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.

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.

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.
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-Elysées 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**

**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

**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’Opera, 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 Sacre Coeur, 01 53 41 89 00**

Call an Expedia Travel Specialist now 877 633 3716
**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**

**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

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


"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

"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."

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

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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

**Musée d’Orsay**, 62 rue de Lille, 01 40 49 48 14

"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

**EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL**

"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

"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.

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**RELAXATION**

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**Champs-Elysees**

**CALL AN EXPEDIA TRAVEL SPECIALIST NOW**: 877 633 3716
**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

**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

"**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

**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 43 80 70 10

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**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


**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

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

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

“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

“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’ile, 01 46 34 72 34

“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

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)

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)

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

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. Catherines, 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 really a 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

“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

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Call an Expedia Travel Specialist now 877 633 3716
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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