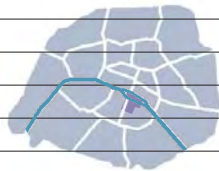


Île de la Cité (4th)
Latin Quarter (5th)
Île Saint-Louis (4th)
Jardin des Plantes (5th)

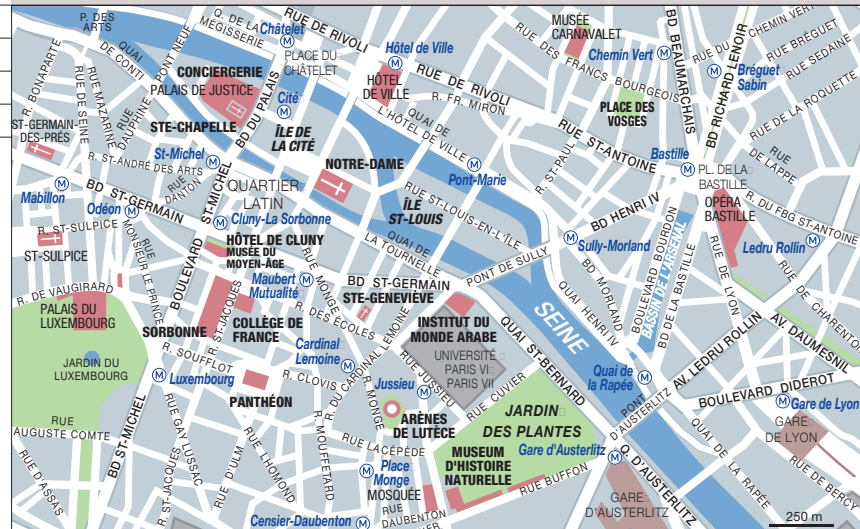
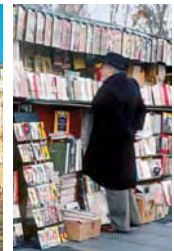


TIMELESS PARIS

The banks of the River Seine, from the islands to the Latin Quarter, constitute the original historic centre of the city. Medieval buildings co-exist with crowds of lively young students and the welcome oases of public parks and gardens.

► So, choose a sunny morning and begin your walk with a stroll along the quays, stopping off to take a look at the stalls of the bouquinistes and then on to the flower and animal markets. Here, amidst rows of geraniums, palm trees, cheeping budgerigars and the animated conversation of robed barristers from the nearby Palais de Justice, pause to look up at the skyline...

► Impressive, symbolically historic buildings stretch around the near horizon: the bell towers of Notre-Dame and the towers of the Conciergerie, then farther off, the roofs of the Sorbonne and the cupola of the Pantheon... The paving stones and monuments still echo with the dramatic events of the past, evoking memories of torture and executions, uprisings and revolutions.



Cité line 4 Saint-Michel line 4 Odéon lines 4,10 Jussieu lines 7,10

Censier-Daubenton line 7 Cluny-la-Sorbonne line 10 Cardinal-Lemoine line 10



Notre-Dame de Paris
→ 6, place du Parvis-de-Notre-Dame (4th)

The cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic art, has witnessed some of the greatest events in history, from the barefoot Saint-Louis wearing the Crown of Thorns (1239) to the commemoration ceremony for General de Gaulle (1970), not forgetting Napoleon's coronation (1804) and the celebration of the Liberation of Paris (1944).

île de la cité

A stained-glass gem...

Fifteen magnificent 15-m high stained-glass windows illuminate the chapel with an exquisite radiance.

The Sainte-Chapelle was constructed to house the holy relics of the Passion: a small piece of the cross and Christ's famous Crown of Thorns, which were said to have cost Louis IX (Saint-Louis) three times as much as the construction of the building...

Sainte-Chapelle
4, bd du Palais (1st)



Conciergerie

→ 2, bd du Palais (1st)

The high conical towers which dominate the Seine have an unenviable reputation; during the French Revolution, some 2,800 people, including Danton, Saint-Just and of course Marie-Antoinette, were dispatched from here to the guillotine... Formerly a royal palace, the Conciergerie became Paris's first prison.

► The Île de la Cité is the historic birthplace of Paris, and its lovely square, place Dauphine, is a perfect spot to take a break beneath the chestnut trees.

Thermes et hôtel de Cluny

→ 6, place Paul-Painlevé (5th)

The outer walls of this mansion house protect the remains of Gallo-Roman baths: three large rooms decorated with wonderful mosaics. One of these rooms, the *frigidarium*, is the setting for concerts of medieval music. The Hôtel de Cluny is one of the finest buildings of the Middle Ages and provided accommodation for prelates from the abbey of Cluny in Burgundy. It is surrounded by a series of medieval-inspired gardens.

Musée du Moyen Âge

The museum in the Hôtel de Cluny is a veritable treasure house of medieval art and artefacts. It is the tapestries, however, that capture the attention, particularly the famous *Lady and the Unicorn*.



Latin atmosphere...

The Latin Quarter owes its name to the language spoken up until the revolution by students and teachers in the district. Although universities, bookshops and publishing houses are still to be found here, the area is no longer only devoted to learning. It is a popular meeting place for clothes and shoe shopping, café culture and nightlife.



A strong-minded woman!

Sainte Geneviève lived in Paris from 422 to 500. She became the patron saint of the city when she convinced the people of Paris to resist the attack by Attila the Hun using prayer: the city was miraculously spared. And when famine loomed some time afterwards, she provided a flotilla of wheat to feed the besieged! The cult of Sainte Geneviève still flourishes and her relics are kept in the church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont, in... the place Sainte-Geneviève.



Sorbonne

→ 47, rue des Écoles (5th)

In 1257, the Sorbonne's first college opened with 16 students. Today, there are around 25,000, studying a whole range of subjects: arts and social sciences, ancient Greek, linguistic engineering, philosophy, literature, the study of civilizations and even musicology. The Université Inter-Âges offers classes in arts and civilizations.

Collège de France

→ 11, place Marcellin-Berthelot (5th)

This unique institution offers free lectures to the public on subjects as varied as atomic and molecular physics and French medieval literature.

In honour of the nation's great men

It was in 1791 that the Pantheon became a final resting-place for some of France's most eminent figures, including Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Émile Zola, Marie Curie, Jean Moulin, André Malraux and Alexandre Dumas. **Panthéon**
Place du Panthéon (5th)

Today the island is a romantic spot to stroll, and a favourite haunt for artists, poets and writers, while in the past it was the home of the nobility.

The Île Saint-Louis is actually made up of two islets: the Île aux Vaches and the Île Notre-Dame. Urbanization and the unification of the islets (1614), led to the construction of the Pont-Marie bridge, brick embankments and right-angled streets.



The laundry women of the *Bateau-Lavoir* may have long gone, but the majestic quayside facades still remain and the rue Saint-Louis-en-l'Île still seems to belong to another era. Cosy restaurants and purveyors of delicious ice cream abound!



Romantic

The island is sheltered from the noise of the city. An idyllic setting for romantic lovers, who enjoy the seclusion of stone balconies and porches, or wander idly along the riverbanks contemplating the Seine. The Île Saint-Louis is a ship cruising through the centuries...



A natural haven

A rose garden with over 350 varieties; a collection of 2,000 plants in the alpine garden; tropical hothouses nurturing flora from Australia, Mexico and the Mediterranean: the Jardin des Plantes is a journey in itself! Thanks to the celebrated naturalist Georges Buffon, the *Jardin royal des plantes médicinales* gained international scientific recognition. Visit the *Ménagerie*, home to primates, reptiles and other species, and look out for the Microzoo, where you can explore the fascinating world of microscopic creatures.

Jardin des Plantes

Entrance: rue Buffon and rue Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire or rue Cuvier (5th)



Muséum national d'histoire naturelle

→ 57, rue Cuvier (5th)

From the galleries to the gardens, this is one spectacular sight after another: sharks of the oceans and beasts of the plains, time-travel with the dinosaurs, a collection of huge crystals to admire, and the greenhouses in the Jardin des Plantes.

Institut du monde arabe

→ 1, rue des Fossés-Saint-Bernard (5th)

It is true what they say, that the view from the restaurant and tearoom terrace on the 9th floor is one of the best. It is also true that the building itself, in glass and steel, is quite superb and that the 1,600 panels covering the south facade adjust automatically according to the amount of sunlight. Not forgetting the wonderful collections of Arab world culture plus concerts, film festivals, conferences, etc.

Arènes de Lutèce

→ Entrances: 49, rue Monge and rue de Navarre (5th)

Built in the 1st-century AD, the *arènes* were only rediscovered in 1869! Designed for circus games, this amphitheatre could accommodate around 15,000 spectators and was similar to amphitheatres in the south of France (Arles, Nîmes...). However, the passing of time has drastically changed its appearance; some of the stones were used for the outer walls of the Île de la Cité...

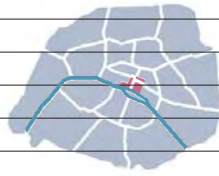
▶ A two-thousand-year-old amphitheatre, a high-tech building and a botanical garden: here you go from one world to another in just a few hundred metres!

latin quarter



Picturesque

The rue Mouffetard, a long, narrow street gently winding down Sainte-Geneviève "mountain", is one of the oldest in the city – in bygone days it was the main road between Lutèce (Paris) and Rome! From place de La Contrescarpe at the top to the busy market below, the "Mouff" is dotted with mansard roofs, traditional shop signs and... Greek restaurants!

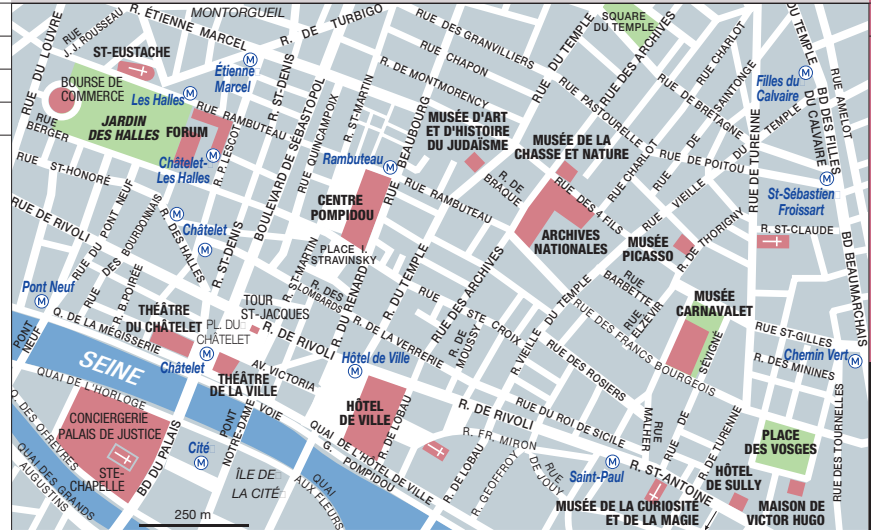


Hip PARIS

The contrast in styles when you walk from the Marais to Les Halles is astonishing. A few metres from the 16th-century mansion houses, the brightly coloured glass and steel bulk of the Centre Pompidou seems to watch over the centuries. Between history and contemporary art, the whole district moves to the rhythm of the latest trends.

► It's up to you – wander through the maze of ancient streets and alleyways where you can stroll peacefully to your heart's content, or spend an afternoon window-shopping in the huge shopping centre at Les Halles and the streets around it. Of course, you're allowed to do both!

► The Marais district has become the centre of gay culture in Paris over the last few years. Artists and designers, encouraged by a public with a thirst for new fashions, have found a place to express themselves in the Marais. Make the most of the variety of places to go in and around the Jewish quarter – there are shops and restaurants, cinemas, theatres, museums...



Saint-Paul line 1 Hôtel-de-Ville lines 1, 11 Rambuteau line 11 Arts-et-Métiers lines 3, 11
 Châtelet lines 1, 4, 7, 11, 14 Étienne-Marcel line 4 Les Halles line 4

marais

Bourgeois and bohemian

A multitude of tasteful shops and establishments nestle at the foot of the superb facades of the Marais. This neighbourhood is a paradise for pedestrians – go there for a quiet wander, enjoy a cup of tea, bite into a falafel or devour a brunch. Almost everything here is open on Sundays! This is the area where the nobility had their mansion houses when it was still a *marais* (marsh), and its architecture is not the only attraction.



Musée Picasso

→ 5, rue de Thorigny (3rd)

This is the largest collection of Picasso's works. There are also paintings from his personal collection, including Matisse, Renoir, Cézanne, Chardin and Corot. The museum is situated in the Hôtel Salé (salty) – its first owner made his fortune by raising a tax on salt, known as the *gabelle*!



Musée Carnavalet

→ 23, rue de Sévigné (3rd)

A scale model of a guillotine, a piece of the Bastille prison wall, and the reconstruction of Marcel Proust's room are a few examples of what is on show at this museum devoted to the history of Paris. This residence, whose most illustrious tenant was Madame de Sévigné, takes you on a journey through the ages.



PARIS - PLAGE

An ephemeral seaside resort right in the heart of Paris? The Paris-Plage initiative has made this dream come true: for a whole month, the Right Bank of the Seine takes on a covering of sand and grass, complete with deckchairs, hammocks and parasols... to the delight of visitors from Paris, Île-de France and further afield. Courtesy of the Paris City Council, this event, launched in 2002, provides relaxation and entertainment for as many people as possible, all in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. With a wide variety of free sporting and cultural activities – from a climbing wall to a marbles tournament, and a lending library to music and concerts – for kids and grown-ups to enjoy.

- Picnics
- Sandcastles
- Beach volley
- Evening concerts
- Solarium
- Swimming pool
- Tai Chi
- Relaxation



► For its fifth edition, from **20 July to 20 August 2006**, Paris-Plage takes on the colours of French Polynesia.

For more details: www.paris.fr

Archives nationales

→ 60, rue des Francs-Bourgeois (3rd)

This historical centre is where France's archives are kept, from the time of the Merovingians up until 1958. Everything is there, from the archives of the Ancien Régime and the central State administration to private archives and the minutes of Parisian notaries. The archives occupy two superb mansion houses, the Hôtel de Rohan and the Hôtel de Soubise, the latter housing the French History Museum.

Église Saint-Paul Saint-Louis

→ 99, rue Saint-Antoine (4th)

This 17th-century Jesuit-style church has its origin in the reunification of the church of Saint-Louis and the nearby church of Saint-Paul after the latter was destroyed. The matching stoups or basins of holy water at the entrance were donated by Victor Hugo when he lived in the place des Vosges.

PLACE DES VOSGES

→ 36 brick pavilions mounted on arcades form the delicate fabric of the place des Vosges. Once known as the place Royale, it was renamed in 1800. This square was a horse market, then a site for lavish festivities, before becoming a sought-after place of residence: Richelieu, Madame de Sévigné, Victor Hugo, Théophile Gautier and Alphonse Daudet lived here. The square and garden are still places to enjoy peace and quiet today.



Hôtel de Sully

→ 62, rue Saint-Antoine (4th)

This magnificent Renaissance mansion house is undoubtedly one of the most attractive in the Marais, and borders one of Paris's oldest streets. It is adorned with a sumptuously sculpted portal and a garden, where Sully, minister for Henri IV, had an orangery built. At the bottom of the garden, there is a gate leading onto the place des Vosges.

The three lives of Victor Hugo

The poet, playwright and novelist lived at number 6 of the former place Royale and wrote some of *Les Misérables* here... Since 1902, the centenary of his birth, the Hôtel de Rohan-Guéméné has been a museum. The visit follows the three main stages of his life – before, during and after exile. **Maison de Victor Hugo**
→ 6, place des Vosges (4th)



gourmet

The scent of the rue des Rosiers...

Previously a covered way bordered with roses, the rue des Rosiers is the centre of the Jewish quarter. The first Jews came here in the 12th century, then Ashkenazy refugees and repatriated Sephardic Jews followed. The district has developed a varied kosher gastronomic tradition that attracts food-lovers to its groceries and restaurants.



Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du judaïsme

→ 71, rue du Temple (3rd)

A full overview of Jewish heritage, education and rituals, and also paintings by Chagall and Soutine.



Musée de la Magie

→ 11, rue Saint-Paul (4th)

To round off the day, a marvellous journey into the world of magic.

► **Take the bus!**
The superb route of the number 29 takes you to the very heart of the Marais – make the most of the view!

A busy shopping district

Renovated at the end of the 1980s, the district around rue Montorgueil is an extension of Les Halles, between the Église Saint-Eustache and rue Étienne-Marcel. Originally, the wholesale merchants who brought fish and crayfish from the channel coasts and the North Sea passed through this street.

Living memories

The streets, newly paved, form a pedestrian area. It's a place that is still reminiscent of the old Halles de Paris, even though the renovation caused many craftsmen to leave and the last textile workshops have given way to design boutiques. Up-and-coming designers and prestigious brands are to be found shoulder to shoulder in the streets adjacent to this cradle of *couture*.



Traditional produce

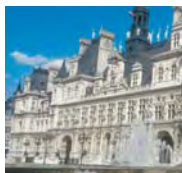
Montorgueil is above all a market street where you will find vegetable stalls, cheese shops and bakeries – colours and smells that are reminiscent of country villages.



municipal

Hôtel de Ville

"She is buffeted by the waves, but does not sink". This is the famous motto that is found on the Paris crest. The building, destroyed by fire in 1871, was rebuilt between 1874 and 1882. This is where the Paris City Hall offices are.



One square, many celebrations!

The place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville hosts numerous celebrations both for Parisians and visitors. In summer, it is transformed into an oasis, with beach volleyball courts, palm trees and changing booths for Paris-Plage visitors. In winter, it serves as an ice rink. The rest of the year, it is a place for exhibitions and meetings. Jubilant crowds gather here when major concerts and football matches are shown on a giant screen.



► The place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville is the former place de Grève, where many capital executions were carried out.

Pont Notre-Dame

Double first! This was the first bridge to receive an official name and the houses lining it were the first in Paris to be numbered. The houses boasted richly-decorated facades as the royal cortège travelled along the bridge on the way into the French capital.



Place du Châtelet

In 1808, this square, at the level of the Pont-au-Change, was the scene of the installation of a column to the glory of the Napoleonic victories. The Châtelet fountain in the centre features four sphinxes designed by Gabriel Davioud and is known as the Fontaine du Palmier because of its decoration of palm leaves.



Théâtre du Châtelet

→ Place du Châtelet (4th)
The Théâtre du Châtelet hosts classical concerts, opera and ballet in a vast Renaissance hall decorated with gold leaf, wide balconies and period chandeliers. On the other side of the square, its twin, the Théâtre de la Ville, programmes dance and theatre.

Fashion, shoes, rare objects, furniture, art and jewellery... This district is one of the liveliest shopping areas of the city. Spoilt for choice!

Elegance

The rue des Francs-Bourgeois, which runs across the Marais, is lined with mansion houses and decoration and fashion boutiques. Get kitted out in the latest styles from head to toe...

Variety

The Forum des Halles shopping centre has a plethora of shops on five underground levels. Don't forget to take in a film on one of the Forum's many screens.



Passion

Between rue Saint-Paul and rue Charlemagne, there is a maze of streets and interior courtyards that will delight antique-lovers. And, all around the Centre Pompidou, contemporary artists show their works in specialist galleries, particularly in rue Quincampoix. Don't hesitate, go in and look around!

Style

The shops in rue Étienne-Marcel are at the cutting edge of fashion. This is where the showbiz world comes to buy their wardrobes!

les halles

Centre Pompidou

After provoking fierce controversy when it was inaugurated in 1977, this building with its crazy architecture was rapidly adopted by Parisians and tourists alike: it welcomes over 5 million visitors per year.



Piazza Beaubourg

Musicians, actors and entertainers all add to the hustle and bustle as you cross this vast paved square to reach the Centre and its escalators.

Musée national d'Art moderne

Over 50,000 works from the early 20th century to the present day, with constantly-changing collections – the layout is regularly renewed.

Exhibitions

Parallel galleries house temporary and theme-based exhibitions.

There's more...

An encyclopaedic library of today's knowledge (the BPI), auditoriums for films, shows and concerts, a music research centre (Ircam) and even workshops for children. And finally, the terrace of the Centre Pompidou affords some of the best panoramic views of Paris!

Echoes of the Église Saint-Eustache

The baptism of Molière, the first communion of Louis XIV, La Fontaine's funeral, the premiere of *Te Deum* by Berlioz and that of Liszt's *Missa Solemnis* all took place in this magnificent church. This place of worship remains an original setting for numerous classical and baroque concerts. **Église Saint-Eustache**
Place du Jour (1st)



children

Jardin des Halles

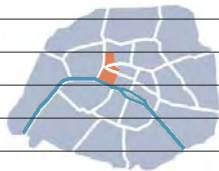
→ 105, rue Rambuteau (1st)

This huge landscaped green space, with plenty of playground equipment, is a place for adventure. A true paradise for children, and a great opportunity for parents to get a breath of fresh air...

► Les Halles housed the country's biggest markets until the 1970s. Émile Zola called the area "the belly of Paris".

Animated fountain

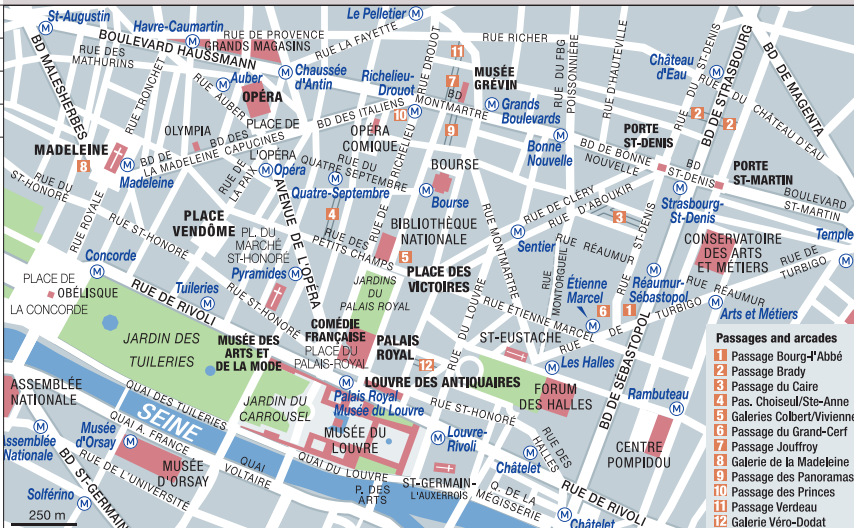
Attractive, colourful and crazy machines in movement in the middle of a wide pond – the Fontaine Stravinsky. Dedicated to the composer, it was designed by Jean Tinguely and his partner, Niki de Saint Phalle. Poetry in motion.



GLAMOROUS PARIS

This is undoubtedly Paris as you usually imagine it. Wide avenues, designed by Baron Haussmann, showcase all the opulence and luxury of the city. A dazzling walk through the bright lights.

- ▶ Even true Parisians remain fascinated by the Grands Boulevards – so much splendour concentrated in such a small area! But don't just stop at window-shopping, for the neighbourhood has many other secrets to reveal.
- ▶ If you are looking for entertainment, you will not be short of memorable evenings to choose from – a night at the Opera or a Molière play at the Comédie Française; see a concert, or catch a film in one of the district's numerous cinemas...
- ▶ If you prefer shopping, then you will be delighted with the big department stores situated side by side with floors and floors of goods to choose from – everything from home decoration to clothes and gourmet foods.
- ▶ Finally, should you yearn for a bit of tranquillity, then you don't have to look very far to find the entrance to a quiet covered arcade that will rapidly transport you into another world.



M Opéra lines 3,7,8 Madeleine lines 8,12,14 Palais-Royal lines 1,7
 Grands-Boulevards lines 8,9 Pyramides lines 7,14 Tuileries line 1



Palais Royal
 → Opp. rue Saint-Honoré (1st)
 Scene of Richelieu's demise, and where Louis XIV spent some of his childhood. Then the princely estate became a place of ill repute, of debauchery and pleasure-taking where even the police were not allowed to enter... Peace and quiet returned to the palace and its gardens, until 1980, when Daniel Buren and his celebrated striped columns arrived on the scene, causing huge controversy. Today, neighbouring establishments have adopted striped blinds in the style of the columns!

palais royal

Luxury antiques
 Certainly not a place for antique bargain hunters, but what a pleasure to stroll along these galleries laid out in 1978 in the former Grands Magasins du Louvre... Art Nouveau or pop art, Russian art, religious art, art from the Far East, India or Tibet, and even some ancient weapons and glassware. In total, 250 luxury boutiques covering 10,000 sq.m.!

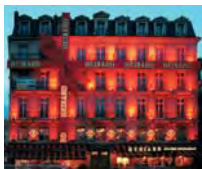
Louvre des Antiquaires
 2, place du Palais-Royal (1st)



Comédie-Française
 → 1, place Colette (1st)
 A veritable institution: the Comédie-Française is known as "Le Français" for short. The resident theatre company stages classical and modern plays from the French repertoire. It houses some poignant mementos, such as the famous armchair belonging to Molière, which he used for the première of *Le Malade Imaginaire* (The Imaginary Invalid).

Rue Royale

It is difficult to believe that this elegant street was once a track through marshland, below the city walls. Today, chic boutiques rub shoulders with top-class restaurants. There is a stunning view of the Madeleine at one end and place de la Concorde and the Assemblée nationale at the other. Impressive!



► On either side of the Madeleine, two luxury delicatessen stores tickle the taste buds of gourmets the world over.

SELECT SQUARES...

→ Place Vendôme (see photo opposite) and place des Victoires. These two squares, just a few hundred metres apart, are equally beautiful. In the past, balls were held in the former; it is now a mecca for jewellery, with these precious stores set around the large granite slabs of the square. Place des Victoires, dedicated to Louis XIV, whose statue stands proudly in its centre, is now home to great names of *haute couture*.

**Église de la Madeleine**

→ Place de la Madeleine (8th)

The style of this church is reminiscent of a Greek temple, with its bronze doors and huge Corinthian columns. But it is nevertheless a church and also a venue for classical music concerts. Don't be put off by the austere surroundings, go inside and admire the marble interior.

Chic toilettes

Outside, to the right of the entrance to the church, are probably the most surprising public toilets you will ever see. Built in 1905, they are entirely inspired by Art Nouveau, with ceramic walls, wooden doors embellished with stained glass, and distinctive washbasin stalls... You can even have your shoes shined and polished here.



elegance

Paris's 81st market

After the closure of the indoor market in place du Marché-Saint-Honoré, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood were deprived of local shops, which were replaced by luxury stores. Residents finally obtained a new food market in 2003.

Les Arts décoratifs

→ 107, rue de Rivoli (1st)

Created by a group of industrialists, the centre brings together creation and production, industry and culture. It totals 150,000 works from drawings to wallpaper and toys (musée des Arts décoratifs) 16,000 costumes from the 16th century to the present day, 35,000 fashion accessories and 30,000 textile samples (musée de la Mode et du Textile), as well as a collection of 40,000 posters (musée de la Publicité).

Originally designed to protect pedestrians from the vagaries of the weather and splashes from passing vehicles, these arcades capture the charm of another era...

In the early 19th century, Paris boasted 140 passages, crossing the Grands Boulevards from north to south, often fitted with glass roofs which give them a unique luminosity. Today, there is only a handful left.

Grand galleries

The finest passages are home to shops full of luxury goods and precious books; to art studios and exclusive boutiques. Perfect for strolling and shopping, just the place for that rare find.

**Passage des Panoramas**

This attractive arcade was the first to be fitted with gas lighting. It is the main thoroughfare of a maze in which it is a delight to get lost!

Passage Choiseul

This typical and bustling passageway was built on the site of a 17th-century mansion. Don't miss the well-preserved porches over the main entrances and the sloping glass roof.

See directory p.126

**Opéra**

→ Place de l'Opéra (9th)

It is quite rare for a monument to be definitively adopted the name of its creator; this is nevertheless the case for the Palais Garnier, which bears the name of the young architect who built it in 1875. A masterpiece of marble and gold, this temple to dance has been fully renovated.



► Experience the magic of the silver screen at the Étoiles du Rex and visit the Grand Rex, Europe's largest cinema. See directory pp.98 and 121

opéra

Wonderful window displays...

Eight wide boulevards run from place de la Madeleine to place de la République. Fashionable and elegant in the 19th century, they still have theatres and large brasseries where you can bask in the sun on the terraces. Nearby, the huge window displays of the department stores, a typically Parisian tradition, are a constant attraction for passers-by. If you are here at Christmastime, don't miss a visit with your children – each window display has a different theme, brought to life with moving figures. A quite amazing and fanciful sight.

**Musée Grévin**

→ 10, bd Montmartre (9th)

This is the place to make the acquaintance of waxwork models of historical figures like Charlemagne and Napoleon, or more contemporary ones like Zinedine Zidane.

► Travel through time with Victor Hugo: the film presented by Explore Paris! relates 2,000 years of the city's history. See directory p.121

**Portes Saint-Denis and Saint-Martin**

These are in fact two triumphal arches symbolising military victories. They are called gates ("portes") because they marked the entrance to the city when they were built during the reign of Louis XIV.

► The main welcome office of the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau is situated at 25, rue des Pyramides, between the Opéra and the Louvre. Other information centres are available throughout Paris. See directory p.88