

outdoor CITY LIFE



More than 450 parks and gardens, 2,199 hectares of municipal parks open to the public, 3,700 trees planted each year, over 300 kilometres of cycling paths (600 between now and 2014), an ever larger number of pedestrian areas – all that for relaxation and *farniente!*

In Paris, nature and culture make a delightful mix. One can enjoy listening to open-air concerts in the parks and admire art in the garden: fountains, sculptures, statues from all periods abound.

Become more acquainted with the French, and English gardening styles, botanical, picturesque, and “Anglo-Chinese” gardens, and the so called “Haussmanian”, or contemporary, parks. Then there is the surprising richness and diversity of Paris’s fauna and flora to discover!

Public gardens, parks and woods

From the small public gardens that dot each neighbourhood to the huge woods of Boulogne and Vincennes, one is never far from an area of greenery in Paris. Closed in the event of bad weather, park opening hours vary according to the time of year: some open from 7.30am and may close at 5pm in winter or stay open until 10pm in summer ... Some lawns are prohibited to the public, and intruders are whistled off the grass by park personnel!

Choose your park: modern at André-Citroën, Bercy and Clichy-Batignolles (see p.49), romantic at Bagatelle (see p.72), Monceau (see p.81) and Montsouris (see p.58), the lively parc de la Villette (see p.93) and Parc Floral de Paris (see p.85), etc.

Other parks and gardens to discover: Jardins d’Éole – champions of ecology –, Acclimatation and Luxembourg, with their play areas for children (see p.56 and 71),

VÉLIB’

A fleet of 20,000 self-service bicycles, provided by the Paris City Council, offers Parisians and tourists all the pleasure of free wheeling around the city city. 300 additional stations have been recently installed in 30 towns and villages on the outskirts of the capital. www.velib.paris.fr

Atlantique on the roof of the Montparnasse train station (see p.57), the busy Les Halles (see p.31) or the tranquillity of Palais-Royal (see p.38), the Jardin des Plantes and its little zoo (see p.21), the hothouses at Auteuil (see p.72), Trocadéro with its fountains, etc.

Pedestrianized areas

These traffic-free areas are great favourites with pedestrians. The main pedestrian thoroughfares are rues Daguerre (14th), de Lappe (9th), de Levis (17th), Mouffetard (5th),

PARIS AIR-BALLOON

In addition to initiating passengers into the joys of flying in an aerostat (according to weather conditions), the balloon is also an air-quality indicator. An information space has been set up below the balloon to explain the impact each of us has on the quality of the air. M° Javel, Balard. Flights daily: 9am until 30 min before closure of park. €12/10 – RR: €10/€9/€6/€5. Under 3s: free. Exhibition: free: www.ballondeparis.com

PARIS TREASURE HUNT

Every summer, this treasure hunt offers a discovery tour of the cultural and historical heritage of Paris for Parisians and visitors, in a team or as a family. The 2010 edition is accessible to people with physical disabilities and is expected to draw 20,000 participants. It will take place on 3 July, in the 3rd, 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th and 20th arrondissements. In each of these, there will be eight treasure trails, one of which will be in English.
Information: www.paris.fr

Montorgueil (2nd) and cour Saint-Émilien (12th). Some areas are also closed to traffic on Sunday and public holidays (as part of the initiative "Paris respire" – Paris breathes –, cf. box), neighbourhoods of the Sentier (2nd), Mouffetard (5th), Luxembourg (6th), la Roquette (11th), Montmartre (18th), rues des Martyrs (9th) and Poteau (18th).

Theme parks

Aquarium tropical*

(palais de la Porte-Dorée)
293, av. Daumesnil (12th).
M° Gare-de-Lyon.
Tel: 01 53 59 58 60.
Daily: 10am-5.15pm, except Mon.
€4.50 – RR: €3.
www.aquarium-portedoree.fr
See p.86.

Jardin d'acclimatation

Bois de Boulogne (16th).
M° Sablons.
Tel: 01 40 67 90 82.
Oct to Apr: 10am-6pm.
May and Sept: 10am-7pm.
Park: €2.90, train: €2.70 (return).
RR: 50%. Under 3s: free.
www.jardindacclimatation.fr
See p.71.

Ménagerie du Jardin des plantes

57, rue Cuvier (5th).
M° Jussieu, Gare-d'Austerlitz.
Tel: 01 40 79 37 94.
Daily: 9am-5pm.
€8. 4-13yrs: €6. Under 4s: free.
www.mnhn.fr
See p.21.

On the outskirts of Paris

Aquarium Sea Life

Centre commercial international Val-d'Europe.
14, cours du Danube – Serris.
77711 Marne-la-Vallée Cedex 4.
RER Val-d'Europe.
Tel: 01 60 42 33 66.
Daily: 10am-5.30pm.
€15. Under 12s: €11.
Under 3s: free.
www.sealifeeurope.com

Disneyland Paris

See p.110.

Évasion verte

Tel: 06 12 80 06 75.
M° Boulogne
Pont-de-Saint-Cloud.
Times and prices variable:
contact for information.
Acrobatic trails at
the Domaine national
de Saint-Cloud.
www.evasion-verte.fr

France Miniature

25, route du Mesnil.
78990 Élancourt.
Tel: 08 26 30 20 40
(€0.15/min).
Feb to Nov: contact
for information.
€18.50/€19.50.
4-14yrs:
€12.50/€13.50.
www.franceminature.com

Mer de Sable

RN 330.
60950 Ermenonville, 45 km from
Paris by motorway A1, exit No. 7.
Tel: 0 826 30 10 40.
Apr to Sept.
Only Sat and Sun in Sept.
€19.50 – 3-11s: €16.50.
www.merdesable.fr

Parc Astérix

60128 Plailly.
Tel: 03 44 62 31 31.
Opening times and dates variable:
contact for information.
€39 – 3-11yrs: €29.
Under 3s: free.
Shuttle buses operate from Paris:
information at the Paris
Convention and Visitors Bureau.
www.parcasterix.fr

Parc zoologique de Thoiry

78770 Thoiry.
Tel: 01 34 87 53 76.
Opening times and dates variable:
contact for information.
€25. Children: €18.
Under 3s: free.
www.thoiry.net

EVENT

Paris respire (Paris 'breathes')

Under the auspices of the operation launched by the Paris City Council, the riverside expressways are closed to motor vehicles on Sunday and public holidays, from 9am to 5pm. Cyclists, walkers and skaters have 10 different areas of Paris all to themselves, as well as the right bank of the Seine – voie G.-Pompidou, from the entrance to the tunnel at the Tuileries (1st) to the Charles-de-Gaulle bridge (12th) – and the left bank – from the entrance quai A.-France (7th) to the exit quai Branly (7th).
Information: www.paris.fr