

PARIS

SPRING & SUMMER GUIDE 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Paris this spring and summer

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 555,000 hotels, 200,000 vacation rentals, 175,000 attractions and 780,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. Comfort zone—"Paris is best seen on foot, but wear **comfortable shoes** as you cover immense distances."
—TripAdvisor Member, Tokyo, Japan
2. Smart move—"Always carry your valuables in a **money belt**."
—TripAdvisor Member, Seabrook, Texas
3. Convenience—You'll need to carry **lots of small change**: "For first timers to Paris, a little tip: You have to pay to use the restrooms."
—TripAdvisor Member, San Carlos, Calif.

Inside PARIS

Elegant, romantic, exciting, unforgettable... It can only be Paris. Founded in the third century, on what is now the Île de la Cité, Paris did not become France's capital until the 10th century.

Throughout its history, the city has prospered and has been at the forefront of cultural and political innovation, most notably during the French Revolution of the late 18th century. In the early 1900s, the halcyon years of the belle époque ushered in the Art Nouveau movement, bringing with it advances in the arts and sciences.

As capitals go, Paris is relatively small, with a population of just over two million. In the warmth of the spring and summer, explore its plethora of landmarks on foot and you'll quickly work up an appetite for the superb cooking for which its restaurants and cafés are famous. But keep that umbrella handy for unexpected showers! And don't fear the frigid winters; simply duck into the city's many cafes or museums to escape the cold.

Top VIEWS



PARIS'S BEST VIEWS



The **Eiffel Tower** “was easily one of the biggest highlights of my trip through Europe. I’ve been up other skyscrapers and landmarks and usually my response is ‘Eh, so what now?’ But this was one experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.”

—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

Eiffel Tower, Champ de Mars, 01 44 11 23 23

“A **boat ride on the Seine** is an absolute must. Many of the most beautiful monuments were built along the Seine River. The night cruise is also beautiful because all the buildings are illuminated. Most of the boat companies are located by the Trocadero near the Eiffel tower.” —

TripAdvisor Member, Alsace, France

“Stand at **the arch opposite the Louvre** around sunset. In the distance, you see the Champs-Elysees with the Arc de Triomphe at the end. To your left, you see the Eiffel Tower light up in the distance and the Musée d’Orsay to your immediate left. We spent an hour watching the lights get brighter as the sun disappeared and night fell.” —

TripAdvisor Member, Durban, South Africa

Musee du Louvre, 99 rue de Rivoli, 01 40 20 53 17

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Musee d’Orsay, 62 rue de Lille, 01 40 49 48 14
2. Musee de l’Orangerie, Jardin des Tuileries, 01 44 77 80 07
3. Saint-Chappelle, 4 Blvd. du Palais, 01 43 73 78 41
4. Musee du Louvre, 99 rue de Rivoli, 01 40 20 50 50
5. Musee Nissim de Camondo, 63 rue de Monceau, 01 53 89 06 50
6. Notre Dame Cathedral (Cathedrale de Notre Dame de Paris), 6 place du Parvis, Ile de la Cité, 01 42 34 56 10
7. Musee National des Arts Asiatiques - Guimet, 6 place d’Iena, 16th arrondissement, 01 56 52 53 00
8. Eiffel Tower (Tour Eiffel), 5 av. Anatole France Quai Branly, 01 44 11 23 23
9. Luxembourg Gardens (Jardin du Luxembourg), 15 rue de Vaugirard, 01 44 54 19 49
10. Le Marais, 3e arrondissement

FAMILIES



“Even if you’ve been to Paris a thousand times, **City Segway Tours** is a must do! You see many of the main attractions, and have great fun getting there. The Segway’s themselves are a breeze to learn to drive and huge fun!” —TripAdvisor Member, Kaiserslautern, Germany

City Segway Tours, Meets at South Leg (“Pilier Sud”) of the Eiffel Tower, 01 56 58 10 54

At the **Musee des Arts et Metiers**, “there are sections on construction, locomotion, computers, chemistry and more. It’s great for kids and adults because of the interactive displays.” —TripAdvisor Member, Cambridge, Mass.

Musee des Arts et Metiers (Museum of Arts & Crafts), 60 rue Reaumur, 01 53 01 82 00

“The **Cite de La Musique** is a precious experience for older children. The way the instruments are displayed, as well as the excellent audio guide, make this museum so special. Our kid would stay in front of a display for long minutes in a row, just listening to what each instrument sounded like.” —

TripAdvisor Member, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Cite de La Musique, 221 av. Jean-Jaures, 01 44 84 44 84

“You can’t imagine the wealth, expanse and beauty of the place.”

ROMANCE



“Attend a performance of the ballet at the incredibly ornate **Palais Garnier** opera house for a truly unforgettable evening. The lobby is as opulent as the theater, and the performance will be equally spectacular.” —

TripAdvisor Member, Boca Raton, Fla.

Palais Garnier, 8 rue Scribe, Place de l’Opéra, 01 72 29 35 35

For a romantic day out of the city and a glimpse of how French royalty lived, visit the **Chateau de Versailles** and its magnificent gardens. “You can’t imagine the wealth, expanse and beauty of the place.” —

TripAdvisor Member, Oklahoma

Palace of Versailles, Versailles, 01 30 83 78 00

Sacré-Coeur is a grand basilica whose famous white dome provides excellent views of the city. “It was simply breathtaking.” —TripAdvisor Member, California

Sacré-Coeur, 35 rue du Chevalier-de-la-barre, Montmartre, Place du Parvis du Sacré Coeur, 01 53 41 89 00

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

Entry to **Notre Dame Cathedral** is free, although you will be charged if you want to climb the towers. "Entering the cathedral is almost overwhelming. It is impossible to put into words just how beautiful and impressive this building is."—TripAdvisor Member, Laurel, Md.

Notre Dame Cathedral, 6 place du Parvis, Ile de la Cité, 01 42 34 56 10

Père-Lachaise's 118 acres contain the final resting places of the famous and the infamous, from Oscar Wilde to Jim Morrison. But take a look beyond the better known sites: "Skip the famous graves. Take your time and just let the magic of this place envelop you."—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Père-Lachaise Cemetery, 16 rue du Repos, 01 55 25 82 10

It costs nothing to wander the **Champs-Elysees**. The grand, tree-lined boulevard is "incredibly charming and a lot of fun. Go and walk and enjoy how beautiful it is."—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

Champs-Elysees

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 10 million traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

Fat Tire Bike Tours offers bicycle tours of Paris (day and night), Versailles and more. Also, check out their Segway tours. "We did the Versailles bike tour, and it was magical and lots of fun. Once you get the hang of riding the three-speed beach cruiser bikes, they are super comfy and fun to ride."—TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

Fat Tire Bike Tours Paris, 24 rue Edgar Faure, 01 56 58 10 54

"If you like wine, you need to go to **O Chateau**. The pours were generous, the wines from various regions, the crowd fun and international. We left the cellar a bit tipsy. The highlight of our trip!"—TripAdvisor Member, Denver, Colo.

O Chateau – Paris Wine Tasting, 01 44 73 97 80

"We left the cellar a bit tipsy..."

If you enjoy in-line skating, join the thousands of like-minded people for **Pari Roller**, and skate your way through the city (starting at the Montparnasse Metro station) every Friday night from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. "To participate, you just need to come with your skates. There is indeed only ONE condition to your participating in the skate, but it is a vital one: You absolutely must be a GOOD skater!"—TripAdvisor Member, Paris

Pari Roller, Adhesions, Place Raoul Dautry, <http://www.pari-roller.com>



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

"There is a saying, 'See Paris and die.' It holds true, especially at places like the **Arc de Triomphe**, which is breathtaking, historic and a thing of pride and awe to the French."—TripAdvisor Member, Abuja, Nigeria

Arc de Triomphe, Place Charles de Gaulle, 01 55 37 73 77

Home to such famous works as the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo, "**The Louvre** is a splendid treasure of knowledge. It took me two hours to visit one room. The experience was one of the best I've had in a museum."—TripAdvisor Member, Rennes, France

Musée du Louvre, 99 rue de Rivoli, 01 40 20 53 17

The beautiful **Musée d'Orsay** was once a railroad station and now houses a stunning collection of Impressionist art. "Fantastic! Superb! Magnificent! Tremendous!"—TripAdvisor Member, Oxford, England

Musee d'Orsay, 62 rue de Lille, 01 40 49 48 14



RELAXATION

"A haven of peace, magnificent gardens for the eyes, puppet theater for the children, tennis courts for sports or jogging, statues of queens of France for history and art lovers, the **Luxembourg Gardens** have something to please everyone."—TripAdvisor Member, France

Luxembourg Gardens, Place Edmond-Rostand, Place Auguste-Comter, Rue de Vaugirard, 01 42 34 20 00

"Sitting in the **Musee de l'Orangerie**, surrounded by Monet's art, feeling as if you are in his gardens at Giverny is an awesome and invigorating experience."—TripAdvisor Member, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Musee de l'Orangerie, Jardin des Tuileries, 01 44 77 80 07

"The gardens at the **Musee Rodin** are wonderful. On the day we visited, it was not crowded, which added to the peaceful ambiance. We really enjoyed strolling around, seeing famous sculptures in a fantastic setting."—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia

Musee Rodin, 79 rue de Varenne, 01 44 18 61 10

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



Beware—"When crossing roads, expect the unexpected. Parisians drive like they first got in a car that morning."—TripAdvisor Member, England

"For international travelers, the **Paris Visite passes** are by far the best option. And they can be pre-purchased online as a redeemable voucher or genuine physical ticket and shipped to your home."—TripAdvisor Member

Paris Visite Pass, <http://parismetro.tourpackagers.com>

River view—The Batobus takes you to eight different stops along the Seine and is "a relaxing way to get the lay of the land."—TripAdvisor Member, Monterey Bay, Calif.

Batobus, 08 25 05 01 01

Want more information on Paris? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Paris or any other destination you choose.



WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

"**Little Breizh** is a lovely little restaurant! The choice of savoury and sweet crepes is wonderful, and you can create your own, which was perfect, especially with our very picky son."—TripAdvisor Member, Birmingham, U.K.

Little Breizh, 11 rue Gregoire de Tours, 01 43 54 60 74

"The menu at **Pramil** is delightful, with a selection of seven starters, mains and desserts. The atmosphere was relaxed, and the staff were friendly and only too happy to help translate some of the items. Just a fantastic experience all round."—TripAdvisor Member, Cheshire, U.K.

Pramil, 9 rue du Vertbois, 01 42 72 03 60

"**Au Petit Sud Ouest** specializes in duck. The fried duck liver on apples was exceptional and generous. We greatly appreciated the attentive and friendly service. Our five-year-old was as warmly welcomed as we were."—TripAdvisor Member

Au Petit Sud Ouest, 46 av. de la Bourdonnais, 01 45 55 59 59

"...a delightful, traditional French meal"

ROMANCE

"If you're looking for a delightful, traditional French meal in an intimate, informal setting, come to **La Cordonnerie**. Our mushroom appetizer was one of the highlights of our trip. And the bananas flambé, prepared at our table, was memorable."—TripAdvisor Member, Princeton, N.J.

La Cordonnerie, 20 rue St-Roch, 01 42 60 17 42

From your table at the swanky **La Tour d'Argent**, you can see the floodlit Notre-Dame and the boats cruising the Seine. What could be more romantic? "One of Paris's greatest and most famous dining experiences."—TripAdvisor Member, Paris

La Tour d'Argent, 15-17 quai de la Tournelle, 01 43 54 23 31

"One of Paris's greatest and most famous dining experiences."

"**Taillevent** is first and foremost known for their one of a kind, phenomenal, very, very personable service." Though the dining is "excellent, the service really outshines the food."—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Taillevent, 15 rue Lamennais, 01 44 95 15 01

BUDGET

"**Mini Festin** is intimate and the food is delicious: the four cheese pasta gratin is among the specialties. Plus, the price is ridiculously low for Paris - €5 for a starter & €9-15 for an entree!"—TripAdvisor Member, Dallas, Texas

Mini Festin, 7 rue Gros, 01 45 25 07 77

"**Chez Gladines** has fantastic value food. All in all, €43 for two people - decent, hearty fare (more than we could eat!) and a couple of carafes of wine. What's not to like?!"—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

Chez Gladines, 30 rue des Cinq-Diamants, 01 45 80 70 10

"Go to the **Louise Cafe** if you're on a budget and still want good food. I had the French-style beef stew, and my husband had leg of lamb for 36 euros, an excellent price in the heart of Paris."—TripAdvisor Member, New Jersey

Louise Cafe, 8 rue Croix des Petits Champs, 01 42 60 22 44

WHERE to eat




HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

 "I just went to **Yen** for the first time. Their soba, which they hand-make every day, is absolutely authentic. The quality of food is at the top end of Japanese cuisine."—TripAdvisor Member, Copenhagen, Denmark
Yen, 22 rue Saint-Benoit, 01 45 44 11 18

"**Aquarius** is my favorite mix of things in a restaurant—flavorful food, relaxed atmosphere and friendly service. The specials rotate between great vegetarian fare and non-vegetarian substitutes."—TripAdvisor Member, Bristol, U.K.
Aquarius, 40 rue de Gergovie, Plaisance-Pernety, 01 45 41 36 88

"**Maoz Vegetarian** is a fantastic place among the typical small lanes of Paris. The falafels are very crispy and tasty, and the toppings have a lot of variety."—TripAdvisor Member, Chennai, India
Maoz Vegetarian, 8 rue Xavier Privas, 01 43 26 36 00

HIDDEN GEMS

 "The atmosphere at **L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon** is so very different from any other French dining experience. You sit around the kitchen on high stools. Can be quite a show. You will weep over the mashed potatoes."—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.
L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon, 5-7 rue de Montalembert, 01 42 22 56 56

"**Le Grand Mericourt** is definitely one of the best restaurants in Paris. Excellent food, excellent service, good wine list and a small, cozy environment. Their six-course tasting menu was superb and delivered a great value."—TripAdvisor Member, Stockholm, Sweden
Le Grand Mericourt, 22 rue de la folie Mericourt, 01 43 38 94 04

"**Le Relais de l'isle** is a charming yet cozy little jewel. We ordered duck and salmon and were mesmerized and delighted at how delicious it was and how good it looked!"—TripAdvisor Member, Ohio
Le Relais de l'isle, 37 rue Saint Louis en l'île, 01 46 34 72 34

SPECIAL EVENTS



The French have been running marathons in Paris since 1896. These days, the **Paris Marathon** is one of the most popular long distance races in the world, and it's easy to see why. The course starts on the Champs Elysées and takes participants down the Seine and past the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and 250,000 cheering fans. Runners are even served wine and cheese along the course! (April 1)
Marathon de Paris, Begins at Champs Elysées, 01 41 33 15 68, <http://www.parismarathon.com>

Every spring, France hosts the famed **Tournoi de Roland-Garros or French Open**, one of only four Grand Slam tournaments in tennis. The unique red clay courts have made the French Open one of the most grueling (and popular) professional contests in the world. (May 27 - June 10)
Tournoi de Roland-Garros (French Open), Roland Garros Stadium, 2 av Gordon Bennett, 01 47 43 52 52, <http://www.fft.fr>

Created in 1964, the **International Photographic Flea Market** is an event for amateurs and professionals alike. The weekend features hangings by all the participants as well as several contests with prizes awarded by jury. (June 2 - 3)
Foire Internationale de la Photo à Bièvres (International Photographic Flea Market), Bièvres Fairgrounds, Bièvres, 06 84 28 29 76, <http://foirephoto-bievre.com/>

Each year, Paris celebrates the Summer Solstice with the **Fete de la Musique**, a citywide music festival in which performers ranging from amateur street musicians to national orchestras play free outdoor concerts. The annual party has become so popular, that since its inception in 1982, it has spread to more than one hundred cities around the world. (June 21)
Fete de la Musique, Various venues, <http://fetedelamusique.culture.fr>, <http://www.musee-orsay.fr>

For most of the year, the **Stade de France** is the place to watch the national team take on international opponents intense competition, but in July it transforms into something else entirely: an artificial beach! The public is invited onto the famed pitch, now covered in tons of sand and water, to take part in fun and games including volleyball, badminton and even sailing! (July - August)
The Beach at Stade de France, Saint-Denis, 08 92 70 09 00, <http://www.stadefrance.com>

Join the French in celebrating **Bastille Day**, a national holiday commemorating the storming of the Bastille prison during the French Revolution. The partying starts the night before and continues into the next day with picnics, fireworks and a massive military parade down the Champs Elysées. (July 14)
Bastille Day, Various venues

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

“**La Maison St. Germain** is a secret worth keeping quiet! The location is exceptional yet totally private and secluded like your own place. The apartment was well appointed and roomy enough to accommodate our family of four.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lyon, France

La Maison St. Germain, 158 blvd. Saint Germain, 01 55 42 74 00

“We stayed in a family suite at the **Hotel Residence Foch**. It really was perfect for us - a family of four, with kids ages 8 and 11. The price and, more importantly, the staff make this hotel highly recommended by our family!”—TripAdvisor Member, Seoul, Korea

Hotel Residence Foch, 10 rue Marbeau, 01 45 00 46 50

“The **Hotel Ares** is even better than in the website photos! The location is great, near the Eiffel Tower. We had a deluxe room to accommodate two children, and we found it elegant and chic.”—TripAdvisor Member

Hotel Ares Eiffel, 7 rue du General de Larminat, 01 47 34 74 04

“...luxurious in a modern way.”



Have questions about Paris? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

The 2010 Travelers' Choice Winner for Romance, **Hotel le Petit Paris** is “one of those gems you find very rarely. Everything has a clean, freshly decorated scent. The beds were so comfortable, and the bathroom was immaculate. This is truly the kind of place you'll recommend to your friends.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Hotel le Petit Paris, 214 rue Saint Jacques, 01 53 10 29 29

“We stayed at the **Secret de Paris** for our honeymoon and absolutely loved it. The place is new and fresh, luxurious in a modern way. The service was very good. The staff honestly could not do more for us to the extent that it felt like it was their pleasure to help.”—TripAdvisor Member, Durham, U.K.

Secret de Paris Hotel, 2, rue de Parme, 01 53 16 33 33

“After our wonderful experience at **Courcelles-Parc**, we can't go back to a regular hotel. It's a very charming place, and you feel like you're an honored guest of a nice, Parisian family.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

Courcelles-Parc, 6 boulevard de Courcelles, 01 47 66 16 85

BUDGET

“The **New Orient Hotel** was fabulous, a true gem. The location was perfect and it was clean, affordable and made my trip very special.”—TripAdvisor Member, St. Catharines, Ontario

New Orient Hotel, 16 Rue de Constantinople, 01 45 22 21 64

“We really enjoyed our stay in **Loft Paris**. It was a nice little room in a very quiet alley behind the Moulin Rouge. Don't expect a swanky room. But for the price, it was a really good find.”—TripAdvisor Member, Oxford, U.K.

Loft Paris, 7 cite Veron, 01 46 06 55 55

“**Home Moderne** is wonderful. The neighborhood is safe, it's less than a 10-minute walk to the metro and there is free wifi. Recommended to anyone looking for a reasonably priced hotel in Paris.”—TripAdvisor Member, Seville, Spain

Hotel Home Moderne, 61 rue Brancion, 01 53 68 03 00

LUXURY

“**Le Bristol** is a good mix of contemporary style and design with a traditional Parisian touch - very elegant! It's pure luxury and you really stop time in the garden where you can enjoy comfort and quietness.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

Hotel Le Bristol, 112 rue du Faubourg Saint Honore, 01 53 43 43 00

The **Four Seasons Hotel George V** is Paris's top luxury hotel, according to TripAdvisor's 2008 Travelers' Choice awards. “If you only visit one hotel in your life, this has to be it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, England

The Four Seasons Hotel George V, 31 avenue George V, 01 49 52 70 00

“I would love to move in permanently.”

Jays Paris “is an absolute gem! It was difficult to leave at the end of my visit. I would love to move in permanently.”—TripAdvisor Member, Marseille, France

Jays Paris, 6 rue Copernic, 01 47 04 16 16

Where to STAY



HIDDEN GEMS

"If you're looking for a perfect stay in Paris," try **Au sourire de Montmartre**. "The proprietress and her family are so friendly and kind, and the breakfast is just unforgettable and typically French! The rooms are very charming, clean, arranged individually and with love for details."—TripAdvisor Member, Stuttgart, Germany

Au sourire de Montmartre, Rue du Mont Cenis, Montmartre, 06 64 64 72 86

"I'm normally fussy with my reviews but I honestly could not fault the **Chambre d'hotes Rivoli**. The room is very clean and modern. Perfect. A very good selection of basics in the fridge and cupboards and good cooking facilities."—TripAdvisor Member, Auckland, New Zealand

Chambre d'hotes Rivoli, 35 rue Francois Miron, 06 19 91 58 28

"We will return to the **Hotel Luxembourg Parc**. It's what you dream of for a romantic weekend. Cozy rooms. A fireplace in the library. There was nothing not to like."—TripAdvisor Member, Biarritz, France

Hotel Luxembourg Parc, 42 rue de Vaugirard, 01 53 10 36 50

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