

This is a collection of random tips-and-tricks on how to survive Paris and places to visit in no particular order. It covers some main attraction points as well as the useful places around the apartment. When you walk around the city remember to look upwards. It's easy to get lost in the chaos of the ground level and not notice that above you, you have the most beautiful city in the world :)

Enjoy Paris!

Arondissements

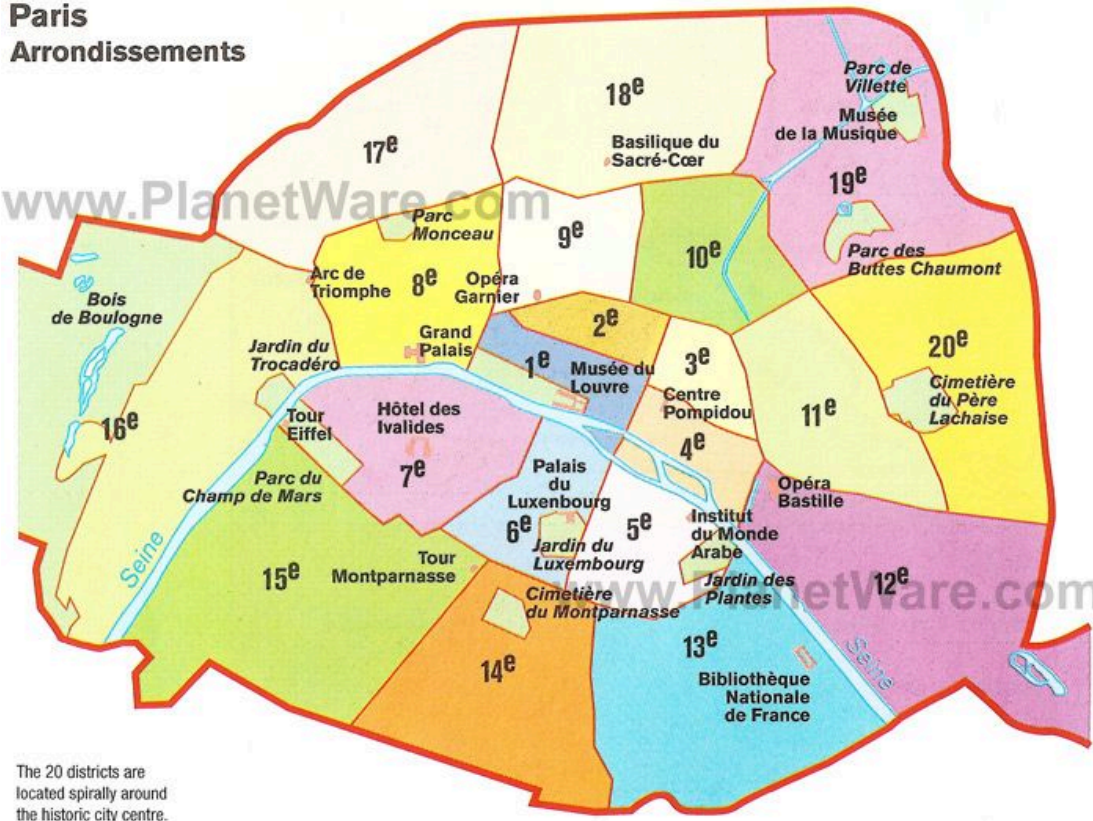
Arondissement is just a fancy word for neighbourhood. Paris arrondissements start in the very centre at Notre Dame, and spread outwards in a spiral. The lower the arrondissement number, the smaller it is generally speaking.

Parisians are very sensitive to what is *Paris* (often called *Paris intra-muros*) and what is part of paris agglomeration, but not technically Paris (often called *region Parisienne* - the Paris region). The limits of Paris stop where the arrondissements stop, after that each administrative unit is a separate town. Paris intra-muros has about 2 million inhabitants and the Paris region has about 12 million. As a tourist, you will very rarely leave Paris intra-muros, since most of the main tourist attractions and activities are located there.

Contrary to the way it's portrayed, I would describe Paris as a very safe city. Most of the *bad* areas are in the suburbs (mostly north and east), and not within the city limits. Within the city, 18th and 19th arrondissements have parts where you probably should not walk alone at night (and parts of 10th which are bordering with those two), but other than that, you should not be worried.

The main issue might be pickpockets which are present in touristy areas. They usually operate by approaching you with some enquete about wannabe humanitarian causes and while you're dealing with that, someone picks your phone. The moral of the story is - if someone you don't know approaches you and starts talking/asking something, just ignore them and continue. Stranger-danger and all that.

Paris Arrondissements



1er (Louvre)

The tourist's paradise. Home to the Louvre, Jardin des Tuileries, and luxury shopping on Rue de Rivoli. Expensive cafés, selfie sticks, and people pretending to understand modern art.

2e (Bourse)

The business district by day, a quiet ghost town by night. Full of stockbrokers, historic passages, and the occasional hipster café trying to revive the area.

3e (Temple)

Trendy, artsy, and home to the Marais' quieter cousin. Galleries, concept stores, and [bobos](#) (bourgeois-bohemians) sipping organic wine.

4e (Hôtel-de-Ville)

The heart of the Marais: LGBTQ+ friendly, falafel shops, vintage boutiques, and tourists lost between Place des Vosges and Notre-Dame.

5e (Panthéon – Latin Quarter)

Students, intellectuals, and old-school Parisian charm. Bookshops, Sorbonne students debating philosophy, and overpriced crêpes.

6e (Luxembourg – Saint-Germain-des-Prés)

The epitome of Parisian chic. Think Sartre, Hemingway, and wealthy retirees. Luxury real estate, literary cafés, and the Jardin du Luxembourg.

7e (Palais-Bourbon – Invalides – Eiffel Tower)

Diplomats, politicians, and tourists gaping at the Eiffel Tower. Expensive apartments, embassies, and the occasional protest near the Assemblée Nationale.

8e (Élysée – Champs-Élysées)

The land of luxury: Champs-Élysées, Avenue Montaigne, and the Presidential Palace. Tourists, high-end shopping, and overpriced macarons.

9e (Opéra – Grands Boulevards)

Theater district, historic department stores (Galeries Lafayette), and a mix of tourists and young professionals. Also, Pigalle's seedy charm spills over.

10e (Entrepôt – Gare du Nord – Gare de l'Est)

A melting pot: hipsters near Canal Saint-Martin, immigrants, and commuters rushing through Gare du Nord. Gentrification in progress.

11e (Popincourt – Oberkampf)

The nightlife hub. Bars, live music, and young Parisians who never sleep. Oberkampf Street is the epicenter of drunken revelry.

12e (Reuilly – Bercy – Nation)

Family-friendly, slightly boring, but with hidden gems like the Coulée Verte. Bercy Village is where Parisians go to pretend they're not in Paris.

13e (Gobelins – Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand)

The Chinatown of Paris, modern high-rises, and the massive Bibliothèque nationale. Also, the Butte-aux-Cailles, a tiny village within the city.

14e (Observatoire – Montparnasse)

Montparnasse Tower (the eyesore), Breton crêperies, and a mix of students and old-school Parisians. The Catacombs lurk beneath.

15e (Vaugirard)

The “most Parisian” arrondissement—residential, bourgeois, and a bit dull. Full of families, good bakeries, and people who never leave the 15e.

16e (Passy – Auteuil)

The wealthy enclave. Private schools, embassies, and the Bois de Boulogne. Think old money, tennis clubs, and nannies pushing strollers.

17e (Batignolles – Ternes)

Batignolles is the “village” where young families and artists pretend they’re not in the 17e. Ternes is more upscale and conservative.

18e (Butte-Montmartre – Barbès – Goutte d’Or)

Montmartre: tourists, artists, and Sacré-Cœur. Barbès and Goutte d’Or: vibrant, multicultural, and a bit gritty. The real Paris.

19e (Buttes-Chaumont – Belleville – La Villette)

Hipster central. Belleville’s multicultural vibe, street art, and the stunning Parc des Buttes-Chaumont. La Villette is for techies and concert-goers.

20e (Ménilmontant – Belleville – Père Lachaise)

The “other” Belleville, edgy and artsy. Père Lachaise Cemetery, indie music venues, and a strong working-class roots.

Culture

[Montparnasse tower](#)

Montparnasse tower is often called the ugliest building in Paris - few can argue with that. However, that also makes it the perfect place to look over Paris because you can’t see the tower when you’re on top of it! The climb to the top costs about 20 euros and you can enjoy a cocktail bar there. It’s a decent, and cheaper, replacement for climbing on top of the Eiffel tower - the view is at least as good, but the Eiffel tower has additional content such as expositions, photos and texts about its history.

[Hotel des invalides](#)

Most known for Napoleon’s tomb, but there is also lots of historical information there about Napoleon and the military museum. Definitely worth a visit if you’re into this stuff.

[Pantheon](#)

A historical building in central Paris, most noted for containing Foucault’s [pendulum](#) and the crypt with tombs of famous french people such as Voltaire and Marie Curie. There are often

expositions inside when they remove the pendulum, so make sure to check if it's there if that is the main reason for your visit.

[Notre dame](#)

One of the most famous Parisian landmarks. Entrance is free, but try to get there early in the morning. The line might seem crazy long, but usually it goes very quickly.

[Sainte Chapelle](#)

Small chapel next to Notre Dame most known for its magnificent stained glass windows. Definitely worth a visit, but make sure to book your tickets online because otherwise you will wait in the queue for a very long time.

[Arc de Triomph](#)

One of the national symbols for France. Very impressive to see (and great for taking photos!). Below the arc itself is the tomb of the unknown soldier. You can go inside and climb on top, but it's not paying. The tomb and the area around the arc is free to visit. Just make sure to find the underground passage to it and don't try to cross the roundabout above the ground where the cars drive.

[Louvre](#)

One of the most famous Parisian landmarks. The building itself is exceptionally impressive from the outside. If you are a great fan of art and history it makes sense to go inside, otherwise I recommend against it. The sheer amount of artefacts inside is mindnumbing and other museums such as Orsay and Orangerie are much more accessible in my opinion.

[Concorde](#)

One of the busiest squares in Paris, it holds the Obelisk stolen from Luxor.

[Orangerie](#)

Museum between Louvre and Concorde. It holds Monet's water lilies in permanent exposition. It is not expensive and quite small, so you can easily see the full collection.

[Orsay](#)

Another museum not far away from the Louvre. It holds art of different disciplines and is most known for its collection of impressionist paintings. My favourite museum of Paris.

[Opera garnier](#)

Magnificent opera of Paris. If you are under 28th years old, you might be able to get ticket for 10€ for certain shows! Usually they're sold out immediately, but if you wait at the entrance before the show, you might get a ticket from a no-show. There is also a lake underneath it that inspired the story of phantom of the opera.

[Montmartre](#)

Iconic neighbourhood of Paris, known for its artistic and bohemian history. The usual touristic activity is strolling through its picturesque streets.

[Sacre coeur](#)

The imposing basilique on top of Montmartre. The entrance is free and the queue can often seem very long, but usually it goes quite quickly. There is also a beautiful view over Paris from in front of it.

[Moulin rouge](#)

The iconic Parisian cabaret.

[House rodin](#)

Museum containing Rodin's sculptures. It has a very nice garden and outdoor area.

[Versaille](#)

Magnificent castle on the outskirts of Paris. If you go there, definitely prepare enough time to visit the gardens. Generally you should plan the visit as a whole day activity.

[Basilique Saint Denis](#)

This magnificent basilique in the north of Paris is known as the first Gothic cathedral. Saint Denis has quite bad reputation and is admittedly not the nicest suburb of Paris, but if you go to to the cathedral during the day, you should have no problems.

[Le grand rex](#)

Absolutely mind blowing cinema in the 9th arrondissement. If you're into movies and cinema, this is a must see.

[Quartier latin](#)

A very picturesque neighbourhood on the left bank of Seine. This is where most scenes in *Midnight in Paris* were filmed. Go there for a stroll in the evening and enjoy the Parisian charm.

[Foundation Louis Vuitton](#)

[Centre Pompidou](#)

Cemeteries

Paris has several cemeteries which are worth visiting. They're all great places for a stroll and to escape the heat during the day. All of them are filled with tombs of historical people (and/or celebrities) such as Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison, Sartre, Fourier, etc.). It is recommended to check the list/location of the tombs you would like to visit beforehand, because it can be a bit overwhelming to do it on the spot.

[Pere Lachaise cemetery](#)

[Montparnasse cemetery](#)

[Montmartre cemetery](#)

Nature

[Jardin de tuileries](#)

Gardens in front of the Louvre. Very nice for a walk, just be sure to check the opening times because they close quite early in the evening.

Parc George Brassens

Right next to the apartment and my favourite park in Paris :) Ideal for a short walk or sitting down and reading a book.

Jardin de Luxembourg

Bois de Boulogne

Bois de Vincenne

Parc des Buttes Chaumont

Le jardin des plantes

Bars

Prices in bars in Paris vary greatly in all neighbourhoods. On average, a pint of blond beer is around 6€. However, happy hours are a big thing in Paris, so with some effort, you can find great deals. Download app [mister good beer](#), they show prices of beer on map across Paris. Even if you don't drink beer, beer prices are a good indicator of prices of other drinks as well.

Montparnasse - rue de la gaieté, rue Montparnasse

Rue du Commerce

Oberkampf

Butte Aux Cailles

[Les mauvaises habitudes](#)

Nice bar right next to Pere lachaise cemetery, they have quite large cocktails for a very low price ;)

[Cantine max](#)

Nice bar/restaurant close to the apartment, they have cocktails for 5€ until midnight.

Quais de Seine

Not really a bar, but a very Parisian activity is getting some bread, cheese and wine and sitting down somewhere along the Seine river for a picnic. Anywhere on/around Ile de la cité and Ile Saint-Louis is a safe bet, but [this](#) is my favourite spot.

Bakeries

Everyone talks about French wine and cheese, but no one mentions the bread :) You can find a bakery in Paris on almost every corner. You can also buy bread at the supermarket, but the bakery one is always superior. The safest choice is *baguette tradition*. It is highly regulated recipe, so you can hardly go wrong with it. You also have *tradition cereale* or *tradition grain* options - brown bread with grains.

[Pompona](#) - this is my go to bakery. They have great bread, and I go there whenever I prepare traditional french breakfast for guests - coffee with one *croissant* and one *pain au chocolat*. If you want to go full French, you can add a cigarette with that ;)

[Grains et gourmandises](#) - Pompona is great, but if you like savoury snacks, they don't always have a large selection. I usually go here for *croque monsieur* or *croque madame*. They also have things like wraps, sandwiches, pizza-like doughs and whatnot.

These are the two bakeries I go to most often, but there are many more, feel free to explore. All bakeries also have large selection of french cakes which are definitely worth exploring!

Activities

[Eating on a boat cruise](#)

[Boat cruises](#)

[Hot air balloon ride](#)

[Rent city bike](#)

Transport

Public transport

Despite what the locals might tell you, Paris has amazing public transport. If you've come by car, find some place to park it during your stay and forget about it. It is the [most densely constructed](#) metro in the world! Your best friend will be *Bonjour RATP* app. You can plan itineraries and buy tickets through the app. You also have an option to buy a physical card for 2e and use that one. The card can be recharged through the app as well or at physical

machines in the stations. Do note that often there are long queues at the machines, so it's usually better to use your phone. Google maps will generally also show you the correct itinerary from point A to point B, but might not be 100% up to date in case of some unexpected construction works or accidents.

Regardless of what either app tells you, *never* take the bus. Metro is always the better option because of how well covered the city is by metro network and how unreliable the buses are. Trams are ok to use though :)

Bikes

Paris has great bike infrastructure. It is a [very recent success story](#) of a city which had no bike paths and in the course of 10 years became a model on how inner-city mobility should be done. That being said, biking inside the city can be very chaotic. If you are used to biking, I would definitely recommend moving around by bike, it will be more pleasant, faster, and cheaper than using public transport. If you're not a cyclist I think you should still do it once for the experience, but after that it's fine to go back to the metro :)

[Here](#) is a very nice route along the Seine where you have dedicated bike lanes all along the way and will pass several landmarks. As to which bikes to use, you have two options. The cheapest one is [Velib](#). Those are city bikes you can rent and leave at dedicated stations. There is lots and lots of stations around the city, so usually you're only a few minutes walk away from where you want to end up. You have several subscriptions you can take, I usually recommend the *24-hour pass - classic* 5 € one. You pay 5e and you can use the bikes during 24h. Every time you pick up a bike, the first 30min is free and after that it's 1e/30 min. You can always stop at 29min, drop the bike, wait a few minutes, and then pick it up again in order for the free 30min limit to reset. Also note that, contrary to how it might feel, Paris is quite small surface-wise, so most of your trips will be shorter than 30min to begin with.

Another option are the electric bikes you can pick up or drop anywhere. I don't have much experience with those, but you will see them everywhere around, so just choose one brand and download it's app and you should be good to go.

Taxi

Both Bolt and Uber are available in Paris and they are generally rather cheap, especially if you're with multiple people. I feel like taking the metro and/or biking fits more the vibe of Paris as a city, but in cases where you need to quickly get somewhere with suboptimal metro connection, there is always this option.

Airports

Paris has three airports: Charles de Gaulle (CDG), Orly, and Beauvais.

Beauvais

For Beauvais the default option is taking a [shuttle](#) that gets you straight to/from the airport. On the way to the airport, be sure to arrive at the shuttle station on time, because often there are long queues and you have to wait a few rounds before you can board on the bus. If you are with 3+ people, you should check out the price of uber/bolt to get to the airport.

Orly

Orly airport is connected directly to the metro line 14 (my favourite metro line, could talk all day about the reasons why it's so cool :)), but you need to pay an additional 11€ to enter it at the airport. Since Orly is much closer to Paris than Beauvais, it probably makes sense to get a Bolt as soon as you're with two people or more.

CDG

Same thing as Orly really, it's connected to the city via local train (RER B), but you need to pay extra to board the train at the airport. Check Bolt prices and see what makes the most sense for your situation.

Appendix: The official Ranking of Paris Metro Lines

Paris has one of the densest metro networks in the world, and while all lines have their charm (or lack thereof), Parisians and visitors alike have *opinions* about which ones reign supreme. Lucky for you, I don't have *opinions*, but only straight facts about the ordering of Parisian metro lines. Here's the breakdown:

The Elite Tier

- **Line 14:** The undisputed king. Why? It's the first fully automated line in the world (albeit with some specific conditions on being *the first*) since 1998, efficient, and simply the best. If you live on line 14, you've hit the jackpot.

The Reliable Workhorses

- **Line 1:** Iconic, fast, and automated. Home to the Louvre and Champs-Élysées. It's the line that screams, "*Yes, I'm in Paris!*"
 - **Line 4:** The personal favorite of at least one Parisian, as it connects them to Gare du Nord and Montparnasse. If you're navigating the city, this line is your trusty steed.
 - **Line 6:** The scenic route. Above-ground sections offer stunning views of the Eiffel Tower and the Seine. Perfect for pretending you're in a French New Wave film.
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The "Meh, It's Fine" Tier

- **Line 8:** Until recently the longest line in Paris (that title now goes to, you guessed it, line 14!), which sounds impressive until you realize it's also one of the most chaotic. It's like the metro version of a *très* long, *très* dramatic French novel. But it does feel nice to be able to traverse all of Paris on a single metro ride.
 - **Lines 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, and 11:** They exist. They work. They're not *bad*, but they're not exactly the life of the party either. Think of them as the metro equivalent of a decent baguette: reliable, but not memorable. Also, I never use them, so I refuse to give them more space in this document.
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The "Why Does This Exist?" Tier

- **Line 7 and 12:** Look, they get the job done, but no one's writing sonnets about them. They're the metro lines you take because you *have* to, not because you *want* to.
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The Bottom of the Barrel

- **Line 13:** The universal punching bag of the Paris Metro. Overcrowded, unreliable, and the bane of commuters' existence. If the metro lines were in a *Hunger Games*-style battle royale, Line 13 would be the first to go. It's not without reason that the following expression exists: *The next French revolution will begin on the line 13*