



PARIS TRAVEL GUIDE

by France Hotel Guide



Paris Travel Guide

1/ GENERAL

Paris is the capital of France, and it is also the largest city.

Population: over 2.2 million (12 million if you include the Paris region in its entirety).

Density: 21289 inhab./km²

Name of inhabitants: "Parisians".

Districts: Paris is one of the few French cities which has to be divided into districts (along with Lyon and Marseille). There are 20. They are called "arrondissement" in french.

Region: Ile de France

Postal Code: from 75001 to 75020

2/ TRANSPORTS

Don't worry! Paris is a city where it is easy to get about, again, it is not very large, you can cross it very quickly. You have a great selection of transport options at your disposal: the bus (more than 100 lines), different trains (the Metro has 16 lines, plus the RER, etc.), taxi, car and even the bicycle rental network "Velib" which covers all of Paris and also some neighbouring cities.

TRAIN (Metro, RER, Transilien and mainline)

The train network in Paris is very dense. Each type of train has a specific purpose.



Paris Travel Guide



1 - Metro (more than 16 lines) is the ideal form of transport for getting around Paris. Some lines also extend to the towns surrounding Paris. You never need to wait long for a train (they usually run every 2 to 5 minutes depending on the line and the time of the day).

Our advice: Should be avoided at peak hours because it can get very crowded and your trip will be much less enjoyable. So try not to take the Metro between 8AM and 9 AM in the morning or between 6PM and 8PM in the evening.

We recommend that you also look out for pickpocket who, according to the RATP regularly target the Metro. They will most likely try to steal from tourists (who carry cameras, money and mobile phones). So be careful but don't get paranoid about it, in reality it's very rare to be targeted.

Practical Information:

Map of subway lines:

<https://www.ratp.fr/en/plans?fm=pdf&loc=reseaux&nompdf=minim%20etro>

Price: 1 ticket costs € 1.90 You can also benefit from reductions by buying multiple tickets or buy buying a travel card for the day or week (inquire locally).

More info about the rates: <https://www.ratp.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs/t-tickets>



Paris Travel Guide



2 - RER (Réseau express régional/Regional Express Network)

This can be used for travelling to Paris but it will be especially handy for travelling to towns outside Paris (e.g. to go to Disneyland or if the place where you're staying is a bit away from the city).

RER trains cover longer distances in a minimum of time. This has to be set against the fact that the ticket price is a little higher than the Metro (except if you stay in Paris itself). It is difficult to give a price range as each route is different. You will therefore need to ask locally at the ticket desk in the train station.

Our advice: If you take the RER out of Paris, you need to pay attention to the final destination because the branches are divided. There are lighted noticeboards on the station platforms to let you know which stations each train stops at. If you are at all unsure, do not hesitate to ask other travellers, regular users of the RER are very well informed on this subject.



Paris Travel Guide



3 - Transilien and TER

Both trains are operated by the SNCF company, you can use them if you want to go some distance away from Paris. These trains are useless if you stay in Paris. They can be useful if you're deciding going to Giverny or Fontainebleau for instance.

More information:

TER: <https://en.oui.sncf/en/ter>

Transilien: <https://www.transilien.com/en>

4 – Mainline trains - SNCF lines

These trains cover most of France, so you can go to towns far away from Paris very quickly. For example, it is possible to reach the city of Marseille in 3 hours (this is the line which currently has the fastest train).

In terms of prices, it will depend on your route. In certain circumstances, an airline ticket can amount to the same price. You must therefore ask at the time.

More information:

Schedules and reservations: <https://www.sncf.com/en>



Paris Travel Guide

5 - TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse), Thalys et Eurostar

These high-speed trains travel at over 300 km/h, allowing you to reach distant destinations in the shortest possible time. By taking the TGV Sud Est, you can, for example, get to Lyon in 2 hours (450 km away) or in 3 hours to Marseille (775 km away). The TGV Atlantique will bring you to Nantes in 2 hours and to Bordeaux in 3 hours. The TGV Est will drop you off in Metz in 1 hour 20 minutes and in Strasbourg in only 2 hours 20 minutes.

On the same principle of high speed train, Eurostar (via the Channel Tunnel) allows you to reach London (in England) in 2h15.

Ditto with the Thalys which is the high-speed train heading north, making it possible to reach Brussels in 1 hour 10 minutes and Amsterdam in only 3 hours.

As far as prices are concerned, it will depend on your journey. In some situations, a plane ticket can come back at the same price. You must therefore be well informed before making your choice.

Schedules and reservations: <https://www.sncf.com/en>

Low cost train tickets: <https://en.oui.sncf/en/ouigo>



BUS

Paris has a large bus network. There are more than 100 lines available. You can go anywhere in Paris by bus.

Our opinion: The bus is very convenient but it should be avoided during peak hours because there are a lot traffic and it can slow you down considerably, so avoid travelling by bus from 8am to 10am and later on in the day between 5:30PM and 7PM.

We strongly recommend that you have a map of the bus routes as the network is very dense, so it is very complex even for a Parisian! You can also go to a subway station and ask for a free map at the counter. Here is a plan to download or print:

<https://www.ratp.fr/en/plans-lignes/plan-des-bus>

Practical Information:

Price: 1 ticket costs about €1.90 and is also usable in the metro and RER. This price may vary depending on the zones. You can also benefit from reductions by buying multiple tickets or by buying a travel card for the day or week (ask locally).

For further information (the official website of the RATP, the company in charge of the bus network): <https://www.ratp.fr/en/>



Paris Travel Guide

AIR TRANSPORT

There are 2 airports located close to Paris and another one located near enough for the low cost airlines.

1 - Airport Paris-Charles de Gaulle (CDG), also known as Roissy Airport, is located 23km North-East of Paris and is the largest airport in France. If you come from abroad, there is 90% chance that this will be your place of arrival.

More information:

<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport>

2 - The second is called Orly airport and is located 14 km south of Paris. It is generally used for domestic flights or flights to Spain, Tunisia, Morocco and some other destinations.

More information:

<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-orly/public-transport>

3 - Paris Beauvais Airport is actually located quite far from Paris, it is located about 70 km away. Chargeable shuttles are available for travellers to the capital. This airport is only reserved for low cost flights (Ryanair and Easyjet).

More information: <https://www.aeroportparisbeauvais.com/en/passengers/>

To connect with or go to these three airports, there are different means of transport are at your disposal.

Here is the list: https://www.france-hotel-guide.com/en/public_transports.htm



Paris Travel Guide

TAXIS

Taxi: We'd like to tell you right away, taking a taxi is very expensive. The minimum price is 5 Euros (even before going in), and at this price, you will not even get 500 meters. You can find them fairly easily in the special taxi "terminals".

Caution: It is quite difficult to find a taxi for hire on the street, you can find yourself waiting a long time.

It's also possible to book your taxis through one of the numerous Taxi Apps available.

Example of rate: somewhere between €55 and €65 for a trip between Paris and the airport Roissy Charles de Gaulle (CDG)

Read our guide about Paris' taxis to know more:

<https://www.france-hotel-guide.com/en/blog/guide-taxis-paris/>



Paris Travel Guide



BICYCLE

Using a bicycle is a very good way to get around Paris. If the weather conditions permit it then it is a great way to enjoy the beauty of Paris.

The city of Paris has developed a little bike network service, which is called "Velib". You will find terminals all over Paris as well as in neighbouring cities. This service is not free but it is quite cheap.

https://www.velib-metropole.fr/en_GB



Paris Travel Guide

3/ WHEN TO GO?



Paris is magical no matter what season, Every moment of the year has its advantages and disadvantages, here we tell you about some of the best seasons to go:

- **Summer and especially the month of August:** This is probably our favourite season. Firstly, taking a vacation in August is a very French tradition and Parisians often take advantage of this month to take their vacation, with the result that Paris becomes "empty", therefore there is less traffic, it is less crowded, and there is a significant improvement on comfort, when going by transport and for sightseeing. Secondly, the weather in August is very nice, it's hot but it certainly is beautiful! What could be more beautiful than to stroll along the banks of the Seine and enjoy a soft luminosity right up to 10 o'clock at night while having a drink? Finally, it is advantageous to book a hotel in August, there are fewer people in Paris (business people are on vacation too!), so hoteliers seek to bring in the tourists by offering great promotions to fill their rooms.

- **The spring (mid-March to June):** This is undoubtedly the sunniest season in Paris. It is often more beautiful in spring than in summer, there is also less heat and this is no small benefit in a big city like Paris. The downside? Well this period is very busy, hence all hotels are quickly fully booked and you will find yourself in the most expensive time of year. Obviously there are years where you will see less sun, and yes you can't have it all, the climate in Paris can be quite capricious, but this does not detract from the charm of this wonderful city...



Paris Travel Guide

- **The season of Christmas (December):** The visit of Paris during this period is a delight, you will be able to appreciate the Christmas decorations, but above all the splendid lighting which will be found especially all along the famous Champs Elysées. You can enjoy Christmas markets almost everywhere in the city (at the Tuileries, at the Forum des Halles, in La Défense, etc.). They are made up of dozens of small chalets offering typical products that will immerse you in the magic of Christmas.

The Jardins du Trocadéro (next to the Eiffel Tower) and the Grand Palais des Glaces also offer giant ice rinks.

If you are going to the capital in December, don't forget to stroll in front of the Galeries Lafayette windows on the Grands Boulevards. It's a magic moment!

Finally, hotel prices are also very low towards the end of December, you will find good promotions to spend a weekend and do your last Christmas shopping.



Paris Travel Guide

5 / BUDGET IN PARIS



Accommodation :

Prices shown below are indicative, they are based on a hotel room for two people (double). Rates may vary depending on the season.

- **Super Budget: less than €50** (at this price don't expect any luxury, rooms will be functional but very basic, hotels in this price range are places to sleep, nothing more, if you have a little more money in your budget, keep reading).
- **Budget: €50 to €70** (functional hotels, decent, rather basic).
- **Mid Range: from €70 to €100** (at these prices you can start to look at better quality accommodation, you may come across beautiful boutique hotels for example).
- **Chic: €100 to €150** (this is the sort of price range for the 3 and 4 star hotels, you will find beautiful, well-located hotels for the price!).
- **Very chic: from €150 to more than €500** (this sort of price range is charged by the 4 and 5 star hotels, for this you can expect a beautiful hotel, very well decorated, comfortable and generally very well located)

Search and book a hotel in Paris on our website:

<https://www.france-hotel-guide.com/en/paris-hotels.php>



Paris Travel Guide

Restaurants :

The prices listed below are given as indicative they concern a meal for one person.

- **To fill a hole: €5 to €15** (sandwich shops, fast food)
- **Super Budget: less than €15** (usually lunchtime, in non-tourist area)
- **Budget: €15 to €25** (at that price you can go to nice little restaurants and have a starter and main course plus dessert).
- **Mid Range: €25 to €35** (this is generally the price range for a good-quality set menu with a starter, main and dessert).
- **Chic: €35 to €50** (this price point will allow you to enjoy French cuisine, just be careful to avoid tourist traps, you are going to pay these prices there for something pretty average).
- **Super chic: More than €50** (for a menu priced over €50, you will be able discover sublime culinary creations!).

Transport :

- **Ticket-bus / metro: about €1.90** (this rate goes up usually every year).
- **A taxi ride will cost between €15 and €40** (depending on the route, time and whether the journey takes place in or near Paris).
- **Bike rental "Velib": from €5 per day for 5 Velibs simultaneously**, the journeys are then counted by half an hour. The first half hour is free, the next €1. Electric Velibs are also available for a slightly higher price.



Paris Travel Guide

6 / UNMISSABLE VISITS!



Paris is a very culturally rich city, it takes a long time to be able to discover it. Here is a list of places to visit and the priority if you do not have much time ahead of you.

- Museums:

Louvre

Musée d'Orsay

Centre Georges Pompidou

City of Science and Industry

Grand Palais

Museum of Modern Art

Picasso Museum

Musée du Quai Branly

Rodin Museum

>> [6 Museums Not to Be Missed in Paris](#)

- Monuments:

Eiffel Tower

Notre-Dame-de-Paris

Opera Garnier

Palais Royal

Panthéon

Grand Palais

Les Invalides



Paris Travel Guide

Sacré Cœur

BNF-Mitterrand French National Library

Hôtel de Ville (City Hall)

>> [Best Landmarks and Monuments to See in Paris](#)

- Gardens:

Buttes-Chaumont

Jardin des Tuileries

Jardin des Plantes

Jardin du Luxembourg

Parc de la Villette

>> [Top 10 Of The Most Beautiful Parks And Gardens In Paris](#)

- Squares and famous places:

Place de la Bastille

Champs Elysees and Arc de Triomphe

Grands Boulevards

Place de la Concorde

Place des Vosges

Place Vendome

Pont-Neuf

Rue des Rosiers

Rue Mouffetard

- Neighborhoods:

Montmartre

Montparnasse

Latin Quarter / Saint Michel

Saint-Germain-des-Prés

Le Marais

Ménilmontant and Belleville

Butte-aux-Cailles

Ile de la Cité

Ile Saint-Louis

>> [More info on neighborhoods in Paris](#)