phone numbers where possible.

**Café Orbital** (13, Rue de Médicis (6e); metro Odéon; open 10am-10pm; ph: 01 4325 7677; [www.orbital.fr](http://www.orbital.fr))

**The Web Bar** (32, Rue de Picardie (3e); metro Filles du Calvaire; open 11.30am - 2am; ph: 01 4272 6655; [www.webbar.fr/](http://www.webbar.fr/))

**Cyber Café Latino** (13, Rue de l'École Polytechnique; métro Maubert Mutualité; ph: 01 40518694 ; [www.cybercafelatino.com/](http://www.cybercafelatino.com/))

**Cyber Cube** (5, Rue Mignon; métro Odéon or Saint Michel; ph: 01 53103050; open daily from 10am-10pm; 15c/minute; [www.cybercube.fr/](http://www.cybercube.fr/))

**Cyberzen @ Café** (85, Rue Amerlot; métro Sébastien Fraoissart; ph: 01 53367613)

**High Tech Café** (Centre Commercial Tour Montparnasse; métro Montparnasse-Bienvenue; ph: 01 45386761)

**Jardin d'Internet** (79, Boulevard Saint Michel; RER Luxembourg; ph: 01 44072220; Open Mon-Sat 9am-11pm ; Sun 10am-10pm; €2.50 per hour)

**Planet Cyber Café** (73, Rue de Vaugiraud; métro Pasteur)

**Station Internet Rive Gauche** (37, Rue du Cherche Midi; métro Sèvres Babylone, Rennes or St Placide); ph: 01 40511757; [www.internet-rivegauche.com/](http://www.internet-rivegauche.com/))



**Travel Café**, 2, rue d'Alleray, (métro Vaugiraud; [www.abcvoyage.com/travelcafe.html](http://www.abcvoyage.com/travelcafe.html))

**ZoWeZo** (37, Rue Fontaine; métro Blanche or Pigalle; ph: 01 40230071)

**Village Web** (6, Rue Ravignan, 18th Arr.; open daily from 9.30am-10pm; minimum purchase of 10 min. is €1.50)

**Pacifica**, 10 Rue Taine, 12th Arr. Not far from Gare de Lyon and Gare de

Paris Bercy (Open Mon-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat & Sun 3pm-9pm; €2.50 for 30 mins/€4 per hour)

## »NIGHT LIFE...

The main magazines detailing the weekly activities in the city are **the Pariscope** and the **Officiel des Spectacles**. The magazines are printed on Wednesdays and detail what's on in Paris: from a vast choice of clubs and discotheques, to cinemas, theatres, concerts... these magazines are extensive and are able to satisfy the tastes of everyone. If you're looking for the Paris nightlife, check with your hotel



to find out the spots close by. Those zones with the most active nightlife are *Saint-Germain-des-Près* and *the Quartier Latin*, *Montparnasse*, *Les Halles* and *Marais*, *Montmartre*, *the Grand Boulevards* and *the Bastille*. Here we suggest a couple of places:

**Bob Cool** (15, Rue des Grands Augustin; Metro Station: Odéon or St-Michel; ph: 01-46-33-33-77)

A laid back left bank bar, this attracts the kind of crowds you'd expect from the left bank-old style. Writers, poets and artists are said to gather here to drink the night away.

**Club Zed** (2, Rue des Anglais; Metro: Maubert-Mutualité; ph: 01-43-54-93-78)

Very French and very popular, this bar in a former bakery offers costume parties throughout the year and loud music throughout the night.

And just an homage to history...

**The Moulin Rouge** (Location Place Blanche, 18e; Metro: Blanche; ph: 01-53-09-82-82)

Another dinner and show strip club, waitresses and waiters both ham it



up onstage during the grand finale with the cancan. (Topless)

## » EVENTS

All major holidays are celebrated in Paris including **Bastille Day** on July 13 and 14.

Free organ concerts are held at **Notre Dame** on Sunday at 5.30pm.

**The Music Festival** is held the 21st of June, the summer solstice. The **Saint Denis Festival** runs from June to the end of July, during which time concerts are held in the Saint Denis Basilica. The Chateau of Versailles is the site of the **Baroque Music Festival**, held from the middle of September to the middle of October.



## » SURROUNDINGS

A visit to the sumptuous **Palace and Gardens of Versailles** represents one of the finest trips in the surrounding areas of Paris. The palace is easily reached by leaving Paris on the A13 to Rouen and

then taking the D182 to Versailles Chateau. If travelling by train, catch the RER, line C to Versailles-Rive Gauche, then continue on to the palace. It was in 1668, on the orders of Louis XIV, that the Louis XIII villa was transformed into the largest



palace in Europe. The palace reflects the wishes of the King, who wanted to create a private pavilion in order to meet his lovers in secret. The gardens with their statues and fountains, can be visited on bicycle, which can be rented on site. The gardens house the Grand Canal, site of royal banquets complete with naval battles and the Orangery, a large greenhouse. The State Apartments and the Gallery des Glaces were the site of elegant court celebrations. The building is 75 metres long, 12 metres high with 17 windows and 17 facing mirrors. It

is possible to visit other areas of the palace with a guided tour. Flashbooking staff wishes you a pleasant stay!



If you need to find a cheap accommodation in Paris, please have a look at [www.flashbooking.com](http://www.flashbooking.com)



### » Useful Info & numbers

Ambulance 15  
 Fire 18  
 Police 17  
 French Nat. Translators : +33 (0)1 4878 4332  
 Hospital: Hotel Dieu (metro Cité): +33 (0)1 42 34 82 34  
 Gen. Information : 12 (or 32 12)  
 Air France : +33 (0)8 2082 0820  
 Eurostar (train) : +33 (0)8 70518 6186  
 Central Post Office - 52 Rue du Louvre, 1st Arr.  
 Main Tourist Office - 12 Avenue des Champs  
 Elysées, 8th Arr. ; +33 (0) 1 4952 5354

### » Embassies:

Italy: +33 (0)1 4954 0300  
 Ireland: +33 (0)1 4417 6700  
 Germany :+33 (0)1 5383 4500  
 Spain:+33 (0)1 4443 1800  
 UK: +33 (0)1 4451 3100  
 US: +33 (0)1 4312 2222  
 Canada: +33 (0)1 4443 2900  
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