

# RIVER SEINE PARIS

**F**ollowing the Seine through Paris is a way of enjoying a thousand different escapades on the river, its bridges and islands. Daytime or night time, Left Bank or Right Bank, you will appreciate the buzz of activity along the quaysides and the lapping of the waves. There are any number of ways to relax – aboard a boat, cycling, walking briskly, sauntering lazily, or working out, dining, dancing on barges, exploring an area between two exhibitions, taking a post-shopping break, or sunbathing in a swimsuit. You never fail to be filled with wonder at these riverbanks, classed as a world heritage site by Unesco.

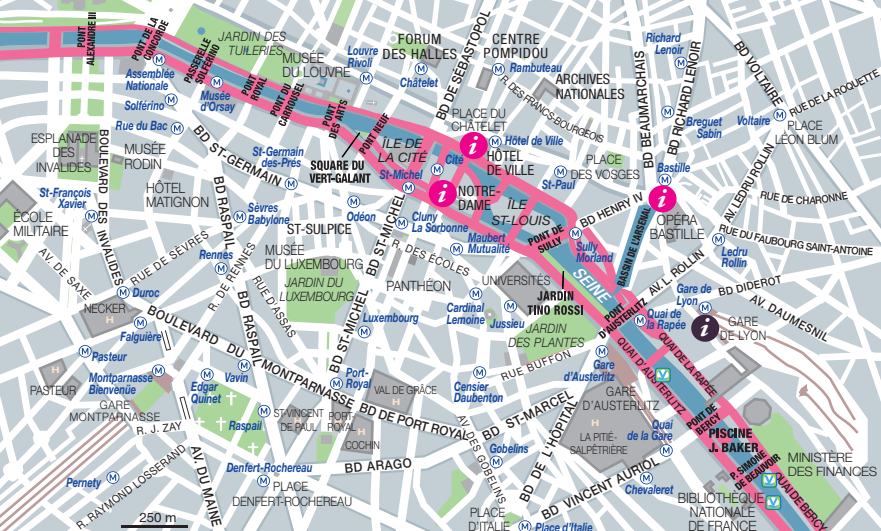
Through the arch of a bridge you'll catch sight of the Grand and Petit Palais, people fishing, mallard ducks circling in the water, the Louvre playing hide and seek with a pleasure boat, Notre-Dame looming up to the sound of a street musician playing a violin and, in the distance, the silhouette of a crane in a naval construction yard between weeping willow trees.

Paris owes its motto to the Seine, *fluctuat nec mergitur* – “it is buffeted by the waves but does not sink”.

The Seine tells the story of Paris, from its birthplace on the Île de la Cité to the transformation of the quays at Bercy upstream and the triumphant Eiffel Tower downstream.



**Bridges • River Seine • Quays • Ports**



- M** Pont-de-l'Alma (RER C) • Musée-d'Orsay (RER C) • Place-Marceau (line 9) • Cité (line 4) • Sully-Morland (line 7) • Saint-Michel (line 4) • Quai de la Gare (line 5)

## DON'T MISS

### Bridges of Paris

These thirty-seven bridges offer stunning views of the city seen from the river and recount thirty-seven wonderful stories of kings, battles, legends etc, to discover with the wind in your hair. Since it was built in 1604, the Pont Neuf, Paris's oldest bridge with its 385 sculpted masks and famous half-moon-shaped turrets, has seen the entire history of Paris go by. The Pont Alexandre III, star of the 1900 Exposition Universelle, is a celebration of Franco-Russian friendship with an exuberance of sculpted nymphs and garlands, bronze candelabras and gleaming gold equestrian statuary. The Pont des Arts – the haunt of lovers – is also a favourite place to linger for dreamers and picnickers, as is the Léopold-Sédar-Senghor footbridge, which links the Musée d'Orsay to the Tuileries gardens. The city's most recent bridge is the Simone de Beauvoir wooden footbridge, which links

the weighty knowledge of the Bibliothèque Nationale library to the gardens of Bercy in a graceful, uplifting arch. That leaves thirty-two bridges: discover your favourite.



### Seine riverside booksellers

For four hundred years, booksellers offering an array of great and less familiar literature have lined the embankment walls on both sides of the river, from the Pont Royal to the Pont de Sully. Each of these small green boxes offers up a marvellous assortment of rare books, original editions, engravings, postcards, illustrated journals, comic strips, novels, or intriguing odds and ends, to passers-by.

### Joséphine-Baker swimming pool

Maybe you didn't know, but floating baths were already fashionable in the 18th century. There were once several on the Left Bank, reaffirms the genre in a version that is high-tech and ecologically-friendly, with all modern comforts. Facilities include a main pool and a 50 sq.m. paddling pool for children. There are also solariums, saunas, a hammam, a Jacuzzi, and a fitness and weights room.

**Port de la Gare.**  
**Quai François-Mauriac (13th).**  
**M° Bibliothèque-F.-Mitterrand.**  
**Information (opening times, prices and activities):**  
[www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr)



# DISCOVER

## Square du Vert-Galant

Henry IV was not considered a Don Juan or a Casanova, simply because they hadn't been born when he was alive. However, this great king of France was well-known for his amorous exploits. This square, accessible from the steps on the Pont Neuf, carries its royal nickname to great effect and forms the western point of the Île de la Cité. The equestrian statue of the monarch dominates the small garden and forms an intimate haven of calm, or romance – if your heart be so inclined – from which to admire the two banks of the Seine, its bridges and monuments.



## Port de l'Arsenal

The port has everything from landing stages and little boats to a harbour master's office, gulls, and seafood restaurants. Without the Colonne de Juillet rearing its head nearby, one would almost think this marina

was a seaside harbour. Sheltered from the river's ebb and flow by a lock, the canal basin of this former mercantile port links the River Seine with the Canal Saint-Martin. The port provides 180 mooring spots and a picturesque terraced garden where you can step back onto terra firma amid the roses.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Those firemen are everywhere, even near the Pont Neuf, on a floating fire station. From here, they can patrol the Seine in dinghies or in light watercraft. Rescue, evacuation, assistance to boats, floods, fire along the waterside – whatever the emergency, they're on the alert.

## Jardin Tino-Rossi

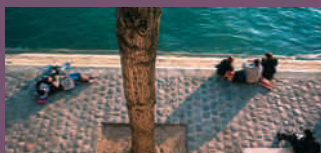


The Saint-Bernard quayside on the Left Bank, between Pont de Sully and Pont d'Austerlitz, has been turned into a pleasant garden featuring works by contemporary artists like Brancusi, César and Gilioli. During the day this outdoor sculpture museum is a paradise for joggers and walkers, while on spring and summer evenings, it becomes an open-air dance floor. Aficionados and beginners from all over the world meet up here to dance the salsa, rock and tango by the waterside. Magical moments guaranteed!



## FAUNA AND FLORA

Good news! Fish and aquatic flora are returning to the Seine and the canals of Paris thanks to an improvement in water quality. Some thirty-two species are now present (compared to only three in 1970): chub, gudgeon, pike, bream, roach ... and even salmon! Keeping them company, and sometimes in competition with the fishermen, common gulls, black-headed gulls, grey wagtails and kingfishers animate the riverbanks, not forgetting mallard ducks, and even coots in winter.



# VEDETTES DE PARIS

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## Location:

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The Parisian sightseeing cruise has to be at the top of your list of things to do when in the French capital.

Ideally located right by the Eiffel Tower, its charming boats enhance the pleasure of a guided cruise on the River Seine.

Listed by the UNESCO World Heritage, the river banks offer you some of the most appreciated and well-known monuments such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral amongst others.

Recorded multilingual commentary & a bar service on board.

## Departures:

Week day: every 45 minutes from 11.30am to 7:15 pm

Week end: every 30 minutes from 11.00am to 10.30pm\*

\* For more details, visit our internet website

## Sightseeing cruise of Paris\*:

€11: Adult; €5: Children 5-12s; free under 4s

## Pleasure cruises\*:

**The Sparkling:** The sightseeing cruise of Paris

+ 1 glass of Champagne

**The Sweet:** The sightseeing cruise of Paris

+ 1 French crepe or 1 Muffin + 1 hot drink

**The Salty:** The sightseeing cruise of Paris

+ 1 box of potato chips

+ 1 glass of Red or White wine or 1 soft drink

Unique rate: €16

## Stop at Notre Dame

This commented cruise allow you to stop at Notre Dame to visit the heart of Paris and see some of the oldest and most beautiful townhouses before resuming your cruise.

+2€

\* Rates are suitable to changes over the year under the company policies

+ Possibilities of group bookings (20 people min.)



Right by the Eiffel Tower



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Discover the best monuments

  
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